An aerial photograph of a rural landscape. In the foreground, there are large, reddish-brown plowed fields. A small town with various buildings, including houses and larger commercial structures, is nestled in the middle ground. The town is surrounded by green fields and patches of forest. In the background, more fields and a distant body of water are visible under a clear sky.

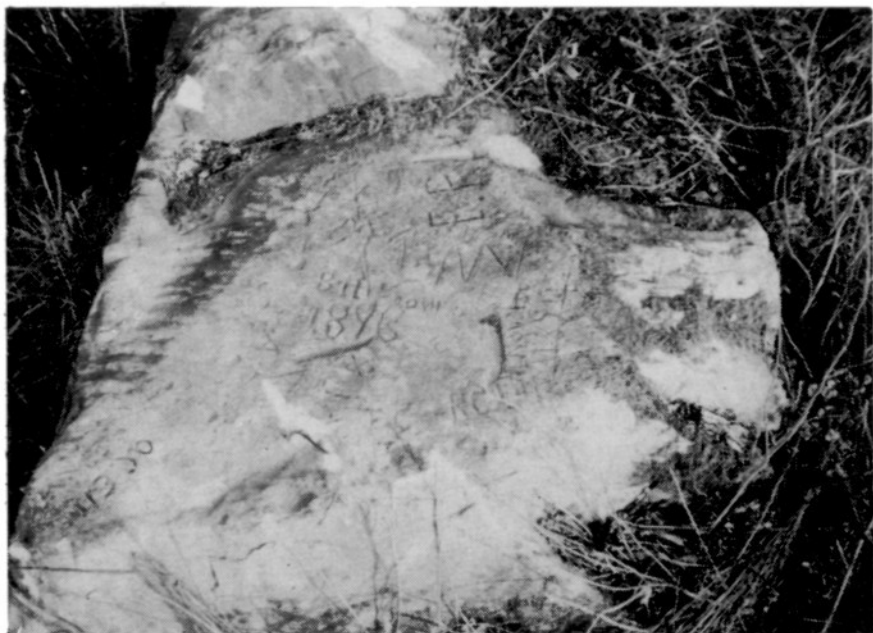
Threads of the Past

A History of O'Leary,
Prince Edward Island
1837 - 1992

Threads of the Past

A History of O'Leary
Prince Edward Island
1837-1992

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The granite rock pictured above can be found along the edge of a field north of Ellis Avenue on property owned long ago by Robert "Little Bob" Ellis, and now belonging to Allan MacMillan. O'Leary's original race track had been situated nearby.

This rock is unique in that it has initials carved into its surface which are dated November 11, 1896. Although these markings were made almost one hundred years ago, they are still visible in the rock. Some of these initials may have been those of Bennett Haywood, Peter Pate, Robert Carruthers, Clifford Ellis, Bayfield Ellis, and Robert Ellis.

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THREADS OF THE PAST A HISTORY OF O'LEARY 1837 - 1992



Back row l to r: Ellen Campbell, Viola Collicutt, Verna Vatcher, Daisy Waite (President), Laura A'Hearn, Nan Davis, Thelma Boates, Jean MacLean, Muriel Vincent, Esther MacWilliam, Shirley MacIsaac. Front row l to r: Carol Collicutt, Hilda Smallman (Treasurer), Ruby Bulger, Shirley Ellis, Nellie Willis, Leila Craswell. Missing from photo: Glen MacNevin (Secretary), Margaret Adams, Hazel Ellis, and Marjorie MacKay.

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The O'Leary Women's Institute dedicate this book to Mrs. Isabelle Campbell, former high school teacher, who worked on the preliminary drafts and did extensive writing for publication.





This is a bicycle group in O'Leary possibly around 1910. The members are as follows from left to right: back row: Jim Todd, Miss McNeill, W. Turner, Annie O'Halloran, Jim O'Halloran. Second row: Luella Ellis, Fidelie Perry, M. Turner, Cal Ellis. Front row: George Walker, A.J. Matheson, Prosper Perry

FOREWORD

Nostalgia, that wistful yearning for something past, something irrecoverable, or something precious lost, attacks each of us at one time or another. It is simply part of human nature to reflect and to ponder on life's past accomplishments, failures, times of pride, and times of sadness. Because time has a way of slipping by too quickly, it does not allow us to hold and fondle precious moments; it allows us only to feel the breeze as it passes by. It does, however, leave us memories; and too often memories are lost and befuddled in the annals of time. The significance of an event is seldom realized as it happens. We rely on memories and word of mouth far too often. We believe we shall remember and be able to recall. Unfortunately many do not face the reality of human frailties.

History was made yesterday. Did anyone write it down? We are told to learn from history. What have you and I left for our descendants?

To have a history of O'Leary written and published has been foremost on the minds of O'Leary Women's Institute members for several years.

During the summers of 1982 and 1983, students were hired to do research and write down their findings. Those involved at the time were Crystal Smallman, Bonnie Bridges, Ronnie Phillips, Gretchen Jelley, Ann Ramsay, and Irma Sweet. These students deserve a great deal of credit for their valuable contribution in researching and compiling a vast amount of information.

From this early beginning until 1991, (Mrs.) Isabelle Campbell, former high school teacher, worked on these preliminary drafts. With assistance from many individuals she gathered a great deal of information over the years and did extensive writings for eventual publication. Indeed, we are most grateful to Mrs. Campbell for her untiring efforts.

In September 1991, a group of interested persons began the enormous task of organizing and writing this book - a project which continued for the next two years. We acknowledge with much gratitude the work of Isabel Campbell, Lewis MacKenzie, Norman Moase, Hilda Smallman, and Alden Weeks.

Information has come from numerous sources, so it is quite impossible to acknowledge separately each one. To anyone who has given assistance, support, and encouragement in any way, we extend our heartfelt thanks and appreciation.

The writers of this book have based their community history

upon authentic written sources and carefully selected verbal information. Should error be found in the text (and there will be despite the care that has been taken), we beg your forgiveness and apologize for same.

Passages in time have been transferred into pages in a book. A time in our past is being provided for your reading. Come view, enjoy, and learn from our time passages.

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Chapter 1

Origin and Early Settlement

ORIGIN OF THE NAME OF "O'LEARY"

O'Leary was named after one of its earliest settlers - Michael O'Leary who came to P.E.I. from Ireland in 1837. He and his wife settled at the western end of what is now the O'Leary Road on farm land presently owned by Irwin Phillips. At that time, West Prince had few settlers, little land cleared, and no roads. The main business centre and nearest store was at Cascumpeque on the opposite shore. To enable getting necessary supplies, Michael blazed a direct trail from his home through fifteen miles of woods, barren, and swamp to Cascumpeque - then known as "The Village". This trail became known as O'Leary Road.

The railway was completed through O'Leary by 1874. When the railway station was built, the name of the junction was changed to O'Leary Road Station, later shortened to O'Leary Station and still later to O'Leary.

The O'Leary's had four children - Timothy, Henry, Mary and Jane. Mrs. O'Leary died on the Island. There is no record of where she was buried, but when the West Cape road was changed, three unmarked graves were found. Michael stayed in West Cape until his children grew up. In 1858, then an elderly man, he returned to his homeland. Disappointed when he found no friends and few close relatives, he decided to return to P.E.I. On his way back, he disembarked at Halifax where it was reported he met an untimely death. He was pushed off a wharf and drowned.

GEOGRAPHY

O'Leary is located in Lot 6 in the western part of Prince County. It is on the O'Leary Road about sixty kilometers west of Summerside and ninety kilometers from Borden where car ferry service is provided to the mainland.

Since the village is in the centre of the widest part of the county, it is relatively inland — about fifteen kilometres from Northumberland Strait and eight kilometres from the nearest river.

The village proper contains about two hundred fifty acres situated in the middle of a large and prosperous farming area. The soil is chiefly Egmont clay — too heavy for growing some crops, but ideal for potatoes, the main cash crop.

The land is low and flat with few hills. Drainage is a problem, especially in the village. Much of the land is unforested, but most farms have one or two woodlots.

Specifically O'Leary is a business centre which provides goods and services to the farmers and fishermen in the surrounding areas populated by approximately five thousand people. Easy access to this centre is provided by four main roads which enter the community from north, south, east, and west.

During the past few winters temperatures and amount of snowfall have changed considerably. The trend is towards warmer temperatures and less snowfall accumulation — the winter of 1982 being the exception.

The highest temperature recorded at the local research station of the Department of Agriculture was 31 degrees Celsius on August 12, 1988; the lowest -29 degrees Celsius on January 22, 1984.

Rainfall is sufficient throughout the growing season with few summers slightly drier than the average. Autumn rains usually bring enough moisture to provide a continuous water supply for the winter months.

Seeding normally begins about May 10; all crops are harvested by October 31, but there is danger of frost early in September. Because of nearness to large bodies of water, nights cool rapidly.

In general, both the type of soil and climate are suitable for agriculture - the potato industry being of prime importance.

"OVER ON THE ISLAND"

By Helen Jean Champion

Copyright Canada, 1939

By The Ryerson Press Toronto

Published, 1939

Reprinted, 1946.

Pages 253 to 255

O'Leary is a typical inland village, containing as it does the customary buildings - churches, bank, station, stores, and houses. Its sidewalk is a real treasure. Anyone who can walk from one end to the other without assuming a horizontal position at least once is a perfect marvel. The sidewalk goes up in places, and then down, then flat, then up again and down. Then it gives up the ghost and breaks into pieces in hilly fashion. It is a unique sidewalk and one which conforms a real distinction to the person able to negotiate it safely. Something should be done. Those who can navigate it safely should

be presented with a "royal order of the pavement" medal in commemoration of their ability.

The village has a still more delightful interest. An old curiosity shop, which is all that an old curiosity shop implies except in appearance. It is, in outline, a most modern up-to-date drug store, but towards the back it changes its character and becomes a museum. There is one of the most interesting collections of relics found anywhere on the Island. Some are not old, just merely interesting. Others are interesting and old. Some are quite valuable. This is what we saw and as nearly as I can remember, what we were told about them.

There is a left forearm of a whale, which was dug up with mussel mud, a short distance from the village. On each side of it hangs an old fashioned tin lantern with space inside for a candle. The lanterns are not so very old in years, though they certainly are out of date. There are two sets of old fashioned hanging scales, similar to a set in the Kensington Museum in London. There is a shillalah, a miner's lamp, a bomb, a fine collection of old coins, a reaping knife, part of a caribou's antler. There is a tree branch which has grown through a tumbler. And talk about luck! There are three horseshoes, they're no ordinary ones, either. It seems to me that if a man really wanted a horse to stay in one particular spot forever, all he would have to do, would be nail it solidly to the animal's foot. Horseshoes may be that lucky, but I scarcely imagine that any horse would consider himself lucky if presented with one of these.

There are chainhand cuffs, which are oh so very effective. There is a part of a ship – something which holds something else, or something, I forget which.

A prosperity Certificate and a German 200,000 mark bill, lie sullenly together on the counter. I suppose, in the night, they awake and console each other there for their respective defeats.

EARLY SETTLERS

Most of the early settlers on P.E.I. emigrated from the British Isles and France. All came in sailing vessels; hence the earliest settlements were along the coast. For many years the interior remained uninhabited. Island districts were slow to grow as not many opportunities were available to new families moving in, but as travelling conditions warranted, families began to move from one place to another and a few small inland settlements were established.

The Village of O'Leary actually owes its origin to the building of the P.E.I. railway which provided both transportation and communi-

cation by land - both previously non-existent. When train rails were laid through this area by 1874 no settlers were living within the present village limits. The contractor and foreman boarded at the home of Joseph Mugridge in Unionvale.

The first building erected in O'Leary was the station house. People then began to move inland. They wanted to live near the railroad. Many settlers came between 1880 and 1885.

The first settlers, Hugh and Charles Murray, came from Bedeque in the late 1870's and settled in what is now the eastern part of the village.

In 1876, Robert Ellis, originally from Bideford, moved in from Springfield West. He bought four hundred acres of land on the south side of the O'Leary Road. Part of this property is now owned by his grandson Garfield Ellis. Robert (locally known as Big Bob) also operated a store near the railway crossing. At the same time, John MacDonald from the eastern part of the province became O'Leary's first blacksmith.

A little later, two Ramsay families came - David from Knutsford and D.C. Ramsay from Port Hill. D.C. Ramsay operated the first store in O'Leary on practically the same site as the former Handy Andy Store. The original store was hauled behind Kenneth Ellis' house by Sanford Phillips. The Jelleys, originally from Linkletter, moved from Unionvale to O'Leary. Thomas Robinson and family, originally from Brackley Point, also moved from Unionvale to O'Leary.

As the settlement grew, most settlers established their own businesses. John Frost, O'Leary's first postmaster, moved in from Springfield West. He lived approximately where Bernard Shea now resides. William Jelley, the first tailor in the area, lived in the same vicinity. James Barclay moved up from Ellerslie and entered into partnership with D.C. Ramsay. In 1880, he built and operated a saw mill powered by steam approximately one hundred feet behind the present fire hall. In 1888, he built a water powered flour mill near Coleman. This mill is now operated by Warren Leard. The Barclays lived in the house now owned by Thiren and Shirley Ellis.

In 1881, William Bulger, father of Peter, moved up from Unionvale and resided on property now owned by Doreen Matheson and her son Roderick (Roddie). He was a mail courier on the Cape Wolfe route. He also operated a small general store at the front of the lot.

Later came the Perry's (Joe and Arthur), James MacAulay, James Dennis, Robert Ellis, Ebenezer Lidstone, MacKenzies, MacPhersons, MacArthurs, MacLennans, MacFadgens, Champions, Chisholms, and

O'Leary as it appears in the 1928 Atlas

Bernard, John C. P.O. O'Leary. Wf. Jennie; Ch. Bradford.

Campbell, D. P.O. O'Leary. Wf. Josie; Ch. Rita, Birdie, Ken, Edna, Jennie.

Ellis, Harry. P.O. O'Leary. Wf. Charlotte.

Ellis, Robert. P.O. O'Leary. Wf. Edna; Ch. Nellie, Dolly, John, Major, Foster.

Gay, Leslie. P.O. O'Leary. Wf. Eva; Ch. Helen.

Gorrill, Dot. P.O. O'Leary. Wf. May; Ch. Glen.

Gorrill, Walter. P.O. O'Leary. Wf. Janie; Ch. Lloyd, Rupert, Lillian.

Gorrill, Mrs. Sarah. P.O. O'Leary. Ch. Dot, Floyd, Jennie, Lutie, Harriet, Ruby.

Griffin, Martin. P.O. O'Leary. Wf. Carrie May.

Harris, W. P.O. O'Leary. Wf. Lilla; Ch. Willard, Harold, Etta, May.

Jelly, R.H. P.O. O'Leary. Wf. Levina.

Johnson, Clar. P.O. O'Leary. Ch. Lottie.

Johnston, Geo. P.O. O'Leary. Ch. Clarence, Ida.

Johnston, Mrs. Annie, P.O. O'Leary. Ch. Pearl, Edith, Alice, Eva, Mabel, Oliver, Bert, Hillard, Wallace.

Kennedy, John. P.O. O'Leary. Wf. Llewella; Ch. Forbes, Robert.

McAuley, Leslie. P.O. O'Leary. Wf. Edna; Ch. Rita, Wendell, Thelma.

McDonald, Alex. P.O. O'Leary. Wf. Olive.

McDonald, Neil. P.O. O'Leary. Wf. Iva; Ch. Roger.

Matthews, Geo. P.O. O'Leary. Wf. Emma; Ch. Lloyd, Fred, Weldon, Gerald, Elmer.

Palmer, Bert. P.O. O'Leary. Wf. Ella; Ch. Alfred, Harold, Alvin.

Pate, Mrs. M.A. P.O. O'Leary. Ch. John, Peter, Florence, Annie.

Phillips, S. P.O. O'Leary. Wf. Lillie; Ch. Earl, Muriel, Maud, Blanche, Waldo.

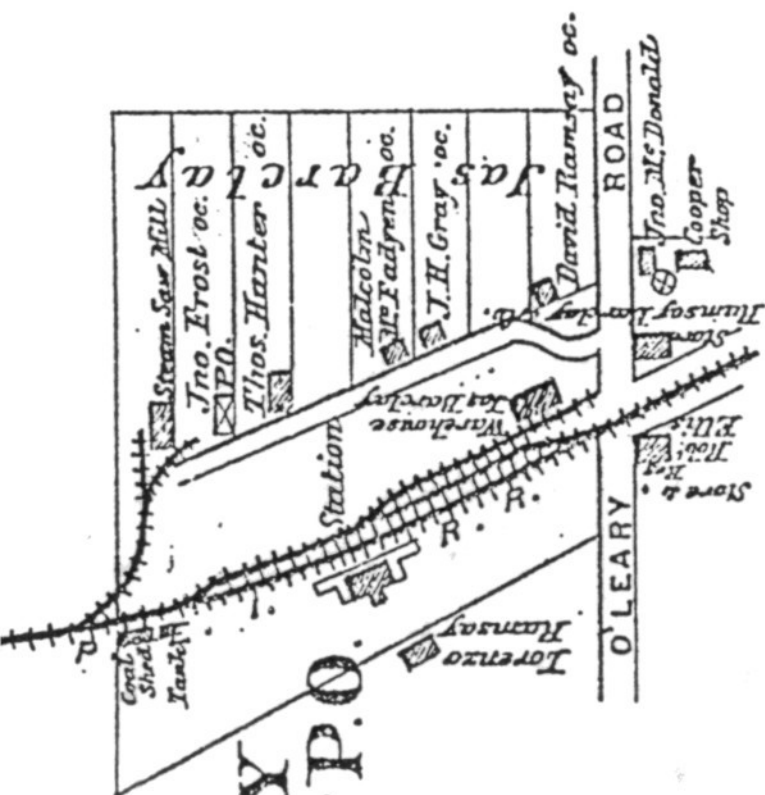
Stitson, L. P.O. O'Leary. Wf. Lucetta; Ch. Infant.

Thompson, Fulton. P.O. O'Leary. Wf. Annie; Ch. Elizabeth, David, Frank, Jack, Jean.

White, Joseph. P.O. O'Leary. Wf. Mary Ann; Ch. Edward.

White, Mrs. Dan. P.O. O'Leary. Ch. Albert, Jas., Joe, Daniel, George, Carrie, Addie.

O'LEARY AND STATION P.O.



O'Leary as it appears in 1880 Atlas

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

O'Leary was incorporated in 1951 under the "Village Services Act" and was governed by a village commission. The founding commissioners were appointed by the executive council in Charlottetown; however, after the first one year term, they were elected by the people at the annual village meeting. The first three commissioners were Alton Rayner, Ralph Adams and Bernard Shea who were elected for a three year term. The commissioners appointed from amongst themselves a chairperson who designated certain responsibilities to each member. The departments included Streets and Sidewalks, Police Protection, Fire Protection, Recreation and Sanitation. The commission employed a village clerk, maintenance person, and a recreation director.

In 1983 the Village Services Act was repealed and replaced with the Municipalities Act and several changes were made to the local governments in P.E.I. The village was no longer called a village but was named a community instead. The commission became known as council and the commissioners were renamed councillors. The title of the village clerk was changed to administrator.

Total revenue for the year (1992) was approximately \$326,515.00 which was generated from property taxes and government grants. This revenue is offset by community expenditures of approximately the same amount.

The following is a list of commissioners/councillors who served from 1951 to 1992:

Ralph K. Adams	Kenneth Matheson
Alton W. Rayner	Alvin Palmer
Bernard Shea	Ronnie Turner
Sterling Ellis	W.S. Turner
Randall Boates	Keir Ramsay
Wilfred Dennis	Eric Shaw
H.J. MacWilliam	Neil MacKay
Clifford Ellis	Wavell Sabine
Ira Ellis	Edgar MacKinnon, Sr.
Alden Weeks	Clair Fradette
Charles Willis	Don Yuill
Raeford MacLean	Lloyd Ramsay
Jack Arsenault	Henry MacAusland
Stanley MacDonald	Edmond Peters
Alton Boulter	Roland Turner
Dr. L.G. Dewar	Orin MacDonald
Everett Milligan	Douglas Smith

James Baglole
Thiren Ellis
Rankin MacKinnon
Clair Sweet
Frances Dewar
Leo MacDonald
Hilda E. Smallman
Eric Gavin
Roy Smith

Eugene Morell
Brenton Phillips
Patrick King
Irma Dumville
John Buchanan
Gordan Adams
Allan Gorrill
Audrey Thomson
Pauline Stewart

Ralph Cain recalls his mother Ella telling the following story: David Ramsay and his wife, Martha Currie Ramsay lived in Knutsford on the old homestead where Harold, Winnie and Keir lived for years. David often remarked to his wife, "I wonder what happened to our good friend, the packpeddlar. We haven't seen him for years. He always lodged with us and the neighbours would gather in the evening for some great entertainment as he had some wonderful stories."

One well-remembered day he appeared at the door and received a royal welcome. After supper he asked for a pencil and some paper and wrote the words of "The O'Leary Road".

The O'Leary Road

*'Tis forty years I think or more
Since I have walked this road before.
How lonely then, how dark and still,
For silence reigned on vale and hill.
Tall birch and beech from either side
Hung o'er the road their branches wide.
No sign was there of man's abode
On all that long O'Leary Road.
The prowling fox and vagrant bear
Long claimed a wild dominion there.
Now woods and wilds have all been cleared;
The fox and bear have disappeared
And passing years have changed the scene
From forest wild to meadows green.
The reaper and the iron plough
Proclaim 'tis man's dominion now.
And o'er the large and level plains
Are spreading fields of ripening grains.
The woods are gone and in their room*

*Large clover fields and orchards bloom.
The farmer's toil is well repaid;
To guide the plough his chosen trade.
His sprightly team well-groomed and fed;
His chosen seed with system spread.
To native thrift with practice skilled,
The grateful soil abundance yields.
And me, its merits marks are well bestowed,
For plenty crowns O'Leary Road.*

The above poem, taken from an old scrap book, is believed to be written by Luke Hughes from Lot 11 and was submitted to the Island Farmer by John Ashton from West Devon, circa 1840.

Editor's Note: This poem strikes us as a very beautiful conception of the changes which have taken place, not only on O'Leary Road, but generally throughout our province.

Chapter 2

Transportation and Communication

ROADS AND STREETS

When the first settlers came to O'Leary, there were no roads. Travelling was done either on foot or by ox carts. After the railway came through in 1874, roads gradually developed. The first roads were usually cleared by private individuals. These roads were very rough and travelling conditions depended on the season of the year and the type of weather. Later, logs and spruce boughs were used to cover the main streets. This was some help in preventing horses and wagons from getting bogged down in the mud. However, this made travelling very rough.

Water Street and Ellis Avenue were opened by Robert Ellis and his son Clifford. They were the first residents on these streets.

Kent Street, Willow Avenue and North Street were opened by Sanford Phillips. The opening of North Street accommodated the butter making business which is located on the corner of North Street and the Gaspé Road.

Hospital Street was opened in 1957 after the completion of the hospital building. From this grew the subdivisions where Parkview Drive and Beechwood Avenue are now located.

Over the years as the population of O'Leary increased and with it more housing and development projects, new streets were added. The following is a list of many of these - Park St., Chestnut Ave., Royal Ave., Maple St., Jubilee Ave., Pate Garden Dr., Centennial Dr., East Dr., Main St., Lloyd St., Barclay Rd., Stewart Lane and MacKinnon Drive.

In 1939 the Main Street of O'Leary was paved with the aid of a horse drawn machine. This was a time of great elation for the citizens of O'Leary; no longer would their vehicles be bogged down in mud, snow, ruts and potholes. O'Leary had a perfect road! (Or so people thought.) Since then most streets have been resurfaced many times. We are told that, because of an incorrect mineral balance, the soil does not provide a base strong enough to properly support the weight of the pavement as well as the heavy traffic. Because of these circumstances, no doubt O'Leary will always be burdened with inferior roads.



*View of the O'Leary Road looking towards Knutsford. The Martin Griffin studio is near the road on the right hand side. Preston Thompson married Addie Griffin and lived in the home-
stead behind the studio, now the home of Rankin MacKinnon. Since there is a wash on the
line, it must be Monday.*



Will Turner (left) and Peter Gallant - A Spring Freshet at the Cheese Factory - 1905.



Road making in O'Leary, P.E.I



Snow Bound, 1905 O'Leary, Prince Edward Island.



THE RAILWAY

The railway was built in Prince Edward Island between 1871 and 1874. It was planned to begin train service late in 1874, but winter set in early so the first train did not pass through O'Leary until May, 1875. By 1923 both narrow and standard gauge rails were provided in Western P.E.I. In the same year the railway was operated and managed by Canadian National Railways.

Following its course, in some cases to avoid land elevations, the track crossed the O'Leary Road three miles west of what is now called the Western Road. This junction accidentally provided an ideal nucleus for a business centre both industrially and geographically. It was in the centre of rich farming land and surrounded by many already established fishing ports such as Brae, West Point, Cape Wolfe, and Cascumpeque - all served by the railway.

Before the railway was built there were no settlers in what is present day O'Leary. However, within six years after the coming of the railway, O'Leary had a population of approximately fifty people. There were also a post office, a cooper shop, several stores, and some fine homes. O'Leary grew very quickly to become a thriving inland community.

When trains first made their appearance in P.E.I., people of all ages marvelled at their sight and longed to hear the whistle blow as it approached the local station or at the several crossings as it meandered through the countryside. Often people gathered at the station awaiting the arrival of the train. Indeed, it was a social event!

For more than a century trains continued to be enjoyed in this part of the province. The railway provided a convenient means of transportation for passengers, mail, and freight between West Prince and the rest of the province and the mainland.

However, the increasing use of large transfer trucks for moving goods and produce plus the popularity of the family car or cars meant less and less dependency on the railway. Consequently, in May 1989, the last train rolled through O'Leary; thus, marking the end of an era. For many the loss of the railway was considered a calamity. The finality of the railway was clearly visible during summer, 1992, when the rails were taken up and huge piles of railway "ties" or "sleepers" as they were called could be seen at almost any railway crossing.

It is unfortunate that the names of all the station agents and porters are not available at this time, however, here is a partial list of the ones that are known: Albert MacLellan, Edgar Jardine, Upton Seaman, Edgar MacKinnon, Bloise Ellis, William Fitzpatrick, Wendell

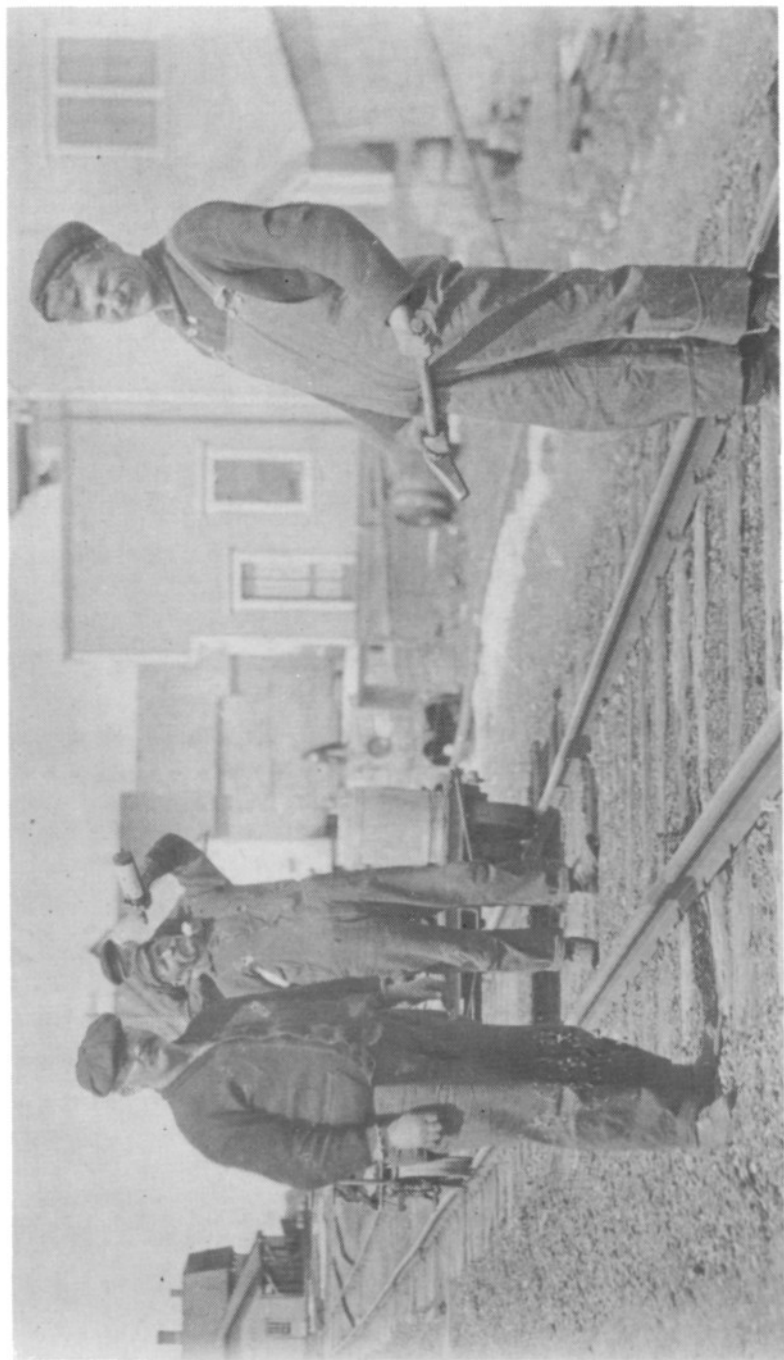
Turner, Ken Matheson, Desmond Callaghan, Athol Ellis and Jim O'Halloran.



For fast service to the ferry this jitney went through O'Leary at 5 a.m. every morning.



Not the regular but a gang for extra labour, near the O'Leary Road: left, Dan MacDonald, Charles Easter, Alfred MacLean (foreman from Tyne Valley), Fulton Thompson, Billy Bernard, Alex MacDonald, Peter Gotell, Dominic Perry.



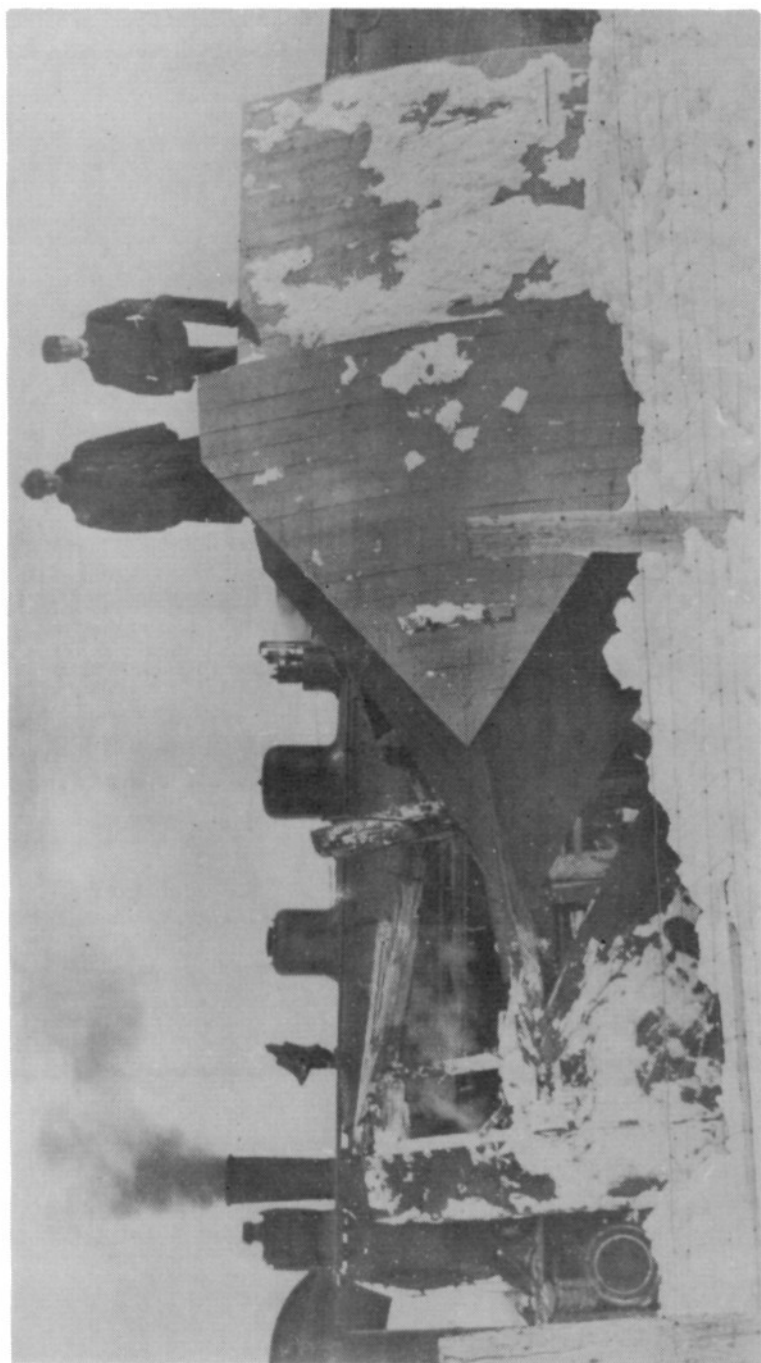
*O'Leary Station 1912
Working on the Railway 1912 John Bernard - foreman, Samuel Graham, Gordon Dennis.*



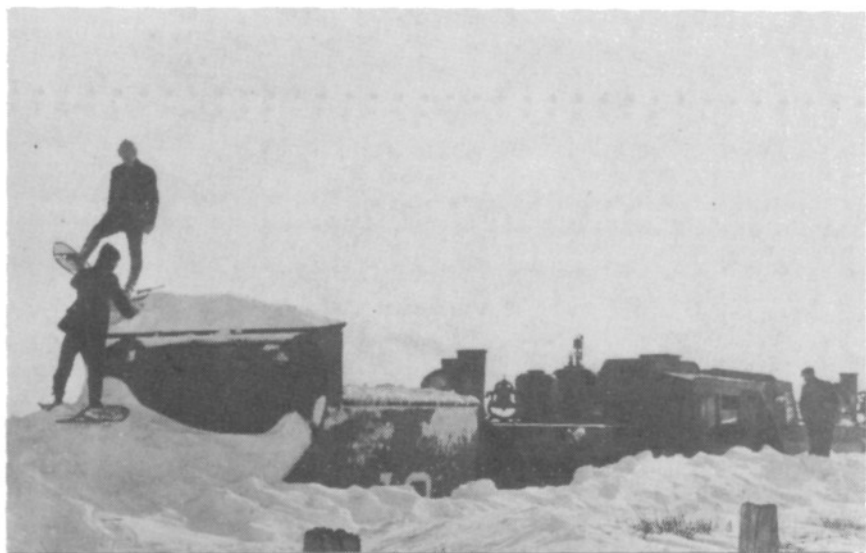
O'Leary Station 1912



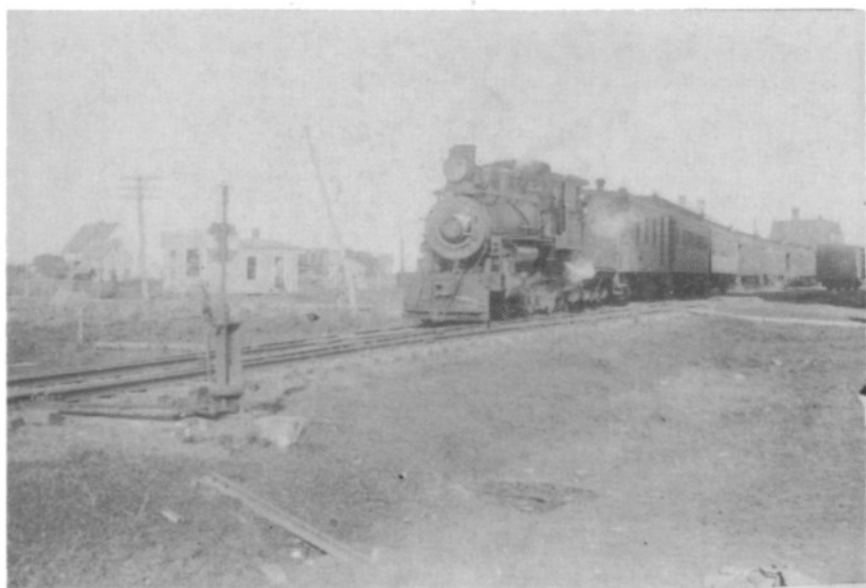
Original Freight Shed



Train Wreck in Coleman - Feb. 24, 1914 left: David Bethune, George Ryan - Conductor.



Snowbound



Morning Express to Summerside - 1913



End of an Era as Last Train leaves from O'Leary 1989.

POST OFFICE

The history of the Post Office is analogous with the history of the mail service serving their communities since the earliest settlements on the Island almost two hundred years ago.

For Islanders transportation of not only mail but of all commodities has always been and still remains a major problem.

In the beginning when mail was transported via ships that came and went to various Island ports and thence carried on horseback to various centres, service, at its best, was rather sporadic. Even by 1880 when the first stage coach transported passengers and mail to this area, mail was delivered only once a week in summer and once a fortnight in winter.

In these pre-railway days, districts surrounding O'Leary were served by the following postmasters at the following postal stations. These early offices were usually identified by the name of the Postmaster or by its lot number.

Postal Stations

1870-1914 Carleton Lot 6
 1839-1868 Cascumpec
 1871-1913 Cape Wolfe
 1871-1913 Knutsford
 Springfield West
 1904-1913 Mt. Royal
 1904-1918 Glenwood
 1872-1914 West Point

Postmasters

William Carroll
 William Hardy
 Matthew Howard
 Joshua Smallman
 James Maddix
 Howard Adams
 Archibald Ramsay
 Angus Stewart



O'Leary Post Office and Federal Building 1956.

The railroad was opened May 12, 1875. Almost immediately mail was shifted to this mode of transport.

At the junction of the railroad and the O'Leary Road a station house was built. Because of inadequate road conditions, people were anxious to live near the station. Quickly a small settlement of thirty families was established and the services of a post office were recognized; indeed the post office was one of the first, and perhaps the most vital service offered the young settlement by the Dominion Government.

Originally the post office was named "O'Leary Station". This name was officially changed to "O'Leary" February 2, 1967.

John Frost who had come from England in 1846 was appointed O'Leary's first postmaster in 1877. The Post Office was in his home situated approximately where the Fire Hall is today. He carried on his appointment until disaster struck on September 19, 1889 when the Frost home, including the Post Office and all its contents were destroyed by fire. Unfortunately, Mr. Frost was reimbursed for only the value of the postage stamps lost - a sum of twenty-six dollars which in those days of "penny postage" was probably a year's supply. Mr. Frost then resigned and in 1903 was succeeded by Robert E. Ellis, Sr., who served as postmaster in one of his own buildings on the south side of the O'Leary Road just west of the track. Garfield Ellis'

drugstore was in front - the Post Office in the back. This building was also burned and for two years (1907 and 1908) the Post Office was located in Robert's house.

Robert served until D.D. Campbell was appointed in 1911. The Post Office was then moved to a building on the north side of the street near the railway station.

In 1915 rural mail couriers began delivering mail to boxes.

Charles Dennis, the next postmaster, carried on in the front of the Alfred Adams building until 1927 when his successor, Alvin Webb, was appointed. Alvin used the same building until 1947 when water damage resulting from a fire in an overhead apartment forced him to vacate. This time Alvin took up temporary quarters in Dr. Palmer's dental office.

In 1947 a building was hauled from Mt. Pleasant Airport to a lot behind Matheson's Drugstore. The Post Office remained in this building until 1956 when the new federal building was constructed.

Two years later Alvin retired and was replaced by Lloyd Matthews with his full-time assistant Ian Strang.

Many changes took place during Lloyd's tenure. Because of increased workload, Ursula Cornish was hired part time in 1961 - full-time in 1969. On April 9, 1964, the train made its last mail delivery; highway service from Tignish to Summerside was established. Prior to this, Lewis Bernard dispatched the mail to and from the morning and evening train. Three times a week mail came on the afternoon freight. Since the above date, mail has been delivered by truck or van. In 1969 Howlan Post Office was closed. Mail for Howlan has since been delivered through the O'Leary R.R. #3.

In 1976 the Federal Post Office building was renovated. A new wing was added which provided much needed work space; the wicket was changed to the open space concept; extra locked boxes and up-to-date letter sorting equipment as well as automatic letter stamper were added.

In 1978 Heber Bryan retired after thirty-two years of service as mail courier on the Howlan route.

In 1980 Lloyd Matthews retired after twenty-two years of service as Postmaster and was succeeded by Ian Strang, the present incumbent. (1989) Ursula Cornish was appointed assistant postmaster; Doreen Matheson and Pauline Getson, part-time clerks.

In the fall of 1981 the postal system was made a Crown Corporation by the Federal Government and renamed Canada Post; as a result, the O'Leary Office was upgraded from Grade Four to Grade Five. The price of stamps rose from seventeen to thirty cents

and instead of paying equal rates for both Canadian and American, the American stamps cost five cents more. The class system of mailing letters also changed. In future all private letters must be classed as first class and sealed - no choice between first and second.

The O'Leary Post Office is responsible for three routes: R.R. # 1 is the responsibility of Ellis and Annie Sweet who deliver mail to two hundred fifteen homes. On Route #2, Hilton and Ethel MacNevin make deliveries to one hundred sixty-one homes; and, since Heber Bryan's retirement, Carol Elliot has delivered to two hundred twenty-seven householders on Route #3.

Post Offices provide not only mail service but records history through its sale of stamps. At the same time it generates over one million dollars a year revenue from its sale of stamps.

Some of the more interesting stamps issued in the past were: Lucy Maud Montgomery Stamp (1975), Royal Canadian Legion Stamp, Commonwealth Jubilee Stamp (1973), P.E.I. Stamp (1873), and the Charlottetown Stamp (1969).

Members of the Post Office staff over the years include: Ian Strang, Ursula Cornish, Pauline Getson (part-time), Linda Adams (casual), Norma Lewis (casual), Leila Lynch (part-time), and Pauline Peters (part-time).

Early couriers were Winnifred Brooks and George Buchanan, Sr. (R.R.#1), Herbert Dennis, Scott Buchanan (R.R. #2), and Milton Smallman, Jr. (R.R. #2) and Hugh MacPhee (R.R. #3).

The following is a list of Postmasters: Robert Frost, 1877 - 1903; Robert Ellis, Sr., 1903 - 1911; D.D. Campbell, 1911 - 1920; Charles Dennis, 1920 - 1927; Alvin Webb, 1927 - 1958; Lloyd Matthews, 1958 - 1980; and Ian Strang, 1980 to present.

TELEPHONE

The telephone was invented in 1867 by Alexander Graham Bell but it wasn't until 1900 that the first telephone became available. Since 1867 tremendous improvements have been made to the style, operation, and methods used in telephone technology.

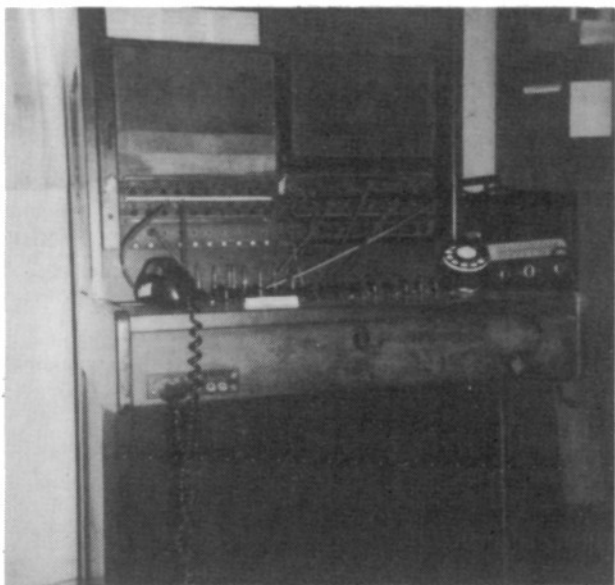
The first telephone that was in use in the homes here consisted of an oak box which held batteries to power the telephone. A crank to ring a phone number was on the right side of the box, the receiver on the left hung on a cradle on which a few feet of telephone wire was attached to the batteries. To make a phone call, the receiver was removed from the cradle and placed to the ear. Should someone be talking on the line they could be heard and you could listen in or hang up and try later. A mouthpiece into which one spoke was

attached to the box on front. The receiver was removed and the crank turned completely around for a long ring and a half turn for a short ring. Phone numbers were, for example, two long and three short rings. The rings were heard all along the line and, of course, everyone knew who was receiving a call.

The rural party line was more than just a feature of early telephone service. It was an institution all by itself. It could be both a blessing and a curse, however, the party line helped bring scattered and otherwise isolated people together in times of crisis, celebration and grief. "Listening in" was both recreation and a diversion - the thing to do. Tuning in on other people's private lives was a means of starting the day right - a day full of gossip which provided continual entertainment for many. It was as good as any soap opera of the modern age.



Telephone Office - right



Switchboard from telephone office.

The first telephone in use in O'Leary was at a toll station in the home of Alfred Adams and the first telephone office was operated by Mrs. Thomas Turner in her home on Main Street. By late 1910 a small switchboard was installed in the home of Mrs. Allie MacLennan where it remained until 1924; it was then moved to the home of Alfred Adams.



Mrs. Watson Silliker

In 1928 a much improved O'Leary Telephone office was built on a small lot of land east of the A.J. Matheson Drugstore, and Mrs. Arthur Smallman (Lula Duncan) was appointed agent. She remained in that role until 1938 when Mrs. Wilfred MacAusland (Elsie O'Brien) took over the position. In 1943 Mrs. Clayton Stetson (Jean Kennedy) became the company agent. In 1945 Mrs. Ruth Silliker took on the job of chief operator. She was a legend in her own right by performing her duties with outstanding dedication and congeniality. In 1963, upon her retirement, "Ruth Watson" Silliker was replaced by Mrs. Jean Collicutt who was in charge of both local and long distance service as well as the collection of customer accounts.

The following is a list of operators who were employed at the switchboard office in O'Leary: Mrs. Allie MacLennan, Mrs. Alfred Adams, Lulu Duncan - Smallman, Helen Adams - Hobbs, Elsie O'Brien - MacAusland, Annie O'Brien - Kirk, Una Brooks - Glennie, Marjorie Sharpe - Phillips, Jean Kennedy - Stetson, Hazel "Toots" Gorrill - Brooks, Mae Wedlock - Gorrill, Ruth Gay - Silliker, Ruth Cooke, Ursula Woodside - Cornish, Jean Gottel - Collicutt, Eileen Saunders - Gallant, Jean Manderson - Webb, Iva Silliker - MacDonald, Millicent Crozier - Silliker, Opal Silliker, Goldie MacDougall - Easter, Elva Caseley - Cornish, Catherine Williams - MacDonald, Carolyn Tuplin - Murray, Mona Collicutt - Silliker, Yvonne Blanchard - Gallant, Ferne Oulton - Harvie, Rose Gaudet - MacDonald, Dorothy Wood - Rodgerson, Linda Gray - Rogers, Rena Ramsay - Smith, Lulu Gay - DesRoches.

"Central," or "the operator" as she was called, was friendly and obliging to all people. She might be asked by a patron on leaving home to keep a record of any calls, keep an eye on the place, advise the mailman of his or her absence and tell the time of day. "Central" knew everyone's number, address, and habits - both good and bad; she ordered your telephone, sent notice for payment, and collected the telephone account.

In 1961 the dial system came into effect and rural telephone companies were taken over by The Island Telephone Company. On March 18, 1968, the Automatic Dial System came into operation and the O'Leary telephone office was closed. On that Monday evening the telephone rang in the mayor's office in Summerside. The Mayor, George Key, was chairing a meeting of the Town Council and briefly adjourned the meeting to accept a call from Stanley MacDonald, Chairman of the O'Leary Village Commission. This was a very important phone call for the residents of O'Leary since it was the first official long distance call over the new dial system and the first

call placed over the new microwave link. Since then all the business covering Prince County is handled from the Summerside telephone office.

The Island Telephone Company keeps updating the system as improvements are discovered providing Prince Edward Island with very satisfactory service. In 1992 there are cellular telephones, fax machines that send a facsimile of pictures etc. from the machine through the telephone system, and Vista 200 (the most modern telephone system in use on P.E.I. today).

EARLY MOTOR VEHICLES

According to recollections of two senior citizens in the community, the first cars to be seen on the streets of O'Leary around 1918 were owned by Ed Matthews and Doctor Champion. It is noted that Ed Matthews drove a Model T Ford and Dr. Champion, a Dodge. At that time the price for each car was approximately five hundred dollars. Gas could be purchased for \$0.25 per gallon. The first lady on P.E.I. to own a driver's license was Florence (Bernard) Kennedy.

The first truck to travel in and around O'Leary was owned by Kennedy's Company. This truck was an International purchased around 1918.



1930 Ford Convertible owned by Stan Dumville.



1929 Model A owned by Stan Dumville.



1930 Ford Convertible owned by Herbie Vatcher.



Buick owned by Herbie Vatcher



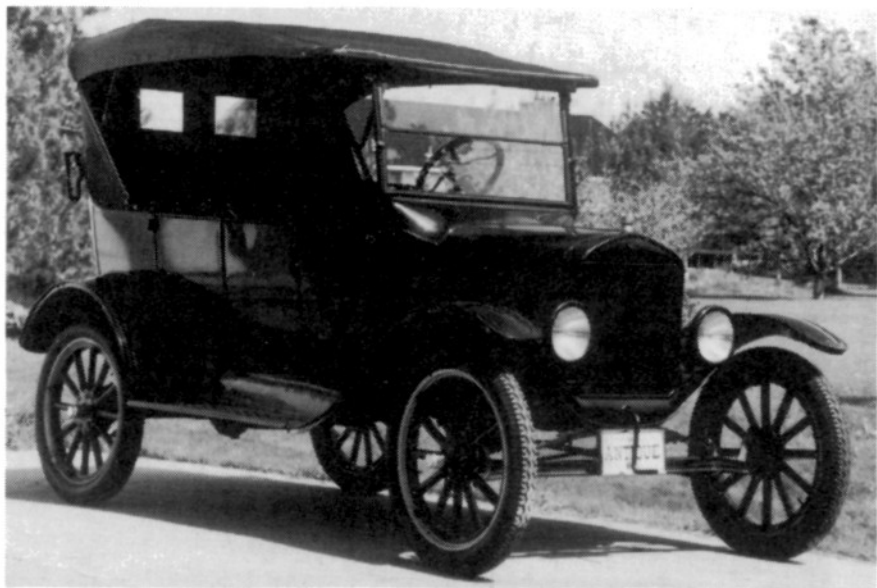
Ford Deluxe Stan Dumville



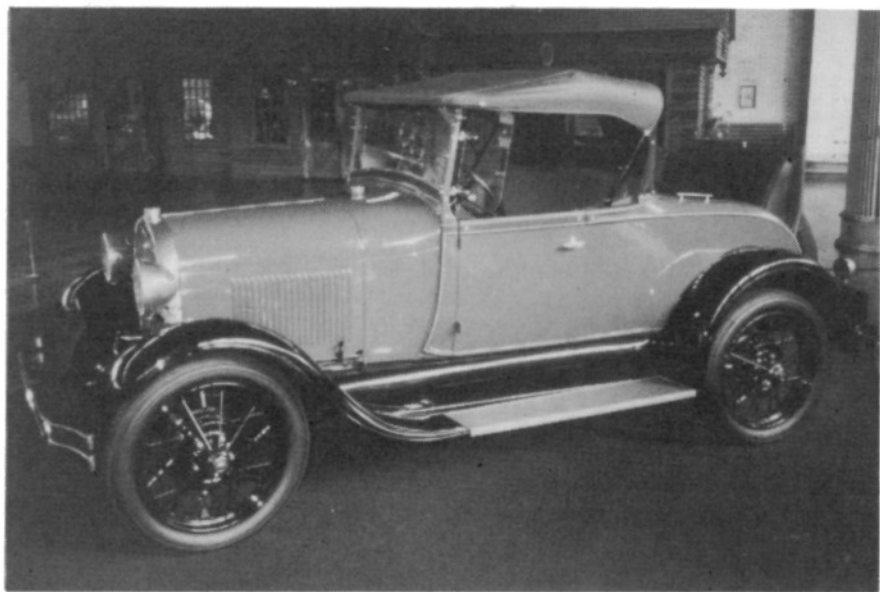
1941 Chev owned by Stan Dumville.



Ford Coupe owned by Stan Dumville.



1923 Model T Touring.



1928 Model A Roadster owned by Stan Dumville.



Model T Ford, 1919-20, Kerosene lights, Bernard's car bought from Will Dennis. George Bernard standing, Ray behind wheel, Lewis in back seat.

O'LEARY

*In the village of O'Leary
 Back in nineteen twenty-one,
 Somebody told me
 There was a lot of fun.
 It seems that on Main Street
 A group of people stood around,
 When all of a sudden
 Up the street came a Model T Ford.
 The men had a hard time
 Holding their horses down,
 And the ladies just stood there
 Wearing a frown.
 Couldn't you see them
 In this day and age,
 For the luxuries we have now
 Would fill many a page.
 This is just one event
 That happened in our grampa's time,
 But in sixty some odd years
 Things are still on a climb.*

BUS SERVICE

It is not known for sure when the first bus service began to O'Leary, perhaps in the late 1930's. It is, however, known that the first bus stop was at Jack Pate's Meat Market. Here tickets could be purchased and parcels dropped off. Later bus stops were situated at Mrs. Angus MacKenzie's, Marne Kennedy's, John Wedlock's, and the present bus stop is located at John MacLean's Petro Canada Service Station.

In the mid 1940's bus service was available from Tignish to Souris seven days a week. It is interesting to note that in 1946 IMT had five buses making the run from Charlottetown to Tignish six days per week as follows: one travelled from Charlottetown to Richmond, another from Charlottetown to Portage, a third to O'Leary and two from Charlottetown to Tignish.

In the 1970's bus service to the area was discontinued for a time, however, Island Transit Ltd. began service in 1976 and continues to operate between Tignish and Charlottetown on a daily basis.

Following is a list of bus drivers from the area that have helped over the years to bring bus service to O'Leary: Roland Turner, Marne Wedlock, Loman Harris and Leroy Rogerson.

Chapter 3

Early Establishments

BLACKSMITH SHOPS

Since farm operations are now completely mechanized and horses have been replaced by power-driven machinery, the blacksmith trade, once vital especially in a rural community, has all but disappeared.

We are indebted to Robert Arsenault from Howlan, one of the last blacksmiths in Prince County, for an insight into the work of a smithy.

Some of the equipment used by a smith are a forge, an anvil, bellows, various clamps, a large hammer and a barrel of water. The forge is filled with hard coal; the bellows keeps fuel burning steadily by forced draft under the fire bed. The iron or metal held by clamps is plunged into the coals. When red hot it is hammered on the anvil to the desired size and shape, then immediately plunged into water to contract to its original size and to temper it.

To make a circular piece of iron for a wooden wheel, the inside of the wheel is measured with a sliding disk called a "traveller". The iron is heated, then pounded into shape on a large cone and both ends welded. It is then placed around the wheel and plunged into water immediately to contract the iron and to ensure a perfect fit.

Different kinds of welding is also a part of a blacksmith's trade. Robert considered welding done by a blacksmith more durable than that done with an electric welder.

The greater part of a smith's work in earlier times consisted of horse shoeing and repairing transportation equipment such as wagon wheels, wagon axles and making horse shoes.

According to archival information, six blacksmiths operated in O'Leary before 1900, but the location of operations for most of them is unknown. They were Melvin MacAusland, Herman Adams, William Hayes, J.M. MacDonald, Hiram Woodside, and William Ellis (1899-1908).

R.H. (Herbert) Jelley built his shop across the street from Brian Willis' store in 1912. He did iron work of Jelley Bros. and general blacksmith work for the public for many years.

Samuel Lidstone came originally from Ellerslie, later from Mt. Royal. Soon after his house in Mt. Royal burned (c. 1928) he moved his shop to O'Leary in front of the Livery Stable.

After R.H. Jelley's death, his nephew George Jelley, who had earlier learned the trade from his uncle, returned to O'Leary from Biddeford and took over the business. He moved the shop to the present location of Wayne Harris' house, across from the rink. When he retired he sold his shop to Clarence MacKinnon.

Dan Saunders bought Samuel Lidstone's shop in 1943. He plied his trade for ten years, then discontinued the blacksmith business to operate a grocery store.

Frank Gallant bought Dan's shop in 1953, but remained in the business for only a few years. Changing times decreased the need for the services of a blacksmith in O'Leary. Frank now resides in Mass., U.S.A.

HON. WM. H. DENNIS

Mr. Dennis from O'Leary was first elected MLA for 2nd Prince in 1915 and continued in office until 1943, a total of almost thirty years - a political career unique in the history of Canada. He served under nine premiers. By trade, Mr. Dennis was a carriage maker and artisan. In the O'Leary area, W.H. is remembered for his generosity to all in need. He promoted garden plots for fishermen and many other community projects during the depression years. Mr. Dennis was appointed Minister of Agriculture in 1936 and continued in that position until 1943. In Western Prince County the name of W.H. Dennis is still known and recognized as one who contributed greatly to both his home community and his province.

CARRIAGE SHOPS

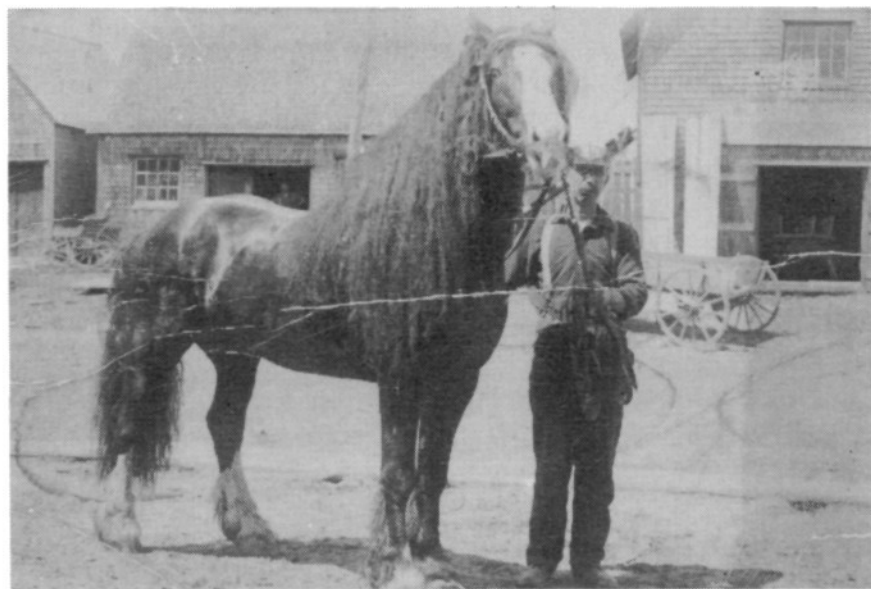


Hon. Wm. H. Dennis

One of the first major businesses carried on in O'Leary was one of necessity. Nearly a hundred years ago there was great need for horse-drawn vehicles including truck wagons, carriages, and jaunting sleighs. Shops, opened to construct those local modes of transportation, thrived for years.

The pioneers in this business were the Jelley brothers, John and Swabey, who opened the first carriage shop in O'Leary in 1898. The firm was known as Jelley Bros. Their shop was located on the present site of Brian Willis' store. The brothers shared in the constructing and repairing of vehicles. Swabey did the painting and stripping; John

did the woodworking. R. Herbert Jelley was employed to do the iron work which included putting iron rims around the wheels, bands around the hubs and shoes on runners. He also aligned steering "set-ups" as well as other necessary iron work involved in constructing the various vehicles.



RH (Big Herb) used to help Jelly Bros. with smithing. This is Herb, with his stallion. In back left corner is part of hearse shop, centre - blacksmith shop - rt. carriage shop behind it was a casket shop. Picture with wagon and men. Behind wagon is blacksmith shop and to rt. carriage shop.

About 1912, R.H. Jelley built his own shop across the street from the carriage shop where he continued to do iron work for Jelly Bros. and blacksmith work for the general public for many years. Art Boulter and Thomas Costain also did iron work for a short time.

After John's death in 1930, Swabey carried on with repair work. Claude did the iron work.

The Jelley wagons and sleighs were much in demand and became very popular - the favourite of many.

William H. Dennis also ran a carriage shop in O'Leary which was located on the north side of Main Street. After purchasing the carriage shop, W.H. Dennis had it moved from the north side of the road to the south side, approximately where the Co-op store is today. Herb Jelley's blacksmith shop was in the near vicinity; he did all the

iron work for Mr. Dennis' carriage shop.

Before opening his business in O'Leary, W.H. Dennis worked in the United States at the Quadhope Carriage Shop in order to earn enough money to come to O'Leary and build his house. He travelled back to O'Leary every year to work on his house - it was built in "bits and pieces".

In the early years of business, the Dennis Carriage Shop constructed only light wagons; but, as time went on and demand grew, Mr. Dennis was forced to expand his line of carriages. He then began building truck wagons, jaunting sleighs, wood sleighs, and pung sleighs.

The first step in constructing a sleigh was cutting the pieces of wood to the proper measurements and then joining them together. The wood was then planed and sand-papered. Each sleigh was given two or three coats of paint and then two coats of varnish. The new sleigh was then rubbed in a back and forth motion with a felt pad and pumice stone to polish it. The last step in the process was to apply the finishing coat of varnish. The carriage shop employed seven men; the blacksmith shop employed two.

