

The Memories of R. G. Clarke (b1915 d2001).

Typed from R. G.'s notes by his daughter Brenda Dwyne

DAD'S REMEMBRANCES

1.

First Remembered Thing - Lying in buggy, outside French Doors, rear of Briarswood, watched by Grandfather Clarke.

2.

Briarswood - 199 Station Rd., Wylde Green, m Sutton, Coldfield, Birmingham, England.

Bought by Father as first married home. Took his bride there. 2 story brick, brick wall at sidewalk, curved path, r front to front door on left front of house. Shrubs instead of front lawn. Small 1 inch white ceramic tile floor in front hall. Staircase up on left. Living room to right, dining room behind, french doors on right back to bricked side yard, side path from front also bricked. Kitchen narrower, rearwards from dining room. Back garden. Neighbour on right (facing house), Councilor Brassington, his wife dedicated gardener. Gas for lighting, heating (fireplaces) cooking.

3.

Childhood schooling -living at Wylde, Green. About three - kindergarten at Miss Treglove's (where Mother had trained and taught pre-marriage.) First "Grammar Schooling" don't know name of school - do remember long rows of desks and a sadistic schoolmaster who sneaked up and down aisles, flicking the ears of kids who were not "applying themselves." Very unhappy time

Sheppey - age seven. Tried few weeks at Eastchurch School - square one storey brick building - soon apparent that teaching skills and scholastic level of students very low - no challenge, Geoff and I taught at home - Y2 days.

Mother - History, Literature, Grammar

Father - Math, Sciences. Exams from Marylebone Grammar School, London Philip Wayne, old friend, Head Master. Truant officers couldn't do a thing about it!

4.

Mother - Boarding School - Scripture verse recited pre-supper at Boarding School,

Lowestoft

"Feed me with apples, for I am sick of love."

5.

Grimsby Beach – Neighbour's attempt to enter home re-false fire.

Next door neighbour, husband in jail, in poor circumstances, roused us at 2 am demanding to be let into our house "because hers was on fire." Mild summer night. There was NO fire. She later admitted she wanted to get her boy into our house to steal what he could.

6.

Boat to Canada - Antonia Cunard) From Southampton to Montreal via Quebec. Sailed June 4, 1926. Arrived Quebec June 12, 1926. Disembarked.

7.

Dates:

Births - Norman Carlyle Clarke 1882

Marion Small Clarke March 1, 1888

Ronald Gordon Clarke (199 Station) June 5, 1915 Geoffrey Arthur Clarke (199 Station) June 12, 1919

Moved to Eastchurch, Kent Sept?, 1922

Grimsby, Ont. (Ridge Rd.) June 13, 1926

B. Book's cottage January 1928

Grimsby Beach April, 1928

Hamilton - Charlton W. November 1928

- Homewood Ave.

- 18 Mountain Ave. N.M. G. February 1943 *

- 44 Westwood Ave. N.M.G. August, 1953 *

Ancaster, 312 Fiddler's Green N.M. February, 1957 Hamilton - 47 Holmes Ave. N.M. October, 1960 +

- 75 Gary Ave. N.M.G. September, 1961 +

Geoff, 75 Gary end of March, 1962

Family farm -Birge Book's Cottages. December 28, 1927 Book Cottage - Grimsby Beach est. April 1928

Ownership * Norman and Marion + Marion only

8.

Geoff - Name on Birth Certificate

Geoff was originally named as "Geoffrey Ernest" on original entry in the Reg. of Births and Deaths for District of Tamworth, U.K. He was baptized Geoffrey Arthur, for his godfather, Arthur Wayne, a close friend of Mother and Father. His baptized name was added to the Registry entry as per his Birth Certificate.

9.

Airlie - Vacations at

On bank of Severn River. Mother's family had gone for summer vacation to Scott' farm - a "Holiday on the Farm" idea. Big sweet cherry growers. Cherries packed in round wicker baskets about eighteen inches covered with bracken fern, loaded on long horse-drawn wagons to haul to house. RGC probably four - five years old when taken there by Mother.(Father busy with factory.) Farm house a bright, sunny place, large barns, etc. horses, cows (milk - cream), pigs, chicks, rooster, cats, dogs, etc. Recall playing on river bank high above water, finding wick-holder assembly of an old lamp. Didn't go more than about two summers.

10.

Weston Super Mare - Vacation at "seaside" - went probably once, about three years old. Remember sand and long pier out into water, making sand castles.

11.

Endington Symphony Orchestra

Father started this and played bassoon in it. Mother played in first violin section Arthur Wayne also violinist. Father and Mother met here. Friend Wayne. Graham Godfrey the First (and (only?) conductor. Father dissolved the orchestra at start of 1914-1918 War due to many players called to service. Mother and Father met Mabel Godfrey through some organization.

12.

Godfrey, Graham and Mabel

Graham G. was a struggling young pianist, organist, choir director and orchestra conductor about 1911 - 1912 in Birmingham. First conducting experience with above orchestra when Melrose United Church built in Hamilton. They went looking for a first top-notch organist and choir director. Father mentioned Godfrey to them when he was selected, persuaded Graham and Mabel to "immigrate" to Canada. They did.

From this beginning, GG eventually got his Doctorate degree and took over Hamilton Symphony in early 1930's and later the Bach Choir and became a foremost Canadian musical figure. Mabel, whose origins were very "humble", was a nice but very trusting person, who could be counted on to believe the tallest tales. She reported to not ever be really happy in Canada. Eventually both returned to UK for rest of their lives. (Story of shooting a hummingbird through the eye.)

13.

Player Piano - Station Rd.

Remember at Station Rd. watching Father "play" it and seeing keys "work themselves." Loading of rolls, with metal ends, the patterns of slots, flapping after rewind. Father's solution to not having time to learn the piano. Sold before move to Sheppey.

14.

Zeppelins, Work! War One

About 1916-1917, Germany sent these over U.K. cities to bomb factories, etc. Remember seeing silver cigar shapes over Birmingham in the night sky. (They came over in moonlight, too high for planes or guns of those days to hit them.) Located targets by reference to clandestine beacons operated by spies and sympathizers. One of these, to Mother's and Father's disgust, was their musical friend, Dr. Otto Kahn, who had a flat, illuminated roof skylight (much embarrassment over this.) Remember Father very late home one evening from work. Normally by train to station down the street (overpass for railway to Suttor Coldfield, up long stair steps to station.) Learned later, trains stopped due to blackout. Father, walked home some ten-twelve miles from his factory at Balsall Heath.

15.

Haseler, Ralph (Based on Marion Clarke's notes)

See estate files.

Three relatives, all lived alone, he their "agent" and heir. All died alone, after drinking. He was the last person to see them alive, he had asked neighbours to "keep an eye" on them as he had to go away for a few days. All three found dead. He was the sole beneficiary, and arranged for cremations. Strychnine said to be tasteless in cocoa. He (and wife) supposed by Mother to have visited 75 Gary Ave and tried to be invited in. NO luck. The three estates above were all based on fortunes of William Henry Small (Mother's Father) and she had a very small legacy also therefrom. She suspected H. of trying to get her's too. She wrote a letter to Hamilton Police Chief to be opened if she died under odd circumstances, outlining the above.

16.

Family - Father's

Father's, Father, Charles William Clarke. CWe's Father supposed to have worked for the Stockton to Darlington Railway (World's First). CWC - a manufacturing jeweler B'ham. Taught night school (Astronomy) at B'ham Polytechnical Institute. Student, Annie Bonser (Hugenotstock) became his second wife (first died.) Norman was their child. Charlie was son by first wife. He married Adelaide, their child, Elsie. Annie - a severe, bitter old lady, with a warm spot for RGC and GAC on rare visits to her. Typical matriarchal mother-in-law, very dominating of Father. After we left Wylde Green in 1922, Charlie looked after her until death, very little money to do this.

17.

Family - Mother's

Father, William Henry Small, a manufacturing jeweler (more successful than C.W. Clarke.) Married twice. First wife died young - 3 children. Second wife lived to advanced age - Marion and Janet. Due to Annie's alcoholic problems, WHS set her up in a separate accommodation with gifts (Mother - grand piano) to threats of disinheriting. The daughters stuck with Mother and lost much of inheritance (se Haseler.) Both trained as kindergarten teachers to work. Marion also very artistic - won silver medal (competed all over England) for a wall hanging (at Midland Institute_B'ham.) Mother met Father at a dance and further through Endington Symphony and G. Godfrey.

18.

Father - Artificial Limbs

He had a factory in Balsall Heath operating when 1914-18 War broke out, making artificial limbs. Partnership with a man named 'Sandy Whetslow. Demand for prosthetic devices mushroomed as result of War, and at the end left the business over-extended (in Bank's view, with them restricting credit to it.) This plus sawdust and smoking cigarettes aggravated Father's asthma, plus Doctor's ultimatum - 'get out and quit smoking, or be dead in six months' convinced Father to sell out and move to Sheppey in 1922.

19.

Allen, Joe

'Uncle Joe' Allen, a family friend, returned from WW 1 shell shocked and in bad shape. Came to live with us for about a year in Sheppey (1923.) Pipe smoker, a

'Sapper' and very handy with hands. Helped erect the big chicken barn. Made our first crystal radio. Erected tall antenna masts. A 'genius' in many ways. Eventually left because of problems having a third party in house when the marriage was not very tranquil at best of times.

20.

Radio (Receivers)

Joe Allen made first farm's in Sheppey, a cylindrical coil, crystal, head phones, high\ipi) masts 0-0 each end of antenna. Main station 2 LO London. Heard first transatlantic broadcast KDKA Pittsburg to 2 LO on a 4" x 1 WI round bakelite crystal set. Head phones set in a thin crystal bowl to amplify sound. Our first Canadian Radio (129 Charlton) was in a desk, used a big wet battery plus four 'doorbell' 1.5 V A supply.

21.

Television

At 312 Fiddler's Green Road we had the second in neighbourhood 10" Black and White set (tubes) in about 1953-1955.

22.

Briarswood, 199 Station Rd. Wylde Green, (NE?) Sutton, Coldfield, Birmingham
Father bought this right half of a semi-detached brick two storey house to set up housekeeping with Mother (1910?) Four-five feet brick wall across front, at walk, with gate. Front yard flowering shrubs, with winding path from gate (right) to front door (left.) Inside front door and vestibule to front hall. Stairs up on left, front (music) room on right through hall to dining room (right) and kitchen (ahead.) Stairs to cellar. French window at back of dining room. Hall paved with 1" hex tiles. Gas illumination, cooking, "gas fires" for heat. Side entrance down narrow passage outside in back (fenced) garden, past brick paved area a french door. "Councilor Brassington" lived next door - a big, jovial, pompous man. Mrs. B. nice, motherly.

23.

World War 1 - Billeting

Shortly after outbreak of war, the civil population of B'ham (and other cities) surveyed as to how many soldiers could be billeted per house. For Briarswood" the billeting Captain said three. Mother and Father protested, because of Mother's frail health (carrying her second child (RGC) and no domestic help available.) Tried anyway. Involved cooking big meals for three hungry men and personal laundry and bedding.

They made not much effort to fit into a household (used to the "cultural" life), cleaned their boots and gear in the hall, and cracked the tiles with rifle butts. Finally, billeting authority saw it could not work and removed the men.

24.

World War 1

Outside of Zeppelins, billeting, Father delayed coming home due to air raids. We kids were pretty much insulated from WW 1.

25.

Mother - Personal

First pregnancy - birth expected in 1 jh month of marriage - in 1910, not considered "decent" so soon, so Annie Clarke, (Father's Mother) a rock-hard and dominant-in-the-extreme person insisted it be terminated. This was done.

Second pregnancy - RGC

Third pregnancy - Miscarriage, female, about 1917

Fourth pregnancy - GAC

Life-long abdominal and lower-back problems from this pregnancy Bouts of severe pain and tension headaches throughout life. Partially relieved by hysterectomy (1930-31). Dr. McIlwraith, Hamilton General Hospital.

In Sheppy, Mother had to rely on the help of a country Doctor, who rode around in a two-wheel "trap" with horse. He had poor ideas of antiseptic procedures and Mother had to make him wash hands with lysol before examining her personal areas. No great empathy between them!

26.

Conflict - Father and Mother

Based on:

Shortage of money, fancied irritation over loss of WHS legacy

Job success, Domination

Rebellion and emancipation

A terrible heartache for Father, who couldn't do anything right for her. Steadfast loyalty by Father regardless.

Patience of a Saint.

27

129 Charlton Avenue West (South side)

Semi-detached, right half, brick, 2 storey and basement and attic. Ground floor almost

duplicate of 199 Station Road, Wylde Green. Add rear dining room and attached wooden kitchen at rear. Garden long and narrow to back alley. (Hill's) Bakery plant backed onto west side rear. Neighbour's - West - Hobbs, East - Dr. Fred Bowman. Rent paid ? (Herkimer & McNab, southeast corner), delivered monthly by RGC. Heated by coke RGC, from Stelco after RGC working there - clinkers. Garden - willows, artichokes in ashes, vegetables, small lawn. Music, canning peaches.

28

Father - Jobs. Income(see also 225)

Moved to 129 Charlton Avenue West about 1928 - just as the depression was setting in. Great struggle to make ends meet. Sold vacuum cleaners (Airway) & encyclopedias door to door. Learned "Speedwriting" - alphabetic shorthand (dictation - Darwin's Voyage of a Naturalist" - Beagle) and taught it to students recruited by ads in Spectator. Through Rev. W. Barclay, Central Presbyterian, got job at Greening Wire Co., in product inspection. There to Hamilton Herald in 1932 as reporter (downtown beat) and Music Critic, and Nature Col. Weekly ("Flashlights on Nature"). Taken on by Spectator when Herald folded in 1935. 1936 - 1957 - took Critic and Column. Became Features Editor and started weekly column "Crotchets & Qu?

29

Father Mother Jobs. Income

Mother taught music (piano, violin, voice). Mother tried candy making - didn't fly 15 minute weekly radio program - CHML on Sunday - late afternoons with Mother playing violin, Geoff the cello, and Miriam Haines on piano. RGC wrote scripts.

30

Father - ice fall & decline

While living at 18 Mountain Avenue, he fell on ice and broke his hip. This was repaired with customary Pederson Pin operation, but he was never able to go to work again. There was a very small retirement pension from Spectator, payable to him only (not spouse or widow later). A poor plan, benefit reduced by Father's short years of service with Spectator. Severe financial impact on Family. Somewhat reduced by Mother having taken over the finances some years before. Father gradually went downhill after this fall. He had a stroke which slightly impeded speech. Couldn't shave, so grew a beard - very distinguished. Sensed at Gary Avenue, his increasing load on Mother and voluntarily admitted himself to Hamilton Psychiatric Hospital, which had the only accommodation for people of his troubles in Hamilton area. Much courage to go there! He died there of a massive stroke.

Move to Fiddler Green Road by Mother & Father

In effort to reduce their living costs, RGC finished upstairs – living room, bedroom, kitchen and bathroom as self-contained accommodation. & Father moved in in 19? Severe friction between them and us, caused in large measure by Mother's various accusations on various subjects. They moved after about 1 year to 47 Holmes Avenue.

