



Newsletter of the Marsh Historical Collection Amherstburg. Ontario

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Please

Take Or

Obituary of John James

By E.P. Chant

My dear friend, John James, who purchased *The Amherstburg Echo* from John Marsh in 1981, and operated it as the publisher/editor for nine rather spectacular years, died in Belleville, Ontario on October 26, a couple of weeks shy of his 81st birthday.

Under John's rejuvenating influence, *The Echo* became the epitome of a "community newspaper" because everyone's friends and neighbours wrote close to half of each edition's content. Whenever townspeople met John and told him about their hobbies or interests, he would instantly enlist them as the newest *Echo* contributors or columnists. That generosity resulted in "Rhodo Bob" Sutherland's gardening column, Bob Bradt's tips about where fish were biting, Marg Squire's travelogues, sports reports from every league convenor in the area, school updates from teachers and principals, pet health info by vet Dr. Gilda Poitras, plentiful remembrances of local history, games and activities for children, and more.

Anything that wasn't covered by those correspondents surely found mention within John's all-encompassing "Editor's Notebook" column, or his "Pressing Matters In A Small Town" column, or – depending upon the topic and his analysis of it – a heartwarmingly positive or witheringly ferocious editorial.

And there were many innovations recorded during John's publishership:

• It was the first newspaper in the county to computerize, spurred on by John's tinkering trait;

• When the Stoney Point-based printer of every weekly in the region shut down in the mid-1980s, he found a (used) fourunit web-press in Nova Scotia, and had it installed in the basement of the Echo building on Dalhousie. When he had the chance to add a couple of units to the press, he built an addition to house the enlarged machine (and to store newsprint). When they are enjoying a fine Italian meal in Riccardo's Restaurant, do modern-day townspeople know that that they are actually sitting in what was originally the Echo's cavernous printing factory?;

• An avid fisherman, in conjunction with the AMA Sportsmen's Club (which continues the event to this day), he founded the town's immensely popular annual walleye tournament;



Portrait by Phyllis Chant

• The fictional front-page story in whatever weekly edition fell closest to April Fool's Day: The first one (not labelled with a "joke" warning) was about a huge shark somehow making its way from the Atlantic, up the St. Lawrence Seaway, into the Detroit River, where it "attacked" a Coast Guard cutter. The paper hit news-stands in town at about 3 p.m.. By suppertime, a dozen or so curious townspeople had shown up at the Coast Guard base on Dalhousie Street, asking rather confused staff there if they could see the shark-damaged boat.

In his farewell commentary when he sold The Echo to Bowes Publishers in 1990, John, of course, thanked his family (wife Linda, daughter Susanne, and sons Tom and Martin), and his staff. But his final – and chief – expression of gratitude was to the Echo readers of that era, who had so faithfully contributed to the paper, and welcomed it into their homes and their lives.

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Obituary of John James

By E.P. Chant

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John at work in the basement of the Echo building

He also quoted his favourite poet, Edgar Guest:

I'd like to think when life is done, that I had filled a needed post, that here and there I'd paid my fare, with more than idea talk and boast; that I had taken gifts divine, the breath of life and manhood fine, and tried to use them now and then in service for my fellow men.

Those words defined John James' Echo publishership, and they serve now as the epitaph of his finely lived life. "-30-", my dear friend.

About the Author: Fresh out of university, E.P. Chant ("Olsen" to John) was hired as The Echo's "cub" reporter-photographer about a month after John James had assumed ownership of the paper in 1981. Under John's publishership, he eventually rose to be The Echo's Associate Editor; and to the Managing Editor's position under Bowes Publishers. Subsequently, since 1994, he has been the Managing Editor of Student Publications at St. Clair College.



What's In the Collection?

The Marsh Collection Society mandate is "to collect, preserve and encourage research into the heritage of Amherstburg and the lower Detroit River district."

The facility contains a large collection of photos, books, genealogical records, maps and reference files on a variety of historical topics, plus microfilm of The Amherstburg Echo from 1874 to 2012. There is also a small gift shop which contains various publications about local history.