Black was the most popular colour for jaunting sleighs but people had a choice of three different types, depending on who manufactured them, and on the type of running shaft. The Jelley sleigh was wider at the back than most and had a bent shaft. The Dennis sleighs were similar to the Jelley sleigh except they were narrower at the back. The Francis sleigh was narrow and ran on a straight shaft. The team horse wagon could haul four tons and the three team wagon could haul seven tons, but very few three-horse wagons were constructed. A single truck wagon was sold for \$40, a double truck wagon for \$60.

When business began to slack off, Mr. Dennis closed his carriage shop to begin his illustrious career as a politician.

COBBLERS

In the days before mass production and automated assembly, many articles now made by machine had to be painstakingly and meticulously made by hand. With the onslaught of modern technology, many trades and occupations have disappeared or almost disappeared. One such occupation was shoemaking.

O'Leary had many men skilled in the art of shoemaking and/or shoe repairing, but little information is available about these early tradesmen. The 1880 Atlas tells us that at the turn of the century, John Frost, the postmaster, made shoes in his home as did Thomas

B.E. Ellis and Paddy Riley around 1910. Fidele Arsenault repaired shoes in the rear of Philip Evans' harness shop on the present site of the Credit Union.



Harry Turner and family L. Roland, Harry, Florence, Lorne.

About 1915, Philip sold his shop to Jack Burns. In turn he sold to Claude Clow who did some shoe repair in his harness shop.

In the 1930's David Inglis, James MacLeod, Lawson MacDonald, and Harry Turner all did shoe repair and/or made shoes.

The most recent cobbler Percy Vey, born in London, England, came to Ontario with his family when eight years old. In 1943, he moved to O'Leary and opened "Percy Vey's Shoe Repair" on Ellis Avenue. Later he moved the shop to his lot directly behind the Baptist Church. He charged one dollar (\$1.00) to sole a pair of shoes, twenty-five cents (\$0.25) for a shine and ten cents (\$0.10) to sharpen skates.

After twenty years in business, he took a full time job with H.B. Willis Inc., but continued to do shoe repair work in his spare time. In 1964 he returned to Ontario.

COOPER SHOP

James Adams was O'Leary's only cooper. Around the turn of the century he carried on his trade of making barrels in a small building behind Pate's store (the original store). In those days when barrels were much in demand for pickling fish and meat and for shipping

many kinds of food, a cooper was considered a very important tradesman in a community.

To make barrels the cooper cut curved strips of wood, called "staves", which formed the sides of the barrel. He then hammered heated iron hoops in place over the staves. When cooled and contracted the hoops brought and held the staves very tightly together - a tedious process, but a cooper knew his craft well. Few barrels made in those days allowed moisture to escape.

EGG CIRCLE

Before World War I, Walter Lidstone was in charge of the Egg Circle in O'Leary. He worked in a small building between the railroad tracks and Turner's store. Farmers brought in their eggs to be graded and were paid according to grade. The process of grading was called "candeling". Eggs were held in front of a battery-powered light or candle to check for foreign or undesirable objects. To determine the size or grade, a board with holes of graduated sizes was used to determine whether eggs were large, medium, small or pullet size. When in doubt, the egg was weighed.

When the war broke out, Walter enlisted and served in the Veterans' Guard.

"EGG MAN" - JAMES MURRAY

James Murray was born in Harmony in 1893. When a small child, he moved with his family to a farm in Fortune Cove on Mill River. In 1914, he married Eliza B. Hardy.

In 1932 James began an egg route and became known as the local "egg man". He travelled by horse and wagon picking up cases of eggs from farmers along his route and delivering them to Turner's Store and later to Harold Jelley's Store in O'Leary to be graded and sold. At that time, eggs were graded by holding them up to a light to inspect their quality. Graded eggs sold from eight to twelve cents a dozen.

Mr. Murray's egg route was something like this: Day 1 - Fortune Cove, Cascumpeque, Kelly Road then home. Day 2 - O'Leary. Day 3 - Roxbury, Lot 6 Point, West Devon then home. Day 4 - O'Leary.

He would pick up an average of two hundred dozen eggs per week. He received payment for the eggs at the store and paid the producers on his return trip. His commission was one and one-half cents per dozen.



James and Belle Murray.

James often picked up groceries for his customers at the store, paid for them out of their egg money, took out his commission of ten per cent, and paid the balance to the producers on his return trip.

After ten years (in 1942) when egg supply was dwindling, James decided to discontinue this service and turn his full attention to farming.

LIVERY STABLE

Edgar Matthews was born in Baltic, Prince Edward Island. In 1910 he came to O'Leary and started a livery stable behind Matheson's drug store. He performed a very useful and much needed delivery service for the people of the village, in those days before motor cars and trucks. Besides stabling and caring for the horses he delivered freight and express goods to the various business places from the C.N.R. station.



Ed Matthew's Livery stable and little tire shop. Post office and public health office rear of flower shop.

Ed was one of the first in the village to own a motor car. He was a very private person and remained a bachelor until in his 70's when he married Eliza (Haywood) Campbell (Bob Campbell's mother) in Elmsdale and moved to that area.

The old livery stable still stands on its original site - a stark reminder of "horse and carriage days". The building is now owned by Raeford MacLean.

Later Ed Matthews operated a tire business in a small building located on Willow Ave.

MILLINERS

In earlier years women were not considered fashionably dressed unless they were wearing a hat and gloves in public. Making and trimming hats was an important business, and milliners were much in demand. In O'Leary most of the larger stores had a millinery department.

Milliners were kept busy all year creating decorative hats in all shapes and sizes and for all occasions. Spring and fall were especially busy times, but very exciting for it was then "millinery openings"

took place - some lasted for a week. It was then that style-conscious women invaded the shops - some eager to choose from the spectacular display the hat that was not only becoming, but the one that added that special touch and best complemented her new spring (or fall) outfit; others brought last year's creation to be rejuvenated with fresh flowers, new ribbons or maybe dried fruit.



*Mae MacLennan Gorrill, Helen Williams.
Helen's sister Bea Matheson, made the hats,
1920.*

Turner's had a large millinery department. Some of the milliners who worked there were: Selina (Campbell) Matheson, Mae Purdy, Jean Hanson, and Beatrice (Williams) Matheson. Ruth (Carruthers) Dennis worked as a milliner in a section of D.D. Campbell's store. Robert Ellis (Jr.) had a large millinery department.

Fashion revolves in a cycle. Hats are making a comeback.

TAILOR SHOPS

In the late 1800's clothing stores, as we know them today, were nonexistent. Yard goods could be obtained at most general stores, but all clothing had to be made by hand. Making a man's full suit was a major task; so tailor shops became operative. Most shops specialized in making men's clothing, but a few served the needs of women in the community as well.

William Jelley, O'Leary's first tailor, made only men's clothing. He charged four dollars for a man's suit, fifty cents for a vest and twenty-five cents for cutting out a pair of trousers (circa 1890). William died at the early age of twenty-six years.



John and Alberta Williams October, 1956.

Ewen MacLennan, another of O'Leary's early tailors, made clothing for both men and women over one hundred years ago. His shop was in the front room of his home. The house is the present day home of the late Cecil and Eva Dennis. Mr. MacLennan used twenty pound irons to press the heavy material used in making men's clothing and ammonia as a cleaning fluid. He trained many young apprentices. Unfortunately, these young men moved to other places and established businesses of their own; as a result, when Mr. MacLennan died in 1905 there was no one to carry on his business.

In 1911, John Albert Williams moved to O'Leary from Summerside where he had been employed at the McCullough Tailor Shop. He purchased a building originally located directly behind the railway tracks towards Coleman. Later it was hauled to the present site of the Batt and MacRae building - a bit nearer the street. Displayed on a cement block in front of the shop were a giant pair of scissors and a plane (iron) - his advertisements.

Johnny specialized in making men's clothing. His suits sold for eight dollars each. By 1918, business was thriving. Soldiers were placing many orders for clothing. While recuperating from an ankle injury, Johnny's daughter, Jennie, helped her father in the shop. She also trained her sister, Myra, to be her replacement.

In 1921, Jennie gave up her salary of three dollars a week in the shop to become Mrs. Lester Waite. Jennie relates there were less than perfect working conditions in a tailor shop in the early nineteen hundreds. The hours were long and the ammonia vapours strong. The girls were advised by Dr. Champion to get out in the fresh air as much as possible.

Johnny eventually became lame from sitting with legs crossed sewing for many long hours. He died in 1957 and the business died with him. The original tailor shop was moved to Jennie's backyard in Springfield West.

Robert Hardy had a tailor shop in the village (circa 1918). His shop was located where the Co-op store is today. Robert built the house which David Ferguson now owns. Later he moved his business to Alberton. As there were no dress shops in O'Leary at that time, women had to buy material and make their own dresses or hire a seamstress.

THE TANNERY

Thomas Turner operated a tannery behind the present location of Texaco Service Station. He made leather from cowhide using a very simple but effective technique. First, he dug a large hole in the ground near his tannery, filled it with water, then added tan bark and salt. The hides were left to soak in this solution for a specified time to loosen the hair. They were then taken out, the hair scraped off and sold to plasterers. The tannin in the bark helped to loosen the hair and acted as an astringent. The hides were then sold to shoe-makers and harness makers.



Thomas Turner and Mrs. Turner.

Thomas Turner's son, Harry, worked in Charlottetown and learned to be a harness maker at Hardy's Shop. After working at the Great West Saddlery Company in Calgary, Alberta, for some years, he returned to O'Leary in 1929 and set up a harness shop. It was located where O'Leary Auto Parts is today. The shop was hauled in from Fortune Cove.

Harry ordered his leather in four-foot long rolls from Sackville, New Brunswick. He made harness and horse collars which he stuffed by hand. One of the pieces of equipment he used was a large wooden bench which was called a horse. The holes in the leather were made with an awl and the thread was waxed so it would slip through the holes more easily. The thread was sewn with a blunt needle and Mr. Turner did all his own work. He did not make shoes but he repaired them.

He plied his trade until shortly before his death in 1946.

TAXI SERVICE

In the 1920's when O'Leary was considered the centre of activity in West Prince and business was booming, a few men supplemented their regular income by taxiing. Most of their customers were commercial travellers, who came by train and needed transportation to

and from hotels and country stores in West Prince where they picked up orders and returned to a hotel for the night or to board the train for home.

Among the early taxi drivers were James Adams, Edgar Matthews and George Palmer – all of whom either drove the agents or rented their horses and carriages (sleighs) to them.

Wanting to keep abreast with the times, Ed Matthews purchased an automobile and was the first person to operate an auto taxi service in O'Leary. Avarad Jelley was the driver. Reports from seniors tell us Ed drove "locals" to the English "corner" for twenty-five cents return trip.

Later taxi drivers were Bloise Ellis, Wendell Turner, Auban Wedge, Marne Wedlock and Herbert Riley – all of whom operated from a taxi stand next door to the present day Youth Center.

ALFRED ADAMS - JEWELLER

Alfred Adams was born in the Kensington - Margate area. When he came to O'Leary (circa 1910), he bought a building from P.N. Pate next door to Pate's store. One side of the front he rented to the Bank of New Brunswick; in the other, he operated a store where he sold jewellery, candy, and knickknacks. The back part and upstairs provided living quarters for the Adams family.

After the Bank of New Brunswick amalgamated with the Bank of Nova Scotia, it relocated; the space vacated was then rented to the Post Office.

After Alfred's death in 1936, Mrs. Adams and family, Keith and Helen, operated the telephone switchboard in their home for a number of years.

Following her mother's death, Helen sold the building to Marne Kennedy who rented the space to Elton Gillcash reserving space in front for the town office. This space was later used as a bus terminal for a time.

About 1970, Marne had a seventy-seven foot extension built onto the back, and completely renovated inside and out, making spacious and comfortable living quarters for his family on the second floor level. The first floor contained Al's Beauty Salon and Marne's combination grocery and sporting goods store until 1977 when he sold the business to John and Lloydia Wedlock. In 1989 the property was purchased by Donald and Beverley Murphy, renovated and now operates as a convenience store.

D.D. CAMPBELL-GENERAL STORE

Between 1906 and 1911 D.D. Campbell operated a store near the present location of Stedman's. Chief items sold were groceries, dry goods, tobacco, fruit and confectionery.

After the store burned, David established a small hardware business on the north side of the street in the building he had earlier used as Post Office. Here he sold machine "extras", car parts, etc. In the late 1930's he had the store moved across the street to the present site of the Credit Union, an extension built onto the back, and a new front added. Here he and daughter, Birdie, operated a grocery business until ill health forced him to retire.

After her father's death, October 30, 1944, Birdie carried on the business alone until she was joined by her husband, Herbert Riley in 1947. Together they carried on the business for the next eight years. The store was rented from 1955 to 1965. The Rileys moved to St. Eleanors in 1959. Birdie sold the business to the Credit Union in June, 1969.

NELSON DENNIS - MEAT MARKET

After being an employee of Jack Pate's meat market for several years, Nelson Dennis decided to venture into a meat business of his own. In 1942 he opened his market between Jack Matthew's barber shop and the railroad track. He bought animals - chiefly cows and poultry from local farmers but raised his own pigs to supply his market.

During the war, Nelson supplied the Mt. Pleasant Airport with meat. When the war was over his son Herbie went into partnership with his father (1946). In Nelson's early days of business, bologna sold for twenty cents a pound, steak for fifty-nine cents a pound. In 1955 Nelson closed his market, but continued to peddle meat in the West Prince area for several years.



Nelson Dennis

ROBERT ELLIS, JR. - GENERAL MERCHANT

Robert Ellis', Jr. general store was built in 1907 at a cost of \$6,000.00. It was constructed by Harry Williams on the north side of the street. The four corners of the store were built on "knees" - tree stumps that were pulled out of the ground and put into place. It was a two-storey building and had a large basement. On the first floor there was a millinery department; behind this, men's suits, boots, and shoes were kept and sold. In the front were dry good and groceries. One half of the top storey was a wall paper department; the other half was used as office space. At the back of the store was a storage warehouse where hardware was kept. Behind the store there was a horse shed large enough to house ten horses.

"Little Bob", as he was familiarly known, also owned a ware-

house near the railroad tracks where he stored bulk grain; this was bagged and shipped by rail. This building was moved and later owned by Charles Willis. Robert also bought and sold horses. His son, Clifford, recalls that at one time his father shipped out three carloads of horses.

In 1911 the Ellis store was destroyed by fire. George Johnson and Will Boulter's grocery store caught first, then Kennedy's store and from there the fire spread to the Ellis store. There was little insurance on the Ellis store at the time. Over \$30,000.00 was lost in stock alone. Total loss was estimated at \$50,000.00.

GRIFFIN STUDIO - PHOTOGRAPHY

Martin Griffin came to O'Leary in the 1900's. He was O'Leary's first and only resident photographer. His studio stood on the property now owned by Rankin MacKinnon. Martin Griffin booked private sittings at his studio in much the same fashion as professional photographers do today. He attended picnics and took Tin Types of people. These were such a novelty people gladly paid the small price Mr. Griffin asked. The studio weathered the elements for many years and remained a famous land mark at the western approach to the village until it was demolished in 1982.

Mr. Martin Griffin also taught school in several outlying districts. He walked to and from school and even when teaching as far away as West Point, he always walked to his home in O'Leary each day after work.

Their daughter, Addie, who married Preston Thompson, resided in O'Leary for many years.

HOTELS

Once the railway was built providing transportation and a means of travelling long distances, the population increased. Many new businesses were established and the village soon became a thriving centre. Over night lodging became a necessity and hotels sprang up.

The Willow Hotel

One of these fine hotels once situated in O'Leary was owned and operated by Mr. and Mrs. James Barclay. The Barclays, originally from Ellerslie, were among the community's earliest settlers. When Mrs. Barclay journeyed to her new home in O'Leary among her valued personal possessions were a few willow slips. Upon her arrival, she planted them around the house - hence the name Willow Hotel.



Part of the original Willow Hotel (now the home of Therin and Shirley Ellis).

Compared to today's standards, the Willow Hotel was a large house; it contained two parlours, a smoker room, a dining room, a kitchen and several large bedrooms. The guests gathered for their evening entertainment in the smoker room. It was in this room where the men enjoyed their evening smoke, played cards, and discussed the events of the day. Home cooked meals were served at the Willow Hotel.

This hotel was eventually bought by Edward Gorrill who came from Northam. Many of the guests at the hotel were commercial travellers and needed only overnight lodging. At this time, O'Leary was the centre of business and trade for the West Prince area and travellers found it a convenient stop over from which they could continue next day to various other centres such as Alberton and Tignish.

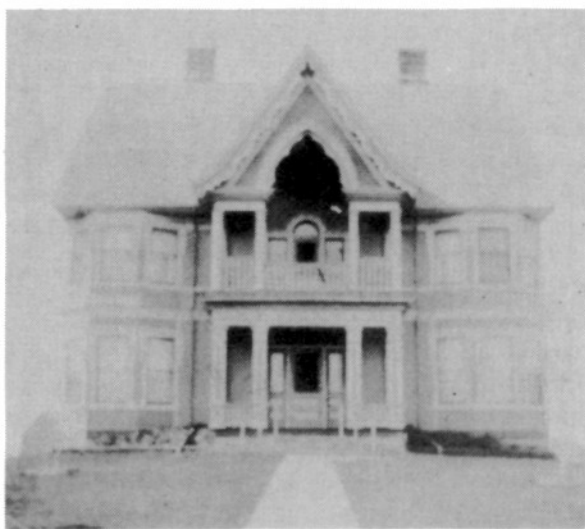
In the beginning the guests of Edward Gorrill's hotel would get off the train, leave their baggage in a storage room at the station, and walk across the fields to the hotel; but, as business began to prosper, Mr. Gorrill began to meet his guests at the train and transport them by horse and carriage or sleigh to their place of lodging.

The hotel has since been divided to provide two homes. One part on the original site on Barclay Road is owned by Thiren and Shirley

Ellis; the other part presently provides a home for Beverley (Boates) Makin and her family.

THE MATTHEW HOTEL

The Matthew Hotel was another of the numerous hotels set up to accommodate the many visitors to O'Leary. The original house was built by Henry Willis Turner about 1910. The architectural structure of the house was magnificent to say the least. This is evident from the picture provided by the late Tom Matthew of Glover's Shore, Summerside, Prince Edward Island, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Vernon Matthew.



Matthew Hotel - 1923

The house itself had eight bedrooms, two living rooms, a back and front stairway, and separate quarters for the servants. Each bedroom on the third floor was perfectly square and each had a separate closet. All the closets were connected by a hidden passageway which traversed the perimeter of the building making it possible to travel from one room to another unseen. The house also contained three marble fireplaces - one in each of the living rooms and one in the master bedroom. The living rooms were separated by large sliding wooden doors. There were two separate staircases; one in the front of the house for guests and one in the rear for the servants. Two of the

former employees of the Matthew Hotel were Blanche MacGregor and Dora Ellis.

Many of the guests were salesmen or buyers and stayed only overnight; but, on occasion hockey teams from Alberton, Ellerslie and Wellington would stay there. Home cooked meals were always served.

Vernon Matthew moved to Summerside to work as office manager for the Silver Fox Breeders Association in 1932 and sold the house to H.A. Jelley. The hotel which was located where the Irving Oil Garage stands today was burned in the fall of 1944.

THE ORIENT HOTEL

Major and Empress Howatt began their business career in Coleman where they ran a general store and the Post Office. In 1915, they moved to O'Leary for they believed business opportunities would be more abundant in the village. They bought the house that is presently owned by David Ferguson and began a small hotel. The couple named the hotel the Orient – a unique and appealing name. Their business soon became too large to accommodate all of the clientele so the Howatts hauled their former Coleman store to the site where Herbie Strang's house now stands. Renovation of the old store began in 1918 at which time a back part was added; and, in no time at all, the Orient Hotel was back in business at a new location. The new hotel consisted of a parlour, a smoker, a large dining room, a kitchen, and many bedrooms. Overnight accommodation was provided for travellers and to any boarders who were in need of temporary lodging. All guests were served home cooked meals.

The Howatts had a boardwalk constructed from the Orient to the train station. Local boys and sons of the Howatt family were employed to carry baggage to and from the train station.

The most distinctive element of the Howatt Hotel was the entertainment provided by the family for their guests. All of the family were accomplished violinists; their daughter, Helen, was a pianist. Major Howatt would step dance night after night for his guests.

In 1929, the Orient Hotel was sold to Harold MacLennan. It was with regret that the Howatts had to sell their business which had been their livelihood for so many years; but because of Mrs. Howatt's poor health they were obliged to sell. They moved to Charlottetown.



Orient Hotel. Later Queen Hotel.

THE QUEEN HOTEL

Harold MacLennan bought the Orient Hotel in 1929. He immediately changed the name to the Queen Hotel in order to signify that the hotel was under new management. The Queen had many guests in the few short years it was in operation. The majority of guests were agents who stayed only one or two nights. Their purpose for coming to O'Leary was to supply the stores with goods. They would also take orders which they would fill on their return trip.

Harold MacLennan employed four maids who were aided in the cooking department by Suzannah MacLennan, Harold's mother. The names of the employees were Loretta Arsenault, Jessie Moreshead, Helen Acorn, and Muriel MacNaught. When the Queen Hotel first became operative the price of overnight accommodation was four dollars.

In 1935, the Queen Hotel was completely destroyed by fire. The fire was so intense that Harold's mother, in her attempt to escape the flames, fell and broke her arm.

MACWILLIAM HOTEL

In 1915, Percy Turner had a home constructed to his specifications by Harry Williams who constructed many of the fine houses in O'Leary. In 1917, Percy Turner sold his home to James Malcolm MacWilliams and moved to Charlottetown. Later in life, he became

involved in civil politics; he was elected Mayor of Charlottetown for a short term.



From right Percy Turner's house in 1915 and sold to J.M. MacWilliam in 1917 and later the MacWilliam Hotel. Middle H.W. Turner house later Matthew Hotel left Lorne Silliker home.

In 1935, Lulu MacWilliam, wife of James Malcolm, decided to venture into the hotel business. Because the MacWilliam's house was large, it easily served the needs of home and hotel.

The clientele consisted of commercial travellers who stayed only two or three nights. The hotel could accommodate eight or ten people and would be completely filled by the first part of the week. The hotel was comfortable, well furnished and had a pleasing atmosphere. Guests would hurry off the night train in order to get a room at the hotel before it was filled to capacity. Along with the excellent accommodations, guests were served home cooked meals prepared and served with much care. Entertainment as such did not exist, but friendly conversation and a relaxing atmosphere provided a welcome release from the burdens of the day. The hotel was operative for approximately twelve years. It is now the home of Jean Pate and family.



Kennedy home, across from Co-op parking lot, built in 1915 by Neil MacDonald now owned by the Matheson family - once the Bell Hotel operated by Arthur F. Bell.

GEORGE JOHNSON'S BUSINESS

George Johnson was born in Margate, P.E.I., in the early 1900's. He married an O'Leary girl (Miss Johnson), and moved to O'Leary. He bought a building from Charles Lidstone, and opened and operated a combination grocery store, meat market, ice cream parlour, and restaurant. Incidentally, it was in this building that Charles Lidstone had opened O'Leary's first meat market before moving to Tyne Valley. George Johnson had the building moved from its original site near Matheson's Drug Store to somewhere in the vicinity of the Co-op Store. He apparently carried on a thriving business. His store was the first in O'Leary to sell ice-cream. This frozen delicacy, as well as the confectionery and other treats sold in this store were fondly remembered by Velda MacNeill, Claude Jelley, and Albert Noonan. George Johnson later sold his business to Mrs. Martin Griffin and moved to New Glasgow, Nova Scotia.

WILLIAM KENNEDY'S STORE

William Kennedy, son of Samuel Kennedy, was born in Breadalbane in 1885. Before coming to O'Leary, Bill operated a general store in Kensington. He later moved to Summerside and opened a drug store which he sold to J.E. Dalton. About 1910, he moved to O'Leary where he opened a general store located on the present site of Stedman's. John Noonan was hired as a clerk in the store and

worked in this capacity from 1911 to 1933. Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy (nee Florence Pate) lived above the store. Kennedy hired Neil MacDonald to build a house - presently Ann Matheson's home.



William S. Kennedy, Florence Eliza Turpel Pate married June 25, 1913.

In 1918 William died at the age of thirty-four. Mrs. Kennedy then sold the store to the company formed by William's three brothers - Samuel Jr., Murdock, and Jack. The business was renamed Kennedy & Kennedy. In 1920 George Sheen, who had just arrived from Saskatoon, was hired as manager. After Mr. Sheen moved to Summerside, Murdock's son, Ray, was manager until the store burned in 1933.

A few years later H.A. Jelley bought the site.

ANGUS MACKENZIE - JEWELLER

Angus MacKenzie was born in South Granville, P.E.I. As a young man, he spent four years in Waltham, Mass. U.S.A. where he learned the jewellery business. Upon returning to P.E.I., he set up a small business in Alberton before coming to O'Leary in 1928. His jewellery shop was located between the Youth Centre and Bloise Ellis' house. At the front of the shop, there was a double showcase window where he always kept an attractive display of top quality jewellery - a sphere in which Angus was very knowledgeable.

For a quarter of a century, Angus sold rings, watches, musical instruments, stationery, greeting cards, candy and novelties. Angus' daughter, Georgina Gallant, remembers fourteen carat gold wedding rings being sold for as little as five dollars.



Angus MacKenzie

He did his own watch repair. Many of his tools are still in Georgina's possession. He tested eyes and fitted glasses for one dollar. Angus married Willow B. Swan from Central New Annan, Nova Scotia. They had five children - James, Charles, Georgina, Marion and Barbara. After Angus' death on July 7, 1953, the shop was sold to Wallace Moase of Kensington who later moved it into his backyard in Kensington. This was the beginning of Moase's Jewellery.



Maple Ridge Dairy Farm

MAPLE RIDGE DAIRY FARM

- March 10/82 West Prince Graphic

It may seem strange that the introduction of cars caused a shortage of milk in the Village of O'Leary, but according to Velda MacNeill this is what led to the founding of the first milk delivery business.

Mrs. MacNeill and her husband, the late Ray MacNeill, started a milk route in 1926.

"Everyone in the village used to have a cow. When cars came in people began using their barns for the cars and there was no room left for cows," Mrs. MacNeill explained.

At the time there were few outlets where milk could be purchased and many people were travelling miles for their milk supply. A local physician, Dr. J.B. Champion, recognizing the need in the community, encouraged Mr. MacNeill to start a milk delivery service in O'Leary utilizing his own dairy farm. This was the beginning of Maple Ridge Dairy, the first milk delivery service in West Prince.

Mrs. MacNeill pointed out that the business was started in the midst of the depression, when milk sold for 8 cents a quart and cream sold for 10 cents for one half pint container. "Times were hard back then and it wasn't the type of business you could make a lot of money on," she said.



Fan (horse) Firth and Claire MacNeill, Verdun Elliott, in milk sleighs ready to go to O'Leary Circa 1944.

Mrs. MacNeill helped with the regular chores on the farm and it was also her job to look after books and keep the accounts in order. She said that she had learned to love farm life as a child when she helped her grandfather on the family farm in Knutsford.

Fifty-four families began buying milk from Maple Ridge Farms on a regular basis and through the years the MacNeill family gradually increased their Shorthorn dairy herd.

"When my husband died we had about seventy-six cattle in the barn, counting the beef. We usually kept twenty milk cows at a time and many of the cattle in our registered stock were prize winners," Mrs. MacNeill said.

Milk delivery was a daily service and from 1926 to 1950, hardly a day was missed regardless of the weather conditions. The milk was hauled by horse and wagon or by sleigh in the winter, and the bottled milk was stored in an ice box until delivery time.

Regular inspections of the milk and dairy facilities were a requirement in those days too and farm operations were monitored closely by the government.

Many men, upon returning from war, found themselves without a steady income. Some of the returned men would come to Maple Ridge Dairy Farm and work to pay for the family's milk supply for the month or for farm produce.

Mrs. MacNeill said that she always had a patch of strawberries and a good garden to look after on the two hundred acre farm.

However, in the evenings and during the winter months she enjoyed her time indoors and utilized her "spare" time making quilts and hooking rugs.



Ready to deliver milk circa 1944.

"I think we had more time than people have now. I've never regretted living on the farm and I've always worked outside when I could," she said.

After Mr. MacNeill passed away, Mrs. MacNeill continued to operate the milk delivery business until 1950 with help from her three daughters and two sons - Jean, Glenn, Lorraine, Firth and Claire.

The initiative and hard work demonstrated by the MacNeill couple many years ago, during the great depression, should be an inspiration to the people in West Prince.

JACK PATE'S MEAT MARKET



Jack Pate taken in 1965.

Jack Pate, son of Peter N. Pate and Margare MacLaughlan, was born in O'Leary in 1899. He was educated in the local school in Unionvale, and in Charlottetown at Union Commercial College. When he was nineteen, he opened a meat market between his father's store (P.N. Pate) and H.W. Turner's. He operated his own abattoir (locally known as "The Slaughterhouse"), where over the years he employed Nelson Dennis, Stephen and Peter Gotell, Trueman Pate (Jack's son), Arthur Gallant, and George MacDonald Sr. Jack obtained his bologna from Canada

Packers in Moncton and Saint John. There was no charge for bologna, liver, tongue, or heart and it was said "every kid that went by, Jack called in for a free slice of bologna".

The meat market had a back room that was the favoured meeting place of many of the older men in the village. After picking up their mail, they would often sit around the fire in winter, discuss politics, get involved in a challenging game of cards, or simply catch up on

recent happenings and enjoy the latest scandal.

For years, Jack's market served as the local SMT bus terminal. He was their agent and handled all ticket sales, parcels, and luggage.

In 1915, Jack married Ellie Harris of Knutsford and they had three children - Trueman, Florence (Mrs. Roland Turner), and Amy (Mrs. Stewart Gray).

In 1919, Jack joined the Independent Order of Oddfellows. At that time, George Sheen was secretary for the O'Leary or Verdon Branch; the membership fee was two dollars.



Ice blocks in front of the ice barn.

Jack was also an "ice man". In winter, usually on January 13th, as he considered it a lucky day - especially if it fell on a Friday, his men would go either to Leard's pond or to the Howlan pond for ice. They first marked off the ice in blocks approximately four feet by eighteen

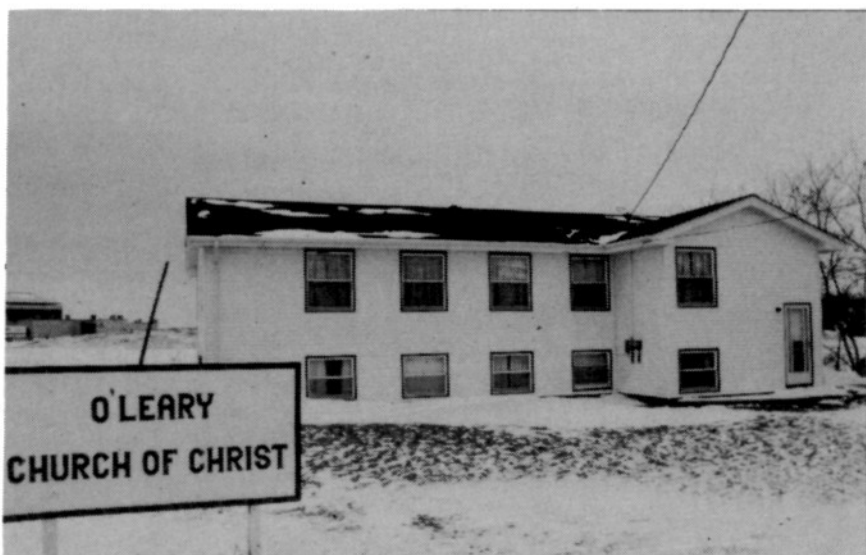
inches; then they sawed it and pulled the blocks up using ropes and tongs. Men would come from all over the O'Leary area; often twelve or fifteen teams were used in this operation. Men loaded the ice onto bobsleighs and hauled it to the ice house behind the meat market (an aside, proper ice houses were built inside out). There the blocks were piled twelve feet high and banked with sawdust. In early summer, the blocks were pulled out, the sawdust was washed off, and the large blocks cut into smaller chunks, that could be handled with ice tongs. These chunks were delivered to local customers' houses and placed into their ice boxes. All this for ten cents a chunk.

Jack ran his meat market business singlehandedly until 1949 when his son-in-law, Roland Turner, joined the business. The old market is now Stanley MacDonald's storage building.

This story was told by Roland Turner. Also very active in the ice business, although not cutting ice was Jack's wife, Ellie Pate, who provided the dozen or so men at the pond with hot meals prepared at home - numerous huge meat pies, many hot biscuits along with lots of stews. In addition she fed another dozen men that were packing the ice in the icehouse. She was up early every morning getting all this cooking done, lunches wrapped in newspaper and placed on hot bricks for the trip to the ice pond. By the time the dishes were cleared from the men's meals at home, the dirty and frozen pots and pans arrived up from the pond and again the chore of cleaning these till on into the evening. Mrs. Pate's task was a hard and continuous one. Along with this there was always a cutter or two who slipped from the edge of the hole into the icy cold water. She would have to dry and warm these unfortunate ones when they arrived home on the last trip of sleighs for the night. One noted gentleman, Robert Ellis, known better as "Bob", would always each year manage to have his annual dip. However, the men never feared of him drowning as Bob always wore a very large and very long fur coat which continued to act as a life preserver and always kept him afloat. A pike pole was put into the hole and hooked into his fur coat while others would pull him in much as one would a fish. During the first experience I had with ice, I thought poor Bob would never get out of his cold bath but I found out these old boys knew just how long to leave him immersed.

Chapter 4

Churches



Church of Christ

"A VENTURE FOR CHRIST"

In October 1966, some students from the Maritime Christian College helped begin a Bible study group in the homes of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence MacKinnon and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Getson of O'Leary. Each week, first on Thursday evenings, later on Sundays, one or more of the following people - Dean Tate, Ron Mellish, June MacCabe, and Wayne Lambert travelled from Charlottetown to meet with the O'Leary group for Bible study and/or worship. The group grew to approximately forty-five divided into five classes which included many children.

When the Bible study group became too large for meeting in a home, it was decided to ask for assistance with the construction of a building suitable for their needs. In July 1969, a group of Christian men from various parts of the Island formed a committee and made plans for the construction of a building. Members of the O'Leary committee were Dr. W.R. Stewart chairman, John G. MacDonald secretary, Floyd MacKinnon treasurer, Dr. M.N. Beck, Edison Norton,

Arthur Enman, Millar Stevenson, Clarence MacKinnon, and Alan M. Smith. The decision to proceed with a building arose from a conviction of committee members that they must keep faith (1) with the students who had established the work, (2) with the O'Leary people who responded so remarkably well and (3) with the Christ who died for each of us whose servants we are.

By August 6, 1969 excavation had been done, concrete basement work was in progress, and well-drilling was underway. Arthur Enman of Summerside and Reginald Gallant of O'Leary were in charge of construction. The church was built on a lot 80' X 200' located on Main Street and donated by Clarence MacKinnon. Millar Stevenson donated the lumber which was ready for construction by September 15. Many people from various P.E.I. Churches of Christ donated their time in the construction of the building. The building, 50' X 25', was completed in February 1970 at a total cost of \$20,494.00, including furnishings. The time, materials, and money had been donated by interested Christian individuals - many as far away as British Columbia. Truly they did build by faith and truly it was as it was known in 1969, a "Venture for Christ".

The main floor consisted of an assembly area 25' X 25', three classrooms, and a washroom. This space was sufficient to accommodate 75 to 100 people. The lower floor, originally designed for living accommodations, was leased for a period of twenty-eight months to the Provincial Department of Agriculture for office space. At a cost of \$1,500.00 the lower floor was renovated to provide living quarters consisting of a living-room, three bedrooms, a bathroom, a kitchen, and a dining-room. When William Weale came to minister in O'Leary and Greenmount in September, 1973, he and his wife, Harriet, occupied this spacious basement apartment. This was the first time that there was a minister "on the field" in O'Leary. Before the Weales came in 1973, many ministers had served in the O'Leary Church, travelling from Charlottetown. The first church meeting was held on January 8, 1970. After having served four and one-half years, Dean Tate held his last Bible study in O'Leary June 24, 1971. Following this John MacDonald came to preach, then William Weale, Victor McCullough, Philip Birt, Charles MacNeill, and Rankin MacKinnon, our present minister, who resides in O'Leary. Later, when the need arose, many student ministers from Maritime Christian College, including John Herring, Philip Birt and Andy

Rayner, have served. David Rayner from Greenmount, although not a student minister, many times fills in - a fine example of witnessing his love of Christ.

For many years the O'Leary Church of Christ people knew that they must expand if they wanted to grow. Serious thought was finally given to this matter at the annual church meeting in January 1988. It was decided that renovation begin with Reginald Gallant in charge of construction. The work began in February. The walls in the upper part of the church were taken out, ceiling raised, and a stage constructed. The basement is now being used for classrooms. New carpet was laid in the upper part of the church. The basement renovations were completed by volunteers from the Church who gave so willingly of their time and talents. The newly renovated building provides more space for Christians learning about the gospel of Jesus Christ. So, the "Venture for Christ", which had begun in 1969, is alive and well in 1992.

CHURCH OF NAZARENE



Church of Nazarene

A young couple from Alberton, whose last name was Oliver, moved to the United States to work. However, they did not stay more than a few years because they longed to be back home on the Island with their family and friends. While they were living in the States, they joined the Nazarene Church in Worcester, Mass. In 1917, they

moved back to Alberton, Prince Edward Island. This couple was able to get Rev. Nathan Washburn, district superintendent of the New England District, to come to Prince Edward Island. This man held a three-week revival meeting which led to the organization of the Alberton and Elmsdale Nazarene Churches. In 1919, Rev. John E.W. Turpel became their first minister.

Two more churches were established because of Rev. Turpel's efforts - one in the Mount Pleasant area and the other in the O'Leary area.

In 1922, large revival meetings were held in the O'Leary community area. Because of these particular meetings, a church was established here with forty-four members. Charter members are people who join the church within the first year of the church's official establishment date.

The first Nazarene Church established in the O'Leary area was actually in Unionvale - a small rural community just east of O'Leary. The church congregation in Unionvale met in a large tent. When the attendance was exceptionally large, sides of the tent were lifted to accommodate more people. The tent was pitched on the lot - the present location of Gordon Rodgerson's barber shop.

Later on, (the year is not known) men from the church volunteered their services to build a small wooden frame structure. This was the first real Nazarene Church of the area. It was a time of great fellowship and joy for the people. Dan Buchanan recalled that the minister at that time was William Mercer. Sometime between 1934 and 1937, the little church was hauled to O'Leary and put on the corner of Main Street and the Barclay Road. The parsonage, originally hauled from the Webb Road, was relocated beside the church.

The Maritime Nazarene Churches were very interested in having their own district. In 1943, the Maritime delegation went with a petition asking for the setting-apart of the Maritimes as a separate district. The members of the committee were Rev. Ernest J. Myatt, Rev. Layton G. Tattrie, and Mrs. M.E. Carlin. The new district was approved by the Board of Superintendents. Rev. W.W. Tinks, the pastor of a church in Hamilton, Ontario, was appointed superintendent. A meeting was called in the O'Leary Church to set up the district organization. There were only 244 members in nine churches in the new district. The Canada Atlantic District was organized at O'Leary, Prince Edward Island, on July 8, 1943.

In 1965, the O'Leary Nazarene Church was experiencing poor attendance. For nine months the church had been without a pastor. Out of concern, they invited an evangelist, Sheila Graham, to con-

duct a youth revival. She was a graduate of the Wesleyan Methodists College. She had a very popular style of preaching. Every Sunday the church was packed. Her final service had to be held in the high school auditorium. There were about 750 people there that night. The revival became known as the "great Sheila Graham Revival of '65". During her last service she introduced the congregation to their new pastor David Sellick, a graduate of the Canadian Nazarene College.

With the growth of the church, the Nazarenes were very much encouraged. In fact, they decided to relocate and build a new church with a basement apartment for the pastor and his family on Parkview Avenue. Much of the work was done by volunteers and members of the church. The architect for the new church was Fred Myers from Moncton, N.B. The contractors were John Arthur and Sons of Alberton.

On Sunday June 8, 1969 the Dedication Service was held for the Church of the Nazarene, O'Leary. The guest speaker for that historical day was Dr. George Coulter, General Superintendent of the Church of the Nazarene in Kansas City, Missouri. The new church was dedicated by General Superintendent, Robert F. Woods.

In the summer of 1980, a new church parsonage was built. The church parking lot was also expanded. In 1987, a new larger church was built to the rear of the existing building and the former church was renovated for a fellowship hall.

The O'Leary Nazarene Church, as well as other Nazarene Churches strongly support the Canadian Nazarene College in Winnipeg which prepares young men and women for work in the Nazarene church.

The O'Leary Nazarene Church does not have its own private cemetery; instead the People's Cemetery, located in Mount Royal, is used and others also are used.

Some Charter Members were as follows: George and Janie Campbell, Martin Buchanan, Jennie Ramsay and Janet Ramsay.

The following ministers have served: J. Warner Turpel, 1922-1928; Ernest J. Myatt, 1928-1930; William Mercer, 1934-1937; E.S. Hammond, 1939-1941; Layton G. Tatttrie, 1942-1944; T.W. Barlett, 1944-1945; Alvin Ashley, 1947; H.M. Burgess, 1948-1950; Owen Underwood, 1951-1952; Lloyd Oliver, 1953-1954; H.P. Amos, 1955-1957; Hariette Mullen, 1958; Robert Sampson, 1959-1961; Alvin Lewis, 1962-1964; David Sellick, 1965-1968; Archie Stanford, 1969; Douglas C. Woods, 1969-1973; Walter C. Wilcox, 1973-1979; Robert

Barnes, 1979-1984; John Burner, 1985-1990; John Hannem, 1990 - present.

Alvin Ashley, Hariette Mullen and Archie Stanford served as interim ministers when the church was without a pastor.

WHAT IS YOUR LIFE?

Life is to some a thing of entertainment, something to furnish laughter, fun, and cheer; Their energy of body, brain, and spirit thus spends itself, each day, each month, each year.

Another class sees life as something different; to them it is a round of toil and care; a ceaseless flow of task and work and labor, they're doing all the time and everywhere.

Still others see reality in nothing - they are the passive, visionary kind. Nothing to live, to suffer, or to die for — nothing for body, nothing for soul or mind.

Again we meet a class whose only object is earthly gain and fortune — love for gold, for this they sacrifice their right and honor, and oft times their character is sold.

Another class views life as just a side line, collecting stamps, curios, commodities, in things that count for little more than ciphers they spend their time with senseless addities.

All these have failed to find life's truest meaning, Quite right we need

*toil, we need to laugh, money is good
and sidelines, too, are helpful, but of
real life these don't explain the half.*

*Estranged from God we are not
really living whether we laugh or toil
or get or give. "I am the Way, the
Truth, the Life," said Jesus, only in
Him do we begin to live.*

*What is your life? asks James by God
inspired, brief and uncertain,
fraught with joy and pain? Oh, why
not say with Paul, the great Apostle,
"For me to live is Christ, to die is
gain."*

One of the poems of J.W. Turpel

THE MISSION OF ST. THERESA



The Mission of St. Theresa.

The Roman Catholic Church in O'Leary is a mission of St. Anthony's of Bloomfield. Mrs. Joseph Gallant, one of its faithful adherents, urged that the building be dedicated to St. Theresa; her wish was granted. This church has an interesting and unique history.

Originally it was a Methodist Church built in Knutsford near the cemetery on land donated by Captain John Sillicker (who also donated land for the Knutsford School). Later it was moved to O'Leary and located on the lot now owned by Stanley Dumville. It continued to be used by the Methodist congregation until church union (1925) when it automatically became the property of the United Church. In 1927, Rev. John Gaudet of St. Anthony's and John Noonan bought the building and had it moved to a lot bought from R.H. Jelley on the Barclay Road - its present site.

In 1928, a tower and entry were added to the structure. The altar was donated by the neighbouring parish of the Brae.

Since its opening in 1927, the celebrating of mass has been under the care of the paters (fathers) and assistant priests of St. Anthony's who have made the effort to travel to the mission so that parishioners of O'Leary could be better served.

Father Justin MacDonald left in the summer of 1983. From then to 1987, Father Pat Giddings was the priest of this mission followed by Father Floyd Gallant, who continued until 1990 when services ceased.

During construction of the tower and entry, it has been reported that a passerby enquired of Dominic Perry what they were doing to the little church. Dominic replied, "They are trying to take the Protestant look off it."

UNITED BAPTIST CHURCH



United Baptist Church

In 1862, Ebenezer Lidstone and Henry Baker of Bedeque, settled in Cape Wolfe and encouraged the Baptists to come and worship. First services were held in the homes by visiting ministers. As a result, the first Baptist Church was constructed in Cape Wolfe. In 1865, the congregation was received into the Nova Scotia Baptist Association with a membership of twenty-nine; but, as time went by, there were more converts. People joined from Knutsford, Springfield, and as far west as Alberton. Over sixty people were converted and baptized at special meetings held in 1877 by the Rev. J.A. Gordon. After this, evangelistic campaign meetings were held in Knutsford School, and at the home of Joshua Smallman to accommodate new members. The Rev William Smallman was one of these converts.

In May 1879, a meeting was held to consider building a church in Knutsford. Little was accomplished until April 12, 1880, when Pastor Corey called upon Rev. E.N. Archibald of Bedeque to visit the field. A meeting was held and a decision to build was made. James Silliker made a free gift of land available to them, and a committee was appointed. It was made up of Joshua Smallman, Richard Smallman, James Gay, John Moreshead, and William Harris.

Opening and dedication services were held on Sunday, January 30, 1881. Rev. E.N. Archibald was the first minister and the Rev. William Bradshaw, his brother-in-law, was the guest speaker for the occasion.

Records of June 20, 1882, showed an active membership of fifty-four, and the establishment of a Sunday School.

By July 18, 1894, a new church was built in Springfield West. Rev. Henry Carter was the first pastor. Andrew Currie, Neil Ellis, Thomas Costain, James Hopgood, and Robert England helped to erect the building, with Neil Ellis supplying the lumber for it.

In 1878, land for a burial ground was bought from Robert Ellis. In 1902 a house was bought from William Ellis for a parsonage. The envelope system for offerings was introduced in 1894.

By the year 1955, a need for expansion was evident in the Knutsford Church, especially for Sunday School facilities. After several meetings, it was decided to build a new church in O'Leary. Edgar Smallman donated the lumber for the frame. Claude Jelley and Aubin Wedge set the building stakes. On June 14, 1956, the Rev. C. O. Howlett, turned the first sod, and in a short ceremony asked God to bless the structure.

Raynall MacNeill, Ralph Adams, and Brenton Smallman were given the task of coming up with ideas for designs for the new building. A decision was made to use the services of Keith Pickard as the

building architect and Otis MacNeill was chosen foreman. By May 5, 1957, the church was completed and dedication services were held by Rev. C.O. Howlett and Rev. R.E. Whitney, superintendent of the Home Mission Board. The Knutsford Church was closed on April 28, 1957, when Rev. C.O. Howlett preached his farewell sermon after fourteen years of serving the pastorate.

Before the new minister, Rev. Ross Howard, came in early September 1957, Licentiate Brent Robertson was given charge of the pastorate for the summer months. Rev. Ross Howard was the O'Leary Church's first pastor, and through his efforts the various organizations had taken on projects towards the completion of the unfinished portion of the building.

In May 1959, a dedication service was held for the Sunday School auditorium, the ladies' and minister's study, the choir gowns, and the lavatory. After five years service, the Rev. Howard resigned to become chaplain of the P.E.I. Hospital in Charlottetown.

In November 1962, Rev. and Mrs. Maxwell Nesbitt and family arrived in O'Leary to serve the Springfield West, O'Leary, and Alma charges.

In 1967, the burning of the mortgage of the O'Leary Church took place. Then a new parsonage was built, and the Nesbitt family moved into it in December 1968. Under Mr. Nesbitt's ministry, groups such as the Pioneer Girls, and the Christian Service Brigade for boys were organized. A junior choir was also formed and various other projects were undertaken. Rev. Nesbitt completed his ministry in 1976.

In 1977, Rev. Greer Hutchison accepted a call as interim pastor and preached his farewell sermon March 19, 1978. He was succeeded by Rev. Malcolm Fenton of Ireland who arrived March 21, 1978, and because of his wife's illness returned to Ireland in September of the same year.

Rev. Allison MacLean came October 1, 1978, and was here until September 15, 1981.

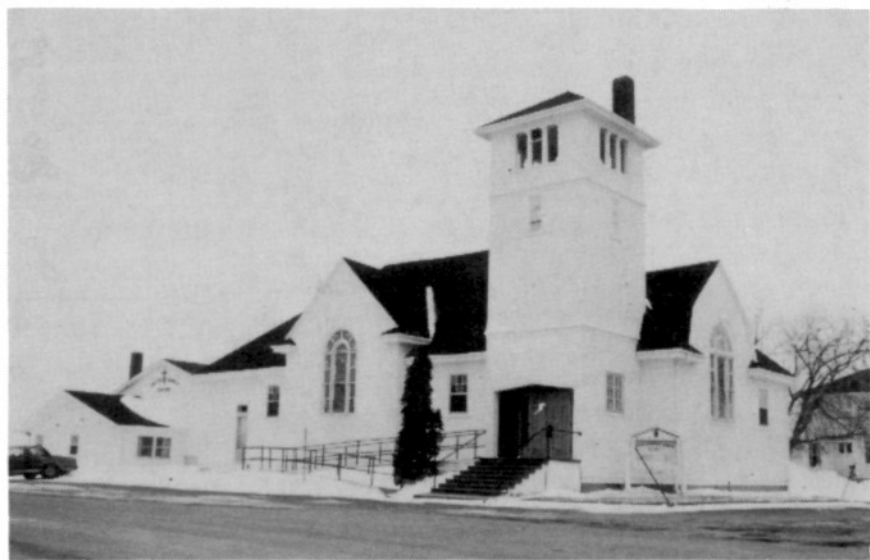
Robert MacGregor, a student minister, served between Rev. MacLean and Rev. Fenton's ministries.

Rev. Fenton returned to the church on April 26, 1982. His son, Mark, assisted him during the latter part of his ministry. Mark left during the summer of 1986 and Rev. Fenton on September 30, 1986.

Kenneth Fillmore came to the pastorate on January 1, 1987. In July he married Donna Robblee of Tryon. During his pastorate they organized a group of young adults known as the College and Career Group. Following pastor Fillmore's leaving on April 30, 1989, Rev. Cecil MacArthur came as interim pastor until September 1, 1989,

when Rev. Denis Kerwood accepted a call as pastor of the Springfield West - O'Leary Churches.

UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA



United Church of Canada

The history of this church goes back to 1850 when the whole of Prince County west of Lot Eleven constituted one congregation in the Presbyterian Church. Rev. John C. Sinclair was the only minister. Though he had a large territory to cover, he had only fifty-seven families in his pastorate - five or six of which were from the immediate O'Leary district.

In 1855, Rev. Allan Fraser became the minister of this widespread congregation where, it is said, he held services at the home of a Mrs. Ramsay in O'Leary. Services continued to be held there until 1856 when Rev. William Stewart took charge of the West Cape, Campbellton, and Brae districts, while Rev. Fraser continued with Alberton and Tignish.

The first definite mention made of O'Leary was after Arthur F. Carr was ordained and inducted at Alberton in 1871. The congregation was once again divided with Rev. George Fisher taking Elmsdale, Montrose, and Tignish. Relieved of part of his charge, Rev. Carr was able to concentrate his labours in Alberton, Bloomfield, and O'Leary Station. Under Rev. Arthur Carr's ministry, this latter field grew so rapidly that Rev. Carr, through the Presbytery, secured the help of a

student for the summer months. That student's name was J.R. Coffin who later became the first ordained minister of the Bloomfield, O'Leary, and Brae congregation.

In the minutes of the fourteenth Synod of the Presbyterian Church of the Maritime Provinces held in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia, there appears this notation: "The stations of Bloomfield, O'Leary and Brae organized into a congregation April 18th, 1887."

A little later, under the pastorate of Rev. Ewen MacDonald, West Point was added to the charge (1907-1909). About the same time a manse was built in O'Leary on what is now the Co-op parking lot. This remained in use until a new manse was built on Hospital Street in 1962 - 1963. Rev. David Hamilton was the first minister to reside in it.

Then in the Presbyterian Witness of April 30, 1887, it was reported: "The new congregation of Bloomfield, O'Leary, and Brae intend calling J.R. Coffin, who as a catechist, laboured among them with much acceptance last summer and who completes his theological course at Presbyterian College, Halifax, this spring." It is interesting to note that this call was signed by 140 communicants and 116 adherents. Thus, in 1887, O'Leary became an official congregation of the Presbyterian Church, with its first ordained minister, Rev. J.R. Coffin.

However, there is evidence that many of the O'Leary Presbyterians worshipped in the Brae Church long before this. In the minutes of the session of the Presbyterian Church of West Cape, Campbellton, and Brae on August 14, 1882, there appears a revision of the communion roll. Among those from O'Leary Station on that roll were Mr. and Mrs. John MacKinnon, Mrs. James MacPherson, Neil MacPherson, Angus MacPherson, Wellington Mugridge, Mr. and Mrs. John Thompson, Mrs. McAulay, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Rayner, and Mrs. A. Gillis.

Regarding the building of the first church in O'Leary, Mrs. A. J. Matheson has greatly contributed much information through her brief history of O'Leary.

When the homes got too small for the congregation, a warehouse was fitted with rough seats. Then, sometime between 1881 and 1885, a start was made to build a church in O'Leary. At this time, too, the Baptist people were planning to build a church and even went so far as to procure the lumber. The Baptists, however, decided to build in Knutsford instead of O'Leary. Their lot and lumber were purchased from them by the Presbyterians, and the building of the Presbyterian Church got underway. That lot is where the United Church now stands.



Presbyterian Church around 1900.

When the frame of this church was erected, a terrific wind storm marred progress by blowing down the frame causing much damage to the lumber. Nothing was done until the following spring, when a similar incident took place. The newly replaced frame was again knocked down by a severe thunder and lightning storm which had come up very suddenly. The contractor, Mr. George Jelley of Unionvale, was heard to remark, "Queer people these Presbyterians must be, even the elements combine to work against them." Finally, in 1888, it was proven that the elements were no match for the Presbyterians' determination and the church was completed. In the minutes of the session for the Bloomfield, O'Leary, and Brae Presbyterian Churches, held in Bloomfield May 22, 1888, "It was decided to have no services in the Bloomfield and Brae churches on the day of the opening of the church at O'Leary." Among those mentioned as taking a very active part in the building of this first church were Mr. and Mrs. Robert Ellis, Jr., and Mrs. Thomas Dennis of Unionvale.

At the first communion service held in the new church on October 21, 1888, the minister, Rev. J.R. Coffin, was assisted by Rev. J.M. MacLeod who was stationed at Kensington. At this service, those who were received into the church by profession of faith were Mr.

and Mrs. Robert Ellis, Jr., Herbert Thompson, Donald MacDonald, Sr., James MacAulay, Joseph Bernard, Murdock Buchanan, Mrs. L. Ramsay, Mrs. John MacPherson, Mrs. Malcolm McFadyen, Mrs. Ewen MacLennan, Donald Buchanan, Joseph Rayner and Angus Beaton.

When the organ was introduced into this church, as indicated in the minutes of the Session of the Bloomfield, O'Leary, and Brae on January 22, 1896, and reads in part, "It was agreed (after much discussion) that any of the sections might introduce an organ to aid in the service of praise, when such could be done without disturbing the harmony or peace of the congregation." In 1896, the people were dubious of the merits of musical instruments in a service of worship.

The O'Leary congregation grew so rapidly that thirty-four years later (1922) construction of the present church was begun. In that year Hon. Murdock MacKinnon, the Lieutenant-Governor of Prince Edward Island, laid the cornerstone, and on May 28, 1923, the church was dedicated to the Glory of God.

Taking part in the service of dedication were Rev. G.P. Tatttrie, the minister of the church; Rev. Dr. John Pringle, a former moderator of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church; Rev. George Christie, minister of Alberton Presbyterian Church and Moderator of the P.E.I. Presbytery; and Rev. Spriggs, minister of the Anglican Church in Alberton.

Those on the committee in charge of building this church were Robert Ellis, Jr., A.J. Matheson, George Horne, J.D. Kennedy, and Fulton Ramsay. It will be noted that Robert Ellis, Jr. appears on the building committee of both churches.

During Rev. G. Tatttrie's pastorate, the agitation for the union of Presbyterian, Methodist, and Congregational Churches began in Canada.

On the whole, most Methodist and Congregational congregations were in favour of the union; many Presbyterians were not. As a result, some congregations and even some families were divided on the question. Emotions ran high in some congregations and even in some homes. Much ill feeling resulted. In spite of strong opposition; however, church union became a reality in 1925. The United Church of Canada was born. Congregations that voted against union remained Presbyterian. Hence, many Presbyterian Churches remained in many communities across Canada. In the O'Leary Pastoral Charge, the Brae, Bloomfield, and the O'Leary Church voted for union; West Point dissented.

In recent years the congregation of O'Leary has maintained an active interest and support for the work of the church. The cornerstone on the Christian Education Centre was laid on June 7, 1959, by

Mrs. A.J. Matheson. Other additions over the past years were a parlor and modern kitchen, as well as, a new organ with sound box, stained glass windows, the chime system, the public address system, and a piano.

On June 10, 1979, the congregation gathered together to celebrate the fifty-sixth anniversary of the church building and to dedicate the annex joining the church and the Christian Education Centre. The annex includes a combined choir room and church parlour, a Sunday School room, and new kitchen facilities. The Christian Education Centre which was built in 1959 has been extensively renovated.

The following is a list of ministers who have served since 1883:

Rev. Arthur F. Carr	1883-1885
Rev. J.R. Coffin	1887-1895
Rev. Archibald Gunn	1895-1905
Rev. William MacDonald	1903-1907
Rev. Ewen MacDonald	1907-1909
Rev. Robert Murray	1910-1921
Rev. George Tattrie	1921-1926
Rev. S.B. Profit	1926-1930
Rev. A.F. Baker	1930-1937
Rev. George Gough	1937-1947
Rev. W.G. Dickson	1947-1952
Rev. R.R. Wagner	1953-1956
Rev. Keith Rogerson	1958-1961
Rev. David Hamilton	1961-1965
Rev. S. Elroy McKillop	1965-1976
Rev. Heber G. Colbourne	1976-1981
Rev. William R. MacLennan	1981-1985
Rev. Anthony G.N. Ware	1985-1989
Rev. John W. Fraser	1988-

Staff Associates:

Anne Marie Allen	1981-1982
Marlyne Myles	1983-1986
Jacqueline M. Ware	1987-1988
Susan Woods	1989-1991.

Interim Ministers:

Debbie Aitken	summer 1979
Allan Schooley	summer 1980
Jeanie Voutour	summer 1981
Nancy Price	summer 1982
Greg Davis	summer 1986 and 1991
Rev. Russell Burns	1991-1992
Hugh Donnelly	summer 1992.

"Prince Edward Island"

By Rev. Robert Murray

*Isle of the Northern sea,
Land of my well loved home;
My heart e'er clings to thee,
Tho' far my feet may roam.*

*Around thee ocean roars,
And storms their vigils keep;
Waves thunder on the shores,
Isle "cradled on the deep."*

*Isle, of the sun-kissed green,
Where many a sparkling bay;
Reflects from depths serene,
A land as fair as day.*

*Land of the settlers brave,
Who knew no fear but God;
Who wrestled with the wave,
And broke the virgin sod.*

*Who left to us in trust,
For a people yet to be;
A land where swords may rust
But all her sons are free.*

Note:

Rev. Robert Murray was a Presbyterian minister in O'Leary from 1910-21.

He was the father of Dr. Florence Murray, a medical missionary who served more than fifty years in Southeast Asia (Manchuria and Korea).

Chapter 5

Education

EDUCATION AND SCHOOLS IN O'LEARY 1890-1992.

EARLY SCHOOLING

In the early days village children trudged off to school in Unionvale, a district to the east of O'Leary. The original school was located just east of the present residence of Keith Paugh.

After this school burned, a new school was built near the home of Arthur Cornish in Unionvale thus moving the site much close to O'Leary. Approximately seventy pupils were crowded into this one-room schoolhouse.

Chiefly through efforts of the teacher, A.J. Matheson, a new two-room school was built in 1896. It was built on the present site of McKenna's Furniture Store in O'Leary. In the same year O'Leary became a separate school district. The first teachers were A.J. Matheson from Brackley Point and Miss Campbell. In 1898, the school received first-class rating. The teachers at the time were Robert MacFadyen and Mary Irving. Other early teachers were Mary Fyfe (Mrs. A.J. Matheson); Harry Balderson, Southport; Daniel Fraser, from Whim Road - later a school inspector; Miss Stewart, later a missionary in China; Miss MacKinley; Lulu Wortman (Mrs. James Malcolm MacWilliam); Walter Darby (Judge Darby); and J. Watson MacNaught, Coleman, later the cabinet minister who turned the first sod for the proposed P.E.I. - N.B. Causeway in 1964.



First School in O'Leary

The two-room school met the needs of the area until the 1920's when over-crowding became a problem. Space for an extra classroom was found in the Orange Hall. During the 1940's enrollment reached approximately sixty pupils and even this classroom became inadequate.

In the early thirties, Mae Horne was teaching the elementary grades in the lower floor of the old Orange Hall. In the small, over-crowded room, anymore students would have been a disaster. At the same time the butter factory was infested with rats. Apparently, it was common knowledge to all young and old with the exception of the teacher, that ferrets were being brought in to eliminate the rat problem at that place.

One morning at 9:30, the little people, Mae's pride and joy, crowded around her to give her the good news "The ferrets are here".

Horrified, the teacher exclaimed "Have they any children?"