Bowman, Dr. Fred (cross reference Bogart)

Lived at 127 Charlton West (next door neighbour) with wife, son, and a Housekeeper with a peg leg. Latter gave the image of a female Capt. Hook. Her niece had an interesting reputation among the teen-age boys of the neighbourhood. Son, Fred Jr., was a lively young man who played jazz (piano) specializing in the then current craze of "dirt chords", disharmony in the extreme. He played in a jazz band. His playing clearly penetrated our common wall and greatly irritate Mother & Father. No doubt our practicing & instrumental playing did same to him.

Bogart, Frank (cross reference Bowman)

One of RGC's customers on Charles St. in an apartment - family named Bogart. Mother was a refined lady, father - a not-too-good type, not very prosperous. Son (18-20) another avant-guard pianist, very good technically - went on later to be a well-known jazz pianist and band leader in USA.

Spectator Route

RGC had route TH&B, Bold, McNab, Charles, Park, Bay, Hunter Streets from Fall 1929 when he came to Hamilton until the Spring of 1934 when he started at Stelco. Got papers at pressroom, Catharine North. Tough spot, Bob Leasure issued same his brother, R.D. Leasure, handled the whole carrier operation. Bicycle in good weather, papers rolled or square folded to throw. Wagon for Christmas edition. Informal Credit Bureau with Milkman and Bakers. Only 45 cent in 1 bad debt lost in whole period. Competition with Tom Walsh, Herald - knew him well, later at Stelco.

Eccentric Customers

Miss F?

Janitor of Pas eden a Apts.

"Horsey" Gilbert - about 14 Bold

"Mickey" McLean

Minister of McNab Presbyterian Church (Spec. & Herald)
Hendry Est. (Butler)
Park & Bold (elderly Lady)
"Blink Bonnie" - Co1.Moodie (underwear) - Butler
Rocco Perrie & Bessie - see separate entry
Bishop of Niagara (Right Rev. Derwyn Trevor Owen 1932, Right Rev. L.W.B
Broughall See also separate sheet cross-reference to l.-

35

Central Collegiate

Traditional "classical" collegiate. Principal Morris, excellent dedicated teachersg. Mr.
Butcher - classics & ancient history
Mr. Dewitt - classics & ancient history
Mr. Cooper - maths - superb teacher, _ yr. Trigonometry in last semester of.t.
Miss Paul - french
Mr. McCrimmon - chemistry
Capt. Cornelius - sports, cadets, musical shows, track teams, band, orchestra
No time to participate much due to Spec route.
Vox Lysia & Lyseum
School dances - just a rumour to me due to cost & not knowing other students
socially. Latin - "no use trying to teach me" (3 teachers)
Liked - math, science, german
Building old, spacious, towers, wings, wide halls & stairs - alivood 7
School burned.

36

Central Collegiate

Regular examinations
"New gym" - survived fire.
Location - West & East Aves., Jackson & Hunter
People - Hal Holbrook - car, smoker, hyper, hard driving fellow
- Billy Greenfield & Kay McCulley
- the Taylor sisters - Elizabeth (Betty) - a champion sprinter Marg. - quieter

See HCCI - 181

37

Holmes Ave (47)

Mother & Father moved there from 312 Fiddler's Green Road. Lived then from 7 to 7

Problems with an adjacent neighbour - hours of darkness, taxis, smoking, disturbed ceiling tile.

38

Charlton Ave. W. (129)

Neighbourhood Details

Genteel, on point of starting to decline. Some very nicely kept places, others not Back alleys, sheeny men, horse-drawn wagons, tramps & blue signs. Neighbour's - Hobbs, Bowman, (7), Rabbi, Dr. McIlwraith on corner, (hosing of kid re Geoff), Garden apartments, taking "Sam" for run on bike. Bakery - burning old wax papers on Sunday a.m. - stink! Central Presbyterian Church on corner, & little grocery/butcher. Dr. Farmer, Caroline & Herkimer NE corner. Munday family (Herkimer), Mr. & Mrs. McCullough - stockbroker.

39

West End

Street Cars- James, Herkimer, split (1) Queen - Aberdeen (little cars), split (2) Herkimer, Locke, Main, Margaret, King, James to incline (little ones).

West End Incline

Truck ran down the track.

40

Central Presbyterian Church

Rich, snobby. Mother in choir - tricks. 4 paid soloists- Olive B Blateley, Mr. Arthur Oliver - organist. Mother tried out for soloist when still in Grimsby. Mother & Father S. School orchestra, Miss Emslie pianist, square piano, orchestra played pre service & for hymns. Piano (see below), 1st. violin (Mother), *Td.* Violin (RGC), cello (Geoff), Bass (Alan Barclay), cornet (?), clarinet (Bob Bell). S.S. orchestra finally piano, 2 violins, cello. Then able to play piano quartets. Succession of Dr. W. Hewlett's top piano pupils - not in order.

Bruce Tovee (later a med. Dr.)

Mary Jane Biggar (Father was Mgr, IHC) -schemer also, Mother.

Agnes Butcher - Hungary Bela Bartok

Miriam Haines

Mary Syme

(All technically excellent - need to live).

A coveted assignment due to the training. Pew rents - tree pew for us in balcony. To 11 a.m. service through to 2 p.m. for S. School. Rev. Wm. Barclay (from Hebrides?)

later Dr.
To 53

41

Homewood Avenue (39)

Square brick bungalow on double lot. Rented. Big garden side and back. Garage on alley - RGC's first car - Willys Overland - finger tip control. Driver's test by salesman. How to start on Sunday a.m.? Sold and got Chev. Snowbound 2 months on street. Plan - centre hall, right of front door a bedroom, left - front room and living room, 2 bedrooms off and kitchen at rear. Father had a hive or two of bees in garden, also willow trees (same stock as 129 Charlton W.). RGC left from here for RCAF. Neighbour's - Ptolemy's - Father loved daughter. Across street - Hallam - Father traveler for work. Later Ralph Hallam in Office Systems, "Ditt'd"? On corner, big house, Jewish people, mostly away.

42

Mountain Avenue (18)

Moved there after RGC to RCAP. 2 storey brick and attic and basement vacant lot on south side. House on west side of street. Big shed at back of garden. Ceramic (elec.) kiln set up there - not too successful - size, heat. Father's bees in attic.

43

Caroline Street Collegiate

1 st. and 2nd. Forms - Grades 9 & 10. A sort of Junior High to take some of the pressure off HCCI. At Main & Caroline Sts. - 2 storey, stone - a forbidding looking place with gravel playground. "Cowboy" Mason - strap, red stockings, thumb tacks in cushion. Visitor at Homewood Ave. - trouble. Johnny Bell - maths (later principal at Westdale) lost his "projector". Still possible to attend Caroline St. and take papers. I started at Caroline St. about November of ft. Form (from Grimsby High School), where I started High School. In September of Form 2, Westdale Coll. Ready for ft. classes - all West of James St. supposed to go there. I attended It. half day, got on record & went thereafter to HCCI (due to paper route, intervention by R.D Leasure, Spec.) Subject of week, long search at WCC!!

To 208

44

Grimsby High School

Small-town high school. Cycled to and from there to home. Hazing followed me there.

Geoff left alone at Grimsby Park Public School to face it there. Thankful to "escape" to Hamilton in late fall.

45

Grimsby - Grimsby Park Public School

Hazing - hatred of English (Chirper) immigrants - dress, language ways. Brutal teasing, roughing up by bigger boys (Ringleader onefoskey Fair), Geoff rammed in belly by end of baseball bat (near spleen) - see 226 Geoff's illness. Father got no satisfaction from School Trustees, Principal or teachers re this Although Geoff & I had passed English examinations for entry to Sr. .\$. (Grade 8) and Sr. :td respectively, we had to lose 1 year. Maybe a good idea to get used to system. I successfully passed H.S entrance (more than some of our tormentors did) and started in autumn at Grimsby H.S. Had started at G.P.P. School while still at Ridge Rd. - trip down and up mountain through Udell's farm for 1st. fall, winter and spring and into next fall.

46

Grimsby Park - General

Cricket - Father tried teaching some local boys (& us) - went along not too badly to mitigate hazing). Hay Mow Jump - TM Joint, Father - gardening for hire, milk can pile. Radial Line - passengers and fruit haulage, Jordan to Hamilton, Hamilton - Burlington, Brantford.

47

Mother - Music

Trained young as pianist, violinist and singer. Started contralto, in Canada - mezzo contralto and musical composer. At Grimsby, taught piano, violin, voice (used living room of Grimsby shoemaker in exchange for teaching his daughter in piano). Travelled from Ridge Road down mountain to catch Radial car Udell's (return late at night several nights a week - all weather). This money all that was coming in for fall, winter, spring. Continued when we moved to Grimsby Beach. On arrival in Hamilton, continued teaching at Hamilton Conservatory (once Dr. Hewlett agreed to "let Mother in"). Reasonable caution in retrospect - later good friends - piano students to Central Presbyterian. Teaching gradually declined as health worsened Participation in Duet Club - pupils, Children's Band – Mildred Begg (just coming in, though popular in Europe, offshoot of kindergartens), Haydn's Toy Symphony.

48

Mother - Music

Dickens Fellowship - small instrumental group for before meetings and for performances - Claude Hodges, Cloke Sr. Cross ref. also Mother's early involvement with Endington Symphony Orchestra # 11. Ball dress - embroidered musical motif, staff 6" wide round hem. Hamilton - composed children's and adult songs, similar to Schubert's style. Joyce Killmen's "Trees". Tried hard and long to get these performed & published never any luck!

49

Schooling in England

RGC at Wylde Green - to kindergarten where Mother had taught - no clear memory. To "Grade I" - a sadistic schoolmaster, finger flicked kid's heads behind ear.

Sheppey - both RGC & GAC

Standard of available schooling so deficient father & Mother decided to teach us themselves, big fight with Truancy Officer - we won because we had to write and did pass exams set by Marylebone Grammar School, London, supplied by family friend, Philip Wayne, son of Arthur Wayne Geoff's godfather (cross re Endington Symphony Orchestra # 11). Never "went to school" more than 3 hours a day (9 - 12 noon, Monday Friday) & normal autumn, winter, spring terms until came to Canada. Father taught math and science, Mother the rest. So we had afternoons clear to learn about our surrounding world and running the farm operation.

50

Westwood Avenue ()

Mother & Father moved there from Mountain Ave. Brick bungalow on corner lot, centre hall - old Ainslie homestead. Prone to lightning strikes - Mother saw fireballs chasing through open doors from outside until caught on to closing doors in a storm. (Strikes confirmed by Geoff at Westwood & Gary.) The ghost of Clive_leen?) male ancestor - old ladies? to confirm. Front porch added after WW2 by RGC, still there in 1983.

51

Hamilton Community Concerts Association

Father was on original committee (as Spectator's representative) that established this organization in 1932 in Hamilton to bring good calibre musical performances to town. (For then, a modern "Chautauqua" approach.)

52

McMaster University

Father was on committee, as Spectator's representative, working on relocating to

Hamilton the Baptist College. The College had been chartered in Toronto in 1887 as a theology & liberal arts degree granting College. This was necessitated by cramped physical location in Toronto & 2.overshadowed by the much larger group of colleges that formed the University of Toronto. The Baptist College (& Baptist doctrine) forbade it accepting government \$ so it depended heavily on private \$ such as from Wm. McMaster, later his son Ross H. McMaster (of Stelco) & private & civic donations. When the Baptist College relocated to Hamilton in 1930 (crowning long term work started in 1912), it was renamed McMaster University.

53

Central Presbyterian Church(cont' d from 40)

Format for S. School- Superintendent (Mr Ilsey, Mr. John Marshall) opened at 3:00 p.m. with hymn, "Business" to about 3: 15, then broke up into classes for 30 minutes. GAC to a class in S. School, RGC to Young Men's bible class in Church Oust in time for "the address" -left in time to rejoin S.S. orchestra for closing hymn. Thus no time to get to know other classmates (who included Peter Gordon Stelco). "Mentor" was Fred W. Paulin, big contractor.

Church - Arthur Oliver, long time organist and choir master. Cassavantorgan (best in city) with echo organ and chimes in back balcony. Pew rents - we didn't pay & were eventually "given" a card - tagged few in back balcony. Had sat for years in a pew marked "Stewart" who never ever showed up.

54

Mother - Creative Endeavours

Always of a creative mind - in early life - to about 1915 - creativity for its own sake music - "art" in form of design - won Silver Medal for Wall Hanging, U.K. wide. (Stenciled intricate heraldic style design on cloth, close to bed sheet size.)\ Also creativity re kindergarten teaching materials. After move to Sheppey - gathered voluminous clipping file to write a "household hints" column. Couldn't sell it in U.K. Children's stories - photo illustrations of "imaginary" homes, etc{Revived this idea in early days in Hamilton with some lack of success.)

In Canada, desperate need to earn for family - Grimsby - music teaching, Hamilton - music teaching & ceramics ?17?1717?17?? (ired). Later a variety of air-dried & painted articles. Churchill- bronzed, ducks, squirrels, V for Victory, etc.

(Continued on 55)

55

Mother - Creative Endeavours (from 54)

Song writing - children's & adult "art" songs.

Literary - informative articles on wide range of subjects, children's stories, daily

"Household Hints" column. When Father was too busy, some of the "Flashlights on Nature" columns for Spectator ("on the quiet"). None of these ventures ever got off the ground financially.

56

Candy Making

At Charlton Ave., started a mail-order candy & chocolate making course with a New England company run by one Hillyer Ragsdale. Idea was to pay the monthly instalments out of proceeds of candies sold. We (other & RGC) followed the instructions to make various types of chocolates, including soft-centered choc dipped. The instructions were OK, but in Depression, we couldn't sell the product. Thus the cheap School's claim to pay for monthly instalments out of earnings didn't work out, & we fell behind in payments. They got successively nastier in a series of collection letters, finally threatening legal action "because we had not tried to follow the instructions". We had written them several times during early months & got answers from them on questions, on their letterhead. Father then pounced - threatening them with a "defamation of character" lawsuit. End of game - we never heard from them again!

57

Sheppey - Farm

Moved there in 1922. Bungalow, white stucco, sea shells 1;4 - 3ft' instead of gravel. Doors to outside at middle of all 4 sides (see 58); verandah all round. Front (facing road) probably 40' back. Gate in front fence, path to door. Front faced south, central on wide frontage went back fair distance - probably 5 - 6 acres. Wide, unopened grassy road allowance on east side ("Green Lane"), on far side a row of huge old oaks, on other side a W.W.1 army camp with one Sergeant and one private ("Gunner" Knott) living there with their families. Back 2/3 in 6 hog-fenced "Paddocks". Father and Joe Allen dug countless fence post holes (auger in heavy clay), creosoted posts (RGC helped), set them and stretched galvanized wire fence (ring lock like Stelco Frost in Canada!). Cross wires closer at bottom, good to climb until could stride over. Garden - huge area of Kale for pigs.
(to 58)

58

Sheppey - Farm (from 57)

Borstall Boys cut the hay with scythes on the "Green Lane" & back fields\ year. Paid with "Woodbine" cigs. -small paper pkts. Of 5. Money not allowed. Big teen-aged boys, 10 ft. swath cut by one. Front (SW) corner room was living & music room.

There also schoolroom & violin practice done. Kitchen was in the center back, dining room NW corner, bathroom & 2 bedrooms rest. Started with pigs (white) in the paddocks (had sheds), and chickens (Rhode Island Reds) in big building. Water from roof into big galv. tanks. Water supply piped (municipal) to stand - pipe (tap) outside from army camp, none inside. Later had bees (Italian) - clover comb honey in sections (no extracting) sold well & RGC helped handle bees and make up hives. Hive Dadant? - bigger than Langstroth standard size.

