



Back row, - Sanford Shippey, Jim Hill, Wm. H. Hill, Gordon Shippey

Front row, - Albert Hill, Fred Hill, George Hill, John Hill.

COMMUNITY MEMORIAL HALL

West Lorne

June 3rd., 1930, was an eventful day in West Lorne's history for it was on that day that the Community Memorial Hall was officially opened and the bronze plaque unveiled in memory of the sons of West Lorne and East Aldborough who gave their lives in the first World War. Designed by the architect, John T. Findlay, of St. Thomas, the hall fittingly serves the dual purpose of commemorating the dead while serving the living and posterity for whom the boys gave their lives. It contains a public hall, municipal offices, postoffice and centre for the Women's Institute. Indeed, the Women's Institute was the driving force behind the scheme. They have assumed a responsibility in the first place for some \$3,000 or more, the remainder of the initial payments upon a \$20,000 plan being given by the village council, the Provincial Government and individual donors, the whole being financed over a period of years. The hall stands at the corner of Main and Graham streets.

The Women's Institute and women of East Aldborough bought the war memorial in the central lobby. The synchronized clock is the gift of the late Mrs. Dougald MacPherson, and the beautiful curtain for the stage and stage equipment is furnished by the Young People's Dramatic Society.

Ideal weather prevailed for the opening ceremonies, which were performed by Colonel D.E. Gerrard, V.D., former

for some years without anything being done. The credit must be given to the Women's Institute, and two years ago it was decided to go ahead. The Council appointed a committee to co-operate. The site was originally acquired by the Federal Government in 1913 for a post-office, through the instrumentality of John A. McKillop, but the war intervened and the plans appeared to fall through. Finally the site was bought for the Memorial Community Hall, including the post-office, and today it was a source of pride to be there to see the consummation of their hopes.

A fine invocation was delivered by Rev. W.E. James of the Baptist church.

Colonel Gerrard then untied the knot in the purple cord, threw open the door and declared the hall open "to the glory of God, in memory of the men who fell in the Great War, in the name of King George and the Dominion of Canada."

Rev. E.T. Lewis of the Disciples church announced the hymn, "O God Our Hope in Ages Past".

Warden D.K. Andrew extended the congratulations of the County of Elgin to people of West Lorne, observing that a village which did not have a community hall was behind the times. West Lorne may have been behind other villages in having a community hall, but the men of West Lorne and district were not behind when the call came for men.

Rev. T. De Coursey Rayner, of the Presbyterian church, said

they could all look with pride upon the hall. He hoped that every time anyone entered the hall they would remember it was a tribute to the West Lorne and East Aldborough boys who were still overseas- never to return. He bade the community remember that this hall had been opened to the glory of God, and enjoined them to remember that He was their shield and strength, and that whatever they undertook should be worthy in His sight and of the great sacrifice that these men had made.

The children having sung "O Canada", the party entered the main hall, the next of kin of the men whose names appear on the memorial tablet being accorded the places of honor. Wreaths were carried by Robert Kerr, from the St. Thomas Legion; Charles Wilson, for the Village of West Lorne; and Sergeant Fred Edwards, M.M., for the veterans of West Lorne. Colonel Gerrard unveiled the tablet with a few appropriate words, and the wreaths were placed left, right and centre overhead, respectively, by Mrs. Lillian McPhee and Anthony Mateer, who each have two sons whose names are perpetuated on the memorial, and Ian Cameron, president of the St. Thomas branch of the Legion. The poignant "Last Post" was sounded by Bugler Adam Stewart, Rev. J.H. Langford of the Anglican church offered the prayer of dedication, and the bugler then sounded the note of joy in the "Reveille", which symbolizes the great awakening.

Warden Andrew moved a vote of thanks to Colonel Gerrard,

who, in reply, said he appreciated the honor that had been conferred upon him in being asked to perform the opening and unveiling ceremonies. He congratulated the community, and said that some of these boys whose names are on the tablet were with him in the 70th battalion. Unfortunately he did not go overseas with them as the battalion was split up among other battalions, but he knew them as fine soldiers and fine citizens. He learned that when they went to France they proved excellent men, of whom the district could always be proud, and he was glad to think that the community had paid them this honor which would be a reminder of the men whose example would be an inspiration to the rising generation.

The National Anthem having been sung, the hall was thrown open for public inspection. Subsequently there was a parade to the Memorial Park where a league baseball game was played between West Lorne and Shedden, the latter winning by five to three. After the game, supper was served in the basement of the hall by the Women's Institute, and the hall was put to use in the evening with a concert by the Schubert Concert Company of London.