Bonita Boates, Olga MacMillan, Norman Gallant, Eva MacMillan, Shirley MacDonald, Betty Phillips, Dale Johnson, Charlotte Vey, Florence Strang, Dawna Boats, Carol MacGregor, Grant Noonan, Muncey Buchanan. Seated: - Clair MacDonald, Alice Silliker, Denzel Reilly, Muncey MacDonald, Heath Ellis, Gary Johnson, Allan Harris, George Strang, Sharon Ellis, Louise Yeo, Ronnie Turner, Audrey Gray, Gladys Reilly, Dorothy Seaman, Shirley Palmer, Adrice MacKinnon.

O'Leary Public School

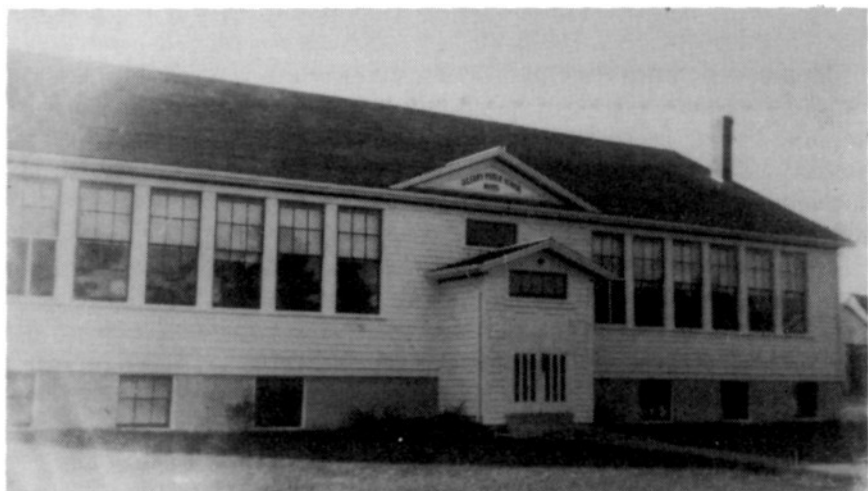
To meet the needs of the growing school population a four-room school to be known as O'Leary Public School was built in 1947 on the same site as the two-room school - the building now occupied by McKenna's Furniture Store. The old school was sold to Claude MacNeill who had it moved near the railroad tracks and used it as a feed warehouse until it burned in 1960.

In 1953, because of the continued increase in village school population plus more pupils coming in from rural areas, a new wing was added which provided two more classrooms and an office shared by the principal and staff. In the same year, Grade eleven was added to the curriculum.

A short time later the board began to press the Department of Education to provide Grade Twelve or full matriculation. In spite of repeated requests and a formal brief from the board to the Minister of Education requesting that a Regional High School be established in O'Leary with full laboratory and classroom accommodation, no action was taken. In 1959 Grade Twelve was finally established in the O'Leary District. However, promotional efforts to establish a district high school were continued by Supervisor Merritt E. Callaghan, Earle Jelley and Lewis MacKenzie.



O'Leary Regional High School



O'Leary School

At the annual school meeting of the O'Leary High School District in 1958, a committee was set up to study the need for improved High School facilities in the area. On September 8, a general meeting of all the surrounding school districts was called by this committee.

This meeting was addressed by Mr. Malcolm MacKenzie Deputy Minister of Education, who explained the plan of establishing a Regional High School. A resolution was passed unanimously approving the idea of a Regional High School in the O'Leary area. A further meeting was held on December 1, at which time a representative steering committee was appointed; namely, Alton Rayner, O'Leary; Mrs. Marne Kennedy, O'Leary; Dr. George Dewar, O'Leary; Mrs. Gerald Murphy, Campbellton; Kenneth Ellis, West Cape; Willis Bulger, West Point; Clayton Kaulback, West Devon; Sterling Barbour, Brae and Edward MacAusland, Bloomfield.

During the winter the steering committee arranged for information meetings in twenty-nine school districts. These meetings were addressed by either Mr. Malcolm MacKenzie, Deputy Minister of Education, Mr. Merritt Callaghan, Supervisor of Schools, Mr. Earle Jelley or Mr. Lewis MacKenzie.

Not until January 22, 1960, was the vote taken in each school district, the result being eighteen districts voted in favour of the Regional High School. Later the number of districts increased to twenty-five.

The Provincial Board of Education appointed Claude Jelley of O'Leary as Chairman of the Trustees, and the Trustee Board was composed of the Chairman of each district Trustee Board; namely,

Edward MacAusland, Joseph Arsenault, John Lewis, Brenton Smallman, Keith MacDougall, John Ellis, Thomas Dumville, Frank Stewart, Arnold MacDonald, Chapman Jelley, Bernard Shea replaced by Donald MacKenzie, Milford Ellis, William MacDonald, Joseph Doran, George Coughlin, Gerald Murphy, John Foley, Willis Bulger, and Harold McCormack replaced by Clayton Stetson.

In 1959 a general election was called in P.E.I. Dr. L. George Dewar, the new Minister of Education, acted promptly on the Board's recommendation and the new school became a reality largely due to his efforts.

The Board purchased a five acre property in O'Leary which was owned by Louise Ellis on Barclay Road. The cost was \$4500. Keith Pickard was engaged as architect and tenders for the new school were called. The tender was awarded to County Construction. The first sod was turned by Premier Walter R. Shaw on June 18, 1960. Other officials present were Robert Grindlay, M.L.A. for Second Prince; DR. L.G. Dewar, Minister of Education; Claude Jelley, Chairman of the Board; and J.W. Don Campbell, M.L.A. for First Prince.

FORMAL OPENING

Laying of cornerstone — The Hon. L.G. Dewar, M.D.
Minister of Education.

Cutting of ribbon — Mr. Claude Jelley,
Chairman of Board of Trustees.

ORDER OF CEREMONY

O Canada

Invocation — Rev. Clarence Pitre

Dedication poem — Sherrill Barwise, Pres. Students' Council

Choruses by school — The Happy Wanderer, Bonnie Lassie

Welcome and remarks by chairman

Addresses — Hon. W.R. Shaw, Premier of P.E.I.

Hon. L.G. Dewar, Minister of Education

Mr. Malcolm MacKenzie,

Deputy Minister of Education

Dr. Orville Phillips, M.P.

Mr. Keith Pickard, Architect

Other distinguished guests.

Songs by school — Three cheers for our Regional High School.

Juanita —, By Girls' Club

Loch Loman — By Boys' and Girls' Club

Benediction — Rev. D.H. Hamilton
— The Queen —
Tour of the school
Chairman: Mr. Claude Jelley.

The original building was composed of an auditorium with seating capacity of 700, six classrooms, laboratory, library, Principal's and teachers' rooms, washrooms and cloakrooms.

The first fifteen graduates of O.R.H.S. were Harriet Smith, Doreen Andrews, Janet MacPherson, Perley MacNeill, Ronald MacArthur, Winston Corcoran, Priscilla Gallant, Ellen Smallman, Audrey O'Meara, Judy Colwill, Carol MacLean, Gloria Arsenault, Carol Biggar, Daisy Reid and Lucy Anne Jelley. Gordon Bennett, a member of the faculty of Prince of Wales College, was the guest speaker at the closing exercises.

The official opening of the school was held on October 31, 1961. Board Chairman, Claude Jelley, cut the ribbon and Hon. Dr. L.G. Dewar laid the cornerstone.

The teachers at the time of the formal opening were Earle S. Jelley, B.A., B.Ed., Principal; Lewis MacKenzie; Donald LeClair, B.A.; John Winston Yeo; J. William Costain, B.Sc.; Mrs. Isabelle Campbell; Mrs. Edith Palmer; Miss Beverley Howard, B.Sc.; Miss Eleanor Craig, and Mrs. Harry Rogan. Earle S. Jelley was appointed the first principal - an office he held until his retirement in 1973. The first bus drivers were Elmer Smith, Paul Doyle, Wesley MacArthur, Roger Bulger and James Gard. The janitor was Arthur Harris. At the time of the opening the enrollment was 252 students representing twenty-five districts.

Two extensions were added, one in 1962 and another in 1968, to make the school one of the largest regional schools in P.E.I. The well equipped school had 26 classrooms, home economics and commercial departments, laboratories (physics and biology), library, auditorium and staff facilities.

A great change in education occurred with the establishment of high school courses within the village school system. Prior to 1959 students from the area wishing to complete high school were forced to attend Alberton or Summerside High School. Students had to board and commute on week-ends thus demanding an extra financial burden which many could not afford. With the opening of the regional high school in 1960-61, a high school education became a reality for many more children.

From 1960-1969 all Grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 students from the

regional high school district attended O.R.H.S. In September, 1969, a new wing was opened to house Grades 7 and 8 students.

On September 12, 1975, Hernewood Junior High School opened its doors for all Grades 7, 8, and 9 students from the area to attend this new facility in Woodstock. The official opening for Hernewood was held on November 13, 1975. Hon. Bennett Campbell was Minister of Education. Unit I School Board Chairman, Harold Phillips, cut the ribbon and George Henderson, M.P. for Egmont, laid the cornerstone. Also, Hon. Marcel Lessard, Minister of Regional Expansion, was present for the ceremony.

Students in Grades 10, 11, and 12 continued to attend O'Leary Regional High School until June, 1979, when the last graduation was held. In September 1979, all Grade 10, 11 and 12 students would attend the new Westisle Composite High School at Elmsdale.

In 1979, when Westisle Composite High School was opened in Elmsdale, it offered a wide variety of academic, general, practical, and vocational courses to students from the three former high school districts; namely, Tignish, Alberton and O'Leary, as well as students from the Ellerslie area who had become part of Regional Administrative School Unit I. Holland College, a community college, also opened a branch school in the building which offers post secondary courses in office studies and business administration. In addition, general interest courses are offered such as, creative writing, etc. Night courses are offered in the fall and winter seasons.

Upgrading courses (Levels 1-4) covering academic work Grades 1-12 incl. were offered in community centres where there is sufficient demand. The program is known as B.T.S.D. or Basic Training in Skills Development. Other courses include Career Exploration for Women, Job Entry and Re-Entry and College Prep., Grade equivalency (G.E.D.) exams can be arranged at Holland College for Grades 9-12 incl.

Westisle Composite High School is truly the Education Centre for West Prince. For the students of the area, it offers excellent opportunities to follow programs to meet their needs, interests, and capabilities. The well-equipped school has an active extra-curricular program. A magnificent theatre with a seating capacity of 480 serves as a social and cultural centre for West Prince. Local performances are staged there and groups are brought to the area through the efforts of the West Prince Arts Council. The complex also includes a bus depot and the Unit I School Board Office.

Special Class in Child Development

In November 1961, the O'Leary Branch of the P.E.I. Division Canadian Association for Mental Retardation had the initiative to establish a class in O'Leary for the mentally handicapped. Mrs. Beverley (MacGregor) Boates, who had taken special training for this work, was engaged as teacher. The first classes were held on a part-time basis in the basement of O'Leary Public School. There were six children enrolled.

When the first extension to O'Leary Regional High School was completed in 1962, there was provision for excellent facilities for the mentally handicapped. A large class area with cupboards and a self-contained washroom were provided. Enrollment increased to eleven from the regional high school district and Audrey MacDonald was engaged to assist Mrs. Boates. A continuous progress system with activity centres was effectively utilized within the team-teaching arrangement. As time progressed more students were integrated for music, physical education, home economics, and related school activities such as concerts and field trips.

With the opening of Hernewood Junior High School in 1975, the class was divided into two divisions. Children of elementary school age remained at O'Leary Regional High School with Audrey MacDonald as their teacher. The older children were transferred to Hernewood with Beverley Boates as teacher.

In 1979, when the regional high building became O'Leary Consolidated Elementary School, the class became part of the elementary administration. Since that time major advances include the following: system of home basing has been implemented, integration and mainstreaming of students whenever possible, special education teacher and classroom serve as resource for special education in the school, more teaching resources have been added including computer and Individual Education Plans (I.E.P.) are being written for the more severely disabled.

Sheltered Workshop

Another community effort has established a Sheltered Workshop in O'Leary which provides training for the adult mentally handicapped. It became known as Maple House Inc. In May 1970, a home on Gaspé Road was purchased and classes began with Mr. and Mrs. Roy MacDowell providing care and training.

In 1972 a new building was opened on the same lot. Soon thereafter the MacDowells retired and Mr. and Mrs. Clair Currie took over the operation in September 1973. Clair holds the position as manag-

er and his wife, Shirley, was assistant-manager and supervisor of staff for many years.

Training is provided in life skills. Earlier the workshop had strong orientation to the making of crafts. Maple House Inc. is now considered a business with its workers actively involved in making show buttons, refinishing furniture, and a large home baking service. Unit I school buses provide transportation to and from the workshop.

The O'Leary Branch of the Canadian Association for Mentally Retarded (CAMR) has been most active in establishing educational facilities for the mentally handicapped in the area. Child development classes at O'Leary Elementary and Hernewood, as well as, the sheltered workshop are fine rewards for their efforts. Mrs. Margaret Ellis, P.H.N., has been a driving force behind these tremendous accomplishments.

The association's name has been changed to Canadian Association for Community Living.

Factors Influencing Change

On October 15, 1959, Dr. M.E. LaZerte was appointed a commissioner to inquire into and concerning matters relating to the administration and financial support of education in P.E.I. and to make recommendations relating thereto. His report became available in 1960. Dr. LaZerte realized also that the rural one-room school could not meet the requirements of today's course of studies for elementary and secondary grades. He felt that the changing conditions were compelling each province to reorganize its educational system and adopt some unit of administration larger than the original local school district.

Of his thirty-nine recommendations, several were related to such reorganization of P.E.I.'s educational system. He hoped that by 1965 local district and consolidated schools enrol pupils of Grades one to six only and that the regional schools enrol pupils of Grades seven, eight, and nine. He further recommended that the composite schools enrol all pupils of Grades ten, eleven and twelve. There was to be one composite school in each large area. A plan was presented whereby the first step toward this new system was the removal of Grades nine and ten from the small rural schools.

Dr. LaZerte urged local school boards to form consolidated school districts. He suggested that each regional high school area contain twenty-five districts and that there be five large unit area school dis-

tricts each containing two or more regional high school districts. The five large unit centres designated were Souris, Montague, Charlottetown, Summerside and O'Leary.

In an effort to close out small rural schools he recommended that no grant be paid on behalf of any Grade one to six classroom in the province in which the enrollment is less than ten. Each composite school centre was to conduct one class for a selected group of trainable retarded children and one experimental class for gifted children of Grade ten. Better equalization of the tax rate and improved methods of financing educational costs in P.E.I. were discussed at some length.

A paper issued at this time and entitled "The Consolidated Elementary School" was found very effective. It argues that, now, with improved highways and modern means of transportation we no longer live our entire lives within the confines of the local community. Modern man or woman therefore, does not have difficulties of communication. It becomes no longer a necessity that a school district be so small that a person could walk from one end of it to another as has been during the pioneer days.

It recognized that the educational system as organized and operated in the past was of great merit and produced excellent results. It is; however, not keeping pace with changing conditions and permits too much variation of educational opportunity. It points out that only by grouping of school districts for educational purposes can we hope to provide our rural children, attending Grades one to eight, with advantages comparable to those presently being offered to the children of the elementary grades in urban centres.

The paper defines the consolidation of schools as the grouping together of several existing rural school districts. Representatives to the school boards are chosen to represent the various sections of a consolidated area; one overall tax assessment is rendered, the consolidated school becomes the property of that area regardless of its location within the consolidated unit. The assets and liabilities of the entire area are assumed by the new administration.

The benefits of consolidation as elaborated from a more recent point of view are as follows:

1. Better distribution of classes brought about by increased school enrollment. This makes for fewer grades per classroom and, consequently, the teacher can spend more time on each class and in assessing the need for individual attention on the part of her students. Individual differences on the part of the students can be given more consideration. Frequently the number of pupils per

- classroom can be reduced where the need exists.
2. Library service, (including a reading room), which is a basic requirement of a well equipped school, proves to be very costly for a small school; in addition, a large school, having a large enrollment can provide a greater number of good books as well as a greater diversification of reading material. The lack of adequate library service is one major realm wherein a consolidation of schools should effect a most desirable change.
 3. An improved sport and recreational program is made possible by a school enrollment which would lend itself to interscholastics and intramural sports within the school system. A physical education program is justifiable when enrollment is adequate.
 4. Music and art can be more efficiently conducted in a larger system.
 5. An improved school plant can be provided with better designed buildings having modern lighting, heating, suitable ventilation and more sanitary conditions. An improvement in the physical plant invariably results in better academic achievement on the part of the students.
 6. Equalization of educational opportunity for the children within a consolidated area is a direct result of having one efficient school system rather than several separate small school systems with as many standards of achievement.
 7. A larger school has more appeal to teachers than does the small isolated school. There is not the feeling of "aloneness" when the teachers can discuss matters of mutual concern with one another. The pooling of ideas should contribute to a more effective teaching program which in turn becomes an advantage to the students.
 8. There is uniformity of the tax rate over the entire area.
 9. Periods of rest and play can be supervised for children in the lower grades so that they no longer have "to put in time" waiting for older students or go home alone. Bus service put an end to the problem of younger children having to walk along the busy roads and through dangerous cuttings in winter. It also puts an end to the necessity of parents having to drive their children to and from school.
 10. The consolidated school represents a type of cooperative effort. Pupils of these schools have the social advantage of cooperation and competition with others of their own age level; they share in the total experience of all their classmates who are working toward similar goals, and consequently they should be better prepared for junior high school work.

O'Leary Consolidated Elementary School

Prior to consolidation of the one-room schools in 1971, O'Leary Public School assisted many districts from outside the village by admitting many students from over-crowded conditions. For many years a classroom was equipped in the basement of the school and a room was rented in the regional high school for accommodation of such students. In some districts such as Mill River and Hebron, enrollments had declined and all students attended the O'Leary School. No doubt it would be interesting to research when and what grades were removed from the one-room schools in the area. Also, it would be of interest to account for the dates when such schools were actually closed out. Naturally it would not be very practical to do so in this historical account.

By an order of His Honor the Lieutenant Governor-in-Council effective 1971 July 1, the following twenty-one school districts were amalgamated to form O'Leary Consolidated School District: Alaska, Brae, Carleton, Coleman, Derby, Dunblane, Glenwood, Haliburton, Hebron, Howlan, Knutsford, Milburn, Milo, Mount Royal, O'Leary, Springfield West, Unionvale, West Cape, West Devon, West Point, and Woodstock.

On September 3, 1975, all elementary students of the said district moved into the present facility. During the next four years between 1975-79, O'Leary Consolidated Elementary School shared the facility with the O'Leary Regional High School. In addition, seven mobile classrooms were provided, four of which were used by elementary students.

In September 1979, the entire facility became O'Leary Consolidated Elementary School and the mobile classrooms were removed from the school property.

The elementary system of teaching was changed somewhat during the 1970's. Alden E. Weeks, Principal of the school and his dedicated staff over the years have endeavoured to keep pace with change and innovation. Much effort was generated to provide skill programs in language arts and mathematics so that students from the one-room schools would adjust to the larger school with ease. Teaching strategies and styles were developed to improve the quality of instruction. Music, physical education, social studies, and health/science programs have been added or improved upon to supplement the three R's of reading, writing, and arithmetic. A sophisticated system of grouping by ability and achievement had been put in place for reading instruction. An average of three homogeneous reading groups were established in each class. Letter grades instead of per-

centages were used more frequently when reporting test results. Check lists, informal reading assessments and anecdotal reporting accompanied with parent-teacher conferences were common.

Through the early to mid 1980's there has been a return to more traditional methods of teaching. The total language arts approach with an emphasis on reading, speaking, listening and writing is continued. However, there is less grouping and more large group or whole class instruction. Marks on tests have returned for the upper elementary grades.

Significant improvements have occurred in the specialist areas of the curriculum. Eileen (Conroy) Rogan pioneered music education in the schools of the West Prince area. A plaque to her memory hangs in the corridor at O'Leary Elementary and reads as follows: Her genuine love for children and the outstanding contribution she made to the music program in the O'Leary schools during the years 1955-1976 are remembered with respect and gratitude.

Her quality instruction in music has been carried on by such capable music teachers as Elizabeth (Bitsy) McLeod, Lynn Murray, Robert Wilkie, Cathy Weldin, Rachel Cameron, Garth MacKay and Heather Ives. In addition to the regular class program, students have the opportunity to participate in numerous extra-curricular activities in music such as, choir, recorder, ukulele, and instrumental. Each year the students perform in the annual Christmas Concert, Celebration of the Arts and the West Prince Music Festival. Parents and staff are proud of student accomplishments in music education.

The first physical education class was started in 1973. Roslyn Smith was appointed physical education teacher on a one-half time basis shared with Alberton. She was followed by Joyce MacKichan, Marion Craig, Brenda Millar, Lola Montgomery, Corina Bolo and Blair O'Halloran. Classes were first held in the basement of O'Leary Public School where water often flooded the floor. Two sump pumps were installed in an attempt to keep it dry. The children played with ropes, hoops, scoops, and balls while the mice and rats watched the fun! Arrangements were made with O'Leary United Church to use the C.E. Centre for Grade 4 - 5 - 6 physical education classes. This arrangement continued until September 1979, when all elementary classes were able to use the large gymnasium in the regional high building to be on a shared basis with the elementary school.

Core French was added to the curriculum in 1975. Over the years, Elizabeth (Baglole) Pfinder has developed an effective communicative program in Core French. Currently, all students in Grade 3 - 6 follow the prescribed program with the Grade six students receiv-

ing a maximum of thirty minutes instruction per school day. Cynthia McNally became the French teacher in 1988.

For a number of years the music teacher, Eileen Rogan and principal, Alden Weeks, worked with drama students by preparing a play for the annual Christmas Concert. For the past several years, drama students have produced two plays annually, i.e. one for the Christmas Concert and one for the annual Unit I Drama Festival. These plays have been directed by Elizabeth Pfinder, Leah Harris, Cynthia McNally, and Geraldine Stewart. All are teachers at the school.

Children who are experiencing difficulty with learning are now referred to David Bradley, school psychologist, and/or D'Arcy Enright or his replacement Angela MacDonald, Co-ordinator for Special and Remedial Programs. Recommendations are provided for implementation by parents, homeroom teacher, and, if necessary, the resource teacher, Marilyn MacLean, will work with the student on a regular basis. During the 1985-86 school year the resource teacher position was increased to one-half time. Later it became a full-time position. Reby MacDougald became the school's first guidance counsellor in 1987. She was followed by Ed. Kilfoil who began his duties in September 1988.

In addition to regular programming, a number of special programs have been implemented over the years. These include special programs in social studies, map study, oral expression, goal setting for teacher evaluation, continuous progress in reading, etc. Two programs are worthy of special recognition: a Metric 6 kit which was prepared by Charles Gorrill and Alden Weeks, two Grade six math teachers, for use when metrication was being introduced into the curriculum. Also, a Sex Education program was written by Corina Bolo, physical education teacher and Alden Weeks, principal of the school, for instruction at the Grade 6 level as an extension to the health program. This program has achieved much approval and it was used by most of the elementary schools in Unit I. During the 1989-90 school year this program was authorized as a provincial program. The Department of Education presented a set of World Books to O'Leary Elementary in recognition of this service.

The success which is enjoyed by O'Leary Elementary School is largely dependent upon the efforts and dedication of the entire staff both instructional and non-instructional. Teachers have worked diligently to provide the best programs to meet the needs of their students. A closely knit and supportive administrative team in the persons of Norman Moase, Vice-Principal and Alden E. Weeks, Principal,

have provided leadership and direction for many years. Mr. Moase who was vice-principal for the past sixteen years resigned in June 1987. He was succeeded by Charles Gorrill who had joined the staff in 1974. The secretary, Florence Young, has been the central figure in the day-to-day operation of the school since 1972. Teacher assistants employed between 1982 - 1992 were Margaret Sweet, Kathy Ballum, Ann Dalton, Audrey Weeks, and Susan Arsenault. After thirty years service to education in O'Leary, Alden E. Weeks retired as principal in June 1991. He was succeeded by John Rogers.

Janitorial staff contribute their time and efforts to making the school a clean and safe environment. Arnett MacLean was the custodian in charge until his retirement in 1992. Leo MacDonald replaced Walter Darrach who retired in December 1981. Daisy Waite who was on staff as a regular part-time cleaner retired in March '88. She was replaced by Pam Darrach and later by Vivian Ramsay.

Since 1979, O'Leary Consolidated Elementary has had a separate bus system. Bus drivers serving the elementary school since then were Hollis MacFadyen, Harry Smith, Lorne Collicutt, Stephen Rogers and Alton Harris who replaced Wilbur Gray when he retired in June 1984. Anna MacDonald replaced Harry Smith in November 1986 and in May 1989, Emmett Costello replaced Stephen Rogers who resigned at Christmas 1988.

Over the many years the O'Leary School has been most fortunate to have men and women who have served with interest, enthusiasm, and dedication as trustees. A local board of five members supported and governed wisely the affairs of the elementary school for many years. Donald N. MacKenzie served faithfully as a board member for more than fifteen years, most of which he was chairman of the board. Don is worthy of much praise and recognition for a job well-done during his many years of service to the cause of education in the area.

Since 1972, the Unit I School Board and Board Office Staff have continued to provide strong support for the O'Leary School. Excellent staff members have been recruited and adequate financial support has permitted many desired improvements.

Home and School

During the mid 1970's an attempt was made to start a Home and School Association for the area. Schools involved were O'Leary Regional High School, O'Leary Consolidated Elementary, and Hernewood Junior High School. It became very difficult to provide

programs which would interest parents and staff because of the number of schools and the wide range of grade levels involved. Consequently, interest declined and Home and School disappeared for a number of years.

In September 1984, largely through the efforts of Mae Gorrill, P.H.N., and Alden Weeks, Principal, a Home and School Association was founded for O'Leary Consolidated Elementary School. For the next three years, a small but active group of parents and staff met bi-monthly for a business meeting followed by an interesting program related to home, school, or community. The Association began to take over the operation of the school canteen in September 1985. Hot dogs and soup were added to the fruit and milk program. The president, (Mrs.) Elizabeth Gallant and volunteer mothers from the consolidated district provided an excellent and most valuable service to the children by making available a much improved lunch program at the school. (Mrs.) Joyce MacDougall succeeded Mrs. Gallant as canteen co-ordinator from 1988-90. She was succeeded by Lorna Jenkins and Norma Lewis. (1992)

Community School - O'Leary

During the winter months of January, February, and March residents of O'Leary and area helped to pass the long winter evenings by attending Community School once a week. For many it is a time for the learning of a new skill or hobby and, of course, to chat socially with neighbours and friends.

O'Leary Community School was founded in 1966-67. The first school was co-chaired by Gerald and Gwen Gamble. Classes were held in O'Leary Regional High School from 1966-1978 and at O'Leary Consolidated Elementary School since 1979.

Early schools featured courses in agriculture, public speaking, and millinery. In 1986 there were twenty-four courses offered with an enrollment of over 300.

On Wednesday, January 22, 1969, Mrs. Yetman came to the O'Leary Community School full of plans, ambitions and ideas to motivate the ladies of the O'Leary Regional High School Area to creativity. After a couple of visits, it became apparent to you that it took more than good intentions to make milliners out of your newest group.

Cut it on the bias! Get the centre! Drape it forward! Press your sweat band! No! No! No! 'I didn't mean to drape your form! Some of my Alberton group had two hats made at the end of the second

week! And so it went!

Now, there was Helen Smallman - Helen took to millinery as a duck to water, and at the last count, had produced 15 originals.

Vera Smallman was very thorough in everything she did, and she was able to get from table to table to get ideas from each aspirant. Not sure, think 2 was Vera's quota.

Now Audrey Weeks started out with a purpose - to make a Mauve Tartan hat to match her new suit. It took all of Audrey's patience, coupled with your guidance, to complete this project - très, très, chique, Audrey!

Mrs. Oscar Gallant had some previous experience in millinery and came to the group with the intention of trying to 'make-do' - could there be a wee drop of Scotch blood in your ancestry, Helen? Nice work!

I am sure that Helen MacDonald must have presented quite a challenge with her polka dots - 'line them up' - 'get them straight' - 'watch that cast, I don't want to trip over it!' Finally, it was complete.

Margaret Barbour wound up with 2 creations. It took patience on her part and patience on the part of the instructress - Fold here! Pleat there! Put your pins in first! etc., and so it went!

Laura Rayner tried, Lord only knows she tried, but neither she nor you could get the posies to match the cloth. Mother nature came to Laura's rescue, so we will never know how beautiful that hat might have been. One and all wish Laura a speedy recovery.

Mrs. James Gard came from the Mill River to try her hand at millinery, and so apt was she at cutting on the bias, pleating, pinning, etc., that you did not have too much difficulty there. Her creations were A-One.

Olga Gard came to the school full of enthusiasm, and from what we can learn, she left full of the same enthusiasm - so much so, that she completed at least 3 originals, and had enough for some unmentionables.

Floy MacIsaac came in and really proved her ability - her silver and black original was a real gem. Have you seen it? Floy really draws raves with this one and her later creations.

Claretta MacIsaac had one ambition, and that was to "Create an Original" for Easter. Did anyone see the result of her labors?

Now, Joyce Harris, one of our busiest mothers, designed the perfect turban-she draped it, she tucked it, and was told on the final analysis that she had her pleats backwards. How many of your friends noticed, Joyce?

Marie Phillips started with a Silk and Silver. How did it go, Marie,

or is it still in the beginning stage?

Dorothy Elliott - Dorothy, like a few of your other members, had a one and only goal in mind; that is, to create one, and our Dorothy succeeded, plus a scarf to match. Nice, eh?

Bessie Dumville, a seamstress and milliner of repute, came in to get some of the rough edges smoothed out, but once again, Old Mother Nature intervened and Bessie was laid aside - better luck next year, Bessie.

Pamela Easter started out to try to create something original. How is it going, Pam? Rumor has it that you are still on the Original!

Rumor has it that Lillian Locke is still beaming over her first production - a gold Pill-box! Nice, eh?

Now Gwen Gamble was told to try and match the mesh, mix it or make it pleat, pucker it, or do anything that would change it. Poor Gwen! She was the bane of your existence. No one knows how Gwen finally finished up.

Margaret Ellis and Margaret Adams - could it be the name? Neither one ever seemed to get any place in the millinery course. It was either the posies, the material, trouble with the bias! Does anyone know how these two made out?

Mrs. Yetman, we, the members of your 1969 Community School wish to thank you most sincerely for your time and efforts in our behalf, and want you to know that even if all of your Class was not a success, at least some may present a Challenge to you in the years ahead.

From one and all of us, "Best of Everything!" Helen Smallman

Wood Chip Burner

The cost of heating oil continued to rise rapidly during the 1980's. The provincial and federal governments through the Department of Energy decided that the solution to high heating costs with oil may be found in heating with wood chips supplied locally.

Consequently, a wood chip burner would be built on the site at O'Leary Elementary. Originally it was planned that this unit would supply heat for Community Hospital, the West Prince Regional Services Centre, as well as, the school. However, distance did not make it feasible to connect the Regional Services Centre.

In July 1987, a basement was dug and a red fire shed was constructed to house the somewhat sophisticated and computerized equipment. Permission was granted by Ella and Leila Craswell to run a pipe through their property to connect the local hospital. This

work was completed later in the fall.

In November 1988, the burner mechanism was first fired up and it continued in use until April 1989.

During this period numerous problems and difficulties had to be overcome. As a result the burner was out-of-order for frequent periods of time. Some of these problems were inexperienced operators and service men, excessive sawdust in the fuel mixture, presence of twigs, large chunks of wood and snow/ice in the fuel, and some of the equipment had to be replaced.

However, during the second year of its operation from November 1989, to early May 1990, the plant functioned relatively free of any problems or difficulties. Most of the obstacles had been overcome; thus, resulting in a smooth and efficient operation which continues to be the case.

Community Hospital is billed for the amount of heat supplied. The plant continues to be the property of the Department of Energy. It is expected that it will be turned over to the Unit I School Board at some point in time.

Other plants built at the same time in the area are located at Westisle, Hernewood, and Callaghan Schools as well as the Western Hospital, Alberton.

Larger Units of Administration and Consolidation of Schools - an inevitable process

Originally Prince Edward Island with an area of 2184 square miles had about 9400 farms and 469 school districts or an average of one school district for every twenty small farms. The average area of a school district was 4.6 square miles and the distance between rural schools was about two or three miles apart. Within a radius of 1.5 miles from the intersection of cross roads there were in several places as many as four schools. The local school boards of these districts, as they were called, had a maximum of autonomy. They levied and collected school taxes and were responsible for the maintenance and operation of the school. Often the secretary of the board in each district was a very influential figure in the education process of that community.

Attempts toward the reduction of the number of school districts by the consolidation of schools and by the formation of larger units of administration were greatly fostered in P.E.I. between the years 1908 - 1960 as may be seen by numerous educational surveys. Complete consolidation of districts did not occur until 1971 and on July 1, 1972, all consolidated districts were formed into five large regional administrative units across the province. The West Prince

area from Arlington to North Cape became part of Regional Administrative School Unit #1.

Thus decision-making and control in education were removed from the hands of the local residents. Furthermore, the financial responsibilities, particularly the levying and collecting of taxes, have been transferred to the Provincial Government.

Although at the time many people did not want to see the local school closed out in their community, it was felt that the larger school could provide better programs to meet student needs. Furthermore, more emphasis was directed toward the education of the total child in the larger system of education. Programs in music, physical education, French, drama, remedial, computer, and other interest groups have provided students with many opportunities for challenge and growth in learning. Better equipped classrooms, use of audio-visuals, and highly skilled teachers have all contributed to success.

Recent surveys indicate a high degree of satisfaction with the school system in Unit I. In July 1984, the Unit I School Board published the results of a survey of parent perceptions. The results of the survey provide a general endorsement of the efforts of schools and the School Board. Support for the work of the teachers was evident. O'Leary Consolidated Elementary School received a high degree of satisfaction in the same survey. In all areas, namely, quality of education, quality of teaching, transportation, reporting system, and accessibility of personnel, the O'Leary School received ratings above the Unit average and in some cases, these ratings were among the highest in the Unit.

In a survey conducted by the Community of O'Leary in the fall 1985, it was reported that 95.3% of the respondents were "satisfied" to "extremely well satisfied" with the educational system while only 4.7% indicated some degree of dissatisfaction.

In conclusion, it is anticipated that this historical account will be found both interesting and informative for the reader.

Teacher List - 1931 - 1971 for Prince District 175

P - indicates Principal VP - indicates Vice-Principal

1931-32	1932-33	1933-34
H. Lloyd Henderson (P)	H. Lloyd Henderson (P)	H. Lloyd Henderson (P)
Nesry Shelfoon	Nesry Shelfoon	Nesry Shelfoon
Mae E. Horne	Mae E. Horne	Mae E. Horne
1934-35	1935-36	1936-37
H. Lloyd Henderson (P)	H. Lloyd Henderson (P)	Angus Bernard
Nesry Shelfoon	Mae E. Horne	Mae E. Horne
Mae E. Horne	Nesry Shelfoon	Nesry Shelfoon

1937-38

Nesry Shelfoon (P)
Mae E. Horne
Earle Jelley

1938-39

Nesry Shelfoon (P)
D.G. Black
Mae E. Horne

1939-40

Nesry Shelfoon (P)
D.G. Black
Weldon Matthews (8 mo.)
Gordon Kerr (2 mo.)

1940-41

Nesry Shelfoon (7 mo.)
Earle S. Jelley
Pearle MacNeill
Leone (Arbing) Rix (3 mo.)

1941-42

Glenn Gorrill
Earle Jelley
Florence J. MacLean

1942-43

Glenn Gorrill
Earle S. Jelley
Marguerite Woodside

1943-44

Glenn Gorrill
Earle S. Jelley
Marguerite Woodside

1944-45

Earle S. Jelley
Jean Stetson
Glenn (Gorrill) MacNevin

1945-46

Arthur J. O'Malley (4 mo.)
Jessie M. Ellis (6 mo.)
Jean Stetson
Glenn MacNevin

1946-47

Pearl Sweet (9 mo.)
Francis F. Gallant (1 mo.)
Eileen Campbell
Miriam Howlett
Edith (Wells) Palmer

1947-48

Mae (Horne) Palmer
Weldon C. Matthews
Pearl Sweet
Lewis E. MacKenzie
Mary (Tredenick) Matthews

1948-49

Lewis E. MacKenzie (P)
Mae Palmer
Mary Matthews
Arthur H. O'Malley (7 mo.)
Marjorie Ellis (3 mo.)

1940-50

Lewis MacKenzie (P)
Mary O. Matthews
Mae Palmer
Pearl Craig

1950-51

Mae Palmer
Mary Matthews
Pearl Craig
William Turner (P)

1951-52

Lewis MacKenzie (P)
Mae Palmer
Mary O. Matthews
Pearl Craig

1952-53

Lewis MacKenzie (P)
Mae Palmer
Mary O. Matthews
Pearl Craig

1953-54

Lewis MacKenzie (P)
Pearl Craig
Mae Palmer
Mary O. Matthews
Isabelle (Phillips) Campbell
Charles Read

1954-55

Earle S. Jelley (P)
Mary O. Matthews
Isabelle Campbell
Phyllis Sabine
Mae Palmer
Charles Read

1955-56

Edna O'Brien (P)
Earle Jelley
Alfreda O'Brien
Mae Palmer
Mary O. Matthews
Isabelle Campbell
Eileen Rogan
(First music - part-time)

1956-57

Lewis MacKenzie (P)
Earle Jelley
Mae Palmer
Isabelle Campbell
Dorothy Rayner
Mary O. Matthews
Eileen Rogan

1957-58

Lewis MacKenzie (P)
Earle Jelley
Mae Palmer
Mary O. Matthews
Isabelle Campbell
Pearl Duncan
Eileen Rogan

1958-59

Lewis E. MacKenzie (P)
Earle Jelley
Mae Palmer
Mary O. Matthews
Isabelle Campbell
Pearl Duncan
Eileen Rogan

1959-60

Earle Jelley (P)
Lewis MacKenzie
James Currie
Isabelle Campbell
Mae Palmer
Mary O. Matthews
Tony Spenceley
Larry Hickey

1960-61

James A. Currie (P)
Helen MacNeill
Audrey MacPhee
Dorothy Rayner
Mary O. Matthews
Mae Palmer
Eileen Rogan

1961-62

James A. Currie (P)
Alden Weeks
Helen MacNeill
Audrey MacPhee
Dorothy Rayner
Mary O. Matthews
Mae Palmer
Eileen Rogan

1964-65

Alden E. Weeks (P)
Myrtle Doyle
Audrey L. Weeks
Norman Moase
Sheila Moase
Helen MacNeill
Dorothy Rayner
Norine Rooney
Marion MacKenzie
Eileen Rogan

1967-68

Alden E. Weeks (P)
John Cousins
Myrtle Doyle (2 mo.)
Norma Gard (5 mo.)
Christine MacKinnon (5 mo.)
Carol Livingstone
Reta MacDonald
Allison McCormack (8 mo.)
Marion MacKenzie (3/5 time)
Dorothy Rayner
Norine Rooney
Audrey Weeks
Eileen Rogan

1962-63

Alden E. Weeks (P)
Mae E. Palmer (2 mo.)
Muriel Adams (6 mo.)
Dorothy Ellis (2 mo.)
Helen MacNeill
Audrey (MacPhee) Weeks
Dorothy Rayner
Mary O. Matthews
Eileen Doyle
Eileen Rogan

1965-66

Alden E. Weeks (P)
Myrtle Doyle
Audrey L. Weeks
Norman Moase
Sheila Moase
Helen MacNeill
Dorothy Rayner
Norine Rooney
Norma Gard
Marion MacKenzie
Eileen Rogan

1968-69

Alden E. Weeks (P)
Linda Doyle (6 mo.)
Reta MacDonald
Marion MacKenzie
Christine MacKinnon
Joanne Adams (9 mo.)
Shirley MacAusland (1 mo.)
Audrey Weeks
Dorothy Rayner
Carol Livingstone
Eileen Rogan

1970-71

Alden E. Weeks (P)
Norman Moase (VP)
Reta MacDonald
Shirley Matheson
Marion MacKenzie
Christine MacKinnon
Sheila Moase
Leah Harris
Eileen Rogan

1963-64

Alden E. Weeks (P)
Audrey Weeks
Helen MacNeill
Dorothy Rayner
Norine Rooney
Elaine Palmer
Norman Moase
Muriel Adams
Mary O. Matthews
Eileen Rogan

1966-67

Alden E. Weeks (P)
Norma Gard
Myrtle Doyle
Helen MacNeill
Marion Shaw
Carol Livingstone
Marion MacKenzie (3/5 time)
Dorothy Rayner
Norine Rooney
Audrey Weeks
Eileen Rogan

1969-70

Alden Weeks (P)
Leah Harris
Reta MacDonald
Marion MacKenzie
Christine MacKinnon
Shirley (MacAusland)
Matheson
Norman Moase (VP)
Sheila Moase
Eileen Rogan

O'LEARY REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS 1960 - 1973

1960-61

Earle Jelley (P)
William Costain
Lewis E. MacKenzie
Isabelle Campbell
Beverley Howard
John Bernard Connolly
Edith Palmer

1963-64

Earle Jelley (P)
William Costain
Sandra Rogers
Isabelle Campbell
Norma Ann Clowes
Andrew Wells
James Wallace MacNeill
A.R. Lewis
Edith Palmer
Lewis MacKenzie
Terrance Carrier

1966-67

Earle Jelley (P)
Isabelle Campbell
Marie Culberson
Aubin Gallant
Elizabeth Greer
Faye Milligan
David Sellick
Blair Wilkie
William Costain
Norma Ann Clowes
Haldane Frizzell
Henry Gaudet
Lewis MacKenzie
Edith Palmer
Marsha Wellner

1961-62

Earle Jelley (P)
Donald LeClair
Edith J. Palmer
William Costain
Eleanor Craig
John Winston Yeo
Isabelle Campbell
Lewis MacKenzie
Beverley Howard

1964-65

Earle Jelley (P)
Lewis MacKenzie
James MacNeill
Isabelle Campbell
Edith Palmer
Marie Culberson
Donald Wallace
William Costain
Sandra MacDonald
Norma Ann Clowes
Elizabeth Anderson-Greer
Kenneth Sprague
Henry Gaudet
Helen Jean Wallace

1967-68

Earle Jelley (P)
Isabell Campbell
Henry Gaudet
Patricia MacDonald
Jane MacKay
Mustatag Masih
David Sellick
H. Mayne Yeo
William Costain
Aubin Gallant
Myrna Hardy
Arthur LeClair
Lewis MacKenzie
Edith Palmer
Marsha Wellner

1962-63

Earle Jelley (P)
Beverley Howard
Edith Palmer
J.W. Costain
Donald LeClair
Margaret Keenan
Eleanor Craig
A.R. Lewis
Isabelle Campbell
Lewis MacKenzie
Sandra Matthews

1965-66

Earle Jelley (P)
Isabelle Campbell
Marsha Wellner (8 mo.)
Marie Culberson
Henry Gaudet
Elizabeth Greer
William Costain
Merry Carruthers (2 mo.)
Norma Clowes
Haldane Frizzell
Lewis MacKenzie
Faye Milligan
Edith Palmer
Sandra Matthews
Blair Wilkie

1968-69

Regional including Junior High
Earle Jelley (P)
Mary Sharpe (6 mo.)
Dorothy Rogerson (6 mo.)
Sherill Barwise
Aubin Gallant
Myrna Hardy
Patricia MacDonald
Erica MacNeill
Mustatag Masih
Gemma Reid
W.M.A. Smith
Anne Davis
Margaret Wallace
William Costain
Isabelle Campbell
Henry Gaudet
Elaine Howard (6 mo.)
Lewis MacKenzie
Perley MacNeill
Edith Palmer
Eric Shaw
Mayne Yeo
Edna Morrison

1969-1970

Earle Jelley (P)
Gerald Meek
Beverley Boates
Isabelle Campbell
Winston Gallant
Henry Gaudet
Myrna Hardy
Thane LeLacheur
Marilyn MacLean
Eileen Matheson
Edith Palmer
Gemma Reid
William Costain
Sherrill Barwise
Ann Callaghan
Mary E. Campbell
Edith Gaudet
Joyce Gorrill
Elaine Howard
Lewis MacKenzie
Erica MacNeil
Edna Morrison
Marcia Pate
Dorothy Rodgers
Mary Sharpe
Eric Shaw
Audrey Weeks (1 mo.)
H. Mayne Yeo
Patricia Sharpe
Surinder Sood
Margaret Wallace (6 mo.)

1972-73

Earle Jelley (P)
Gerald Meek
Sherrill Barwise
Elaine Bulger
Marilyn Carew
William Costain
Ann Barwise
Beverley Boates
Isabelle Campbell
Earle Foster
Frances Frost
Henry Gaudet
Audrey MacDonald
Marilyn MacLean
Edna Morrison
Marica Pate
Gemma Reid
Patricia Sharpe
Rhonda Smallman

1970-71

Earle Jelley (P)
Jean Adams
Beverley Boates
Isabelle Campbell
Winston Gallant
Joyce Gorrill
Norman MacDougall
Marilyn MacLean
Edna Morrison
Edith Palmer
Dorothy Rogerson
Patricia Sharpe
Rhonda Smallman (6 1/2 mo.)
Gerald Meek
Margaret Wallace (4 mo.)
Gloria Wood
Sherrill Barwise
Ann (Callaghan) Barwise
Mary B. Gallant
Henry Gaudet
Thane LeLacheur
Lewis MacKenzie
Erica MacNeill
Linda Murray
Marcia Pate
Gemma Reid
Mary Sharpe
Eric Shaw
Adrienne MacDonald (1 1/2 mo.)
Surinder Sood
Elaine Bulger (6 mo.)
H. Mayne Yeo

1973-1979

(Senior High School Teachers)
Elaine Bulger
Gloria Wood
Edith Palmer
Andrew Chisholm
David MacDonald
(both Junior & Senior High)
Mayne Yeo
Marilyn MacLean
Lewis MacKenzie
Reby MacDougall
Fran Frost
Myrna Phillips
Henri Gaudet
Ann Barwise
Isabelle Campbell
Sherrill Barwise
Erica MacNeill
Bill Costain

1971-72

Earle Jelley (P)
Gerald Meek
Ann Barwise
Beverley Boates
Isabelle Campbell
Earl D. Foster
Mary B. Gallant
Henry Gaudet
Lewis MacKenzie
Erica MacNeill
Edith Palmer
Myrna Phillips
Dorothy Rodgers
Patricia Sharpe
Rhonda Smallman
Margaret Wallace
H. Mayne Yeo
William Costain
Jean Adams
Sherrill Barwise
Elaine Bulger
Marilyn Carew
Francis Frost
Winston Gallant
Joyce Gorrill
Marilyn MacLean
Edna Morrison
Marcia Pate
Gemma Reid
Mary Sharpe
Eric Shaw
Surinder Sood
Gloria Jean Wood

Junior High

School Teachers
Winston Gallant
Edna Morrison
Joyce MacDougall
Eric Shaw
Audrey MacDonald (Sp. Ed.)
Marilyn Carew
Patricia Sharpe
Surinder Sood
Gregory Bishop
David McDonald
(both Junior & Senior High)
Gemma Reid
Margaret Wallace
Rhonda Smallman
Marica Pate
Gerald Meek
Jean Otto

Margaret Wallace
H. Mayne Yeo
Winston Gallant
Joyce Gorrill
Lewis MacKenzie
Erica MacNeill
Edith Palmer
Myrna Phillips
Dorothy Rogerson
Eric Shaw
Surinder Sood
Gloria Wood

Audrey Kimball
Lynn MacKinnon
Leona Doyle
Walter Mattinson (Part-time)
John Cousins



O'Leary Consolidated Staff 1974-1975

Back row left to right - Eileen Rogan, Shirley Matheson, Reta MacDonald, Christine MacKinnon, Norma MacIsaac, Edith Palmer, Marion MacKenzie.

Front row - Florence Young (secretary), John Cousins, Norman Moase (vice-principal), Alden Weeks (principal), Hilda Smallman, Florence Buchanan, Leah Harris, Nadine Dennis.

O'Leary Consolidated Elementary School District - 133

1971-72

Alden E. Weeks (P)
Norman Moase (VP)
Reta MacDonald
Nadine Dennis
Shirley Matheson
Marion MacKenzie
Christine MacKinnon
Hilda Smallman
Sheila Moase
Leah Harris
Eileen Rogan
(Mrs.) Stantosh Sood
Patricia Ramsay

1972-73

Alden E. Weeks (P)
Norman Moase (VP)
John Cousins
Reta MacDonald
Nadine Dennis
Shirley Matheson
Barbara Graham
Marion MacKenzie
Christine MacKinnon
Ernestine Foley
Hilda Smallman
Norma MacIsaac
Leah Harris

1973-74

Alden E. Weeks (P)
Norman Moase (VP)
John Cousins
Reta MacDonald
Nadine Dennis
Shirley Matheson
Marion MacKenzie
Leah Harris
Edith Palmer
Christine MacKinnon
Norma MacIsaac
Hilda Smallman
Florence Buchanan

Bonita Johnson
 Jessie Ellis
 Alma MacLennan
 Martha Smallman
 Wanda Ellis
 Daria Bulger
 Edith Palmer
 Adrice Collicutt
 Doris Currie
 Marion Shaw
 Pauline Milligan
 Pearle Duncan

1974-75

Alden E. Weeks (P)
 Norman Moase (VP)
 Charles Gorrill
 Reta MacDonald
 Nadine Dennis
 Shirley Matheson
 Pauline Milligan
 Marion MacKenzie
 Leah Harris
 Christine MacKinnon
 Edith Palmer
 Norma MacIsaac
 Hilda Smallman
 Florence Buchanan
 Joyce MacKichan
 Eileen Rogan
 Patricia Peters
 Pearle Duncan
 Daria Bulger
 Jessie Ellis
 Martha Smallman
 Wanda Ellis
 John Rogers
 Bonita Johnson

1977-78

Alden E. Weeks (P)
 Norman Moase (VP)
 Charles Gorrill
 John Salter
 Reta MacDonald
 John Rogers
 Shirley Matheson
 Pauline Milligan
 Daria Bulger
 Marion MacKenzie
 Leah Harris
 Wanda Ellis
 Patricia Peters
 Florence Buchanan

Eileen Rogan
 Patricia (Ramsay) Peters
 Bonita Johnson
 Jessie Ellis
 Alma MacLennan
 Martha Smallman
 Wanda Ellis
 Daria Bulger
 Edith Palmer
 Doris Currie
 Pauline Milligan
 Pearle Duncan

1975-76

Alden E. Weeks (P)
 Norman Moase (VP)
 Charles Gorrill
 Reta MacDonald
 Nadine Dennis
 John Rogers
 Shirley Matheson
 Pauline Milligan
 Daria Bulger
 Marion MacKenzie
 Leah Harris
 Florence Buchanan
 Christine MacKinnon
 Patricia Peters
 Wanda Ellis
 Norma MacIsaac
 Hilda Smallman
 Edith Palmer
 Bethany Cousins
 Joyce MacKichan
 Elizabeth McLeod
 Elizabeth Baglole
 (First Core French)

1978-79

Alden E. Weeks (P)
 Norman Moase (VP)
 Charles Gorrill
 John Salter
 Reta MacDonald
 John Rogers
 Shirley Matheson
 Pauline Milligan
 Geraldine Stewart
 Marion MacKenzie
 Leah Harris
 Patricia Peters
 Florence Buchanan
 Norma MacIsaac

Roslyn Smith (First ph. ed.)
 Eileen Rogan
 Patricia Peters
 Pearle Duncan
 Daria Bulger
 Jessie Ellis
 Martha Smallman
 Doris Currie
 Pauline Milligan
 Bonita Johnson
 Wanda Ellis

1976-77

Alden E. Weeks (P)
 Norman Moase (VP)
 Charles Gorrill
 Paul Driscoll
 Reta MacDonald
 John Rogers
 Shirley Matheson
 Pauline Milligan
 Daria Bulger
 Marion MacKenzie
 Leah Harris
 Florence Buchanan
 Christine MacKinnon
 Patricia Peters
 Wanda Ellis
 Norma MacIsaac
 Hilda Smallman
 Edith Palmer
 Audrey MacDonald
 Joyce MacKichan
 Lynn Murray
 Judy Killorn

1979-80

Alden E. Weeks (P)
 Norman Moase (VP)
 John Salter
 Reta MacDonald
 John Rogers
 Charles Gorrill
 Shirley Matheson
 Pauline Milligan
 Geraldine Stewart
 Leah Harris
 Patricia Peters
 Wanda Ellis
 Florence Buchanan
 Edith Palmer

Norma MacIsaac
Hilda Smallman
Edith Palmer
Audrey MacDonald
Marion Craig
Lynn Murray
Elizabeth (Baglole) Pfinder

1980-81

Alden E. Weeks (P)
Norman Moase (VP)
John Salter
Charles Gorrill
Reta MacDonald
John Rogers
Shirley Matheson
Geraldine Stewart
Patricia Peters
Florence Buchanan
Pauline Milligan
Wanda Ellis
Edith Palmer
Norma MacIsaac
Hilda Smallman
Audrey MacDonald
Corina Bolo
Lynn Murray
Elizabeth Pfinder
Leah Harris

1983-84

Alden E. Weeks (P)
Norman Moase (VP)
Charles Gorrill
Reta MacDonald
Geraldine Stewart
Shirley Matheson
Leah Harris
Patricia Peters
Florence Bridges
Wanda Ellis
Edith Palmer
Norma MacIsaac
Hilda Smallman
Audrey MacDonald
Blair O'Halloran (1 mo.)
Corina Bolo (9 mo.)
Robert Wilkie
Elizabeth Pfinder
Kathy Ballum
(Resource)

Hilda Smallman
Edith Palmer
Audrey MacDonald
Brenda Miller
Elizabeth Pfinder
Lynn Murray
Wanda Ellis

1981-82

Alden E. Weeks (P)
Norman Moase (VP)
John Salter
Reta MacDonald
John Rogers
Charles Gorrill
Leah Harris (5 mo.)
Geraldine Stewart
Pauline (Milligan) Gard
Patricia Peters
Florence Buchanan
Wanda Ellis
Edith Palmer
Norma MacIsaac
Hilda Smallman
Audrey MacDonald
Corina Bolo
Robert Wilkie
Elizabeth Pfinder
Marilyn MacLean
(Resource Teacher)
Shirley Matheson (5 mo.)

1984-85

Alden E. Weeks (P)
Norman Moase (VP)
Charles Gorrill
Reta MacDonald
Elizabeth Pfinder
Shirley Matheson
Geraldine Stewart
Patricia Peters
Florence Bridges
Wanda Ellis
Leah Harris
Norma MacIsaac
Hilda Smallman
Blair O'Halloran
Cathy Weldin
Audrey MacDonald
Marilyn MacLean
(Resource)
Corina Bolo (5 mo.)

Norma MacIsaac
Hilda Smallman
Audrey MacDonald
Lola Montgomery
Elizabeth Pfinder
Lynn Murray

1982-83

Alden E. Weeks (P)
Norman Moase (VP)
Charles Gorrill
Reta MacDonald
Geraldine Stewart
Shirley Matheson
Leah Harris
Patricia Peters
Florence (Buchanan) Bridges
Wanda Ellis
Norma MacIsaac
Hilda Smallman
Audrey MacDonald
Corina Bolo
Robert Wilkie
Elizabeth Pfinder
Kathy Ballum -
(Resource Teacher)
Edith Palmer (5 mo.)
Pauline Gard

1985-86

Alden E. Weeks (P)
Norman Moase (VP)
Charles Gorrill
Reta MacDonald
Elizabeth Pfinder
Shirley Matheson
Geraldine Stewart
Patricia Peters
Florence Bridges
Wanda Ellis
Leah Harris
Norma MacIsaac
Hilda Smallman
Blair O'Halloran
Cathy Weldin
Audrey MacDonald
Marilyn MacLean

1986-87

Alden E. Weeks (P)
 Norman Moase (VP)
 Charles Gorrill
 Reta MacDonald
 Elizabeth Pfinder
 Shirley Matheson
 Geraldine Stewart
 Patricia Peters
 Florence Bridges
 Wanda Ellis
 Leah Harris
 Norma MacIsaac
 Hilda Smallman
 Blair O'Halloran
 Cathy Weldin
 Audrey MacDonald
 Marilyn MacLean

1989-90

Alden E. Weeks (P)
 Charles Gorrill (VP)
 Norman Moase
 Rhonda Smallman
 Cynthia McNally
 Shirley Matheson
 Geraldine Stewart
 Reta MacDonald
 Florence Bridges
 Patricia Peters
 Leah Harris
 Norma MacIsaac
 Wanda Ellis
 Blair O'Halloran
 Garth MacKay
 Audrey MacDonald
 Marilyn MacLean

1987-88

Alden E. Weeks (P)
 Charles Gorrill (AVP)
 Norman Moase
 Colleen Gallant (Part-time)
 Elizabeth Pfinder
 Shirley Matheson
 Geraldine Stewart
 Reta MacDonald
 Florence Bridges
 Patricia Peters
 Leah Harris
 Norma MacIsaac
 Wanda Ellis
 Blair O'Halloran
 Rachel Cameron
 Audrey MacDonald
 Marilyn MacLean

1990-91

Alden E. Weeks (P)
 Charles Gorrill (VP)
 Norman Moase
 Rhonda Smallman
 Cynthia McNally
 Shirley Matheson
 Geraldine Stewart
 Reta MacDonald
 Florence Bridges
 Robert MacNaught
 Leah Harris
 Norma MacIsaac
 Wanda Ellis
 Blair O'Halloran
 Cathy Kowallis
 Audrey MacDonald
 Marilyn MacLean

1988-89

Alden E. Weeks (P)
 Charles Gorrill (VP)
 Norman Moase
 Colleen Gallant (Part-time)
 Cynthia McNally
 Shirley Matheson
 Geraldine Stewart
 Reta MacDonald
 Florence Bridges
 Patricia Peters
 Leah Harris
 Norma MacIsaac
 Wanda Ellis
 Blair O'Halloran
 Rachel Cameron (8 mo.)
 Garth MacKay (2 mo.)
 Audrey MacDonald
 Marilyn MacLean

1991-92

John Rogers (P)
 Charles Gorrill (VP)
 Patricia Sharpe
 Rhonda Smallman
 Cynthia McNally
 Shirley Matheson
 Geraldine Stewart
 Florence Bridges
 Pat Peters
 Leah Harris
 Robert MacNaught
 Wanda Ellis
 Lorraine MacLean
 Blair O'Halloran
 Heather Ives
 Audrey MacDonald
 Marilyn MacLean



Teachers' O'Leary Local Annual Fall Season 1933

Back Row - from left Mrs. Bay Ellis (Gladys Wright), Eva Sabine, Bertha Gallant, Mrs. Jos. Callaghan, Julia Arsenaault, Mabel Fielding, Eva Arsenaault, Flora Boulter, (Mrs. Leslie Gorrill), Evelyn Phillips (Mrs. Fred Chamption), Erma Palmer (not a teacher), Kathleen Yeo (Mrs. R. Stewart), Iva Bridges, Mae Horne. Second row from left Dr. H.H. Shaw - Superintendent of Education, Joyce MacArthur, Linda Currie, Leila Proffitt, Pearl Craig, Eva MacKinnon, (Mrs. L. MacNevin), Jean Manderson, (Mrs. Alvin Webb), Olive Adams, Mrs. Leonard, Miss Walsh, Miss Catherine MacLean (J.R.C.), Miss Hilda Gillis - School Inspector, James Currie, Peter Gallant School Inspector, Fred Skerry, Garland Brooks. Third row from left Kathleen Henderson, Dora Pridham, Bea MacNeill, Blanche Phillips (Mrs. Garland Brooks), Mary Dorgan, Edna Palmer, Dorothy MacNeill, Fairlee Dorgan, Eileen O'Brien, Ann Wade, Blanche Rennie. Front row from left Rupert MacNeill, Edwin MacNeill, Reginald MacNeill, Lloyd Henderson, Weldon Matthews, Willard O'Brien, Willard Caseley, Heber Matthews, Leslie Dignan, Nesry Shelfoon.



On the front row the blond head beside the table is Jack Pate, Marne Kennedy's mother, behind the chair, 2nd from right.



Back row L-R - Marion Ellis (McMurdo), Ola Lidstone, Ray Jelley, Clayton MacLean. Second row L-R - Sandra MacLeod (Thompson), Shirley Gorrill (Ellis), Earle Jelley (Teacher), Pat Pate, Florrie Pate (Turner), Beryl Smallman. Front row L-R - Harry Lidstone, Bentley MacLeod, Earle Lidstone, Allison Turner, Bobby Williams, Brent MacDonald.



1949-50 Grade Nine and Ten

Back row: Lewis MacKenzie, Peter Pate, Blanche Matthews, Arthur Seaman, Lorne Johnson, Joan MacDonald, Doris MacLellan. Front: Isabel MacDonald, Verna Stetson, Elizabeth Arsenault, William Matheson, Calvin Carruthers, Shirley Grigg, Peggy Ellis.



CLASS OF "52"

Elwyn Jelley, James MacKenzie, Joe Buchanan, Larry Reilly, Gerald Gallant, George Wedge, Bud Ellis, Blair Thomson, Aubrey Harris, George Carruthers, Douglas Ellis, Margie Woodbridge, Grace Seaman, Jean MacDougall, Joyce MacDougall, Bonita Adams, Lorraine MacDonald, Betty Reilly, Ruth Wood, Leila Craswell, Lila Craswell, Betty MacKinnon, Bertha Lecky, Doris Strang, Ruth Finnan, Fairley Dumville, Eileen Saunders, Audrey Dumville, Suzanne Wedge, Lewis MacKenzie, Teacher.