59

Sheppey - Geography of

Sheerness, Minster, Eastchurch, - Leysdown-on-Sea.

Sheerness - substantial town & naval dockyard

Minster, Eastchurch - hamlets

Leysdown-on-Sea - hamlets and summer resort

Situated on Thames estuary. Somewhere between Eastchurch & Leysdown the submerged church, tower & bell.

?????????-tour on mainland

Kent - road connection

60

Sheppey - Cliffs. Soil

Very heavy red clay, like cheese to dig. Cliffs probably 30 - 40 ft. high, got to via top of "Green Lane". Undercut by sea waves producing "land slips", preceded by deep 6 - 10 ft. cracks in surface. Shore a muddy exposure of shallows, impossible to walk on at low tide due to sinking in. _ross ref. Sir Robert de Sherland)

61

Sir Robert de Sherland

Hot tempered 15th Century Lord of Sherland Manor near Eastchurch Rode out in estuary to see King in ship. Rough on horse, which died when reached land again. Old Woman's curse - "dead horse will kill you". One year later, walking on shore he kicks horse's jaw bone in sand. Cuts foot, festers, he dies. Buried in Church at Minster. Magnificent decorative tomb, he and his lady. Current (1922 - 26) occupant of de Sherland's Manor house referred to as the "Lord of the Manor" - his family the focal point of local "society" circles!

62

Sheppey - Sunken Church

Legend - slipped completely into sea one night (was on cliff edge)Confirmed by - at very low tide, top of stone tower above water, & waves ring the bellA sizeable stone Norman - built church.

63

Sheppey - Sheerness

Naval dockyard & repair shop, predated W.W.I. In W.W.II a vessel loaded with explosives ran aground in Swale not far away - daren't move - still there as of 1980 report.

64

Sheppey - Transportation

Only means was bus from Sittingbourne via all the towns & hamlets - 3 weekly. Branched past our house & on to unnamed settlement out by shore (Submerged Church). Grocery & meat orders taken by driver to shops & delivered next trip Paid by mail. Meat etc. – no refrig. Wrapped in cheesecloth summer & winter. From Sheerness shops we also shipped skinned & drawn rabbits to Smithfield Market, London same way. Later bus route was Sittingbourne (on mainland), Sheerness, Minster (old church), Eastchurch, past one house, & on to end of line a Leysdown, a small resort type settlement.

65

Sheppey - Communication

Telephone - manual exchange, operator Miss Hughes, snippy woman, 2 minute limit, "finished?" at 1 % minutes.

Mail - daily out of Eastchurch

Papers - London "Daily Mail" on the bus

Wireless - main source of news. "Hello London Calling 1st. (crystal) set made by Joe Allen, later a store-made Bakelite circular one.

RDKA - Schenectady (note)

Antenna - 2 fifty ft. 2"pipes ??????? and picture. Never struck by lightening erecting.

66

Sheppey - Bees

Hives assembled from parts, Dodant (large) size, section honey, sold to passing trade, sign - U post at front gate, Italian bees, RGC helped assemble hives & with bees. Bees in Father's veil- narrow escape.

67

Sheppey - Uncle Joe Allen

Family friend, shell shocked from W.W.I., trade "Sapper". Helped at Sheppey, build 1st. wireless set. Sapper experience, great insight into doing engineering & mechanical jobs - erecting the war surplus hen bldg., fencing the pig paddocks, etc. Finally left due to friction with family (cf. Gunner Knott #68).

68

Sheppey - Gunner Knott

The resident private at army camp. A little guy with a huge wife & numerous kids. A good source of "how to do it" knowledge. Traded big wrench (govt) for use of Father's chicken coops. His knowledge & Uncle Joe's of rigging were invaluable in erecting the hen house (cf. Uncle Joe Allen #67)

69

Sheppey - Hen House "Big House"

War surplus barracks type but never used. Big sectional panels prob. 8' X 10' long walls, & big roof & floor sections also. Concrete piers, move to site uphill, greenhouse on wood rollers, erect floor, walls, roof. S. edge 4 ft. off ground, N. edge 1 ft. off. Floor probably 80' X 40'. Rain water collected in hug<:galv. corrugated steel barrels on "H" bases, concrete. Big job to mount these upright. Arrived after hen house built. Rigging approach inspiration for games by RGC, GAC for long time after. Poles, ropes, simulated pulleys, etc. Exhausting work for Father, not used to such, helped by Uncle Joe, Gunner Knott.

70

Sheppey - Pig Houses

Compared to Hen House (Big House), making 6 portable pig houses (1 per paddock) was child's play. These open air shelters to break sun exposure. Pigs kept the yard clean. Also no mud ponds.

71

Sheppey - Pigs

Had a boar & assorted sows. Breed - white colour (Large white? Suffolk white?) -new breed - superior food converters. RGC helped castrate the gilt. Scalpel accident, Father's foot. Also sewed up hernias in gilts. Fattened on corn meal. Sold to butcher in Sheerness.

72

Sheppey - Tools

Due to helping Father with a wide range of farm chores, construction and maintenance, RGC gained unusually broad insight into use of tools, and how to do things.

73

Sheppey - Animals & Farm Stock

Original plan was to raise pigs (new approach then, in open fields rather than a dirty barn yard - better able to control health & fattening diet) and hens for eggs & meat Hens (Rhode Island Reds) in Big House & outside run. Proved too labour-intensive re feeding, mixing feed, collecting, washing, candling & grading eggs - also problems shipping eggs to market. Hens replaced by Chinchilla Rabbits - also feed, mix feed, water, disease control, fur colour control. Rabbits killed, skinned & dressed carcasses to Smithfield mkt. Pelts dried, stretched, cleaned of fat & sent to Fur Market. "Pigs & Rabbits" worked not too badly, until too many people got into Chinchilla Rabbits & market dropped. "Emigrate to Canada" idea took top spot thanks to Colgate (go to #77).

74

Sheppey - Roman Legions

Legend of Roman Legions marching as ghosts in late dusk of Midsummer's Eve Dog's reaction.

75

Grandfather Clarke - Ghostly Presence

Doing homework alone on winter night at 129 Charlton W. - problem in geometry, hard to solve. "Presence" watching over left shoulder for half an hour - friendly, almost touchable, invisible, no doubt as to identity. I solved the problem.

76

Grandfather Clarke - Last Seen Living

Grandfather Clarke - familiarly known as 'Granfa'.

Earliest memory - RGC lying flat in pram, looking up, seeing him looking out at RGC through French doors to outside, at 199 Station Road. He died when RGC was 18 months old.

Sheppey - Animals & Farm Stock (continued) from #73

Also bred pedigree Airedale dogs for sale. Had a male & female. Male got with a Collie bitch we also had, named "Nell" - we found she could produce exact duplicates of pedigreed Airedales - which we had to make sure were not sold or represented as the real thing. Nell - a great rabbit hunter. Lost for a week, found, thin, head wedged in hole at base of a tree trunk. Lucky accident of a farm hand taking a short cut home along an unaccustomed route.

78

Sheppey - Fencing

Big job to erect log fence round 6 paddocks. Posthole auger- heavy red cheese-like clay. Posts of some softwood (not coniferous) - huge pile. Corners had to have bracing posts, angle cut at tops. RGC creosoted buried part, & 1 ft. projection. Fence stretcher - chain & ratchet device. With RGC helping, Uncle Joe stapled after Father stretched - 3 part team. Ring lock construction - like Stelco's before buying Frost. Horizontal wires close at bottom, wider at top. Climb, later stride over.

79

Sheppey - Cliffs

Dangerous because lonely, deep cracks & crevices. Wide expanses of gorse & wild blackberries - delicious when ripe. Mother & RGC picked for jam. Lots of wild rabbits there. Photog. expedition to take RGC with an "imaginary" little people house as illustration for a children's story. Scared rabbit jumped into RGC's arms - left a minute later, leaving hundreds of fleas on coat.

80

Sheppey - Preparations to Come to Canada

1 st. realization when 7 large wicker baskets & 1 super big one, arrived - "Post Office" mail baskets. Mother cut & stencilled "N C CLARKE" - on all. Sold the place & all but essential furniture, etc., tools, clothing we were taking, also violins, cello, G Father clock cut in 2 to ship.

1. Visit to London - saw Zoo, Tower, Buckingham Palace & Changing of Guards, Hotel Room.

2. Visit to Birmingham to see Uncle Charlie, Aunt \.ddie & Elsie. Gift of telescope from Uncle to RGC for voyage. Shades of Nelson!

3. Down to Southampton to board the Cunard SS Antonia - June 4, 1926. 1ih.
Birthday for RGC - seasick.

81

Sheppey - Colgate

Colgate, Australian in Sheppey, a Tracker, silent approach in evenings, would listen at windows before knocking - revealed accidentally in conversation later what he had overheard! Tried to adapt U.S. farm implements to U.K. usage - hay mowers, rakes, binders, etc. But too large to go through U.K. gates & down U.K. lanes. Sold Father on immigrating to Canada (& Mother had to agree). Approach via D.K. Soldier Settlement Program. Father eligible because of having made artificial limbs.

82

Voyage to Canada

Embarked Southampton June 4/26? S.S. Antonia Cunard, reached Quebec 6/13/26. Cramped shipboard quarters, deck games, load of D.K. to Canada immigrants. Slow due to ice fields off Nfld. but no big bergs! 6/14 freight & us disembarked at Quebec. Weekly train to Montreal, slept overnight there. Processed by S. Settlement there. Only overnight train to Toronto, then to Hamilton in morning. Got a meal, walked James St., CNR Station to TH & B & return. Back on train to Grimsby mid afternoon. 6/15 Met at Grimsby by S. Settlement field man, who lodged us for night & breakfast at a tourist house on Mountain St. (cornflakes). 6/16 Field man started driving us all in old car to see a variety of broken-down weedy farms, which we later found were mostly not economic, & abandoned because of tax arrears. (to 82a)

82a

Voyage to Canada

First shown was Ridge Road, Grimsby. Saw a number through the day mostly on the Mountain, Smithville, Binbrook, Stoney Creek - each one worse than the previous. Eventually in deep dusk, one on Mineral Springs Road Ancaster, near junction with Sulphur Springs Road. Back to tourist house, Grimsby for night & next day decided on the Ridge Rd. one - the best of a very sorry lot!

83

First Farm

S.S. Field man spent all day 6/16 driving us all over, showing a series of run-down

farms, ditto houses thereon, land uncultivated in mid June!

All the way from Beamsville to Ancaster (on Mineral & Sulphur Springs Roads in late dusk). Finally back exhausted to Mountain St. Grimsby for overnight sleep Settled next day on farm on Ridge Rd., Grimsby.

84

Soldier Settlement

Plan D.K./Canada Govts. - settle Soldiers & other eligible persons of Cdn. Farms - small cash grants for food until established, plus farm, a team of horses, cow, wagon, plough, disc, harrow & seed for first crop, furniture.

85

Ridge Rd. Grimsby - Farm

The farm, on south side stone road, along edge of escarpment. About 30 acres, fair frame 2 storey & bsmt house, barn. 10 acres apples & grapes, 10 acres croppable? clear, 10 acres at back swampy. Shallow top soil on top of rock. A lot of loose rocks in fields. Now late June, dry weather, faint chance of planting to grow veg's etc. for winter. Did have unsprayed, unpruned apples & grapes, no help or knowledge how to harvest & sell. Got the team (Jimmy & Nip), equipment, learned how to milk the cow (Bessie). Lived off savings, augmented by M. F. & kids picking beans (\$Yday). F. & R. picking cherries, peaches for Miss Udell (The S.S. monitor). Just survived 1st. winter, Mother teaching music in Grimsby.

86

Food - Keeping in a "Meat Safe"

Started in Sheppey, continued at Grimsby, Grimsby Beach & for a while at Charlton Avenue. Kept meat, milk, and butter in a Meat Safe in cool part of cellar. A wood frame 3' X 3' X 6', with 2-3 shelves, & frame door, hinged. All covered with fly screen. Food in covered containers put in it. Relied in summer on whatever cooling could be obtained from basement air. Had lived some time at Charlton Ave. before we could afford an "Ice Box" and ice for summer. Continued to use Meat Safe in winter. Got elec. Fridge at Homewood Ave.

Cf. also Homemade ice box made & used at Yarmouth

Food - Keeping in Home Made Ice Box #87

87

Food - Home Made Ice Box

Go to Food - keeping in Meat Safe. #86

At Yarmouth, living out, made an icebox as follows.

Icebox said it kept ice better than any other box on his long route Used similar one at Fid. Green Rd. for a while.

Old copper Wash boiler

picture

Sawdust

88

Ridge Rd.. Grimsby - Rum Runners

Late Fall, late at night (11 p.m.?). Mother returning from Grimsby teaching music. Climbed up mountainside with hurricane lantern. Approachin_p, came upon a group of men hustling boxes down from road. They saw her & started moving logs piled nearby - Mother carried on by. Figured later they were caching liquor (Prohibition times). No sign of the boxes next day!

89

Ridge Road. Grimsby - Music

Mother, teaching music in Grimsby, only source of income for groceries, st Fall & Winter. Major part of remaining capital went into Heinzman Piano, delivered by them to Ridge Road - "Grand Piano in upright Form". Still at 75 Gary (GAC) in 3/84. Moved on sleigh with everything else during the "Midnight Flit". Go to #90

90

Ridge Road. Grimsby - Midnight Flit

By Christmas week 1927, evident that Father & Mother couldn't pay the Realty Taxes, theirs & preceding owner, so Father pleaded before Grimsby Township council for reprieve until next year; crop in. They refused. Outside council chamber, Reeve told him before the 31st. of Dec., to get all his possessions off the place, to save them. Father went home, phoned a neighbour who got some men & a big horse drawn sleigh together. Another neighbour (Birge Book) offered his hired man house, & by 4:00 a.m. everything in house was moved. RGC bundled up, with measles scabs all over, rode with the piano. Phone in new house on same party line as Ridge Road. Mis Udell (S.S. monitor) phoned Ridge Rd. that morning. Mother heard our ring at Book house, answered Miss "U."s inquiry by saying we were all fine. Thus the grapevine was foiled. (> #91)

Ridge Rd.. Grimsby - Midnight Flit (from 90)

A stretch of zero days!

This gave us time to get a few additional things off farm, incl. vegetables stored in straw in barn (carrots). Father told Udell to tell S.S. Field Man that he would feed 2 horses and cow until end of Dec. 31 & then they would have to take over -Udell did. S. Settlement tried to collect on grants to Father. He pointed out their dealing in bad faith. Ridge Rd. Farm (the best they had to offer) was worthless. They had been misled by S.S. that June arrival was OK to start farming. Tax arrears on Farm. He pointed out he had no resources at all and just couldn't pay. So they closed the book & eventually went away. Found later we were far from the only case like that.

Grimsby Beach - House

Moved early Spring (early March) 1928 from Book! Quite new frame house, west of Grimsby Beach Rd., beside S. side of CN Trucks. Stayed there until I at IF all 1928, thence to Charlton W. 2-storey frame house, full, cemented basement.

Grimsby Beach - Income. Life

Father did gardening for the more wealthy "summer folk" - nice Sanfeigal (shoe stores) during summer of 1928. Also, Father & RGC picked cherries & peaches for Miss Udell. By end of June 1928, RGC had passed High School entrance exam & Geoff Senior 3rd. (Grade 5). Fall 1928, RGC to Grimsby High School- "It. Form" (Grade 9).