Funding comes from various foundations and private individuals. While ADMISSION IS FREE, donations are most welcome. A receipt for income tax purposes will be issued upon request for any monetary donation of \$10 or more.

The Marsh Collection is open to researchers & visitors from 10am to 4pm Monday- Friday. Email: research@marshcollection.org Website: www.marshcollection.org



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Access from our website: www.marshcollection.org

Wigle Flour Mill (Part 1)

By Al Jackson

In the year 1886 a young man named Colin Wigle moved to Amherstburg from Kingsville where he and his father owned and operated a profitable flour and grist mill. Colin came to Amherstburg to establish his own flour and grist mill as Amherstburg had no flour mill at this time. A previous mill (Barron's Mill) had burned to the ground two years earlier and left the town with no immediate source of flour for baking purposes or a market for the grain grown by the local farmers. The municipal council welcomed Colin with open arms and gave him a bonus gift of free land to build on and no taxes for ten years.

The free land (previously a tannery) with water rights at the Detroit River was located at the sharp curve on the west side of Dalhousie Street (presently part of the parking lot for the Bob-Lo Island ferry.) With access to cheap water transportation his flour could shipped economically be to Montreal and eventually to markets primarily in the United Kingdom. Initially, the mill was to be called the Riverside Flouring Mill but was soon known as the Wigle Flour Mill.



Wigle Flour Mill, 1914. MCS P5117

The mill was built with the latest technology available which was the iron roller system verses the old style of grinding with large circular stone wheels. The three-storey building (32 by 43 feet) complete with a basement was constructed of limestone blocks from a guarry on Pelee Island. The stonemasons would have used stone from the local guarry of T. B. White in Anderdon Township but the guarry was submerged in water at the time. The roof was made of oak timbers from the forests around Kingsville and covered with tin. Power to drive the rollers and other equipment was provided by an 80 horsepower steam engine and boiler. Assurance of a reliable energy source made the steam engine more appealing than a water or wind source. The engine room was attached to the north end of the mill. Ten sets of corrugated iron rollers could grind

up 75 to 100 barrels of flour per day. Construction of the mill began in May of 1886 and was completed in September of that year. Near disaster struck in December of 1888 when a frame structure near the new mill caught fire and burned to the ground. It contained some finished wooden barrels and the coopers tools to make them. All the contents of the building were moved to a safe place and there were no injuries except Colin lost a tooth when he was hit in the mouth by a carelessly handled barrel.

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Detail of the cornerstone. *Photo by Al Jackson.*



View of the Wigle property from the south, circa 1918. The mill is on the left and Colin Wigle's residence on the right. *MCS P842*

Wigle Flour Mill (Part I)

By Al Jackson

...Continued from page 3

Mr. Wigle spared no expense to outfit his new mill with the latest and most improved machinery of the time. He secured the services of Emerson Campbell, a first class miller, to run the mill with an assistant and two full-time workers. He also continued to improve and upgrade the mill whenever possible. A large 45-foot high wooden grain storage elevator was built near the river in 1891 and in 1897 a new 100 horsepower steam engine was purchased. In 1899 the mill was overhauled with a new gyrator system, new rollers and purifier which allowed the mill to produce 100 to 125 barrels of flour per day. A two-storey cement block addition was built on the rear of the mill for storage purposes in 1906.

Local farmers would sell their grain to the mill where it was ground into flour for local and export markets. The brand name for this export flour was "Calla Lily" and this was packaged in wooden barrels for shipment. The farmer would also take a small percentage of flour (in bags) and middlings for their own use. Middlings were a coarse ground grain used for livestock feed.

In 1907 Colin Wigle gave his two sons, Walter and Roy, each a third interest in the mill and in 1927 Walter bought Roy's share but contiued to operate the mill until it shutdown in 1936. The closure of the mill was caused by the fact that the Wigle Mill and many others like it could not compete with the much larger corporate mills of that time. It became to laborious for a local farmer to load his own wheat into a wagon, drive it to town, wait for it to be milled and then take the flour home. Most farmers found it simpler to purchase a bag of corporate produced flour from the large mills which was being sold at a nearby general store. This practice put an end to most of the smaller local flour mills.