Back Row: Donnie Ellis, Victor Milligan, Calvin Silliker, Rankin MacKinnon, Eric Gallant, Norman Kennedy, Fred Johnson. Middle: Norma Dickson, Wayne Matthews, Shirley MacMillan, Blair Bernard, Kenny Johnson, Claudette MacNeill, Jeanne Dickson, Barbara MacNeill, Vernon Strang. Front: Jo Jo Yeo, Sandra Matthews, Marion MacKenzie, Donna MacKinnon, Betty Gallant.



Teacher - Mae Palmer. Students Valerie MacWilliams, Beaudreau, Olive Harris, Elaine Vey, Elaine Palmer, Marlene Palmer, Muriel Ellis, Audrey Gray, Cynthia Kennedy, Ruth Saunders, Virginia Silliker, Nancy Campbell, Dianne Wedge, Karol Bernard, Gerald Yeo, George MacKinnon, Leslie Gray, Blair Waite, Muncey MacKinnon, Robert Carruthers, Hazen Silliker, Leigh Vatcher, Malcolm Burgess, Calvin Jelly, Barry Gray, Richard Ozon, Eric Phillips, Hinson MacMillan, Clifford Seaman, Robert (Junior) Ellis.

RULES FOR 1915 SCHOOL TEACHERS

Truly, the life-style of a school teacher has changed radically in the last 50 or 60 years. For example, a 1915 teachers' magazine listed the following rules of conduct for teachers of that day:

- * You will not marry during the term of your contract.
- * You are not to keep company with men.
- * You must be home between the hours of 8 p.m. and 6 a.m. unless attending a school function.
- * You may not loiter downtown in any of the ice cream stores.
- * You may not travel beyond the city limits unless you have the permission of the chairman of the board.
- * You may not ride in a carriage or automobile with any man unless he is your father or brother.
- * You may not smoke cigarettes.
- * You may not dress in bright colors.
- * You may under no circumstances dye your hair.
- * You must wear at least two petticoats.

- * Your dresses must not be any shorter than two inches above the ankle.
- * To keep the schoolroom neat and clean, you must: sweep the floor at least once daily; scrub the floor at least once a week with hot, soapy water; clean the blackboards at least once a day; and start the fire at 7 a.m. so the room will be warm by 8 a.m.

- Buckeye Farm News

Here's an illustration of "passing the minimum competency buck":

"College professor: 'Such rawness in a pupil is a shame. Lack of preparation in the high school is to blame.'

"High school teacher: 'Good heavens, what crudity; the boy's a fool! The fault, of course, is in the grammar school.'

"Grammar school teacher: 'From such stupidity may I be spared! They send them up to me so unprepared.'

"Primary teacher: 'Kindergarten blockhead! That preparation is worse than none at all.'

"Kindergarten teacher: 'Such lack of training never did I see. What kind of a woman must the mother be?'

"The mother: 'Poor helpless child. He's not to blame. His father's folks are just the same.' "

— Author unknown.

Chapter 6

Community Culture

BANDS

The O'Leary Region Lions Band was originally formed in 1966, under the direction of W.E. Raymond Locke. At that time much of the work leading to the development of the band was volunteered. Such things as uniforms were made by hand, by many interested ladies. The making of the uniforms was supervised by Helen Smallman, Yvonne Baglole, and Laura Rayner. The band continued under the direction of Mr. Locke until the fall of 1969. At that time, Thomas Hamilton-Irving was hired as the new band master. He remained with the band for a short period of time and when he left the band dispersed.

Fortunately, in 1971, the need was seen to start the band again. Under an Opportunities for Youth Program, the services of David MacDonald and Frank McKearney were obtained. At that time they were enrolled in the music program at U.P.E.I. During the summer of 1971, they worked 30 to 35 hours a week, training approximately thirty-five students. The operations of the band were very successful. David MacDonald and Frank McKearney remained with the band for the next three years and continued to operate from the Lions Club.

In 1973, the band had a very successful summer. They helped many Island communities celebrate P.E.I.'s 100th birthday since Confederation.

In 1974, David MacDonald graduated from U.P.E.I. and was hired by Unit One School Board to teach music at the O'Leary Regional High School. When this happened, the Lions Club sold their instruments and equipment to the school. The bands since then have operated through the school system.

In the summer of 1980, students were concerned that once they finished school, they would also end their involvement with the bands. A group of students asked Mr. MacDonald if he would be willing to direct a summer band. He agreed to help and they asked legions in West Prince to sponsor them. The legions were very willing to help. The O'Leary Legion purchased forty-five uniforms that summer for the West Prince Marching Band. This band has played in most of the major parades across the Island, including the Gold Cup & Saucer Parade, and the Lobster Carnival Parade. In 1981, the band won first prize in the division of Junior Brass and Reed in the Gold

Cup & Saucer Parade, the fifth largest parade in Canada. The band was also selected as the feature band of the parade.



O'LEARY ORCHESTRA

During the late twenties and early thirties entertainment in rural areas was limited. People did not have access to or availability of the many avenues of diversion we enjoy today. Travel was difficult, often cumbersome, but this did not deter young people from enjoying themselves.

Between 1929 and 1934 a group of ambitious and talented local musicians decided to do something about this lack of merriment and

formed the O'Leary Orchestra. They played five nights a week for thirty-five dollars a performance at dances and lawn parties in Tignish, Alberton, O'Leary, Tyne Valley, Richmond, Summerside and Borden. The members of the band were Gabriel Gallant, Sr., - drummer, Nesry Shelfoon - saxophone, Pius Doiron - violin, Pearl Noonan and Greta Rogers - piano, and Albert Noonan - violin and trumpet.

P.E.I. POTATO BLOSSOM FESTIVAL

May 11, 1968, a "steering committee" of eight members met at the O'Leary Library to discuss ways and means for celebrations as a follow up from the Centennial celebrations held in O'Leary in 1967. The eight members were Alton Rayner as chairman, Helen Smallman, Ralph Adams, Don MacKenzie, Stanley MacDonald, Bill Lynch, Charles Willis, and Lulu Turner.

It was decided that the future celebrations be called "Potato Blossom Festival" and be held in July when the potatoes are in full blossom.

Other interested citizens joined forces with the original eight this first year; namely, Dr. George Dewar, Douglas Adams, Thiren Ellis, Wilfred Dennis, Alden Weeks, Mustaq Masih, Harry MacWilliam, and Bernard Shea. They decided the celebrations should consist of opening ceremony, track & field races, talent show, pet show, doll carriage parade, concessions, Miss P.E.I. Potato Blossom Queen contest, and a parade.

Additions to the original festival over the following years were suppers sponsored by the Community Hospital Ladies Aid, a midway, fireworks, and special guests. The special guests were usually someone who had lived in O'Leary and had moved away. In the late seventies it was decided to honour a citizen of the community who has been active in community affairs. There was also a day for the senior citizens and a tea was held in their honour. In 1984, along with the citizen of the year, Thelma Sweet, a volunteer of the year was chosen. This event was in memory of Irma Dumville, who was a great volunteer and sports lady. In March, 1983, Irma lost her life in a tragic fire which destroyed their home.

The festival provides a good time for citizens of the area along with all Islanders and visiting tourists.

The Potato Blossom Queen contest is perhaps the highlight of the festival. In 1967 during the Centennial celebrations a Miss O'Leary pageant was held. Sandra (MacIsaac) Sabine was crowned Miss O'Leary. The queens of the Potato Blossom Festival from 1968 - 1992 are as follows:

1968 - Patricia (MacDonald) Sharpe
 1969 - Heather (MacKenzie) Allen
 1970 - Shirley (McCormick) Collicutt
 1971 - Geraldine (Cooke) Harris
 1972 - Mary (Gard) Peppin
 1973 - Faye (Adams) Collings
 1974 - Corinda (Smallman) Stewart
 1975 - Patricia (Boates) Jones
 1976 - Anne (Cornish) Hogg
 1977 - Leah (Boulter) Grivil
 1978 - Beth (MacMillan) -
 1979 - Sandra (Boulter) Smith
 1980 - Elaine (Smallman) Lecky
 1981 - Nora (Hayes) -
 1982 - Paula (Smallman) MacNeill
 1983 - Dawn Pineau
 1984 - Barbie (MacKay) Barbour
 1985 - Elizabeth Yeo
 1986 - Connie MacLean
 1987 - Laurie (Rodgersen) Wallace
 1988 - Karen (Johnson) MacCarville
 1989 - Diane Gard
 1990 - Kelly Dawn Williams
 1991 - Stephanie Smallman
 1992 - Rhonda Doiron

The queen represents the P.E.I. Potato Blossom Festival at public events. They also represent the festival in the Miss P.E.I. Pageant and attend the Royal Winter Fair in Toronto to promote P.E.I. tourism and potatoes. The cost of the trip to the Winter Fair is underwritten by the P.E.I. Potato Marketing Board.

In 1984, special recognition plaques were presented to Dr. George Dewar and Alton Rayner - these were the driving forces behind the first festival.

For a number of years a Lady Gem pageant was held. Scrapbooks kept at the time reveal some of the winners as follows: Jean Meggison (1982), Mae Costain (1983), and Mary Ellen MacIsaac and Florence MacDougall, now MacNevin (1985).

Other activities added later include car rallies, potato poem contest, pancake breakfast with pancake flipping contest, and flower and vegetable garden contests.

The proceeds from the various events go to community organizations such as the hospital, library, rink, and museum.

Citizens of the Year

Alton and Laura Rayner	-	1978
Ivan Webb	-	1979
Eva Gamble	-	1980
Dr. George and Jean Dewar	-	1981
Charles and Nellie Willis	-	1982
Lewis and Dorothy Bernard	-	1983
Douglas and Georgina Ferguson	-	1984
Bernard and Verna Shea	-	1985
Errol and Isabel Stetson	-	1986
Thiren and Shirley Ellis	-	1987
Wilfred and Isabel Dennis	-	1988
Hilda Smallman	-	1989
Carol Livingstone	-	1990
Alden & Audrey Weeks	-	1991
Allison Ellis	-	1992

Volunteer of the Year Award

In memory of the late Irma Dumville

Thelma Sweet	-	1984
Florence Elizabeth (Bessie) Dennis	-	1985
James Smallman (posthumously)	-	1986
Frances Dewar	-	1987
Christine MacKinnon	-	1988
Clair Sweet	-	1989
Richard Livingstone	-	1990
Dr. Gary Morgan	-	1991
Ronnie Gamble	-	1992

Potato Producer of the Year

Alma MacLennan	-	1989
Winburn Harris	-	1990
Ken Smallman	-	1991
Blair Horne	-	1992

Junior Farmer Award

Kent Smallman	-	1991
Gene Smallman	-	1992

P.E.I. POTATO BLOSSOM FESTIVAL O'LEARY JULY 23 - 28, 1991

*All roads lead to O'Leary in the last week of July
To celebrate the Festival all events comply;
There are many entertainments that to old and young appeal
And to make it to O'Leary, you'll hear the tires squeal.*

*Mill River for the golfers, the rally at the rink parking lot,
And the Bar BQ for seniors with some shellfish in the pot
Maple Leaf and Lions Club - they both participate
Bingo, Reception, then the Banquet with an appetizing plate.*

*Activities for the children, too numerous to name
With the contest for the parent child to see who looks the same;
Some merchandise for sale on the sidewalk of Main Street
The lunch box social at the Villa should be a special treat.*

*The annual Aqua Plex for those who like the sport
Accompanied by a run at the River's Grand Resort;
The pancake flipping breakfast will be for one and all
9:00 until 10:30 at the O'Leary Legion Hall.*

*The Potato Blossom Pageant - WHO will Miss O'Leary be?
Just WHO will win the title will be interesting to see;
Petting Zoo and pony rides and then the grand parade -
Who finds a decent place to park will think they've got it made.*

*Flea market, arm wrestling, competitive tug-of-war
Gong show, races, entertainment galore;
Sponsored by the Potato Museum - a peeling contest
To see who can peel potatoes the quickest and the best.*

*Machinery show for farmers to see who owns the most
Maple Leaf Curling Club appears to be the host
An ecumenical service will be at the very last
To turn your thoughts to God when everything else is past.*

*It surely gets the people of the country all together
And everybody's hoping for fine and sunny weather
The enthusiastic effort and all the problems solved
Must take much time and effort for all who've been involved.*

J.M.





First prize won by O'Leary Credit Union during The Potato Blossom Parade — An Irish Wake.



Potato picking contest Potato Blossom Festival.

VERDUN THEATRE



In 1946 Milton Smallman, Sr., and his son Emmerson opened the Verdun Theatre. This was a large building located on the corner of Willow Avenue and Kent Street. It had red upholstered seats and a canteen where popcorn and candy bars were available. Some of the original seats can still be seen today in the community sports centre. In 1961, the theatre closed only to be reopened in 1964 by Keith Cooke and Milton Smallman, Jr., under the name of Venus Theatre. They operated the theatre for only a short time. There has been no theatre in O'Leary since then and one must travel to the Princess Pat

Drive In, Cascumpec or Summerside to see a movie. The building which housed the theatre was torn down in 1981 and a duplex built by Dewar Oulton now occupies the lot.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT



Campfire Scene

Left to Right - Donald Matheson, Yvonne Baglole, Mae Gotell, Ed Turner, Helen Kennedy, Joey Turner, Lily Palmer, Velma Harrison.



Back Row Left to Right - Fred MacLeod, Keith Gard, Ed MacDougall, Bertram Boates.

Middle Row - Mae Gotell, Inez Jelley, Lily Palmer, Joey Turner, Dorothy Turner

Front Row - Helen Kennedy, Garth Harrison, Yvonne Baglole



Back Row left to right: Robert Woodside, Ed Turner, Edward MacAusland, Jack Matthews, Donald Matheson.

Middle Row - Nellie Willis, Mary Matthews, Lillian Andrews, Jean MacDougall.

Front Row - Yvonne Baglole, Velma Harrison, Jim Baglole, Shirley Ellis, Lula Turner.



Fran MacWilliam, Jean Dewar, Alice Seaman (Teamster) Background - Velma Harrison, Garth Harrison, Jim Baglole.

CAR SHOW



Car Show, Centennial Park 1991 - a Potato Blossom Festival Event.

CENTENNIAL PARK

The Centennial Park, located behind the Senior Citizen's complexes on Parkview Drive, was developed in 1967 as a centennial year project. In 1978 a creative playground was built behind the O'Leary Elementary School. It was a joint project of the Community of O'Leary and the Unit 1 School Board, assisted by Neighbourhood Improvement Program and Young Canada Works funding at a cost of about \$20,000. Additional equipment was added in 1989. The Children's Park behind the Irving Service Station on Main Street was established in 1988.

POOL HALLS

Many hours of leisure were spent by men of this community in the local pool halls. Over the years there have been five such establishments in the village. Gordon Bennett had a pool hall just behind the present location of Herbie Strang's house. He eventually sold to Keith Howatt who operated it for only a few years. John Henry Corcoran operated his business in the second floor of his own building - now Wayne's T.V. shop. John Russell had a pool hall and Submarine Sandwich Shop on the present site of the Youth Center.

Marne Kennedy built a pool hall on Willow Ave. near the Verdun Theatre. It was operated by Wilfred Dennis. This building was later moved to the present site of the Youth Center and remained in operation until 1956 when the building was sold and hauled to St. Eleanors for their Lions Club.

RACE TRACKS

A form of entertainment in O'Leary which has carried on throughout generations has been horse racing. The first race track in O'Leary was made by William Ellis. It was located in the area where Wilfred Dennis' house now stands. The next race track was located on the farm of Havelock Gibbs. The third track was made by Sanford Phillips. It was located on the property which now is the fertilizer plant. The races were organized by Mr. Phillips. Matinee races with horses from all parts of the Island raced over this track. The owners raced for small prizes, but mostly for sport. The races were very different from present day racing. Facilities were very limited for horsemen and their horses. Betting on horses did not occur unless spectators placed wagers among themselves on the horse they thought would win.

Among some of O'Leary's prominent entrepreneurs who came to the area to start a new business was Charles Willis, a fine horseman. He owned several race horses which he raced throughout the Maritimes. He constructed a race track on Gaspé Road, about one-quarter mile from Amalgamated Dairies Limited. The purpose of the track was to provide a place to train his horses but it has been the site for many horse racing events. Each year Mr. Willis' track is used to hold races in conjunction with the "Potato Blossom Festival".

The track continues to be upgraded and it is used for both training and racing. This interest is maintained largely due to the effort of Charlie's son, Orville and the West Prince Horsemen's Club.



Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

Left to Right - Robert Campbell, Robert Morrissey, Allison Ellis, MLA's; Clair Sweet, secretary treasurer; Nellie Willis, Clair Gallant, Orville Willis, Fred Baristow, Elwood Smallman, president; Thiren Smallman, track announcer. Announcer stand left to right - Norman Cornish, timer; Frank Sweet, timer; Alan Sweet, vice-president; Stephen Trail.



Alan Sweet, J.R.'s Pegasus, Sweet Driver, Members of the Rennie Family presenting the annual Mr. and Mrs. Arthur A. Rennie Memorial Trophy to co-owners Ellis and Clair Sweet, Thiren Smallman.



New Grand Stand on Opening Day



Thirty Stall Paddock Barn

THE SCOUTING MOVEMENT IN O'LEARY

In 1934 a meeting was called at O'Leary by Col. Robert Mollison, Assistant Provincial Commissioner, for the purpose of discussing the organization of Scouting in the district. Interest was keen, and a group committee was formed consisting of the following: Dr. A.S. Palmer, James MacWilliam, Gordon and Nita Black, Mrs. George Sheen, Alton Webb and John Matthews.

The first duty of the committee was to appoint Rupert MacNeill as Scoutmaster with 25 to 30 Scouts enrolled in the program. Unfortunately he was unable to carry out his duties for the entire year so Earle Jelley finished the year for him. He was succeeded by John Matthews who was Scoutmaster for the next eleven years. He then enlisted in the services. Following the war he again became Scoutmaster for two years and then chairman of the group committee; consequently, John Matthews continued to support scouting in the area for the next fifteen years. In addition to the regular Scout activities, they had a hockey team for several years.

Lloyd Matthews, the Scoutmaster for a ten year period from 1955 - 1965, was chosen by the provincial council to lead the P.E.I. Contingent to the ninth World Jamboree at Sutton, England in 1957. Other Scout leaders over the years have been Douglas Hardy, Keith Paugh, Wayne Harris, Douglas Smith, Lloyd Ramsay, Rev. Wm.

Weale, Norman Dewar, Robert Wilkie, Harold Tuck and Leigh Sentner.

Another branch of the Scouting movement is the Cub Pack. A Cub Pack was organized in 1951 with Helen Kennedy as cubmaster and Laura Rayner as assistant. Succeeding cubmasters included: Gwen Gamble in 1951, Rev. Ross Howard in 1959, Natalie Bruvels in 1961, and Frances Dewar from 1965 to the present day. During the 1950's and 1960's the cubmasters were ably assisted by Shirley Ellis (10 years) and Doreen Matheson.

An average of 20 Cubs have been enrolled each year since 1951 and the Pack, under dedicated leadership, has proven to be an excellent influence within the district.

Cub camps have been held at Camp Buchan over a period of several years including 1965, 1967, 1968, 1971, 1972, and 1973.

Frankie Dewar who is a Gilwellian, and a member of the training team along with Mrs. Beverley Boates (Makin), a Girl Guide leader, have prepared a program for special children to help develop within individuals, six to eighteen years of age, the principles of self-care, self-discipline and self-worth, which would enable them to take their place in society to the best of their ability. The program has been published in a book entitled Pioneers. The program has been followed successfully in O'Leary Elementary School for a number of years and has interested school authorities in several other localities within the province.

There is no doubt that Frankie Dewar has been one of the most active and dedicated members of the Cub movement in this area, and over the years she has received several awards for her many achievements. In 1977 she was awarded the Medal of Merit. In 1987 she received the Brigadier Reid Award, the first woman on P.E.I. to receive it. In 1988 she received the Silver Acorn. Frances Dewar became district commissioner for the West Prince (Unit 1 district) and started groups in such areas as Tignish, St. Louis, Ellerslie, Lennox Island, Bloomfield, and Miminegash. She has attended two world jamborees - one in Kananaskis, Alberta and the other in Australia, as well as three Canadian jamborees and many provincial camps. Frankie and other local people were responsible for starting Camp Kildare which has been used for many years by cubs and scouts.



PRESENTATION OF BRIGADIER REID AWARD

Left to right: Bill Ives, present (1987) President of Provincial Boy Scout Council, Mrs. Bill Reid, Mrs. Frances Dewar and Alex Campbell.



Helen Kennedy (leader) 1st O'Leary Wolf Cub Pack.



Concert presented by the first O'Leary Wolf Cub Pack. Helen Kennedy (leader), Jean Dewar and Bessie Dumville (assistants).

COMMUNITY RINK



Maintaining the outdoor rink 1912.



Dying days of original indoor rink.



O'Leary Rink 1928.



O'Leary Community Centre.



The younger residents of O'Leary in 1992 would have little idea of how the young people in 1900 enjoyed skating without the present day conveniences. The weather was harsher, the roads were snow covered all winter and travelling was done by horse and sleigh or walking. The clothing worn then was not of nylon as today, but handmade woollen socks, sweaters and mittens.

The first rinks were in fields where the water gathered and froze. In order to skate the rink usually had to have the snow removed and everyone pitched in to get it done quickly.

Later a rink was made by putting boards around an area and when it was cold enough to freeze, the rink would be flooded by carrying buckets of water from a pump in the barn or house.

Interest in hockey came with the advent of radio in 1930 when Hockey Night in Canada was a regular program everyone listened to on Saturday night. The favourite team was the Toronto Maple Leafs. Boys started playing hockey in the outside rinks with very meagre hockey equipment.

An outside rink was made behind the Station House in O'Leary in 1912, and in 1933 the first indoor rink was constructed near the site of the present rink.

Dr. J.B. Champion was interested in improving community life and was instrumental in forming a committee to build a rink. The O'Leary Rink Association was incorporated in 1933 with the following directors: A.J. Matheson, Vernon Matthew, Gordon L. Black, J. Albert Noonan, Locksbie Dennis, W. Gordon Silliker, Dr. A.S. Palmer, Robert H. Carruthers, Harold A. Jelley, James M. MacWilliams, William C. Turner, Keith Matheson and Wm. G. Bernard. Robert H. Carruthers was appointed manager.

This was a big improvement for the players, skaters and the public. Coal stoves were in each of the dressing rooms, and benches were

built around the rink for the spectators. Many had cold feet and hands, but by banging on the boards with their hands encouraging the team and stamping their feet to keep from freezing, they survived.

The O'Leary team was called the O'Leary Maroons and the girls' team, O'Leary Maroon Sisters. Both these teams were very competitive and played many games throughout the Island, but in early years usually played against Alberton and Tignish.

In 1940, following a hockey game, fire broke out in a dressing room. This was a disaster as far as the young people were concerned. The games were played on Saturday night, and in early years the stores stayed open until 10 p.m. or later, and employees interested in the hockey match or skating could hardly wait for the store to close. Saturday afternoon was open for skating and the rink would be full. Music was supplied and it was very enjoyable. Through the efforts of Bayfield Ellis and others the repairs were made and the rink continued on until 1956 when the roof collapsed because of the weight of snow and ice.

By 1959, a new rink was built by Otis MacNeill, a carpenter, with men from twenty communities donating time, lumber and money to see its completion. It was officially opened on January 20, 1960. Trusses for the rink were purchased from the former St. Dunstan's Arena in Charlottetown. The measurements of the building were 222' X 90' with an ice surface of 190' X 70'.

On January 29, 1960, a Fancy Dress Carnival was held to celebrate the opening. Grace MacLeod, Matron of Community Hospital, cut the ribbon while 600 people watched.

The year 1967 saw more improvements to the structure and pipes were installed to produce artificial ice which was ready for the 1968 winter season. At this time the name was changed to the Centennial Arena.

In 1979 the rink was extended to the north and a recreation room and kitchen facilities were built over the entrance, the canteen enlarged and an area upstairs was heated for spectators. This was completed in 1980.

In the fall of 1989, the directors of the Athletic Association, concerned with the age and deterioration of the rink, engaged a professional consultant to provide an assessment and a direction to improve the structure. The consultant's report illustrated the need to replace the rink structure. Meetings with the public resulted in a community commitment to replace the rink facility.

On May 21, 1990, the demolition of the old facility began, under

the supervision of the directors, including Ronnie Gamble, President, Frank Smallman, Faye MacWilliams, Donna Smallman, Billy MacKendrick, Paul Strang, Eric McCarthy, Shelton Barlow, Gary Wallace, Steven Ellis, Ronnie Gallant, Richard Livingstone, Maxine Harris, Leonard McCormick and Gary Morgan.

The project involved replacing the old ice surface and building, and the renovation of the concrete and steel building which was constructed in 1977.

The new facility opened on December 14, 1990. It boasted an NHL size ice surface of 85 X 200 feet, seating for 1200 people, 9 dressing rooms, a classroom, capability for summer ice, and plexi-glass surrounding the ice surface. Capital cost of the project was \$1.2 million, funded through mortgages, government grants, and personal and corporate donations.

Since opening, the new complex has hosted car shows, trade fairs, summer hockey school and hockey tournaments, professional entertainments, in addition to an expanded winter program. In September, 1992, the Philadelphia Flyers with their superstar, Eric Lindros, became the first NHL training camp to be held in O'Leary. This camp had the distinction of being a first for P.E.I. Minor hockey provides activity for over 180 boys and girls; the figure skating club has 85 members; and very competitive Senior "A", Bantam "AAA", and Junior "B" wear the traditional maroon and white colours of O'Leary hockey.

The rink continues to be a viable facility with hockey for minors and seniors, figure skating, and a Drop In Centre for youth.



GIRLS HOCKEY TEAM 1929

Standing L to R: Ruth Noonan (Saunders), Berdie Campbell (Reilly), Janette Easter (MacAusland), Dot Pate (Dennis), Elsie O'Brien (MacAusland), Verna Phillips (Vatcher). Sitting L to R: Elizabeth Thomson (Marshall), Geneva Easter (Hemmingar), Edna Williams (Campbell), Winnie Silliker (Gosbie).



Back Row L-R: Phillip Kinch, Marvin MacDonald, George Bernard, Keir MacNeill, Harold Gard, Lawrence Harris, Allison Sillicker. Middle Row - Orville Willis, Donnie Ellis, Jim Bagtote, Elwood Cooke, James Smallman, Raynall MacNeill. Front Row L-R - Ian Strang, Dale Howard, Gordon Rodgerson, Dale Dennis, Bush Dumville, Wayne Livingstone. Circa 1966



Glen Rodgerson, Raynall MacNeill.



James Smallman, Ian Strang, Donnie Ellis, Ed Hardy.



Back Row L-R: Margie Woodbridge, Bessie Dennis, Helen Kennedy, Betty MacKinnon, Lilas Yeo, Florence Pate, Isabelle Dennis, Freda Smallman, Florence Gallant. Circa 1950

He is Only A Boy

*Please don't curse that boy down there,
 He is my son, you see;
 He's only just a boy you know
 And he means a lot to me!
 I did not raise my son, sports fans
 For you to call him names,
 He may not be a superstar,
 but, it's only just a game;
 Please don't curse the boys down there,
 They do the best they can,
 They never tried to lose the game,
 They're boys and you're a man.
 The game belongs to them you see,
 And you are just a guest;
 They don't need a fan like you,
 They need the very best.
 If you have nothing nice to say
 Please leave the boys alone,
 And if you can't enjoy the game,
 Why don't you stay at home?
 So please don't curse those boys down there,
 Each one's his parent's son;
 And win, or lose or tie, you see,
 To us -they're NUMBER ONE!!*

CORINTHIAN LODGE #19 A.F. & A.M. O'LEARY

The hope that a Masonic Lodge would one day be established in the village of O'Leary was first entertained by four members of the Zetland Lodge #7 A.F. & A.M. who resided in O'Leary - Brethren A.J. Matheson, James MacGregor, A.S. Palmer, and George Sheen. These brethren along with James MacWilliams constituted a committee appointed by the newly organized Verdun Oddfellows Lodge during 1925-1926 to plan and design a suite of rooms on the second floor of the O'Leary Public Hall.

The result of the labour and foresight of these brethren was a suite of rooms suitable for Verdun Lodge Independent Order of Oddfellows. This suite of rooms twenty-five years later, with a few changes, would form a suitable Lodge room with convenient ante-rooms for the practice of Masonic Rites. Corinthian Lodge #19 had found a home.

Only one member of the Committee, brother A.J. Matheson, lived to see the dream realized some twenty-five years later (October 26, 1950) when Corinthian Lodge under Dispensation was officially opened. Members of the craft do appreciate the work and foresight of this committee.

Possibly the first Masonic communication ever held in the village was a special communication of Zetland #7 held in the room which is now the lodge room to attend the funeral of their late brother, Dr. A.S. Palmer, March 4, 1945. Brethren John C. Matthews, P.M. and John Black, secretary of Zetland Lodge, came to O'Leary by snowmobile bringing with them the charter dispensation, regalia, and working tools. The lodge was opened on the third degree and the members proceeded first to the Palmer home, then on by sleigh and snowmobile to West Devon United Church Cemetery where the grave site service was conducted by Brother J.C. Matthews, P.M., assisted by other members of the Lodge.

During the winter of 1950, Brother Alton Webb P.M. was approached by parties who wished to purchase the large block of shares in O'Leary Public Hall held by himself and Mrs. Webb. The sale of the shares would mean the loss to the community of the Public Hall, the only place at that time where large gatherings could be accommodated, and also the loss of the rooms on the second floor used from time to time by different organizations. It was apparent that immediate action was necessary and the time seemed opportune to consider the forming of a Masonic Lodge. The Oddfellows Lodge had surrendered their Charter sometime previously.

Brethren Alton Webb and Errol Stetson interviewed a number of

Masons to get their views. The members (Zetland) residing in O'Leary and vicinity had increased from six in 1925 to over twenty in 1950. As a result of the favourable reaction to the suggestion of forming a Lodge, a meeting was held in Brother E.W. Turner's office which was situated on Main St. near where the Co-op Store now stands. The following Brethren attended this meeting: Alton Webb, L.G. Dewar, E.W. Turner, Ralph K. Adams, and Errol Stetson, P.M. The meeting was held following a dress carnival in the old rink and some of the members, because of their dress, could have been mistaken for Operative Masons, workmen from the temple. As a result of this meeting, a decision was made to hold another meeting in the room which is now the Lodge room. All Masons in the district were notified and the meeting was largely attended. After a lengthy discussion, it was unanimously decided to apply to Grand Lodge for a dispensation to form a new Lodge in the village of O'Leary.

On March 22, 1950, a meeting was held in the hall with the following brethren present: Claude Jelley, R.H. Jelley, Dr. L.G. Dewar, Ord Sharpe, E.R. MacAusland, R.F. MacAusland, Alton Webb, Elmo Crozier, George Matheson, E.W. Turner, and Errol Stetson. E.W. Turner was elected secretary and Errol Stetson chairman. The following committee was appointed to look after the renovating, cleaning, and furnishing of the Lodge room: Brethren Ralph K. Adams, Ord Sharpe, and Edward MacAusland. The Lodge room at that time was in a state of disrepair. The committee was authorized to borrow \$500. to be deposited in the Bank of Nova Scotia to cover renovations and furnishings and to purchase shares. This money was borrowed from Brother Clifford Livingstone. It was reported at this meeting that seventy-two shares were available for purchase.

The above committee, with assistance from other members, had the old ceiling replaced with a new one, the walls cleaned, the hardwood floors sanded and refinished, and new lights installed. The electrical fixtures were donated by Brother Dr. L.G. Dewar who purchased them from the people dismantling the Mount Pleasant Airport. The electrical work was done by Brother George Matheson. The first Masonic banquet held in O'Leary (November, 1950) was held jointly by Zetland and Corinthian Lodges in the Legion home with over one hundred in attendance.

The first worshipful master of Corinthian Lodge was Errol R. Stetson. He held the position for the remainder of 1950 and 1951.

The Lodge has experienced steady growth over the years and has been quite prominent in the community.

In June of 1958, at the Grand Lodge Communication Brother

Errol Stetson was elected as the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Prince Edward Island. Since that time two other members have been elected to the same high office. Randall B. Boates and Allison R. Ellis have each served as Grand Master for the years 1979 and 1990 respectively.



Another highlight of the Lodge's history has been the establishment of the Corinthian Home. Early in 1981 Past Master L.G. Dewar advised the Lodge that there was a need in O'Leary for more housing for seniors. A committee consisting of Dr. L.G. Dewar, Errol Stetson, Douglas Adams, Randall Boates, Lester Brennan, and Neil MacKay was struck to spearhead the construction of "Corinthian Community Home." After two years of paper work and planning, construction began. The first tenants moved in on January 1, 1983.

The official opening ceremony took place on January 14, 1983 (2:00 p.m.). The Grand Master of Masons for Prince Edward Island, Most Worshipful James I. MacKay, and his Grand Lodge officers were present for the colorful ceremony. Afterwards all were invited to the nearby home of Arthur and Eunice Brisebois for refreshments. It should be noted that a time capsule containing newspaper clippings and other items of interest was placed in one of the ashlar at the front of the Home facing the street. It is to be opened one hundred years from the date of January 14, 1983.

MASTERS OF CORINTHIAN LODGE #19

Errol R. Stetson	1950, 51
Edward R. MacAusland	1952
Arnold L. Wood	1953
Ralph K. Adams	1954
Clifford Livingstone	1955
Ord Sharpe	1956
Leslie Gorrill	1957
J. Frank Bryan	1958
L. George Dewar	1959
Harris Rogers	1960
Edwin W. Turner	1961
Lorne Betts	1962
Harding Boulter	1963
Randall Boates	1964
Lloyd MacWilliams	1965
Robert Woodside	1966
Lloyd Dalton	1967
Boyd MacWilliams	1968
Allison Ellis	1969
Ralph Boulter	1970
Neil C. MacKay	1971
Horace MacDonald	1972
Fred Livingstone	1973
Ronald MacDonald	1974
Douglas Adams	1975
Lester Brennan	1976
Bruce MacDougall	1977
Edgar MacKinnon	1978
Colston Wood	1979, 80
Gerald Cornish	1981
Russell Boylan	1982
J.A.W. Brisebois	1983
Lorne MacNeill	1984, 85
Douglas Smith	1986
Raeford MacLean	1987
Garnet MacLean	1988
John Rogers	1989
Stephen Rogers	1990
Norman Larter	1991
Harry MacAusland	1992

Secretaries of Coronthian Lodge # 19

Earle Jelley	(1950-1951)
Ord Sharpe	(1952-1953)
Ralph Ozon	(1954)
Randall Boates	(1955-1961), (1991-1992)
Boyd MacWilliams	(1962-1963), (1980-1984)
Elmo Crozier	(1964-1980)
Gerald Cornish	(1985-1990)



CURLING CLUB

A meeting was held on April 23, 1973, with the chairman, Keir Ramsay, and over twenty interested people, to discuss the construction of a curling club. At this meeting it was decided to go ahead with plans to build a curling club in O'Leary. The interest to build was quite high from the village people and the outside areas.

A temporary board of directors was voted upon at that meeting. The members were Orville Willis, Sherrill Barwise, James Baglole, Gerald Cornish, Eric Shaw, Ralph Bulger, Erland Phillips, Winburn Harris, Ernie Harvie, Winston Gallant, Keith Paugh, Gerald Shaw, Don Yuill, Keir Ramsay, and Clair Sweet. Keir Ramsay became the first president and Eric Shaw, the first secretary.

Throughout the summer of 1974 materials were purchased and money was solicited. In December, 1974, construction began and continued throughout the winter, 1975.

The opening of the Maple Leaf Curling Club took place in the fall of 1978 with 112 members. The Club has been run on a volunteer basis since the opening.

The Bruce Wendorf rink won the P.E.I. Sr. Legion Provincial Championship that opening year and went on to represent P.E.I. at the Nationals in Woodbridge, Ontario. His mate was Ed Turner; second, Ernie Harvie; and lead stone was Edgar MacKinnon.

Since the opening, the executives and members have created ideas for club bonspiels. The "Loose Goose" mixed bonspiel was started and has been a popular spiel ever since. Other popular bonspiels are the "Farmers & Fishermen" bonspiel, the "Yukon Gold", "The Firemen's Bonspiel", "The Hemphill Pontiac - Buick Mixed" and the "Maple Leaf Ladies Open". This was the first club on P.E.I. to start a cancer fund-raising spiel called the "Terry Fox Mixed".

The club has been very appreciative to all the many sponsors over the years. Businesses and individuals from Prince County have always been willing to sponsor and donate to the Club.

Provincial spiels are also hosted every year, such as Seniors, Juniors, Mixed, Mens Tankard, Ladies Scott, Provincial Police, Provincial Firemens, Provincial Legion and the Provincial Four Year. Out of those provincial spiels, two members have participated in the National Pepsi Juniors. Sherri Currie - McInnis played lead stone for the Shelley Danks rink in Winnipeg, Manitoba in 1989. They finished fourth in Canada. Tyler Harris played second stone on the Mike Gaudet rink and went to the Nationals in Vernon, B.C. in March, 1992. They won the bronze medals.

Over the years, the club has carried out numerous fund raisers - roasts, banquets, lobster suppers, BBQ's, and dances. For several years, members grew a few acres of potatoes on land donated by "farmer" members.

The executive for the 1991 - 92 year was Past President - Muncey Harris, President - Sherrill Barwise, Secretary/Treasurer - George Bernard, Bob Matheson, Bernie Griffin, Don Yuill, Layton Shaw, Gerald Cornish, Jim Baglole, and Rachel MacDonald.

It is interesting to note that Cindy McNally was the Club's first President of the Ladies Division. She was elected for the 1980 - 81 season.

FIGURE SKATING CLUB

The history of the Figure Skating Club began when Alton W. Rayner, an avid skater, noticed a figure skater at the rink, a Miss Callbeck who was living in O'Leary in 1960. He believed that she would be the ideal person to instruct the children in the area.

Interest was good and Miss Callbeck became the first instructor. Parents volunteered their time to keep the program going. In order to secure instructors and judges to test the skaters for badges, etc. the

club had to be registered; therefore, a meeting was called on March 31, 1966, to form the Figure Skating Club. The executive included Alton W. Rayner as president, Isabelle Dennis as vice president, and Frances Dewar as secretary. Membership fees were \$1.00.



From left to right - Rhonda Dennis, Nancy Ellis, Carol Harris.



From left to right - Beverley Shaw, Marilyn Gamble, and Natalie MacLean

At this time a membership to the Canadian Figure Skating Club was too expensive, and it was not until 1973 that the club actually applied for a membership. They were sponsored by the Amherst Figure Skating Club.

Professional instructors over the years included Eric Gilles, Moncton, N.B.; Kenneth Constable, Sherwood, P.E.I.; Mrs. Gordon Batt, C.F.B. Summerside, P.E.I.; and Stephen and Grazyna Sears, Amherst, N.S.

In 1970 the first P.E.I. Winter Games were held in Summerside and those attending from the O'Leary Figure Skating Club were Darlene Silliker, Joanne Gamble, Cheryl Adams, Beverley Shaw, Natalie MacLean, Marilyn Gamble, Rhoda Dennis, Carol Harris, Nancy Ellis and Stephen Dennis.

Among the first successful skaters were Shirley Betts who captured the trophy for first place in the Junior Girls division in the P.E.I. Regent Championships. In 1973 Stephen Dennis won the Bronze medal for Intermediate Mens Free Skating, Marilyn Gamble won the Bronze for the Elementary Girls, and Stephen and Marilyn also won the Pee Wee Mixed Pairs in the N.B. & P.E.I. Figure Skating Sectional Championships.

The O'Leary Figure Skating Club is still active and filling a need for the young people of O'Leary and area. In 1991 - 92, there were 88 girls and boys enrolled in the Figure Skating Club.



From left Darlene Silliker, Cheryl Adams and Joanne Gamble.



O'Leary F.S. Precision Line

Back Row: Nicole Gallant, Kimberley McBain, Melody Myers, Allannah Harris, Sabrina Ballum, Becky Lynn Rogers, Jillian Smallman. Front Row: Brooke Morgan, Alison Griffin, Amanda Wood, Shelley Sweet, Jenny Wood, Stephanie Jenkins.

O'LEARY FIGURE SKATING EXECUTIVE 1991 - 1992

Past Presidents - Jim Harris, Barb MacLean
President - Carol Morgan
1st Vice President - Shirley Betts
2nd Vice President - Joan Ellis
Secretary - Gloria Reeves
Treasurer - June Easter
Can Skate Program - Shirley Betts
Ice Chairperson - Gloria Reeves
Ways & Means - Debbie Lidstone
Music - Can Skate - Nancy Betts, Jr. & Sr. - Marie Phillips
Nominations - Barbara Sweet
Publicity - Gerri Buchanan
Telephone - Leah Harris
Hospitality - Kathy Ballum
Spring School - Adrienne MacDonald
Registration - Alma MacLennan, Sandra Smith
Competition - Barb Sweet, Iva Griffin
Ice Show Chairpersons - Leah Harris, Kathy Ballum
Test & Judges - Cheryl Smallman, Nancy Gallant

The O'Leary Figure Skating Club is entering into another exciting year in skating. There are 83 skaters registered to date, 18 in the Junior - Senior level and 65 in the Can Skate program. Our Club professional is Julie MacNeill from Wellington, P.E.I. Julie is a highly qualified coach and we are very fortunate to have her train our skaters. The programs offered require 10 hours of ice per week.

This past year our club ran a spring school during March break. We hosted our first Summer Skating Camp this past summer and were very excited about this program. The school combined skating, ballet training, personal skating development and swimming. This type of skating school had not been offered in P.E.I. before. All levels of skaters participated at both the Spring and Summer sessions.

One of the highlights for many skaters is our Ice Show held at the end of the skating season. The association is very pleased to present our skaters to the public in this non-competitive, fun-filled manner. It is felt that the Ice Show has promoted more interest in skating as there was an increase in membership after our first show. Our skaters compete in a Club Competition with first and second place winners skating in Junior Olympics.

This year our Club is hosting the 1993 Sun Life Sectional Championship. This is a provincial competition with Novice com-

petitive skaters representing P.E.I. at the Divisional competition in Newfoundland, from there skaters compete nationally. We are very excited about the privilege of hosting this event.

With competitions, test days, skating schools, fund raising events and our regular skating programs we are looking forward to a very exciting year of skating in O'Leary.

LIBRARY



O'Leary Public Library

Public library service was first made available throughout P.E.I. in 1933. From 1933 to 1936 the Carnegie Corporation of New York granted money for a library demonstration in the province to prove that it was possible to provide a rural population with an efficient library service. From head office in Charlottetown between 800 and 1000 books were distributed to each "branch" library. During the summer the book stock in each was completely changed and any book in the library system was available upon request.

Before a "branch library" was established in a community, a committee was formed. The committee had the responsibility to provide a centrally located room with shelving units, sufficient heat and proper lighting. A local person would be chosen as the librarian who was paid at the rate of twenty-five cents per hour.

The O'Leary Library was opened to the public on the afternoon of March 1, 1934 in the former Orange Hall. Mr. Errol Stetson chaired the meeting while Miss Nora Bateson, Superintendent of

Libraries for the Island, delivered an instructive and very much appreciated address. Several distinguished guests were present including Honourable G. Shelton Sharpe, Reverend A.F. Baker, Reverend John Stirling, Mr. and Mrs. A.J. Matheson, Mr. Thane Campbell, M.L.A., Mr. Aenes Gallant, M.L.A., Mr. W.H. Dennis, M.L.A., and Mr. Lloyd Henderson.

The first librarian was Mr. Nesry Shelfoon who continued in this capacity until 1941. At that time Mrs. Claude Jelley took over and continued until 1948. In that year Mrs. Jessie Moreshead took her place and remained librarian for 10 years (1958). That year Mrs. James Baglole and Mrs. Etta Mae Carpenter assisted in looking after the library duties until Mrs. Sadie Brooks was hired. She continued as librarian until 1971.

In June, 1971, Mrs. Lila MacNeill became the librarian and remained in that position until 1984 - she had the distinction of being the longest serving librarian in the community. During the years that she was employed as librarian the number of books taken out increased dramatically. The increase was due largely to the extra attention that she showed regular patrons, both adults and children. It was not unusual to see Mrs. MacNeill in the library other than on regular hours to straighten up the shelves and sort out the files. She also delivered books to those who did not have transportation; thus demonstrating her own personal interest in people of all ages. Since 1984 the position of librarian has been capably filled by Irma Callaghan.

The library has served the people of O'Leary and surrounding areas faithfully for nearly sixty years. It is one of the greatest and most needed institutions in the area. It not only helps in the education and culture of the adult population but also gives a new meaning and wider scope to the education of the children in the community.

LIONS CLUB

The O'Leary Lions, a branch of a world wide service organization was sponsored by the Summerside Club. It received its Charter on August 28, 1962. The following names are listed on the official copy of the Charter:

Douglas Adams, Blair Bernard, Glenn Cunningham, Winburn Harris, Garth MacDonald, Percy Sentner, Ronald Whitman, Dr. Cyril Bugden, George Bernard, Douglas Ferguson, Gerard Howley, Lloyd Matthews, Edwin Turner, Glen Rodgerson, James Baglole, Ralph Bishop, Wilbur Gray, Kenneth Matheson, Fred Rodgerson,

Wendell Turner.

The Club held their first meetings above Stanley MacDonald's drugstore, in what was then the Alcoholics Anonymous meeting room. It is of interest to note that the A.A. room is presently in the Lions Club building. Later, meetings were held in a small building which belonged to Edwin Turner located behind the Irving Service Station. The members paid for necessary renovations to make it suitable for meetings.



All meetings were held here until 1967 when it was decided to build a club room and a lounge. The land where the Club building now stand was purchased from Blanche (Phillips) Brooks. An old army building was hauled from Debert, Nova Scotia, and placed on the lot in 1966. Frank Bryan from Cascumpec was given the contract of preparing the foundation and reassembling the building which had been dismantled in sections. In 1972 a large extension (60' X 40') was added to the back, providing space for washrooms, dance floor, and social functions.

Since its inception the Club has been involved in many worthwhile projects. Being a service club, it is a non-profit organization and all proceeds from their many activities are spent for recreational and/or charitable purposes in the community.

The Club has always contributed sizeable donations to such charities as the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, Canadian

Cancer Fund and many others. Members hold an annual auction in support of the Sheltered Workshop. Proceeds from these sales average approximately \$1500. The Club members host dinners in aid of sports, especially hockey. From 1968 - 1974 they sponsored the O'Leary Region Lions Band and the O'Leary Lions Majorettes. When the need arises the members hold special benefit dances in aid of disaster victims.

For several years at Christmas time the members have distributed a basket of treats to each senior citizen in the area and to each patient in the Community Hospital. The former practise was discontinued in 1981; the latter is still continued. In lieu of treats, seniors are now invited each year to the Club Room where they enjoy Christmas entertainment and a delicious hot roast beef dinner expertly prepared and capably served by club members and their spouses.

The Club's chief source of income is from weekly bingos and dances - both of which are very popular. The facilities are rented to non-member groups for entertainment, family celebrations and other social events. Members have even sold light bulbs to add to their coffers.

Community work is also a part of the club's program. The early members of the Club initiated the practise of sweeping the streets each spring.

In 1974, the front entrance on the north of the building was changed to the east. In the 80's the interior was completely renovated - stairway moved, kitchen facilities expanded, ceiling raised, new windows installed, new drapes for all windows, walls panelled and in 1989 a wheelchair ramp installed.

The Lioness Club received its Charter in June, 1984. Two years later a room in the basement was furnished for their exclusive use.

The twenty-fifth anniversary of the O'Leary Lions Club was celebrated August 29, 1987. Members and their guests along with members from other clubs across the province enjoyed a lobster dinner. Fred Morell from Moncton, New Brunswick, was guest speaker.

Citizens of this community much appreciate the benefits received from the many volunteer services provided by the O'Leary Lions Club members. They certainly reflect their motto "We Serve". The following is a list of presidents over the years:

Ralph Bishop	1962-1963
W.S. (Red) Turner	1963-1965
Lloyd Matthews	1965-1966
Keir Ramsay	1966-1968

Wesley Gallant	1968-1969
James Baglole	1969-1970
Lawson Gray	1970
Paul Arsenault	1970-1971
Keith Paugh	1971-1972
Orville Willis	1972-1973
Marvin MacDonald	1973-1974
Ron Turner	1974-1975
Don Yuill	1975-1976
Gerald Shaw	1976-1977
George Bernard	1977-1978
Gordon Rodgerson	1978-1979
Charles Adams	1979-1981
Gary Johnson	1981-1983
Allan Sharpe	1983-1984
Jack O'Brien	1984
Winston Gallant	1984-1985
Clair Sweet	1985-1986
Paul Arsenault	1986-1987
Don Yuill	1987-1989
Layton Shaw	1989-1991
Eugene Shaw	1991-1992

MAPLE HOUSE INC.

"The highlight of the year was the official opening of Maple House Occupational Centre on November 14, 1970 by Brig. W.W. Reid, Deputy Minister of Welfare for the P.E.I. Government." - an excerpt from the minutes of the annual meeting of the O'Leary Branch of the P.E.I. Division of the Canadian Association of the Mentally Handicapped.

O'Leary was the second community in P.E.I. to provide educational services for persons with a mental handicap at the school level and the vocational level.

Lloyd and Velda Matthews, O'Leary, parents of Gary, a young boy with Downs Syndrome, together with public health nurses, Mrs. Margaret Ellis, O'Leary and Miss Louise Gillis, Charlottetown, attended several parent meetings in Charlottetown before contacting parents with mentally handicapped children in the O'Leary district. On November 16, 1956, Lloyd and Velda held a meeting in their home which was to become the foundation for the organizational meeting on March 4, 1957, of the West Prince Association for Retarded Children - believed to be the first rural association for the mentally

retarded in Canada. There were ten charter members and the first officers elected were Lloyd Matthews, O'Leary, president; Mrs. Ruth Millman, Alberton, 1st vice-president; James Milligan, Northam, 2nd vice-president; Mrs. Stanley Gaudet, Howlan, secretary; and Eva J. Dennis, O'Leary, treasurer.



Three years later in 1960, after many meetings and several fund raising projects, the West Prince Association for Retarded Children hired their first teacher - Beverley Anne MacGregor (later Boates, Makin) of Graham's Road, P.E.I., to teach in O'Leary two days a week and in Tignish and Alberton three half-days each. Enrolment at that time was O'Leary - 6, Alberton - 3, and Tignish - 8.

In 1962 a special classroom was designed in O'Leary Regional High School, the first of its kind in P.E.I. By 1965 Beverley MacGregor Boates was the full time teacher in O'Leary and the West Prince Association for the Mentally Retarded had become the O'Leary Branch of the P.E.I. Division of the Canadian Association of Retarded Children, subsequently changed to the Canadian Association of the Mentally Retarded and presently to the non-labelling title of the Canadian Association for Community Living.

It was the members of this association who on October 18, 1968, looked at the feasibility of establishing a sheltered workshop for the adult handicapped to provide training and education for those too old for the school system. In March, 1969, the association decided to purchase the property of Mrs. Ruth Silliker, Gaspé Road, O'Leary, and used the house there as a sheltered workshop.

Following necessary renovations and fund raising drives the building was ready and on March 24, 1970, Mr. and Mrs. Roy MacDowell of Knutsford were hired. Classes commenced on May 1, 1970, with seven trainees attending on a five-day-week basis. Transportation was provided by O'Leary Regional High School buses. Maple House had become a reality.

Maple House was officially opened by Deputy Minister of Welfare, Brig. W.W. Reid on November 14, 1970. In his remarks, he noted the ten years of dedicated work by a small group of concerned citizens which led to the establishment of the adult workshop, for the purpose of providing training for persons with a mental handicap in the O'Leary and Alberton areas. In January, 1971, it was agreed that the workshop be incorporated under the name of Maple House Inc. in order to meet the necessary requirements to qualify for a grant available to adult workshops through the Rehabilitation Services of the Department of Welfare. Shareholders of the Corporation were Mrs. Harris Rogers, Coleman; E.W. Turner, O'Leary; Mrs. Arnold Boates, O'Leary; John Broderick, O'Leary; and Rev. L.B. Dooley, O'Leary R.R. #3.

Expansion of the facilities was discussed at the January, 1972 meeting and it was decided to erect a new building using a Local Initiatives Project grant. Construction began in March on the new 30' X 60' workshop directly behind the existing workshop. Work was completed in June, 1972, and the old building was torn down.

Classes resumed in September and on November 18, 1972, the new Maple House Inc. was officially opened by Kevin Costello, Coordinator of Mentally Retarded for P.E.I.

In June, 1973, the MacDowells retired and in September, 1973, Clair and Shirley Currie took over as supervisors with eight full time trainees and two part time trainees from the Special Child Development Class at O'Leary Regional High School.

During the next few years the workshop gradually changed from a craft orientated workshop to a vocational setting with the starting of a full time bakery, wood refinishing, and the purchasing of a button making machine, the first on the Island. This proves to be a lucrative business especially during political campaigns. Staff was also required to retrain. All of the present staff holds a diploma from Holland College in the field of Human Services.

In keeping with trends across the nation toward community living and employment within the community, the O'Leary Association for Community Living sponsored a two-summer program funded by Labatt's called "Integration '89 and '90". This program provided an

opportunity for trainees to experience training on the job in various job placements in the community with a full time worker to assist and supervise.

In 1992, a counsellor Sherri McInnis, has been hired jointly by Maple House Inc. and Tignish Normalization Workshop through Canada Employment and Immigration to seek employment opportunities for trainees within the West Prince Area.

A community highlight for many years was the annual bean supper and four layer dinner put on by Maple House Inc. trainees. This event was widely attended each year and many returned annually to enjoy the delicious foods and generous helpings.

The workshop presently has three staff persons - Clair Currie, Manager; Mrs. Mary Lynch, Training Officer II; and Mrs. Nora Currie, Training Officer I, and fifteen trainees. The trainees are involved in furniture refinishing, potato crate building, button making, golf tag assembly, and the operation of a full time bakery.

Maple House Inc. receives government funding from the Department of Health and Social Services as outlined in the Vocational Training Funding Policy, and it is governed by an independent community board of directors made up for the following: President, E.W. Turner; Secretary, Beverley Makin; Treasurer, Verne Maxfield; and directors, Lorraine Collicutt, Ruth Millman, and Wayne Phillips.

"No man hath guessed his capabilities, nor how he shall expand."

M. Tupper

MUSEUM

The museum and library complex was completed as a Centennial Project in 1967. The building provided much needed space to house museum exhibits and a large attractive room became the new home for the O'Leary Public Library. The official opening was held on Canada Day (July 1) 1967, with Lieutenant Governor, W.J. MacDonald, officiating.

The O'Leary Centennial Museum and Library Association Ltd. was incorporated as a non-profit organization on October 15, 1968. The members of the Board of Directors at that time were Dr. L. George Dewar, Errol Stetson, Alton Rayner, Ralph K. Adams, Alton Webb, Alden E. Weeks, Lulu Turner, and Cecil Dennis.

Since its inception the O'Leary Museum has continued to expand and upgrade its displays. In 1972, a log barn was constructed which is used to house agricultural implements from the past. With its emphasis on the potato industry, it is, perhaps, the only one of its kind in Canada. In 1982 it claimed the title of P.E.I. Potato Museum.



In 1973, the one-room school from Alaska, P.E.I., was purchased from the Unit One School Board. Late in 1975, it was moved to the museum site in O'Leary to become part of the museum development. In the fall of 1991, it was placed on a concrete foundation and other renovations were completed on the building.

In 1982, the entire museum collections were rearranged and appropriately labelled under the capable direction of the late Glenda (MacKay) Deak and her assistant, Bruce Smallman. The museum was reopened on Canada Day.



Since 1982, the Museum Association has rented space to the Mother Goose Day Care Centre. During the summer months this space is used for special displays such as quilting, photography, Scottish inventions, arts and crafts, etc.

The Association acquired the old C.N. Station in O'Leary. In September, 1983, the Community of O'Leary renovated it to house various station boutiques.

The museum is an important tourist attraction in O'Leary. There are numerous interesting artifacts and displays. Some of these

include the following: a medical display which includes an iron lung used in the days of polio outbreaks, an 1882 church pulpit, nineteenth century living room, kitchen with an Enterprise "Queen" cook stove (1909), and bedroom which includes a feather tick mattress. Other items on display are numerous agricultural implements from the past, a butter churn, sewing machines, photographs by Martin Griffin and Jack Turner, telephone switchboard from the O'Leary telephone office, a loom, spinning wheel (1850), a hand-made yarn winder (1832), an original fire department pump, and many other articles too numerous to mention.



For the past four years the Association in cooperation with the O'Leary Women's Institute, has been holding a Hernewood Tea in June. These events depict a particular time in history which is re-enacted in period costume. Many people share in this tea and enjoy both the history and entertainment provided. Teas held to date were Confederation (1989), Irish (1990) and Roaring 20's - the Scots (1991), and the Neighbourhood Party (1992).

In 1992 a magnificent new building was erected to be the new home for the Prince Edward Island Potato Museum. This spacious facility (over 5000 sq. ft.) with its detailed and well-organized displays depicts many aspects of the potato from its early origins to the importance of the industry today. It is located on land off Parkview Drive donated by Dr. George and Jean Dewar. As noted in Dr. Dewar's biography elsewhere in this book, he has been the driving force for museum development in this area.

As part of the museum complex in O'Leary, the P.E.I. Potato Museum is an important tourist attraction which promotes the importance of the potato and as well the Community of O'Leary.

Early in 1992, St. Theresa's Roman Catholic Church in O'Leary was given to the O'Leary Museum and Library Association by St.

Anthony's Roman Catholic Parish. It complements the little red school house which is also part of the museum complex.

PUBLIC HALL



The first meeting about a public hall in the village was held on February 1, 1917. At this meeting, held in the Bank of Nova Scotia building, a committee was formed consisting of the members of I.O.O.F. It was at this meeting that the name O'Leary Public Hall Co. Ltd. was decided upon. Dr. A.S. Palmer acted as secretary for the meeting.

On February 12, it was decided to sell stocks in the company and also to canvas for donations in the O'Leary and surrounding areas. By February 15, it was reported that 149 shares had been sold.

On March 12, a committee meeting was held. It was decided to send out building plans to local contractors to get an estimate of its cost. It was decided to buy the Orange Hall site for the building lot.

On April 26, a bill was passed in the provincial legislature incorporating the hall company. May 21, the first meeting following incorporation was held in Dr. A.S. Palmer's office. At this meeting, William M. Kennedy was elected president, Dr. Palmer was elected as secretary/treasurer and it was decided at that meeting to award Neil MacDonald the contract for the building.

May 25, \$2,820. was turned over to Mr. MacDonald to build the exterior and rough floors for the hall.

September 11, the original plans for the hall were abandoned for a similar building of smaller scale. It was to be 36 ft. by 53 ft., have 22 ft. posts and a 5 ft. by 11 ft. porch. The stage in the hall was to be 12 ft. by 33 ft.

January 22, 1918, Dr. H.E. McEwen was appointed president and director in place of William Kennedy who had passed away. July 29, George Sheen was elected president, replacing Dr. McEwen, who had moved to Summerside.

At the annual meeting of the next year, George Sheen was once again elected president and Dr. Palmer again elected secretary/treasurer.

The building was completed to a stage where it was usable by late summer, and it was used on a constant basis by the village until it was rented in 1968 to Harold Jelley for use as a furniture store. It is presently rented by Wayne MacNeill and Arthur Lewis who operate the O'Leary Home Hardware store.

The early trustees or shareholders were William Kennedy, Henry E. McEwen, A.J. Matheson, Ira H. Clark, George Webb, A.S. Palmer, and Wm. H. Dennis.

**"AN ACT TO INCORPORATE THE O'LEARY PUBLIC
HALL, COMPANY, LIMITED."**

APRIL 26th, 1917

Be it enacted by the Lieutenant Governor and Legislative Assembly of the Province of Prince Edward Island as follows:

1. William Kennedy, Henry E. McEwen, Arthur J. Matheson, Ira H. Clark, George Webb, Alex S. Palmer and William H. Dennis and all such persons as are now or shall hereafter become proprietors of shares in the company or undertaking hereby incorporated shall be and they are hereby declared to be a body politic and corporate by the name of "The O'Leary Public Hall Company, Limited," and by that name shall and may sue and be sued and have perpetual succession.

2. The said Company shall and may take, purchase and hold any lands or real estate in fee simple or otherwise and also rents, moneys, securities for money, goods and chattels whatsoever and may sell, let, demise, exchange or mortgage the same: Provided that the said Company shall not at any time hold or possess real estate to a greater value than six thousand dollars and that the directors of the said company shall not sell or mortgage the same without having first obtained a two-thirds vote of the shareholders present at the said meeting holding at least two-thirds of the subscribed capital stock of

the Company at an annual or special meeting of the Company to authorize such sale or mortgage.

3. That the capital stock of the said Company shall be six thousand dollars, divided into six hundred sheets of ten dollars each, and such shares shall be assignable and transferable in such manner and upon such terms as the by-laws may provide.

4. The shareholders shall at their annual general meeting, hereinafter provided for or in case from any reason, such general meeting cannot be held, at a special general meeting, hereinafter provided for, elect by ballot seven directors, three of whom shall form a quorum, and every person who holds the number of one or more shares shall be eligible as a director, and shall continue qualified as such only while he holds such share.

4. The directors when elected shall choose from their number a president, secretary, and treasurer. The latter two offices may be filled by one person and in case of a vacancy or vacancies occurring in the Board of Directors by death, resignation, disqualification, refusal to act or otherwise, the remaining directors may fill up the vacancy or vacancies.

