

## My Grandfather, Stewart Smith and "Real" Horsepower

Another aspect of a bygone era associated with horse drawn vehicles was the breeding of good horses, the prevalence of which is aptly shown in the foregoing illustration and the following one from the 1880 Historical Atlas for Lambton County, both line drawings still recognizable Warwick Township Landmarks.

There were horses used everywhere, not only for drawing light carriages such as buggies, cutters and democrats, the kind of thing the automobile would replace, but for heavier working conditions as well, where a draft animal was a necessity, occupations where trucks and tractors would be used today.

Another industry that was a major trade in those times, now provided only as a specialty, was Horse-shoeing. The same goes for the provision of Stallion Services, a common enough occupation of those times when the scheduled location and the virtues and specifications of these "travelled" animals was advertised in the local papers.

Utility was not the only requisite; Oklahoma was not the only place where the importance of a "Surrey with the Fringe on Top" was a major asset for a young blade of those times setting out to wow the fair sex. Along with a fine "rig" was a good looking "strutter" and pictures from that era prove how handsome the set up could be and the obvious pride in its possession. These handsome animals had the virtue of being pets, living creatures to be loved and cared for, groomed until they shone—an advantage too—since they didn't rust.

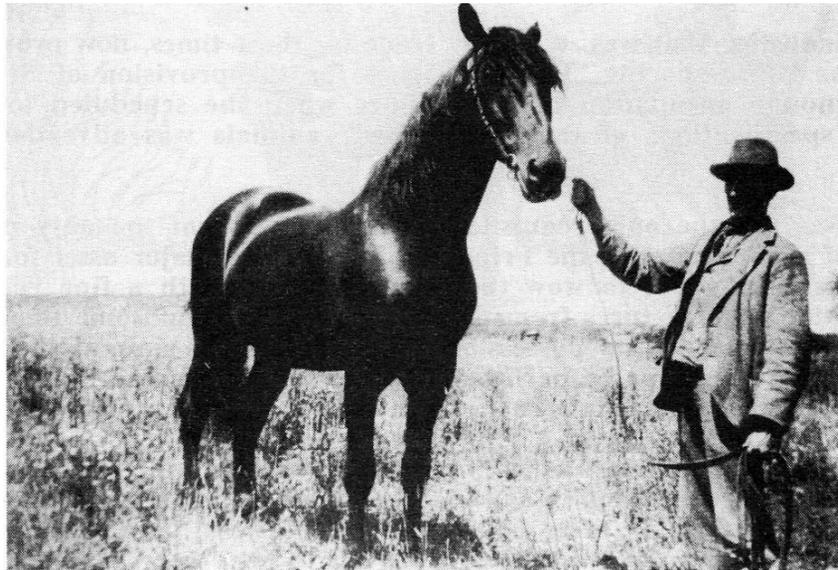
Breeding for a work horse was as important as breeding for a carriage "driver" and the selection of the stallion was an important feature that depended on the requirements. My Grandfather, Stewart Smith, owned two stallions at different times. His first was Clellan Chief which proved to be a very successful sire.

After a few years, he sold Clellan Chief and purchased Moneo, a trotting horse with the idea that owners could breed their driver mares and have replacements coming on for the future. In those days, you couldn't go out and buy a new car as you do today. If a new "driver" was needed and you hadn't a horse coming on to fill the bill, you had to scour the countryside to see what was available in drivers that were young, those in the 2 to 4 year old range, to make your selection.

The farmer needing a more versatile kind of animal could breed his heavy draft mares to this trotter. The crossing produced a general purpose foal which was very tough and wirey and when broken in, could be hitched to the buggy as a driver or harnessed up and hitched to a plough, wagon or as a third horse on a 3 horse hitch. This type of horse was very saleable, large enough to be a work horse yet agile enough to be a driver. The advantage is obvious as farmers needed a driver and the large breeds were unsuitable for this purpose.

Stallion owners and handlers had a route with stopovers at different intervals and usually an overnight stop at the end of the route, returning the next morning to the Home Barn, again with stopovers on the way. The Stallion was available at the Home Barn as well when not travelling. I remember seeing a poster for Clellan Chief displaying a picture of the horse and information as to pedigree, routes, locations and times.

At that time the service fee payable at the time of service was usually about \$25., guaranteeing a standing foal. The travelling generally began about May 15th and ended August 31st. The reason for this particular span of weeks, since the gestation period for a mare is eleven months, would time the foal to be born the following spring between April and July, to take advantage of the warm spring months for the newborn colt to be out in pasture with its mother. Moneo was the last stallion my grandfather owned. After several years of travelling, this horse was sold and my grandfather retired.



*My Grandfather, Stewart Smith, with "Moneo"*

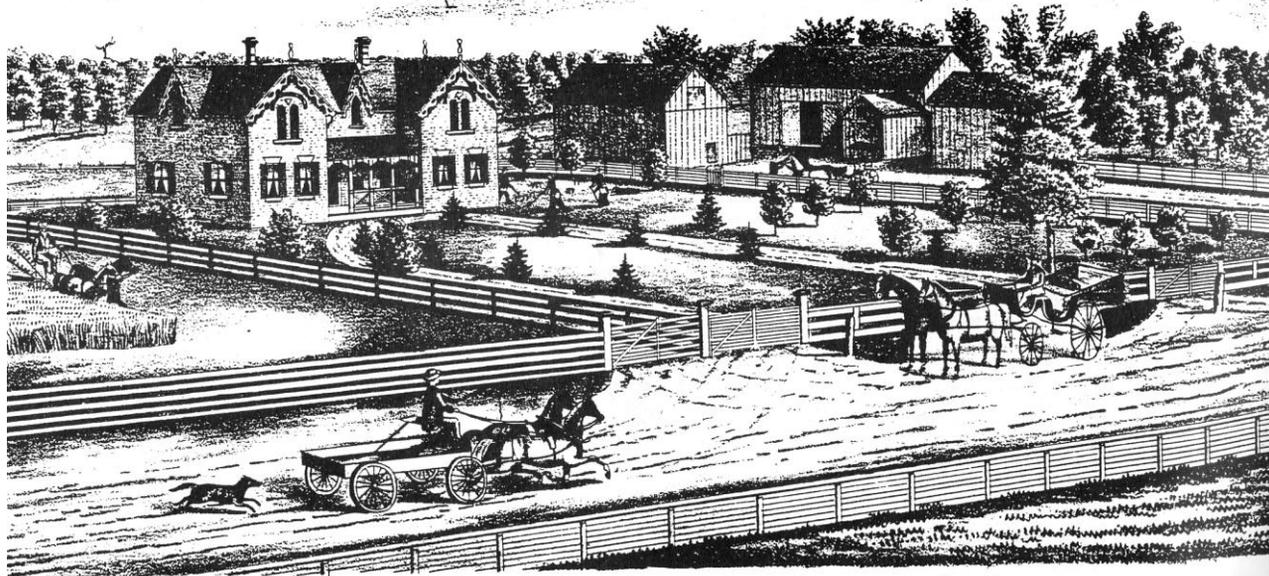
Horses are intelligent animals and stallions, whose care and breeding make them a special company, can take advantage of their privileged class and be mean and vicious, biting and kicking as their humor dictates. The worst mistake an owner can make is fail to make it clear to the animal just who is "boss" so my grandfather had to be constantly on the alert and be fully in charge. Occasionally, when the stallion would become hard to handle, my grandfather, who kept a hickory pole, 4 ft. long and about 3/4 to 1 inch in diameter handy, would have to go into the Stallion's Box Stall and give him a sound whipping to "smarten him up." This was a private "deal" between the two of them and was never done when out on route or in the exercise run.

My Grandfather, Stewart Smith was crippled by Polio at an early age and suffered the deformity of one ankle that was twisted out of shape. Having the same ankle broken didn't help, an accident that happened when he was helping his uncle move a horse-power [a kind of machine where a horse walked around in a circle turning a central axle that provided power to a saw or a pump, much as a power take-off on a tractor provides power for the various pieces of machinery we use nowadays]

Joseph Smith, my Great Uncle, owned a stallion briefly, about the same time as my Grandfather [Competition! ] Joe travelled his horse as well as having his stallion service mares that farmers and owners of the surrounding area brought to the Home Barn.

*Horses! Horses! Everywhere!*

[243]



RES. OF W. AULD ESQ., CON 2, N.E.R. 701 B, WARWICK, TP., LAMBTON CO., ONT.

## Packing Apples

Packing apples in barrels as shown in the opposite clipping illustrates the procedure used when I helped harvest the apple crop in September and October of 1933 on the Auld Farm owned by this time by Andrew [Peck] Auld.

The apples were picked then sorted to remove any culls that existed. These culls were generally taken to the portable cider press on the farm and made into cider.

The remaining apples were sorted as to size before packing in the barrels for shipment. A ring of apples was placed around the outer edge at the bottom of the barrel and the centre filled in. Then the sorted apples [as to size] were carefully dumped in from the full hampers, being careful not to bruise them in any way.



When you had filled the barrel to within two or three inches from the top, the last layer was placed in the same fashion as the bottom layer, facing up. The barrel top was made with a thick felt pad attached to cushion the packed apples and this was placed loosely over them.

At this point, the pressing began, placing the apple barrel press with its hooks at the bottom of the barrel under the outer edge [staves] and the press on the barrel top. The press was screwed down until there was just room to get the lid in the groove at the top of the barrel. Then the barrel hoops were driven down until the lid was securely in place. The hoops were fastened by small nails. A stencil was next placed on the barrel lid and the name and the address of the grower and the grade brushed on with stencilling ink.