Ridge Road. Grimsby - Farming

Hopeless to grow field crops on open land - shallow topsoil on rock, soil very run down, big swampy area, tried blasting some big surface rocks. Too many to do much. Apple orchard not pruned for many years, old trees, ditto grape vinery.

Ridge Road, Grimsby - Farm Stock

Team - "Jimmy" - a kindly old horse, "Nip" - a mean mare, lived up to her name, also let Jimmy do all the hard pulling. RGC rode Nip - rotated to . Cow - "Bessie"

mostly Jersey, docile. Good milk & cream which we made into Devonshire cream easier than churning butter. Chickens - for eggs & meat. Cat - defurred in kerosene jar, dog.

96

Ridge Road - Wagon Trip to Town

The only way to get there. Team & wagon, jolting ride along Ridge Rd. & down Mountain St. hill. Drag on chain under rear wheel to prevent wagon running away down slope - sparks off iron shoe.

97

Ridge Road - Aitken

Next neighbour on East - Mr. Aitken, an inspector of Fed. Penitentiaries, away a lot, his wife alone with children, befriended Mother - necessity both ways.

Mr. A. got off Radial late Sat. night, to walk up mountain, Grimsby Park Rd shadowed by an ex-con - asked for bread on way up hill. Mr. A. opened his bag, supposedly to get some. Brought out revolver & ex-Con ran. Typical of the danger of the job. Always an ex-Con who felt the Inspector was responsible for his bad breaks.

98

Ridge Road. Grimsby - Neighbours

North - the edge of Escarpment, across road

East - Aitken (go to #97)

South - Birge Book (big apple farm)

West - Sideroad to Book's, etc.

Brennan summer cottage (construction business), wild young people parties

Ridge Road () farmer bachelor with lame leg, lived alone, showed Father a lot of farming tricks. Also - how to make a wooden hay rake & glue tines with natural casein glue (cow manure!).

99

Sheppey - Sheep

A lot of sheep herding, many of these a strain of fat-tailed sheep, a long fat tail hung down quite a way.

100

Sheppey - Haying

Much of the hay cut by scythe, raked by hand to rows & hay cocks. Pitched onto horse drawn wagons, drawn & built into stacks, these thatched with straw - a skilled process to ensure dryness. Borstall boys cut hay where pig paddocks were later, cutting 10ft. swaths!

101

Sheppey - Ploughing

Much of this done by single furrow plough & 1 horse. The old-style ploughman a highly-skilled & much respected artisan, especially in heavy clay, with need to get the moisture just right. "Steam Ploughing" just coming in 1922 - 26. One steam engine at each end of field. A chain from one to the other dragged a plough with V frame. At end of trip it was tipped to return position, far engine moved up a little, & hauled the plough back.

102

4F Club

About 1930 Mother & Father decided RGC was too shy & introverted, so pushed him into YMCA social pgm. - via Herb Rumball- 4F Club. Community service club, founded by Si Sidenius, based on rural 1850 - 1900 U.S.A. Community recreational activities - singing games (ethnic), square & other dances, puzzles, crafts, etc. (Lyn Rohrborough). In Hamilton, taught these in "Play Parties" at Church Young Peoples' Assoc.'s and at YMCA. 4F Club teams (2 people usually) went out to these places, & put on the pgms. Also a Recreational School each Spring to teach these skills. (Saturday night Play Parties YMCA)

Met Sylvia through this work (she had previously seen me on a King West Street Car). Eventually "had its time" & dissolved. RGC was last President. A number of members put on Sat. Night dances for service personnel during 1939 - 4:Waf.

103

Schooling. Canada - RGC

1926 - 28 Grimsby Beach jr & Sf. 4th. 1928 (2 mo.) Grimsby H. Sch. 1st. Form
1928 - 30 Caroline St. Coll. 1 st., 2nd. Forms 1930 (1/2 day) Westdale Coll. :rd. Form
1930 - 33 HCCI 3rd., 4th., Sth. Forms

Geoff - Schooling

1926 - 28 Grimsby Beach jr & Sf. 2nd.
1928 (2 mo.) Grimsby Beach Jr. 1d.
1928 - 32 1932 - ?

Central Public Westdale Coll.

Jr., Sr.3rd., & Jr., Sr. 4th. 1st. Form

104

Sylvia - nee Witheridge

Living with Tom & Alice Heaver & family on Chatham St., Hamilton. Met Sylvia at 4F Club, joined about same time. She was introduced to Club by Eleanor Griffiths (later Hendricks). RGC & S saw a lot of one another through 4F. Became engaged towards end of RGC's RCAF training at U. of T. Planned to be married but RGC's appendix operation intervened. Actually married about 1 month later - RGC had annual leave (2 weeks) & 3 weeks sick leave together for honeymoon. S. living on Hess St. with a Miss Walker. Later moved in with Irma Knight who was also a "single wife". From there S. moved to Yarmouth, with RGC "living out" in town. S. remembers seeing RGC on King W. streetcar before meeting at 4F Club.

105

VLA - Veterans' Land Act

Canadian vets - 2 options on demobilization.

a) Free university education or

b) Settlement acreage & house (both heavily subsidized)

Choice b was more practical than a for anyone with wife and child(ren) because of cost & hardship keeping family while at university. VLA - originally _ acres min., then up to 2 acre min.

Finances - \$6000 to house and land cost & \$2000 that could go to either house & land or farm equipment & furniture. The \$2000 was a grant, forgiven if contract was carried out for 10 years (we did). Interest on \$6000 at 3% was also forgiven if contract was carried out for 10 years. Therefore in effect, the \$6000 loan was interest free.

Payments of \$19.90/month! for 25 years. Later life insured at a trifling cost. To 106

106

VLA from 105

RGC went to VLA office at 5:00 p.m. (in Federal Bldg)1s ?????????? leaving for night. Went back in, showed Eden property b/print. Do you want 1 _ ac. or 8 _? "Might as well have the 8 _ ac. - only \$600 more". Took the centre one, & that was that. Pete Prins had the 1st. big one. Next day, told Don Edey & he grabbed the last 8 _ ac. Started building April 8/49. Moved into partly finished house 11/15/49.

107

Water

Ridge Road - house - dug well (stone lined) & inside cistern (rain), for barn - dug well, stone lined (frogs).

Book Cottage - dug well, stone lined.

Grimsby Beach - dug well, tiled, cistern.

Ridge Road - wells very shallow(10 ft.) - surprising they found that depth of soil.

House - pump (hand), barn - pail & rope.

Book Cottage - deeper - pump (hand)

Grimsby Beach - 20 ft., into sand, hand pump.

Cisterns - in basements, under kitchens, shallow lift hand pumps to sink. Rain water off roofs, diverter valve outside - watch overflowing!

108

Witching for Water

Jim Chester, St. John the Evangelist Church, demo'd to RGC at Arteban - water on top of a small hill!

RGC witched for:

312 Fiddler's Green Rd.

Hogan's pond (32 ft. est. was right)

???????????? (68 ft. est., actual 70 ft.)

Jack Bain's

Wilkinson (the Rat) – confirming Magistr. Burbidge's)

109

Back Houses

In use at Ridge Rd., Book Cottage & Grimsby Beach. "Havens of solitude & meditatidh Solid & stinky little wooden structures. Review of Eaton's & Simpson's catalogues. Digging a new pit.

110

Grimsby Beach - Resort

At turn of century, an attractive "Summer Resort". Band stand in circular park area. Summer places surrounding - some quite well-to-do people. Radial line "in season" ran down from #8 hwy. to park area, thus accessible by public transit from Hamilton In its time, quite an evangelical camp. A big bell on concrete base, mounted like a church tower bell, rang by hand to summon people to meetings, & signal 8:00 a.m., noon & 6 p.m.

111

Grimsby Beach - Life

On a dare, RGC & others jumped 20 ft. off a barn beam into hay mow. RGC banged chin on knee, knocked jaw out of line, loosened TM joints, pain for a full week. Never told why!

112

Piano - Station Rd.

See # 13

Can also remember playing under a grand piano in the "Music Room" - rear of the living room or "Drawing Room" (to which people would withdraw after dinner). Think grand piano pre-dated the player piano.

113

Otis Elevator before Gun Plant, Victoria Ave. N.

After Russ Eaton & Joe Marshall equally insisted RGC do opposite things re inventory levels of screws, etc. at Canada Works, Stelco, RGC left and went to Otis. Just a matter of time before call-up. Branched out of Stelco to learn. 1st. job there, established a costing & prod. control system for tool, ?????? & fixture making. Then operated the system - about 10 month's altogether. Then moved to prod. control re the "Oil Unit" a secret, high-precision component of the gun's control system. Very politically active environment - couldn't hack this so went to Hamilton Bridge. Otis - a typical war plant - full of machine tools, huge area under one roof, hordes of employees, many of which were very uncertain of what or how they were supposed to do things. P A system - stirring pop music all day long. Barrels turned in old Otis bldg. Huge operation - finally got up to target.

114

Hamilton Bridge Plant

Went there from Otis. Prod. control of purchased parts, in assy. Line making armoured cars. Like auto assy. Line. Here 3 - 4 months, then went into RCAF.

115

Father - Problems as Music Critic

Ongoing problem with certain of the less-skilled musical performers of Hamilton in that they thought it easier to have Father pushed into saying they were good, rather than working & getting to be good. Pressure by their families & friends on both Father

and management of Herald & later Spec. Fortunately both managements supported Father's judgement and backed him. Some game played re the Hamilton Symphon_rch's of those days. The string sections were a particular problem re rough & not precisely together. How things have not changed much 1930 - 1984! Father found his only way to control situation was: 1 continual factual criticisms 2. refuse all social invitations after performances. He had learned the "trade" of musical criticism from Alfred Newman, London Sunday Times, a master in the business.

116

RCAP - Enlistment & Postings

By 1942, the fortunes of Allied Nations desperate enough that even those moles working in war industries were starting to be called up. RGC's "number" came up in 1942 sig. by an invitation to report to the army at Brantford on a date 10 days hence, or else! He hustled round, gave notice at Hamilton Bridge, mothballed financial, etc affairs - and 12 hours before the Brantford deadline, volunteered into the RCAF. The \$1.00 first day's pay validated a contract by which he was to do as told by & for "George", His Britannic Majesty - for as long and totally as necessary.

Reported to Manning Pool, Lachine, Quebec for basic drill, etc. & U. of T. (16 weeks which equalled 4 year Engineering education!). 160 started, 60 finished. Appendix, sick leave, marriage, annual leave, 1 month recovery «umbells) - total 11 - 12 weeks. Clinton (caught up with U/T gang) 23 more weeks – of the 60, 32 finished Rest WOG's. Dartmouth & Cow Bay. To 117

117

RCAF - Enlistment & Postings from 116

Sydney, North Sydney, Dartmouth, Shelbourne, Yarmouth (2 houses) - East Camp. Rockcliffe, back to civvy Street.

118

RCAP - Manning Pool Lachine

Induction point into "the System". 6 week basic education in discipline, military conduct, drill, medical insp., dental (4 wisdom teeth out, routinely)} .air cut (1st. a.m.). Photo ID (c/w beard overnight), dog tags, "prophylactic supplies", lacing boots. Following 6 weeks - no leave, got a "48" to go home quickly as a "finished product". Then an indefinite waiting period, to go to "basic training" for a trade: 'School of Fractured English". Fully clothed, plus kit bag, 2 blankets, "housewife", brass & shoe shine equip., shave kit, etc., "New Testament";2 alum. mess tins. Kit inspections, pattern, at irregular intervals.

See also 149

119

RCAP - Clinton

RAF operated & staffed.

RAF - Clinton - "anybody sick" 10 sec. at 6:00 a.m. "name & last 3"

depressingly rigid discipline

high wire fences & tight security due to radar concentration camp

bus to Goderich & Hamilton

of 60 that survived U. of T., 35 graduated Clinton

Learned later that only the top grads of their respective trade training schools were considered for Project Z. Learned about watching PRO's the official communications sheet, medicals, dental, parades - all vital info.

"If you don't hear a rumour by 10:00 a.m., start one."

To 250

120

RCAF - Dartmouth

Posted Clinton to Dartmouth Radar Station. Lived at Dartmouth base, trucked from there each 8 hr. shift to installation at Cow Bay.

Dartmouth - a big active air station, patrols flown out of there re the Battle of the Western approaches - ongoing fight to prevent German Subs killing merchant fleets & cargo. Acres of barrack H blocks (2 storey), Mess Hall, gym, repair shops, motor transport, post office (mail gen. del., banking), window to outside world.

Duty run (launch) to Halifax across the harbour, shadow of Lord Nelson Hotel & where the "Queens" docked. Their immense height & length from water line. Top of highest mast higher than Citadel Hill (peIBev. Miles).

To 121

121

RCAF - Dartmouth (from 120)

A few steps to Barrington St. & to the liquor warehouse - scene of the VE day riots (in 1945?). Sylvia staying temporarily with Miles' (he was a naval officer) in Halifax. S. & RGC "saw" Q. Eliz. Go out past Point Pleasant Park in artificial fog, past the sub. Vets Germans wanted to get into harbour. Point Pleasant - heather, fronhay
????????????of early Scottish regiment, shaken out there. Citadel hill fenced & off limits, radio communication centre. German spies, circulating in Halifax Naval dockyard. Bedford basin 75 - 150 ship convoys. Secrecy violated re sailings - go to

Pubs. See "RCAF Halifax" .

122

RCAF - Halifax

Key all-weather port for personnel & material to Allies in Europe. Safer than Montreal, avoided Gulf of St. Lawrence. German spies suspected in town off subs. Caught with current theatre stubs (Halifax) in pockets & Cdn. Currency. Halifax came alive during wars - otherwise a depressed town. Queen Elizabeth & Mary - as troop ships, out of Halifax on a 3-day zigzag trip across Atlantic - faster than an escort & much more manoeuvrable. Bunks in tiers 2 ft. apart. You got to use one 8 hrs out of 24. 16 hr. spent anywhere you could find a space. Continuously operating mess hall. One meal/day & "carry away" food to keep going till next meal.

To 123

123

RCAF - Halifax (from 122)

RGC & Sylvia "heard" Q.E. go by Point Pleasant Park in a dense artificial fog that descended in 10 min. & was gone 10 min. later. Past sub nets to keep subs out of Halifax harbour & Bedford basin. 75 - 150 merchantmen assemble in convoy at Bedford & slip away on signal. Very hard to keep sailing dates secret hence Germans in pubs of Halifax. Wanted to pick off convoys with subs. Our job to stop this. Sylvia living with Miles (Bevis, Yvonne, Arthur) for a week or so.

124

RCAF - Project Z

Entered at Sydney. Induction interview F.O. de Shaw - the boss. Stressed importance of absolute secrecy (even from spouse) and dire consequences to both war effort and self if violated. Special ID pass in addition to standard RCAF one. Wore loaded side-arms to enforce "keep away" if needed.

Met Ted Reid, MacMoffatt, Roy Schouldice, Art Higgenbotham (Gee Whizz Gee Whizz), Sgt. Cauldwell (drip).

Learned later I was part of a small (less than 80) group scattered in small detachments Scotland, Iceland, Newfoundland, N. Sydney, Dartmouth Shelbourne, Yarmouth.

Found it was no accident we were chosen for Project Z.

To 125

125

RCAF - Project Z(from 124)

We had high security clearance, had done well in our trades exams, and had unusually wide range of skills.