6. That the several persons who now are to hereafter may become subscribers for shares on the said Company shall be required to pay the sums of money by them respectively subscribed in such proportions and at such times as shall be appointed by the directors, and such moneys shall be recoverable in the Courts of this Island.

7. That the property of said company shall be alone liable for its debts and engagements and no individual shareholders shall be responsible for the same or any liability whatsoever beyond the amount unpaid on shares held by him.

8. That the persons whose names are mentioned in the first section of this act shall be the directors until the first annual general meeting to be held in September next; provided that the said directors as well as future Boards of Directors to be appointed under Section Four of this Act shall hold office until their successors are appointed.

9. The Annual General Meeting of the company shall be held during the month of September in each year at a place and hour to be announced by the directors by posting notices at least six days before the meeting on four public places in O'Leary.

10. A special general meeting of the Company may be called by the President or in his absence by the secretary on the requisition in writing of five shareholders, notice of which meeting shall be given in the same way as in the last preceding section and said notice shall briefly state the object for which the meeting is called.

11. No shareholder shall be entitled to vote at any general or special meeting of the company unless he has paid up all calls due on his or her share and any shareholder who has paid up all calls due on his or her share may vote either in person or by proxy, such proxy being also a shareholder, and each shareholder shall be entitled to as many votes as he holds shares in the company.

"COST OF THE HALL"

Neil MacDonald's contract	\$3,170.00
Chairs from Holmans	\$ 228.00
Piano	\$ 260.00
Painting	\$ 150.00
Upstairs	\$1,900.00
Curtains	\$ 37.07
Tables	\$ 7.00
Incorporation Fees	\$ 18.25
Books	\$ 2.00
Corner Piano	\$ 10.28
Land	\$ 300.00
Ladders	\$ 8.00
Total	\$6,090.60

ROYAL CANADIAN LEGION

After World War I returning veterans felt the need for an organization to represent them. In O'Leary such a group was formed consisting of Erskine Haywood (president), Bradford MacKay, Bayfield Ellis, Ira Ellis, Charles Ellis and Jack Turner. In 1922 this group applied to the Great War Veterans' Association for a charter. Their application was approved and the O'Leary group received the first such charter granted on P.E.I.

In 1926 the British Empire Service League was formed and all existing veteran organizations were invited to join - to be know as the Canadian Legion. The O'Leary group and the Charlottetown group were the first to join thus becoming the first branches on P.E.I. Since the O'Leary branch was the first to receive its charter, it expected to be named Branch No. One, but provincial command was to be located in Charlottetown; consequently, the O'Leary branch was denied this distinction. It is Branch No. 2.



For years the members met in each other's homes. In 1939 Bradford MacKay was elected president. He had the difficult job of keeping the Branch alive during World War II when many members were serving in all parts of the world.

After World War II many veterans returned; and, as the number of members greatly increased, there was a demand for a Legion Home - a place for them to meet and socialize. In 1947 the following committee was appointed to find a suitable building: Bayfield Ellis, George Matheson, Herbert Riley and Dr. George Dewar. A building being dismantled at Mount Pleasant Airport was bought for five hundred dollars (\$500.00). It was hauled to O'Leary in three sections by Neil MacDonald and reassembled on land donated to the Legion by Clifford Ellis - its present location.

At first the Legion consisted of a dance hall, a lounge, and a game room. In 1978 a two-storey extension was added to the dance hall. This extra space allowed for new lounges to be added on the upper floor.

The Legion makes donations to many charitable organizations such as Cancer Institute, Diabetes Association, Mentally Handicapped, Red Cross, Salvation Army, etc. It sponsors ball teams, bands and other activities in the community. It also donates prizes to Westisle students each year, and grants bursaries to sons and daughters of veterans killed or wounded "in action" overseas.

The Legion's chief money-raising functions are bingo, dances,

card parties and sponsors cribbage, dart, and shuffleboard tournaments.

The Ladies' Auxiliary, comprised of wives and daughters of veterans, was formed in 1955. This is a group of hard-working women who raise money for the Legion by catering to weddings, receptions, and banquets. In 1982, they also catered to all who attended the Prince County Convention held here in O'Leary.

In 1970 an addition was built onto the Legion. It was used for a variety of purposes.

In 1972 the O'Leary Branch was open for membership as affiliates.

In June, 1990, fire destroyed the dance hall and the upper storey of the building. Construction was started in December, 1990, to repair damage and a fifty foot extension was added to replace the upper storey. Work which was done by Bayside Construction Co. was completed in April, 1991.

Pictures of past presidents were compiled in 1992, and these are displayed in the main lounge of the Legion.

The following members were chartered on January 11, 1928: Erskine Haywood, Charles F. Dennis, E.B. Ellis, Peter Frederickson, James Albert Grigg, Ernest J. Howlett, Milford Jelley, Walter C. Lidstone, John A. Matthews, Patrick Cyrus Martin, Daniel MacLean, G.W. MacDonald, Spurgeon McNeill, Daniel Anais McDonald, Rev. Samuel Bernard Profit, Frank Pineau.

Presidents of O'Leary Branch No. 2 1926-1992

1926 -	Patrick Martin	1948 -	Edwin Turner
1927 -	E.J. Howlett	1949 -	Bayfield Ellis
1928 -	Herbert Huestis	1950 - 51	Lloyd Matthews
1929 -	Gordon Silliker	1952 -	Bruce MacNaught
1930 -	Patrick Martin	1953 -	Wilfred Dennis
1931 -	Ivy MacFayden	1954 -	Sterling Barbour
1932 -	Charles Dennis	1955 -	Wilfred Dennis
1933 -	Dan MacDonald	1956 -	Bradford MacKay
1934 -	Frank Oliver	1957 -	Alvin Costain
1935 -	Chesley Oliver	1958 -	Sanford Phillips
1936 -	Bradford MacKay	1959 -	Ira Ellis
1937 -	Walter Lidstone	1960 -	Wendell Turner
1938 -	William Gorrill	1961 -	Harry MacWilliam
1939 - 45	Bradford MacKay	1962 -	Larry Price
1946 -	John Matthews	1963 -	Joseph M. Gallant
1947 -	Chesley Woodside	1964 - 66	Harry MacWilliam

1967 -	Joseph M. Gallant	1982 -	Sanford Phillips
1968 - 70	Sanford Phillips	1983 -	Kenneth Murray
1971 - 73	Arnold MacDonald	1984 -	Donald Lewis
1974 -	Neil MacKay	1985 - 86	Keith Lidstone
1975 -	Russell Boylan	1987 - 88	Roderick Matheson
1976 - 77	Lloyd Matthews	1989 - 90	Roy Smith
1978 -	Vernon Reilly	1991 -	Cornelius Pineau
1979 -	Sanford Phillips	1992 -	Ernest Harvie
1980 - 81	Russell Boylan		

CENOTAPH

In 1919 the soldiers' monument was placed in its present location. This massive granite stone was hauled from the property of Leslie MacAulay opposite Amalgamated Dairies Ltd. by Neil MacDonald and Erskine Silliker.



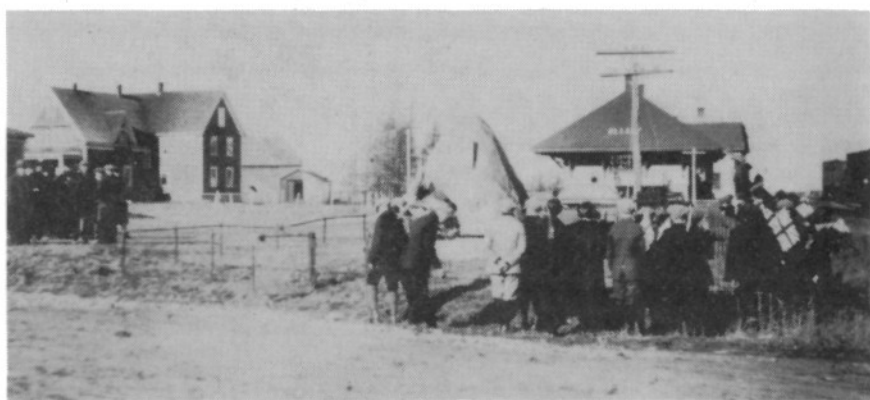
Soldiers' Monument, Celebrations on Nov. 11.

Each year on Remembrance Day, November 11, war veterans in parade gather at the Cenotaph to honour their comrades killed during two world wars. This ceremony is largely attended. At this time representation from different organizations and families lay wreaths in remembrance.

Carved into the stone monument is the inscription, "Lest We Forget, Be Yours to Hold it High". Following are names of the young men from this area who were killed in action:



Soldiers Monument, O'Leary, P.E.I.



From Cenotaph – view of Orient Hotel on left.

World War I (1914 - 1918)

Harry G. Bryenton, Walter H. Dymont, Arthur D. Gallant, Harry B. Foley, Edward Gay, Thomas Gotell, Thomas Hierlihy, William Lovell, Donald MacDonald, Jack MacDonald, William H. MacDonald, William MacDonald, Charles H. MacKenzie, Helary MacKinnon, Claude MacNaught, Albert Meggison, James P. Norman, A. O'Hara, Sanford J. Waite, George R.G. Wilkinson.

World War II (1939-1945)

J. Walter Auld, Lorne E. Boulter, Ralph S. Boulter, Emerson Campbell, J.M. Campbell, Preston D. Campbell, Willard S. Caseley, Haldane Dalton, Alfred Dennis, Eric Dennis, Wallace N. Dennis, William J. Easter, Verdun J. Elliott, Carman E. Gillcash, E. Basil Harris, Robert G. Howlett, John A. MacAllar, J. Allan MacKinnon, Sterling R. Oulton, Garfield Ramsay, Lloyd G. Rix, Jack E. Sabine, Ralph K. Silliker, Edison A. Smith, Roy S. Smith, W. Harvey Stewart, Ernest A. Tredenick, William G. Wedge.

The following served their country during World War I and II.

First World War Veterans 1914-1918



Dian MacDonald - wounded in action.



Spurgeon MacNeill (L), Ira Ellis (R) W.W. I & II.



Joseph M. Gallant - W.W. I & II



Charles Dennis - W.W. I & II



Gordon Silliker (L) - wounded in action.



Milford Jelly



John Matthews - W.W. I & II.



Bayfield Ellis - W.W. I & II



Peter Gotell - 105 Battalion.



Peeter Pate (L) - W.W. I & II - Norma

Walter Lidstone, George MacDonald - W.W. I & II (Pictures not available).

World War II



Cyril Easter



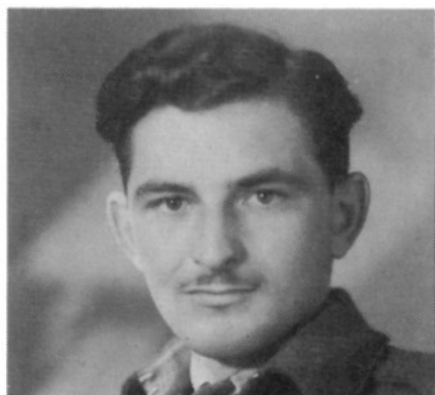
Keir Easter



Douglas Gotell



Arthur Baglole (R)



Lorne Jelley



Herbert Dennis



Ira Dennis



Bertram Brooks



George Matheson



Emerson Smallman



Milton E. Smallman



Cecil Smallman (L)



Alfred Dennis - killed in action.



(L to R) Wilfred Dennis, Trueman Pate, Alfred Dennis



Roland Turner



Leith Ellis



Marcia Pate



Norma Pate



Gwendell MacAulay



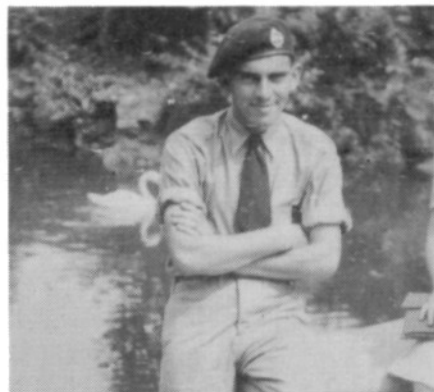
Trueman Pate



Ernest Tredenick - killed in action.



Harry MacWilliam



Elmer Matthews



Fred Matthews



Gerald Matthews



Lloyd Matthews



Weldon Matthews



Blair Baker



Donald Baker



Wesley Gallant



William Gallant



Orell Gallant



Manville Williams



Reta Jelley



Thomas A. Brooks



A. Wallace Johnson



Oliver Johnson



William A. Turner



Edwin Turner



Wendell Turner (L), Ralph Silliker (R)



Arnold MacDonald



Arnold MacDonald, Wilfred Dennis



Harry Boulter, Bloise Ellis, Ralph Wallace



Ralph Silliker (L) - killed in action



Edmund Wedge



Lorne Turner (R)



Allan Mathews (R)



Ira Ellis



Hugh MacGregor



Robert Howlett



Theodore Howlett



John Robert Thomson (Jack)



Elizabeth Mae Thomson (Marshall)



Home on leave (L to R) - Roland Turner, Oban Wedge, Beulah Wedge, Arnold MacDonald, Flossie Jelley, Eva Boulter, Leith Ellis.



(L-R) Alfred Dennis, Wilfred Dennis



James Franklin Thomson



Christmas, 1945 (back row L to R)- Capt. Peter W. Pate, L.A.W. Norma June, Elizabeth Janet, C.W.A.C. Patricia Joan (Front) - Peter Norman, Jean (Turnbull)



(Centre) - Private David Thomson



Spurgeon MacNeill



Dennis Family - in uniform (R) Ira, (L) Wallace - killed in a training accident. (Front) - Herbie.



Harry Boulter W.W. I & II



Home Coming Parade



Home Coming Parade.



Home Coming Parade



Home Coming Parade

Pictures not available: Vernon Dennis, Ralph Dennis, Eric Dennis (killed in action), William Wedge (killed in action), Spurgeon Harris, Keir MacDonald, Forbes Kennedy, Arnold O'Brien, Percy O'Brien, Cecil Gotell, Loletta Gotell (Adams), Alva Lidstone, Earl Lidstone, Gerald Lidstone, Harry Lidstone, Irving Lidstone, Lloyd Lidstone, Pearl Lidstone.

SUNSHINE SENIOR CLUB

The Sunshine Citizens' Club was organized at a meeting held at the O'Leary Regional High School in November, 1973. The following slate of officers was chosen at this meeting:

Bruce MacDougall president, Arnold Wood vice-president, Dorothy Bernard secretary, Irma Webb treasurer, John Matthews director, Lawrence Peters director.

The purpose of organizing the club was to provide fellowship and entertainment for seniors in this area.

The first regular meeting was held at the fire hall. For a time members met at Maple House. Since 1974 all meetings have been held in the recreation room of the Seniors' Complex on Parkview Drive.

Seniors meet semi-monthly on Saturday afternoons. Following a short business meeting members participate in a lively sing-song, crokinole, and card games. Often humorous readings, contests, or story telling add hilarity to the occasion and lighten the mood of the gathering. Delicious refreshments are served by committees in charge, occasionally a pot-luck supper is on the menu. Special music often provided by the Leard Group and other local talent is much enjoyed and much appreciated.

A New Horizon grant in 1973 and a second in 1980 enabled members to furnish the "rec" room. Many articles, including tables and chairs, stove, piano, stereo, sewing machine, china cabinet, refrigerator and dishes were purchased.

Money is set aside for travelling expenses. Seniors have enjoyed bus trips to various points of interest such as Confederation Centre, Souris, Montague, to attend Provincial and Federation meetings, Planetarium, picnics at Green Park and other places. Members also travel to Maplewood Manor in Alberton to entertain the seniors, usually twice a year, and to enjoy a social evening. From time to time members exchange visits with other groups of seniors.

Unfortunately exhaustion of grant money (1984) and escalating costs of hiring a bus and driver have made trips almost prohibitive. Only one excursion was made in 1989.

Over the years club members have raised money by making quilts and mittens for sale, and by having bake sales. They have also done volunteer work – for example, mending hospital bedding. Some members participate in Carleton Day celebrations. In 1976 the Club hosted the Federation meeting.

The Club has made many donations to various worthy causes, such as Ethiopian Relief, Westisle Piano Fund, Queen Elizabeth

Hospital, Community Hospital Clinic Fund, furniture for Community Hospital and Hospital Equipment Fund (through memorials to deceased members).

At present the meetings are held monthly - none in July or August. The Club year ends October 31. At present (1992) twenty-nine members are enrolled.

WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Exactly when the first Women's Institute in O'Leary was formed is difficult to determine. However, there was a W.I. in O'Leary in 1923. A newspaper article reported elsewhere in this book states that in 1925 the O'Leary Women's Institute raised \$33 from a bean supper which was contributed to the building of sidewalks.

The present O'Leary Women's Institute was first organized on September 11, 1947. This meeting was held at the home of Jean Dewar. The officers appointed were as follows: President - Lulu MacWilliam, Vice-President - Bessie Dumville, Secretary/Treasurer - Lulu Turner, Red Cross Secretary - Eva Noonan, Overseas Secretary - Verna Vatcher, Directors - Alice Seaman, Isabelle Campbell, Jean Dewar, Auditors - Verna Vatcher and Frances MacWilliam.



Centennial Project 1973.

There were eleven members who joined at this meeting: Bessie Dumville, Isabelle Campbell, Velda Matthews, Mrs. A.E. Wilson, Lulu MacWilliam, Frances MacWilliam, Dorothy Bernard, Jean Dewar, Alice Seaman, Eva Noonan and Lulu Turner. A registration fee of twenty-five cents was paid upon joining. Later that year seventeen additional members joined the Institute. These first meetings were held at the homes of members and later, as membership increased, meetings were held at the school.

The first committees that were appointed were: Red Cross, sick committee, program planning committee and school committee.

The main objective of the O'Leary W.I. at its inception was providing supplies and assistance to the O'Leary School. Some of their major contributions were new window blinds, coat racks, blackboards, paint for the trimming of the school, globe, lumber for playground equipment and a studio couch and mirror for the teachers' lounge. They also helped with the purchase of a new electric bell system. This is just a sampling of the numerous items supplied by the Institute.



A Quilting Bee 1988.

Eileen C. Rogan was hired to come to the school to teach music. Her salary was paid in part by the W.I. At Christmas, treats were provided for the children. Sponsorship was given to the Music Festival and for a visiting dental clinic.

This Institute also played a major role in the support of the Red Cross. Supplies sent from Charlottetown were distributed to the members who made these into various articles to be used for the relief of the needy.

An interesting fact was that the O'Leary W.I. was twinned with an institute in Cambridge, England. As a relief effort, with the end of World War II, O'Leary periodically sent canned lard and meat, as well as rice to its twin in England.

Sponsorship and charitable collection were provided for numerous groups and organizations, some of them being: sponsorship of Boy Scouts, Blood Donor Clinics, mobile X-ray unit, water safety and

swimming lessons. They collected for the Red Cross Society, March of Dimes, Cancer Society, Salvation Army and Tuberculosis. Money was also raised for the O'Leary Fire Department.

Various means of fundraising were undertaken. The most popular were bake sales, bazaars, afternoon teas, suppers, auctions and occasionally catering to various functions - among these was the official opening of the Regional Services Centre.

Their theatrical ability was also exhibited by the performance of plays and concerts put on by the ladies of this early Women's Institute.

By 1950 membership had increased to forty-two. This is probably the highest number on register in the O'Leary Institute's history.

Some of the early presidents were Marjorie Phillips, Laura Rayner, and Jessie Moreshead. Secretaries were Frances MacWilliam, Verna Phillips, and Frances Dewar.

Milo Women's Institute Convention (and surrounding districts)

*Our last annual convention
In this year of 1939
May leave the memory of some folk
But it will never depart from mine.*

*The weather was ideal,
The hall was nice and clean
Everyone came quite early
It all seemed like a pleasant dream.*

*The officers did their duty
And did it really well;
How things will go next year
No one on earth can tell.*

*The handiwork and demonstrations
Were beautiful to see,
But OH the trouble started
When we went to get the tea.*

*(first chorus)
Institute, Institute, join it one and all
Then we'll all meet once a year
In the Milo hall.*

*Hebron was there with their cookies
They were beautiful to adore*

*But no one there would have minded
Had they brought a dozen more.*

*The cake that came from Carleton
Was good we all admit
But when the waitresses came to eat
They couldn't find a bit.*

*The sandwiches were good
And so was all the stuff,
The only trouble was
There was really not enough.*

*To begin with we had five kettles
And many were served at first-
But when those five were emptied
All present seemed to thirst.*

*(last chorus)
Where's the tea? Where's the tea?
This was all the cry,
Bring the tea, bring me tea
Or we'll surely die.*

*The waitresses were in commotion
As we all could plainly see
While others nearly went frantic
As they ran and shouted "Tea".*

*Mrs. Whyn was our guest speaker
She was pleasing to hear and see
But she thought it awfully silly
To get excited over tea.*

*At last the tea was landed
But it got no praise at all,
In fact some said it wasn't fit
To dump behind the hall.*

*There were some that came from Hebron
And some from Coleman too -
I doubt if anyone in a fire
Ever got in a bigger stew.*

*But now the storm was over
The tea was there and plenty
But the waitresses found nothing to eat
And went home with their stomachs empty.*

*Now my rhyme is ended
Come again next year and see
That there may be other things missing
But there'll surely be plenty TEA.
F.B.M.*

*P.S.
Now the waitresses had finished
And a grand clean-up was made
And everyone looked as pleasant
As though never a word was said.*

*The above was published in a Summerside paper
Talk about troubles
I have them galore
A lot of my friends
Don't smile anymore;
They pass me by
With their heads in the air
It sure makes me feel
A little bit queer.*

*The whole trouble is over
The Tea and the Rhyme
They blame me for wasting
My valuable time.
Some said it surely was awfully rash
And was surprised at the Editor
Printing such trash.*

*If ever again I take time to compose
It will be about the deep SEA
the WIND or the ROSE
Never again will I write about Tea
As long as my senses remain within me.
Flora Belle Milligan
and maybe this will be the last history
the O'Leary Women's Institute will sponsor
especially if it brings troubles galore.*

CO-OP HOUSING



In 1959, a Co-op Housing Project was organized in O'Leary. Land now known as Parkview Drive was purchased from (Mrs.) Lillie Adams. Construction of five new homes began in 1960 and was completed in 1961. Occupants were George and Elma Bernard, Orville and Greta Willis, Harry and Viola Ramsay, Ian and Winnie Strang, and Sterling and Joyce Ellis who later sold to Fred and Bonita Johnson.

The precut homes were purchased from Haliday Homes, Truro, N.S., and hauled to O'Leary by truck driven by Lorne Jelley. Thane Milligan was foreman for the project. Construction was a co-operative effort with the members helping each other throughout the building process.

Funding was provided by the P.E.I. Housing Commission with Reid Sangster and later Bill Meggison, as contact persons with the Commission.

LADY SLIPPER VILLA



In January 1986, Doris Buchanan purchased the Dennis house from Mel Campbell. She founded the Lady Slipper Villa which got its name from the Lady Slippers which grew behind the house and the word villa which means "a comfortable home in the country".

With the help of Doris' husband, Warner, and their friends, the house was renovated as a twelve bed community care facility.

On March 1, 1986, the first residents began to arrive. They were Johnny and Emily Clements, Velda MacNeill and Annie MacDonald. In the next few weeks Edna Ellis, Myrtle Sweet, Melvin Gallant, Hattie Adams, Hazel Carruthers, Agnes Peters, Philip Arsenault, and Mildred Thomson completed the first villa family. The first staff members were Sheila MacKay and Nancy MacPhee, L.N.A.

The Farm Labour Pool which had been located in the building moved out. Further renovations were made to increase the capacity to sixteen beds. A new wing was constructed in July 1987, which increased its capacity to thirty-two beds. In May 1988, the Lady Slipper Villa was purchased by Ray Brow, who continues to operate the facility.

Besides being a fine, comfortable facility for seniors, the residents share the company of each other and enjoy numerous social events - e.g. church services, birthday parties, Bible study, community school, and many kinds of entertainment.

SENIORS HOUSING

In the early sixties the provincial government began to look into the building of apartments for seniors who did not require care as provided in a manor and who wished to move into smaller and more comfortable homes. Social Services under the leadership of Hon. Henry Wedge initiated this fine program. O'Leary has done remarkably well in providing such apartments for senior citizens from the community and surrounding areas.



The first apartment with four units was finished in 1964. It is now known as O'Leary A Senior Citizens Home. The first tenants are believed to be as follows: Forrest and Gertie Phillips, shortly followed by Jacob and Bertha MacNaught, Tennis and Rose Peters, Joe and Edith Pineau and Arthur and Constance Perry.

O'Leary B was opened on May 10, 1974. It contained six units and a recreation hall. Ken Williams, Eva Gamble, Beulah MacWilliams, Bruce and Tillie MacDougall, Jerry and Gertie Richard and Velda MacNeill were its first occupants.

In 1981 O'Leary C was opened. It contained eight units, a commodious corridor and an ample laundry room. George and Jean Ellis, Lila Gillcash for a short time, Elmer and Verna Shaw, Elizabeth (Lizzie) Sullivan, Carrie Boulter, Dorothy MacDougall, Rene Cain, Margaret Wood, John and Emily Clements, made their home here.

Due to the immense popularity and steady growth of these worthwhile ventures, another wing, consisting of six units was added to O'Leary B in 1982 and opened its doors to Edna Brooks, Albert and Inez Robinson, Atwood and Cora MacDonald, Jennie Barwise, Eva MacLean and Elizabeth (Lizzie) Gallant.

The story of the Corinthian Lodge and the Jubilee Home is given elsewhere in this chapter.



SUBSIDIZED HOUSING



O'Leary was the first community on Prince Edward Island to apply for and receive funding for subsidized housing for its citizens. A committee consisting of Wendell Turner, George Dewar, Eric Shaw and Ronald Turner worked for two years (April 17, 1972-1974) through a bureaucratic maze for the project to become a reality. This is detailed in *Life at Leighwood* by Dr. L.G. Dewar.

FP 1, consisting of five separate duplexes on Centennial Drive was opened in 1974. Each of the ten commodious units contains four bedrooms. FP 4 was opened in 1984 adjacent to FP 1. It has five apartments in one building. In 1987 PWL on Ellis Avenue and PV 1 on Pate Garden Avenue were officially opened. Each of these consisted of two duplexes with four apartments.

Ann Turner, Henry MacPherson, Douglas Smith, Rankin MacKinnon and Ken McCormick deserve much recognition for their efforts in this area.

O'LEARY LEGION JUBILEE HOME

The above mentioned home was first suggested to the O'Leary Legion in 1976 as a Jubilee Year Project by Comrade Arnold MacDonald. A committee was formed to look into the feasibility and need for a home of this nature in the Community of O'Leary. Finally after many years and meetings with government, C.M.H.C. and other interested parties, the financial and other business was final-

ized and the sod turning was celebrated on Nov. 13, 1987. The Pate family had donated the lot to the project and Florence and Roland Turner donated other lands to accommodate the building of a new street to service the seniors' home. The street was later named Jubilee Avenue by Mrs. Turner. The building started in the spring of 1988 by G.I. Adams Contractor with Roland Turner as coordinator between Adams and the board of directors of the Legion body responsible for the home. In November of 1988, it was ready for tenants. Roland screened the applications. The first two tenants moved in but unknown to each other; one, Mrs. Vera Harris was in one end of the 16 unit complex and Paul Arsenault in the other end. Many a joke and ribbing resulted from this. By the time of the official opening on July 24, 1989, 14 units were occupied by 20 tenants: Paul Arsenault, Bertha McCarthy, Arthur and Elva Cornish, Ben Blanchard, Ernest & Eva Paugh, Elmer and Milla Cooke, Gertrude O'Halloran, Ruby Bulger, Jennie Harris, Katherine Hardy, Vera Harris, Viola and Carol Collicutt, Don and Iva MacDonald and Emmanuel and Leona Gallant.



When the home was completed, the Board of Directors appointed Roland Turner as Project Manager. On C.M.H.C.'s approval he held that position until his retirement in March 1991. At that time Rod Matheson filled the position.

The official opening was held in the new home with a large attendance. Speakers were: Arnold MacDonald, Board President; Rev. John Fraser, Padre; Senator Orville Phillips, Federal Housing; Hon. Robert Morrissey, Provincial Government; Allison Ellis, Second

Prince M.L.A., Hilda Smallman, Community Chairperson; John Dawes, C.M.H.C.; and Roy Smith, Legion President. The ribbon cutting ceremony was performed by Senator Orville Phillips, John Dawes, Project Manager Roland Turner, Tenant Emmanuel Gallant and Tenant Ruby Bulger. O'Canada was sung by Iva MacDonald.



Jubilee Home ribbon cutting left to right, Emmanuel Gallant, Roland Turner, Senator Orville Phillips, John Dawes, Ruby Bulger.

The O'Leary Legion Jubilee Home was officially opened in 1989. The complex houses 16 modern apartment units designed for seniors. It also features a large recreation room for use by all residents.

The total cost of the building was \$817,213.00 and it was built by the O'Leary Legion Branch with financial assistance from Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

The complex is administered by a volunteer board of directors set up by the O'Leary Legion. The units provide much needed housing for seniors in O'Leary.

Chapter 7

Services



Beechwood Professional Centre

The need for additional professional office space for O'Leary was noted by Dr.'s Charles Dewar and Edwin Pineau in 1987. Land was purchased from Stephen Mullen across the street from Community Hospital, O'Leary on Beechwood Avenue. Construction was started in the fall of 1987 and the building was opened for business, Feb. 1, 1988.

Originally, the above two physicians occupied two office suites. The building was designed for four suites on the first floor with a large basement area which could be readily completed for additional office space. In July, 1988, Dr. Herb Dickieson joined the practise and moved into the third suite. Campbell and McEwen rent space on the main floor for their O'Leary office.

The venture has proven very successful and the building has blended in well with the existing neighbourhood. The medical staff at present consists of Dr. Charles Dewar, M.D., C.M., C.C.F.P. (c), F.C.F.P. (c); Dr. Edwin Pineau, B.Sc., M.D.; Dr. Herb Dickieson, B.Ed.,

B.Sc., M.D. The physicians presently employ a staff of four - Winnifred Strang, Adele Cooke, Carol Palmer, R.N., and Gayle Adams, L.N.A.

COMMUNITY HOSPITAL

A BRIEF HISTORY

The community of O'Leary, as the financial and shopping centre for the surrounding area became increasingly aware that as a growing community, needed to review its existing ability to provide adequate health care to local residents.

In 1948, an ad hoc committee of distinguished citizens gathered and discussed the notion of a hospital to be located in O'Leary that would serve the needs of the surrounding area.



Community Hospital, O'Leary.

In October of 1948, the committee wrote to Dr. D.J.H. Shaw of the provincial health planning commission. In their letter, the committee outlined their concerns and requested information regarding financial and other assistance that might be available towards the planning and construction of a hospital in O'Leary.

The committee made it clear that the services offered at Turner's Nursing Home, while of a quality second to none, were becoming

increasingly inadequate to meet the health care needs of a growing community.

In reply to the committee's letter, Dr. D.J.H. Shaw invited an official delegation to meet with the Commission at the Legislative Chambers on December 15th, 1948 to further discuss the matter of a hospital for the O'Leary area.

The delegation was comprised of:

Mr. Sanford Phillips Sr.	Rev. M.S. Rooney
Mrs. Alice Maude Turner R.N.	Mr. Russell Leard
Mr. Errol Stetson	Mr. Raeford Locke
Dr. George Dewar	

This delegation was well received and subsequent to their meeting with the Commission in December, an official proposal for construction of a nursing unit in O'Leary was submitted on January 11th, 1949.

On January 17th, 1949 Dr. Shaw informed the O'Leary Committee that financial assistance in the form of:

Federal Government	\$8000.00
Provincial Government	\$8000.00

would be available and that the local community would have to raise \$8000.00.

In addition, Dr. Shaw suggested that a properly constituted group be formed to act as the Board of Directors.

Mr. George M. Matthews, an O'Leary Solicitor, was contracted to assist in the act of incorporation and this plea was presented in the house by Mr. Forest Phillips, M.L.A. and received immediate assent.

Under the act of Incorporation the Board was as follows:

Mr. Sanford Phillips Sr.	Chairman
Mrs. Alice Maude Turner	Vice-Chairman
Dr. George Dewar	Secretary-Treasurer
Rev. M.J. Rooney	
Mr. G. Russell Leard	
Mr. Raeford Locke	
Mr. Errol Stetson.	

The board immediately established a Finance Committee consisting of:

Rev. M.J. Rooney
Mr. G. Russell Leard
Mr. Raeford Locke.

The Board and the Finance Committee worked through the summer of 1949 in developing, reviewing and revising a submission to Government outlining plans for the new nursing unit in O'Leary.

This proposal along with a request for financial assistance was presented to Government on October 4th, 1949.

On November 3rd, 1949, the board was informed by Mr. A.W. Matheson, Minister of Health, that this proposal would be considered by the Government at its next sitting.

Time passed and on January 26th, 1950 having heard nothing from Government, the Board took it upon themselves to enquire on the status of their proposal for a hospital. The Commission's response to the January inquiry was vague and the board was left with the impression that the O'Leary Hospital was not high on the Government's list of priorities.

Local community representatives continued to lobby for the hospital but the issue remained in limbo as there was no positive response forthcoming from Government.

By 1954, Dr. George Dewar had garnered much political influence and he forced a re-opening of discussion regarding the hospital.

Dr. George was able to raise the interest of the Premier of the Province, The Honourable A.W. Matheson, whose support was crucial if the project had any possibility of succeeding.

Dr. George was tireless in his pursuit for support among government officials and ministers of the crown. The key individual was obviously the Premier and when Mr. Matheson chose to support the project, a major hurdle was overcome.

In the end, Government agreed that if the public's share of the funding could be guaranteed, the project would go forward. A local campaign quickly saw several trustees agree to underwrite the remaining costs.

Originally, the Palmer house which was selling for approximately \$8000 was considered as a possible site for the hospital. At that time it was felt that with renovations, the Palmer house could be converted into a hospital.

Discussions were held with Department of Health officials and it was quickly concluded that it would be a better long-term solution to construct a new building rather than to attempt to convert an existing one.

The local committee reviewed many possibilities but settled on land owned by Mrs. Alexander MacDonald who owned a thirty acre farm on the Barclay Road. Mrs. MacDonald was approached and agreed to sell the property for \$7800 for the purpose of building a hospital.

Mrs. MacDonald's generosity and public-mindedness should not go unmentioned. Her willingness to part with land more valuable

than the selling price was obviously the act of an individual who cared about her community and its future.

The local board and the Department of Health worked closely together to formulate plans for the hospital and eventually, Mr. Keith Pickard, was hired as the architect to further develop and finalize the plans for a twenty-five bed hospital.

Mr. Pickard's plans received the approval of the board and the Department of Health and Mr. Harold MacLellan were contracted to proceed with construction of the building.

On July 6th, 1957 Community Hospital was declared officially open when Dr. Lorne Bonnell, Minister of Health, laid the corner stone.

The new building in its completed form cost a total of \$125,243. The first staff appointment to Community Hospital was that of Mrs. Grace MacLeod who when approached by the board accepted the position of Matron. As Matron, Mrs. MacLeod assumed the responsibilities of Administrator, General Manager and Director of Nursing.

Mrs. MacLeod's dedication to Community Hospital was beyond question. She had an apartment in the hospital so she could be available twenty-four hours a day if needed.

Community Hospital's first patient was Mr. Blanchard MacPhee of Coleman.

Members of Community Hospital's staff in the early days were:

Grace MacLeod	Isabel Stetson
Irma MacPherson	Sophia Darrach
Hazel Smallman	Aggie Arsenault
Jennie Silliker	Muriel MacLean
Mrs. Ivan Webb	Kathleen Jelley
Georgina Ferguson	Lila Craswell
Leila Craswell	Floyd Smallman
Shirley Ellis	Douglas Cornish
Winnie Cheverie	Ida Wedlock
Jean MacNevin	Charlotte MacLean

Members of the first Hospital Board appointed at a public meeting held on April 22, 1955 were:

Mr. Errol Stetson	Mr. E.W. Turner
Mr. R.K. Adams	Dr. C.M. Dewar
Mr. Allie MacNeill	Mr. A.W. Rayner
Mr. G. Russell Leard	Mr. Leonard Stewart
Mr. Harris Rogers	Mrs. Robert Woodside
Mr. Raeford Locke	Mrs. Alice M. Turner
Mr. Reginald MacAusland	Mrs. Irma (John B.) MacPherson

Mr. Kenneth MacKendrick

By 1963, the following physicians had applied and received privileges as members of the medical staff at Community Hospital:

Dr. N.R. Bruvel

Dr. C.M. Dewar

Dr. L. George Dewar

Dr. S. Hellmish (courtesy staff)

Dr. J.B. Downing

Dr. G.G. Houston

Dr. J.C. Sinnott

During the first full year of operation, Community Hospital had a total of 6,435 patient days compared with a total of 9,393 patient days in 1991. Also, during the first full year of operation there were 100 babies born at Community Hospital compared to a total of 19 in 1991.

By 1965, the demands on the hospital indicated a need for expansion. The board discussed this at length with the Hospital and Health Services Commission and by 1966, Dr. L.E. Prowse, chairman of the commission, recommended new x-ray and laboratory facilities, an operating room and eight additional patient beds.

At a cost of approximately \$300,000 the new wing was built by the contracting firm of Williams, Murphy and MacLeod and officially opened in 1969.

The completed facility had thirty-six beds and serviced a population of approximately 6,700 people. In addition, Community Hospital was the first hospital in the province to provide space for Public Health Nursing.



The New Community Hospital, O'Leary.

In 1958 the operating budget for Community Hospital was \$60,000. By 1992, this figure has escalated to \$2,500,000. It has presently the equivalent of approximately 80 full time positions, thus making it a major employer in the area.

On June 27, 1990, at the annual meeting of Community Hospital, O'Leary, the Hon. Robert Morrissey made an official announcement that a hospital would be built on a new location.

The board of trustees had been lobbying government for a number of years to update the hospital because of recommendations made by the accreditors.

The hospital no longer met building code standards in many respects, as well the services and functions had outgrown the space.

The new hospital is being built at a cost of eight million dollars. The floor space required to bring it up to standards will be 51,902 BFG, double the floor space of the existing hospital. It will be a 32 bed hospital which will also include the services of Public Health and Home Care and Support.

A new location had been recommended by the Applied Management Consultants because of the size constraints of the existing site.

The new site allows easier access for traffic. It will also allow pedestrian walkways designed for the handicapped, service yard, snow storage and parking spaces for employees, medical staff, public, emergency and community services.

The new site consists of ten acres of land purchased from Deborah Ann MacPherson, a part of her father's farm (Mr. Clarence MacKinnon).

The construction of the new hospital began in October, 1992 with project completion by December, 1993.

Mr. Patrick Dobbin, Administrator, on behalf of the Board of Trustees (1990-1992) played a major role in the planning and negotiating with government. Many others also played a major role: Allison Ellis, Robert Morrissey, Robert E. Campbell - (M.L.A.'s), Harold Tuck, Stanley MacDonald, David Ferguson, Walter Wilcox, Norman Larter, Trevor Webb, Harold Gard, Cynthia Larter, Debbie Gorrill, Eva Rodgeron, Isabel Stetson, Blair Horne, Laurids MacLennan, Bernadette Coughlin, Orville Willis, Sandra Currie, Judy MacWilliams, Graham Minor, Gary Gray - (trustees), Douglas and Georgina Ferguson (co-chairmen of the hospital equipment fund), L.G. Dewar, C.M. Dewar, Herb Dickieson, Ed Pineau, and T.R. Verma (doctors), Arlene Gallant-Bernard (director of nursing), and Brucine Collins (project manager).

The following is a list of the administrators of Community Hospital:

Mrs. Grace MacLeod	1957-1969
Mr. Lester Brennan	1969-1989
Ms. Wanita MacIntyre	1989-1990
Mr. Patrick Dobbin	1990-1992.

The following is a list of the directors of nursing of Community Hospital:

Mrs. Grace MacLeod	1957-1970
Mrs. Wanda MacLeod	1970-1989
Ms. Margo MacDougall	1989-1990
Mrs. Arlene Gallant-Bernard	1990- ———

The following is a list of the board chairmen of Community Hospital:

Mr. Errol Stetson	1955-1972
Mr. Bernard Shea	1972-1986
Mr. Gordon Ramsay	1986-1987
Mr. Harold Tuck	1987-1991
Mr. Stanley MacDonald	1991- ———

DENTISTS

Dr. Archibald MacMurdo was the first practising dentist in O'Leary. He graduated from dental college in 1901 and, it was reported, that between 1902 and 1906 each week he travelled to O'Leary by train from Summerside, stayed overnight at the MacFadyen residence, where he provided dental services for the next day or two, then returned to Summerside.

The first resident dentist in the village was Dr. Wilson MacKay from Freeland, Lot 11 - a brother of Mrs. (Dr.) MacEwen - who set up practise here in the early 1900's, stayed only a few years, then moved to Wetaskewin, Saskatchewan.

Alexander Palmer was born in Freeland, son of William and Barbara Palmer and a nephew of Dr. MacKay. After graduating from Baltimore College of Dental Surgery he moved to O'Leary where he set up a practice over Matheson's Drug Store. (For more information refer to biography on Dr. Palmer).

Dr. William MacMurdo, son of Dr. and Mrs. Archibald MacMurdo, Summerside graduated from Dalhousie Dental School in 1948. In January 1949, he rented the dental office from Olive Tuplin, who had purchased the Palmer residence, and began his dental practice in O'Leary.



*Alexander and Alvaretta
Palmer*

In 1955 Dr. William married Marion Ellis, daughter of E.B. Ellis, O'Leary. They had four children Vicki, William, Edward, and David. Edward, a dentist, has followed in the family tradition.

In 1970, the doctor bought the Palmer house. The same year he moved to Summerside where he carried on his practise until he retired in 1988.



Home and dental office of the Palmers (1914).

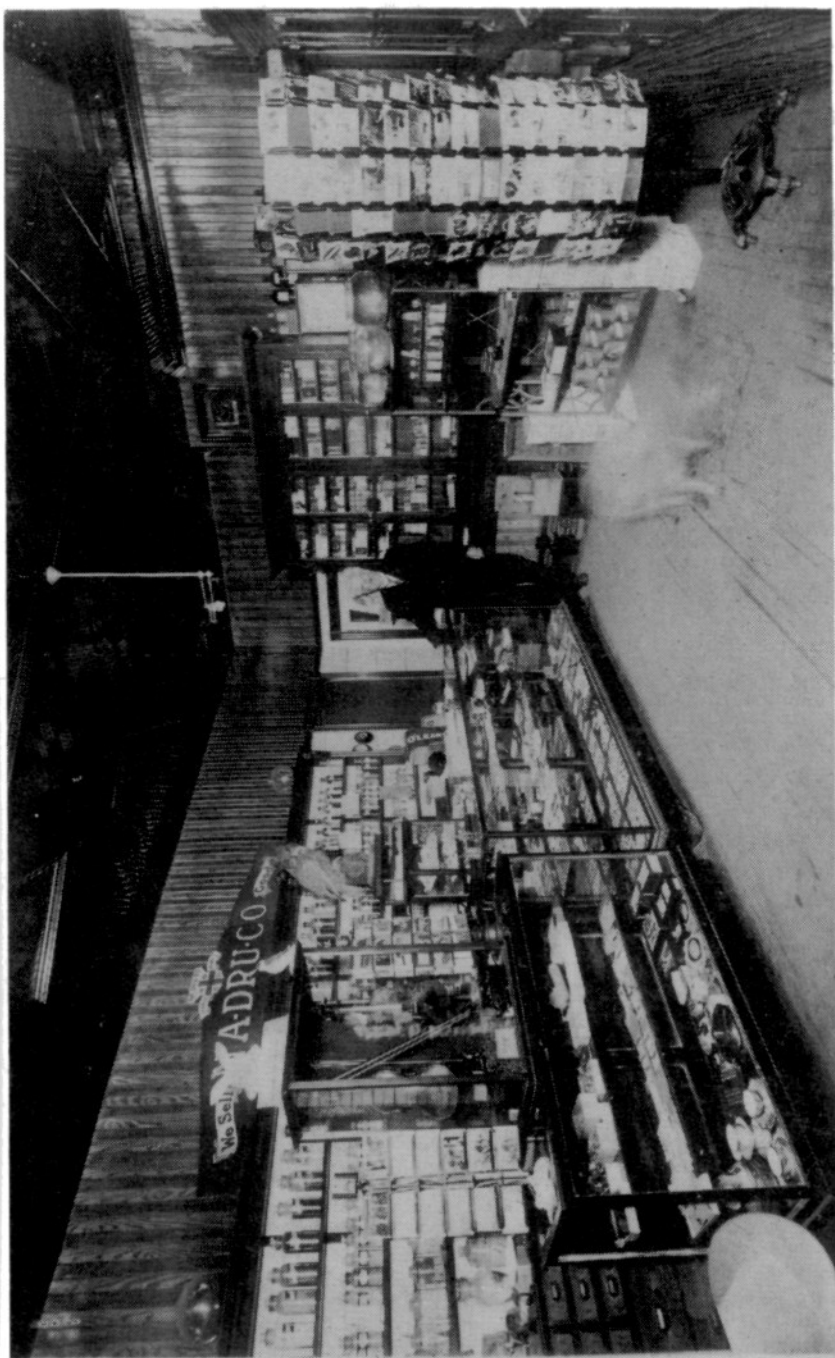
Dr. Gary Jackson, a graduate of the University of Toronto Dental School, moved to O'Leary from Alberton in 1971 and set up dental suites in the Claude MacNeill building. He continued his practise there until 1979 when he went to Ontario.

Dr. Jackson's practise was taken over by Dr. James Murphy from Alberton who graduated from Dalhousie Dental School in 1979 and set up a practise in O'Leary. He now operates a modern dental clinic in Woodstock, near the eastern end of the O'Leary Road.

DRUGGISTS

The first doctors came to O'Leary near the end of the nineteenth century. They carried their own drugs and, for a time, did their own dispensing. At that time medications did not come ready to be dispensed and their preparation was extremely time-consuming. These early doctors were well trained and had the skill required to compound different medicines, but as their practises expanded, they found little time for such preparations and the need for a druggist was recognized.

In 1886, William MacDonald operated the first drugstore in the village. This was about the time Dr. MacLaughlin settled here. (No other information available.)



Interior view of pharmacy with A.J. Matheson standing in the background.



A.J. Matheson's First Drug Store.



Bay Wedlock probably getting some "free" advice for a sore hand from Eva MacLennan, in front of drugstore.



Miss Angie Fyfe (later Mrs. A.J. Matheson) 1902

Many people have made important contributions to the village of O'Leary. One such person was A.J. Matheson, who for over half a century served the village faithfully. He supplied O'Leary with needed pharmaceuticals and was a great help to the doctors who served the O'Leary area at that time.

Arthur J. Matheson was born at Brackley Point, P.E.I., in 1871. He taught school for many years in Unionvale. He occasionally helped Dr. McEwen with medicine preparations, and when the doctor discovered that a drug clerk was needed, he turned to Mr. Matheson. A.J. (as he was familiarly known) studied pharmacy in his spare time and he eventually wrote the examinations of the Prince Edward Island Pharmaceutical Association. In 1900 he opened a drug store, but like many other buildings in O'Leary, it burned. He had another one constructed on the corner of Willow Avenue and Main Street. The carpenters were Harry Williams of Lot 11, Pat Howard, and Neil MacDonald of O'Leary. The building was completely finished on the inside with natural wood. It had a beautiful hardwood ceiling.

In those days before ready made drugs, the filling of prescriptions was a painstaking and exacting task. The filling was weighed out precisely, depending on each dosage, mixed together and then put into individual packets. When capsules were required, each one had to be filled and capped individually. Skin ointments were concocted using lard or vaseline base, mixed with other ingredients.

The front shop stocked up-to-date merchandise such as cosmetics, magazines, books, china, silver, toiletries, and fine chocolates. At the back of the store was a very interesting collection of antiques and artifacts. A.J. was a pioneer in museum work in the village. Later, the store was run by his son Keith and his grandson Kenneth. Some pharmacists of the drug store were Eva (MacLennan) Dennis, Donald Matheson (Keith's son), and Robert Matheson, (Kenneth's son), who became the pharmacist in Tignish when the store in O'Leary closed.

Another early druggist, Garfield Ellis, son of Robert Ellis, Sr., operated a drugstore in a building belonging to his father just west of the railroad track. He later moved to Montague and from there to Western Canada.

It has been reported that early in the 1900's J.W. Carruthers operated a drugstore near the present site of the Credit Union.

J.E. Dalton was born in Melrose, N.B. in 1884. As a young man he worked in Amherst for a druggist - W.J. Ormond. In March, 1910, he moved to O'Leary and bought the Carruthers' drugstore where he operated the business for a period of two or three years. While residing in O'Leary, he boarded with a Mrs. Gorrill who lived near the

railway station.

Other pharmacists who served O'Leary were George MacAulay, Edward Hynes and Edward Foley.

In September, 1990, Fred Martin, pharmacist, converted part of his store into a well stocked pharmacy. He continues to operate this business under the name West Prince Pharmacy.

O'LEARY PHARMACY LTD.

On November 18, 1965, O'Leary Pharmacy Ltd. was officially opened for business. Prior to that date, Stanley Williams MacDonald, Phc., formerly of MacNeill's Mills, purchased the building from Western Hardware Co. Ltd. The structure was originally "Pate's" and served the public as a grocery store and was probably best known for its ice cream parlour.

Upon opening, Stanley had one employee, Alice Richard, who later married Preston Hogan of Tignish. Together, the pharmacist and sales clerk handled the business until such time as more staff was needed.

Within a few years the store absorbed the side section, the old ice cream parlour, which had been rented to Helen Kennedy, a hairdresser, and later a laundromat was added to the rear of the building. In November, 1971, the building between O'Leary Pharmacy and MacWilliam & Turner Ltd. was purchased and moved to the back of the lot to allow for more parking. In 1990 this building became the property of Beverley and Bernard Jeffery and hauled to Roxbury.

In 1990, a major expansion was undertaken and the business went from 4000 square feet to approximately 8000 square feet. To accommodate this, it was necessary to purchase the MacWilliam and Turner store. The building was demolished and the area on which it stood became the parking lot of O'Leary Guardian Drug and the other businesses which chose to rent space.

Sears Catalogue Sales Office, which has been a part of the drugstore since 1976, moved to its new location in the basement with Jean MacAusland, Stanley's sister, as manager. Other businesses located in the building are as follows: the O'Leary Community Hospital Ladies Auxiliary "New To You" shop; Carol's Fabric Centre operated by Carol Harris; and Sonya's Hairstyling operated by Sonya Silliker.

The drugstore itself now employs twenty-four full and part-time employees. On February 25, 1992, Verna Wedlock was honoured for having been an employee for twenty-five years. Pharmacists providing relief over the years are as follows: Betty Lou (Ellis) Hutt, Fred Martin, Brian Wood, and Della Donald.



O'Leary Pharmacy - Guardian Drugs.

In 1966, Stanley married Adrienne Webb of Woodstock and they have three daughters - Heidi, Bethany and Jill. For nine years their home had been an apartment over the Pharmacy and in 1975 they moved to their present home which had been built by Dr. A.S. Palmer, Adrienne's grandfather. Stanley's uncle, "Little" Harry Williams, was the carpenter. The house had passed from Dr. Palmer to Jim Tuplin, Harold Jelley and Dr. MacMurdo.

MEDICAL DOCTORS

In the one hundred and six year span between 1886 and 1992, the village of O'Leary, Prince Edward Island, had the services of nineteen different doctors. These medical men were, for the most part, rural practitioners and constituted a varied and colourful group indeed. That the early doctors struggled through difficult situations is certain, when one remembers that for years the nearest hospital was in Charlottetown, which is almost one hundred miles from O'Leary. Travel, too, was difficult and this added to the degree of difficulty a doctor faced in his practise. Wild winter storms and deep Island mud posed gigantic problems for the early practitioners in their struggles to visit their patients in time to render medical assistance.

The first medical man to come to O'Leary was Dr. Daniel McLaughlin, who arrived in 1886 after graduating from Trinity Medical College the same year. Dr. McLaughlin was born in West River, Prince Edward Island, in 1860. He received his early education at the local school and continued to the Provincial Normal School in Charlottetown. After teaching for a few years, he enrolled in Trinity Medical College where he graduated in 1886 with first class honours and was a "Fellow by Examination" and spent five months post-graduate study in Edinburgh after he was married. He has been described as a very talented young man of rare ability and sterling character.

Dr. McLaughlin built the present Dr. George Dewar house (Leighwood) a few months after his arrival in O'Leary. Mrs. D.S. Gorrill, a former resident of O'Leary and occupant of the house which was known as The Willow Hotel, recounted that Dr. McLaughlin and his wife stayed at The Willow Hotel until their own house was finished. Mrs. Gorrill stated that Dr. McLaughlin enjoyed the trust and confidence of the residents of the community in which he practised for fourteen years. Mrs. Gorrill was especially charitable in her remarks about Mrs. McLaughlin whom she described as "a kind and cheerful English lady". In 1896, Dr. McLaughlin's expanding practice necessitated his procuring an associate. That associate was O'Leary's second medical man - Dr. Henry McEwen from St. Peter's Bay, P.E.I.

Dr. McEwen received his early education at the local district school. He taught at Prince of Wales College before beginning his study of medicine at Dalhousie University in 1891. He held a clinical clerkship in the Victoria General Hospital in his senior year. He also served one summer as surgeon on the H.M.S. Gulnre. After he graduated in 1897, he married Annie W. MacKay from Freeland, P.E.I. The couple moved to O'Leary and took up residence in what was later the A.J. Matheson house. When Dr. McLaughlin moved to Charlottetown in 1900, Dr. McEwen bought Leighwood where they lived until 1918 when they moved to Summerside. So from 1896 until 1900, O'Leary had the services of two qualified medical men. A.J. Matheson dispensed drugs from a drug store located in the McLaughlin (or Leighwood) house.

From 1918 until 1938, Dr. J.B. Champion resided in Dr. McLaughlin's house and provided medical services to the people of O'Leary and surrounding districts. Dr. Champion was from Malpeque, P.E.I., and was married to Susan Holland from Bedeque. He was the father of three children - Helen, Fred and Harry. Harry died at the age of ten after a tonsillectomy. Dr. Champion was in

O'Leary at a time when travelling rural roads was difficult because of mud in the spring and snow in the winter. Doctors of this era often hired local farmers to drive them in making their house calls, especially in winter when most travelling was done in a pung or jaunting sleigh. It has been difficult to ascertain where Dr. Champion received his medical training due to the scarcity of records on Prince Edward Island for the early 1900's but he probably graduated from Dalhousie University as many other Island-born doctors have. Dr. Champion suffered from a heart condition and died in his car on Main Street, O'Leary in 1938. He is buried in Bethel United Church Cemetery.



Dr. W.B. Champion



Dr. Roy Kennedy

Between 1886 when Dr. McLaughlin first came to O'Leary and 1938 when Dr. Champion died, several other doctors had short stints of service in the O'Leary area. Information about these men in the early decades of the twentieth century is extremely scarce and difficult to procure. The Prince Edward Island Directory for the year 1900 lists Dr. G.P. MacDougall as a physician in O'Leary. Dr. L.G. Dewar recounted how he and his father, John A. Dewar, were once shown through the asylum at Falconwood by Dr. MacMillan, and Dr. MacMillan pointed to a silent man in the corner and said "That's Dr. MacDougall. Brilliant man, led his class at McGill. Ruined himself through booze." Mrs. D.S. Gorrill concurred and recounted how Dr. MacDougall spent much time at O'Leary's one-time speak-easy which was called "The Snake House". Dr. MacDougall was from

MacDougall's Corner near Grand River and he was a bachelor. He was definitely practising in O'Leary in the year 1900, but confirmation of the length of his stay has been difficult to obtain. It is known, however, that he was practising in O'Leary in 1917.

The 1914 - 1915 Prince Edward Island Directory lists Dr. Joseph P. McGrath as physician and druggist in O'Leary. Dr. McGrath was from Lot 1, P.E.I., and graduated from McGill University before coming to O'Leary to practice medicine. He came from a large family who were well educated considering the times in which they lived. In a sketch of Gustave McGrath in Warburton and MacKinnon's History of Past Present on P.E.I., the biographer lists three sisters who were nuns in Roman Catholic orders, two sisters teaching school in Prince Edward Island, a brother, Frank, who was a doctor in Bloomfield, and Joseph, who was studying at McGill.

Two doctors who also served in the O'Leary area in the early twentieth century were Dr. D.W.P. MacBride and Dr. Frederick Taylor. Dr. MacBride had been practising in Tignish before moving to O'Leary as he is listed in the Prince Edward Island Directory as being in Tignish in 1914 - 1915. Dr. Taylor was born in 1887 in Charlottetown and was educated at West Kent School and Prince of Wales College. He graduated from McGill University and practised medicine in Montague until the outbreak of the First World War when he went to Europe. While in Europe, Dr. Taylor married an English woman and brought her to O'Leary after the close of the war. Dr. and Mrs. Taylor lived in the present day Beverley (Boates) Makin house while in O'Leary. Mrs. Gorrill recalled them vividly.

Two medical men had brief sojourns in the village during the 1930's besides Dr. Champion who died in 1938. These two doctors were Dr. Roy Kennedy and Dr. Champion Holland. Dr. Kennedy was from the Kensington area but could be considered a "local" doctor because he was a first cousin to Marne Kennedy of O'Leary. Dr. Kennedy was born in 1900 and attended Kensington School and Prince of Wales College. He took his medical training at McGill University, graduated and interned at Rochester, New York. He moved to O'Leary in 1930 and practised here until 1934 or 1935 when he moved to Alberton. During the Second World War, he served in the Armed Forces at Moncton and Chatham. Mrs. Kennedy was the former Betty Evans, R.N. of Owen Sound, Ontario.

Dr. Champion Holland was Dr. J.B. Champion's nephew and was just beginning his medical career when he came to O'Leary to help his uncle. Dr. Holland was an energetic young man who did not exercise enough care for his own health. A local farmer, William Ellis,

recounted how Dr. Holland would forget to keep sufficiently covered in the sleigh when Mr. Ellis would drive him through wild winter storms to make house calls. Mr. Ellis recounted how Dr. Holland would let the "buffalo" fall to the floor of the sleigh in his concentration of thought. Ironically enough, it was in the summer of 1937 that Dr. Holland took quite ill at Kenneth and Isabelle Campbell's house where he lived and had his office. He seemed to improve but his uncle, Dr. Champion, decided to take him to the Prince County Hospital in Summerside. On the way to Summerside, the car windows were left open and shortly after Dr. Holland arrived in Summerside Hospital, he developed pneumonia in one lung. He regained his strength for a few days but then developed pneumonia in the other lung. He was not strong enough to survive this second bout and he subsequently died in the Prince County Hospital. Dr. Holland's mother was heartbroken when she learned of her son's death at such an early age.

In 1937, Dr. Ben W. Tanton, son of Dr. E.T. and Nancy (Muncey) Tanton, Summerside, P.E.I., set up practise in O'Leary. Dr. Ben attended school in Summerside and received his medical training at McGill University. For a short time, both Dr. Tanton and Dr. Champion were in O'Leary. In 1942, Dr. Muncey Tanton, Dr. Ben's brother, took over his practice in O'Leary. Dr. Muncey Tanton was the fifth doctor in the succession of six to inhabit the McLaughlin House. Dr. Muncey was also born in Summerside and practised in O'Leary from 1942 until 1947. In 1947, Dr. L.G. Dewar came to O'Leary and took up residency in the same house. Dr. Muncey, like his brother, is a graduate of McGill University and is an ear, nose, and throat specialist. He practised medicine in Montreal for several years, but has since opted for a quieter lifestyle and has opened a practice in Woodstock, New Brunswick.

Dr. Lloyd George Dewar is a native of New Perth, Prince Edward Island, and the son of the late Mrs. Laura Dewar and John A. Dewar. Dr. George, as he is affectionately known in O'Leary, was educated at New Perth School, Prince of Wales College and Dalhousie University. Dr. Dewar witnessed the practice of medicine, in the O'Leary area in particular and over the Island in general, change from one where the doctor made house calls in the traditional manner to one of modern medicine with its operating theaters and carpeted offices. Dr. George is a fine example of a general practitioner and family doctor who takes time to talk and to listen. This characteristic has won him staunch allies through the years in Prince Edward Island. Dr. George is married to the former Jean Price. They have two children - Ellen, Mrs. Norman Larter, and Brian.

In May of 1954, Dr. Charles M. Dewar (a cousin of Dr. George Dewar) moved to O'Leary and set up practice. Dr. Charles came from Brudenell and was educated at Brudenell, Montague, and Prince of Wales College during which time he completed twelve grades in nine years. Dr. Charles is married to the former Frances Wilson and has three children - Norman, Keith and Pamela. Dr. Charles is a hard-working, intelligent, and competent doctor. He had been an anaesthetist for many surgery cases after the opening of the O'Leary Community Hospital in 1959. Dr. Charles devotes much time to study to keep abreast of contemporary medicine in this era of rapid change.

The year 1956 saw the coming of the first surgeon to the O'Leary area in the person of Dr. Nicholis Bruvels, a skilled and competent surgeon. Dr. Bruvels was originally from Latvia, Europe. He attended school in Latvia and graduated from Riga in 1939 with his medical degree. Dr. Bruvels is registered as a General Surgeon of Latvia. He is married and the father of three sons - Nicky, Robert and Peter. Dr. Bruvels was in O'Leary from 1956 until 1972 when he opened a practice in Alberton, P.E.I.