A. B. AULD, GROWER  
WATFORD, ONTARIO  
GRADE # 1

1933 was the last year that barrels were used for packing apples. From then on, the apples were picked, sorted and placed in bushel hampers and taken to the new Lambton Growers Cold Storage Building in Forest. This method of handling the crop continued until about 1980 when the Lambton Growers went belly-up since many of the growers had built and used their own refrigeration facilities.



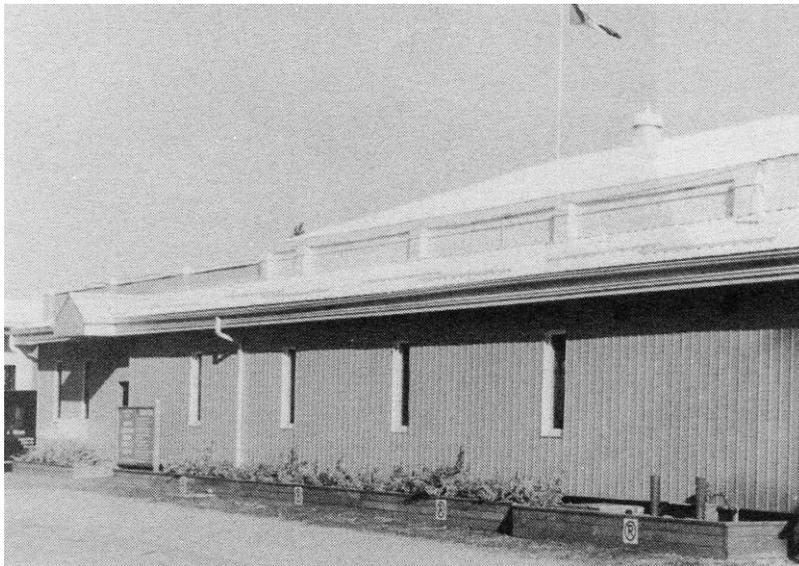
During those years from 1932 to 1952, I helped one way or another from picking to sorting to hauling to storage, whatever was necessary in harvesting the apple crop. Picking 90 to 100 bushels of apples per day was hard work and quite a feat when an 18 to 20 foot ladder had to be wrestled about along with the weight of a picking basket which held about a bushel when full. I still have a ladder and picking basket like those that were used.

The apple season of 1945 was a failure, sometimes only 8 to 10 bushels being harvested from an entire orchard, the reason being the weather. During the winter of 1944-1945, the snowfall was exceedingly heavy. As a result of this, there was no frost in the ground. The weather was mild during the first week of March and when the snow melted, with the unusual warmth, the buds opened out. After coming in like a lamb, March went out like a lion and the heavy frosts destroyed the tender newly opened buds; the apple crop was over before it began.

Part of the former Lambton Apple Growers Storage Building is now used by William Dinyer for his Lawn Furniture Store and the rest contains the Office and Facilities of the Lambton Health Unit.



**With Saw and Pruning Shears**



**The Former Lambton Apple Growers Cold Storage Building in Forest  
[1994]**

## **Speaking of Weather!!**

TORNADO WARNING: Sandy Ferguson of Warwick, looked outside when two boys rode up on motor bikes and warned her a tornado was coming. Although a tornado warning was issued for Lambton and Middlesex Counties, it was cancelled after about an hour.

"It [the funnel cloud] was coming toward the house. I was having a fit! I grabbed blankets and took the children to the basement."

Twenty minutes later, it started to go back up in the sky and she saw another one form, she said Sunday.

The spiralling clouds didn't touch down and fire chiefs from Warwick, Arkona and Forest said no damage was reported. The storm dissipated somewhat before reaching London, which received only heavy rainfall.

Deanna McEwen of Warwick recalled "there was a tip that came down [from the sky] and a tail on the side. It was as still as could be out and then the sky got dark."

The storms were all part of the same system that caused damage across the province and is blamed for the deaths of 21 people in the eastern United States.



Video by Barbara Pottelberg

Warwick Township resident Barbara Pottelberg spotted the funnel cloud from her house at Nine Sideroad and Concession 1 and filmed it with her camcorder. "I was more stunned than anything else. It was all very calm around us--no wind, no birds, nothing." The funnel disappeared after 10 minutes, she says. A funnel cloud is a tornado that hasn't made contact with the ground.

## THE WARWICK CREAMERY

The Warwick Creamery was located on the south west corner of 12 sideroad and the Egremont Road, now Highway #7, on the same property where the Warwick Central School was built at a later time. The Creamery Building was used as a Cheese Factory for many years before becoming a Creamery. The Cheese Factory and Creamery were both operated by J.S. Clark & Son with Mr. Hudson, J.S. Clark's father-in-law as Cheese Maker. Below is a resume of the 1901 Season. [W. G. A. March 21, 1902]

Clarke's Warwick Cheese Factory.		STATEMENT OF SEASON, SALES, ETC.								
(Advertisement.)				Lbs.	Price per			To		
The annual meeting of Clarke's Warwick Cheese Factory, was held in the Town Hall, Warwick, on Friday, March 14th, at 2 p. m. Mr. Barrett was elected chairman. The minutes of last annual meeting were read and adopted.		Month	Lbs Milk	Cheese.	Lb.	Value.	To Pat.	Maker	Rate.	Average.
The following officers were elected for 1902 :—		May.....	49418	4402	8½	\$ 377.50	\$ 276.55	\$100.39	57	11.5
President—M. Barrett.		June.....	202688	17990¾	9 -9½	1621.03	1215.65	404.79	60	11.2
Sec.-Treas.—F. Kenward.		¾ July.....	182418	15632½	9¼-9½	1458.39	1095.97	351.73	60	11.6
Salesman—J. S. Clarke.		¼ July.....	62852	5558½	9½	527.86	392.52	125.02	62½	11.1
Auditors ) J. C Wilkinson.		½ August ...	136633	12522½	9 3/16	1152.95	819.64	281.75	60	10.9
N. Herbert.		½ August ...	116708	10294	9½ 9¾	923.17	729.13	231.61	62½	11.3
The Sec. Treas. was instructed to keep cheese fully insured for the time it remains in factory.		¾ September	116825	10152	8¾-9¼	930.23	700.53	228.42	60	11.5
		¾ September	104066	10733	9	965.97	697.69	241.49	66¾	9.7
		Oct & Nov..	218308	22554	8½	1917.09	1419.87	507.46	65	9.6
		Total.....	1189916	109897		\$9874.19	\$7349.55	\$2472.66		
		Total Expenses, \$51.98. Average for season, 10.8. Average rate per 100, 62½.								

The factory was sold to Mr. Bean, who operated there for a few years. It was sold to the Ross Brothers, Ken and Bob, who carried on the business with John Main Sr., as Buttermaker. Mr. Main moved to Glencoe to work in the Glencoe Creamery in 1929. Ross Brothers carried on with the business for a few years with Alex Johns of Exeter as Buttermaker. The business was sold to Kerwood Creamery and the equipment was removed in the 1930's. The building was used after that for farm storage. It was torn down and removed in the 1940's.

**The Warwick Creamery Building after it had been closed a number of years**





**Nelson Main, son of the Buttermaker, John Main, standing in front of The Warwick Creamery when it was in its hey-day**



**The Wilkinson Store after Its Conversion into a Home**



## THE ICE HARVEST

The cutting and storing of ice [for use in the summer months, May until September] was a minor industry when in the winter, ice became a thickness of approximately 1 ft. on the large ponds in Bear Creek, especially the pond under the Bear Creek Bridge, protruding out on both sides of the bridge. The equipment I first remember used in the Ice Harvest were Ice Saws, Ice Tongs and Pike Poles, Axes and Spud Bars. And really, the most necessary feature was a strong back and arms [plus a weak mind]. I will attempt to make a sketch of the saws, tongs, pike for the pike pole, and spud bars later in the story, to accompany the cartoon depicting another view of ice cutting. I have had the cartoon in my possession for several years.

The Ice Saw was a 5 ft. blade with a steel shank and a cross wooden handle. The Ice Tongs were made out of steel; the Pike Pole, generally hickory with a steel spike and super at one end and a Spud Bar, generally a one inch bar, flattened and tapered at one end. The Ice House usually consisted of a bent in an old barn or shed, lined on the inside to hold the sawdust used in packing the blocks of ice. When packing, the ice was stacked in layers, leaving 14" to 16" for sawdust all around the layer. Snow was packed into the cracks and crevices of each layer.

The Hotel requirements, which I was familiar with, were about 150-175 cakes or blocks 20"x20" x 12"-14" in thickness that were required for one summer's use. You weren't done with it yet. Every morning you had to uncover the ice, pry loose a cake, re-cover the ice in the Ice House, wash off the ice to remove the sawdust and dirt. This was all done by hand, no hoses or pressure systems in those days, and then carry it and put it in the Refrigerator or Ice Box.

Ross Bros., Warwick Creamery owners, stored 2000-2500 cakes of ice. This was stored in the west bent of an old barn situated south of where the present Central School is now, standing west of where Rob Ferguson's new home is located.

