

MACBETH'S POSSESSIONS—Much of the furniture in this room was used by the Macbeth family. George Macbeth found favor with Col. Talbot and became a companion of

his old age. The sideboard to the right in the picture and also the oval table were part of the original used in the home. The fireplace fender at the rear bears a Talbot (mythical bird) at each end. — (T.-J. Photo.)



TOUR "MALAHIDE CASTLE" — One of the highlights of the anniversary services at Port Talbot and Tyrconnell on Sunday afternoon was a conducted tour of "Malahide Castle," former home of Col. Thomas Talbot, and now

occupied and owned by Mr. and Mrs. John Ker. In the above picture David I. Ker, of Ottawa, brother of the owner (right), shows Col. Talbot's axe to Mr. and Mrs. A. L. Sanders, and son James, R. R. 4, St. Thomas.—(T.-. Photo).

J. E. Pearce Gives Land for Park

Open

August 17th 1959

New Elgin Provincial Park

Thirty acres of valuable woodland along the lakeshore at Tyrconnell that has been in the hands of one family close to 150 years, has been given to the Ontario Government as a provincial park. The generous gift has been made by John E. Pearce, Wallacetown, whose great-great-grandmother, Mrs. Mary Storey, was deeded 60 acres, including the present wood lot, by Colonel Thomas Talbot.

Mrs. Storey also gave 10 acres of the 60 for the location of the present St. Peter's Church, rectory and cemetery at Tyrconnell.

Has Owned It 32 Years

The wood lot was purchased in 1923 by John E. Pearce from his uncle, the late Storey Backus, great grandson of Mrs. Storey. It extends from the roadway in front of St. Peter's rectory to the lake bank and contains a picturesque grove containing stately beech, maple, basswood, black cherry, locust and other fine specimens of trees. It has been fenced off from livestock for 25 years with the result there are some splendid young trees now making good headway.

Mr. Pearce's Reason

Mr. Pearce's main reason for making the gift is to ensure that the wood lot in which he takes considerable pride, will be preserved in its present state indefinitely. The idea of presenting it as a park has been considered by him for several years.

Has Been Inspected

W. B. Greenwood, parks division chief, has inspected the Pearce property and is enthusiastic about the possibilities of development. It is likely that eventually tables and benches will be located in the lot for the use of people as a picnic ground. There is the possibility, too, that a roadway may be cut through the steep lake bank to the shore below. Some erosion is taking place at this spot now but some thought has been given to construction of a breakwater to prevent this.

Mr. Pearce's gift is one of 25 new parks in Ontario the past 12 months as the government is taking steps to provide suitable recreational spots for the people of the province.

Premier Frost has established an interdepartmental committee of cabinet ministers and ranking civil servants to review the whole parks question. Labor Minister Daley, who is also chairman of the Niagara Parks Commission, is chairman.

What they are reviewing is the biggest item in provincial parks since Algonquin Park was established in the early 1890's. The new parks are spotted throughout the province, with the exception of anything within easy reach of Metropolitan Toronto.

The new parks division was set up under the Lands and Forests Department in October of last year. To locate suitable parks properties, staff committees were set up in each of the 22 administrative districts. They recommended 60 properties, most of which have been inspected by Mr. Greenwood.

TYRCONNELL, Aug. 17 — Bearing the name of the man who donated it, the John E. Pearce provincial park, West Elgin's lushly-wooded 20-acre playground two miles east of here, was officially opened today.

One hundred and fifty persons attending the ceremony expressed their gratitude in a standing ovation to the descendant of the family which settled the area in 1809.

Hon. J. W. Spooner, minister of lands and forests, said the people of Ontario will be everlastingly grateful.

With the donor assisting, he then unveiled a marble memorial depicting a pioneer settler, muscles bulging, straining with a roughly hewn lever to clear a stump from the soil.

Designed by Donald Inman, Department of Lands and Forests artist, the circular monument reads:

John E. Pearce park: This forested land represents a most gracious gift from John Edward Pearce to the people of the province of Ontario for their inspiration and enjoyment. It is dedicated to the memory of his ancestors who settled in this area in 1809 and who were mainly responsible for the founding, in 1827, of St. Peter's Anglican church.

Following the unveiling Mr. Pearce reviewed the history of his family, said he was "proud to have had a part in this opening."

"In my capacity, as minister of the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests," said Mr. Spooner, "I want to express to Mr. Pearce, on behalf of the people of Ontario and the government I represent, our sincere thanks and gratitude for his generous gift."