To complement the team of practising physicians in the area, Dr. Cyril Bugden set up practice in 1959. Dr. Bugden is a general practitioner from Halifax, Nova Scotia. He was educated in Halifax and received his medical degree from Dalhousie University in 1959. Dr. Bugden, who is married and the father of two boys, worked at Public Health before coming to O'Leary for five years. He is best remembered for his pleasant manner and friendly demeanor. Dr. Bugden is now practising in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, at the Woodlawn Medical Clinic.

In 1971, Dr. Terry Verma and his wife Dr. Prem Verma came to the O'Leary Medical Centre. Dr. T. Verma is a highly qualified surgeon who was born in Kalaw, Burma. He attended Rangoon University from which he graduated in 1962 as a medical doctor. Dr. P. Verma was born in western India and received her early schooling at a convent in Poona. She attended Indore University where she obtained her medical degree in 1961. In 1965, she obtained her Post Graduate Masters degree in Gynecology and Obstetrics after which she became a lecturer in Obstetrics and Gynecology in Ludhiana, India. In 1971, Dr. Prem Verma accompanied her husband to Africa for one year and came to O'Leary in 1974 after obtaining her Canadian Licence with a specialization in gynecology and obstetrics.

Dr. F. Edwin Pineau was born and brought up in Rustico, P.E.I. He graduated from U.P.E.I. in 1976 with a B.Sc. and completed

Dalhousie Medical School in 1981. Dr. Pineau spent one and half years in general practice at Cottage Hospital in rural Newfoundland. He completed two years surgical residency training at Dalhousie University and has been a family physician at Community Hospital since 1986.

The newest doctor to join the staff at O'Leary Community Hospital is Dr. Herb Dickieson. Dr. Dickieson was born and raised on a dairy farm in New Glasgow, P.E.I. He served in the Canadian Armed Forces in early 1970 as a Medical Assistant and obtained his B.Sc. from U.P.E.I. and Saint Mary's University in Halifax, Nova Scotia. He taught high school in Calgary for a while. After obtaining his medical degree from Dalhousie, he started his medical practice at Community Hospital in July, 1988. He was made Chief of Medical Staff in March, 1990. Dr. Dickieson married Kathleen Conlin in 1981 and has three children - Alexandra, Morgan and Daniel.

During the past ninety years, the role of the doctor has changed greatly. Doctors such as Dr. McLaughlin and Dr. McEwen, who practised in the late nineteenth century were forced to function with little technological aid. Methods of diagnosing and treating illnesses appear crude compared to today's era of specialization, but indications are that nineteenth century doctors were adaptable and proficient. Dr. R.G. Lea, in his book *History of the Practise of Medicine of Prince Edward Island* feels that the successes of modern medicine are largely due to the efforts of the early doctor of Prince Edward Island. Dr. Lea states, "To have provided good medical care under conditions prevailing at that time must have called for a very high degree of adaptability and versatility. They were obviously general practitioners in the truest sense of the term. Their enduring contribution to the province is the solid foundation they established upon which the success of modern medicine is built."

The doctors who practised in the twentieth century in O'Leary have been general practitioners and family doctors too. In spite of advances in technology, doctors in O'Leary have not evolved to a point of excessive specialization in any narrow field. This lack of specialization is probably indicative of the lack of a large hospital in the immediate area and lack of a heavy concentration of population. At present, O'Leary doctors refer special cases to specialists in Summerside or Charlottetown. It has been only in the last few years that the tradition of making house calls has fallen into disuse in the O'Leary area. Now patients must do the travelling to see the doctor, but with the increased comfort in today's transportation, no real inconvenience is placed on the public.

The editor of the Charlottetown Guardian must have had the general practitioners of O'Leary in mind when he stated, "We still have among us some of the old-time family physicians who are a boon and a blessing to man. The craze to specialism is making sad inroads on them, but according to that reputable origin of medical opinion, "The Family Doctor", it is merely a passing phase, and before many moons, the old-time practitioner will return to his own, and rightly so in our Christian civilization. The men who have contributed best to our well-being have been the parish priest or minister, the family doctor, and the family lawyer. They were the three local pillars of state, the men who by long and faithful service, knew the family history of everyone in the countryside, shared their joys and sorrows, extricated unfortunates who were in trouble, and knew the domestic and physical history of every family for generations back."

For photographs of the O'Leary medical doctors please refer to the book *Life at Leighwood* by Dr. L.G. Dewar.

THE O'LEARY MEDICAL CLINIC



O'Leary Medical Centre

The O'Leary Medical Clinic was officially opened on March 1, 1971, by the Honourable John Maloney, M.P., Minister of Health, at that time. The clinic is a cement block structure with facilities for four practitioners, each with a consulting room and two examining rooms.

The clinic was privately constructed for Doctor Charles Dewar and Doctor George Dewar. In 1974, Dr. T.R. Verma became a third party in the operation when he moved his practise to O'Leary. In 1978 - 1980, the building was expanded to its present size, to accommodate Dr. Zenner, an optometrist. The new expansion joined the clinic and the hospital, making it easier for the patients and staff to move back and forth.

During the 1980's changes took place in the operation and services provided by the clinic. Dr. Rainer Zenner, optometrist, moved to Summerside and set up his office there. The Rusk Associates provided this service for a period but have offices in Summerside and Alberton at the present time. This space was occupied by Dr. Ed Pineau for about a year and is now available for physiotherapy services.

In 1987, Dr. Charles Dewar decided to build a private professional centre on Beechwood Avenue. He and Dr. Pineau moved their offices there and were joined by Dr. Herb Dickieson. This left considerable space in the O'Leary Medical Clinic which has been taken up to a large extent by the Department of Health and Social Services for a Home Care and Support program under the direction of John Martin and the following support staff: Paula Caulier, R.N.; Theresa Chaisson, R.N.; Karen Kelly, R.N.; Darlene Gallant, R.N.; Carol Palmer, R.N.; Leah Kinch, R.N.; Andrea White, R.N.; Janice Ellis, Occupational Therapist; Pauline Gallant, Supervisor of Visiting Homemakers; Barbara MacLean, VHM; Margaret Perry, VHM; Lorna Gard, VHM; Freda Shaw, VHM; Wanda Dams, VHM; Mona Smith, VHM; Phyllis Gaudet, VHM; Norma Bulger, VHM; Pat Arsenault, VHM; Jeannie Ford, VHM; Melinda Hillier, VHM; and Elaine Luttrell, Team Secretary. These professional people provide necessary assistance to elderly people to enable them to stay in their own homes, especially after being sick in the hospital.

Dr. T.R. Verma carries on a large general practise and Dr. George Dewar continues to have regular office hours. Dr. Prem Verma holds occasional clinics. Mrs. Diane Lank holds a monthly audiology clinic and provides a hearing aid service for many people. Imperial Life uses some office space with Gordie Rogerson and Kenton Wedge as representatives.

In 1985, the clinic was sold to the Community Hospital and is now under its management. The clinic was redecorated and new drapes and carpet installed. This improved the decor considerably. The present staff includes Ellen Larter who works for Dr. George Dewar and Peggy Hierlihy and Mrs. Gloria Waite who are Dr. Verma's receptionists.

WEST PRINCE AMBULANCE

On March 23, 1990, Ferguson's Ambulance Service was purchased by two of its former employees, Dana Harris and Steven Ellis. Ferguson's Ambulance Service had operated for the past thirty years as part of Douglas Ferguson's funeral home business. When Dana and Steven assumed ownership the name changed to West Prince Ambulance Service as it covers most of the West Prince area. These two entrepreneurs boasted ten years experience in the ambulance service which included emergency medical training and a wide knowledge of the West Prince area and the people who reside there.

West Prince Ambulance Service has two ambulances in service as well as four full time staff trained in emergency medical care and several part time drivers. The service is provided 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and is located on Willow Avenue.



Dana Harris and Steven Ellis West Prince Ambulance.

BARBERS

The first barber in O'Leary was George Bernard. He carried on a small business in his own home for a number of years.

Gordon Bernard opened the first barber shop in the village located where the Youth Center is today. Gordon carried on business there from 1912 to 1917 when he decided to once again take up residence in U.S.A.

John Matthews, a native of Baltic, Prince Edward Island, was a

veteran of two World Wars. After World War I he went to Boston where he learned his trade from Gordon Bernard. Upon his return he set up a business of his own. He built a shop between Elton Gillcash's and the railroad on land rented from Robert Ellis for twelve or fifteen dollars a month.



Section of Main Street showing Claude Jelley's barber shop (circa 1940).

Jack was single when he came to O'Leary but soon met and married Mary Tredenick, a local school teacher. There were no hair-dressers or beauty salons in O'Leary at that time so Jack cut hair for both men and women. His charge, from \$0.25 to \$1.50 per cut. Jack worked hard, seldom took a vacation, and never neglected his work; consequently he built up a lucrative business. When World War II broke out, Jack once again enlisted in the services - the Home Guard. During his absence Elton Gillcash took over his business. Upon his return in 1945, he resumed his trade which he continued until just before his death in 1976 at the age of seventy-eight years. His shop was sold to Russell Gallant who hauled it to Tignish.

When Joseph R. Gallant became a full-fledged barber in 1923, he opened a barber shop in the old "Snake House" on the present site of the Credit Union. This building had previously been Philip Evan's harness shop. In 1926 Joe moved to a back room in the same building where he continued to ply his trade until he retired in 1928.

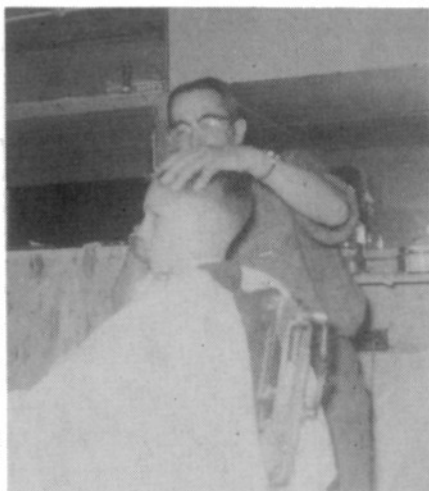
Early in the twentieth century anyone wishing to obtain an official Barber's Certificate was required to take a course at Molar's College in Halifax, Nova Scotia. This six month course was regarded

as basic training. Upon completion of the course in 1925, Claude Jelley returned to O'Leary and opened a barber shop in the "Snake House". At this time the popular hair style for young women was the Boyish Bob. This fad was a boon to the barbers who previously had done only men's cuts. Claude was kept extremely busy. Using hand clippers, he could style as many as twenty-five women's cuts in one day - for a meager twenty-five cents each. Claude's shop met a similar fate to that of many other early businesses in O'Leary. It burned in 1940. He then built a second shop farther down the street nearer to the railroad tracks. Claude continued barbering until 1965 when he sold his shop to Elton Gillcash, and thus terminated a forty-three year old business.

Kenneth Campbell also took his six month basic training course at Molar Barbering School in Halifax. In 1926 Joseph Gallant moved to the back of his shop; Kenneth opened up his business in the front. He cut hair for both men and women using both hand and electric clippers for \$0.25 a cut. His price for a close shave with a straight razor was \$0.15. Kenneth carried on business at this location until 1940 when his shop and all other business in the Snake House were burned. The same year he rebuilt on practically the same site where he continued to barber until his death in 1956.

Elton Gillcash was born in Glenwood, Prince Edward Island in 1915. He attended Molar Barbering School in Halifax in 1936. He first worked with Claude Jelley and Jack Matthews until he bought Claude's shop in 1965.

The shop has changed little since 1925. As you enter, you will likely see older men seated on an old wooden church pew discussing local happenings of interest. On the rear wall, Norman Rockwell fashion, you see a picture of Claude Jelley shaving Christopher Smith and, hanging by chains from the ceiling, a huge light fixture installed in 1939. The original hydraulic barber chair is still there (1989) and the walls are still painted red. The one noticeable change is in the price of a hair cut which has been raised from \$0.25 in 1965 to \$3.50 in 1989.



Phil Thomson - barber.

Philip Thomson, born in Campbellton, Prince Edward Island, moved to Howlan with his family when a youth. He continued to live at home and work on his father's farm until he was in his early forties when he decided to become a barber. After learning his chosen trade in Amherst, Nova Scotia, he set up his own business in River Hebert, Nova Scotia.

About 1948 Philip came back to O'Leary, hauled a building in from Howlan and placed it on a vacant lot. After necessary renovations were made, with his red and white candy cane striped barber pole proudly displayed at the front of his shop, he opened for business.

Robert (Bob) Arsenault retired from the Services in 1991. He opened a barber shop in his home on January 3, 1992.

BEAUTY SALONS

As time began to improve late in the 1930's some money was available for a few luxuries. Women once again became style conscious.

In 1937 Ann Matheson opened a beauty parlour in a small section of H.A. Jelley's Store. Armed with the best equipment available at that time, she began a career that was destined to last over fifty years.

Ann got her basic training at Sunnyside Beauty Parlour in Charlottetown. She did her post graduate work at the Mansfield

Academy in Boston. During winter months, when business was slow here, she worked either in Toronto, Montreal or Boston.

In 1953 Jelley's Store burned and with it went Ann's beauty parlour. She then set up business in a building bought from Ella Jelley located on land rented from the railroad. Later she sold this building to Verna Vatcher and moved her business into her own home where she still plies her trade of hair styling (1991).



Helen Kennedy and Al Wood working on models for a fashion show.

Allison Wood opened Al's Beauty Salon in the Pate and Co. building in 1959. Helen Kennedy entered into partnership in the business in 1963. When the building was sold to Stanley MacDonald, the salon was moved next door to the Adams building.

Al and Helen continued to offer their many customers complete hair care needs specializing in cutting, tinting, and styling until 1977 when the building was sold to John and Lloydia Wedlock.

Al continued to serve clients in his own home until 1988; Helen moved to her new home in Woodstock where she continued her craft until 1984.

Marlene's Hair Styling Salon - originally Dianne's - is in the Hyndman building on the corner of Main and Water Streets. Susan Bell and Marlene (MacLeod) Arsenault bought the business from

Dianne in 1981. Together they operated the business until September of the same year when Susan bought Marlene's share.

Susan continues to own and operate the business (1992). She provides all hair care needs.

La Pineau's Hair Styling was opened in 1976 by Edna Pineau in the basement of her home on Parkview Drive. She provided a full line of hair care needs to a large clientele. Ill health forced her to retire in 1988.

K - Lynn Hairstyling was opened in the Station House by Karen (Rodgers) Milligan in April, 1985. Karen operated the business there until September, 1987 when she moved to Northport.

Colleen Rogers, who had worked with Karen, took over the business, renamed Colleen's Hairstyling, in quarters vacated by Karen. Colleen provides the usual hair care needs of her clientele.

Technicuts Unisex Hairstyling was opened in the Stedman building in 1985 by Ellen (Clements) Rodgers and Sandra (Clements) Jones - co-partners in the business. In 1987 they moved to the Handy Andy building for a short time. Ellen and Sandra provide all family hair care needs - cuts, perms, tints and specialize in ear piercing, high lighting, shaping eyebrows, waxing facial hair, etc. In November, 1989, the girls moved their business to the basement of Ellen's home in Unionvale. In March, 1992, Sonya (Gorrill) Silliker opened a hair salon upstairs in the O'Leary Pharmacy Building.

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Around 1975 a community garden was started in O'Leary on a lot of land owned by (Mrs.) Athol Ellis and situated on the corner of Barclay Road and Beechwood Avenue.

The project was initiated by Thiren and Shirley Ellis who live on their farm across the street from the garden. With assistance from their son, Denton, each year the land is prepared, nutrients added, and the drills made for planting. Georgina Ferguson co-ordinates the project and assigns the drills.

During the summer and autumn the garden continues to be of interest to passers-by. However, the real contribution it makes to our community is found in the bountiful harvest of fresh vegetables it yields which are enjoyed by many.

For almost twenty years now several neighbours and residents, both in and near O'Leary, have been pleased to share space in the garden. Indeed, it is a special treat for many seniors who enjoy gardening in their spare time.



Community Gardens Spring.

All participants are most grateful to the Ellis families for their kindness and generosity in making it possible to enjoy the garden.

ELECTRICITY

Electricity was introduced to O'Leary by Fred Champion who was born in Richmond, Prince Edward Island in 1908. Later that year his father, Dr. W.B. Champion, moved his family to Tyne Valley. It was there at the age of six, that Fred made his first engine from old batteries he had fished out of a nearby river and a box with a tin can nailed to the top. When the Champion family moved to O'Leary in May, 1918, Fred geared up a small volt power plant, run by an engine and generator in their home.

Construction had begun in 1937 and on January 6, 1938, after many months of hard work, electric lights generated by a 26 horsepower diesel engine first lit up the village streets (100 watt bulbs in eleven street lights) and the homes of his first few customers. This was a vast improvement over the kerosene lamps used in the early 1900's to illuminate the streets. Fred provided free electricity to all churches in the village. He continued to develop and expand his electric utility, skillfully synchronizing his various engines. Unfortunately, the system was wiped out by a fire on February 16, 1949.



*Fred and Evelyn Champion
Barbara and James.*

News Item, June 13, 1949 - designed to serve the residents of O'Leary and surrounding districts, the recently constructed 13 1/2 mile long twelve thousand volt power line from Mount Pleasant to O'Leary Corner was officially taken over by Hon. George H. Barbour, Minister of Public Works and Highways, on behalf of the provincial government in a brief ceremony at O'Leary on Tuesday.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

The earliest fire fighting technique used in O'Leary was the bucket brigade. Buckets filled at a nearby stream or central pumps were passed from hand to hand to the fire. Although men, women and even children worked very hard and sometimes at great risk to subdue a blaze, this method was very difficult and not always effective. It is not certain how or when the O'Leary Fire Department was started, but it is generally believed that in the late 30's, after a number of very bad fires in the village, a group of concerned citizens organized a fire department in an attempt to cut down on the terrible loss of property.



Original Fire Department.

The department started in a very modest way. The first fire fighting equipment consisted of two forty-gallon chemical tanks. These heavy tanks were usually hauled to a fire on a cart or sleigh, but were often carried when no other means of transportation were available.

At the onset of World War II, an Air Raid Precaution Committee (A.R.P.) was established in O'Leary, as in other communities across Prince Edward Island. Through this committee the village was able to obtain financial support from the provincial government. O'Leary decided to use its funding to upgrade its fire fighting equipment. New equipment was bought and new methods of fighting fires were introduced. O'Leary's first fire truck and two new pumpers were purchased - one a powerful motor driven device, the other a portable one often hauled to fires on a truck usually supplied and driven by Fred Champion. According to reliable reports, a trip to a fire with Fred driving his small truck, travelling at break neck speed, rounding corners on two wheels was an unforgettable experience.

Sirens were installed to alert citizens of a possible air raid, or simply a practice "black out". These sirens were activated at the telephone office. Buckets of sand were kept on hand to douse possible incendiary bombs.

Under the foremanship of Daniel Ramsay, local citizens constructed seven underground water reservoirs at the following locations: near the corner of the Barclay Road and Maple Street, at north

west corner of the United Church, in front of Harry MacWilliam's house, on the Massey - Harris property, on Pearl MacPherson's lot, behind the original fire hall on Main Street, and at the west end of Amalgamated Dairies. When preparing to fight a fire, the firemen set up a pumper beside the reservoir nearest the burning building and ran water hose from it to the fire. If water level was getting low, they set up another pumper beside the next nearest reservoir and pumped from one cistern to the other. Considerable human effort was required to complete this project. Picks, shovels and manpower were the only means available to do the job. Some of the cisterns had a capacity of ten thousand gallons and all had to be kept full at all times. Most have since been filled in.

In 1939, a small building was constructed on the railway yard to house the truck and pumps.



O'Leary Fire Truck

With the help of A.R.P. funds the program continued after the war. The first truck was replaced by a later model (c. 1946). In 1960 an additional truck was purchased and plans were made for a modern fire hall - a Centennial project. This new building constructed by George Meggison and Lorne Luxton on Willow Avenue has the distinction of being started one Centennial year (1964), construction continuing through a second Centennial year (1967), and being officially opened by Hon. Robert Campbell during a third Centennial

year (1973) – the Centennial of Prince Edward Island's entry into Confederation. The first floor contained a police office and the village office; upstairs was for the use of the firemen.

In 1979 a government grant plus funds from the village and firemen's club enabled the acquisition of a large addition to the fire hall to accommodate a larger pumper, an up to date communication system downstairs, plus additional rooms upstairs.

In 1983, the first new C.S.A. (Canadian Standards Association) fire truck was purchased. It has a capacity of twelve hundred gallons of water and has a triple combination pumper.

The same year O'Leary firemen were guests of honour at a banquet held during Potato Blossom Festival. On this occasion many people expressed their sincere thanks and deep appreciation to the firemen for their invaluable services over the years.

During the next six years (1983 - 1989) the firemen continued to strengthen the department and upgrade their equipment. The complement of fire fighters was increased to twenty (1983), all volunteers were outfitted with latest in personal protection gear, paging system was improved, and two captain's positions were first established (1984). To better supply water to the new pumper, a new tanker truck with a capacity of 2200 gallons was bought and outfitted by the firemen (1984). The same year a number of firemen upgraded their skills and techniques by attending provincial fire fighting courses in Charlottetown.

It was in 1984 that Santa Claus made his first Christmas Eve tour of the village. With fire truck aglow, he drove up and down the streets broadcasting his Christmas message wish "Have a fire free Christmas!"

West Point fire department agreed to work with the O'Leary department, and equipped their new truck to made it compatable with those of O'Leary Department. In 1988 Jaws of Life rescue equipment was purchased by communities served - Tignish, Alberton, Miminegash, and O'Leary. A second C.S.A. approved fire truck was purchased and for the first time, fire dues were billed on the provincial tax assessment.

O'Leary has now one of the best equipped fire departments to be found anywhere; volunteer firemen feel confident that they can handle any normal situation that may occur. All this has been accomplished through the efforts and contributions of many people, not the least of whom were the firemen themselves, and the Firemenettes, who have given much time and money over the years to make such a fine Fire Department.



Present Fire Department

The invaluable service of the early volunteer fire fighters, who worked many long hours under extremely difficult and often hazardous conditions with little equipment, must never be forgotten. The following is a list of volunteer firemen who served as acting or officially appointed chiefs:

George Bernard	Cecil Dennis	Lewis Bernard
Ray MacNeill	Spurgeon MacNeill	Walter Lidstone
Winfred Brooks	Marne Kennedy	Daniel MacDonald
Lloyd Silliker	Russell Whitney	Randall Boates
Wilfred Dennis	Miles Boulter	Vernon Maxfield
Gary Gray	Dana Harris	James Baglole
Watson Silliker	Kevin Arsenault	

Early volunteers who acted as chiefs before the fire department was organized were:

George Bernard	Cecil Dennis	Spurgeon MacNeill
Ray MacNeill	Walter Lidstone	Winfred Brooks
Daniel MacDonald	Russell Whitney	

Chiefs officially appointed by the Canadian Fire Chiefs Association were:

Marne Kennedy	Lloyd Silliker	Lewis Bernard
James Baglole	Randall Boates	Wilfred Dennis
Miles Boulter	(1983-85)	

Vernon Maxfield	(1985-86)
Gary Gray	(1986-88)
Dana Harris	(1988-90)
Watson Silliker	(1990-92)
Kevin Arsenault	(1992)

Note: No official list of the firemen available. Hopefully the above is not too inaccurate.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

The first person in the area to do police work was Al Gregg. He was hired by the provincial government in the late 1920's. Because cars were still very scarce on the Island, he rode a motorcycle to carry out his police duties.

It was not until O'Leary was incorporated as a village in 1951 that it hired the first constable, Bill Crane. Later Sheldon Bucharan became the village policeman and continued in that capacity until 1962 when Glen Rodgerson took over for a short period of time. Late in 1962, Hugh MacGregor was hired and he remained in that position until May of 1964 when Gerald Shaw was sworn in as constable. He continued as the chief law enforcement officer for ten years. In April, 1974 Hugh Ryan accepted the position for a brief period of time.

In September of 1974 a meeting was set up between village officials and the R.C.M.P. to discuss a contract for the R.C.M.P. to police the community of O'Leary. The contract was signed on December 10, 1974. Except for a period of time between 1982 and 1988 the R.C.M.P. continues to police the area.

When writing about law enforcement we cannot forget to give honourable mention to Bertrum (Bert) Bryan as traffic director within the community. For many years he faithfully and capably carried out this important task no matter what the occasion.

VETERINARY CLINIC

The establishment of the Veterinary Clinic in O'Leary has been a boon to the livestock industry and to all animal lovers in Vest Prince.

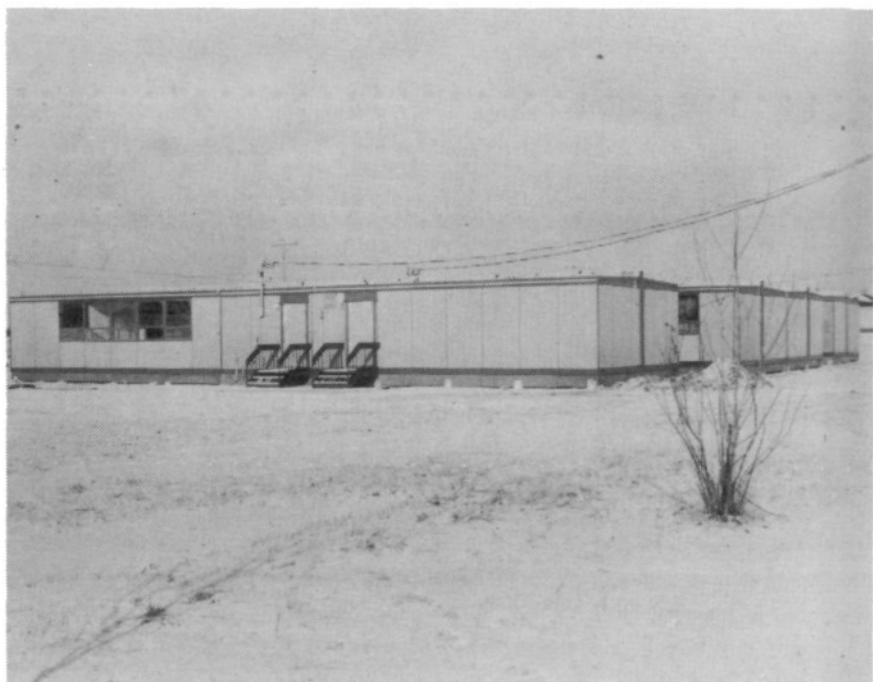
Dr. Cummings, Thomas Gay, and Lester Gay served this area over many difficult years. Without the assistance of either up-to-date techniques or modern "miracle" drugs, they rendered invaluable service in times of stock illness - a service that will not soon be forgotten by the farmers in this area.



West Prince Veterinary Clinic.

Island-wide veterinary service was established in the 1950's through the combined efforts of Lincoln Dewar, Secretary of the Federation of Agriculture, and George Bishop, Department of Agriculture. For the first time, a qualified veterinarian was located in O'Leary to serve the people of West Prince area. Some of the first veterinarians stationed here were Hilton Curry, Rock Venne, Louis Fourges, Donald Landry, and Larry Ford.

On September 16, 1977, a modern veterinary clinic was built on the Barclay Road adjacent to the Provincial Services Centre. It was officially opened by Dr. Bud Ings, DVM, Minister of Agriculture. This much needed clinical facility provides not only better working conditions for doctors but also accommodation and better care for the animals. Veterinarians joining Dr. Gary Morgan in the clinic included Bob Morrison, Glen Gifford, Stewart Walker, David Douglas, David Campbell, and Kim Knight-Picketts. The present doctors (1992) at the clinic are Drs. Gary Moran, Daniel Dalton and Greg Keefe; staff members are Geraldine Harris, Joan Gardiner, Joanne Tuplin and Delores Blanchard.



First O'Leary Regional Services Centre in mobiles on Parkview Drive.

WEST PRINCE REGIONAL SERVICES CENTRE

In 1972, Premier Alex Campbell opened the first decentralized service delivery system on P.E.I. named the West Prince Regional Services Centre. The centre has been a great convenience for the people of West Prince, where citizens can receive a variety of government services in a "one step shopping" concept. Before this time, a multitude of government offices were scattered all over Charlottetown. It was almost impossible for ordinary citizens to find these various offices or to unravel the red tape necessary to obtain desired services from the various departments.

A prefabricated unit hauled from Montague and located in Centennial Park served as the first services centre. In 1978, it was decided that a modern office building was needed. The same year Dr. John Maloney, Minister of Development, officially opened such a building on the Barclay Road opposite the Regional High School.

Full time services provided at the centre are departments of Agriculture, Community & Cultural Affairs, Business Development Agency, Environment, Labour, P.E.I. Lending Agency, Home Care and

Support, Social Services, Housing Corporation, Canada Employment Centre, Justice, and Red Cross as well as part time services provided by Island Regulatory and Appeals Commission, C.M.H.C., Council of Disabled, Addiction Services, Community Mental Health, Immigration, Department of Health, Armed Forces, Fisheries, Forestry, Department of Finance, Health and Welfare Canada, Allied Youth Co-ordinator, Department of Industry, Department of Veterans Affairs and Member of Parliament for Egmont.

Lorne Murphy (1972-1973), Lorne Driscoll (1975-1978), Keith Milligan and Frank Driscoll have served as directors for the centre with Thelma Sweet as senior administrative officer since the centre's inception and acting director during certain periods. Since 1984 Thelma has held the position of director or administrator as it is now called.



West Prince Regional Services Centre.

Chapter 8

Industries

AGRICULTURE

Big Robert Ellis came to O'Leary in 1876. Here he was postmaster and magistrate for a number of years. Later he purchased a large tract of land, cleared it and started farming. To his four sons, he gave 100 acres each. He was married twice, first to Harriet Raynor. They had a family of five children. His second wife was Annie Waite. Six children were born from this union.

Garfield Ellis started farming in 1950 when his father, Bob, retired on February 23. Gar had 110 acres, a mixed farming operation, grain, hay, milk cows, feeder cattle and pigs. On Dec. 9, 1964 he bought the Harry Ellis place containing another 110 acres. On Nov. 23, 1977 he stopped farming.



Harry Ellis



Bob and Edna Ellis

Harry Ellis was an outstanding farmer in O'Leary. He had 110 acres on the south side of the O'Leary Road. Here he continued labouring on the land until 1946 when he sold his operation to Clinton MacLeod who farmed for two years and then sold to Cyril Easter who tilled the soil until 1964 when he sold it to Garfield Ellis.

Edward Gorrill moved from the Northam Road in 1905. He purchased 100 acres of land from James Barclay on the Barclay Road. He and his son, Dot Stanley, farmed until his death in 1919. Dot continued in mixed farming until his death in 1947. Thiren Ellis took over the family farm in 1950 and continued in the operation of it until his retirement in 1985 at which time his son, Denton Stanley, took it over, growing potatoes as the main crop and in addition a fattened beef operation.



Too big for the doors Henry Lecky, Thiren Ellis, Claire MacWilliams, Bob MacNevin, Kent Ferguson and Denton Ellis.

Bayfield and Clifford Ellis had a mixed farming operation on the north side of the O'Leary Road consisting of 250 acres (according to the atlas of Prince Edward Island). Bay also raised sheep and continued farming until he accepted a position as potato inspector. Clifford retired from farming when he became employed with the Mutual Fire Insurance Company.

Leslie MacAulay carried on mixed farming. His farm consisted of 55 acres on the east side of the Gaspé Road. That farm, in the early days, was sold for \$400.00 by a Mr. Woodside, a blacksmith and farmer.

Alex MacDonald, who passed away in 1952, owned 29 acres located where the Community Hospital now stands. This was a mixed farming operation.

Louisa Ellis had 5 acres on the Barclay Road. Here she farmed on a small scale. Following her death, the land was sold to a brother of Alton MacIsaac, who sold it for \$4500.00 to the Regional High School Board.

Clarence MacKinnon bought a 16 acre farm in 1942 for \$3000.00. This farm was formerly owned by Martin Griffin. Clarence bought the Campbell farm in the early 1950's. Later he bought the

Johnson farm. He had a small dairy herd and a milk route in the O'Leary area. When the Revilo Dairy started and took over the O'Leary route, Clarence sold his milk to this Alberton based dairy. He retired from farming in 1969..

Bert Palmer did mixed farming on 60 acres of land in the village on the west side of the Barclay Road. His son, Alvin, continued on the family farm for several years after his father's death in 1942.

Walter Gorrill farmed on a small scale. He owned the land where Parkview Avenue and Centennial Drive are now located.

"The O'Leary Farms" consists of land owned by the Phillips family for four generations namely Sandford, Waldo, Eric, Kent and Terry.



Mussel Mud haulers Main St., O'Leary 1913. John Morell, Harry Harris, Tom Gay, Thomas Smallman.

In 1936 Hollis Elliot pulled in his mud-digger for the last time. During that season he mudded 15 acres and sold the balance — 200 loads to Sanford Phillips for \$200.00.

Kent Phillips - a tribute

BY ANNE BOSWALL

MANAGER, FEDERATION OF AGRICULTURE

A pleasant, young farmer from West Prince lost his life this week in a freak accident - he was cutting lumber for a new home when he was struck by a falling limb.

The irony of this death (on March 13, 1993) was that this sincere,

young man was committed to improving the safety of our farms. Kent Phillips was an active and faithful member of the Farm Safety Advisory Committee, representing Junior Farmers and attended every meeting.

I worked for the Federation of Agriculture Farm Safety Program for almost three years and Kent was always a practical and valuable member of our advisory committee.

Kent was committed to making people aware of working more safely. He was conscious that accidents can happen to any of us. He would stop at our exhibits at local fairs and exhibitions (where many got to know him and his family) with suggestions for topics for press releases, displays or presentations.

He seemed to come at safety issues with a practical and thoughtful approach - I respected his opinions. He knew the difficulties of farm life yet was preparing to take on these challenges by becoming a farmer himself.

To his family and his fiancée, we express our sincere sorrow - to have his candle snuffed out so soon and in such an unexpected way is a terrible loss. Kent Phillips will still be a candle for all farm families concerned with farm safety - we know Kent believed accidents can happen to anyone. We are just so sorry one had to happen.



Richard Rowe's Threshing Scene. Coleman, P.E.I., Autumn 1907.

Mrs. Richard Rowe in pinafore and with hay fork, Graham Thomas next to her (Railway agent in Coleman), Albert Rowe standing next to Mr. Thomas, Robert MacNaught standing with arms folded, Margaret Rowe standing next to Mr. MacNaught, Richard Rowe sitting between horses, Seymour Elliott standing with hand on wheel, Ida Rowe sitting on wheel on ground, Peter Roe leaning on thresher, Will Gray also leaning on thresher.



Left, Henry Lecky; centre, Paul Ellis, right, Lorne Ellis.



Potato Field.



Farming – past.



Farming – present.



Watering Hole



Crops Appearing

CHEESE & BUTTER FACTORY

In 1900 the O'Leary Cheese Factory was built near the brook on the Gaspé Road. The brook provided a source of water for the factory. It was near the railway and was centrally located within the farming community.

The first directors - (appointed from each district) were as follows: Robert Rayner - Cascumpec; George MacIsaac - Glenwood; Percy Tredenick - West Devon; David Campbell - Montrose; Oliver Gorrill - Milo; Charles Ellis - Knutsford. These names would be replaced over the years by other representatives from the areas.

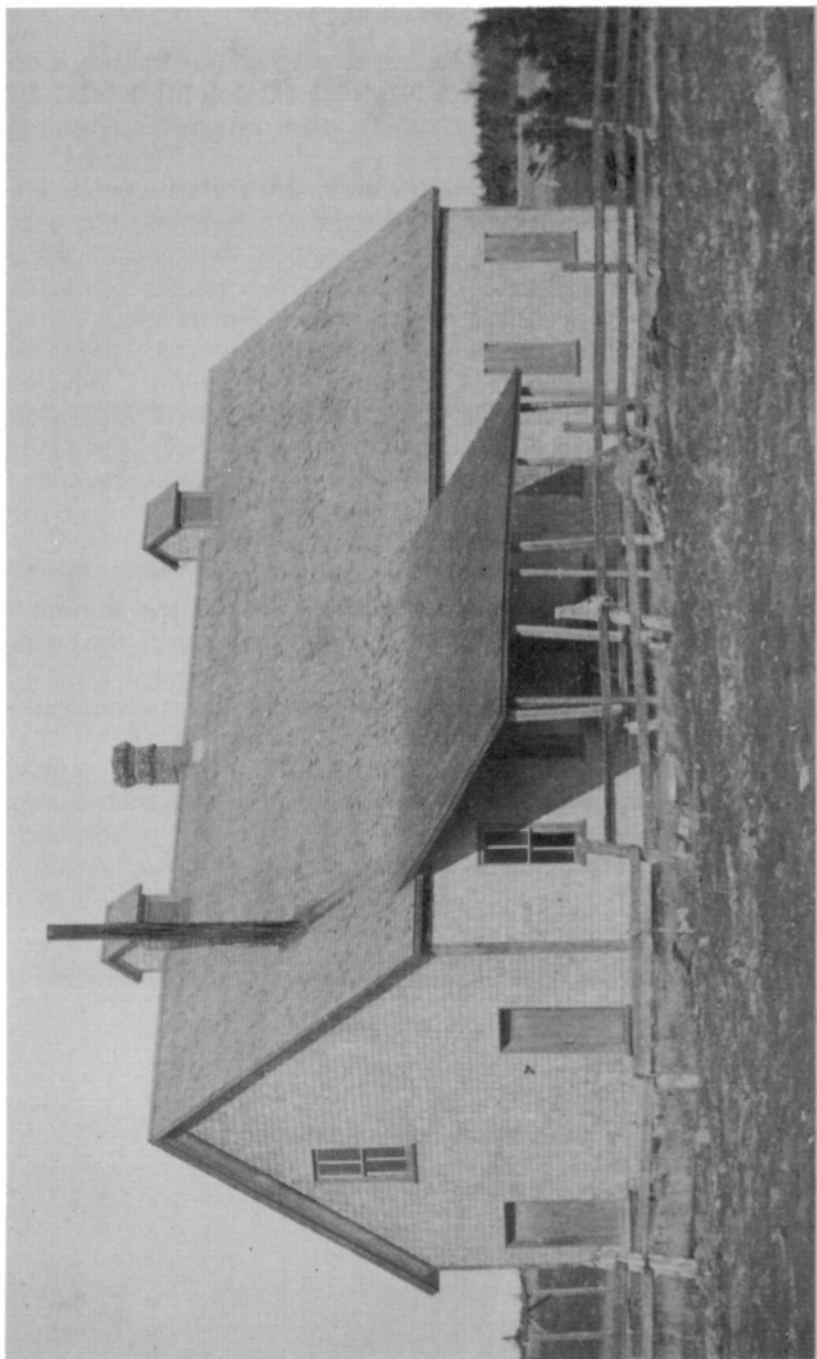
The milk used in the cheese making process would be stored by the farmers in a well or spring on the farm and would be collected twice a week by a "hauler". The first hauler was Alfred Moreshead from Knutsford.

The cheese making process used very little butterfat from the milk, therefore, with the butterfat removed butter was made, and the waste called "fat free whey" was purchased by local farmers to supplement the hog feed.

When cream separators became available on farms, the skim milk was used to feed hogs and calves and the cream was sent to the factory to be made into butter.

The butter and cheese were of a high quality and sold throughout the province as well as in other parts of Canada.

Around 1910, a cold storage plant was added to the factory. During the summer farmers could rent boxes and store such things as beef, pork, poultry products as well as horse meats for fox feed. The first manager of the plant was Russell Whitney.



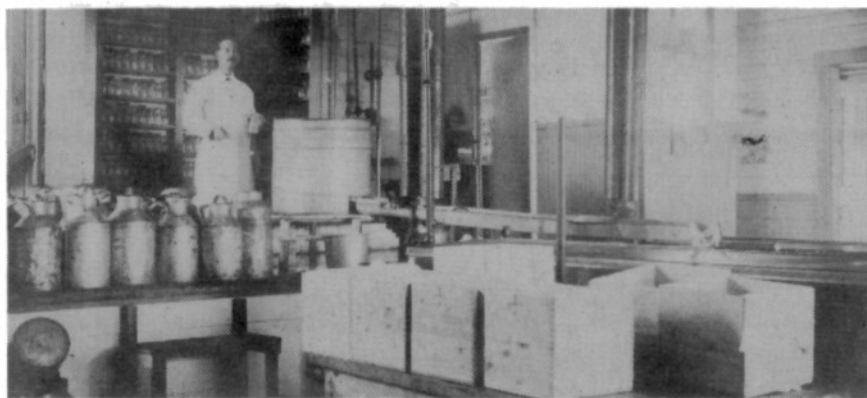
Original Cheese Factory. Photo by Jack Turner.



Plant of O'Leary Dairying and Cold Storage Co. Ltd.



Plant of O'Leary Dairy and Cold Storage Co.



Grading and sampling cream.

A poultry killing station and an egg grading station were also added. Live and dressed poultry were purchased from farmers and eggs were graded and shipped by rail to other Island centres as well as to the mainland.

The company had several name changes over the years including West Prince Dairying Company, Western Creamery and Amalgamated Dairies Limited.

In order for any company to be a success it must have dedicated, highly trained managers and an efficient, hardworking staff. Over the years there were many cheese and butter makers including Mr. Morrissey, Ernest Hallett, Jack Steele, Peter Burke, Neil MacDonald, Tom Silliker, Charles Pippy, Mr. Rogerson, Wesley Glennie, Earl Adams, Harold Harris, Rathburn Bryan, Earl Larkin, Grover MacDonald and Malcolm Buchanan. Neil MacDonald was the first trained butter maker having completed his training at the Truro Agricultural College in 1922.



Amalgamated Dairies 1992

During the early years the West Prince Dairying Co. was open only from June 1 to October 1 because of a shortage of milk. When better dairy practices were used a continuous supply of milk was available and the dairy was able to operate year round.

In 1945, the West Prince Dairying Co. was purchased by Swift Canadian Company Limited and major renovations were made on

both the structure and equipment.

In 1953 the factory was sold to Douglas Adams and the name changed to Western Creamery.

In 1980 - 1981 Amalgamated Dairies Limited took over the company and once again the business was upgraded and new machinery installed.

The 1988 staff are as follows: Robert (Bobby) Sillicker - Production Manager; Faye Buchanan - Secretary; Malcolm Buchanan - Butter Maker; and employees Doris Peters, Grant Buchanan and Dana Harris.

A great deal of credit must go to many people in the area who have supported and continued to show an interest over the years the dairy has been in operation.

THE BIG ENTERPRISE FOR O'LEARY

Page 3 - The Island Farmer May 21, 1919

Mr. Editor:

There is a new enterprise of considerable importance starting in O'Leary and it might be of interest to a large number to let the farmer know how the new butter factory is getting along.

The work of concreting has been held up for some time on account of frost but will be well along in a few days. The management decided after consulting with the best authorities on dairying to install the best machinery that could be bought and have bought a Bruce Stewart boiler and a Laval pasteurizer and churn, an E. Leonard and Sons engine, and this machinery will be arriving in a few days and when this plant is ready for operation, it will be by far the best equipped creamery on the Island and will have a larger capacity than any other in the Province.

A few remarks in general principle of creamery work might be permissible, also a statement as to how the company proposes running the factory. No shares are accepted from parties having no cream; no cream will be accepted from parties having no shares except by railway. A 5% dividend will be paid on all shares paid up before the 13th of June next.

The factory will be co-operative, the patrons receiving the amount of value of the finished product less running expenses and 5% dividend on paid up stock.

Creamery butter is at all times worth in the market from 8 to 12 cents more than dairy butter and costs from 3 to 4 cents to manufacture. Dairy butter contains 3% moisture or 3 lbs. of water to the 100

lbs. of butterfat. That water at present prices of dairy butter, says 50 cents per pound is worth \$1.50.

Creamery butter, if good, should contain 10% of moisture or 10 pounds of water to 100 pounds of butterfat and at present prices of 62 cents per lb. is worth \$9.92 or the man who sells his butterfat at the present time as creamery butter receives \$8.42 more for moisture than he does if he sells dairy butter. There is also a serious loss in dairy buttermilk.

Now in order to profit to the full extent of the advantages given by a butter factory, the patrons should so arrange their dairy work that it would be most profitable to the factory. One half or more of the cows should freshen in the fall or early winter. You get 10 to 22 cents more for butter sold in winter and early spring; you are milking and attending to calves when there is no rush of farm work; the cows will milk as well if properly fed as if on the grass; the cows will milk longer on account of being on the grass at that period when they naturally have a tendency to dry off.

Your cream will keep longer and will need to be gathered only once a week. There is no ice cost in storing butter; thereby lessening the cost of running expenses.

The factory must sell its product through a reliable dealer and that dealer must have creamery butter for his patrons through winter, so that he has got to look for someone who makes butter in winter; then when we want to sell to him again we find him selling the goods of a factory who makes butter in winter and if it is as good as ours he will continue to handle theirs.

Mr. Walter Lea of Victoria, in four months from ten cows, four of which are 2 years old, has got from the Crapaud Creamery \$805.00. You can do it after awhile. Why not try?

W.H. Dennis

THE FOX INDUSTRY

The great fox boom of the late 1800's - early 1900's was a means of overnight success for the people of West Prince. Oulton and Dalton from Tignish achieved great wealth by raising black foxes in captivity. In the peak of the boom a pair of foxes could sell for \$35,000.00 but \$1,500.00 was the common price. The people who understood the fox business had the most magnificent houses, best equipped barns, and the most money. Fortunes were made, lost and re-established in the course of a few years.

One of the most prominent figures in the fox industry was George Matthews. He was a successful lawyer and raised foxes. He

was president of the Equitable Maritime Fox Company Ltd. He was a director of the Conway Consolidated Ltd. and the Maine and Northumberland Foxes Ltd. His ranch was behind the present day O'Leary Community Hospital. He was in business when the silver - black strain was developed. Oulton and Dalton crossed a wild red fox with a pure black fox. The result was a stupendous success. George himself had fifty foxes. The foxes were killed in the fall and shipped to Sweden, Norway, and other European countries. The fox farmers often travelled to Summerside on the train to sell their furs in a "fur pool". This was a sort of auction.



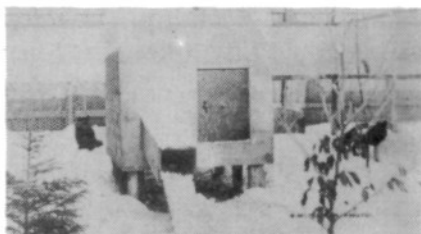
O'Leary Foxes.

Another man who capitalized on the fox industry was William H. Dennis. He had one of the first fox ranches. He went to Montreal and bought a pair of silver foxes. Mr. Dennis and his son, Cecil, had about twelve or fifteen pair of foxes. They had telephones in each den so they could hear when the pups were born to get them out before their mothers killed them. Cecil installed many of these phones for other people. During the fox era, it is reported that Cecil skinned over half the foxes raised in O'Leary. The first buyers were from England. Later a great many buyers from the United States and other places located in Summerside. Some people would go from buyer to buyer to get the best price, if the buyers realized this they would not buy from these people.

Many people such as Dr. McEwen, Dr. Palmer, Dr. Carruthers, and Mr. Lantz promoted the Empire Black Fox Company. Others such as Bill Bernard, Jim Engles, Herb Jelley, J.P. Duffus, H.E. Huestis, James MacWilliams, Fulton Ellis also had ranches.



Guarding the foxes



How valuable the foxes! Cement fox houses with combination lock.

The equipment of a fox farm varied from a few pens in the corner of a barnyard to a specially constructed enclosure that could house over five hundred foxes. Most farms consisted of a number of pens enclosed by a guard fence. The fences were made of wire and were sufficiently high to keep the foxes safely inside. In each pen was a den for protecting the animals in severe weather. It was insulated by sawdust or straw packaging to keep it warm and dry.

Willis' Fur Farm was formed in 1979 and in 1982 after C.F. Willis' death it was taken over and operated by Brian Willis until 1988.



Left Gar Carruthers right Ira Hardy, around 1910. This fox ranch was located on what is now the site of Community Hospital.



Fur Fashions of the day.

Food of a Ranch Fox

1 pt. milk	390 calories
1 lb. beef tripe	450 calories
1 lb. fat tripe	600 calories
1 lb. beef heart	450 calories
1 lb. fat beef heart	550 calories
1 lb. shank beef	450 calories
1 lb. fat beef	650 calories
1 lb. beef liver	650 calories
1 lb. lamb heart	850 calories
1 lb. haddock	165 calories
1 lb. smelts	230 calories
4 oz. rice	400 calories
4 oz. Fox Biscuits	400 calories.

Advertisement for Imperial Fox Biscuits

The Secret to Success in Fox Farming is dependent upon two principles - sanitation and nutrition. The first is easily obtained by following simple, fundamental rules, but proper nutrition is a science requiring close study and observation. For several years the manufacturers of

IMPERIAL FOX BISCUIT

have been studying their product in relation to silver foxes, dogs, mink, etc., and are convinced that in placing upon the market Imperial Cod Oil Fox and Dog Biscuit, they have solved "The Feeding Problem".

A BALANCED RATION - Analysis proves the Biscuit rich in essential nutrients, largely take the place of meat and should be fed at all seasons. They are Ideal Puppy Food during summer, fed with milk. An occasional feed of dry hard biscuit is also beneficial to promote digestion and prevent "big head". There will be no rickets or gastritis when Imperials are regularly fed.

PRACTICAL RESULTS - Imperial Fox Biscuits are now fed in almost all the leading fox ranches in P.E.I., the home and largest centres of the Silver Fox Industry.

The live foxes that were awarded highest honours at the Toronto and Boston Fox Shows last year were fed on Imperials.

The pelts of foxes fed on Imperials have registered the highest prices in the world's fur market.

Imperial Fox Biscuit has the combined endorsement of the best feeders and the largest fur buyers in the world.

Write for testimonials and price list.

IMPERIAL BISCUIT COMPANY LTD.

Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island

- taken from the Island Farmer, July 30, 1924.

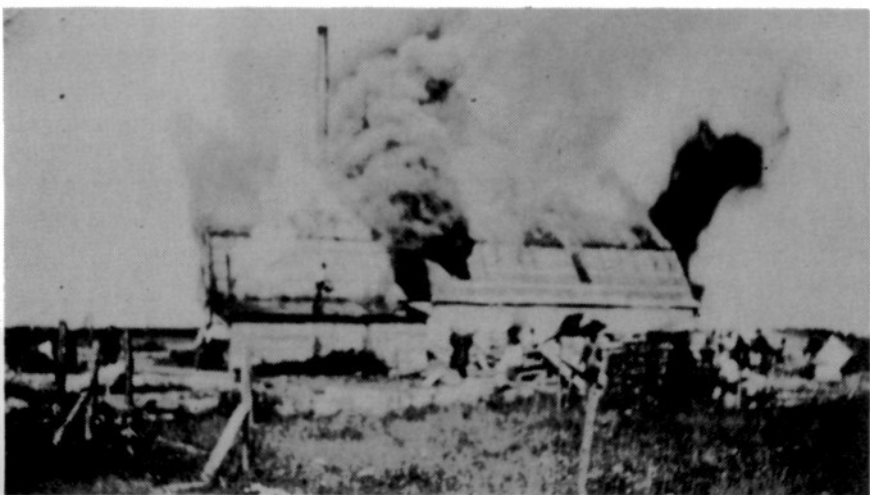
The fox fur boom came to an end quickly because of improper supply, control and lack of understanding of the current consumer demand. The Island began shipping live foxes which cut the demand for foxes from the Island. Outsiders began breeding the foxes and the supply increased so the demand decreased. The prices were sometimes as low as \$3.00 to \$3.50 per pair of pelts. The consumers soon tired of the silver black furs and wanted a variety to choose from which cut the demand even more. Since the 1940's fox ranching has virtually disappeared except for a few isolated ranches. A revival of the fur industry in the 1980's was short lived.

SAWMILLS

The lumber industry started on P.E.I. in the late 1800's. At that time the Island was rich in this raw material. Heavy dark forests almost completely covered the Island and early settlers, like James Barclay, realized their potential.



Saw mill.



Saw mill burning.

In 1880 Mr. Barclay owned and operated a steam-powered sawmill behind the railway station about one hundred feet behind the present fire hall. Two railway spurs - one on either side of the mill - facilitated loading cars. Mr. Barclay also owned and operated a water-powered flour mill near Coleman - now known as Leard's Mill. In 1889 the sawmill was destroyed by a disastrous fire that also demolished the homes of Mr. White and Mr. Frost and the Post Office, housed in Mr. Frost's home, as well as several unoccupied buildings.

In the early 1900's Mr. White, a millwright, built a new mill on the same site but operated it for only a short time. During the next ten years this business was consecutively owned by Ambrose Currie, Allison Horne, and Ira Clark from Mt. Stewart, who operated it until this mill too was destroyed by fire.

In 1922 Russell Webb built and operated yet another mill on the same site. His brother Alvin and Dominic Perry were the firemen. Garfield Carruthers was also an employee. In 1927, when Russell went to Alberton to do carpenter work, the mill was taken over by William MacNeill from West Devon. After Mr. MacNeill's death, his sons Oscar and Claude managed the business until 1935 when they sold it to Sanford Phillips, Sr. who had the mill demolished.



Martin Buchanan hauling big lumber to the O'Leary saw mill around 1912.



John James Rayner, Sanford Phillips and Ray MacNeill going to the saw mill by little Alec MacDonald's Circa 1934.

NEIL MACDONALD'S MILL

Neil MacDonald was born in Mt. Royal in 1884, son of John and Mary (Gillis) MacDonald. In 1906 he came to O'Leary. Being a versatile person, he did many different types of work. He was a cheese maker, a butter maker, and a contractor. He moved many buildings, and owned and operated a saw mill for many years. Neil was a skilled workman who aimed at perfection no matter what the task - a master workman.

In 1921, Neil bought Russell Webb's mill and moved it behind his (Neil's) house next door to what is presently McKenna's Furniture. After this building burned in 1926, Neil constructed a second mill - a two-storey structure, 32' by 50', across the street from the present Valu-Mart.

This mill was first powered by a stationary engine - a six horsepower International. Later, a tractor engine was, and still is used. The mill equipment includes saw table, surface planer, tenoning machine, morticing machine, sharper, bandsaw, matcher, and jointer.

With the exception of doors and windows, made by Neil's brother, Alex, most of the work done at the mill over the years has been custom work.

Since Neil's death in 1957, his son, Roger, has owned and operated the business.

A few prices of lumber taken from a 1913 price list: 1 piece of lumber 8" X 10" X 36' sold for \$8.22; 100 sq. feet yellow pine ceiling sold for \$1.50 - \$2.65; 100 ft. quarter round sold for \$0.26.



Neil MacDonalds house and sawmill.

Chapter 9

Financial Institutions

BANKS

The Bank of New Brunswick was the first bank in Canada to receive a Charter. Its Act of Incorporation became law in March 1820, and it began business in Canada on January 4, 1821.

Throughout the nineteenth century the Bank of New Brunswick operated from one office in Saint John. By the turn of the century, competition from other Maritime banks, including the Bank of Nova Scotia, forced the Bank of New Brunswick to open branches elsewhere - one such branch was established in O'Leary.



*First Bank of Nova Scotia housed in building
owned by Locksbie Dennis*

P.N. Pate was responsible for its opening on September 24, 1908. In the first years of its existence it was located in a small section of what is now Murphy's Quick Mart. It provided jobs for three people - a manager, teller, and a secretary. At the age of twenty-six, Ralph Fielding, became the first manager.

A bank that was housed in a tiny portion of a store and employed only three people would seem very miniature compared to the commercial banks operated today; but, during the early 1900's O'Leary's Bank of New Brunswick was more than adequate to serve the needs of the community. The O'Leary branch was the fourth branch on the Island. Charlottetown, Summerside, and Kensington

were opened between 1902 and 1906.

On February 15, 1913, the Bank of New Brunswick amalgamated with the Bank of Nova Scotia and subsequently was known as Scotia Bank. Around the time of the merger, the location of the bank changed to a small building owned by Locksbie Dennis on the corner of Main Street and Willow Avenue. In 1960, a new Scotia Bank was built on the Dennis property on Main Street. Since that time it has been enlarged, modernized and employs many more people. The bank has provided and continues to provide valuable service to the citizens of O'Leary and surrounding area.

The following is a list of bank managers from 1908 to 1992:

Fielding, R.E. (Ralph)	1908-1910
Mann, S.J. (Samuel)	1911-1912
Fielding, R.E. (Ralph)	1912-1913
Mann, S.J. (Samuel)	August 1913
D'Orsay, O.	May 1914
Black, G.L. (Gordon)	May 1917
Holder, J.T.	October 1941
Wilson, A.E. (Arnold)	February 1947
Field, J.A.	December 1947
Holland, D.C.	December 2, 1948
Wilson, W.S. (Wendell)	October 23, 1950
Norton, E.L. (Edison)	February 25, 1952
Coughlan, J.W. (John)	June 18, 1956
McMackin, C.B. (Chester)	October 22, 1962
Lynch, A.W. (William)	October 16, 1967
Lord, J.G. (Joseph)	January 18, 1974
Griffin, B.E. (Bernard)	October 28, 1988



*Excavating for new Bank of Nova Scotia
(1960) (Singleton House) site of new bank.*



*Cecil Dennis house now part of Lady Slipper
Villa.*



Bank of Nova Scotia.



Scotiabank Staff 1960

*Back row: Jerry Matters, Paul MacDonald,
Ronnie MacArthur, Lester Brennan.
Centre: Ralph Bishop, John Coughlan,
Manager, Helen Williams, Thelma Sweet.
Front: Freda Strang, Gertie MacDonald and
Audrey Thomson*

O'LEARY CREDIT UNION

In 1952, a credit union was formed and the directors were Mae and Jack Matthews, Helen and Bill Gorrill, Arnold Wood, Addie Thompson, Willard Smallman, and Clayton Stetson.



Mary Mathews cutting ribbon for Credit Union.

CENTRAL CREDIT UNION

In April 1969, four credit unions of the O'Leary area amalgamated to form Central Credit Union in O'Leary. The four smaller credit unions were St. Anthony's, St. Mark's, United of Milo, and O'Leary Credit Union.

Until amalgamation the O'Leary Credit Union was open only on Fridays and was staffed by volunteer members. They used space in the old egg grading station and later the old Co-op Store.

After the amalgamation, Central Credit Union purchased the Birdie Reilly store and renovated it to suit their needs. The first manager was John Broderick from Tignish, assisted by Mary Matthews who had looked after the O'Leary Credit Union. The first president was Cliburne Locke who served from 1969 - 1971. Cliburne also served the 1973 - 1974 term and again from 1977 - 1979. Other presidents over the 22 years were James A. MacDonald, 1976 - 1977; Gerald Gallant, 1971 - 1973 and 1990 - 1991; Bernard Shea, 1974 - 1976; James Harris, 1981 - 1982; Winston Gallant, 1979 - 1981 and 1982 - 1984; Harding Boulter, 1984 - 1986; Eric Phillips, 1986 - 1988; Sonny Tremblay, 1988 - 1991; Gerald Gallant, 1992.



Credit Union

Vernon Maxfield replaced John Broderick as manager in September 1972. Vernon served as manager from that time until March 1989, and saw the Credit Union increase in assets from \$1,000,000.00 to \$16,000,000.00. During that time the credit union building was renovated several times as the membership grew.

In 1987, there was a need for larger office space. Consequently the Board of Directors called for tenders to construct a new Credit Union building. In June, 1988, business commenced in the new building. The old building was sold and removed from the property. The official opening was in August 1988.

Vernon was replaced as manager in 1989 by Gary Gray who continued in this position until 1992. Presently there are eighteen employees including part-time staff. The Credit Union in 1989 had 4,025 member and assets totalling \$20,685,822.61.

The continuous growth of this Credit Union is attributed to the dedication of the board and committee members, staff and membership.

The following persons subscribed their names as desirous of being formed into a company, in pursuance of a Memorandum of Association. Each agreed to take a number of shares in the capital stock of the Credit Union.

Gilbert Gaudet

Leo Gallant

Reagh Shaw

Peter Bulger

Charles Rogers

Raymond Stewart

Harry Young

James G. MacDonald

Clayton Stetson

Mary O. Matthews

Helen Gorrill

Elmer Boulter

Harry MacKay

Doyle Griffin

Ernest Wood

Vernon Betts

Bernard Griffin

Charles E. Milligan

Lorne K. Shaw

Therin R. Ellis

William W. Gorrill

Paul D. Arsenault

Cliburne R. Locke

Norbert Corcoran

Wallace MacNevin

Thane C. Milligan

John MacDonald

C.J. Gallant

Milford Ellis



Present Credit Union

THIS IS TO CERTIFY that the original of this Memorandum of Association together with the Rules and Regulations, was filed in the Office of the Registrar on the 24th day of March, 1969.

G. Lorne Monkley

Registrar.

THE CREDIT UNION ACT
(Status of Prince Edward Island Eliz. II Cap 7)
MEMORANDUM OF ASSOCIATION
and
RULES AND REGULATIONS

ARTICLE I

Name and Purpose

Section 1, The name of this credit union shall be Central Credit Union Ltd.

Section 2, The purpose of this credit union is to promote thrift among its members by affording them an opportunity for accumulating their savings, to create for them a source of credit for provident or productive purposes at a reasonable rate of interest and to provide the opportunity for the members to use and control their money for their mutual benefit.

ARTICLE II

Qualifications for membership

Section 1, The field of membership shall be limited to subscribers who are residents of Prince Edward Island.

Section 2, Any Credit Union organized under the Credit Union Act of Prince Edward Island may admit any other Credit Union incorporated under said Act into its membership.