We in time all learned the others' trades as they applied to Project Z, supplemented by their other skills.

High security - rations drawn for shop from Mess Hall -all the very best. 3 shifts continuously. Aft. shift busiest preparing aircraft with our device for patrols. Nights quiet, days no good because of "Brass" about. We were expected to & did enforce "No Admittance" to officers of whatever rank, unless personally allowed by our officer it was OK.

To 126

126

RCAF - Project Z (from 125)

Trip to Norfolk VA, US Navy Yard in (?). Further training in new part of Project Z technology (from N. Sydney, Dartmouth, all N. American detachments). Accidental use of a term - course closed down for 2 days until we re-cleared via Ottawa Succession of officers - de Shaw, Hooke, Thomas the ex-postman, Chapman.

127

RCAF - Project Z (from 126)

After Norfolk trip, we trained air crews in new equipment, installed & serviced it. Test - alarm clock ticking - added mystery to Project Z's activities.

128

RCAF - Incidents

Incidents with Ted Reid, Mac Moffatt, Art Higginbotham, Roy Schouldice. N. Sydney Shelbourne Yarmouth

Kitchen Chairs (legs)

Wood Dolly (saw keys) Smoke Bomb Lamps (draining) Sgt. & Revolvers

Clock

Rations

Bed Spring (string)

Crib

Cone Strainer

Net Weaving

Egg Beaters

Ice Box (boiler)

Nights (11 - 7) best shift. Cansosont over Atlantic - 12 hr. patrols. Squadron got the last

sub sunk in the western approaches, a few hours before war end.

129

RCAF - Incidents (from 128)

N. Sydney

Shelbourne

Yarmouth

Fungus and the Sonobuoy

Fungus and the Shoeshine

The Shoe Repair Tag - Dartmouth & Rags - underwear (50 lb.) lead to gold) Kit

inspections - anywhere

Short arm inspection (by proxy)

130

RCAF - Incidents (from 129)

Project "Z" - never declassified. "Fungus" McDonald - admin Officer. No admittance to Section, him included. USA dirigibles spiked on tether mast West Camp - desolate place. Blueberries and wild raspberries. Whiteleys - RGC broadcasting, SMC singing. 2 pigeons at army dance. Birthday parties - RGC and Ted. Rye replaced by tea (Sylvia, Polly). Mac didn't want to comment. Short arm inspections. Digby & the tin fish. Bay of Fundy - 12 crossings - not sick. Return to Ontario - Elizabeth, meat basket, her equipment in tool box, train trip - 36 hours. VE Day at Halifax - riots, Dartmouth. VJ Day at Yarmouth - contrast, bulldozer at Bowl Dump.

131

RCAF - Cow Bay

Radar ground station. Big rotating antenna - surveying Halifax & adjacent coastal area.

2. Operated diesel power generators - always 2 of 3 running. Reed system to keep 60 cy. in synch. Only instructions - "There's the book". First short stint driving panel truck - ground the gears!

3. Graduated to Radar op. - saw huge blip of Q. E. arriving one night shift. Saw her next day from Duty Run to Halifax. After 10 days, posting to N. Sydney & Project Z.

4. Cow Bay completely open to attack from Sea! Only possible protection was to give alarm via telephone to a point 20 miles away.

132

RCAF - Yarmouth

Rented upper part of a frame Nickerson house on road to Salem - an undefined country "Area". Vacated Ted, Mac & us. 7th. Day Adventists (Rev. Whiteley) below. He succeeded & replaced previous minister ground floor. Latter dumb - thawinEepes, discarded good axe & alum. roasting pan. We inherited Mac's & Ella's veg. garden & passed another along to our successors, Mr. & Mrs. Porter, oxen right for ploughing ????????? horses.

Bed, Elizabeth owes her conception to it. Prep for winter, bank basement, little fir trees. Cap. & Mrs. Nickerson moved to their house. Sawdust furnace, lobsters, fish cheap. First place - wood fuel. Bathroom & stove, birthday party, blueberries & wild raspberries.

To 133

133

RCAF - Yarmouth from 132

Sylvia sang with Mrs. Whiteley on Yarmouth Radio. ROC 2 - 3 times read Mr W.'s sermons & conducted his YS hr. Sunday radio pgm. on Yarmouth Radio. Art Higgenbotham – Baptist congregations. See also heading - "RCAF - Incidents". 2 pigeons at Army Dance. Birthday Party for ROC.

Doctor in Yarmouth very good to Sylvia when Elizabeth coming - would not charge Service people. Yarmouth hospital same. Dr. "brought on" the birth because full term. ROC away at Rockcliffe, got compassionate leave to bring home Mother & Baby. Nickersons and a neighbour helped Sylvia as young mother alone. See also, letter to Cecile Reid, 1/17/92.

134

RCAF - Passes & Leave

Passes - 24, 48, 72 hr. were granted as circumstances permitted, and as a way of officers rewarding acceptable conduct of their men. Annual leave - 2 weeks. Ultimate was to wangle a 24 hr. on both ends of a 48, 72 or 96! On annual leave, took ration tickets and a travel pass (rail, bus, etc.) to home & back. Also took "Meal Tickets" to exchange for meals on trains & in station restaurants. Would order a meal within the modest scope of the ticket value, in dining car (wrote on order form) Always received the best on the menu, ego Steak & mushrooms, courtesy of the Head Waiter & the R.R., to the envy of watching civilians at same table, and often to the disgust of Officers who had to pay their own way, being "gentlemen" and not enlisted men.

To 135

135

RCAF - Passes & Leave (from 134)

If going to be late due to medical or other_ good reason, telegraph your C.O.

Otherwise, severe disciplinary action fOla.w.h.

Missed by 12 hours, the big snow of 1944.

136

RCAF - Discharge

Started at Rockcliffe. Discharges on a phased basis, priorities:

those who had a job to go back to

agriculture (to get food prod. going again)

essential civilian industries

Phasing also allowed for men who had been killing for months or years, readapting to civilian ways & standards of conduct - danger seen of turning a lot of such men loose with no job, in "civilized" towns.

Beekeeping as a branch of agriculture - convinced C.O. a Rockcliffe. Completely equipped with new RCAF clothing plus a clothing allowance (g. suit). Not being commissioned officers (P.O. & up), we were fully clothed by RCAF.(Helped in our cases by the Rags-Underwear incident.)

To 137

137

RCAF - Discharge (from 136)

RGC (alone of gang at Rockcliffe). The shallow "non-attached" life even more so at Rockcliffe. Arranged for Sylvia to return from Yarmouth to Heavers in Hamilton. Got leave to move her & young Elizabeth, she in meat basket crib, plus her equipment in metal tool box (RCG made). Rail Yarmouth - Digby. Ferry Digby - St. John's, N.B. Rail- Montreal to Toronto to Hamilton. Carrying basket etc. down train to find seats. Passenger co-operation. Discharge came through promptly, RGC "got out" and came home to Hamilton in March 1946.

138

Re-establishment on Civvy Street

Got ration books, "settled in as a civilian". Went to see Wally Pollard at Stelco Canada Works. Started back to work there April/46! He insisted I "do nothing" for a whole month (real hard work). Then started (on Kardex?). Confirmed Anglican at St. John and Evangelist.

RCAF - Shelbourne

See also heading "RCAF - Incidents".

Small detachment, clean, well run & new buildings. X-mas 1943 - "White Christmas" on radio continuously. Mac & I made waste paper baskets. Broke at noon for Xmas dinner in Men's mess - served traditionally by Officers. Didn't stay long here. RGC rush posting to Yarmouth - proxy, short arm insp. & stores while he got other clearances. Record 2 hrs. for all. Rest of gang caught up soon at Yarmouth. P.O. Chapman, his terminally ill girlfriend, Annapolis Valley - died - effect on Chapman, confided in Ted III process.

RCAF - N. Sydney

See also heading "RCAF - Incidents".

Small, dirty Station, poor bldgs, typical of Cape Breton. Used catalinas - had to hook wheels on to draw out of water to service. No entertainment in town to speak of. Men cut de-icer fluid (meth. hydrate) with 48 oz. cans of grapefruit juice (battery acid). one 45 gal. drum between 100 men one winter - several blinded as a result. Sydney next larger town. Coal & steel works. We made bomb lamps (111b. smoke bombs) & plexiglass jewellery, brass shell casings into brooches with crest - used copper bullet noses. Dumped cordite in trails & let off on concrete floor. N. Sydney - Catalinas vs Sydney ground - based only aircraft.

See also 146 – Sydney

St. John the Evangelist Church

Situated at Locke & Charlton Streets in Hamilton. One of the older Anglican Churches of Hamilton. Sylvia a member as a child in time of Canon Brooks and Rev. Bowden Taylor (a time of much dissention). Padre A.T.F. Holmes (later Canon), a padre from Toe H. service in W.W.I. "Toe H" an association of army personnel world wide, based on personal worth rather than rank. Continued into peace time as a Veterans' Organization (Service).

Sylvia - A.Y.P.A., tennis, etc., 2 choirs, evening branch W.A., Camp Arteban ROC - Men's Club, to President about 1948

Camp Arteban - Padre Holmes started, based on legend of the _ . Wiseman. 1st. location - tents, Mineral Springs, flood plain. Permanent location -Dundas Valley. ROC involved in rebuilding of main bldg. after first burned down.

To 142

142

St. John the Evangelist Church (from 141)

Also building of "bunk houses". Got an insight into the many trades involved in a big project. Experience in good stead for building house on Fiddler's Green Moved to St. John's Ancaster when moved to Fiddler's Green Road.

143

Chatham St.

Sylvia had lived with Heaver's before marriage to ROC. ROC & Sylvia and Elizabeth returned there after demobilization, for a while. Then to Concession St. Elizabeth cried 8 hours solid.

144

Concession St.

Moved to _d. floor "apartment" in (?71?71??). House owned by Wi & Dan Newcombe. They had ground & :5 . floors. Had a "love of good music" & 2 children. A party every Saturday night through Sunday dawn. Dan & his many pals on guitars, singing western songs & drinking. So noisy we took to moving to RGC's parents on Sat. nights. Became friendly with Ted (& Muriel) Cotterell, next door friendly undertaker. Helped Ted on occasion, house calls to pick up the remains of the departed. They bought a house on Wellington St. (?) to which we and they moved.

145

Wellington St. (71)

Before we could move into 1d floor, one Sat. noon, Ted & RGC started - cut front roof, raised & framed a front dormer wall, inserted windows & sheeted sides. This finished about midnight, all to the amazement of neighbours, especially Harry Nichols across the road. Became good friends. He helped with soffits & fascias at Fid. Green Rd. Dog, Iceman, window, ditch, truck ZIP! We lived there about 8 months - March to NQi49, while building Fid Gr. Rd. to habitable. Thankful for accommodation, but a strained relationship. Goldfish on bare feet!

146

RCAF - Sydney (see also 140 N. Sydney)

Ground-based aircraft only. Reported here from Cow Bay & into "Z". F.O. Haacke (Hay key) 2 IIC under F.O. Skaw. Sgt. & the 2 revolvers. Servicing our equipment on

these AIC crowded, close to tarmac under a canvas shroud. Diff. altogether from Cats & Cansos - climb out on wing - watch step - winch "it" up under guidance of man on high ladder under wing & make sure it was hung up safely & all shrouded. An accidental drop would have made a large & devastating explosion.

147 & 148

RCAF - Manning Pool Toronto

Another "crossroads" point inflow of RCAF personnel. Used the CNE grounds & bldgs - vast dormitories - acres of 2-deck bunks. All one's possessions either in kit bag, locked at neck, or in money belt. Tricky to take a shower wearing it. Washrooms vast, no doors on toilet stalls (std. throughout RCAF). Mess halls huge, food often so-so.

1. Basic Training - general plan seemed to send new recruits to a Manning Pool far from house - to breakfast from civvy street to service life.
2. Transit Holding Pool - personnel awaiting reassignment, or shipment overseas.
3. Kept separate from 2. - the latter were experienced in ways of survival in the service, which would have greatly complicated the basic training process with its "bullying into shape" approach. Later heard this rather typical of Manning Pools.

149

RCAF - Manning Pool Lachine

When basic training completed at Lachine, a period of several weeks not doing much summer invited at times to swim at Lachine Boat Club - driving 81. ?????? into Lachine Canal- could find no bottom. Various "duty" jobs, cutting grass, cleaning bldgs, etc. Finally posted to U. of Toronto.

(see also 118)

150

RCAF - U. of Toronto

Posted here from Lachine - 160 men. Billeted 4 - 6 to a room, dbl. bunks, in University Residences - taken over from civilian use "for the duration" Beautiful old bldgs & surroundings - vast difference from the Manning Pool jungle. A hand-picked group of rather alert men - the objective to pump into their heads in 16 weeks, a 4-year University course in Electrical & Electronic Engineering. Ate in Great Hall, Hart Housd.png high room, long rich mahogany highly polished tables, high-backed wood dining room chairs, daylight filtered in through stained glass windows. Ornate chandeliers. Filed past cafeteria line, picked up the one meal available, filled tables in rotation & ate.

(to 151)

151

RCAF - U. of Toronto (from 150)

This was the procedure so those who ate first were finished first, & staff followed right behind cleaning tables for the few civilians left at U. of T. Breakfast - 7:00 a.m., lunch 12:00 a.m., supper - 6:00 p.m. 7 days a week.

Classes - 1st. week 9 - 12, 1 - 5 (Mon. - Fri.) Rest of 16 weeks - add Mon., Wed., Fri. eves. 7 - 10. Pressure to learn accelerated as we went. Exams after 6, 12 & 16 weeks. Big culling of those who failed after each exam. At end 60 left of original 160. 48 hr. pass each weekend to unwind. Teachers mostly young university grads who in peacetime would be working on Masters or Doctorates. Thin ticket to staying out of Armed Services was to pound the info into our heads.

152

RCAF - U. of Toronto (from 151)

2 days before my final exam, awakened 2 a.m. with violent abdominal pain & all the symptoms of a physical disaster. Roommates summoned duty Sgt., he called ambulance - Christie St. 4:00 a.m. a drunken Sgt was shaving my sensitive equipment for an appendectomy narrowly missing cutting ????????things off with his shaky straight razor. They passed me on strength of previous weekly tests, etc. to go to Clinton. Another stream of men, intended for ground radar stations, had their Electrical/Electronic training in civilian technical schools - the WET - P program. (to 153)

153

RCAF - U. of Toronto

The U. of T. stream seemed to go to airborne radar. Both streams were eligible to be posted to Allied Forces anywhere in the world.

154

RCAF - Ranks & Discipline

Project Z -lowest ranks were AC2 - aircraftsmen 2nd. class, one notch up from basic AC.'s. (It was rumoured that AC.'s could be found in Air Cadets!) Most tradesmen were AC2's or Corporals. Hierarchy continued - Cpl., Sgt., Flight Sgt., Warrant Officer 2, Warrant Officer (the first commissioned level but still not an "Officer"), Pilot Officer, Flight Officer, Squadron Leader, Group Captain, & so on up. Corporals. WO.'s inclusive had entry to NCO's mess. Officers had their own Mess. WO's were the real administrators in most stations - like the Civil Soc. to government.