The flour mill after 1936 closure.

Then & Now East Side of Sandwich Street



Then: Margaret Schufelt's residence is visible on the right of the photo, and to the left is the Kemp house, December 1957. *MCS 2022.004.190* Present-Day: McDonald's. December 7, 2023.

THANK YOU

A special thank you to all of our volunteers for dedicating valuable time to the Marsh this year. Looking forward to working together in 2024!

At right: Bill Brundage scans publications in our reference library.



UPSETTING THE HOUR GLASS

<u>1933/34</u>

December- On Friday, December 1st, John N. Cooper and Fred Wilson played a round of golf at the Spring Hill Golf Club, thereby setting a record for late-season golf.

January- During the past week, two large showcases have been purchased for the Amherstburg museum in the Public Library. These were formerly part of the equipment in the Walker Store.

February- A large number attended the dance held in the town hall on Monday night under the auspices of the local drillers. Prof. McCallum's new orchestra supplied the music for the modern and old-time dancing.

<u>1943/44</u>

December- The hauling of purified water from Amherstburg to farms in the district is getting to be a big business and there are several trucks, each carrying 1,000 gallons a load, engaged in the business.

January- The Ice Carnival will be held on the town rink Friday at 8 PM. Young people are invited to take part. There will be special prizes for fancy and comic costumes. There will be speed events for all age groups.

February- Kenneth Anderson with the 30th Reconnaissance overseas, in a letter to his mother, wishes to thank the Rotary Ladies and the Chamber of Commerce for their candy and cigarettes.

<u>1953/54</u>

December- There are many fine outdoor Christmas trees about town this Christmas. Their gaily colored lights add much to the festive spirit of the season. There is an especially fine tree at the northern entrance of the town on Sandwich Street and also one at the library corner.

January- Both Gore and Murray Streets are now one way streets. An amendment to the traffic bylaw was passed by the council some weeks ago and this has been approved by the Ontario Department of Highways. The traffic signs have been erected. Murray is one way going east and Gore one way going west.

February- Late Friday evening the McQueen Marine Limited tug Atomic went to the aid of the Browning Line freighter Carl W. Mevers which was having difficulties out near the Detroit River Light. The Atomic stood by through the night while repairs were made to the steering gear and in the morning accompanied the freighter up the river. The Meyers is engaged in hauling coal from Toledo to the plant of the Ford Motor Company at River Rouge.

<u>1963/64</u>

December- Many of the vessels plying the Lower Detroit River are carrying lighted Christmas trees on their decks. It was quite a sight to see the large tree, lighted with colored lights, aboard the 714-foot freighter Hilda Marjane. **January-** A leaking water service was the cause of a collapse of a section of Richmond Street Monday afternoon.

February- Ground was broken Wednesday morning for the new million dollar plus addition to the General Amherst High School. This will consist of 16 classrooms and a double gymnasium and when completed will raise the status of the school to a composite school.

1973/74

December- The two houses on Fort Malden Road owned by Fort Malden have been sold and are being moved away. These were both built by the late F.C.H. Falls. The home at the corner of Laird and Fort Malden will be moved to a site on Highway No. 18, Anderdon. The second one is being moved to Malden township.

January- Amherstburg received some good publicity in the Detroit Free Press when Otto Nissen's Seaway Cafe, Dalhousie was featured under the head "An Ontario tearoom to bust your buttons." The article praises the goodies baked at this well-known place.

February- Amherst Quarries, Pike Road, is a busy place producing a lot of stone. Recently a large building 40 x 60 was erected on the property to be used as a store house.



Winter 2023/24

Peace River

By Meg Reiner

By 1939, the Spring Hill Golf and Country Club was defunct. The course had opened in 1929 as part of the International Yacht and Country Club. It was situated in the second concession of Anderdon Township, to the rear of the clubhouse. Both the Yacht Club and Golf Course, seemingly promising enterprises, lasted a mere decade before closing for good. Fast forward nearly thirty years, and the site would once again show signs of a bright future.