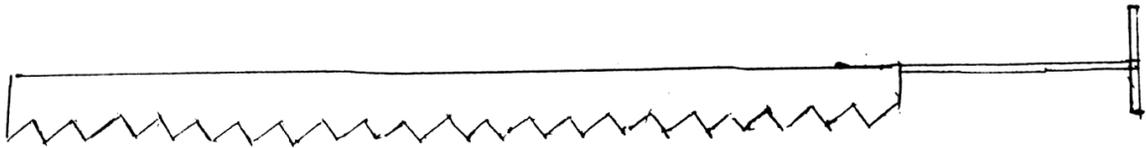
After a few years, it was decided to mechanize the procedure; first, the mechanical saw; this took about two years to perfect. Then came the conveyer to elevate the ice onto the trucks for transport. The conveyer took about one year to perfect. When the trucks took over the hauling, the teams and sleighs became obsolete as far as the hauling of ice was concerned.

The Ice Cutting equipment was owned by the Ross Brothers, and was moved around the countryside to large ponds wherever it was required. This became necessary when Earl Dobbin stored a large amount of ice to supply home owners in Watford who were without electric refrigeration.

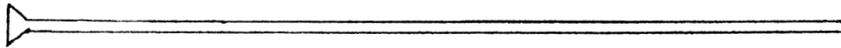
By accident, Ken Ross, somehow or other, always managed to fall into the open water where the ice had been removed. I remember one particular year, on the last day we were cutting, while gathering up the equipment, Ken boasted that "he had not fallen in this year" at which point, he turned around and plopped into the open water.

After the Creamery went out of business, the ice cutting equipment was sold to Earl Dobbin. He stored ice for a few years in the Old St. James Church that had been moved onto property near the bridge, south of the railway in Watford, but as electric refrigeration advanced, the storage and delivery of ice became a service of a bygone era.

# TOOLS USED IN THE ICE HARVEST



ICE SAW 5 ft. BLADE



SPUD 1 in. BAR 5 ft. IN LENGTH



ICE TONGS

The Spud, Tongs, Pike and Brad were all made in Mr. Alfred Cox's Blacksmith Shop, Warwick Village.

OUT OUR WAY

BY J. R. WILLIAMS



PIKE POLE

10 ft. HICKORY POLE

## THE WARWICK PEA VYNERs

The Vyners were built on the east side of 9 sideroad north of the village on the property where Dennis and Theresa Blunt's home is presently situated. The buildings were erected to house the Vyners [the mills] which were used to thresh the green peas for canning by Canadian Cannery of Forest. With two mills in place, the harvesting and threshing of the peas began in the latter part of June or early July of 1931. Power was supplied by a Portable Steam Engine owned by Leslie McKay of Warwick Village. This same steam engine was used to power Mr. McKay's Sawmill on 9 sideroad and used by Mr. McKay for his threshing machine which he operated at that time. The Pea Vyners operation continued until 1943 when two additional Vyner Mills were added to the setting.

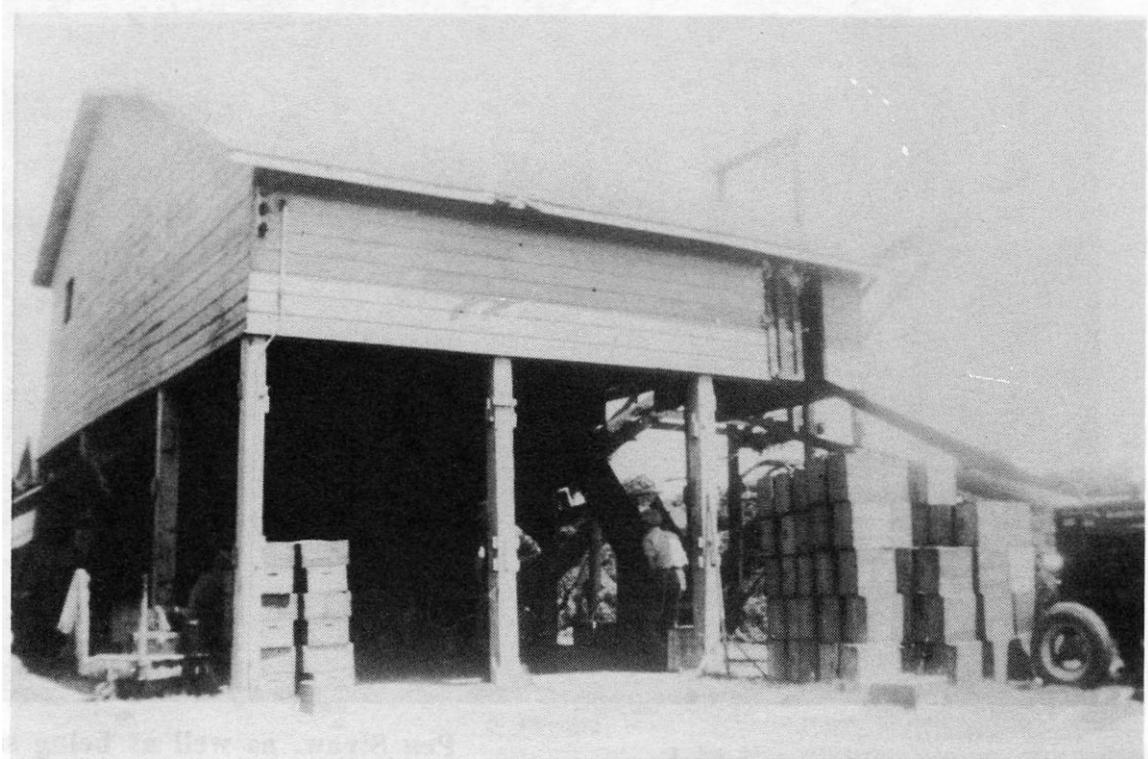
More power was needed for the additional Vyners than the steam engine could supply so two large tractors were brought in to split the power requirement in two--two Vyners to each tractor. Jack Tanton supplied one tractor, the other by Mr. Kernohan. Clare Stewart also supplied a small Ford Tractor with a front end loader to do the stacking. This operation carried on for a few years but when a new harvesting machine became available that worked on the same principle as a combine, cutting and threshing the peas in the field--this eliminated the need for the Vyners.

The Vyners were closed in 1957, the buildings torn down and the Vyner Mills removed. The pea vines or straw was always stacked to the east side of the Vyners. This made excellent forage for cattle. The farmers in the surrounding area hauled it away by the ton per load, [approximately guessing] the stack always being used up by spring. The spoilage was hauled away for manure and orchard mulch.

The Village Residents were real happy to see this operation go. The seepage from the stack found its way into Spring Creek that flows through the Village to join Bear Creek south of the residential area. The odor from the Pea Stack and the Seepage from it were really obnoxious!!!

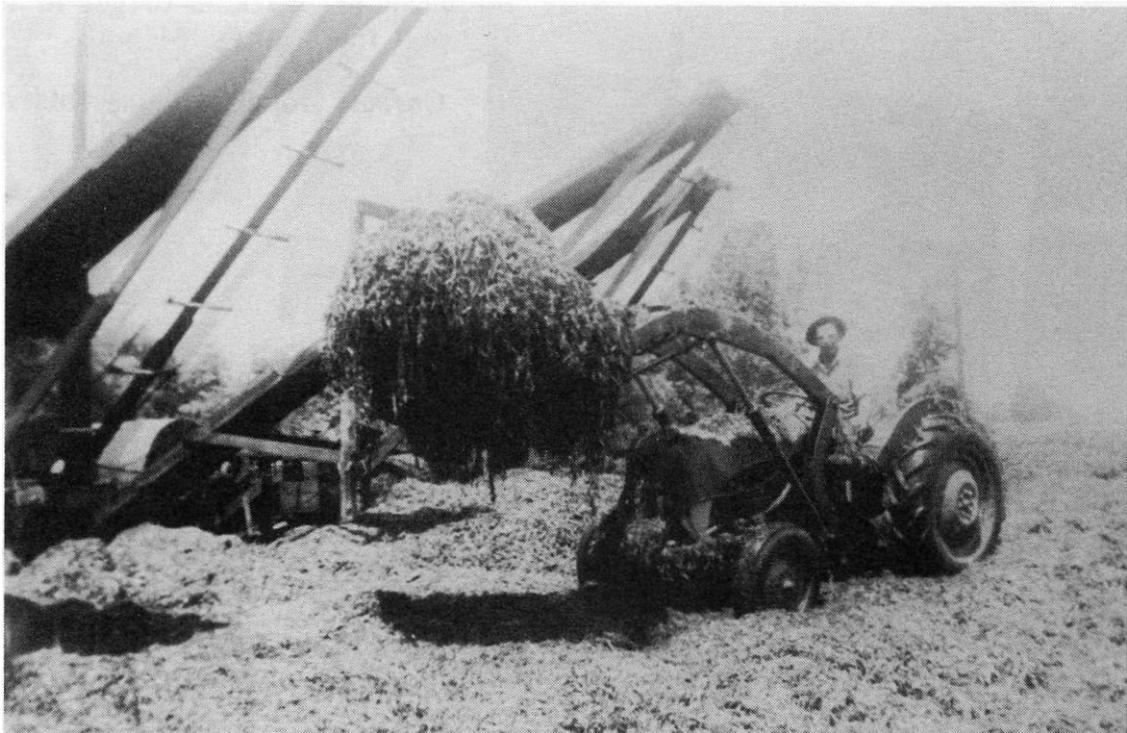
A list of men in charge of the operation: William [Widdy] Smith and Sydney [Syd] Barnes (who was also in charge of the pea ensilage disposal), Harry Roberts and Carroll Goodhand. Some pictures are available of this operation.