Section 3, Societies, associations, partnerships and corporations composed for the most part of individuals who are eligible for membership may be admitted to membership in the same manner and under the same conditions as individuals but may not borrow an amount in excess of its or their shareholdings without the approval of the P.E.I. Credit Union League Ltd.

Section 4, Subject to such conditions as the Board of Directors may establish, a member who ceases to be within the field of membership may retain his membership.

Section 5. Each application for membership must be in writing and must be approved in the manner set forth in Article VII, Section 5 (a) of these bylaws.

Section 6, An applicant shall not be admitted to membership until:

(a) It shall have been determined that he is eligible for membership;

(b) his application for membership shall have been approved by the affirmative vote of a majority of the directors or a majority of the members of a duly appointed committee, authorized to approve applications for membership, present at the meeting at which the application is acted upon, or by a duly appointed and authorized membership officer; and

(c) he shall have qualified as a member by paying an entrance fee of 25c and subscribing for at least one share of this Credit Union and paying the first installment thereon.

Section 7 A member who withdraws all his shareholdings thereby ceases to be a member.

ARTICLE III

Shares, Deposits and Liabilities

Section 1 The par value of each share shall be \$5. Subscriptions to shares are payable at the time of subscription, or in equal installments at the rate of _____ per month on each share so subscribed; but on any day when installments are due and payable, any number of installments may be paid in advance.

Dated this 17th day of February A.D. 1969 Witness to the attached signatures J.G. Gauden, 9 Palmer Lane, Parkdale, Prince Edward Island Occupation Managing Director

I do hereby approve the foregoing Memorandum of Association.

Dated at Charlottetown this twenty-fifth day of April A.D. 1969.

G. Lorne Monkley

Registrar

Chapter 10

Later Businesses

ADAMS' LIVESTOCK SALES

Ralph Adams started his cattle dealing business in 1937. First he bought a carload of canners for one cent a pound live weight. The total cost for the carload of twenty cattle was less than two hundred dollars.

In 1967 Ralph decided that if he were going to survive in the cattle business, he would have to follow the trend and learn the skill of auctioneering. He, therefore, took a course in Kansas, Missouri and became a licensed auctioneer.

His first auction was held outdoors on his farm. Temporary pens were built for the animals; customers sat on wagons. "It was a long, slow haul. The auction was something new to this area, and Islanders do not jump for everything new," recalled Ralph.

Farmers from all over the Island attended Ralph's Livestock Auctions in O'Leary to view and to buy some of the finest stock in the Maritimes.

In addition to his regular weekly livestock sales, Ralph held two major sales - one in the fall and one in the spring. Most of these sales were made on a consignment basis. Each consignment averaged from fifty to sixty head of cattle.

Ralph placed emphasis on quality. He and his son Gordon travelled to farms all over the Island looking for good quality, saleable cattle. He also considered advertising very important to sales. He made sure all farmers in the area were notified well in advance of a sale, and made early arrangements with the consignors. Cattle were brought to the farm three days prior to the sale, insured, fed, and, to ensure they would look their best on the sale day, they were properly prepared by qualified men hired for this purpose. "We have to turn over a lot of dollars to alleviate the expense of accommodating these animals," Ralph pointed out.

Ralph considered it important for a livestock auctioneer to have a knowledge of the animal being sold and, equally important, to gain the confidence of both buyer and seller.

Ralph felt an auction was the fastest way to sell cattle. He considered auctioneering a business and that an auctioneer must know the value of what he is selling. "Talking fast is a secondary aspect of an auction. The one who bids the highest, gets the animal. Taking bids

is a challenge in itself. A tip of a hat, or a wink of an eye is not just a casual gesture to an auctioneer; each is a signal from a potential buyer making a bid on the animal up for sale," explained Ralph. It is up to the auctioneer to protect a bidder's identity until all bids are cast. An auctioneer must look as if he is gazing into space; at the same time, he must keep an eye wide open for other signals from other potential buyers in the crowd.

Purebred registered Holstein cows were also for sale at the farm; many were shipped to thriving markets in Quebec, Ontario, Newfoundland, and U.S.A. as well as to foreign markets in Cuba, Iran, Korea, Mexico and Saudi Arabia.

When Ralph entered semi-retirement in 1987, his son Gordon took over management of the auctions.

Ralph died May 14, 1988. His quality livestock business provided an invaluable service to farmers for approximately twenty years. In the fall of 1991, Dr. Gary Morgan and Dr. Daniel Dalton bought the business and renamed it the O'Leary Livestock Auction.

O'LEARY CLOTHING AND FOOTWEAR

In 1947 Lloyd Matthews opened the Clothing and Footwear business across the street from MacWilliam and Turner's store. The business specialized in high quality merchandise.

Ralph Ozon went into partnership with Lloyd in the clothing department. In 1957 Lloyd left to work at the Post Office, but continued to work at the store part time until 1959. Ralph carried on the business alone for another fifteen years until he moved to Summerside.

The building became part of Lloyd and Irene Ramsay's home on Beechwood Avenue.

O'LEARY FARMERS' CO-OPERATIVE

According to the information available from the minutes of the association, it can be said that the co-operative's beginnings can be traced back to a public meeting held on May 6, 1940. The meeting was called to discuss the possibility of organizing an egg and poultry station. A provisional board of fifteen members was appointed to set the wheels in motion and make all necessary arrangements. Minutes show the following people to be members of that organizing committee:

Allie MacNeill, President
Melvin Bridges, Vice-President
Errol Stetson, Secretary
Alvin MacLean
Frank Bryan
Mrs. Alice Smythe
Mrs. Ira Hardy
Elmer Betts

Leigh Adams
Alvin MacIsaac
Albert Moreshed
Don MacPherson
Blake Lidstone
Alvin Ashley
Melvin Ellis



The Co-op in 1940 – housed in the original “Dennis” building.

Walter Lidstone agreed to take on the functions of manager and treasurer of the new organization for a six-week period, during which time he would receive payment for his services at the rate of one cent per dozen eggs, one cent per pound of poultry, and five per cent commission on feed handled.

Hardly a week had gone by that Dr. Croteau and F.M. Nash did not meet with the Board to discuss a set of bylaws for the organization based on the Co-operative Act. The idea of an organization being run co-operatively had certainly some appeal to the Board, because by July 1940, the organization had received its charter under the name of O'Leary Farmers Co-operative. But the operations had

already been under way since June 1 in the Dennis building, at an agreed rent of \$10.00 per month. The P.E.I. Department of Agriculture played a positive role in the first stages of organizing O'Leary Farmers Co-op by placing a credit of \$500.00 in the form of a loan for the association, and later, by offering to purchase the building and equipment of the P.E.I. Egg and Poultry Association, again as a loan to be paid when convenient.

During that first year of operation, poultry was killed on the farms and brought to the station on certain predetermined days where it was inspected and graded before being packed and put on the train the following morning.

The first annual meeting reported sales of \$15,648.00, expenses totalling \$372.43 and a net surplus of \$132.00. At this meeting elections were held for the first Board of Directors.



The Co-op - Circa 1945.

In 1941, the association's second year of operation, the first bulk grain shipments arrived by freight cars. Fertilizer and spray material were sold and potatoes purchased. In that same year, the Bryan property was purchased and converted into office space and hatchery. The annual report for that second year indicated sales of approximately \$50,000. for the handling of 63,807 dozen eggs, 43,843 pounds of poultry, 6,819 bags of feed, as well as fertilizer and spray material.

The following year saw the construction of a new feed warehouse and doubling of the association's business volume. Three years later, in 1945, after discussions, recommendations were made with regard to entering the grocery business. The front part of the feed warehouse underwent renovations to accommodate this new department which operated until the present store was built in 1952. Construction of the potato warehouse was started and completed in 1947.

Calamity struck in 1955 when a fire destroyed the contents of the store. Restoration work began immediately, and soon the store was again in full operation.

Four years later (1959), fire struck again, this time the feed warehouse. Tenders were called and reconstruction was soon started. Since a concrete block building was estimated at approximately \$17,000, it was decided to build a wooden structure. At this time, a service station was built and later an extension for hardware was added to the east side of the store – the latter costing \$13,500.



Early Service Station.

The potato warehouse was sold in 1968 to purchase H.B. Willis' potato warehouse. Two years later, a self-service meat counter became a reality in the store and a building supply outlet was built at a cost of \$16,681.21.

Plans for a new store were being considered for a number of years and work on the new structure was started on October 30, 1978. The

new 12,000 square foot structure housed a dry goods section and a complete grocery department. The former store became the hardware department, office, and Co-operators Insurance. The new grocery and dry goods addition opened April 1979, with first manager, Bernard Shea, cutting the ribbon.



Present Co-op Building Supplies.

The year 1982 saw the opening of an in-store bakery and installation of an auxiliary generator for emergency power to the main store. Another milestone was attained in 1983 when sales of six million dollars were reached. In December 1985, a new building supply showroom/warehouse, 60' X 128' was opened by charter members Errol Stetson, Alton Rayner, and Andrew Frizzell. During the mid 80's good growth was experienced and as 1990 came in, sales reached \$8,800,000 and membership over 1600 was obtained.

From the \$15,648.00 in sales recorded in 1940 and 42 charter members, the O'Leary Farmers Co-op has come a long way. The organization is what it is today because fifty years ago, a group of men and women wanted to accomplish something the co-operative way; and those who followed have shared their ideals. O'Leary Farmers Co-operative is a monument that commemorates people working together and the potential that co-operation has in any region.



Present O'Leary Farmers Co-op

MANAGERS

Bernard Shea	1940-1942
Lulu Turner	1942-1944
Rod MacNevin	1944-1946
Bernard Shea	1946-1962
Ralph Bishop	1962-1967
Doug Adams	1967-1972
Marvin MacDonald	1972-

1990 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Charles Gorrill, President	James Wallace
Winston Gallant, Vice President	Brent Bulger
Dale Dennis, Secretary	Wendell Oulton
Jocelyn Smith	Sterling Frizzell
Allan MacMillan	

EMPLOYEES - 1990

Marvin MacDonald, General Manager, Clair Sweet, Assistant Manager, Dorothy Smith, Bookkeeper, Laura L. Ramsay, Bookkeeper, Ann Lockhart, Bookkeeper, Elaine Gallant, Grocery Manager, Lillian Phillips, Cashier, Linda Sweet, Cashier, Barbara MacDonald, Cashier,

Julie Silliker, Cashier, Darren Smith, Clerk, Blake Coughlin, part Time Clerk, Robert Jackman, part-time Clerk, Clayton Harris, Meat Manager, Charlene Perry, Meat Clerk, Lloyd Rayner, Produce Manager, Norman Buchanan, Hardware Manager, Ed Hardy, Hardware Clerk, Paul Malone, Hardware Clerk, David Elliot, Hardware Clerk, Ronnie Phillips, Hardware Clerk, Carol Gavin, Hardware Clerk, Bing Easter, Building Supply Manager, James MacDonald, Building Supply Clerk, George Barlow, Building Supply Clerk, Michael Pitre, Truck Driver, Therin Smallman, Service Station Manager, Don Blanchard, Mechanic, Wayne Locke, Service Clerk, Charles Phillips, Feed Mill Manager, Carman Gay, Feed Mill Clerk, Blair Drummond, Potato Warehouse Manager, Darrell Smith, Janitor, Carol Arsenault, Lunch Counter, Rene Arsenault, Lunch Counter, Sherri Clements, Bakery, Rankin MacKinnon, Dry Goods Manager, Thelma Dumville, Dry Goods Clerk.

FLOWER SHOP

In the spring of 1983, Christine Matthews opened a flower shop in the former Matheson Drug Store building on Main Street. She sold the business in 1983 to Ron and Karen Sullivan who operated it under the name of John's Flower Shop. Dale and Joanne Hudson bought the business in April 1989 and changed the name to Town and Country Florist. They continue to operate the business under the name of The Village Florist. Present employees are Joanne Hudson, Jean and Mary Gamble (1992).

FUNERAL BUSINESSES

In 1898 the Jelley brothers, John and Swabey, took over the casket-selling business from H.W. Turner. Before long they expanded their business to include funeral services with John acting as funeral director. At that time funerals were held in private homes or in churches.

For many years the Jelley brothers used a single horse-drawn, black hearse all year round. Later a team-driven hearse was used. Some rough boxes and small caskets were made in the carriage shop. For many years caskets came unlined; the unfinished work was completed in the shop.

In 1928, Claude Jelley, Swabey's son, took over the business. Changes began to occur. In 1930 Claude took an embalming course in Halifax. He was the first embalmer in this area. Most of the



Claude Jelley with hearse. Blacksmith and carriage shops in background.



Claude Jelley standing in front of his funeral home.

embalming was done in the homes. In the same year Claude purchased a fine new motor hearse - the first west of Summerside. There was no ambulance service in this area before 1940. Patients had to be transported to hospitals, usually in Summerside, Charlottetown, or Halifax, by train or by privately owned cars. Claude was the first to use his car, and sometimes his hearse, to provide much needed ambulance service. He had the front seat taken out and a bucket seat installed for the driver. A stretcher could then be placed lengthwise for the patient.

In 1939 Claude replaced the original buildings (carriage shop, blacksmith shop, and hearse building) with a new and larger funeral home on the same site. The extra space provided room for a casket display and for artificial flower arrangements - both innovations in the expanding business.

Always dressed in the traditional fashion of black swallow-tail coat and beaver hat, Claude performed his duties with dignity and respect. After serving as funeral director for thirty years, he sold the funeral home and the business to Douglas Ferguson. In 1971, Douglas sold the building to Jean Stetson after completing a larger and more modern funeral home on the corner of the Barclay Road and Beechwood Avenue.

DOUGLAS V. FERGUSON

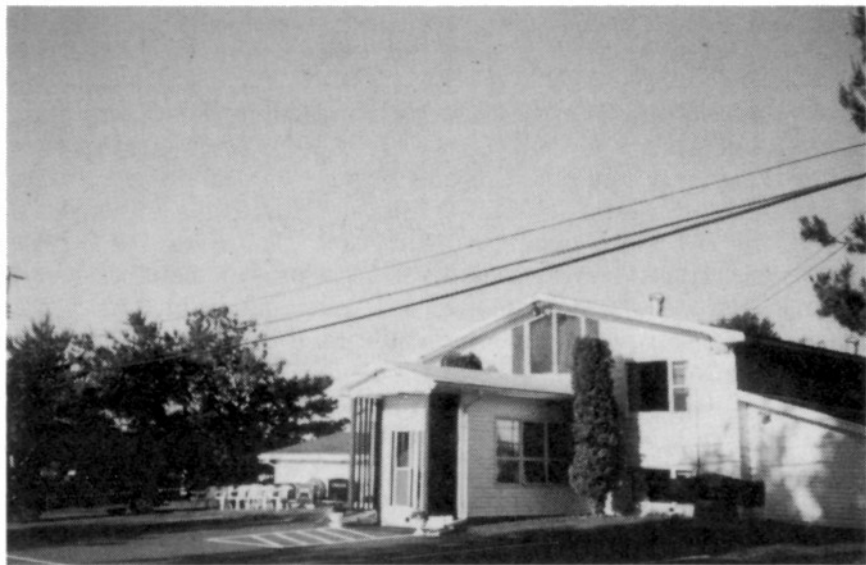
Every business needs a promoter - one who contributes to its progress, development, or growth, one who fights for changes he knows are good and can convince people to depart from traditional ideas and plunge into the future. Douglas Ferguson is one of these vital individuals.

Douglas was born in Tryon, P.E.I., and grew up on his father's

farm in Hampton. In 1953, he decided to forge a life for himself and headed for Charlottetown where he got a job at N.D. MacLean's Funeral Home. This was the beginning of a very promising and profitable career for Douglas.

While in town, he met and married Georgina Cairns, (R.N.). Douglas and Georgina had six children - Kent, Garth, David, Dean and Don (twins) and Karen.

On August 13, 1958, Douglas bought Claude Jelley's funeral business.



Ferguson Funeral Home.

Claude also ran a barber shop located west of the railroad track on approximately the same site as the present Central Credit Union. After attending the School of Barbering in Moncton, Douglas worked with Claude part-time for two or three years. Douglas fondly remembers the prices - adult hair cut, 50 cents; children under twelve, 25 cents; and a shave, 35 cents. Popular hairstyles of the day were the ducktail, the crew cut, and the gentlemen's haircut.

The Ferguson family moved to O'Leary, November 1, 1958. Claude had intended to retire when he sold his business, but later decided to stay around for a year to help Douglas learn the "ins" and "outs" of the funeral business.

Douglas soon had to turn his full energy towards his funeral business. His first funeral home was located on Main Street on the pre-

sent site of Willis' Valu-Mart. It was a wooden building with only space for a casket display, a preparation room, a hearse and a car.

At this time "calling" or "visiting" of mourners was done in the homes; slightly modified cars were used for ambulance service. As time passed modern ideas such as deceased persons resting in funeral homes and the use of ambulance vans came to the people of P.E.I. Soon Douglas needed bigger and better facilities. Construction of the present funeral home at the corner of the Barclay Road and Beechwood Avenue began in August 1963; the Fergusons moved in on March 13, 1964. At first not everyone accepted their deceased "resting" in a funeral parlour; however, acceptance soon came.

In 1971, the government became involved; drastic changes began to occur. Previously the station wagons had been used as ambulances; but, for some reason, manufacturers shortened the head room. This problem seemed insurmountable; little room was left in which to work; consequently, the government decided to subsidize the building of ambulance vans and generally to upgrade all facilities.

Things indeed did change. Currently one must pass a First Aid course plus other training to qualify as an ambulance driver. The van itself was a welcome addition; it could carry two patients, oxygen, splints, suction and other medical equipment.

Douglas was one of the first to break away from the traditional black hearse by introducing maroon and white colours. He currently utilizes a Cadillac hearse. Doug also departed from the traditional swallow-tail coat and striped trousers in favour of a maroon blazer and grey pants.

In 1984, the ambulance service was expanded to include a second high roof maxi-van with modern equipment. Drivers and attendants must continually upgrade their educational skills. One promising driver attendant was Dean Ferguson who had much empathy for patients. Unfortunately, he died as the result of a car accident at Howard's Cove, June 29, 1985. In the fall of the same year an extension was added to the north side of the funeral home. This extra space provided for an additional visitation room, a larger chapel and an extra casket display room.

The same fall (1985) Garth Ferguson purchased the Hamilton Funeral Home in Montague. This business is still operated by Garth under the name of Ferguson Funeral Home. David Ferguson returned home at this time and after serving his apprenticeship in the business, he passed his P.E.I. Embalmers' examinations in 1988. David now lives in his own home in O'Leary.

On August 15, 1988, the official opening of the modern Ferguson's Tyne Valley Funeral Chapel took place. Ferguson's now serve Tyne Valley and the surrounding area from these premises.

Douglas has watched with pride the many progressive changes which have resulted in his present efficient funeral services.

CARRUTHERS' GARAGES

Robert H. Carruthers was a pioneer in the garage business. In 1920, he opened the first garage in O'Leary. It was located across the street from where Bryanton's Clover Farm stands today. In 1928, he and his son, George, having obtained an Imperial Oil dealership, moved the building to the site of the Ultramar Service Station. In 1947, Robert died and in the following year, George built the Texaco Service Station. The old garage was sold to Alden MacLean who hauled it to the back of the service station lot for use as a body repair shop. Some of their long term employees were Fred and Gerald Matthews, Alden MacLean, Earle MacArthur, James Clements, Elmer Smith, Samuel Cornish, and James Baglole.



To the consternation of the horses! Bob Carruthers started automechanics in this building which was part of the Livery Stable. He moved it to the present site of Ultramar.

In 1957, George sold the service station to Raeford MacLean, who in turn sold to Texaco. George then leased to Texaco until 1961. Ira Ellis replaced him as lessee.

In 1961, George Carruthers bought the old Bank of Nova Scotia. He and his son, Richard, added two bays on the back of the old bank and carried on a successful business. In 1971, Dick moved the old bank to the back of the lot where it still stands and in its place he added the present service station on the front of the two bays. At that time it was a Fina outlet; presently Petro-Canada has it leased from Richard and rented to John MacLean.

IRVING SERVICE STATION

In 1945, Stanley Dumville sold the lot of land he had bought from Harold Jelley to the Irving Oil Company. The company built a service station on the lot and leased it to Stanley and Albert Dumville until 1948. At that time, Harry Collicutt leased the service station and operated it until 1950. Since that time the following people have leased the business: Edwin Turner, 1950 - 1966; Percy Sentner and Ephraim Costello, 1966 - 1972; Don Yuill, 1972 - 1979; Barry Stuart, 1979 - 1980; Omer Milligan, 1980 - 1981; Glen Willis, 1981 - 1986; John MacLean, 1987 - 1990, and Randy Corcoran 1991-92.

JIMMIE'S TEXACO

In 1962, James Baglole became manager of the Texaco Service Station. He bought the business in 1979 and served his customers well until his retirement in 1991 when he sold it to Ultramar, with Lloyd Lewis as manager.

STRANG'S GARAGE

Charles MacDougall of Springfield West owned an Imperial Garage in O'Leary in the late nineteen twenties. Ross Strang was his efficient mechanic, who later bought the business from MacDougall. Strang's Esso Service was established in 1931. Renovated and enlarged, it is now owned and operated successfully by Herbie Strang.



Strang's Esso 1948.

HARDY'S ELECTRIC

From 1977-1979, Paul Hardy operated an electric motor repair shop in the Vatcher building on Main Street. In 1979, he moved his business to a new building on Willow Avenue across from Esso Oil. He closed his shop in 1983 and moved to Summerside.



O'Leary Home Hardware

HOME HARDWARE

In August 1983, O'Leary Home Hardware first opened its doors for business. The place of business is located in the O'Leary Public Hall Co. building located on Main Street. Partners in this business were and still are Arthur and Frances Lewis, and Wayne and Norma MacNeill.

In 1988, the store size was doubled adding greatly to the shopping convenience for O'Leary and area residents.

With the closing of Wayne's T.V. in the autumn of 1992, the Radio Shack business was moved to the O'Leary Home Hardware store.

The store presently employs six employees; namely Bruce Smallman, Wayne MacNeill, Darlene McCormick, Eddie Gallant, Allan Crozier, and Colleen Stewart. Management prides itself in having a friendly, knowledgeable staff, well versed in the hardware business.

KENNEDY'S STORE

Marne Kennedy, son of William and Florence (Pate) Kennedy, was born on May 27, 1915. His father, a general merchant in O'Leary, died when Marne was two and a half years old. Marne and his mother then moved into the home of his grandfather, P.N. Pate. Mrs. Kennedy operated an ice cream parlour in the space formerly her father's courtroom. After P.N. Pate died, Florence carried on the business until ill health forced her to pass the management of the store to Marne, who was then twenty-eight. Marne ran the business alone until 1964 when he formed a company with Western Hardware. He continued as manager until he sold the store to Stanley MacDonald in 1968.

In 1937, Marne bought a store from the estate of Alfred Adams (presently Quik Mart). He operated a grocery store in this building from 1937 to 1974 and then sold to John Wedlock.

In 1990, Wedlock's store was sold to Donald and Beverley Murphy and renamed Murphy's Quik Mart.

Marne and his wife, Helen (nee Jelley), presently live in Woodstock, P.E.I.

MACHINERY SALES & SERVICE

There have been many farm machinery sales and service outlets in O'Leary. A number of department stores sold and/or took in trade machinery, others were connected to a garage or independent dealers

opened small shops. The following is a summary of those who were in the machinery business.

Walter Gorrill was the first farm machinery dealer selling plows, hay mowers, harrows, and parts in the early 40's. He sold for Fred Ramsay.

Claude MacNeill sold International machinery from his department store. Alvin Palmer was also a dealer for International and Oliver machinery.

In April 1967, Hall Manufacturing Company Ltd., Summerside, formerly Thos. Hall & Co., opened a shop in O'Leary with Don Yuill and Charles Willis working there. Don Yuill then took over the Irving Service Station in 1972 and sold Bellarius machinery. In 1981 he moved to his present location, north of the Royal Canadian Legion, O'Leary.

Edwin W. Turner was a Massey Ferguson dealer until early in 1960 when he went out of business and the stock was moved to J. Keir Ramsay & Son's outlet. Keir had purchased a building in 1963 from J.W.D. Campbell. After Fred Champion's electric light plant burned, his shop which escaped the fire was moved to the former site of the electric plant. Keir enlarged the building and now sells and services Allied, Zetor, and Massey-Ferguson machinery.

During this era the machinery changed over to large tractors, combines, etc. and Keir's company filled the need for farmers by supplying and repairing the machinery. They employed up to five men and are still in business at the same location (1992).

The following is a list of some early manufactured machinery over the years, which were horse drawn or operated by tread horse power: manure spreaders, threshers, hay presses, grain binders, hay rakes, reapers, hay mowers, hay loaders, corn binders, cultivators, disc harrows, seeders, scufflers, land rollers, farm wagons, fan mills, seed separators, potato planters, diggers and sprayers.

The most common manufacturers included: International Harvester, Renfrew, Frost & Wood, Deering & McCormick, Massey Harris, Thomas Hall & Co. later known as Hall Mfg. Co. Ltd., Cockshutt, David Brown, and White.

The first tractors which came in 1930 had heavy iron wheels and had very little power. During World War II farm labourers were difficult to find; therefore the need of mechanized machinery increased. Over the years improvements have been tremendous and in 1992 very large machinery capable of doing many jobs are in use on every farm.

MACNEILL'S STORE (Claude)

The building was originally a grist mill in Glenwood, taken down and built up again at present site by John Henry Coughlin. There was a dance hall upstairs called "Sky Limit". The store was located on the ground floor. In 1947 Wm. P. Meggison, George W. Meggison and Elbert Betts extended the store which was then owned by Claude MacNeill.

Claude MacNeill was a leading entrepreneur in O'Leary for many years. In 1933 he purchased a building from John Henry Corcoran and opened a general store which proved to be a lucrative business for over thirty years. The same year, he bought a potato warehouse from Clifford Ellis; he then bought potatoes from local farmers, had them graded and shipped to various off-Island markets. Claude grew from one to one hundred acres of potatoes himself; and at that time was considered a "big grower". He employed from six to eight men in his warehouse from harvest time until spring planting.

Before oil was used as the major fuel, Claude had large shipments of hard coal shipped from Pennsylvania for his customers. He also kept on hand a supply of soft coal and briquets. In 1947, he bought the old public school house, had it hauled beside Strang's garage, and used it as a feed mill for five or six years. Because of failing health, Claude decided to terminate this business and sold the building to the Farmers' Co-op.

Shortly after Claude bought the store and warehouse, he entered into an agreement with Shur-Gain Feed Service to distribute their products in the O'Leary area (see attached copy). During Claude's lengthy illness, his wife, Lila, managed the business. After his death she sold the warehouse to C.F. Willis and Sons Produce and the store to Richard Carruthers, whose wife Novella managed a ladies' wear business for a short time.

CERTIFICATE OF MEMBERSHIP

SHUR-GAIN FEED SERVICE

This is to certify that an agreement has been entered into between Claude MacNeill operator of a Feed Mill (or Mills) in O'Leary, P.E.I. and the Feed Division of Canada Packers Limited, by reason of which the former party has been given permission to make Shur-Gain Complete Feeds as a member of Shur-Gain Feed Service.

Be it known that only Feed Mills of established reputation and worth, and which enjoy the confidence of feeders in their neighbourhood, are accepted into Shur-Gain Feed Service.

Be it known further that the operator of the aforementioned Feed

Mill, in harmony with the general policy of Shur-Gain Feed Service has as his objective to supply the feeder's needs at the Lowest Possible Cost.

In proof of the faith and confidence we have in the charter and aims of the said operator, and of our acceptance of him (her or them) into partnership with ourselves in promoting Shur-Gain Feed Service, we hereto set our hand and seal.

Canada Packers Limited
Feed Division
Per: W.G. Cunningham

MACNEILL'S STORE (Denzil)

Denzil MacNeill bought one-half of Harold Jelley's store in 1963 - the remainder the following year.

For the first two years of operation the MacNeill's sold only groceries and dry goods. After 1965 they ran a Variety Store.

After Mr. MacNeill's death in 1971, son William (Bill) and brother-in-law, Robert Conrad, conducted the business until Robert moved to Charlottetown in 1983. Sheri (MacNeill) Fraser then became manager and remained in charge until 1985 when the business was sold to Stedman's.

In July 1990 the store was purchased by Fred Martin, pharmacist, who continues to operate the business.

Other businesses housed in the building over a period of time were Sonshine Book Store, a pizza place, card exchange, Techni-Cuts and Farm Labour Pool.

O'LEARY AUTO PARTS

O'Leary Auto Parts began operation in July 1972, as O'Leary Auto Electric, a branch of Batt & MacRae Ltd. In 1987, at the dissolution of Batt & MacRae Ltd., O'Leary Auto Electric and Summerside Auto Parts were purchased by David Darrach of Summerside. O'Leary Auto Electric was renamed O'Leary Auto Parts and sells automotive material, mixed with some agricultural and fishing supplies. It employs five people full time namely Percy Sentner (manager), Alan Caseley, Richard MacNeill, Dale Dumville and Edison Smith. One part time employee is hired during the summer months.

O'LEARY PRODUCE CO. LTD.

The O'Leary Produce Co. Ltd. was formed in 1964, with the following shareholders: Bernard M. Shea, Edwin W. Turner, Verna M. Shea, Lulu B. Turner, and J. Melville Campbell, Q.C. Considerable research and study on producing vegetables was completed before the formation of the company. The first crop of carrots was grown on 50 acres of land in Woodstock, P.E.I. Plans for the warehouse and office were developed and George W. Meggison was hired to supervise the construction. The site was on land leased from Canadian National Railway.

The first few years were trying times with deciding what type of seed, spray and fertilizer produced the best result. As in any new business they learned from experience.

Since 1964 the warehouse has been enlarged twice and modern automated machinery has been installed. Better machinery for the planting and harvesting of crops was acquired.

In the late 1970's Edwin Turner sold his share to Hilton B. Shea, son of Bernard Shea.

In 1989 there were about 100 acres in cultivation, which supported carrots, turnips and parsnips. The brand name "Tushey" was suggested by Dr. L.G. Dewar and derived from the first two letters of Turner and Shea names. The Tushey produce is shipped in semi-trailer trucks and delivered to stores in the Maritimes.

Over the years the company has been fortunate in maintaining a reliable staff willing to work in the field or the warehouse. A number of the original employees are still working there.

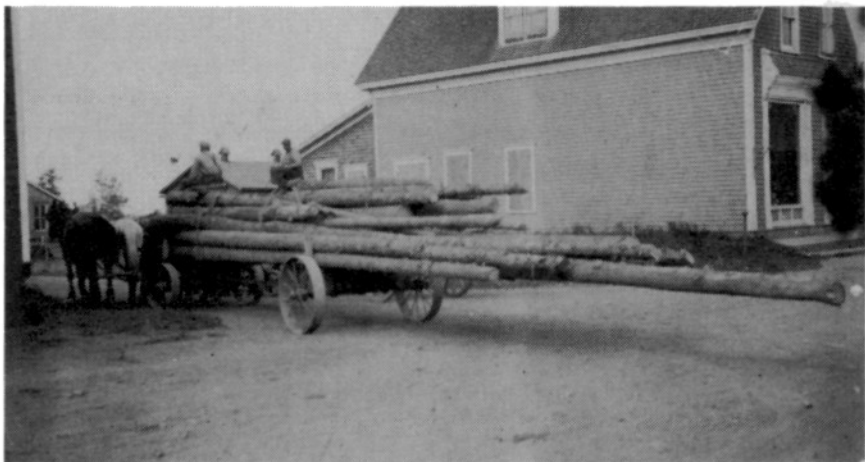
Bernard M. Shea is now semi-retired, leaving Hilton as a very capable manager. The future of O'Leary Produce Co. Ltd. is quite promising with Bernard, five year old son of Hilton, already taking an interest in the business.

POTATO WAREHOUSES

Many districts surrounding O'Leary can boast of some of the finest farm land in West Prince. Almost from the beginning of its settlement, O'Leary has served as a central outlet to buy, sell, and ship its farm produce. Potatoes have been the number one cash crop in the agricultural industry, and contracts to sell and buy them started as early as the 1900's. As many as three potato warehouses are thought to have been in operation before 1929. These warehouses served the purpose of buying and selling the produce, but were not completely efficient because they could not store potatoes over the winter months.

In 1929 the O'Leary Produce Company built the first frost-free warehouse where the Co-op warehouse now stands. This company was a combined effort of William MacAulay, Sanford Phillips, Perley MacNeill and Gordon Adams. Perley MacNeill was the manager and Peter Bulger was the secretary. Fire destroyed the company's warehouse in the late fall of 1933.

Before the fire, Kennedy's had a warehouse and the manager was William Kennedy. At the same time Henry Willis Turner, James MacWilliams, and Vernon Matthew had a warehouse. The fire started in Art Bell's warehouse, formerly owned by Vernon Matthew, then the fire spread towards the south, destroying the shed from the Kennedy warehouse but sparing the Ellis warehouse which was later owned by Claude MacNeill and then Charles Willis.



Ray MacNeill and Bill Ellis hauling lumber for potato warehouse (1934).

That fall, potatoes had been \$1.25 per bushel. However, some farmers such as Charles Ellis, John Yeo, Robert England, Avard Harris and others who had potatoes stored there, did receive \$0.48 per bushel from the insurance of Sanford Phillips who dealt with the Associated Shippers in Charlottetown.

In 1934 Mr. Phillips opened a new warehouse. Claude MacNeill came from the States about that time and worked there also (he had about one year to live according to the doctors in that country). Peter Bulger was still bookkeeper.

The lumber was sawed in MacNeill's sawmill which they had bought from Clark's. It was situated across from the location of the

railway cattle pen. The lumber came from two acres that was bought from Sim Gorrill for \$200. Using the blueprint which he still had from the old 120 by 40 foot warehouse, William Meggison built the new one. Later Verna Vatcher was secretary and Forrest Phillips was bookkeeper.



Sanford Phillips

Along with buying and selling potatoes, the O'Leary Produce Company rented bins to anyone who wished to have their potatoes stored. After the potatoes were graded, they were stored in these bins for the winter months, or as long as the producer wished. They were then shipped in refrigerator cars in the winter. In the summer, cars were packed with ice in an attempt to maintain proper temperature in transit. Most of the potatoes were shipped through the Associated Shippers in Charlottetown, but the company, also filled some orders independently through brokers in other provinces.

In the 1930's the operation was chiefly manual. The farmers would bring their potatoes to O'Leary on sleighs or wagons. The escalator engine was very temperamental; it could not always be depended on to work. Waldo Phillips often had to leave school to start it. In fact the potatoes quite frequently had to be carried into

the warehouse and forked onto the grader which was cranked by hand. The potatoes were then bagged and weighed. The bags were sewn with a bag needle and binder twine, then passed along a human chain to box cars where they were tiered ready for shipping.

Technological advances have greatly changed the method of handling potatoes. Today the operation is chiefly mechanized; much less manual labour is required.

The original O'Leary Produce Company using primitive methods served a vital need to the farmers of the area and the business flourished until its eventual sale in 1952 to H.B. Willis Incorporated.

In 1967 H.B. Willis Inc. built a potato storage and packing plant on the C.N.R. siding near O'Leary Station. Construction of the building was under the direction of George Meggison of Knutsford. This 180 by 135 foot building was, and still is, a worthy addition to the business community. The potato storage department consists of nine bins, each of which is 120 by 15 ft. and has a storage capacity of 14,000 bushels. The two warehouses boast a combined capacity of 190,000 bushels. The packaging plant measures 60 by 135 feet, less office space, and is used for packaging retail produce. During the peak season, this business employs between forty and fifty people from the area.



Potato warehouses in background on the right – on left Co-op Feed Mill.

In 1951 Charles Willis was offered a position with H.B. Willis

Incorporated in O'Leary. He moved to O'Leary that same year and within two years started what was to become one of the most successful businesses in the area. In 1953 he and his son Orville bought a warehouse from Harold Jelley who had previously used the warehouse to store furniture. They renovated the building and installed the proper equipment in it to start in the potato dealing business.

In later years they bought a warehouse from Claude MacNeill and one from the O'Leary Co-op. Both of these were renovated and expanded. As the business began to flourish, they entered into the potato growing business. In 1963 their acreage was about seventy acres. Later their acreage increased to four hundred acres.

In 1982 Charles Willis died, but his son who had been an active member of the business from its beginning, continued to manage the operation. Over the years the business enlarged a great deal. C.F. Willis and Sons Produce were considered potato growers and dealers with fifty percent of the operation being devoted to the growing of potatoes, and the remaining fifty percent to handling and shipping of potatoes bought from local producers for export. The business also dealt in fertilizer on a large scale and was involved in the dealership of insecticides.

In 1986 this business became known as O'Leary Potato Packers Ltd. with Orville Willis as manager. In 1987 the warehouse was completely renovated and modernized.

In 1948 Dan Smallman and his son Brenton went into partnership and built a potato warehouse at the Canadian National Railway siding. The warehouse was underground. Potatoes were stored in the basement and the upper part was used for grading and office space.

Dan and Brenton carried on an extensive business buying and selling potatoes both for the local and export market. They were growers of fine quality seed; hence their product found a ready sale - as far away as Pennsylvania, U.S.A.

Seven or eight men were employed in the warehouse during the peak season. These men loaded, unloaded, graded and bagged the potatoes in ten, fifty, one hundred and sometimes one hundred fifty pound bags. No storage bins were provided except for their own potatoes. A pick-up service aided the farmers in getting their produce to O'Leary.

Annie Smallman was an important asset to this business. She did the office work. When potatoes were being harvested, a cook house was hauled from field to field. Here she and Verna (Smallman) Milligan did the cooking for their employees - sometimes as many as thirty-two for one meal.

The business closed in 1976 when Dan retired but the building continued to be a storage site for Brenton's crops until 1980 when it was demolished.

RESTAURANTS

Over the years O'Leary has had many fine restaurants. According to the 1880 Atlas, Robert Ellis had a store and restaurant at the southwest junction of the railway and the O'Leary road. Prior to 1928, Mrs. Josephine Gallant opened a restaurant in the same general area. Her lunches were made and taken by horse and sleigh to the rink. About fifty years ago, Ella Jelley ran a restaurant located just east of where the Co-op Garage is today.

In 1943 Joseph R. Gallant bought a building from Robert Arsenault of Howlan and moved it to where the Pioneer Restaurant was later located. He ran a restaurant there until 1947 when Art Gallant took over. From that time until Wanda Arbing rented it in 1950, Joseph M. Gallant operated the business. The building was then hauled to Art Gallant's front yard where his wife, Yvonne, served as cook and manager. For the next few months Evan Jelley rented the building and operated the business. In 1955, Avard Jelley and his wife Dolly bought the building and moved it to their front yard on Willow Avenue.

Dolly did all her own cooking and always served well-prepared meals. When she began her business, a full-course meal sold for \$1.50 and a bowl of soup for 35 cents. Among those employed as waitresses were Eva MacMillan, Olga MacMillan, Gracie MacEachern, Marjorie Milligan, Carol and Lillas MacGregor. Dolly operated it until 1976. The building has since been hauled away and burned.

Art Gallant and his wife Yvonne also had a canteen situated in their front yard in the early 1950's. They sold hot dogs, hamburgers, french fries, pop and ice cream. They had a trailer which could be transported to the local picnics and ploughing matches.

Lillian Wedge ran two restaurants over the years. One was located two houses south of the fire hall and the other nearby.

In 1947 Rod MacNevin built a restaurant where the Co-op store stands today. He named it the Dingle after a restaurant in Cape Breton which he often patronized. Edisel Dumville recalls driving his brother Stan's 1947 Chevrolet flat-bottom to Summerside to pick up the lumber from Holman's and the leather-topped stools and the booths from Chan's. He was accompanied by Leonard MacKinnon. Tamar MacNevin was employed as cook. After a year or two, Rod sold the restaurant to Albert and Eva Noonan. Rod then operated a restau-

rant with a counter in the shape of a horseshoe. The building was located on the site of the present Clover Farm store. He sold the business to the Sutherlands who also operated a meat shop.

The Noonans mentioned above, served full-course meals which attracted people from all over the Island and elsewhere to taste their fine cuisine. Among those employed were Bessie Shaw, Loretta Arsenault, Evelyn (Gay) Hardy, Annie Harris, Marjorie MacDonald, Wanda Arbing, Cyrus and Gertrude Wedge. Mrs. Noonan managed the restaurant until 1953 when she and her husband moved to Alberton. They sold it to Wendell (Red) Turner who in turn sold it to Melvin Harris. After a short period of time, Lloyd Shaw bought the restaurant and later sold it back to Wendell (Red) Turner who moved it to its present location. Ivan Gaudet then operated the restaurant which he called the Ivan-Ho. Then it became the Pioneer Restaurant and was operated by Margaret and Ferdie Gallant.

Perhaps no other building in O'Leary was owned by so many different individuals and soon it was to have new owners again. Early in 1985, Harvey and Alma MacEachern named it the Copper Cup and continued to operate the restaurant for the next three years. The food was excellent - delicious, full-course meals, tasty fish and chips, and luscious home-made pies.

Although the building was used mainly as a restaurant throughout the years, it had been used as a pool hall around 1977. Since its closure as a restaurant in 1988, it was used as a knitting shop operated by Alma MacLean and it was then operated as Rayner's Fish Mart. In 1992 it was purchased by the Community of O'Leary for a youth center.

Winnie Gosbie owned and operated a restaurant on Main Street next to Texaco Service Station. A few years prior to 1979 the building was bought by Texaco Canada. It was demolished and the land became part of the parking lot at the garage. In 1979, James Baglole purchased the garage and land from Texaco Canada.

Jackie Arsenault ran a restaurant where Hyndman and Company Insurance is located today. He bought the land from Hanson Oliver and a building that was formerly used as a garage from George Carruthers. It was bought in 1958 and remodelled. The cooking was done by Nellie Adams, Jackie Arsenault, Alan Arsenault and Eva Arsenault. Those employed in other capacities were Barbara Gay Coughlin, Betty Ann Biggar, Frank Smallman, Betty Costello and George Green. The business was sold to Hugh Ryan in 1968.

The cold storage building which was located next to the Verdon Theatre had been closed to business, and it was then used by

Windmill Crafts, a craft guild. Ivan and Theresa Kirev bought the building and renovated it as a restaurant until January, 1978. In October, it was reopened as the A and L Restaurant with partners Allison Stewart and Lillian Locke - hence the name A and L. Allison was involved for the first six months, and Lillian continued to operate the restaurant until June 1983. Later, the building was demolished.

For a period of time, Foster Milligan opened a family restaurant in his residence which was located near Jimmie's Texaco Service Station on Main Street.

In July 1969, a group of businessmen, formed a company called O'Leary Enterprises Ltd. and opened a restaurant/dining room in the O'Leary Library and Museum building. It was named the O'Leary Anne Restaurant and those involved in the company were Dr. George Dewar, Errol Stetson, Raeford MacLean, Stanley MacDonald, Alton Rayner, Randall Boates, and James Baglole. Cooks employed were Inez Jelley, Shirley MacIsaac and Ivan Gaudet.

The restaurant continued to operate on a seasonal basis under this management until July 1977, when Jack and Regena Russell purchased the equipment and leased the space to operate the restaurant for the next three years.



Smallman's Cold Storage next to Verdun Theatre.

THE LITTLE GYPSY TEA ROOM

In 1935, Lloyd Matthews operated The Little Gypsy Tea Room in the Herbie Vatcher building on Main Street. His tea room had four booths and served tea, sandwiches and pop.

SAUNDERS STORE

In 1949, Dan Saunders bought a building from James Sutherland and opened a general store. James had previously operated it as a meat market.

In 1955, Dan entered into a partnership with Lloyd Matthews to sell Quaker Feeds to the local farmers. The store was used as an outlet to sell the merchandise. In 1957, Lloyd withdrew from the business but Dan continued until the following year.

Dan and his family ran the operation for twenty years then sold the business to DeBlois Brothers of Charlottetown, and they, in turn, rented it to Carl Bryanton under the Clover Farm name. In 1989, Carl bought the business and continues to run it (1992).

SMALLMAN'S BAKERY

In 1956 Milton Smallman, Jr. built a bakery in the front portion of his house; living quarters were in the back.

Helen, Junior's stepmother, helped organize the business during the first years of operation. She and Hilda (Junior's wife) did the baking.

The bakery was equipped with a bread mixer and two large propane stoves. Each oven held sixty loaves of bread. Because of this extensive bread making operation, Milton (Junior) established a bread route in West Prince.

A small grocery was added in 1958. The business closed before the end of that year.

THOMSON'S FEED MILL

This feed mill is one of the oldest buildings in O'Leary. It was relocated on its present site by Sanford Phillips, Sr., who owned and operated it until 1945. Since that time the following have carried on the business: Herbie Vatcher (1955-1956), Kenneth Matthews (1956-1958), Randall Boates (1958-1974), and the present owner - Blair Thomson (1974-).

Most of the work over the years has been custom work. Farmers have brought in their feed grain to be crushed and mixed with con-

centrates for cattle, hogs, and poultry according to the individual farmer's needs. A diesel caterpillar tractor powered the grain crusher and the mixer. In fall or early spring, farmers continued to bring their seed grain to be cleaned. Dirt and poor seed grain were removed to improve the grade. When Randall Boates operated the mill, it was registered in Ottawa, the seed grain was then subject to Federal government inspection. It often won the distinction of being classified as Canada No. 1 - Canada's Best.



Feed mill now Thomson's.

Randall was the first to install a special machine for treating seed grain against diseases such as smut, bunt, root rot, etc. In the 1960's, most farmers kept cattle, hogs and poultry. Many turkeys were also raised in this area. Feed was cheap, hence a profit was ensured. Randall found ready sale for his feed which he hauled to farmers by the truckload. For many years he bought hogs and cattle from local farmers and shipped them every week to Swift Canadian Co. in Charlottetown.

When Blair Thomson took over the feed mill business in 1974, he switched from diesel power to electric and for nine years he continued to do custom work on a full time basis; but changes began to occur that affected his business. After the demise of many small farmers, large farmers bought machines to crush and mix their own feed grain. Others hired mobile trucks to do this work "on site"; and of course, the escalating cost of operations - fuel, electricity, machine parts, etc., all contributed to the closing of the mill on a full time basis in 1983. The work is now seasonal. The mill remains closed all

winter, but is open from the middle of March until the end of June for cleaning and treating seed grain.

Necessary changes were made to meet the requirements of this limited operation. Crushers no longer used were removed, an extra grain cleaner was installed, and necessary adjustments were made to facilitate handling bulk grain. Blair was a dealer for Shur-Gain and Master Feeds, Kensington. Presently the back end of the feed mill is used as a video outlet.

TURNER'S STORE

In 1903 Henry Turner chose a vacant lot as the site for the construction of a general store. This lot was never vacant again. It has since housed many important businesses in O'Leary. The store was located on Main Street across from Petro Canada Service Station. Henry Willis Turner, original owner, built the store. In 1916 he suffered a stroke and was forced to give up the business. He had three children: Percy, Brenton Harold (known as Jack) and Daisy. His son, Percy, then joined the business but soon saw better opportunities elsewhere. Percy sold the store to Sinclair and Stewart of Summerside and moved to Charlottetown. Sinclair and Stewart chose Vernon Matthew as their representative to come to O'Leary and operate the store for them.



H.W. Turner's New Store

In 1919 the store was described as having a long counter in the centre of the ground floor for sales goods. They sold dry goods, shoes, and ladies' ready-to-wear clothing. The second floor housed the office and the milliner's room. To the right of the milliner's room was the men's clothing department. The furniture and hardware could be found on the third floor, the office supplies on the fourth floor, and the out-of-style clothes under the eaves. Items such as coils of rope, chain, iron, horseshoes, molasses, oils, butter, etc. could be found in the basement. A unique feature of the store was the cash cups running on wires from the various departments to the office carrying cash and change.



Bank employee looking over goods in Turners store.

In the late teens, Vernon Matthew, James MacWilliams and William Turner entered into a partnership. They bought the store from Sinclair and Stewart and operated a successful general store until January 30, 1930, when the store was totally destroyed by fire. The fire appeared to have started in the attic between the floors. O'Leary had no fire department at the time so the citizens turned out to form a bucket brigade. Despite these efforts the largest store west of Summerside, burned to the ground. Wet blankets and splashing water kept the walls up thus saving the nearby buildings which were Jack Pate's meat market and Pate's Store with residence on second

floor.

The partnership was dissolved. In the fall of the same year, a new store was constructed on the foundation of the old one and a new partnership was formed by William Turner and James MacWilliams. In 1941, the firm was incorporated under the name of MacWilliams and Turner Ltd. (A coin was tossed to determine whose name should come first.)

William Turner died on April 22, 1941, and in 1946, Harry MacWilliam and Wendell Turner joined the firm and acted as part of a management team. The MacWilliam family became sole owner of the business in 1959.

In 1977, Harry started a new business in the same building, the Handy Andy Associate Store #295, and for five years was operated in conjunction with the grocery store. The grocery store was closed out in 1982. Since that time, the store has dealt exclusively in hardware merchandise under the name of Handy Andy. On August 24, 1990, the store was demolished to make room for the parking lot to service the newly expanded Guardian Drugstore owned by Stanley MacDonald.



Ashes of Turner's Store in front of Kennedy's Store.

The businesses which have operated on the lot purchased by Henry Turner in 1903 were a valuable asset to the Village of O'Leary. For over eighty years the citizens of O'Leary were enriched by the valuable services provided to them by these businesses.



Handy Andy Store

"ADVERTISEMENT FOR TURNER'S STORE"

It Will Pay You To Look Up Your Requirements And Take Advantage Of The Many Money-Saving Offerings Of Which Only A Few We Herewith Enumerate -----

54 inch homespun, per yard-----	\$1.50
54 inch tweed, per yard -----	\$1.00
38 inch Vailes, per yard -----	50¢ & \$1.25
Women's cotton hose, per pair only -----	25¢
34 inch Grey cotton, per yard only -----	18¢
36 inch Grey cotton, per yard only -----	22¢
Women's Summer Vests, each -----	27¢ & 32¢
Children's Summer Vests, each -----	25¢

Men's and Boy's Suits and Caps

Boy's Grey Tweed Suits, 8 to 12 years, special	\$7.90
Boy's Heather Tweed Suits, 8 to 12 years, special	\$9.00
15 Boy's Suits, 12 to 16 yrs, broken lines to clear at	\$7.50
Odd lines in Men's and Boy's Caps to clear	75¢

A large range of men's suits, snappy models in latest weaves and newest colorings. We would like you to see them. Prices are \$16.00

to \$35.00
 10 pairs Men's Shoe Packs, size 6, regular \$4.50, to clear at per pair
 -----\$3.00

Good Values in Women's Footwear 49 pairs Women's High Cut white
 canvas Boots per pair only -----75¢
 16 pairs Women's Tan Slippers regular \$3.75 per pair to clear at \$2.50
 18 pairs Women's Tan Slippers regular \$3.50 per pair to clear at \$2.00
 18 pairs Women's Black Kid Slippers, 5 straps regular \$4.75 to clear at
 -----\$2.50
 Ladies Elk Sandals per pair only -----\$2.95

FRESHEN UP YOUR BUIDLINGS AND IMPLEMENTS WITH PAINT
 Brandram-Henderson's English Mixed has the highest standard
 appearance, durability, and covering capacity. Remember you run no
 risk when you buy paints from Turners.
 Do you anticipate building or repairing your buildings? If so, Turners
 can supply you with all Builders Hardware.
 New Fresh Cement, per bag \$1.00 Bags extra 20¢ nonreturnable.

Imported 2nd Clear Shingles per 1,000 -----\$4.50
 Island Spruce Shingles -----\$2.75

SPECIAL SALE OF LADIES WAISTS AND CHILDREN'S SUMMER
 DRESSES AT HALF PRICE

Cod Liver Oil Biscuit per bag -----\$3.75
 Kiln dried cracked corn and cornmeal per bag-----\$2.50
 Special sale in Aluminum Ware, each-----\$1.69

In asking for your business, we guarantee you the best of service -
 the closest prices on every article we sell, courteous treatment, and a
 full store of the finest merchandise to be found in the country - on
 the other hand we are one of the largest dealers in Farm Produce,
 and always pay the farmer the top price for his produce. We solicit your
 business.

June 21, 1924 - Turner's Limited - O'Leary, P.E.I.

VATCHER'S STORE

In 1962 Herbert Vatcher bought a building from Anne Matheson
 and started a general store located on the south side of Main Street

near the cenotaph. The store holds fond memories for all the children of O'Leary growing up at that time. There was a large selection of candy sold at just the right price to suit a child's budget. Hot dogs and pop were also big attractions to customers entering the store. Verna worked in the store with her husband. She recalled her husband picking apples from their orchard one day. "They are going to spoil if we leave them here. Let's take them into the store and give them to the children who come in." Once word got around that Vatcher's were giving out free apples, they were bombarded with children and discovered the exact population of children in O'Leary under the age of fourteen. This made Herbie's day; the more children who came into the store the better he liked it. There were, however, many faithful customers of all ages who did business at Vatcher's Grocery. In 1973 Herbie and Verna sold their store to Wayne MacNeill who opened a television repair shop.



Westisle Farms

WESTISLE FARM SUPPLY LTD.

Westisle Farm Supply Ltd., formerly known as C.I.L., was opened in 1967. It was owned by C.I.L. Inc. with head offices in Montreal. In 1982, C.I.L. joint-ventured the plant to Wavell Sabine and other shareholders. The company was bought by Cavendish Farms in 1989.

The business offers a vital service to farmers in the West Prince area with its fertilizer blending operation. It also supplies retail products including agricultural chemicals, limestone, and other farm supplies.

The plant was upgraded in 1977 and a second unit for mixing raw materials into fertilizer was added. In 1978, a raw material storage shed and chemical warehouse were built. The following year (1979) a machine repair shop was constructed. In the winter of 1990-1991, a blending tower was added, greatly improving the service to local farmers.

In season the company is a major employer in the village, creating jobs for approximately twenty people. The operation is capably directed by Wavell Sabine, plant manager.

Greenspot Auto Sales Ltd. was opened in 1971 by its owner and operator, Norman MacDougall. His car and truck dealership provides jobs for six full time employees in summer - three or four in winter. This business is located at the western approach to O'Leary.

Illsley's Feed & Farm Supply was opened in 1981 by George and Al Illsley. They carry a complete line of Purina farm feed and health products, and pet foods. They have one full-time employee, Keith (Jack) MacDonald. They also have a delivery service. This business is located on the street behind the Ultramar Service Station.

IMPERIAL OIL

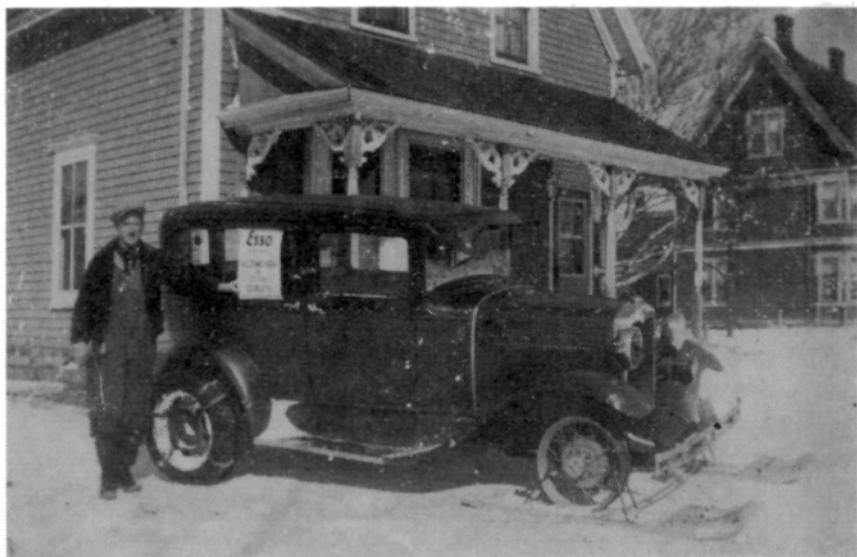
The mention of Imperial or Esso brings back memories of Watson Silliker who in 1922 started the first oil delivery business in this area. Imperial Oil had two storage tanks on cement pillars located beside a railway spur some distance behind the present Guardian Drug Store. The driveway leading into the site was east of what is now Murphy's Quick Mart. The old tank warehouse which was located in front of the storage tanks was moved to Unionvale and is now part of Gerald Shaw's tire business.

The Silliker family - Watson, Ruth and their children Ralph, Iva, Lloyd and Lorne - manually pumped the kerosene and gasoline from the railway tank cars, which held over 8,000 gallons each, into the storage tanks.

By truck in summer and sleigh in winter, sparse quantities of gasoline and liberal quantities of kerosene in 45 gallon drums were delivered to stores and homes around the countryside. When Ralph was eight years old, he drove a team of horses to places such as Portage, Glenwood, Campbellton and Bloomfield.

Lorne recalls the snowmobile they made from a Model A Ford, narrowed up to the width of a sleigh. It had skis on front and tandem wheels inside - caterpillars behind. Towing a woodsleigh loaded

with three or four barrels of oil, he and his brothers made their deliveries. Often after winter storms, people called for oil just to have their lanes or roads opened.



Model A Ford, 1930. Note dual wheels on rear, skis on front.

Their snowmobiles were quite versatile especially in winter when roads seldom or never saw a snowplow.

On one occasion when a youth from West Cape Osborne Phillips had a ruptured appendix, Lorne transported him, Dr. Ben Tantor and a nurse, Kay Jelley, to Summerside. The road, filled with pitches, made the journey anything but comfortable for the eleven year old.



Imperial Oil tanks south of present Guardian Drugs (in the mid thirties). Billy Bernard left. Frank Platts centre.

Sometimes the roads were plowed as far as Mt. Pleasant airport during World War II. Lorne often met the doctors there and brought them to O'Leary.

Lloyd took over the business in the early forties and continued into the mid-fifties. He installed a single cylinder engine with a line shaft to pump the oil.

Later Watson was a well-known agent for Ballengal's and later Peter's monuments. He was also a dealer for International Farm Machinery.

Later Imperial Oil or Esso changed to its present location. In the mid-fifties when Lloyd retired, James Harris became the agent. He was followed by Alton (Bud) Ellis. In early December 1964, Everett Milligan took over the agency. His wife, Hazel, was office manager for several years.

In 1976 Robert Culbert became the agent. During his agency the underground tanks replaced the surface storage tanks. Then for two years Dean Carpenter operated the business. Since 1979 Kay Morrison has been manager and since 1981 Archie Raynor has been a familiar figure in the delivery truck.

Jack's Auto Sales was established in 1967 by Jack Arsenault. In addition to buying and selling cars and trucks, he and his son, Brian, clean vehicles, both interior and exterior, and install mufflers and trim packages. This business is located on Park Avenue.

MacDougall's Apartments. In 1986, because of a lack of up-to-date, affordable housing in O'Leary, Norman MacDougall built two apartment buildings on Centennial Drive. Since that time he has built two more apartment buildings and has acquired three houses within the community limits - a total of twenty-nine units (1992), and is making plans to further expand his real estate venture.



MacDougall Apartment Building.



McKenna's Store

McKenna's Furniture and Warehouse Ltd., on Main Street, is owned and operated by Vivian and Reginald McKenna who purchased the business located in the Public Hall from H.A. Jelley in 1976. In 1977 they acquired the former O'Leary Public School and gradually renovated it to become the largest and most modern furniture and appliance store in West Prince.

Raeform MacLean established O'Leary Fuels in May, 1960, and was the distributor for Texaco Canada Ltd. Petroleum products such as gas, fuel oil and lubricants. In 1991 it was taken over by Ultramar. Clair Silliker, an employee, operates a delivery truck.

In 1947 Pate's Orchard View Cabins were constructed. They were owned and operated by Marcia Pate. These cabins later became a youth hostel affiliated with the International Youth Hostel Association.

Seaman's Beverages has a distributorship in O'Leary. Originally this business was owned by E.W. Turner. In 1955, George Bernard bought the business and continued to operate it until 1991 when it was sold to Seaman's Beverages of Charlottetown.

Stetson's Food Market, owned and operated by E. Jean Stetson, was opened in 1971 as a grocery outlet on Main Street adjacent to the Baptist Church. She sold the business to Brian and Heather Willis in 1986 and it is now operated as a Valu-Mart.

In June of 1973, Wayne MacNeill opened Wayne's T.V. and Radio in the Vatcher building. Later he moved to the Public Hall and then to the Claude MacNeills store. He deals in selling and repairing of video and audio equipment. He has one employee to assist him. This business is located on Main Street.

West Prince Auto Sales was opened by Stanley Dumville on the corner of the Barclay Road and Main Street in 1967. Stan owned and operated the business until 1982 when, because of ill health, he rented to Harry Leard for the next five years. In 1988, Harry moved the business to his own property on Chestnut Avenue where he continues to own and operate the business.

In the material that has been gathered for this book, nothing has been written on the history of the Liquor Store.

In sorrow on the death of a friend who was born and lived in O'Leary, these lines were written.