Henry Grant Duff, one of the original directors of the International Yacht and Country Club, sold the former Spring Hill property consisting of 140 acres, to Great Lakes Forgings Ltd., a subsidiary of Peace River Mining and Smelting in 1968. The company had intentions to build an \$11 million dollar iron powder plant. The plant would use a new process developed in Edmonton to convert scrap metal into iron powder, becoming the first to do so in the Windsor area. Iron powder production promised to attract additional industry requiring this material, namely automotive part manufacture. Additional projections, including jobs for 100 people, and daily production of 150 tons of iron powder resulting in \$10 million production value annually made the proposal an exciting one. The property was quickly rezoned from farmland to industrial.

By March, the land was tested and approved for plant footings.



An architectural rendering was published in *The Amherstburg Echo* on March 7, 1968 (above).



The Amherstburg Echo April 17, 1969

Less than a year later, the administration building had been completed and Peace River's head office was moved to Amherstburg from Edmonton. At that point, the finished products warehouse, change storage room, and shop were also ready. The plant itself was projected to mid-year. complete be bv However, a series of unfortunate events would prevent that.

On May 29th, 1969, the Windsor Construction Association enforced a lockout after failing to reach an agreement with multiple trade unions representing 3000 workers. This resulted in monthslong construction delays. On June 5th, an unprecedented picket line was formed at the Peace River site. It was dubbed the "million dollar picket line" by local papers. 140 men, local contracting company owners, were protesting Peace River's move to hire construction workers during the lockout.

In December, the plant building was 95% complete and the company announced that they had reached the equipment trials pre-production testina and phase. Semi-finished product was expected before Christmas. 11th. December Then. on everything changed. Peace River announced that overtime hours would be cut and schedules changed to 40 hour work weeks addition to overall staff in reduction. This resulted in electricians walking off site and tradesmen quitting. The following evening, Canadian International Industrial Constructors Ltd., a company created by Peace River for the purpose of building the dissolved. Other plant, contracting firms remaining at the plant would finish the work.

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Peace River

...continued from page 7

At this point, Anderdon Police set up security at the plant as rumours circulated regarding potential violence. A plant supervisor was assaulted that night and smoke bombs were found on his car the following day. On Monday, 150 construction workers were due at the plant to collect their final pay cheques. Excessive measures were taken to avoid incidents. 106 officers. including Amherstburg and Anderdon police and O.P.P. were present on-site. The Town of Amherstburg actually imposed a one-day prohibition. Workers were escorted on and off the premises to retrieve their tools. Thankfully, although filled with tension and anger, the day was incident-free.

By March of 1970, plant construction was finally completed. However, Peace River would never manufacture commercial quantities of iron powder. Technical issues continued to plague the company. In June, it was announced that ferrous (iron) chloride had successfully been reduced to iron powder briquettes using hydrogen reactors at the plant. Despite this, December again brought bad news. Seventy-five production workers were laid off. By this time, the capital cost had exceeded the projected \$16 million by 34%. The company was placed into receivership. Attempts were made by Eugene Whelan, M.P., and Donald Paterson M.P.P., to seek government aid to keep the plant in business. These efforts proved unsuccessful.

After failing to sell the company's assets by tender, a public auction was announced in November of 1972. The buildings, equipment, land, and iron ore mining claims in Alberta were all part of the lot, which sold for a fraction of the original cost.

Human Seal / King of the Human Polar Bears

By Kara Folkeringa

Krikor Hekimiam was born in Armenia, but came to love Canada for its cold weather. Dubbed the "Human Seal" and "King of the Human Polar Bears," Krikor was well-known for swimming in icy waters around Canada through the winter. Typically, he would arrive in a town and put out a challenge, either verbally or in the local paper, for anyone to join him in a polar swim. The day it was to happen, he would collect money from the crowd watching, later donating half to a local charity. He would then break the ice and take the plunge, making it look effortless. After the shows he would "beat on his chest, strut up and down the beach and exchange bantering talk with the crowd" and would be "not the least bit worried by the cakes of icicles that were forming" on his body.¹ It wasn't just cold-weather swimming that he became known for, he also was a bit of a strong man. He would attach rope to cars and pull the rope with his teeth, moving the cars down the street.