(to 155)

155

RCAF - Ranks & Discipline

On an operational station, a contest, if the CO or the Adjutant a stickler for discipline the contest - the Adj. to get as many as possible of all ranks on weekly Parades, the rest of the station to find ways to avoid them. Because of the secrecy attached to "Z", a Project Officer who knew how to look after his men would have all shifts excused by CO from attending Parades. A poor Officer would not do this. If he didn't, it did not take

long for him to get in line, because he was made to realize that was the only way to stop an endless line of small things that seemed to go inexplicably wrong.

156 & 157

RCAF - Bay of Fundy Ferry

Digby to St. John's, N.B. Multiple perils - subs, awful weather, and extreme tides - up to 70 ft. high to low. Boarded at jetty, Digby or St. John's, often gang plank at an extreme slope. Usually crowded with passengers & vehicles. As soon as the open water was encountered, the "fun" began. Due to rough water, decks were "boarded up" with heavy steel plates, along the rail. A lack of fresh air, plus rough water & a peculiar spiral forward motion soon produced a sea-sick scene of utter devastation, through which stewardesses paraded surefooted & with utmost calm, handing out barf boxes from a tall stack thereof which they balanced on one hand.

The canteen usually didn't do much business during the 5 hour crossing, except to the Regulars. RGC made 12 crossings, all without incident, but much concentration.

158

RCAF - Digby

As part of setting up training pgm. for the later device that Project Z received, RGC & Ted Reid went several times to Digby, and made dives aboard one of the Cdn. Navy's tin fish. A terrible and ancient can I could span with my arms extended at midships. Always water dripping from walls, ceiling & pipes - hopefully condensation. Always glad when we surfaced again a Digby.

Sometimes the circling aircraft found us - of course this was early on in the pilot's education.

RGC cracked? ribs in fall on jetty - day before due to Hamilton Christmas leave.

Didn't report for fear of losing leave!

RCAP - Flying & Relation to Ops. Squadrons

We did a certain amount, not much, to clear problems with new equipment Always impressive to see the wing tips flapping (as they were supposed to!) out of the blister. Good to arrive at a new Station by air - great way to get the layout fast. Could always tell when the resident Squadron was about to be relocated elsewhere - an absolute and utter absence of toilet paper rolls suddenly developed. It reappeared as the Squadron did its farewell fly - over the town. Many long streamers released into the wind by opening the blister covers - a pretty sight! Project "Z" remained, & serviced the incoming Squadron - OK once the new officer ??????? learned to "get along".
(to 160)

RCAF - Flying & Relation to Ops. Squadrons (from 159)

In general, "Operations" Officers & Crew were the salt of the earth, and excellent to get along with - easy discipline, somewhat "wild" - good guys. We looked after one of their major tools!

RCAF - VE Day. VJ Day (see also 188)

VE (Europe) Day greeted in Halifax by a wild 3-day celebration (riot?) by all 3 services who could get there. We at Dartmouth couldn't because CB'd & no Jerry working. Started by the Navy breaking open the liquor warehouse & treating all & sundry to booze in volume. Hordes roamed downtown Halifax, breaking into stores, looting, "going at it" in store windows, etc. Civil, army police & reinforcements finally re-established order & clean-up started. Rather a disaster, all in all. Less violent in other towns. VJ Day at Yarmouth, precautions taken. All liquor stored in an underground bomb dump, bulldozer against door & key removed!

RCAF - Union Station. Toronto

The massive stone and marble hall on Front Street - the main concourse - a common thread in the military careers of hundreds of thousands of men & women in World Wars I & II. The point at which you (and often your family) first fully realize you are leaving for Service, or coming home. Also a main transfer point for those going from or to Central and Western Canada.

RCAF - Sylvia's Accommodations During War

1. While RGC still in Ontario - she lived at Miss Walker's on Hess St. S. opposite the Hess St. Pub. School. One bed-sitting room - ate out.
2. Moved in with Irma Knight on Haddon Ave. (136?) - Tom overseas then.
3. Yarmouth, Nickerson's 1st. house, upper floor- kitchen, bathroom, bedroom, woodstove heat. Baths all round, once a week! ., Day Adventists 1st. floor. Winter preps - boards out 18" from cellar wall, space packed with 3 ft. evergreen trees.
4. Just before RGC posted to Rockcliffe & Elizabeth born, moved to Cap. Nickerson's own house (a room therein).

164

RCAF - Correspondence Courses

Royal Cdn. Legion organized a great range of correspondence courses for service personnel- only cost was for postage stamps!

RGC took several in more advanced electronics, and got diploma "Associate of the Institute of Engineering Technology" - A.I.E.T. - a well regarded U.K. technology organization.

165

Music - Deviant Approaches - RGC

Practicing - violin exercise music played upside down - consequences.

Playing Hymns - varying the 2d violin partly to relieve boredom & twist the four-square harmony - blamed for "playing out of tune" (at Central Presb. S. School).

166

Music & Dogs

Most seemed to like the range of music the family played. "Jock" - Scottish terrier- more fussy - Mr. Claude Hodges - tenor - singing at Homewood Ave. - Jock's opinion- howled "oh what a horrible row" - loud & clear with perfect diction!

167

St. John's Church -Ancaster - Early Attitudes

When we joined, 1949, community approaching an era of rapid expansion, but still one in which a few wealthy families held major control over parish by their \$, and the "ordinary" people were on the same level as the suppliers of goods and services to these families - like a typical English "village" environment. The wave of new arrivals, by numbers and capabilities tended to upset all this as they joined St. John's.

Rev. Wm. Brown had occupied the Rectory for going on 25 years & had to tread the thin line of keeping both factions happy. He retired in (?) and was replaced by Archdeacon Brillinger who inherited this problem. Had his problems, being a "conciliator", "compromiser", weak rather than dominant.

(to 168)

168

St. John's Church -Ancaster - Early Attitudes (from 167)

Over the years, a change from the early attitudes

Now (1984) there is a parallel to the 1949 era, in that the current generation of the "old" families is much more ready to acknowledge the surviving 1949'ers, as contrasted to the arrivals now coming into newly-opened surveys! A replay of the 1949 situation, one generation later.

169&170

St. John's Ancaster - Sylvia & Choirs

SMC joined the adult choir about 1950 & sang therein for (?) years at 11 :00 a.m.

Also took on the organization part of the Junior Choir (principally girls) - which were trained by the organist & sang as the regular 9:30 a.m. Choir.

Harry Frost started a small Boy's Choir & wedged them into 9:30 a.m. service on occasion. Increased this intrusion, got contributions from some wealthy congregation members to outfit the Boy's Choir & eventually ousted Girl's Choir from 9:30 a.m.

Archdeacon Brillinger privately supported Sylvia & publicly Frost - weak handling of the situation. Frost continued for maybe 1 year, then moved to Montreal & left the mess behind. Sylvia withdrew from Girl's Choir operation & would not resume it after Frost left. Sylvia continued in Adult Choir until about (?).

171

St. John's Ancaster - RGC

Early 1950's - started as Sidesman. Appointed to Parish Advisory Council. Worked there in various committees -Sidesmen's roster, Banker, Parish fund raising visitations. Appointed Vestry Clerk under Arch. Brillinger, started tape recording of vestry meetings to ensure more accurate minutes.

125th. Anniversary - conflict arose over restricting donation of certain church furniture to selected individuals (wealthy) rather than a broad-based congregation-wide basis. RGC favoured the latter. "The Establishment" - rep. by Rector's Warden, Len Thomas, favoured former and tried in vain to convince RGC.

(to 172)

172

St. John's Ancaster-RGC (from 171)

RGC resigned as Vestry Clerk, and as an alternate corporate cheque signer. This marked the virtual end of RGC's active service at St. John's, because while the tax and personal interests of the wealthy were served, it seemed that there was little likelihood that a broad-based congregation-wide interest in financial support could be developed. This lack of hearty grass-roots support has shown up in succeeding financial ????????????

173

Brownies - SMC

SMC joined Fern Hunter in running the Brownie Pack at Ancaster Baptist Church, when our girls became of age to join - served (?) years in that capacity, as "Snowy Owl". 2 IC - program planning, helped at Summer Camp.

174

Home & School Assn. - SMC

SMC was a founding member and first President at Grange School, in (?).

175

Ancaster - Early Telephones

First (manual) telephone exchange run by Howard Smith - his daughters as operators - in the "Old Carriage Works" opposite Halson St. on Wilson. Established when Wilson St. still had corduroy logs in its base.

176

Ancaster - SMC's Contacts

SMC lived for a while with Uncle Tom Knight and Aunt Barbara (after her Mother died). Went to Anc. School on Academy Ave., until it burned. Winter - Knights lived in village, house south side, almost opposite Mt. Mary's Summer at Golf Club, where Uncle Tom was Chief Steward.

177

Ancaster - Radial Line

One of several that "radiated" out from Hamilton to Brantford (others to Burlington across Beach Strip, Dundas (the "Dummy") and down Niagara Peninsula to Vineland.

Brantford one - terminal at Main/Catharine, Main W., Hess S., S. of Markland diag. across Queen & Aberdeen, & on to base of Mtn. at Dundurn, thence up Mountain, Mohawk Rd. at Upper Horning, crossed Wilson near Jerseyville Rd. - Brantford. Single double-ended cars, standard gauge tracks, cow catcher on front, passengers sat high. Small shelter at each main rural station. One a Halson St. stop. SMC's Father used it to go to/from Hamilton.

178

Fiddler's Green (312) - Early

According to Howard Smith (first tel.exchg, Ancaster), the west side of Fid. Green Rd. from Wilson south was an area of big apple orchards, about 1890 on. A mud road ran parallel to Fid. G. Rd. along west side of Lot 42 (our very back line). He graphically described to RGC a chase by 2 horse & wagon teams along this road as a result of a practical joke. "They roared across there like the Mill tail of Hallelujah."

179

Ridge Rd. - Telephone

As with so many rural systems of the time (1926), ours was a party line - with at least 4 others besides us on it. Privacy of incoming calls non-existent, & anyone wanting to call out did not hesitate to listen till an ongoing call was finished. Stood us in good stead on one occasion. One of the other parties was our neighbour 1/4 mile east & another party was Book's Cottage, to which we went at the "Midnight Flit". 2 days after the Flit she phoned. "Is everything OK? We didn't see your lights on last night."

Mother (who heard our Ridge Rd. code rung, while at Book Cottage said "Fine - we are all OK."

The neighbour had been assigned by Soldier Settlement field man to report our doings to him, so that phone call kept him in the dark for a few more days till the news got out!

180

Fiddler's Green Rd. - Telephone

Our first phone was one party of 10 on same line. 4:30 a.m. call to us by Dorothy Smith - "L. Potruffs barn on fire!"

Being a party line, everyone listened. Calls fanned out all over, & within 5 - 10 minutes, 200 men gathered at the fire. Only thing possible was to keep sparks doused on other bldgs. Laverne had his machinery in the barn and his Drive (machinery) Shed full of wood tomato crates - owned by Cdn. Cannery.

Doug Smith, driving Fid. Gr. Rd. to the fire, suddenly realized he didn't have a thread

of clothes on, & had to go back home for pants. Never learned how fire started, although Potruff had denied 2 transients shelter there the previous evening.

181

H.C.C.I. (Hamilton Central Collegiate Institute) - Paper Route

(See Caroline St. Collgt. - 43, Central Collgt. - 35-36)

Having Spec route necessitated start of Form at H.C.C.I.

Night School - German for fun, public speaking - Prof. Frank Home Kirkpatrick (died at wheel of his car driving home after last class, to Toronto). Only right-winger among a class of 30 leftists, developing labour leaders & communists. sponsored by Workers' Educational Society - W.E.A.

A tough way to learn public speaking!

182

Fid. Green Rd. (312) - Building Start

By early spring 1949, all VLA bookwork, permits etc. OK to start bldg. Blue print was a Halliday prefab, with all kinds of red pencil nods. Added upstairs, moved back door to side, moved cellar stairs to centre of house re upstairs, lengthened kitchen, enlarged living room & eliminated dining room. Had George Newell bulldoze basement where staked end of March 1949. Ran a portable spotlight from car (6 volt) at side of road (ground very soft) so we could see to set up forms for footings.

Levelled these next Sat. in daylight (true to 1/8" on diags). Concrete poured following Monday at 5:00 p.m. with help of 2 - 3 from St. John the Evangelist & my fancy wheel barrow. Truck almost slid back into hole. Soft watery spot SW corner so we grabbed 8 - IOT Rail fence posts from nearby snow fence & embedded them for rebar! The job was away to a flying start.

183

Music - Mother's & Father's Early Interest

Mother - trained "as befitting a young lady" in piano, singing, violin

Father - learned violin, viola, bassoon (latter because needed in Endington Orch.)

Together participated in "musical evenings" - a popular social activity in the 1900-1920's - people ??????????because of their ability to perform acceptably with & in front of small groups. Also participated in "Chamber Music" - string quartets, quintets, with/without piano. Met Dr. Kahn through this (to their later embarrassmet)(see 14)

184

FGR- Basement

Footings having been poured, & straw over to stop freezing, blocks delivered to hole. Only other activity – Mel Colling's basement next door, Jackson's house just under way, & Pete Prins' bricked outside.

We dashed out every evening after a fast supper at Wellington Sr tools kept permanently in car, 1 ft. square spot in back seat for dog, RGC, SMC & Elizin front. Stopped on way, at stream on 53 Hwy. to get 2 five gallon cans of water- dodging minnows - mixed enough mortar for the eve.& laid blocks. Also taught Don Edey how to do it - he laid his own later.

185

FGR- Well

Early doubt if water would be laid along road, so dug down in July in SW comer of excavation with post hole digger, handle lengthened by 2 X 4's. Found good water at 18 ft. from ground level, on a spot located by witching.

Fortunately piped water was laid on, (arriving) 6 weeks after we moved in on Nov. 15/49.

186

FGR - Tools

Started with hand tools only - shovel, pick, line level, 2 hammers, hand saw, framing square, brace & bits, wrecking bar, plumb bob, mason's line.

After ground floor walls framed, hydro line run in, permitting use of a crude table saw motor & saw taken home at night. (Skilsaw style saws rare in those days.) Couldn't afford many tools - bought only essentials, as needed.

187

FGR - Time To Work & Help

Building all done in "spare time"

Week days 6:30 p.m. - 9:30 3 hr. X 5 D. 15 hrs.

Sat/Sun 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 p.m. 12 hr. X 2 D. 24 hrs.

Typical Hrs./Week 39 hrs.

No "social life", hard work, but only way to get somewhat habitable for Winter - had to vacate Wellington St. by Nov. Ijh. Had sporadic help from some St. John the Ev. Men's Club Members & Tom Heaver - particularly the framing.

188

RCAF - VE Day (see also 161)

Written after 161

Background - Halifax

Civilian population of 60000 swollen by additional 40000 military personnel. Civvies felt swamped, resented the overbearing & demanding attitude operatic. Navy & Merchant Navy on shore leave, their purchasing power driving up local prices, their predatory interest in Halifax women, etc.

Navy felt they were being "taken" by the merchants, pub keepers, barbers, etc.

For several days before May 8/45 rumours had been circulating about impending peace in Europe, & these climaxed with merchants starting to close their stores and barricade them (window grills, etc.) in the morning.

About 3 p.m. an egg hit a policeman directing traffic at a downtown intersection. One egg led to another and another, & the riot was on.

Military personnel drank their shore canteens dry, then moved to civilian taverns & drank them dry.

(to 189)

189

RCAF - VE Day (from 188)

Then they broke into the liquor warehouse by the waterfront & things went from bad to worse.