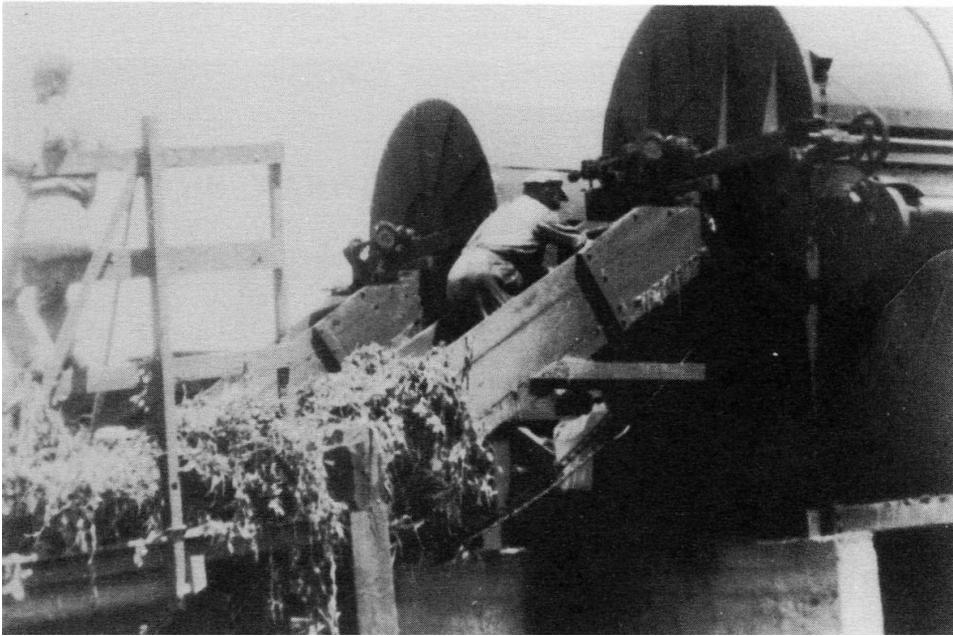
The Pea Vyner property was sold to Ivor [Oscar] and Margaret Rose Blunt. They moved a house onto the property and renovated it into a nice home for themselves and their family. Margaret Rose's son Dennis and his wife Theresa reside in the home at the present time. A more complete resume of this property may be found later.



Above: The Pea Vyner's Building

Below: Bill Goldhawk with the Front End Loader



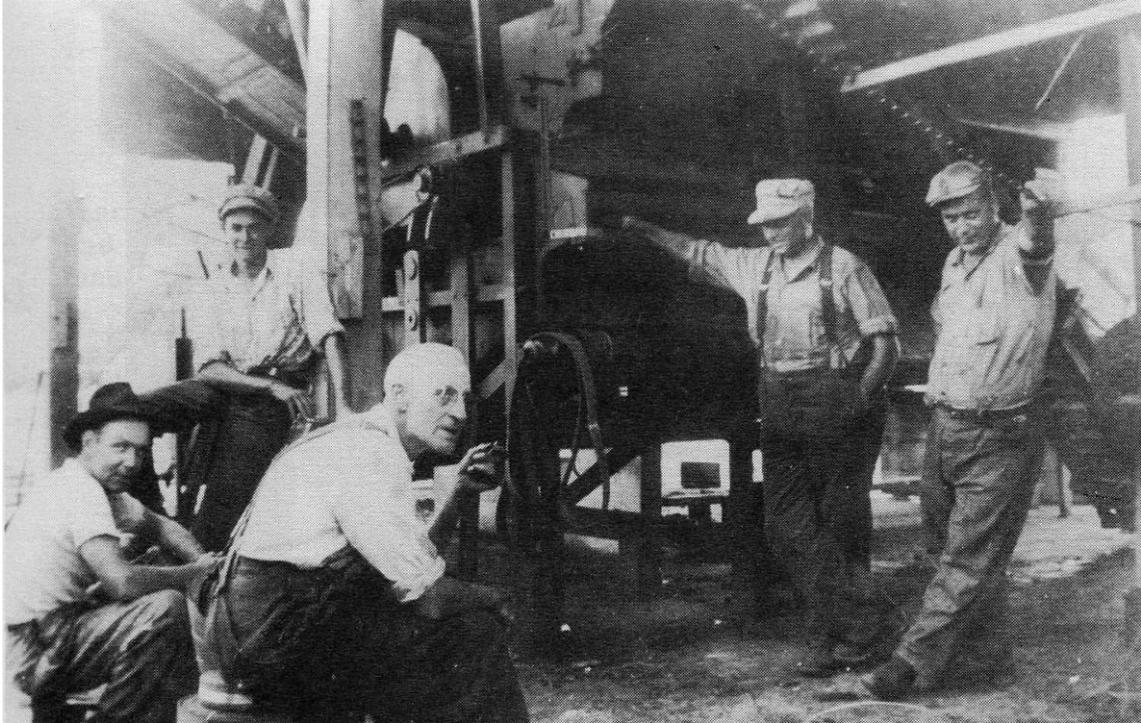


Pea Straw, as well as being smelly, is wet and heavy and tends to plug up the machinery if it is fed in too quickly. As in the picture above, the only means of getting the operation back on track is to get in there and pull the stinky stuff out.

Carroll Goodhand does his stuff---



As in the picture to the left, there may have been times of such distress when only a "little affection" would help to keep a guy on the job.  
Wes Core and Bill Goldhawk

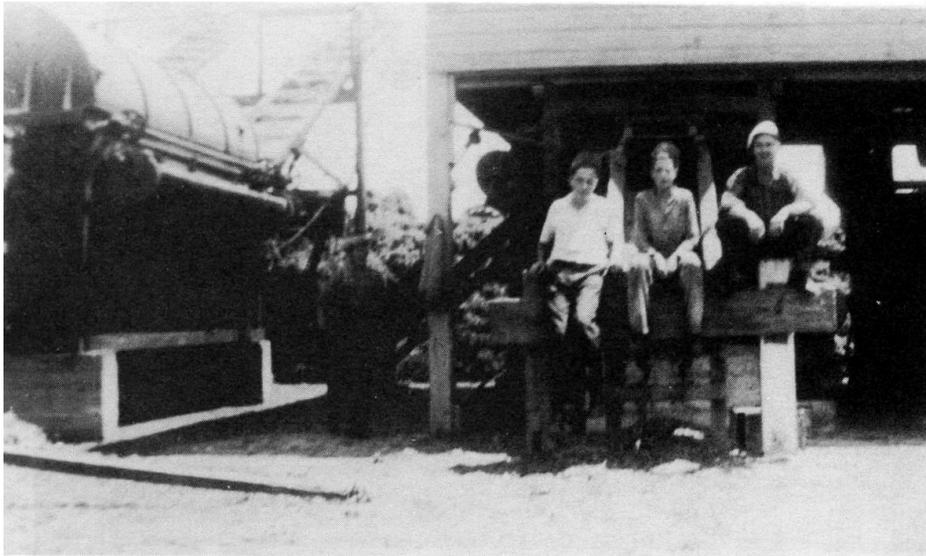


Time for a break:

In the picture above, the names of the two boys on the left are not known but next is Hugh Freele and standing, Carroll Goodhand and Frank Cundick.



And at another smoke break, Lorne Goodhand wears a felt hat, next to him sitting down is Ed Nidery with George Smith standing behind.



When the works gets plugged up and the operation shuts down—what else do you do—take a break-

The names of the two boys on the left aren't known but Ed Nidery is on the right. The man coming around the corner may be Carroll Goodhand.



In the picture to the left, the boy with the sandwich isn't recognizable but Ed Nidery is sitting slightly behind him and Hugh Freele is standing behind both of them.

## **McDERMID PALLETS**

Don McDermid bought the Old Horse Barn and Property in 1968 from Bob Warwick of Wallaceburg who was operating Stanton Pallets\* from that building. Don had a two year agreement with a buyer of a similar business, sold by Don, not to make and sell any pallets before Don could commence operations.

The McDermid Family moved to Warwick on July 1st, 1969--Don, Ella, George, Anne and Ray. Don started McDermid Pallets in 1970, using the same Old Horse Barn for sheltering the equipment used in the production of the pallets with full operation from 1970 to 1977.

Then, a new, larger and more modern building was erected and the Old Horse Barn was taken down and removed to make way for the stacking of materials required in the manufacture of pallets as well as the finished product.

Don had a stroke on Thanksgiving Day in 1984: he is bedridden and unable to care for himself--this misfortune has prevented him from seeing the results of his endeavours. It is a successful, thriving business, being operated by his youngest son, Ray and his wife Tannis.

\* Stanton Pallets, the former name of the business, got its name from the race horse, Dr. Stanton, who was buried near the front of the property where a granite memorial to him was placed over the grave. This monument has since been removed.