Krikor came to Amherstburg to take a swim in February 1952. He posted a challenge in the Amherstburg Echo the week before he planned to go, challenging anyone to join and noting he was being sponsored by the poppy fund of the Fort Malden Branch of the Canadian Legion. The day of the planned swim, he took off from Duffy's Dock where a decent size crowd had gathered. Unfortunately, three children were watching too close to the edge of the dock and fell in. They were treated by the Amherstburg Rescue Squad and were fine in the end, but it definitely put a damper on Krikor's performance.

It has been difficult to track what happened to Krikor Hekimiam in his later years. Who knows, maybe he's still travelling and taking icy plunges wherever he goes.



MCS 1994.428.001 1 "This Day in Journal history," The Edmonton Journal, Nov. 20, 2014

Bricks-N-Beams

By Meg Reiner

In the last issue of Reflections, we covered the history of the old brick block on the northeast corner of Murray and Bathurst Streets known as the Kopacz building. Before the brick building was constructed, an old frame structure stood on that corner. When it was torn down in 1931, The Amherstburg Echo noted that according to old residents it had occupied the lot while the Drake House still stood, meaning before 1863. The article went on to list the occupants of the building: "Cousins and Turville, storekeepers; Mrs. Archer, who had a green grocery and confectionery and sold two hand-made cigars for five cents. The late David Ireland ran Ireland's Scotch bakery here. After this the property was bought by Luke Gasco (Lalonge) for a store and remained in the Lalonge family until recently sold by Miss Minnie Lalonge to Mr. Kopacz."

Annie Archer inherited the Drake property after the death of her mother in 1863. Her husband, William E. Archer, died in 1866. As a widow, she lived in a flat on the second storey and rented the store to tenants. William Cousins, Amherstburg's first Treasurer, sold groceries and liquor from the corner in 1875. By 1879, Cousins no longer occupied the first floor. Mrs. Archer advertised the business stand for rent. An 1882 insurance application shows a sketch of the building, indicating it was then a dwelling and millinery.



Sketch attached to an insurance application from 1882 shows that the building was a frame dwelling & milliner's shop.

From 1883 to 1890, David Ireland operated a bakery there. Despite his surname, Mr. Ireland hailed from Scotland. He had operated the "Scotch Bakery" at different locations on Murray Street since arriving in Amherstburg in 1870. The following was published in *The Amherstburg Echo*: "D. Ireland, of the Scotch Bakery, has now got everything in good shape at his new bakery, opposite the Central Store, corner of Murray and Bathurst streets, and has secured the services of a first-class baker from Glasgow, Scotland, and is prepared to fill orders by mail, stage or otherwise for anything in the bread, cake and confectionery line. Sole agent for Gaff Fleishman's compressed yeast."

Ellen Lena Lalonge purchased the property from Annie Archer in 1890. *The Amherstburg Echo* announced that she would move her grocery there in the spring. For many years, Ellen and her husband Luke ran a grocery in Amherstburg. By the time the Lalonges purchased the corner building Luke had been ill with kidney trouble for twenty years and was no longer able to work.

Hannah (McIntyre) Kevill operated a millinery here after the Lalonge store closed. Afterwards, Delia (Autin) Morin had a popular candy store in the shop for many years. Apparently, her homemade peppermint candy was pretty famous. This series of female proprietors was continued with Anna Kopacz after the new brick building was constructed.

The Case of Two Mrs. Archers

While researching for this article, we encountered a dilemma often faced by genealogists and local historians: people with the same name living in the same place at the same time. This case presented some added complications making it difficult to determine which Mrs. Archer we were dealing with. Annie (Drake) Archer was married to William Archer and owned the building featured in this article. A Matilda (Muir) Archer was married to a different William Archer. Over her business career, she had amassed considerable property and \$11,000 in mortgages. Many of her properties and residences were located on Murray Street, including her well-known grocery on the corner of Murray and Apsley Streets. Unfortunately for us, directories and newspaper articles of the time did not take future researchers into consideration when they referred to both of these woman as "Mrs. William Archer." So, when reading that Mrs. William Archer was selling or building or renting on Murray Street, we had to first ask the question: "Which Mrs. Archer?"