Mobs broke into stores and looters stripped them of merchandise. People were seen walking down Barrington St. with 3 - 4 fur coats. Service men & women were spotted "having a go" on a bed in a furniture store window. Eaton's employees battled looters in the store aisles & saved much of the merchandise. Civilians were blamed by Navy for much of the looting, & civvies blamed Navy for starting it.

2 - 3 days later, when order was restored, the damage was incredible. An official inquiry later blamed Navy, though in retrospect plenty of fault lay with the gouging tactics that civvies had used against the Navy & other Service personnel. Admiral Murray was made scapegoat & had to retire, despite involvement of civilians & other Services.

190

RCAF - Queen's Mary. Elizabeth

In mid 1930's, Cunard Steamships had started building the Queen Mary & had to halt in depth of depression. With govt. help they completed it in 1935 & held "blue ribbon" status as premier ship on UK/New York run - 3 days & 20 hour crossings.

Late 1930's, started the Queen Elizabeth on Merseyside & had her just about finished by time WWII started. Completed her as a "no frills" troop transport, windows all blocked off - bunks 2 ft. high, massive mess halls, etc. She slipped out of the shipbuilding yard early one morning in 1942, without a shakedown run, & escorted by

6 frigates (3/side), she soon outran them & arrived in New York a few days later, having outdistanced escort & German subs. She performed flawlessly, & kept on doing so all through the War. 33 knots was a handy speed. The Queen Elizabeth could carry 16,000 troops/trip & moved over 1,500,000 by end of War.
(to 190 A)

190A

RCAF - Queen's Mary. Elizabeth (from 190)

Q. Mary's speed averaged an unheard of 32 knots, using 220 gal of Bunker oil/minute at full throttle on all 4 massive engines which generated 200,000 hp.

Took on 15,000 troops many times in 12 hours. These would eat 35,000 eggs and 3500 lb. bacon at a breakfast (1 of 2 meals each day). Her length was 1024 ft. & height from waterline to highest mast top 356 ft., Queen Elizabeth 10 ft. longer.

Sighting of Q.M. on Cow Bay Radar screen. View from waterline on duty boat.

See R. Digest Condensed Book Vol. 2, 1956.

191

Ridge Road - Dynamite

At Ridge Road - stoney fields, broke tips off plough ?????? -costly, often. One particularly dangerous rock at ground level - Father angry at it Got 3 sticks dynamite, fuse cord, det. caps. Quick lesson from a neighbour – place dyn. & caps, conn. by fuse cord on top of rock, encase well in wet clay. Light fuse, run like hell. Father and I did all this, great explosion, cracked rock into 2 big pieces, still at ground level - so we staked it!

192

"D" Day

6/6/44 - the date that Allied Forces made the massive landings on the coast of France, across the Channel from Britain.

Secured beach heads, & started the push that finally ended in Germany's surrender.193

"VE" Day - Halifax

May 7/45 - "Victory in Europe"

Rumours had been circulating in most major cities of the "Allied" World for several days, that the surrender of Nazi Germany was imminent - no doubt in part because of their hopeless situation militarily. In Halifax there had long been the feeling among the Armed Forces personnel that civilian Haligonians had "stuck it to" the Service people in form of very high prices, etc. for goods and services & attitude generally -

so there was a grudge to be settled.

When news came through on a.m. of May 7/45 of Nazi surrender, the lid blew off in downtown Halifax.

Liquor stores & other shops were speedily closed in anticipation of trouble. This made service people very angry & an ugly mood soon built up.

(to 194)

194

"VE" Day - Halifax (continued)

Someone threw an egg, hitting a policeman directing traffic on the main thoroughfare Barrington St. That was the trigger that started one big riot. The mob - service people mostly Navy, broke into a liquor store and soon cleaned it out. Thus inspired, they then headed for the water front where stood the liquor warehouse. A determined assault soon broke into that, and huge numbers went on a monstrous drinking & destruction binge. Stores along the main shopping area of Barrington St. were broken into and stripped of merchandise. Tougher elements of the Halifax civilian population joined in with the looting.

(to 195)

195

"VE Day - Halifax (continued)

Wild but probably reasonable accurate stories circulated from eyewitnesses who claimed to have seen the funny, the tragic and ugly raw animal civilian actions.

a man walking along Barrington St. carrying 6 fur coats

drunken, amiable & ugly roaming the streets

a service man and woman passed out in bed together in a furniture store front window

men lining up on a waterfront street, with a service woman helping to restrain the

victim at the head of the line

Evidence at the official enquiry into the whole sorry mess tended to confirm that such incidents were far from impossible.

One of the problems faced by the Military Police (who took quite a beating themselves) was to keep the involvement of service people to a minimum.

(to 196)

196

"VE" Day - Halifax (continued)

Ferry service from Dartmouth and the RCAF and army camps on the North Shore was suspended about mid morning and those who were lucky (or unlucky enough

depending on viewpoint) to be marooned on the North Shore stayed there for several days. At least they had an alibi for having not been involved in the Halifax riots, which turned out later to be an advantage.

RGC had been posted back to RCAF Dartmouth a few days previously and was among the "marooned". He didn't see downtown Halifax, because of being posted out to another Project Z detachment soon after.

(see also 198)

197

"VJ" Day - Yarmouth

When VJ (Victory over Japan) came RGC was at Yarmouth.

The authorities had the lessons of Halifax, (and to a much smaller extent Yarmouth) to draw on.

All stocks from the Service Messes, (AN & AF) and Liquor Store were moved ahead of time to an underground bomb vault, with massive steel doors. A huge cat-tracked bulldozer was backed up tight to the doors & gas tank drained, so entrance was impossible. The ensuing Service party was a very quiet affair without liquor!

198

"VE" Day - Halifax (continued)

By some strange coincidence, the Liquor Warehouse was not that far from the site of another big blowout - the explosion of the Mont Blanc munitions ship (in 1916?) which violently devastated Halifax in a different way.

199

FGR - VLA

For service man returning - options:

1 furniture grant,

2. University ed. - tuition paid,

3. VLA - grant for land, house & bldgs, some equipment. Max \$6000 at 3%, half forgiven if contract honoured for 10 years.

Land either from a civilian owner or a VLA held property.

I saw Field Man at his office 5:00 p.m. - he on way home. "Want 1 acre or 8 acres.?" \$600 or \$1200. What would I do with 8 acres? - take it anyway - so I did.

Pete Prins - 1st. 8 acres with 2 big oaks, shanty & well.

RGC - middle one.

Told Don Edey about 3rd., which he grabbed.

Super co-operation from VLA office & field staff (Bert Woodworth).

We "kept the faith" for the 10 years & got the \$3000 grant, got the house & land for a

little over \$7500.

200

FGR - Location

3 tries to locate in Ancaster (much better area than Aldershot, ???????pundas, Stoney Creek, Ham. Mtn.)

1. Jerseyville Rd. - hydro rt. of way to 2005, (max. 8 ft. hi bldg. to then)
2. Wilson St. - Marshall's - too costly
3. VLA -land from aborted assembly for Mt. Hope Airport. Price, land type, location all very good, location re accessibility and potential residential development later.

201

FGR - Trees

3500 evergreens & birches - St. Wms. - fruit trees, grapes, small fruits. Bare field transformed in 10 years - needed winter protection.

202

FGR - Building Basement

No trouble to find additional 35 hrs. a week over Stelco work week to build. A hole in ground, a dirt driveway in from road & no hydro or water.

Footings - see 184.

Block laying - water from stream in 5 gal. cans in back of car. Enough for 1eve' gs block laying.

Hard slugging - walls & piers cpte, 10" blocks - 60 lb. each.

Taught Don Edey block laying (& later house wiring).

1 st. cash draw from VLA when blocks complete.

203

FGR - House Plans & Bldg. Permit

A Halliday pre. fab plan, modified in red pencil to a 2 - storey house, with bigger windows, changed doors, stairs, big rear dormer.

Changed initialled on 3 copies.

What gung-ho informality!

Anc. Bldg. permit - not much than house dimensions, frame, back min. 60 ft. from road.

204

FGR - Framing & Sheathing

Next draw a long way off-when roof on incl. shingles.

Didn't need to have walls sheathed, but wtrlid - in case the whole thing might blow away in that very windy summer! Strung main beam – 4 hemlock 2 X 12's spiked together on top of piers & rotated into place - tricky 10ft. up in the air. Floor joists, floor sheathing - & we had a platform to work on! Soon got adept at bldg. 2 X 4 walls & erecting for ground floor and then were able to get temp. hydro line in. This gave a framework to set 1d. floor. Floor joists & sheath 1d. floor - all sheathing, floors & walls at 45 degrees to joists & studs. Lots of hand cutting. 1d. floor walls up & ceil. joists on top. Basis for rafters, long 2 X 6's in front & shorter at back - to a ridge board hung from sky hooks!

205

FGR - Framing & Sheathing

By hard slugging, the outside walls were sheathed & roof, & ready to shingle! Diagonal gave great bracing strength, set to oppose the heavy west winds - saw this work well over the years, esp. against the large sail-like west dormer wall before trees grew.

206

Carrier - Country

A man driving a 4-wheel covered cart with usually one horse who picked up and delivered parcels along a regular route in rural England Very common in 1800's & up to probably 1920's - until crowded out by motor vehicles.

He picked up ours, and many other meat orders, and delivered it on same day next week from a butcher in Sheerness. The meat (a joint or roast of beef & bones) was enclosed in a piece of muslin, tied corner to corner, without any other protection & without refrigeration. Said muslin had previously served as a shroud to enclose the hind or side of beef when sent from wholesaler to butcher shop.

Needless to say it was cooked promptly, then kept in the "meat safe" (an open work wood crate covered with fly screen) on the north veranda!

207

Computing - Growth of

From a study titled "Trends in Information Technology 1985" prepared by Arthur Anderson & co., Chicago, Ill. (The World's largest professional services organization).

1. The new computing power installed in the world is doubling every two years.
2. ie. The computers purchased in the next two years will have total processing power greater than all computers purchased since the beginning of time.

3. Whereas personnel costs have been increasing by 75% per annum, computer processing costs have been decreasing by more than 20% per annum.
4. Relative to the cost of computer processing power, people are now at least 20 times more expensive than they were 10 years ago, and 400 times more expensive than they were 20 years ago.
5. This has greatly facilitated the use of high-level languages and software packages because what was seen as their inefficient use of computer resources is no longer true with present much cheaper memory & enhanced processing speeds.

208

Caroline St. Collegiate (from 43)

This was the first Collegiate or Extension School in Hamilton housed in its own building - a big stone 2-storey limestone structure at Main & Caroline Sts.

The Central Elementary School at Hunter & Bay - Park had started offering Extension School (High School) subjects starting in 1856, to further educate its graduates who could by ability and family fortune, continue beyond the Senior 4th." Level. In 1866, this higher instruction was moved to what had been the Caroline St. Grammar School.

209

Halifax Explosion 12/6/17

A disaster foreshadowing the force of nuclear destruction. Caused when a freighter "Mont Blanc" loaded with shells and explosives for Allied Forces in Europe, caught fire in Bedford Basin and drifted down to the "Narrows" between Halifax and Dartmouth. After colliding with another ship, it exploded with a force that blew the top off a nearby hill, flung its anchor several miles away, and levelled a large part of the town - about 1 sq. mile. Fumes from the explosion contained a lot of picric acid. This combined with the snow that started to fall soon after, & settled on the faces & arms of hundreds of injured who layout in the open all the night of Dec. 5 - 6. This stained their skin a blotchy bluish purple, which was still visible when we saw them in the_ . W. War at Halifax. In addition, some 2000 were killed.

210

World War II

Started - September 1, 1939 (Britain vs Germany)

Ended - Europe VE Day - May 8, 1945

Asia VJ Day

Official end August 14, 1945

Canada joined WWII - September 10, 1939. Delay due to W. L. Mackenzie King wanting to demonstrate Canada as an independent state.

211

Father (from Spectator clipping 6/23/64 on his death)

Spec. music & drama critic 1936 - 1957 (21 years). Joined Hamilton Herald in 1932, stayed there until it failed in 1935. Drama was one of his great interests (in addition to music), dating from when the Birmingham (England) Repertory Theatre began to gain world renown in the 1920's.

Father was an outstanding example of a man with a good all-round education in the Arts & Sciences (BA - London) who adapted to circumstances and embraced many vocations in the course of a long & busy life.

manufacturer

musician

farmer & livestock breeder

beekeeper

naturalist

editor (features)

M & D critic

Scientist

Newspaper reporter (City Beat)

212

Mackenzie's Garage

Early February 1950, moved to Mackenzie's garage while our house was plastered. Only heat was a small stove in the middle of the floor, coke fuel bucketed over from house. No water or indoor toilet. No insulation, single wall - very cold.

4 Ft. snowfall, high drifts. Al Bourne's small roadster disappeared in drifts at Edey's lot - he spent the night in our house on the floor beside the plaster trough. Next day snow plough completely socked in his car, for several days.

No trees yet, open country, very windy. We spent 2 weeks in the garage -Brrrr!

213

FGR - Building

Cross Ref. to pages tagged 213.

214

Data Processing

See sheets cross referenced 214.

215

Stelco - Career at

See sheets cross referenced 215.

216

Hamilton Herald

Ceased publication about 1931. Spectator took over the best Herald people - editors, reporters, music critic, sports wtrs, mechanical people. The rest tried for a year or so to publish the Hamilton News as a weekly, but the Depression was a pretty rough competitor. Hamilton became a one paper town and has remained that, except for some competition from Toronto papers morning & evening.

217

Perri, Rocco & Bessie

See sheets cross ref. 217.

Mention re Spectator route - contrast of customers on Bay St. S., from Duke to Hunter Sts.

218

Colgate

A tall rangy wiry Australian who had globe-trotted his way to Sheppey via USA and Canada. Silent as a cat stalking, eavesdropper, dropped in for meals, lived in a "caravan" with bedraggled wife, grain binder - scale model - equipment manufacturer - too wide to go through an English gate. His tales of opportunity & a fortune to be made in Canada convinced Father to emigrate under Canadian "Soldier Settlement" plan to Canada. Father was eligible because of artificial limb manufacturing. Signed up to come to Hamilton area - complete family, because there was not enough cash for Father to come first and leave the rest in Sheppey until he had settled. This was a very sore point for long after.

219

Emigrating

Selling up in Sheppey - culling out what to take to "Colonies", wicker baskets (7) - oil cloth lined, bar locks, padlocks - post office type. One huge one for Grandfather Clock sawn at waist to fit, plus cello, big wood crate, long tools - later used in Canada as pig crate. Metal stencil "N.C. Clarke" & number of basket. Lorry took baskets, etc. to boat at Liverpool. The family took a bus to Sithingbourne, then a train to London to see

Father's last living relatives - Charlie, Addie, Elsie. Stayed with them 2 - 3 days - saw London Zoo, Tower of London, Buckingham Palace. Farewell party & photos in Charlie's back garden by rose trellis, then away to fame & fortune in the Colonies. Telescope was a going-away present to RGC.

220

V-J Day, Japan

See clipping, Hamilton Spectator 8/14/85, Pg. All - details re timing, war status, Emperor's unprecedented speech, etc.

221

blank

222

Appendix

In last week of University of Toronto course, at 2:00 a.m. I awoke to terrific pain in intestines. Barrack members took me to Unit First Aid, thence to Sunnybrook Hospital, where a drunken Sgt. wielding a huge straight razor, lathered and shaved my lower stomach and appendages - risk of a slip.