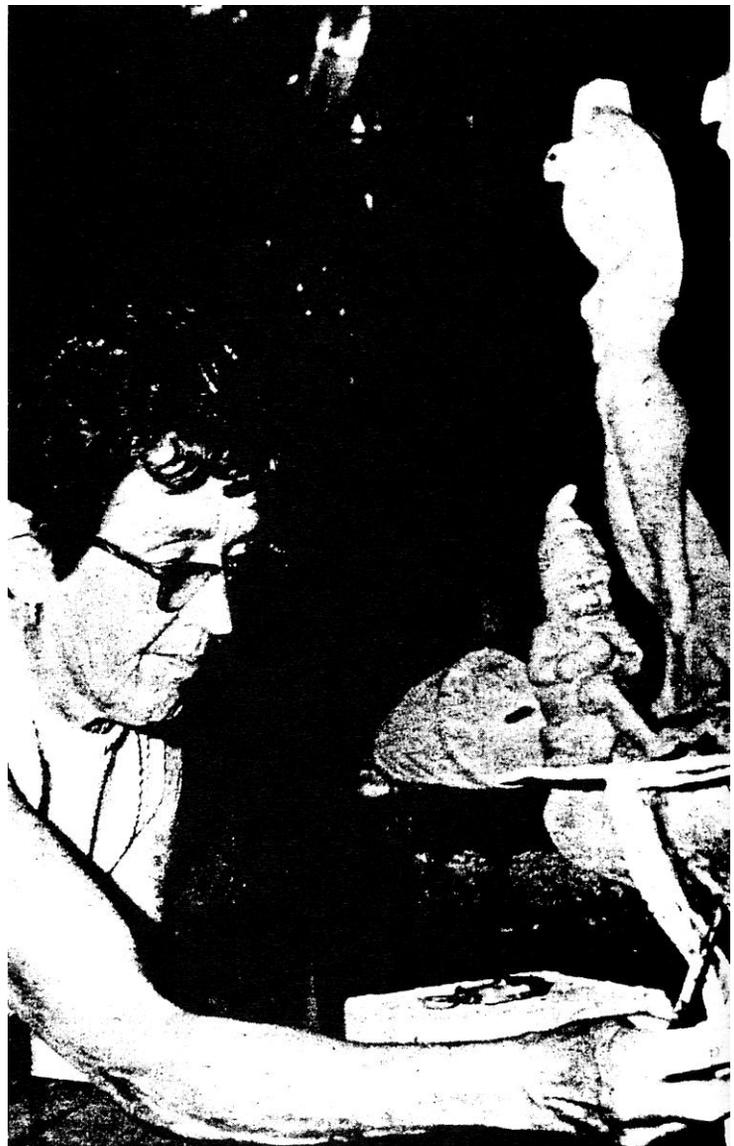
## **WARWICK LAWN ORNAMENTS**



The business was originally started by Walter [Wally] and Lillian Cleator in Harold Cosens former Residence, Plumbing and Electrical Shop in 1968. Wally learned the trade in England from a man engaged in the moulding of figures. Wally kept pestering him about his skill and so the man taught Wally the art involved. Lillian became adept at painting the statuary in appropriate colours and could do a remarkable job at copying any figurine that came her way by making a mould of it in a rubbery plastic and then from this mould, making as many replicas as were needed.

Wally was an employee at the time in Forest Basket Factory, but there was so much demand for these lawn ornaments and tables and benches that what started as a hobby, soon became a full-time operation.

Lillian Cleator at work making a mould for a novelty lawn ornament.



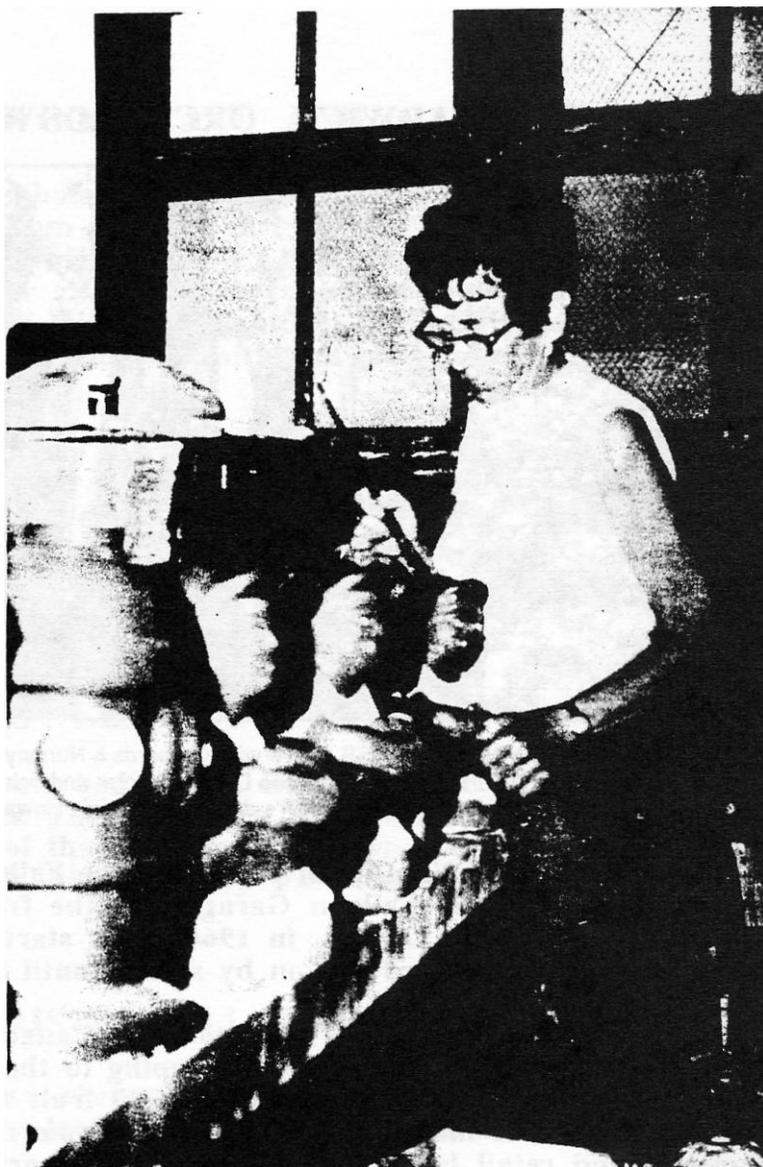
The business was purchased by Peter Ferwerda in November of 1976 with approximately 1500 different moulds being used in making these artifacts. Pete always mentions his debt to Lillian for the help she gave him in getting the knowhow of their setting up and manufacture and the final finishing off with an expert paint job.

The Ornaments include Deer, Lions, Cows, Horses, Pigs, Rabbits, Cats etc. There are Dwarfs, Gnomes, Bird Baths, Water Fountains, Tables, Benches, Patio Stones, Planter Urns and Window Boxes etc.

Pete still carries on the business [with considerable help because of the production] selling to customers from the surrounding area and those who come upon the enterprise while travelling #7 Highway. He also makes some ornaments for outlying Garden and Nursery Markets on a Wholesale Basis.

Pete Ferwerda and daughters Ann and Laura live in the residence which he has completely renovated, located to the west side of the Ornament Shop.

Mrs. Cleator begins the task of painting a line of lawn ornaments.



## WARWICK ORCHARDS AND NURSERY



IN THE GROWING BUSINESS — Warwick Orchards & Nursery is truly a family-operated business. Family members include Johanna and John Van Diepen (centre and right) and their son Robert (left). Also involved with the business is Johanna and John's daughter, Patricia Howard, and Patricia's husband, Dean.

John and Johanna VanDiepen purchased the Falloon Farm, the two storey white brick Falloon Residence, the Falloon Garage and the frame house, occupied usually by the owner or lessee of the Garage, in 1966. They started out with a dwarf fruit section in 1967, planting the orchard section by section until it was completed.

They were one of the first operations in Canada to propagate trees until now they produce about 100,000 trees a year, shipping to the U.S., Maritimes and the West Coast as well as Ontario. There are about 32,000 fruit trees of different varieties grown on about 60 acres. The mainly apple production from these trees forms the big part of their wholesale and retail business but they have branched out into other varieties such as pears and plums as well as the smaller varieties of fruits in the berry line.

The Store and Storage Building were in place by 1974 and the Controlled Atmospheric Storage was installed in 1982. In the spring, garden plants and seeds are available, later in the season, small fruits of the pick-your-own variety and imported fruits such as oranges, grapefruit and bananas are available in the store. Ice Cream in the cone, hand-dipped, candy bars and other specialties, such as fruit baskets are available there too.

Nursery stock forms another important part of their operation in the way of ornamental shrubs and trees. Bulbs for fall planting are to be had at that time.

Both John and Johanna are Dutch immigrants, both coming from families engaged in fruit farming and greenhouse and plant propagation. Before coming to Warwick, they lived in Sarnia when John was employed at C.I.L.

Two of the VanDiepen children are involved in the business, Robert and Patricia and Patricia's husband Dean Howard.

## **BEAR CREEK WOODCRAFT AND CABINETS**

In 1977, Tom Pembleton built a home for himself and Vicky on the north side of Highway #7 on property purchased from and just east of Norm Thomas. He then built a workshop to the rear of the home in which he made Lawn Gadgets such as Ducks, Puddy Cats, Felixes, Snoopys and whatever. He did renovations to homes at this time but eventually got into building Kitchen Cabinets, Vanities, Wall Cabinets, Curios, Bars, Cedar Chests and so on. Refinishing antique furniture is also done. Major renovations are still a specialty.

Two additions have been made to the workshop since 1977; these being necessary to house the equipment used in making the finished product. There are three employees to help at Bear Creek Woodcraft and Cabinets.

Tom and Vicky and their children, Paul and Alaina reside in their home in front of the shop.

## **RON BOWLES BODY SHOP**

Starting in 1979, doing collision and body work, Ron did paint jobs on automobiles, farm implements, trucks and wagons. The shop barn was located east of 9 sideroad to the back of the property and south of the house formerly owned by Ron and his family, now owned by Allan and Betty Galbraith. This shop was closed in 1992.