Inflation and Amherstburg

By Jeanne McKay

Inflation and increases in the cost of living have been top news items, in 2023, in case our grocery bills weren't enough to keep us informed! Stats Canada's inflation rate as of October 2023 was 3.1 %.¹ How has the cost of food changed over the past 100 years? How were people employed, what were their earnings and what did they pay for a basket of food?

A dive into family journals in the archives of the Marsh Historical Collection as well as copies of The Amherstburg Echo provide snapshots of what life was like at different times in the town's The Borrowman history. Collection, The Harrow Farmers Cooperative Collection, Duff Papers for mining wages, and McQueen Marine Pay stubs, were accessed to learn about life in Amherstburg. The Amherstburg Bicentennial Book "Amherstburg 1796-1996" was used as well. If prices were not available in the Marsh Collection, I have used information from Stats Canada.

At the turn of the Twentieth Century, most of the population of Amherstburg was involved in agriculture. Even those with small holdings had gardens and most likely chickens and possibly other livestock. The recent aerial exhibit at the Marsh gives a view of how large the properties east of Amherstburg were. The residents sold their excess to local shopkeepers. Patrick Laferte

opened a grocery in 1899 on Simcoe Street. In the 1920s, the Borrowman family recorded selling their butter for as much as \$0.35 a pound; eggs for between \$0.18 - \$0.25 a dozen; honey for \$0.20 to \$0.30 a pound and chickens for less than a dollar each. Buying local was not a problem!

Although farming the was mainstay of the community, the working class was growing. According to the census of 1901, 21% of the workforce of Amherstburg was engaged in river work. Amherstburg's naval history had moved on to become commercial. Of the population of 790 people, in 1901, there were two dozen ship's captains, not to mention marine men, carpenters and blacksmiths. Shopkeeping and banking provided employment along with industrial development. The Hamilton and Lewitt Knitting Mill was established and was ready to provide socks for soldiers during WW1. Two electric provided generating works employment as well as the Riverside Flouring Mill. There were two foundries, one that made student desks and one that made steam engines and giant steel dredging buckets. The canning factory opened in 1907 provided and seasonal employment for over 50 people.

Between 1907 and 1912 the Livingstone Channel was constructed which created employment and business for the town. This was a prosperous time for Amherstburg. The Duff Papers in the Marsh Collection give prices paid to miners as anywhere from \$45.00 to \$75.00 per month in 1910. If you were willing to leave home and travel to the north, you could earn a good living.

Small independent grocery stores thrived in Amherstburg in addition to butchers and greengrocers. Prior to 1920, we know what the farmers were paid by the shopkeepers for their produce, and we have a few samples of accounts showing what customers paid the shopkeepers (see Collection Highlights). There were grocery stores in town: Lovegrove and Scratch operated at 273 Dalhousie from 1902 - 1913. The Table Supply House operated by S.J. Johnson at 255 - 257 Bathurst Street was one of several successful grocery stores at that location over a period of 60 years 1865-1932. D.J. Barron's Grocery operated in the Leggatt block from 1904-1915. The Riverside Flour Mill ground local wheat and oats. Hogs could be taken locally to be butchered.

Starting in the 1920s it is easier to glean information about retail food prices. For our purposes, I have selected a few items that would have been part of a regular food basket from the 1920s to the 1970s. Where local prices were not available, I have used Stats Canada averages from the middle of the decade.

Wages during the 1920s varied greatly based on the type of work. Brunner, Mond began operation in 1918. This opened up new labour possibilities the for town. According to an ad in the Echo, labourers were to be paid \$0.38 an hour. In 1925 the average work week was 50 hours of paid labour, so we can estimate that someone at Brunner, Mond earned \$19.00 a week. There are records that Brunner, Mond paid 19 salaried employees \$60,000 in 1917. This

Continued on page 10...

