

SPARTA'S BASEBALL NINE

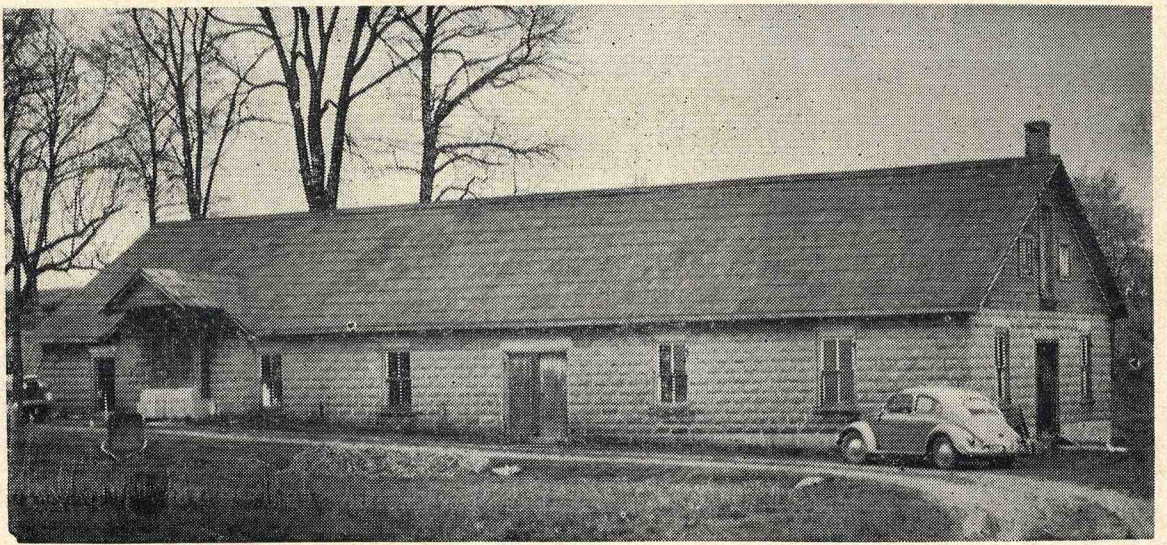
Taken from Times Journal 1946

Fifty years ago, Sparta was represented on the baseball world by one of its best teams. It was a team that featured Dr. John Oille, Toronto, to-day one of Canada's leading Heart Specialists, as a first Baseman of professional calibre. Many old-timers who saw Dr. Oille play first base half a century ago said that undoubtedly he would have gone far in professional baseball had he followed that sport instead of turning to Medicine.

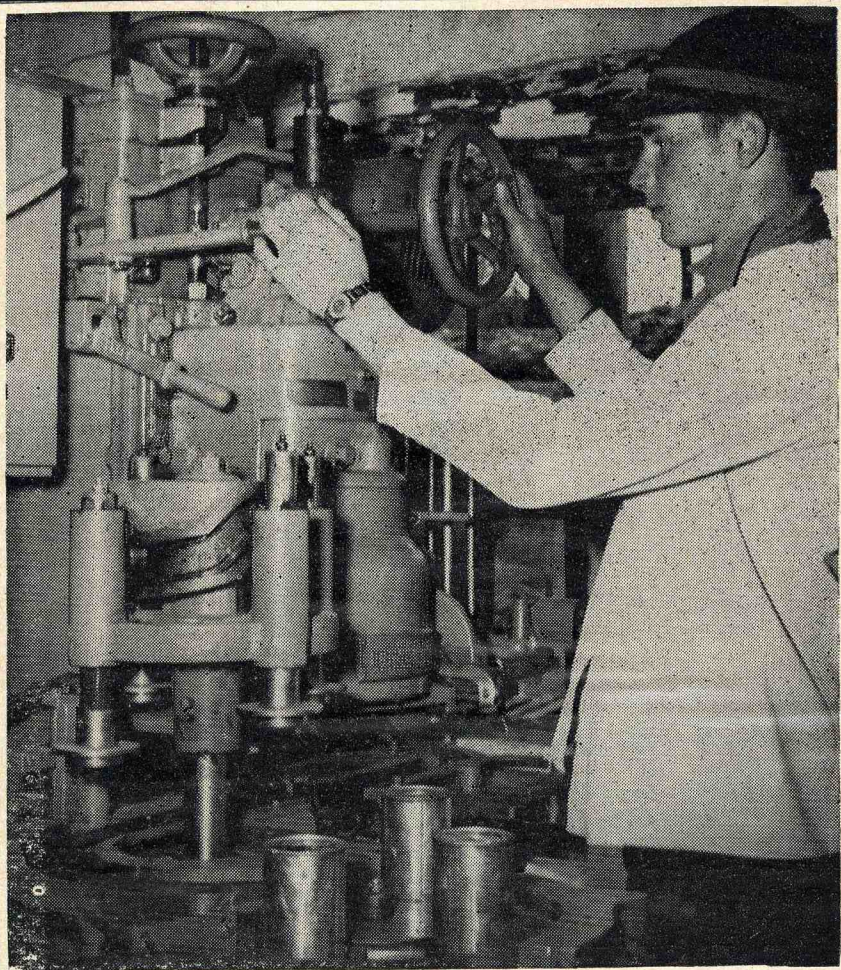
A year or two later other Sparta boys who excelled as baseball joined the team. They included Vern Herrington, Harvey and Harley Gorvett, Irwin Fishleigh, Harvey Lawton. Before the team of half century ago there were such headliners as Frank Strosser a great pitcher. Howard Welding, Albert Gillett and Fred Gadshy, father of Fred Gadsly who played professional in the U. S. and Canada.