## **McCANN'S [GRIST MILL] WOODWORKS**

The workshop, located on property where the old Maple Grove Hotel stood [burned 1947] is where the making of wooden lawn furniture, kitchen cabinets, wall curios and vanities is carried on.

As well, the McCanns install siding and windows and do roofing and custom work of all kinds in the line of major renovations. Operated by Don McCann and son Brad.

## **VAN/VER CONSTRUCTION**

Partners in this business operation are Martin Van Kessel and Adrian Vermieren, doing large scale construction framing, all of their work taking place outside of this community. Much of what they do is on projects such as condominiums and large scale construction sites mostly in the new suburban communities of large cities.

Martin and Willi are residents of Warwick Village, Adrian Vermieren, who lived at one time on the west side of 9 sideroad, just south of the Egremont Road, now owns and lives on a farm east on Highway 22.



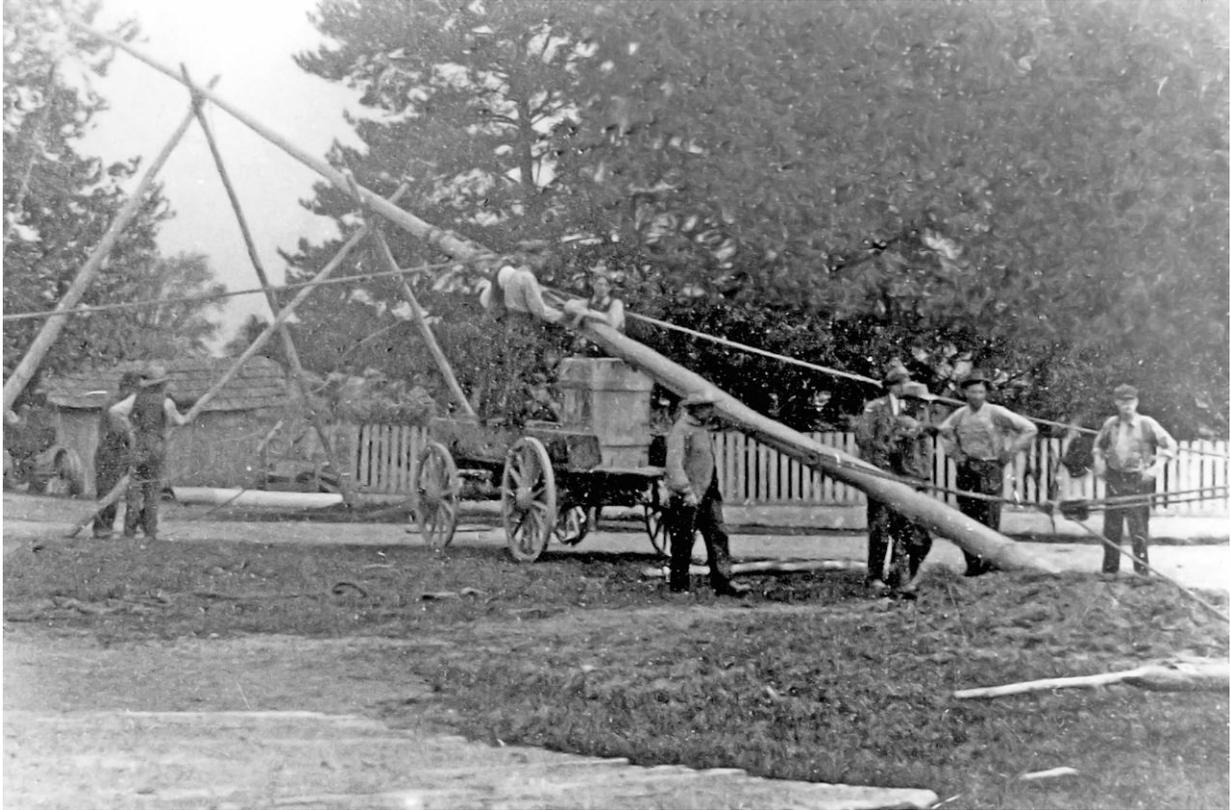
A few years ago, the Highway Department did a considerable amount of work to the west side of the Bridge in the way of gutters and curbs, a generally neater and cleaner appearance to the roadside. The work was done about the time the traffic flow off and onto the Egremont from #7 Highway was changed in such a way that the traffic from the Egremont has to turn into Highway 7 at right angles so that visibility was improved enormously.

**WARWICK VILLAGE  
RECREATIONS**

The Ball Teams

The Hockey Teams

Stock Car Racing



Raising the 82 ft. Flagpole for the May 24, 1913 Celebrations in Warwick Village  
(This is actually as the July 12 Orangemen Parade with King Billie on a white horse.)



The May 24 1913 Victoria Day Parade at Warwick Village  
[This may be the July 12 Orange Parade with King "Billy" on his White Horse]

The hat on the head of the man on the white horse belongs to Alf Smith, the bass drummer is William Smith. The next in line, giving us the tongue, is Gerry Karr, the name of the top-hatted gentleman can't be recalled. Joe Stewart is wearing the straw hat and carrying the stick and the equestrian with the flowered hat and hiding behind the horse's ear is Bob Stewart.



A Part of the Calthumpian Parade May 24, 1913 in Warwick Village

*The Warwick Village boys celebrated Victoria Day with a fine line of sports. In the forenoon, the flag was raised on the new 82 ft. flagpole and soon after dinner, the Calthumpian Parade, headed by a "Nigger Band" caused considerable amusement.*

*Three baseball games were played resulting as follows: Arkona vs. Warwick--in favor of Arkona; Snarling Town Sluggers vs. Warwick, in favor of Warwick; and another game by picked teams.*

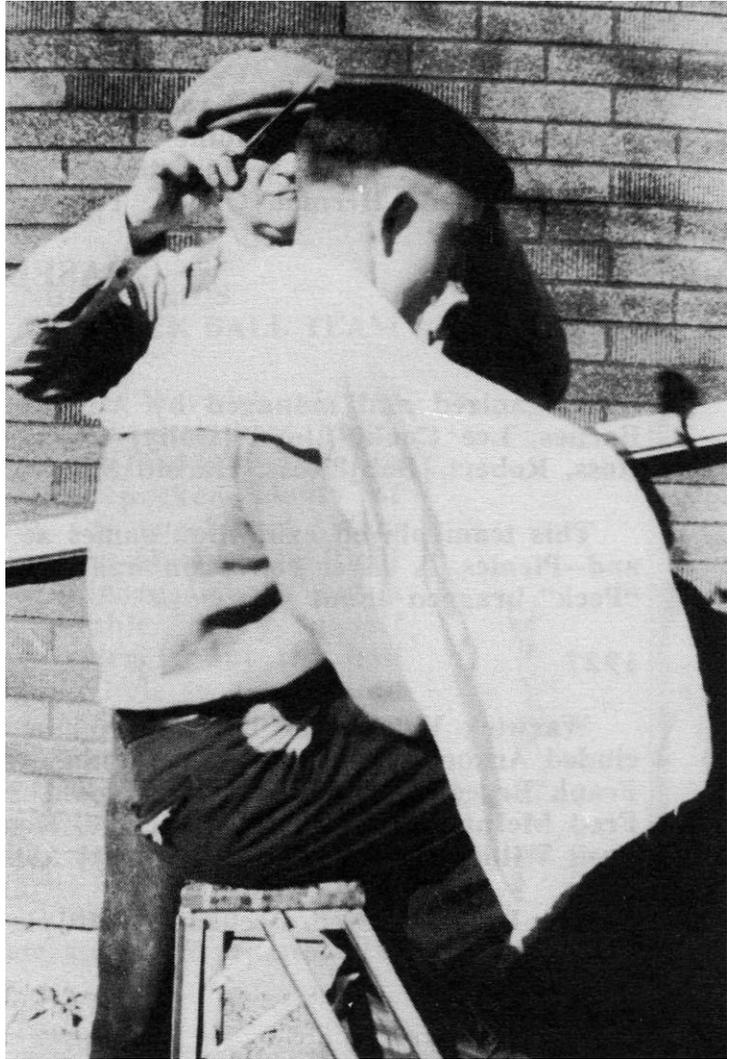
*Through some slight misunderstanding, the races did not come off. The day's sport was much enjoyed by all, and will likely be made an annual affair.*

WATFORD GUIDE ADVOCATE  
May 30, 1913



A closer view of the “Nigger” Band”

To the Right: Finding a warm spot for a  
Spring Haircut.  
The Barber: Alf Smith  
The Customer: Stewart Smith The Year:  
1951



Below:

Practicing for the Big Leagues:

Batter: Lloyd Smith

Pitcher: Charlie Foran

Catcher: Bernard [Timmy] Barnes

1'st base: Robert Turner

2'nd base: Clayton Stewart

Right Fielder: Roy Dann

3rd Base Line: Vic Atkinson

Left Fielder: Stewart Smith

Crossing 3<sup>rd</sup> Base Line: George [Chap]  
Smith

Sitting on the Bank: Fred Rundle and  
Arnold Goodhand



## **THE BALL FIELD**

The Ball Diamond that I recall was located in the field on the south side of Highway #7, east of the present home of Albert and Eva Williams [1994] The owners who graciously allowed the teams the use of this field, over the years, were Fred Cook, Cecil Janes and Herman O'Neil. The last games to be played on this field were about 1942.