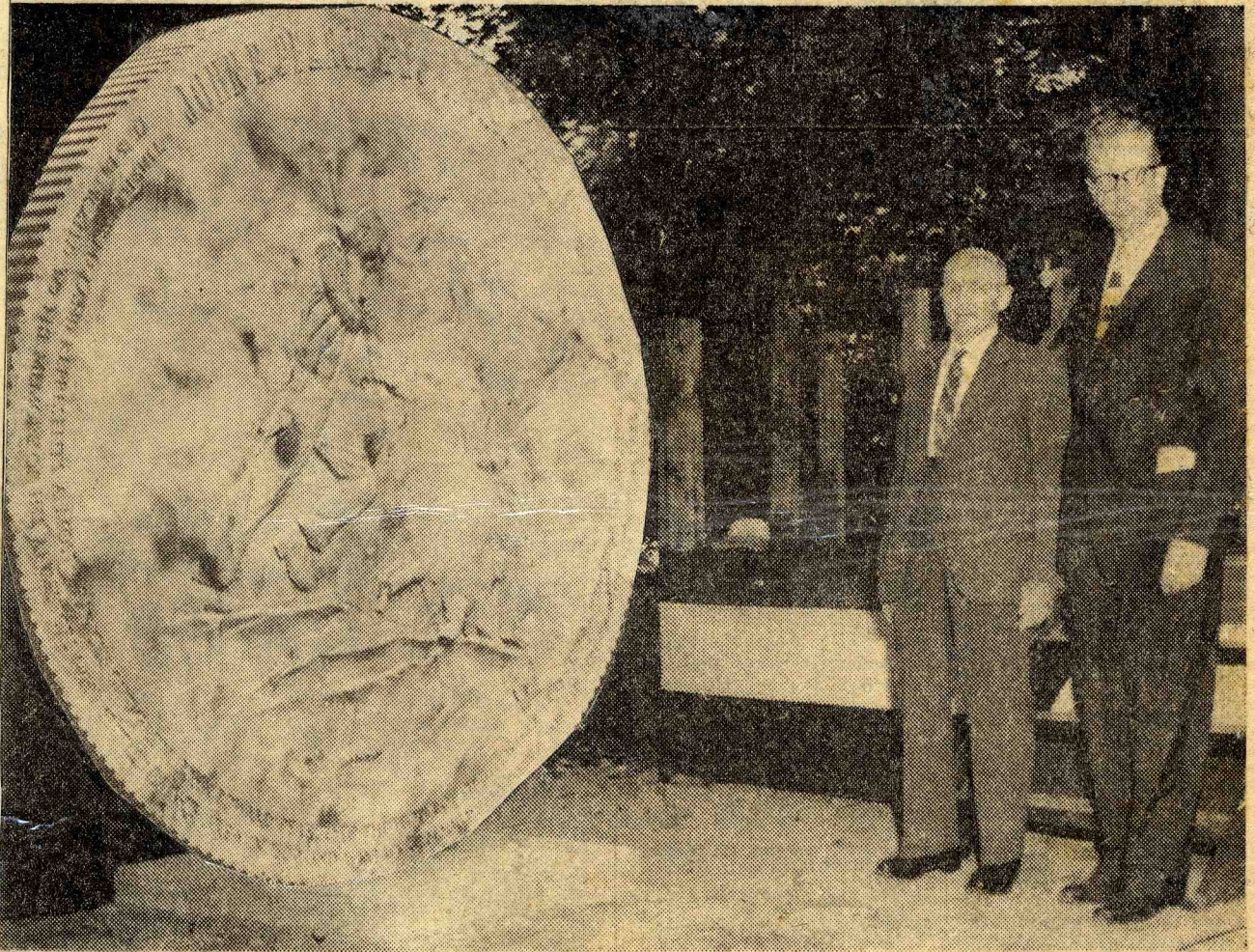
"I know it has been his long held dream to preserve this beautiful property as a sanctuary for birds and other wildlife and I assure him that we in the department will do everything within our power to see that his dream is fulfilled."

The John E. Pearce park," he continued, "perhaps more so than any other provincial park in Ontario, is imbedded in the early struggles that marked the settlement of this part of Upper Canada. I would say that a visit to this park is a must for every sightseer."

He noted that the park which overlooks Lake Erie lies in the heart of an area settled through the efforts of Col. Thomas Talbot, and that the cemetery which adjoins it contains the grave of Col. Talbot.

The minister also noted that during the war of 1812 General Brock, en route to the capture of Detroit, had camped near the park.

"The John E. Pearce park, established as a public trust," he concluded, "stands today in its natural beauty as an excellent tribute to a public spirited citizen, the man whose name it bears, a man of vision, a lover of nature and one who sees the need of maintaining our forests for the sake of beauty and conservation."



MARBLE MEMORIAL—A lushly-wooded, 20-acre provincial park two miles east of Tyrconnell was officially opened Monday by Hon. J. W. Spooner, minister of lands and forests. The new park has

been named the John E. Pearce Provincial Park in honor of the man who donated it. Here Mr. Pearce, left, and Mr. Spooner admire a marble memorial.



PIONEER SURROUNDINGS—Throughout the park the aim has been to keep surroundings as close to those of early settlement as possible. An old-fashioned pump provides drinking water without clashing with the rugged attraction of the park. Judith Bergin, Department of Lands and Forests attendant shows little Louise Ann Moorehouse how to get a drink of water.