By 6:00 a.m. I was delivered of a fermenting appendix - watched in reflection of the operating table light to great concern of the Doctor & staff who I told later! Hospitalized 3 weeks - gradually getting walking again.

223

Wedding

Thursday of Jd. week in Sunny brook Hospital (see "appendix 222"), told I was to be discharged on Friday to 4 weeks' Sick Leave. That & 2 weeks annual leave made a good 6 week stretch so I telegraphed Sylvia suggesting we get married that Saturday (following postponement caused by the appendix).

Sylvia - rush preparations - ceremony that Saturday p.m., thence to Toronto -81 night at a Hotel, then a week in a "Tourist Home" in Sunnyside, Toronto.

Typical of thousands of wartime marriages. Months or years of typical civvy preparations condensed into a few days. Back to Sylvia's accommodation on Hess St., Hamilton.

224

Appendix

Back to Manning Pool, Toronto at end of 6 week leave. My course mates had been

putting in the same time doing KP and such duties.

I was put on "Medical Rehabilitation" for 2 weeks - reading books and every half hour through the day 9 - 4, walk 8 ft. to a wall, pick up a dumbbell in each hand, raise them to full height & replace.

After a week of this I wangled a job "running the library" provided by YMCA in Manning Pool- just being there and watching men select and take out books. No checkout or follow up required according to YMCA Supervisor.

After 4 - 5 days of this, the word came through like a wind - "You're shipping out tomorrow at 0700." We found ourselves the gang who had survived U. of T. on our way by train to Clinton.

225

Jobs. Income

In Sheppey, Mother soon realized she had to help supplement the family income. She decided "to write" as did so many genteelly raised ladies.

Her ideas: 1. short stories and informative articles - adult & children's

2. a daily "helpful hints" - small sketch & tip

1. A long string of rejection slips -Pe'er d'Elf - photography of miniature house, etc. 2. Voluminous clipping file, abstracted from 4 major newspapers clipped daily.
3. Composing high class "Art Songs".

226

Geoff's Lifelong Illness

(plus ref. "Hazing" - Grimsby Park Public School)

At about age 18 (1937), Geoff started working for the freight branch of the TH & B Railway (office on Forest Ave. near Ferguson S.) under supervision of a very concerned man, Mr. Virtue. He took a great liking to Geoff, whose job was to bicycle round the TH & B's many small Freight Yards in east end of Hamilton & record car movements.

Mr. V. was greatly distressed as symptoms of Schizophrenia started to show, and kept in close touch with Father & Mother about it.

Eventually Geoff had to enter the Ontario Hospital in Hamilton, where his case was under supervision of Dr. John Senn, the Superintendent. After considerable research, Dr. Senn (& Mother) concluded that the baseball bat blow to his spleen at Grimsby probably upset his hormone balance & induced the Schizophrenia.

(to 227)

227

Geoff's Lifelong Illness (from 226)

More recent research has concluded that Schizophrenia really does have its roots in hormonal imbalance, so Dr. Senn was considerably ahead of his time when that diagnosis had little support.

Nothing was known about a cure, other than prescribing; telazine to reduce the symptoms, so Geoff spent about 25 years in the Ontario Hospital working at a variety of jobs. The place was largely self-supporting with the farm, woodworking & other shops, etc. which provided meaningful jobs for all who could work at them. Towards the end of the 25 years, Geoff's week-end passes were lengthened gradually till he was able to stay home under Mother's supervision for quite long periods of time. Eventually in the Spring of 1962, he was completely released to Mother at Gary Avenue under medication supplied by the Ontario Hospital with Dr. Senn's agreement. The medication was gradually phased out, but Geoff was never able to attempt the stress of a normal job.

228

Big Snow of 1944

Started in late afternoon on December 10, 1944 -little ??????????????at first, chasing round the comers & up alleys gradually intensifying through evening. In the dark hours, it intensified to a full blizzard out of the east which dumped by morning more than 2 ft. of snow over everything. The City was paralyzed - primitive cleanup equipment scarcity of men due to war. It took most of a week to re-establish some semblance of order to the City, Country and transportation systems, train & bus, schools in chaos. Sylvia & I had to leave to go to Yarmouth and did, 12 hours before the snow started, and thus missed a glorious chance to telegraph the C.O. for a leave extension.

229

Car

Horn & Start on same button. ????????????

230

Songs & Music - World War 2 Waltzing Matilda

I've Got Sixpence

Don't Sit Under the Apple Tree

Long Long Trail

Paper Doll

Bless 'Em All

Rats Rats - In The Stores
A Nightingale Sang
Praise the Lord & Pass the Ammunition White Cliffs
There'll Always Be An England When the Lights Go On Again Harbour Lights
Now Is The Hour
Anapola
Song from Moulin Rouge

231

Radio - Programs

Early 1930's, Mother assembled a trio - violin (MSC), cello (GAC), piano (Miriam Haines - one of the Central Presbyterian Sunday School pianists) to play _ hour live programs of "light classical" selections on CKOC. Scripts by RGC. CKOC aired these programs for 13 Sunday afternoons (4:00 p.m.) but could not sell to a sponsor - Depression times, very tough.

232

Radio - Yarmouth

Evangelists - Mr. & Mrs. Whiteley & 2 kids - lived in lower part of same house as us. He had a weekly Sunday 1/2 hour broadcast over local radio station - short talk & hymns, etc. Sylvia & Mrs. Whiteley would from time to time sing religious duets to piano accompaniment. Whiteley had to go to other nearby communities every so often to take services, so he would write out the radio talks and RGC read them (not identified on air!)

The Station Owner wanted RGC to stay on after the War as an announcer.

233

Songs & Music - World War2 (cont'd from 230)

Other songs & tunes popular then:

When Johnny Comes Marching Home
Moonlight Serenade (Glenn Miller's Theme Song)
This Is Romance
Accentuate The Positive
By The Light of the Silvery Moon
It's Only a Paper Moon
Beer Barrel Polka

Based on odd words:

Boo Boo Boo

Dipsey Doodle
Mairtsy Doats

Orchestra Leaders: Glenn Miller Henry Bussey

(to 234)

234

Songs & Music - World War2 (cont'd from 233) Songs:

When the Saints Come Marching In
I Wonder Who's Kissing Her Now
Down By The Old Mill Stream
I'll Be With You In Apple Blossom Time
Embraceable You

235 - 236

Perri. Rocco & Bessie

The Perri's were Spectator newspaper weekly paying customers, at 166 Bay St. S. As is well known, Bessie was shot dead in the garage at 166 at about 11:35 p.m. on August 13, 1930. She was 41, and had lived with Rocco as his common-law wife for 18 years. Rocco was still very much in love with Bessie, who was a very astute business woman and ran much of their bootlegging business and local gambling rackets. This involved activity & transactions all over Southern Ontario & into New York State. Things went well enough for them in these "Prohibition Days", but they decided to branch out into narcotics which they bought from a mob in Chicago. Bessie & Rocco had discussed the poor quality of the narcotics being sold to them from that Chicago source, and they had considered, according to the stories of the day, stopping buying from there altogether. Bessie apparently, as the story goes, bought a consignment from Rochester, New York & refused to pay on delivery as she had promised. The "code of etiquette" among these gangs included keeping your word, which Bessie apparently had not done in this instance. On the evening of August 12, 1930, 3 men are said to have visited Rocco & Bessie and demanded payment for the Rochester shipment. Rocco is believed to have insisted & Bessie refused to pay. This posed quite a problem for Rocco, who by the code of etiquette was expected to bring an erring partner into line again by one means or another. This could include "having her taken care of" - "her" being the girl he loved so much & depended so much on.

On the afternoon of August 13, 1930 Rocco & Bessie are said to have gone for a family visit to see a relative living on Bay St. N.

(to 237)

Perri, Rocco & Bessie

They stayed the evening & Bessie phoned home about 10:55 p.m. to tell the family maid, Mary Latika, that she & Rocco were on their way home. At 11 :35 p.m. she was dead from shot gun blasts fired at short range from behind a car already in the Perri's garage. As their Spectator carrier, I had been climbing the unusually high front porch steps every week to collect the 15 cents (!) due, and over a couple of years or so had come to know Rocco, Bessie, and Mary Latika as reliable so far as paying regularly was concerned. And they were all 3 pleasant people to speak with also, never condescending or arrogant to their paper boy. They also gave a \$2.00 Christmas tip (like their block neighbour the Anglican Bishop, & Col. Moody (underwear) in the next block north).

(to 238)

238 & 239

Perri, Rocco & Bessie

This affair greatly impressed a 15 year old lad who learned thereby that the world of mobs & rackets & so on could be a very tough place indeed when it came to enforcing things like "Keeping your word".

Bessie was buried on Sunday August 17 in a Jewish cemetery south of Hamilton. The delay from when she died, was rumoured to have been because of the time needed to negotiate that cemetery accepting her remains. Even then, her last resting place was reported to have been only just inside the wall.

This I thought was rather sad because regardless of her "business activities" she was a nice lady to talk to.

Much of this story about the Perri's has been excerpted from a 2-part series published by the Hamilton Spectator on Sept. 26, 1987 from a new book, "Rocci Ferri and the Women Who Ran His Rackets" by James Dubro and Robin F. Rowland (Penguin, Oct. 3/87).

I didn't collect for a couple of weeks "out of respect". Rocco continued as a Spectator customer for quite a while afterwards, but he was greatly changed - seemingly under a cloud, and always very pre-occupied.

240

Carrier

In Sheppey and throughout much of rural England, the "carrier" was a vital source of supply.

He was usually a man with a medium sized horse-drawn, 4 wheel cart, closed all but

the front where the driver sat. He took orders for groceries, etc. and also accepted minor freight ego produce, butchered meat, etc. from people along a route, did errands on their behalf in the nearest town, & delivered on the way back - for a modest fee.

A vital service as well as a connecting link and news source.

We shipped rabbit carcasses & received groceries, hardware, meat, fabric, etc.

(Mail was by Postman on a bicycle.)

(to 241)

241 & 242

Carrier

Previous day - chop chaff and mix with bran for horse's nosebag, brush coat, check harness & oil rub, clean cart, fill lamps, polish reflectors.

Typical load - eggs, butter, berries, crab apples, mushrooms, watercress, game birds, skins of mole, rabbit, fox.

Orders to purchase for villagers needing supplies from Town - medicines, newspapers, clothing, household goods, foods, sweets, gun cartridges for hunters.

Pick up more orders & goods en route and news exchanged.

"Slipper brake" on wheel to descend hills.

In Town, streets canvassed to sell the produce.

Horse at noon, out of shafts and blanket on, watered & fed.

Afternoon - purchase return goods, errands. On the return journey - deliver the goods, etc. ordered, collect fee. Horse knew all the regular stops.

243

Incline Railways

James St. & Wentworth St. See Spectator clipping 6/29/88

244

Radial Lines

See clipping from "Ancaster this Month" June 1/88

245

Temperature - Summer - High

We had been unaccustomed in UK as to high (100 degrees F.) summer temperatures & the record highs in July 1936 were devastating especially "in the City".

Similar hot weather in our first summer (1926) was also rough & we came close to getting heatstroke out picking beans, etc. to get food for the table - that's how close to the edge we were.

Father & Ron also picked cherries & peaches in that heat.

246

"Antonia" 9/1/89

The Cunard Line passenger liner on which we all sailed to Canada - a typical passenger liner of medium size.

Ron had his 11th. Birthday aboard on June 5, 1926, very seasick.

Voyage approximately June 4 - 11. Embarked at Liverpool (?), disembarked at Quebec (cheaper trip). Train to Montreal, then west to Hamilton. Icebergs approaching Newfoundland.

247

Hobos & Tramps

Food

Handouts (clothes, etc.) Barking Dog

Savage

Friendly Reception Use Telephone

Ho(e) Bo(y)

Difference between Hobo & Tramp.

248

Getting Warm In Bed As Kids

Bedroom barely warm in depth of winter. Maybe the far end of a downstairs stove pipe struggled into the chimney ????????

Kids scrambled into bed in flannelette nightgowns, shivering, & hunkered down, nose so placed as to draw lungful's of cold bedroom air in, to be breathed out through the mouth and under the covers - early recycling at its best. Surprising how much heat was reclaimed - and no doubt grown up kids still do it.

249

Rural Sounds from the 30's

Rooster crowing was alarm clock.

Dash chum, sound changed as butter formed.

Wash house, gas motor driven washing machine.

Gasoline-heated iron, over stove heated, hi-test gas.

Hail on galvanized iron roof - crop damage.

Sound of John Deere "D" tractors starting up at dawn.

(After a day's threshing)Horses at feed trough, breathing & snuffling hard. Halter rings banging on feed troughs.

"Workers" chatting in the few minutes between "wash up" and sitting down to supper supplied by Host (for whom the threshing had been done).

250

RCAF - Clinton (from 119)

Clinton - base had high, wire perimeter fence, with a still higher fence inside enclosing the instruction and technical buildings. Notebook pages all numbered, no paper or texts or notebooks allowed to be taken in or out. Information had to be remembered. No tech. talk outside the instruction compound, _g. in mess hall) or on trains, buses. MP's could search. Also plain clothes ones in pubs, public transit, etc. Personnel dropped in Europe - mobile units - rumoured that on active duty in Europe, high tech people had shadows assigned to kill them if captured, before disclosure. Radar was the vital winning edge.

251

World War I

Air Raids - dirigibles very high.

Blackouts (Kahn) - trains stopped during air raids. Billeting in private homes.

No domestic help available.

Mother couldn't cope.

Damage to home.

252

Shelburne, Nova Scotia

Christmas 1942 (or 1943?)

Radio continuously playing "White Christmas" with Bing Crosby.

Mac Moffat & RGC making wood waste-paper baskets for sending home. Broke briefly for Christmas dinner at noon.

253

(Stelco) Canada Works

See sheets cross referenced to 215

Originally Canada Screw Co. - started in 1840's in Dundas (by Cyrus Birge?). Moved early 1900's to new plant Wellington St. & CNR tracks, Hamilton. Birge had elaborate mansion on Main St. E. about Proctor Blvd. Drove to work in his horse & carriage - coachman Oliver Woolcot_ who later worked his way up to Foreman of East Shipping.

253A

(Stelco) Canada Works

Tom Ayres - East Shipper

Charlie Groves - West Shipper

Alec Scobie - Fmn. ??????? Screws

Jack Woods - Fmn. Headers, high in Hamilton branch of ?????(coins) Society of

Canada Bill Evans - Asst. Fmn Headers -lived next door to Jack Woods & hated his guts! Black girl

Davie Cosgrove - Rod Header - hollow worn when Davie's arm rested - Big Wrench-chase - wig

253B

(Stelco) Canada Works

Lula & Andy Drennan - cut thread - romance

Big Darcy, Maxwell & George Tarbutt - (2 ?????? of sorting)

Pringle Morley

Tom Billington - teeth

Alfie Mountain - fight with and never forgave his son who enlisted with the S1

Contingent Canada - ft. World War, died a few months later in early battle - Armistice Day ritual

253C

Canada Works

Charlie Royston - shooting Ed. Rabbits round McMaster University.

Pete Dunlop - Christmas carols in July

Robertson - from P.L. Robertson to Canada Works. Regarded as a Judas in the days when loyalty counted.

Johnny Taylor -time ????????

Maud Taylor - heartbroken, heavy makeup.

Mr. John Callingham - "Can you write, laddie?"

Slide Rule