## **BASEBALL TEAMS**

1918-1922

### **PECK'S SLUGGERS**

Organized and managed by Andrew [Peck] Auld, members included: Vic [Dixie] Barnes, Lee Cook, Lloyd [Dolly] Cook, George Cox, Norton Cox, Verne Laden, Ken Ross, Robert [Bob] Ross, Harold Smith, Lee [Doc] Smith.

This team played exhibition games at Wanstead, Wyoming, Watford, Arkona, Forest and-- Picnics. A silver collection was the admission. This team played a good game and "Peck" bragged about "my boys".

1927

### **LAMBTON LEAGUE**

Warwick Village had a Ball Team in the North Lambton League in 1927, which included Arkona, Forest, Warwick Village and Wyoming. Members of this team included: Frank Bryce, William [Buck] Claypole, Lloyd [Dolly] Cook, John Dolan, Bob Garside, Fred McIntosh, Cameron McKenzie, Ken Ross, Bob Ross, John Main, Harold Smith, Basil Williamson and James [Jimmy] Alexander.

This League played a schedule with playoffs but the results are not remembered.

1928

### **LAMBTON LEAGUE**

The Lambton League Teams included the following: Brigden, Waubuno, Oil Springs, Inwood, Forest and Warwick Village. The members of the Warwick Village Team included: "Dolly" Cook, Bob Ross, Ken Ross, Fred McIntosh, John Main, Vance Kersey, Jim Alexander, Archie Wark, John Dougall, Gus Murray, Herman Holmes, Wilfred Shawkence, Edgar Shawauno, Toby Baker, John Dolan, "Tip" Miller and Harold Smith.

This League played a schedule and completed playoffs with Waubuno the eventual winner.

1932

### **NORTH LAMBTON LEAGUE**

The North Lambton League included teams from Arkona, Watford, Warwick and Wyoming. Members of the Warwick Team included: "Dolly" Cook, Bob Ross, Ken Ross, Fred McIntosh, Cecil "Buck" Kimball, Jack Burke, Roy Core, Jimmy Dodge, Bill Maw, Ross Shea, Jack Shea, Orval Brush and Gordon Watson.

This League played a schedule with play-offs. Warwick eventually won the play-offs, entitling them to playing a series with Inwood, Inwood being the winners of the South Lambton League. Warwick won this series 2 out of 3, 2 wins to 1 loss. This Warwick Team was one of the better teams to come from this area over the years.

## GROUNDHOG AIDS WARWICK BALL TEAM

It took nine Warwick players and a groundhog to beat Mattlock's team on Friday evening, in a game that packed plenty of thrills for the spectators. Warwick drew first blood when Right Fielder Wilkinson banged out a potential double. Perry in left field took after it but the ball rolled into a hole in the ground burrowed by a groundhog. The double then became a home run. Warwick tallied 4 runs, 7 hits and 2 errors, while Mattlock scored 3 runs, 5 hits and 3 errors. Batteries were: Warwick, Dolan and Main, Mattlock, J. Shea and R. Shea. A. Leggate and A. Wark were the umpires.

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1930's-1940's

## PLYMPTON LEAGUE

The Plympton league included teams from Aberarder, Camlachie, Vyner, Wanstead, Wyoming, Sixth Line of Warwick and Warwick Village. Members of the Warwick Team included: [Old Barney] Barnes, Wilfred [Buster] Barnes, Johnny Brandon, Jim Brandon, Lloyd [Dolly] Cook, Johnny Dolan, John Jordan, Fred McIntosh, John Main, Bill McRorie, Jack Kersey, Clarence Wilkinson, Bob Ross and John Smith.

The League played a schedule with play-offs each year for several years in the 1930's and early 1940's. The Warwick Team always managed to get into the play-offs which were the best 2 out of 3 games. The admission, in those days, was a silver collection. The Warwick Team never seemed to receive enough money to buy bats and balls, so when the third game became necessary, the game would be played in Camlachie or Wyoming or Matlock: the fans in those areas would attend the games enthusiastically, hoping the opposing team would really clobber Warwick, therefore the resulting finances were good.

Incidentally, Warwick Village is not in Plympton Township. We were just included.

Sometimes we won; sometimes we lost. The team managers, over the years were Fred Ellerker, Ken Ross and Gord Watson. It was under the management of Gord Watson the team peaked in its capability and was a winner. The Warwick Team won the Plympton League Championship.

The Forest Int. C. Ball Club was in the Ontario Playdowns and they wanted a practice game, so the Warwick Team accomodated the Forest Team. Forest sent their Star Pitcher to the mound, right-handed fast ball throwing Jim Bowman; he thought he was going to fast-ball those Plympton Leaguers to death, but that wasn't the way it happened. The first four batters were all left-hand hitters, Johnny Brandon, John Smith, "Dolly" Cook and John Main. The fast ball was just about "it" in the Plympton league, no curves, sliders or drops. The pitcher soon found his pitches really being tagged--he had to resort to more finesse and was lucky to win the games. A couple of bad umpiring decisions didn't help the Warwick team either.

The Plympton League played for several years very successfully, but the war came and the League disbanded in 1942.

## CENTENNIAL PARK

The Centennial Park, as it is known today, was originally the Warwick Ball Park. It was started about 1950 through the efforts of the Township Council and the Junior Farmers. The Warwick Women's Institute erected and operated a Refreshment Stand. A Ball Diamond was laid out and Floodlights installed on property on the Egremont Road, west of the Village on property secured from L.S. Cook Sr. The original diamond was used until 1967 when the park was completely renovated.

At this time, the diamond was moved to what was right field now facing north-east. New Light Standards, increased lighting, protective fencing and seats behind a better backstop were part of the improvements.

Flush toilets and a new protective canopy and lunch table were installed. The Lions Club

erected a Refreshment Stand on the cement base the Firemen had previously installed for the erection of a Barbeque which never happened. The Lions Club installed new protective fencing to the road and around the outfield.



This park has been used for soft ball, fast ball and 2 pitch ball, quite different from Baseball which I played in the years gone by. The present park is not large enough for baseball but is used for 2 pitch and other recreations since the facilities are set up for Family Picnics and Reunions.

## SKATING RINKS AND HOCKEY TEAMS



The first Skating Rink was located at the east side of Bear Creek and the Bear Creek Bridge, south of the Egremont Road on property owned by Robert Laws. The size as I remember it was approximately 150' x 50' .

The building, for skate changing, was built to the north side of the fence surrounding the ice surface. The fence was 4' high, made of tight boards, built in 1910-1912 by volunteer labor.

The Village boasted a really good Hockey Team to go with this Rink. The Hockey Team of this period was a seven man team; no substitutes, and two periods; the duration, I'm not sure of, possibly two half-hours. The Team consisted of a Goal Tender, Right Defense, Left Defense, Center, Right Wing, Left Wing and the Rover-the seventh man.

This team played mostly exhibition games. Wanstead, Wyoming and Arkona were teams from the surrounding district. It has been told how this Warwick Hockey Team played an exhibition game with the Watford O.H.A. Team, a team that was in the Ontario play-downs and needed a practice game to keep in shape, so a game was arranged and Watford would play six men to Warwick's seven. The Watford Team should have won, hands down, due to their playing ability and prowess as stick-handlers which by far exceeded the Warwick boys. However, the game wound up a 2-2 tie thanks to some excellent goal-tending by "Bicky" Dann.

The Old Rink remained here for several years. When the highway went through in 1920, the grading of the shoulders of the road in 1921-1922 went down to the skating rink fence and in 1927, when the highway was paved, the shoulders went down over the fence, thus eliminating this skating rink forever.

The board fence and change shanty were eventually torn down and moved away by different people. As a boy, I remember the older boys making a raft out of about three sections of the fence. On this raft, we used to float around the large pond area in Bear Creek, located on each side and joined under the Bear Creek Bridge.

The second Skating Rink was started in 1934, located south of the Hotel and Warwick Sawmill, on the south side of Bear Creek. The Rink was ploughed with the sods being hauled off to the sides, then ploughed again and scooped out to the sides with teams of horses and slush scrapers. This procedure was done at least twice and possibly three times. Dave Ross's Booth was bought and moved to the site for skate changing. The poles for stringing the wiring for the lighting to be installed, were from the [by now] defunct Arkona Telephone System. The first lighting was supplied by a Fairbank-Morse lighting system powered by a gasoline engine. The lighting system was loaned to the rink by Harold Cosens. Occasionally, the lights went out during a hockey game, thereby causing a delay until the engine's tank could be refilled with gasoline.

The following year, 1935, Harold Cosens sold the lighting system. Then we had to scrounge sufficient money to buy enough wiring from George Coultis and Sons, Thedford, wiring that came originally from the Cleveland Mills in Sarnia. A line was constructed from the rink to the Old Maple Grove Hotel to secure power for the lighting. This was supplied by the Hotel Proprietor, John J. Smith Sr. for 30 cents per night—Hydro was not so highly priced in those days.

There was a lot of work involved in this project; the removal of snow after every snowfall, flooding the surface at least twice a week, always depending on how much activity there was on the rink. This was an hour's work after each hockey game or night's skating. The lunch, after completing the flooding, was a bottle of Pepsi [12 oz.] 5 cents and a peanut-slab chocolate bar 5 cents, total--10 cents.