Mrs. T.W. Sims, now of Kitchener, was the primary mover of the present achievement, as long ago as 1920, although a hall had been considered long before that, and the ladies who had been president of the W. I., and who have had much to do with the result, have been Mrs. F. Hurley, London;

Mrs. D. McKillop, Mrs. M. McKillop, West Lorne; Mrs. James Wanless, St. Thomas; Mrs. J.C. Sherk, Mrs. D. McPhail, and the present presiding officer, Mrs. J.A. McKillop, of West Lorne; together with the loyal and zealous assistance of all the members of the branch who have given their time and services ungrudgingly.

The general building contract was in the hands of A. McKillop and Sons Company, Limited, West Lorne, the plumbing and heating being executed by the local firm of Milner Turned Goods, Limited, so that the entire splendid job is a credit to the people of West Lorne.

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OUR CANNING FACTORY

The West Lorne Canning and Evaporating Company, Limited, was formed in 1890, and a fine frame factory was built under the supervision of Thomas Montague. The work was done by John Campbell, Duncan Gillies, John Gillies, John Templeton and Wellington Trigger, and the factory started operating in 1891.

In the early days the Company made cans and packed pigs' feet, lunch tongue, chicken, duck, strawberries, peas, corn, tomatoes, tomato catsup, apples, evaporated apples, and Pummace. The goods were sold under 'Lorne Brand' and enjoyed a wonderful reputation for fine quality, in good demand at home and abroad.

The Board of Directors consisted of Mr. A. McKillop, president, Dr. W. Brock, E.R. Mogg, Edward Cahill, Benjamin Partridge, T.E. Montague, J. Spencer, and W. Clark, Jr., who was secretary, followed by John Taylor, Miss Anne McKillop, R. St.C. Henderson, S.A. Morrison, and W.R. Campbell.

The Manager and Processor was Matthew Moore, then, J.A. Fuller and Benjamin Partridge, who were assisted by Charles Bartlett, J.M. Bole, R.B. Barlow, C.C. Robinson, Joseph Groom, R. Welch, and A.G. Stonehouse, who is the present progressive Manager (1952). St. C. Liddell has been associated with this factory for a number of years

as bookkeeper and later as superintendent.

The first can makers were J.T. Lemon, Fred Hutchinson, and Fred Bainard. Others who have done much to make the canning industry a success are A.E. Wall, James Chaseley, J.T. Lemon, Jacob Frick, W.J. Roach, C.E. Cunliffe, Alexander MacCallum, Archie McLennan, Mrs. Vanloon, and R.E. Clark.

In 1896 a warehouse was built across the road from the factory. This was moved in 1904, and is still in use as a seed warehouse for Messrs. W. McLandress & Sons.

In 1910, when the Company was taken over by the Dominion Cannery, a large process building and power plant were built, and in 1922, when taken over by the New Canadian Cannery, new and up-to-date machinery was installed. The Company began now to specialize in fewer lines and larger packs.

On April 1, 1925, the canning plant was burned, with a heavy loss in supplies and equipment. A new plant was built the same year and in time for operation. West Lorne still enjoys a reputation for quality.

This article was prepared by
Mr. John M. Bole.

SAWMILL BUSINESS WITH HISTORIC BACKGROUND

A. McKILLOP & SONS,
West Lorne, Ont., - is an Old Firm -
Its Inception Dates Back to the Year
1856 - Interesting Contrasts of Old
Time Sawmilling Practice and Marketing
With Present Methods and Prices-
Company Have Another Twenty Years Supply
in Adjacent Hardwood Limits

It is over one hundred years since the spirit of conquest thrilled Canadian ancestors who struggled and died that we might be called Canadians.

Most persons to-day who gained their knowledge of Canadian history from the rather dull and limited confines of a text book rarely give much thought to the struggle and handicaps of those early days. Seldom are we moved to imagine what places, which are known to us to-day, looked like a hundred years ago; who were some of those fearless people who came with little else than their hands to make a living in this new country. When you meet a resident to-day who can tell you about some of these persons who lived a century ago on the same ground, who can point out landmarks where their fathers and grandfathers made their living, then life in those early times becomes a reality and one lives again with the story-teller for a brief half hour or so in the forest with those first Canadians.

Down in the pretty village of West Lorne, in Southwestern Ontario, the "Canada Lumberman" recently paid a visit to the sawmill of A. McKillop & Sons. McKillop's sawmill, as the