¹ To determine inflation, the consumer price index selects a "basket of goods and services" and compares the change in price over a certain period of time.

Marsh Collection

would average \$60.51 per person per week. W.H. Timmis earned \$12.75 a week as an office clerk at the Distillery. The cost of our basket of food in 1925 was \$3.50, 18% of weekly pay for the average workman.

By comparison, in the 1920s a farm labourer or househelp may have only received \$1.00 a day. A temporary farm labourer, working for the Borrowman's, received \$5.75 most likely for a few days work during the busy harvest time. Pay would have included meals and possibly lodging but in comparison with Brunner, Mond or another industrial job, farm labour did not pay well.

In the 1930s, the depression hit and the price of many food staples dropped. The Borrowman's continued to sell their farm produce to local stores but butter and honey brought lower returns. The statscan numbers reflect a decrease in what farmers received and what people paid for items, across Canada. The Borrowmans began buying flour already milled, perhaps because the Wigle Mill closed in the mid 1930s. Their journal notes the brand of flour they purchased, perhaps not trusting the quality of store brands. The Borrowman journal shows a decrease in food items sold directly to grocers as the larger chain stores moved in.

The Echo began publishing grocery store Ads from M&P and Dominion, both chain stores in the 1930s. M&P Supermarket in the Hough Block on Dalhousie, opened in 1930. The phone book listed C.H. Harris, J. H. Lovegrove and Michel's Fruit Store on their Grocers list in August 1934. We see references to Fancy Pasteurized Creamery Butter for \$0.33 a pound. There was now a choice between local farm churned butter and something creamier. The small corner grocer began to disappear as the chain stores began to grow. The chain stores supplied more canned goods and a greater variety of food.

The Borrowman's paid wages of \$10.00, \$14.00 and \$7.00 to Meronci, most likely for help on the farm during July and August of 1930. Other employers in town included Church and Dwight Co. Inc. which packaged baking soda and made washing soda. Marra's Bread Factory opened in 1938. According to Stats Canada, the average income across all industries in 1934 was \$837 a year.

In the mid-1930s, our food basket would cost \$2.10, the average weekly wage was \$23.50. The food basket was 9% of a labourer's weekly income.

To be continued in the next issue of *Reflections*.

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COLLECTION HIGHLIGHTS

Napoleon Coste's account with Lovegrove & Scratch , 1910. MCS 2018.040.004 $\,$

Shopping Basket	1925	1930	18 Oct 1945	1955	1965	1975	26 Oct 2023
Bacon	0.55	0.31	0.39	0.49	0.49	1.09	7.00
Eggs	0.50	0.33	0.50	0.61	0.39	0.67	3.79
Butter	0.45	0.33	0.39	0.36	0.66	0.62	6.49
Flour per lb	0.79	0.04	0.03	0.06	0.10	0.15	1.08
Meat	0.25	0.20	0.25	0.38	0.80	0.87	12.00
Honey/ Ib	0.12	0.15	0.19	0.34	0.57	0.50	9.99
Bread	0.09	0.09	0.07	0.07	0.15	0.25	3.00
Sugar	0.19	0.10	0.07	0.08	0.07	0.15	0.68
Rolled Oats	0.08	0.05	0.05	0.13	0.10	0.50	2.00
Tinned Peas/Veg	0.16	0.10	0.15	0.18	0.2	0.25	1.00
Coffee per lb	0.3	0.35	0.42	1.09	0.81	0.93	8.00
Fresh Carrots .82 / 75 lb bag	0.02	0.05	0.12	0.33	0.07	0.29	1.00
Cost of Basket	\$3.50	\$2.10	\$2.63	\$4.12	\$4.41	\$6.27	\$56.03
Weekly Pay	\$19.00	23.50	27.00	73.04	100.89	383.30	888.46
Basket % of pay	18.42	8.94	9.74	5.64	4.37	1.63	6.31