*Note: There is another amusing incident connected with the taking of this photograph apart from the absence of the "rover" in that, while the players had their uniforms and hockey gear, the coach's attire, in the photographer's opinion, wasn't adequate. The closest possible chance of acquiring the proper outfit for the occasion was next door at the undertakers. Since Bill Harper was a much taller and stouter man than Alf, it's only to be expected that the results were just as you see--Alf's coat is just above his knees and besides, the watch fob was impressive and anyway, who's to know?....and there does, seem to be something wrong with the collar and tie, when you look closely....*



The back row boys are: Vic Barnes, Ken Ross, Gunne Newell and Alf Smith [Coach] The front row boys are: Clarence Barnes, Ben [Bicky] Dann and Bob Stewart---The "Rover" [a sort of Joker, if you are playing cards] was a Feature Player who roamed the ice at will and in this case was still roaming at the time of this picture. Jim Brush, the Rover, was missing when the picture was taken—a Lady Friend was involved the reason for his not being in the picture.

A board fence was built around the ice surface 160' x 60' and 4' high. Most of the lumber came from the Warwick Sawmill scraps, rescued from the slab pile. As well, there was lumber sawed from logs donated to the cause. The posts required were scrounged here and there and the poles to nail the boards on were donated by Vernon Bryce.

The Hockey Team of those days consisted of Goal Tenders: Allan Learn, Bertie Dann and Jack Jordan. The Players were Jack Prince, Norton Cox, Fred McIntosh, George Atkinson, L.S. Cook Sr., W. [Buster] Barnes, John Smith, John Main, Harold [Barney] Barnes, John Dolan, George [Shorty] Brush, Kenny Inman, Gerry Barnes, Elmer [Smokey] Goodhand, George [Chappy] Smith and Cecil Shea. Carl Watson, a Goal Tender from Matlock in Plympton and Johnny Brandon from the 4th line north, helped us out at times.

Exhibition games were played with Wyoming and Matlock, Petrolia, Forest and with Warwick, Fourth line. A Town and Country Competition was played in the Watford Arena [natural ice then] during the latter part of the season and all the teams in the area got a chance to compete. Two games were played per night; one loss and you were out of the competition. The Fourth Line, South [of Warwick] Teams usually came out the winners, this team usually made up of the Bryce Boys, who lived in that neighbourhood.

Getting back to the Skating Rink and the Warwick Hockey Team; this set-up continued to operate until 1940. With the war [1939-1945] in progress and with some of the boys in the Armed Forces and others seeking employment in the War Effort elsewhere, the work involved with the Skating Rink was too much for the younger people. Enthusiasm dwindled and the rink closed down never to operate again. The change shanty, fence and the poles for the hydro lines have just rotted away; gone but not forgotten. Most of the older ones involved in this sports activity have passed away.

### **THE WARWICK RACEWAY**

Located on the E 1/2 of Lot 11, N.E.R., Warwick Township, north of Highway #7, the Race Track was constructed in the Bear Creek Flats by diverting Bear Creek to the north of the natural ravine; this with some grading and bulldozing, left a Natural Amphitheatre Depression and a 1/4 mile Track. This project was started in the fall of 1951; the people involved were Lindley Fraser of Forest, noted Race Horse Owner and Driver, Leo Gavigan and Wilfred "Wick" Fraser, and was completed by May 24, 1952, with Floodlights, Bleachers, Concession Booths, Ticket Booths and Johnnys-on-the-Spot included. The opening date had to be postponed due to a heavy rainfall the night previous, which flooded the track, but was re-scheduled for the following week.

The Racing Dates were scheduled for Saturday nights and there were to be ten races per night. The attendance for 16 Racing Dates during 1952 totalled approximately 100,000 persons. The Stock Cars were constructed mostly out of '32, '33 and '34 Ford Coupes. The Model 34 Ford, 3-window Coupe made the ideal Stock Car; however some cars were modified from different body styles and cars made by different companies.

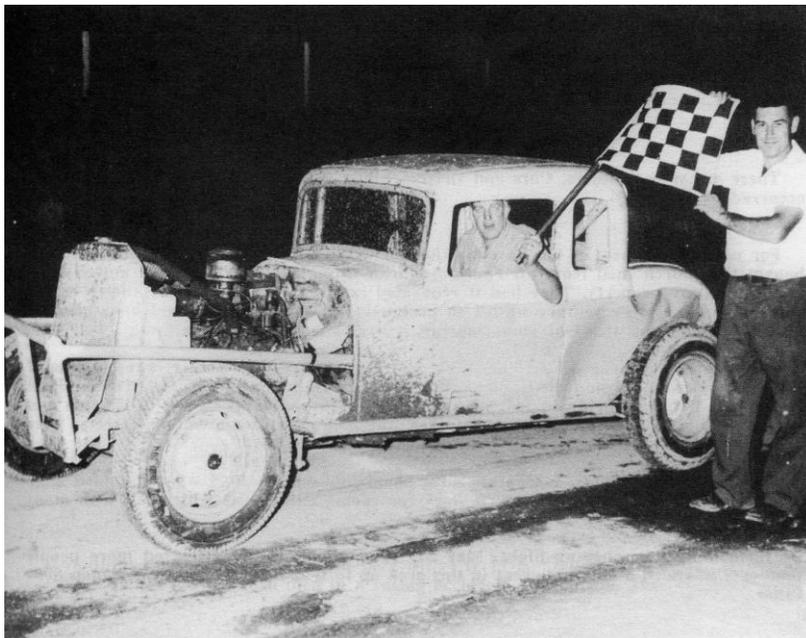
## RACEWAY BUYS LAND

### Gavigan Farm to be site of "Hot Rod" Race Track

**Warwick Village**--[Staff]--Officials of Warwick Raceway Incorporated, which was formed recently by local enthusiasts of hot rod racing, have secured a tract of land on the Leo Gavigan farm, east of Warwick Village, on number seven highway. Workmen are engaged in digging out the pit and track. The new quarter-mile race track, with its natural amphitheatre, surrounded by hills, will have bleachers erected to accommodate 4,000 spectators. When completed, it is expected to be one of the fastest tracks in Canada and with its natural layout, one of the safest for the viewing public.

**Hope to Open in Fall** Officials are hopeful of opening the track for a late fall race, but this depends on the progress of construction. Several stock cars have been purchased by local drivers and will be among those taking part. Wilfred Fraser, president of the Warwick Raceway incorporated, has purchased the stock car, Doc Stanton, from John De Wail of Chatham. this car, named in honor of Dr. Stanton, the cinderella horse of racing formaly owned by his father W.L. Fraser of Forest. **Private Owners** John Campbell of Chatham, vice-president and stock car driver and past president of Kent Racing Enterprises, stated that 90 percent of cars used are owned by private individuals. New ideas of acceleration and construction are being made and these tend to influence the automotive industry in new design. Most of these ideas are from individuals own ingenuity and ability to apply them. Officers were elected to the Warwick raceway Incorporated this week. Wilfred Fraser is president and John Campbell of Chatham vice-president, Leo Gavigan of Warwick, is secretary-treasurer. W.L. Fraser is a director and Cecil Dolbear, of Toronto, is official surveyor.

Picture: Harold Brydges and Ray Frayne. 28/5/55



Some of the Cars, Owners and Drivers competing were:

CAR	OWNER	DRIVER
50A	Wilfred Marriott, Warwick	Ken Bryce
70W	Ross Saunders, Watford	Gord Truman
203	Bill Daniels, Hickory Corners	Bill Daniels
1-4	Walt Zavitz, Hickory Corners	Walt Zavitz
2 E	Smith Brothers, Warwick	"Tooey" Smith
224	Cassidy Motors, Forest	Don Mellon
COPPERHEAD	Dime Juvenville, Jeanette's Creek	Trip Trepanier
4	Jim Rowe, Petrolia	Jim Rowe
199	Wally Brown, Sarnia	Wally Brown
21	Graham's Garage, Watford	Harold Copeland
7-11	Ken Douglas, Sarnia	Ken Douglas
RED WING	Ray Stebbins, Sarnia	Ray Stebbins
LOBO 1	Griffiths Garage, Lobo	Jack Sharpe
32	Bill Willsie, Lake Orion, Michigan	Bill Willsie
24	Harvey Lennox, London	Harvey Lennox
2	Lorne Hay, Sarnia	Harold Kadey
12	Les "Pick" Young, Sarnia	"Pick" Young
T 120	Johnny Randall, Oil City	Johnny Randall
2 X 4	Warwick Lumber, Ridgetown	Bill Holden
W 1	Smith Bros., Warwick	"Tooey" Smith
607	Grant Fisher, Alvinston	Grant Fisher
	Alfie Rice, Chatham	Alfie Rice
#9	Harold Brydges	Harold Brydges
37	Ken Douglas, Petrolia	Ken Douglas

There are several others, Cars and Drivers whose names I've forgotten, after all, this occurred 40 years ago.

For what the Owners of the Raceway thought would be an added attraction, they then bought the church shed from St. Paul's Anglican Church at Wisbeach and moved it on to the Raceway property. They had it renovated into a Barn Dance Hall, known as the Old Horse Barn. This venture wasn't so productive as the Owners would have liked so after a brief try-out with Old Time Dancing, it was closed up and rented out.

Dr. Stanton, a world-famous champion race horse, owned by Lindley Fraser, [one of the owners] collapsed and died during a morning work-out at one of the tracks, Hazel Park, near Detroit, Michigan. Dr. Stanton's remains were brought back to Canada and buried on the Raceway Property, next to highway #7, and a monument was erected over the grave site.

The Raceway continued to operate until about mid-season, 1955 when it folded after many