Sparta has been represented with good baseball teams for at least 80 years but the sport reached its heyday during the first quarter of the present century. Sparta teams met the best at Fingal, Springfield, Dutton, Aylmer, Glanworth, Gladstone, Port Burwell, Tillsonburg and St. Thomas could offer.

There are some great stories about those early days by Harry Smale and Harvey Lawton. The team pictured here in their padded pants had only nine uniforms and when a spare man was called into play, he and the player being removed from the game had to go behind a fence or screen of bushes and exchange uniforms. It is also recalled the day Herb Phelp mistook a swallow for a high flyball in a keen game in Springfield and started chasing the bird across the countryside.



The former cheese factory is now the Little processing plant at Sparta.



Ray Little makes adjustment on the automatic machine leased from the American Can Company this year. 1958

ASPARAGUS

from the field to the can

The growing, processing, and marketing of their own crop are the interesting activities of the members of the Little family of Sparta, Ont.

Farm products processing was once a family hobby. As the years went by, the pastime blossomed into a full fledged business. Now new machinery, complete even to a short assembly line, has been installed in the former village cheese factory situated on their farm.

Their specialties are asparagus and tomatoes.

"We grow ten acres of asparagus and we'll harvest a crop from eight of them this year," Wallace A. Little, father and head of the enterprising group, explained.

40-50 YEARS

He believes asparagus is a worthwhile, long lasting crop. A good planting, with adequate care, may last up to 40 or 50 years.

In the venerable cheese factory, Mr. Little and his son

Ray have been making extensive changes. They are proud of a new automatic can capping machine obtained on lease from the American Can Company. To feed the device, an assembly line of counters extending along a chain link moving belt brings the asparagus filled cans to the capping machine.

To provide the all essential steam, Mr. Little hit upon the idea of making use of a steam powered threshing engine. It is moved up alongside the factory and the steam flows through semi-permanent piping into the building.

To maintain a quality product, Mr. Little is a firm believer in securing the best possible information.

Soil samples are submitted to the Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph.

The recommendations for the asparagus field were for the application of 10 tons of manure, and 600 pounds of 4-12-10 fertilizer to the acre. Another application of 800 pounds to the acre of 10-10-10 fertilizer will be made after the cutting season.

"Asparagus takes an awful lot of feeding," Mr. Little said.

Weeds have always been a prime nuisance in an asparagus field.

TRULY WEED FREE

The Little planting is truly weed free at cutting time. The lush stalks thrusting out of the rich brown loam stand out distinctly.

The secret of weed control is a thorough treatment of pre-emergent spray to kill off the weed growth before the asparagus crop appears.



The Dutch Float



Indian Float



Santa and Reindeer.



Baskets of fruit and candy



• DEC • 57



Train made by R. Robertson - Sparta

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The Village Church



W.I. INSTITUTE float 1961