Liquor Store

*Thirsty souls are drinking, but their thirst it doesn't wane,
It overpowers their reason, and they must drink again;
The soul keeps on being thirsty, craving still for more,
So they drink, and drink, and drink, just as they did before.*

*This pleasant drink for which you crave, in time will bitter turn
Your distraught mind and conscience in remorse to sear and burn;
At first it gives some pleasure but the pleasure turns to pain,
It makes you soon a loser - it will never give you gain.*

*The tempter has deceived you - Death
is in the cup.
Don't be another victim - It's time to give it up;
Many in their youth when things were going well
Get caught within its fangs, and their misery who can tell!*

*Come! Taste the living water that Jesus has to give,
It's offered freely to you; why don't you drink and live?
A well that springs within you to everlasting life,
The thirst that long has plagued you is then forever rife.
(rife means fully or abundantly supplied)*

*He told me of the pleasure when first he tried the drink,
(Back then he never dreamed how low he was to sink)
It overcame his shyness and filled him with delight
But soon the pleasures vanished and sadness was his plight.*

*Many times he tried to make his life anew,
All efforts were to fail, no matter what he'd do;
It held him like a tyrant and made him suffer so -
He tried to give it up but it wouldn't let him go.*

*The loneliness, the sickness, the visions of the night,
The tremors and convulsions that caused him so much fright;
Until in deep despair, he stood upon the brink
To fill a lonely grave - a victim. Don't you think?*

If our good friend could speak today his good advice would be:
While still you can, make your escape and from this monster flee.

Chapter 11

Biographies

CECIL DENNIS

Remember the days when it cost fifteen cents for an evening at the movie theatre. Cecil Dennis from O'Leary was responsible for bringing the cinema to West Prince shortly after the first World War, and fifteen cents was the going rate at that time.

In 1919 Cecil brought silent moving pictures - action without sound - to the communities in West Prince by operating his movie machine at public halls. After each scene shown on the screen, there was print at which time the previous action was explained. The rented halls were always crammed full of viewers of all ages - everyone anxious to see the latest western or comedy film released from Hollywood.

Mr. Dennis' policy of a money back guarantee accompanied the ticket when bought at the door. In the 28 years of operation only two people ever took Mr. Dennis up on this offer at the end of a show. He said that neither person would accept the money when he offered it to them. Mr. Dennis said that he thought that the majority of his customers left happy with the show and always returned when he came to their community again.

Helen Howatt played music on the piano to accompany the silent movies, never missing a note while she played and watched Charlie Chaplin, Buster Keaton, or Mary Pickford.

"She would sit there and watch the films and play. When you got a film, suitable musical notes came with it," Mr. Dennis explained.

Cecil travelled throughout the area showing films in public halls and buildings in Tignish, O'Leary, and Alberton once a week and to outlying communities every second week. In addition to the main centres, the shows were also taken to Bloomfield, Port Hill, Freeland, Tyne Valley, Lot 7, Carleton West, Glenwood, Coleman and Kensington. Additional showings could also be arranged by appointment provided there was sufficient interest and a building available.

Cecil recalled one incident when he brought a movie to Glenwood for the first time. The hall was so crowded people were standing outside watching through open windows in the pouring rain.

When Cecil first started showing silent pictures, he had one machine. He had to stop every fifteen minutes to change reels. He

bought the Edison Machine No. 5 in Charlottetown. Only thirty-five millimetre films were used at that time. A gaslight on a block of lime was used for the light, but the gaslight wasn't steady enough. A short time later he used the electric bulb which ran on batteries. The machine was cranked by hand. Later an old generator was used for power.

In 1928, Mr. Dennis started showing sound movies. The sound was on records and the film on machine. The first movies were gas operated, and ran by acetylene light. Later they ran on a six horsepower engine and generator. Mr. Dennis bought his movie equipment in United States.

Initially the backdrop was a large sheet of whitewashed cotton; later a beaded spray was used on a canvass background.

Cecil pointed out that there were always favourites that people asked for time and time again but they always came back for the westerns.

The two most popular shows brought to the area at that time were "Rose Marie" and "The San Francisco Earthquake". Cecil said that the prices were slightly higher for these films because the producers set the rates. Even though the price was higher (25 cents) people kept demanding that these pictures be brought back.

Colour was brought to the screen in the early 1930's shortly after the talking movies were started. By that time movies were more common but people still came to enjoy an evening at the movies.

After 28 years of bringing movies to the people of West Prince, Cecil was so restricted by government regulations that he gradually went out of the unique business which he had pioneered. O'Leary was the last place where he showed film.

There are still many people in the area who will not only remember the low prices for the movies, but the excitement of going to the community halls to see their favourite actors on the screen.

Cecil died on July 29, 1990 in his 95th year.

EVA J. DENNIS

Eva J. Dennis was born in O'Leary on July 13, 1898. She was the daughter of Ewen and Allie MacLennan. She received her early education in O'Leary and then attended Prince of Wales College where she graduated in 1916.

For two years Eva taught school in Mount Royal before joining the staff of A.J. Matheson's Drug Store as an apprentice. In 1953, she became a certified pharmacist, the second woman druggist in the area. Eva continued to work in this capacity for 38 years.

Eva recalled that her duties as a pharmacist were very different and had little resemblance to today's pharmaceutical chores. She mentioned that the doctor would write a prescription and then she would have to make what he ordered, usually from different powders. Each medication required as many as eight or nine ingredients to be divided and weighed separately. Each prescription had to be folded and placed into individual packets before it was given to the customer.



Cecil and Eva Dennis.

Eva married Cecil Dennis in 1952. She was one of the founding members of O'Leary branch of C.A.M.R. and an active and contributing member of the O'Leary United Church for many years. Eva continued to enjoy good health and was able to remain in her own home until 1989, at which time she became a resident of the Lady Slipper Villa. She died at Green Meadows Nursing Home on February 25, 1992.

MABEL DENNIS

Mabel Dennis, daughter of Robert and Elizabeth (Palmer) Boyles was born at West Devon, Prince Edward Island, May 2, 1892. She was married to Nelson Dennis at the O'Leary Baptist Parsonage on May 27, 1913. Of this union eight children were born - two daughters,

Charlotte (Mrs. Dermot MacLean) and Bessie; six sons - James, Herbie, Ira, Wallace, Albert, and Gordon (died in infancy).

She was active both in church and community life, always ready to lend a hand to anyone who needed help. If there was a fire or a crisis that needed immediate action she would summon aid by ringing the bell at the United Church.



Mabel Dennis

The comfort and welfare of the men in the armed forces were foremost in her mind. Mabel helped by packing boxes for service men overseas and organizing farewell and homecoming parties for the soldiers.

On V.E. Day (Victory in Europe), May 8, 1945, Mabel, with her family and neighbours, drove in a horse and truck wagon through the streets of O'Leary, spreading the good news and rejoicing that the war was over and families would soon be reunited.



V.E. Day

DR. GEOERGE DEWAR - A REMARKABLE MAN!

Dr. Lloyd George Dewar, M.D., C.M., D.P.H., F.C.F.P. (C) was born at New Perth, P.E.I. on October 15, 1915. He is the third son of John A. and Laura (MacPhee) Dewar. He is married to Greta Jean Price, R.N., of Saint John, N.B. They have two children - Elizabeth Ellen (Mrs. Norman Larter) and Brian Lawrence.

Dr. Dewar attended New Perth Public School, taught for three years, and graduated from Prince of Wales College in 1938. He obtained his M.D.C.M. from Dalhousie University in 1943 and a diploma in Public Health from the University of Toronto in 1946.

From 1941 - 1946 Dr. Dewar was a member of the Royal Canadian Army Medical Corps. At the time he was discharged, he had obtained the rank of captain. After a short practice in Bedeque (Dec. 1946 - June 1947), he moved to O'Leary where he continues his medical practise.

From a medical perspective, Dr. Dewar has served his profession in various capacities. Some of these include: member of the Canadian Medical Association, past president of P.E.I. Medical Society, past member of Medical Council of P.E.I., charter member and founding director of College of Family Physicians of Canada (1953), co-founder of O'Leary Medical Clinic (1975), trustee of Community Hospital (1955-1985), and is a member or past member of medical staffs at Community, Western, Tyne Valley and Prince

County Hospitals.

In addition to his medical responsibilities, Dr. Dewar has been active in politics. He was a member of P.E.I. Legislature for Second Prince for twenty-one years being elected in 1955, 1959, 1962, 1966, 1970 and 1976.



Dr. L. G. Dewar.

During the years 1959 - 1966, Dr. Dewar was Minister of Education for P.E.I. Largely due to his efforts, the O'Leary Regional High School was built and opened in 1960.

Also, he served as Provincial Secretary (1964 - 1966), both interim leader of Progressive Conservative Party and leader of the opposition in P.E.I. Legislature (1970 - 1973). It is of interest that he contested the leadership of the P.C. party in 1958 and lost to Walter Shaw by only two votes.

In addition to provincial politics, Dr. Dewar served as a village commissioner for O'Leary and he was a P.C. candidate for Egmont in the 1984 federal election.

Throughout his life Dr. Dewar has made a significant contribution to his community by serving on numerous committees and organizations at the local, provincial, and national levels. In this service he has gained a great deal of personal satisfaction and respect.

Although it is not possible in this short biography to discuss his

many contributions to society, his role as chairman of the O'Leary Museum and Library Association Ltd. is worthy of special mention. Dr. Dewar has been involved with this organization since its inception in 1967. Because of his keen interest, enthusiasm, generosity, and splendid leadership, the O'Leary Museum continues to grow and develop as a major tourist attraction in the area.

Since 1975 Dr. Dewar has devoted a great deal of time to writing. The following publications by Dr. Dewar provide most interesting reading:

The Brothers Dewar (1975)

Cancer on Main Street (1979)

The Duvar Diary (1979)

Life at Leighwood (1982)

He has also contributed articles to various magazines. At present he is writing a comprehensive autobiographical history of his years 1915 - 1991) in Prince Edward Island.

Dr. Dewar's significant contributions have been recognized through the years. He has received fourteen awards including the Canada Medal (1967), Queen's Jubilee Medal (1978), P.E.I. Heritage Publishing Award (1980), John Hunter Duvar Award - West Prince Arts Council (1987), Citizen of the Year Award (1981), and the MacDonald - Cartier Award by the National P.C. Party (1988).

With respect to hobbies and recreation, Dr. Dewar is an avid golfer and enjoys curling. His interests include antique automobiles, stamp collecting, museum artifacts, reading, writing, world travel, and re-enacting history. The latter was accomplished through his vision for and realization of the Hernewood Tea held each June.

Dr. L. George Dewar is a wonderful person, a competent doctor, a successful politician, a staunch community citizen, a great writer, and a splendid friend.

IRMA DUMVILLE

Enthusiasm and spirit are qualities in demand these days, and at twenty-six Irma Dumville seemed to have plenty of both.

Irma accepted a position on the O'Leary Village Commission and without her knowledge became the first woman and one of the youngest commissioners ever to serve on the commission. "I don't see why I'm the first woman to become a commissioner and why more women don't become involved in these things. I've often wondered why there were no women taking part in these affairs that affect them, too," Irma remarked. "I just thought 'why not' when they asked me if I were interested. I just like to know what's going on

in the community. I'm willing to take on more when I'm more familiar with it."

Irma had always taken an interest in the affairs of the village and in addition to her new role as the commissioner in charge of sanitation, was one of the directors of the community arena. She taught a fitness class and provided fitness counselling. She also held down a job, coached and participated in sports whenever she could squeeze the time into her schedule.



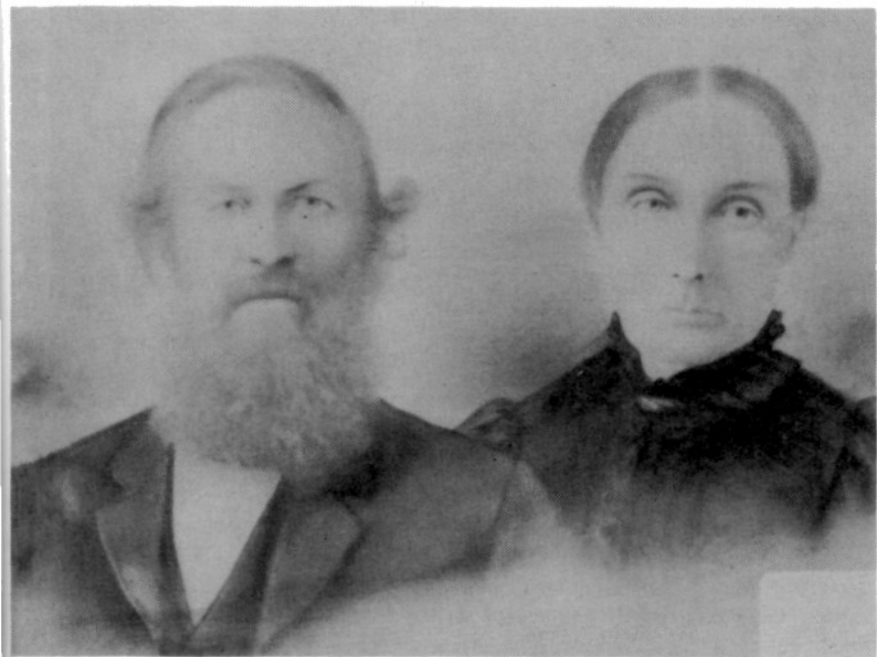
Irma Dumville

With a family of three children, Jeffrey - eight yrs. old, Jennifer - four, and Joey - four months, and her interest in sports, there was never a dull moment at the Dumville household. Irma had lived in O'Leary for eight years with her husband, Floyd, and had endeared herself to all her friends. To the grief of all, fire razed their home on March 26, 1983 and claimed the life of Irma, leaving three children with their dad.

THE ELLIS FAMILY

To understand thoroughly the Ellis family of O'Leary and their relationship to one another, we must travel back to the late seven-teen hundreds to William Ellis who was born in Bideford, England and married Hannah Penrose. He studied engineering and served

apprenticeship in the shipyards of the area where he learned draftsmanship and the making of molds for ships. In 1800 he entered into partnership with George Chapman to form a shipbuilding company at Cleavehouses, Bideford, England, a company that built warships for the Royal Navy during the Napoleonic Wars. William began to hear about the New World where men could make a fortune and where the forests were dense and huge, so in 1814 he ended the partnership with Chapman and formed a new one with T.B. Chanter. Both men came to Prince Edward Island landing on August 9, 1814 and formed the Chanter and Ellis Shipyards at Bideford. In 1826, Ellis purchased his partner's interest in the shipyard.



Big Robert Ellis and Wife.

William's son, James Ellis, came over with the rest of his family in 1814. He assisted his father in the shipyard until he established one of his own. He also purchased a large tract of timber land along the river from Bideford to Ellerslie, which supplied the lumber for his shipyard. He married Jane Ramsay of Port Hill. They had two sons, B. Robert and John . His second wife, Marion McArthur, had Thomas along with four other sons and seven daughters.



Family of Little Robert Ellis. Back, Forbes, Fulton, Luella, Coleridge. Front, Mrs. Ellis, Clifford, Bay and Mr. Ellis.

James' son, B. Robert Ellis, Sr., was born at Bideford, Prince Edward Island. In 1876 he moved to O'Leary and in 1903 became postmaster and magistrate. He purchased four hundred acres of land which constituted the southern half of the village of O'Leary. His first wife was Harriet Raynor of O'Leary and his second was Annie Waite, also of O'Leary. From these two unions, eleven children were born. B. Robert gave four of his sons one hundred acres of land each to start them off.

James and Jane's second son, John, married Margaret England. From this union L. Robert, Jr., was born - another prominent O'Leary citizen. He was a nephew of B. Robert. He was born and educated at Tyne Valley and married Flora Jane Forbes of that area. He moved to O'Leary and entered into a very successful mercantile business and owned a beautiful home. He raised a large family, one of whom was Luella Ellis who married Jack Kennedy, a successful merchant of O'Leary.

B. Robert Ellis had by his first wife Harriet Raynor, a son, Garfield. He was born in O'Leary and graduated from the Canadian College of Pharmacy. He set up a drugstore in his cousin's (L. Robert) store. Later he moved to Montague and formed the Ellis Pharmacy Limited which he ran for ten years and set up a branch drugstore in O'Leary. He married Pansy MacFarlane and later moved to Washington, U.S.A., where he established a drug business. His older brother, Allison (aged 20), had drugstores in Montague, Charlottetown, and then Lashburn, Saskatchewan.

Thomas, James' son, was also a prominent businessman of West Prince. He was born in Bideford, P.E.I., and conducted a shoe factory in O'Leary where he made shoes to order. Only the well-to-do people of West Prince could afford them. When the products of large factories began to come into the province, he sold his equipment and moved to Quincy, Massachusetts, where he retailed shoes, supplied to him by a factory at Brockton.

MARGARET ELLIS - PUBLIC HEALTH NURSE

Margaret Catherine Stewart was born November 8, 1915, at West Point, P.E.I. She was the daughter of Walter and Emmeline Stewart. Walter was a fisherman and factory owner, and Emma taught school at West Point.

For as long as she could remember, Margaret wanted to be a nurse. She went to Grade Ten in the country school at West Point. From there she enrolled at nursing school, a place called Hotel Vieu

in Moncton, N.B., where she studied for three years. Following her training she was employed in a private hospital in Sussex, N.B., where she was one of a staff of three nurses.

After a year there, Margaret moved on to the East St. John Hospital for tuberculosis patients where she stayed for about nine months. However, she had always dreamed of being a nurse in the army. So she and some of her friends signed up in St. John in August 1942. She then went to England.



Margaret and Clifford Ellis

In 1944 she was stationed in Bayeux, France, where she lived in tents for about three months. Conditions were crude. There were numerous casualties requiring nursing care. While there she met many Canadians.

Her work then took her to Bruges, Belgium, a city which had just been bombed. She and her co-workers moved into a girls' reformatory, where living conditions were described as poor. After ten months there, she was moved to smaller hospitals scattered throughout the countryside. At one of these hospitals there were German prisoners of war. Margaret was on night duty in the ward which was guarded all the time. Because the German nurses had told the prisoners that the Canadian nurses would poison them, the nurses, including Margaret, had to take the medications first before any of the prison-

ers would take any medicine from them. Often she was called upon to bring sad news to people, for example, the eighteen year old who was going blind because he was in a tank blast. Margaret explained, "One had to learn to accept people dying, losing their eyesight, and so on, but that didn't mean forgetting it."

After the war was over, Margaret was advised to specialize in some aspect of the nursing field – the reason being that there would not be enough jobs for all the R.N.'s coming back from overseas. So Margaret enrolled in Veterans School where she successfully completed junior and senior matriculation. She completed the two years course in nine months and obtained a high standing!

After Veterans School, Margaret worked for Indian Affairs in Edmonton, Alberta, where she did general hospital work. She then received a leave of absence to go to McGill University in Montreal to study public health nursing. She chose this field of study because of her genuine love for people and her desire to help them in whatever way she could. Needless to say, Margaret was extremely successful. Immediately following this course and with some reluctance, Margaret returned to P.E.I. where she began her career as a public health nurse.

As a public health nurse, Margaret served a large geographic area extending from Wellington to North Cape. She knew every road, every house, and every family in the area. Those who worked with her, especially teachers, observed that she was able to call most children by their first name and she certainly knew to which family each belonged. Sometimes she was stationed in Summerside where she travelled to Bedeque, Kensington, and west to North Cape. It was a long day's work and a full week! Work included such tasks as prenatal and infant care, immunization programs, checking heads for lice, looking for rashes, and counselling all ages.

"Well, the Doctor and I would start out at about 8:30 a.m. with our materials already assembled - needles boiled and sharpened beforehand. We'd arrive at about 9 a.m. and set up our 'portable clinic' and wash our hands. The poor little kids would be scared to death, all lined up, nervously waiting for their turn." Margaret and the Doctor would give the kids their shots, then move on to the next school.

Also, as a health nurse, Margaret was a liaison person between the hospital and the community - a role she appeared to enjoy.

About her first office in O'Leary, Margaret explained, "Well, my complete office was two rooms - the main office and another room. There was an old coal furnace which had to be stoked even on week-

ends or else the pipes would freeze. Also, the local post office was housed in the front of the same building - my office was in the back. The facilities didn't bother me. I loved my job and I was doing what I wanted to do." Later on the public health offices were provided in the new addition to Community Hospital.

In addition to her office work, Margaret spent many hours on the road. She joked about her driving skills, explaining that she couldn't back up for about two years after getting her license. She noted in passing that the reason why so many people knew her was because they were always pulling her out of the ditch!

In 1951 Margaret met Cliff Ellis who was a local insurance agent. Five years later, in June, 1956, she and Clifford were married in the Brae. The wedding was very private - the only person who knew about it was her mother.

Cliff and Margaret both shared an interest in horses and racing. He owned race horses and on weekends and holidays they were off to the races. She had quite a flair for picking the winning horse. At one time Margaret owned her own race horse called Marion E. - a winner in every race in which she was entered!

Although they had no children, their nieces and nephews, for the most part, took the place of having a family of their own. They frequently spent Christmas together and were very close. Margaret enjoyed all children and in return they all loved her.

Margaret helped many families in this part of the Island. One was that of Frankie Stewart. When the children's mother died, Margaret, a close relative and friend of the family, became sort of a godmother to them.

Margaret contributed to the community in many ways. The most outstanding of these was her pioneering work with the mental retardation in West Prince. Another high point of Margaret's career involved her work with children who had maple sugar disease (MSVD) and hyperglycemia. Margaret provided the liaison between the Atlantic Research Centre and these families. Also, Margaret worked with numerous organizations and committees such as Canadian Heart Foundation, CWL, United Way, Canadian Association for the Mentally Handicapped, Cancer Society, West Prince Arts Council and many others.

During Centennial year, 1973, Margaret knit 100 pairs of mitts, For the Potato Blossom Festival parade she displayed these on an alder bush and sat knitting in her rocking chair. Later, the mitts were given to needy families.

On January 7, 1979, Margaret retired from public health nursing

in order to look after her mother who was ill. During her brief retirement she enjoyed such things as skiing, curling, crocheting, bridge, horse racing, and home cooking.

Unfortunately, she began to experience poor health and died March 8, 1986. Her husband, Cliff, had predeceased her.

Perhaps Margaret's life is best conceptualized in the words by Jean Dewar, her neighbour - also a nurse, "Margaret had a really great sense of humour. She was full of life and could keep you entertained. She was also very compassionate and dedicated to her job."

HAROLD JELLEY - MERCHANT

Harold Jelley, son of John Jelley and Margaret Harris, was born in O'Leary in 1906 and died in 1982. He attended the two-room school in the village - received no formal business education; but, at the age of seventeen, armed with little more than determination and a keen mind, he began his career as an entrepreneur - an enterprise that spanned almost the next fifty years of his lifetime.



Harold Jelley

Harold's first job was "newsy" on the train. He travelled up and down the aisles selling sandwiches, chocolate bars, gum, and soft drinks. In 1923, he was hired on the train that travelled six days a week from Tignish to Summerside.

For the next two years, Harold worked in the grocery department of William Kennedy's store. While there he learned many valuable skills needed for survival in the business world. During this "short" length of time he managed to save thirty-four hundred dollars (\$3400.); in partnership with George Palmer and William Boulter he then rented a building from Garfield Ellis, Sr., and opened a general store. One year later Harold owned the business. He had a sloped section built onto the west end of the store where Winnie (Silliker) Jelley operated a hat and dress shop for a short time.

Surplus stock for the store was stored in a warehouse on the present site of Mrs. Walter Darrach's house. Dry goods and groceries were the mainstay of the merchandise. All items were ordered by telephone; all shipments received by train.

In 1926, Harold opened a "five and ten" and grocery store in the former egg-grading station approximately where Stedman's store stands today (1992). An egg-grading station was part of the early business. Alfred Dignan and Ray Noonan were the candlers.

During Depression years (1930's) Harold, like many other businessmen, used the barter system. He allowed customers to accumulate credit statements during summer months; in the fall they paid "in kind" - chiefly with cows, chickens, and clams, all of which were processed in his cannery behind the store. Ivan Webb was the original canner - later assisted by Ernest Johnson. In the early years of the business they used a hand sealer; eventually this was replaced by a power sealer run by a gasoline engine. About 1937, Ivan bought the business and moved the building to his front yard in Howlan. Soon after, he constructed a new building and continued canning for the general public for several years. Ernest Johnson moved to Charlottetown and later became one of the founders of Johnson's Meat Packers.

Harold next built a furniture store similar to the existing structure and adjoining it. In 1949 both stores burned. He then built one store over both foundations.

In 1964, Harold sold his business to Denzil MacNeill, a travelling salesman for Stedman's. Both signed a gentleman's agreement stating that Harold would not open a business in competition to Mr. MacNeill's for at least five years. Harold then rented one-half the store from Denzil and operated a furniture store there until the agreed time had expired.

From 1964 to 1970 Ray Jelley (Harold's son) managed a furniture business in St. Eleanors for his father. In 1968, Harold opened another furniture store in the village hall.

Ray had fond memories of his father's stores during days when many items such as kerosene, stove oil, vinegar, turpentine, and many others came in bulk barrels. Beans came in one hundred-pound bags, dates in twenty-five pound bags, and prunes in eighteen-pound boxes. All such items had to be weighed, measured, and/or packaged - a tedious and time consuming task.

Albert Noonan, accountant for Harold (1933-1953), was one of Harold's most valued employees. Some others were: Jean Pate (stenographer), Lottie Johnson, Thelma (MacNevin) Dumville, Annie (Carruthers) Harris, Ruth (Noonan) Saunders, Winfred Brooks, George Campbell, Sanford Phillips, Jr., Verna (Phillips) Vatcher, Jean (Kennedy) Stetson, Ray Noonan, Alfred Dignan, Elma Ellis, Dot (O'Brien) Jelley. Average weekly wage three dollars (\$3.00).

GEORGE MATTHEWS - LAWYER



Mr. and Mrs. George Matthews

George Matthews was born in Baltic, Prince Edward Island on April 10, 1881, the son of Hugh and Susan (Stewart) Matthews. He received his early education at Baltic Public School and at Prince of Wales College.

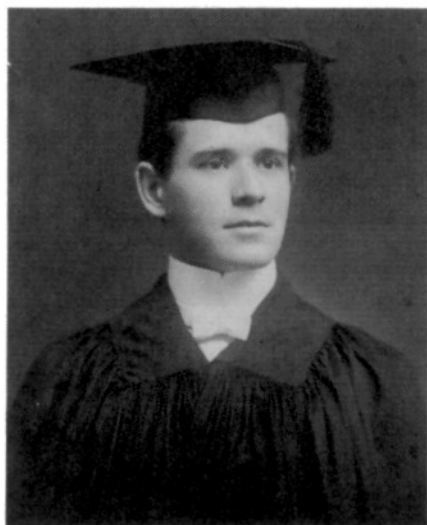
Mr. Matthews taught school for four years, then decided to work towards a degree in law. He entered the law office of Messrs. MacQuarrie and Arsenault in Summerside and was admitted to the bar in May 1909. The same year he opened a law office in O'Leary, first above A.J. Matheson's drugstore, later in a building on the present site of the Credit Union. When this building burned, he moved his office into his own home.

In 1913 he met and married Emma Carruthers, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alexander Carruthers, Howlan. They had five sons - Weldon, practising law in Halifax, Nova Scotia; Lloyd, a retired postmaster living in the old homestead; Fred and Gerald in Summerside; and Elmer in Kingston, Nova Scotia. All five sons served their country overseas during the Second World War; all returned home safely - an extraordinary family contribution!

In 1931 Mr. Matthews was appointed a Prince County judge. Four years later he resigned that position to devote the remainder of his working years to practising law. George Matthews was a highly respected citizen who helped many people in need and contributed much to his community.

Mr. Matthews died in 1951; his widow lived to become one of O'Leary's oldest residents. She was a resident of Maplewood Manor in Alberton where she died in November 1990, at the age of 102 years.

DR. A.S. PALMER - DENTIST



A.S. Palmer

Dr. A.S. Palmer was originally from Freeland, the son of William and Barbara Palmer. He graduated from the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery in 1916. However, he practised dentistry in the area before that. In 1906, he taught school in Coleman and possibly in Inverness and Freeland. It was in Coleman in 1906 that he met his wife Alveretta Hart, the daughter of Strang and Mary Jane (Wood) Hart who built and operated what is now the Wallace store in Coleman.

In 1914 he moved to O'Leary where he set up practice over Matheson's Drug Store. At that time he built his house which is presently owned by Stanley and Adrienne (granddaughter) MacDonald. In 1918, he built an addition to his house to use as office space. He was, at this time, the only dentist in the area and worked six days a week - five in the village and Saturdays in Tyne Valley. He often did emergency work on Sundays if the need arose.

In those days his dental fees were only \$0.50 for an extraction, \$2.00 for a silver filling, and \$20.00 for a set of dentures including necessary extractions for a proper fitting. Dr. Palmer also did all his own lab work. He was very active in the affairs of the village and participated in several projects including the building of sidewalks and the Public Hall. Dr. Palmer had a sizeable fox farm behind his house; however, Dr. Palmer's main occupation was dentistry and he practised in O'Leary until the time of his death in 1943 at the age of sixty-five.

PETER N. PATE

P.N. Pate was born in Nova Scotia on July 9, 1875. When a young man, he moved to West River, P.E.I., where he operated a general store and a shipping business between West River and Nova Scotia buying and selling produce. In 1888, he moved to O'Leary and became a driving force behind the settlement and establishment of the village. Upon arrival, he immediately began constructing buildings to house his many businesses - a general store, cannery, machine shop and a cooper shop. Shortly after all these had been established a fire destroyed everything. At this time there was no insurance; he had to start over from scratch. He built a general store which is now Stanley MacDonald's drug store and a building which he sold to Alfred Adams and is now Murphy's store. The first bank in O'Leary, a branch of the Bank of New Brunswick, rented space in the front part of the building.



Left to right back row Florence, Peter, Dot, front row Mr. and Mrs. P.N. Pate.

Mr. Pate was a very influential man. He served as justice of the peace, magistrate and village coroner for many years. His courtroom was located on the east side of what is now the Guardian Drug Store. He was an agent for the International Harvester Company. It was P.N. Pate's influence that was directly responsible for bringing Dr. MacLaughlin, his brother-in-law, to O'Leary.

In 1893, he was elected secretary for the Prince County Liberal Party; in 1899, he was elected president.

He married Miss Margaret MacLaughlin and had four children: Peter (who was a lawyer), John (who owned a meat market next door), Florence (who married William Kennedy), and Annie (Dot—who was Mrs. Charles Dennis).

P.N. Pate had many other interests including a fox ranch, an orchard, and a garden; he became unable to give adequate attention to the store. In 1918, his daughter, Florence, got involved in the management of the business and after her father's death, February 5, 1926, she took it over completely. Mr. Pate's grandson, Marne Kennedy, became owner and manager of the store in 1945. In 1968, Marne sold the building to Stanley MacDonald, a local druggist.

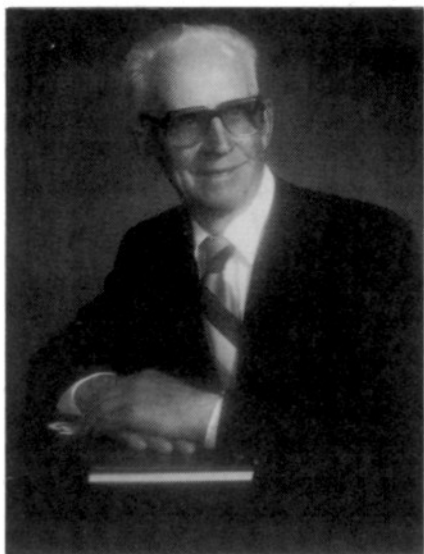
ALTON RAYNER

Alton Winfield Rayner was born in Cascumpeque on December 31, 1903. His parents were Sarah Ann (Webb) and Robert H. Rayner. He was educated in Cascumpeque and at the Truro Agricultural College.

Prior to his marriage in 1928 to a teacher, Margaret Laura Gordon, Alton assisted with the family farm. In 1927, he started employment with the Department of Agriculture as seed potato inspector. His district included communities from MacNeill's Mills to Tignish. He also travelled to other areas in the province as needed. In 1929 Alton and Laura moved into their new home on their own mixed farm. They also raised foxes for a number of years.

In 1948, they sold their farm and moved into O'Leary, where in 1959, Alton was appointed inspector in charge of the Field Inspection Office. It was during this time as inspector that Alton recognized and named the potato disease "Little Leaf". Alton was instrumental in developing the Elite Seed Potato Farm on Fox Island - a farm near Alberton owned and operated by the P.E.I. Potato Marketing Board. After retiring from federal service, he became the farm's first manager in 1969, a position he held until 1978. For his efforts in making the farm a reality, Alton received an award from the Prince County Exhibition Association.

While employed at the Elite Seed Farm, each year Alton organized and worked at the Prince Edward Island booth at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto. He helped farmers with their potato exhibits for the competition, enabling many awards to come to P.E.I. In 1975, Alton was chosen to judge the potato exhibits at the Royal. In the 1970's, Alton was a member of a special delegation that travelled to the Caribbean and South America with the premier to help expand seed markets for P.E.I. potatoes.



Alton Rayner

When Alton and Laura moved to O'Leary, they lost no time in showing their willingness and desire to work for the benefit of their new community. Alton was appointed first chairman of the Village Commission in 1951 when O'Leary was incorporated, an office he held for six years. Alton also served on the first board of Community Hospital while Laura worked many years in its Ladies Auxiliary. Alton was a founding member of the O'Leary Farmers' Co-operative and on the first board for the O'Leary Library Museum Association Ltd.

Two of their primary interests were youth and church. This interest was demonstrated by Alton's involvement with the Community Rink, helping to establish the O'Leary Figure Skating Club - one of the first on the Island, serving as trustee for the O'Leary Regional

High School, and holding office as president of the Recreation Commission for many years. Laura assisted Alton with the administration of the rink canteen - enabling it to show a significant profit each year. As members of their church, Alton worked on the vestry and was treasurer for many years while Laura attended A.C.W. and taught Sunday School.

In his leisure time, Alton enjoyed growing many varieties of dahlias and trees. He planted a demonstration potato plot for the benefit of anyone interested in different potato varieties and diseases. He enjoyed oyster and lobster fishing as well as ice skating.

Laura died in July, 1988. Alton continued to enjoy living at home for a time and then moved into the Lady Slipper Villa where he participates in their social activities and enjoys a good game of crokinole.

Alton and Laura have one daughter, Anna, R.N. (Mrs. John Buchanan) and two grandchildren, Jacquelyn and Jonathon.

HELEN SMALLMAN

Helen Smallman, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Neil Boulter, was born in Glenwood, Prince Edward Island, March 21, 1920. At the age of nineteen she married Edison Smith who was killed in action during World War II. She continued to live with his parents until 1953 when she married Milton Smallman.

Helen was an extremely talented and creative person with a diversity of interests. She was author and director of the Centennial pageant, "The Turn of the Wheel", which was presented at Confederation Centre and many other Island centres during 1973.

Helen crocheted unique wall hangings which she called "her lyrics". Using original designs she incorporated different themes such as highlights of an individual's life, community development, or social issues into her masterpieces. Attached to each wall hanging was a "lyric poem" which interpreted what each stitch and pattern symbolized. One of Helen's "lyrics" was presented to Prime Minister Trudeau - a Centennial gift from the people of Prince Edward Island.

Helen was skilled in woodturning, weaving, making pottery, and the culinary art. She was a part-time dressmaker, a member of the Women's Institute, Windmill Craft, and the Craftsmen's Council of Prince Edward Island. She was an active member of O'Leary Baptist Church - a life member of the Women's Missionary Society, a Sunday School teacher, and a C.G.I.T. leader for a number of years.



Helen Smallman

Helen's accomplishments did not go unnoticed. In 1967, she was chosen Mrs. Chatelaine for Prince Edward Island.

From her first marriage, Helen had two children - Douglas and Harriet (Jenereaux). Two sons were born of her second marriage to Milton Smallman (Sr.) - Peardon in Summerside, and Randy who now resides in Edmonton, Alberta.

Helen died October 14, 1974, at the age of fifty-four years.

ALICE MAUDE TURNER

Rarely has there been such an individual who has devoted her life to the care of the sick and dying. Alice Maude Rayner, later Mrs William Turner, had studied nursing in Boston at the turn of the century. She returned to her native P.E.I. and practised as a mid-wife and ran a nursing home for 50 years, until a hospital was built in O'Leary in 1957.

Alice Maude was born in Knutsford on December 1, 1884. She was the daughter of Joseph Rayner and his wife Jane Ann Miller - one of a family of twelve children. At an early age she manifested an interest in a nursing career. After attending the local school in Knutsford, she went to Boston, as many Islanders did in those days, and entered the Taunton Hospital Co. Training School for nurses at the Morton Hospital from which she graduated in 1904.

She also did post graduate work at the Boston Lying-in Hospital where she passed, with credit, the graduate examination in midwifery in 1906. She then returned to O'Leary to decide on her life's career. This was determined by her marriage to William Turner, a partner in Turner's Ltd. She was married on September 1, 1908, in the Presbyterian Church by Rev. Ewen MacDonald, the future husband of Lucy Maud Montgomery. She then did private nursing for Dr. MacEwen and Dr. McGrath in many of the homes in the O'Leary area.



Alice Maude Turner and granddaughter, Lana.

After some years she decided to use her home for nursing care and many patients, especially of an obstetrical nature, were cared for by her. From her training, she was a qualified midwife and very capable nurse. When Mrs. Turner said the patient was ready for delivery, the physician knew not to take much time getting there or else he would miss the event.

When the space in her home became limited with the arrival of five sons - Edwin, Wendall, Kenneth, William and Allison, she obtained a small cottage and moved it into the backyard behind her home. This contained a delivery room and three bedrooms, and was used until the hospital was built in 1957, at which time it was sold to Kenneth Smallman.

Mrs. Turner was a capable and courageous nurse, and participated in the birth of many of the citizens of the O'Leary area. (It is said that she assisted in helping to deliver 2500 babies.) She enjoyed being very busy, and did the nursing and business management herself for many years. When her husband died on April 22, 1941, she assumed the added responsibility of bringing up, educating and molding the character of her sons.

Because of her strong interest in medicine, she was overjoyed when her son William returned from the war and decided to study medicine. William graduated from Dalhousie Medical School in 1952 and his mother obviously regretted that he did not return to carry on medical services in O'Leary as she had done for many years. Dr. Bill, however, practised in Salisbury, N.B., for a number of years and then took post graduate work in cardiology and returned as a cardiologist at the Moncton City Hospital in 1968. His knowledge and capability in this field of work was fully recognized. On May 14, 1972, his career came to an abrupt end when he and his eleven year old daughter, Sally, were killed in a tragic car accident near their home. It was with great shock and a deep sense of loss that people learned of this tragedy.

Alice Maude Turner was active in her community and church. She held office of Elder in the United Church and her services were fittingly commemorated by a large stained glass window in the nave of the sanctuary and honorary mention in the archives in Ottawa. Perhaps her greatest memorial is in the hearts of the many people who were the recipients of great kindness and dedicated service. When the new hospital was proposed in O'Leary, she was an enthusiastic supporter and one of its first trustees. She died on March 13, 1963, and is buried in the family plot in the Bloomfield cemetery. Her motto was indeed, "Laborare Est Arare."

Chapter 12

Flashbacks

The following flashbacks are taken directly from the newspapers of the time - "The Journal" and "The Pioneer". The vernacular used is of the time period indicated.

June 20, 1883

Forbes & Ellis, O'Leary. New store. For cash only. A careful inspection cannot fail to convince purchaser that they are the best and cheapest goods ever offered in the Province.

May 18, 1886

O'Leary Station, Spring opening, Dry Goods, call and compare prices. Robert Ellis, Jr.

July 7, 1886

Grand Orange Tea, by Campbell Lodge will be held at O'Leary Station, on Wednesday, July 7, 1886 (trains come in) Benjamin Campbell and W. Ellis. (Committee)

April 6, 1898

The speeches of the Liberal gentlemen who aired their eloquence at the convention in O'Leary, on Saturday, March 24, are masterpieces in their own way and much more remarkable for what they left unsaid, than for what they contained. No reference, not even the faintest was made about the Yukon deal, the Drummond deal, nor the passing of free trade or reciprocity.

April 28, 1906

PERTAINING TO ELLIS' PHARMACY, O'LEARY

Ellis, O'Leary, tests eyes free. Ellis' Sarsaparilla is the best spring tonic of all skin and blood medicine.

May 19, 1906

O'Leary as a thriving village is fast adopting the rules of sister towns. For this summer the merchants have decided and agreed to close their stores at 6 o'clock p.m., from June 16th, to September 15th, Wednesdays and Saturdays excepted. This will allow the clerks a few hours of recreation.

Mr. Neil MacDonald has united the O'Leary Factory and intends opening up early in June. Further particulars will appear in the next Farmer.

May 28, 1906

The O'Leary District Sunday School Association will hold a convention in the Knutsford Methodist Church, on June 7th and 8th. All pastors, officers, and teachers are members of the convention. Each school is expected to send two delegates or a written report for their school.

June 2, 1906

Dr. A.S. Palmer, dentist, will be at O'Leary, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of each week, beginning June 8th and 9th. Prepared to do all kinds of dental work.

Our Kodack goods will be here in a few days. Wait and see them before purchasing. Wm. Kennedy

June 9, 1906

Dr. J.A. McMurdo, of the firm Leard and McMurdo, dentists, will be at O'Leary, Tuesday and Wednesday, June 12th and June 13th.

June 16, 1906

Place your order early for London Wire Fencing, just arrived at J.D. Kennedy & Co. store, O'Leary.

WOOD WANTED - Farmers bring your wood to O'Leary, we are paying 30¢ per pound cash, for good clean dry wood. H.W. Turner.

June 23, 1906

Joseph J. Arsenault of Tignish, and P.N. Pate of O'Leary have recently been appointed coroners for Prince County.

The annual meeting of the Liberal Association of West Prince will be held in the O'Leary Public Hall, on Friday, 29th June, at 2 p.m. All polls in the jurisdiction please send their delegates. On the occasion of the late spring, the executive decided to hold it a little later than formerly. P.N. Pate, President, W.H. Dennis, Secretary.

July 7, 1906

O'Leary is still improving, the church grounds are being fixed up, and the fencing in good order. James MacAulay is building quite a large addition to his house. The approach to the Post Office has been nicely graded. This makes a usually convenient place, much more satisfactory to the public.

April 20, 1907

The O'Leary and Knutsford Methodist people held a very pleasing and successful entertainment in the O'Leary Hall on Wednesday evening last. The hall was crowded and the programme excellent. Mr. H.W. Turner in his usual pleasing manner acted in the capacity of chairman, and Mr. W. Dennis auctioned off the baskets. The proceeds amounted to about \$70.00.

April 27, 1907

The new store of Robert Ellis, Jr., O'Leary Station, is progressing rapidly. The main store is finished throughout in good style. To the right of the store is a large millinery department which occupies a portion of the wing and at the rear of the millinery room is a large well equipped ready-to-wear clothing department. To the left is the grocery department with all the latest and most improved conveniences. The office is in the rear of the building on the second floor and not only affords a full view of the store, but a splendid view of the main street, public buildings, and railway station. The carpet department is adjoining the office. Mr. Ellis will open up about the 10th of May and will place on his shelves one of the best assortments of dry goods, groceries, millinery, and ready-to-wear clothing that can be found in this county. The new store is a great credit to the builder and also a great improvement to the progressive town of O'Leary.

May 11, 1907

H.W. Turner's grand millinery opening will take place on Thursday, May 19th, and will be continued through the week.

In the McGill prize list in science for the past year, the names Melbourne Dennis, O'Leary, second year, first (Scott's) prize \$25.00, in first year Clinton Dennis, O'Leary, second (Fleetwood) prize \$8.00.

May 18, 1907

Mr. J.A.G. Ellis has purchased the drug store of Mr. J.W. Carruthers, Montague. He will also open a branch store at O'Leary Station about the first of June.

June 8, 1907

The O'Leary Dairying Company will commence operations on the 17th of June. Patrons requiring milk cans will please leave their order for some with the secretary as soon as possible.

December 18, 1909

Besides our own make of sleighs, we have a large supply of imported ones, made to our order in one of the best Canadian factories, and if you give us a call or drop us a line, we can suit you. W. Dennis, O'Leary.

January 1, 1910

Another instance of what can be done by intensive cultivation comes from Knutsford, near O'Leary, where last autumn George Yeo, a prominent farmer of that place, realized \$73.15 off a piece of land measuring 100 ft. by 80 ft. The whole plot was planted with cabbage, which was disposed of at O'Leary and vicinity.

January 8, 1910

Will the citizens of O'Leary, Unionvale, and Knutsford, please attend a public meeting at O'Leary Hall, Monday evening, January 10th, at 7:00 o'clock.

January 8, 1910

I wish to thank the people of Unionvale and O'Leary, who so kindly gave assistance during the recent illness and death of my daughter, Mrs. Howard Ramsay. James R. Stewart, O'Leary.

January 15, 1910

The general annual meeting of Bloomfield, O'Leary, Brae and West Point Presbyterian congregation will be held in O'Leary Church, on Thursday 20, at 2:00 o'clock p.m. As business of importance including a ministerial call to be dealt with, a full attendance from all sections is necessary. If day is stormy, meeting will be held on Tuesday following.

February 5, 1910

Remember concert and dance in the O'Leary Hall, February 7th. The Hall Company has prepared an excellent entertainment for Monday. The biggest time of the season is expected for that night.

March 26, 1910

The people of Glenwood, O'Leary Road, Springfield, and Cape Wolfe intend to have a public meeting in the Springfield, Lot 8, Institute Hall, on Tuesday, March 29th at 2:00 o'clock p.m. for the purpose of discussing the telephone question with a view to acquiring the O'Leary-Maddock line and extending it to Glenwood and Cape

Wolfe and operating the whole as a local rural service. Mr. Grant, the manager of the Telephone Co., will be present to discuss the matter with the people and make a proposition to them. Our local representatives are requested to be present if possible.

March 26, 1910

J.E. Dalton of this town has bought out the drug store and business of J.W. Carruthers, O'Leary, and left a day or two ago to take charge. Mr. Dalton is an experienced druggist, having had fifteen years experience, most of it in Ormand's Drug Store, Amherst, and the last three years with A.W.P. Gourlie, Summerside. About three years ago he passed with honours the Provincial Pharmaceutical Society's examinations. During his residence in Summerside, Mr. Dalton made a great many friends who will wish him well in his new venture.

April 9, 1910

A large and beautiful coloured butterfly, the first of its kind this season, kindly forwarded by Mrs. A.A. MacNeill, O'Leary, came to us by mail on Tuesday last, notwithstanding its cramped quarters and the somewhat irregular mails the little harbinger of spring arrived in good condition. It is now feeding among the flowers in Summerside gardens. A suggestion accompanying it, that it be forwarded to the steamers to let them know that summer has come, and was not acted upon as steamer, and butterfly arrived simultaneously.

April 16, 1910

The new residence of Mr. H.W. Turner, O'Leary, was the scene of the most auspicious and pleasant event on Wednesday evening, April 16th. About one hundred guests assembled to bid farewell to Messrs. Wm. McFarlane, Thos. L. and Harry L. Turner, before their departure for the golden west. The many and spacious rooms were brilliantly lighted and the guests were entertained nobly. The toasts were many and appropriate and were ably responded to. The toast master was John Jelley. The toasts were as follows: "The King", by singing, God Save The King; "Canada", George M. Matthews; "Our Navy", W.H. Dennis; "The Clergy", C.S. Young; "Eastern Advantages", A.J. Matheson, A.A. Adams; "Our Industries", P.N. Evans; "Trade and Commerce", R. Ellis, Jr., R.E. Fielding; "The Ladies", Fulton Ellis, Percy Turner; "Our Departing Friends", Messrs. Wm. McFarlane, Thos. L. and Harry L. Turner. The speeches were interspersed by the ladies singing pieces appropriate for the toast. The banquet closed by singing "Auld Lang Syne".

May 14, 1910

Remember, H.W. Turner's Millinery opening Saturday, May 14th. This will be the ladies day at O'Leary. The display is up to date in every particular.

June 17, 1911

Wanted in O'Leary, ten or twelve women to bake for Orange Lodge Tea. Liberal wages. Also, to hire from one to six good cook stoves, wood or coal. Apply to manager, W.H. Dennis.

August 5, 1911

All kinds Deering and McCormicks extras, International engine repairs, Corn King, and Clover Leaf, Manure spreader, extras can be held at H.W. Turner's, O'Leary.

April 26, 1913

The O'Leary Dramatic Club will present "Little Buckshot" in Alberton Hall, on Friday evening May 2nd. Special train arrangements at reduced fare have been made for the occasion. A special train will run from Tignish, returning after the play. From O'Leary parties may go by regular afternoon train and return by special train after the play.

May 3, 1913

Mr. P.N. Pate who took the place made vacant in the customs office at Summerside by the death of Charles Murphy two years ago, resigned the position on Wednesday. Before returning to his home at O'Leary, he was presented with an address, and a handsome fountain pen by his associates in the department, where his courtesy and ability have won him a host of friends.

June 7, 1913

Mr. D. Robert, Provincial Manager of the International Harvester Co., shortly after getting off the train at O'Leary, last Tuesday night suffered a stroke of paralysis. His wife was telegraphed for and she arrived from St. John, N.B., on Thursday evening. We regret to learn this (Friday) morning, that Mr. Robert now lies in a critical condition at the Willow Hotel, O'Leary.

September 27, 1913

Mr. A.J. O'Halloran, for many years, station agent at O'Leary, will move shortly to Bloomfield, which is his old home, to take charge of the station there.

October 4, 1913

The building is to be undertaken shortly of a new railway station at O'Leary. The new station will be erected close to the site of the existing station. It will be the same design as Kensington, but whereas the latter is built of stone, the new O'Leary station will be constructed of wood. There will be commodious waiting rooms for both ladies and gentlemen, a large luggage room, and a well appointed ticket office. The present station will be utilized as a freight house. The walls of the ticket office will be taken away, and the place turned into a large freight store. The contract of the new station has been awarded to Messrs. Kennedy & Co., of O'Leary.

October 4, 1913

We, the undersigned businessmen of O'Leary, have agreed to close our stores and all other places of business at 6:00 o'clock p.m., on every day of the week, excepting Wednesdays and Saturdays from October 1st, 1913, until December 18th, of the same year. Further, we have agreed to close said stores every night except Saturdays at 6:00 p.m., from the twenty-fifth day of December 1913, until May 1st, 1914. Customers and friends will please take notice that this goes into effect immediately. Signed at O'Leary, H.W. Turner, M.A. Pate, A.J. Matheson, Alfred Adams, Kennedy & Co., Urban Hynes, Robert Ellis, Jr., and L.E. MacAulay.

February 14, 1914

Fox Exchange: - Are you interested in the fox business? The equitable Maritime Black Fox Co. Ltd. is admitted to be the best proposition on the market. Their ranch at O'Leary is one of the best equipped on the Island. Their silver black foxes are the best procurable. A small block of stock still for sale. For further particulars apply to G.M. Matthews, President, O'Leary.

February 14, 1914

The annual meeting of the O'Leary Dairying Association will be held on Tuesday the 17th. The shareholders are asked to be present in a body at this meeting to discuss the matter of taking over the factory and running it as a company. As they know this factory was run for some years without paying a dividend, but this year 6 percent was paid and as the concern is now out of debt it ought to be able to pay dividends yearly from now on. It is situated in one of the best dairying districts in the province and yet has not had enough patrons sufficiently interested to make it a paying proposition. The attendance

at this annual meeting of those shareholders who are not patrons of the factory as specially requested as an endeavour, will be made to decide quite definitely whether to continue the factory or shut it down indefinitely.

June 6, 1914

Master Chapman Jelley, the 14 year old son of Mr. James Jelley, of O'Leary, had a miraculous escape from sudden death last Monday afternoon. He was harrowing on his father's farm in the bright sunshine, at the time when a heavy thunderstorm was passing some miles to the southward. All at once he was struck down by a bolt from the blue. His father, who was near the barn, when the flash came, looked to where his son was at work, but he could see neither the lad nor the team, all being enveloped in a dense cloud of smoke and dust. When this cleared, he saw that his son and the horses were lying on the ground, and ran to the rescue. Both the horses were dead in their tracks, but the lad was fortunately only stunned, and came around in a few minutes. His only injuries were to one leg which was severely burnt. The lightning had torn two large holes in the ground about six feet apart and where the boy lay, when his father rescued him, was just midway between these two holes. The field is only about one mile distant from the spot where last year Mr. Johnathon Adams was instantly killed by lightning while standing in the doorway of his farm.

July 5, 1917

Don't forget to reserve Wednesday, July 16, for the big "Tea" at O'Leary.

"SIDEWALKS"

April 13, 1920. A village meeting was called to discuss the laying of a sidewalk.

Meeting called after due notice. Mr. Robert Ellis in the chair, A.S. Palmer as Secretary, Robert Ellis, George Matthews, and A.S. Palmer tendered their resignation which was accepted. A new committee was appointed:

Dr. Champion, George Sheen, Wm. Bernard, Jack Pate, James MacWilliams, and A.J. Matheson.

There was a discussion as regards the raising of money for building a sidewalk purposes also as regards where the sidewalk should be placed. The consensus of opinion being 2/3 west to 1/3 east of railway tracks, also that the old plank should be placed equally at each end.

It was moved and second that a committee be appointed to act as a peace and order committee, carried.

The committee was in power to take up the passing of an act similar to other villages. The following committee was appointed: P.N. Pate, George Matthews, John Noonan, Robert Carruthers, Dr. Champion, A.J. Mattheson, and James MacWilliams.

The above minutes were adopted. Moved and second we adjourn.

March 18, 1925

Mr. Claude Clow, Harness Maker of O'Leary, spent Friday and Saturday in Kensington.

March 18, 1925

The snow storm on Saturday materially helped the roads which were becoming very bare in spots. The continuation of this is just what the mud haulers want, as the ice still remains favourable for the serving of mud. This has been the best season for four or five years.

March 18, 1925

The Women's Institute of O'Leary held a very successful bean supper on Wednesday evening. The sum of \$33.00 was realized and will be donated to the improvements of the sidewalks.

April 30, 1930

On Saturday night, April 30, 1930, about 10:20 p.m., residents of O'Leary were startled by a sudden, severe shaking of their houses. The alarm lasted about a minute and a half; it was thought to be an earthquake in some less fortunate parts of the globe. Some reported dishes shaken from shelves and windows broken while poultry in their houses were shaken off their roosts.

February 24, 1937

On February 24, 1937, Sergeant Major Ira Ellis, Great War Veteran, (W.W. I) received word that he is one of those listed to represent the Island at the Coronation of George VI on May 12th.



I.W. Ellis Certificate

1956 Flashback

In 1956, an 8000 cu. ft. gravity disposal system was started and completed in 1957 at a cost of \$40,000.

EXCERPT FROM THE PATRIOT SEPT. 21, 1889

"FOREST FIRES"

Great damage to property West of Port Hill

For some time past forest fires - many of which have been started for the purpose of clearing land - have been more or less prevalent in that portion of Western Prince County lying between Port Hill and Alberton. No consequences of a serious nature were anticipated from those fires and people generally paid little attention to them; however, the high wind of yesterday fanned the flames; and, in an incredibly short time, all that stretch of county between Conway Station and Alberton was a mass of flames. The fire spread with great rapidity, licking up almost everything in its path. The roaring of the fire and the speed in which it spread were terrifying. Everything possible was done to stay the progress of the flames without success. The fire fiend was master of the situation.

At O'Leary, Barclay's Mills were burnt down. The dwelling house of Mr. White, the post office and dwelling of Postmaster Frost and

several unoccupied buildings met with a similar fate. It was only by the greatest exertions that the railway station house and coal shed were saved. Clay was shovelled upon the fire to prevent its spreading in that direction.

It is feared that an Indian woman and her child encamped a short distance behind the station in O'Leary were burnt to death. Rumours of other persons being burnt are also afloat, but lack confirmation. Let us hope that the rumours may prove groundless. Between O'Leary and West Devon the fires were burning so close to the railway track, that the express train, in charge of Conductor Kelly, had to be stopped several times to examine the track before proceeding.

The following is an account of some of the major fires which took place in O'Leary during the years 1906 and 1907 taken from "The Pioneer" April 27, 1907:

O'Leary has suffered considerably from fire during the last year. The building burnt last fall belonged to Robert Ellis, Jr., and was occupied by J.D. Kennedy & Co.; the one burned Sunday night belonged to Robert Ellis, Sr., Postmaster. The Post Office was in the rear of this building and Garfield Ellis' Drugstore occupied the front with living quarters above. This was one of the oldest buildings in O'Leary and was well finished, having been completely renovated last summer at a cost of over \$1,400.00. There was nothing saved from the drug store. While it was burning, Mr. Ellis, the Postmaster, rushed into his Post Office Department; and, at the risk of his own life, saved the mail matter but when he tried to re-enter, he found it impossible as the fire had broken through into the office. His personal losses were heavy. Mr. Ellis deserves much credit for the effort he made to save the public mail matter regardless of his own property. Dr. MacDougall is also a heavy loser for he had fifty volumes of the latest medical books in the building.



John Perry – the Fisherman, Anos Perry, Dominique Perry, James Engles – the painter, Phillip Evans – the harness maker.



Early Picnic - l to r: Dot Gorrill, Mrs. Tom Smallman, Tommy Smallman, Smallman girls, Donna Turner, May MacLennan, Perley MacNeill.

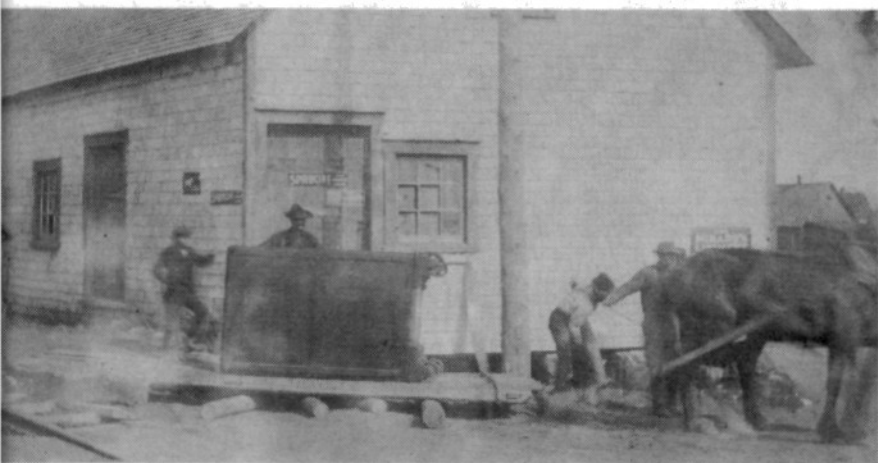


The drugstore on the left.

The three storey building was known as the "Big Hall" where all the high class entertainment took place before the public hall was built. This building was moved from Howlan, a thriving community in the early days. Haywood's had a lumber business and a grist mill. In fact according to Mrs. John Platts, who was a member of the Haywood family, there were five mills on the stream that meandered through Howlan. Of course, this was in the days before the hillsides were stripped of trees; thus, allowing a great deal of soil erosion to fill up the many springs bubbling along the dale. Later the building was moved near the potato warehouse. It was owned by Turners, used as a warehouse and ultimately destroyed by fire in the thirties. When the chimney fell, Lorne Silliker was hit on the head by a falling brick and was in critical condition for some time; however, he fully recovered and lives in O'Leary today.



West of the Railway Tracks around 1910.



Moving a safe on a "Sloven" and rollers.



(L to R) Pate's Store, Jack Pate's Meat Market, Turner's Store.



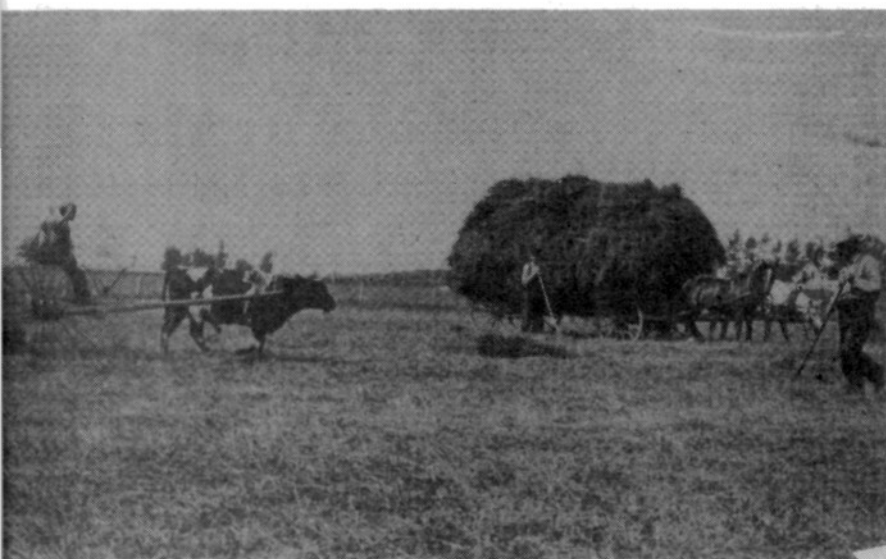
Residences on north side of Main Street circa 1913.



Cape Wolfe Picnic. Dorcy - banker (left) Lawrence MacWilliams.



Fire in O'Leary, J.A. Adams - 1911.



Bull Power Versus Horse Power

Horse power was the normal means of power for Island farmers just after the turn of the century, but Arthur Harris, (left) at the age of ten raised from a calf and trained a bull to do the work of a horse. Mr. Harris, shown here with his father, John Harris, (right) and his brother Avarad, (centre), used the bull for a variety of chores on his father's Knutsford farm including the reaking of hay. The photograph was taken in 1909.



Eva MacLennan - skipping along the plank sidewalk - Main Street, O'Leary circa 1910.



Lloyd Silliker, Cecil Smallman, Main St. - in front of Lorne Silliker's.



Jack Turner, Eddie MacLennan and Jack MacDonald circa 1905.



Art Harris trained the animal from a little calf. He rigged up the cart and this is one of his drives into O'Leary. Seated in cart Art Harris (left) and Guy Harris (right). Others are Alfred Moreshed (with hat), Carrie Mae Griffin, Percy Turner at head of animal.

Roving Reporter Visits O'Leary

Today as I travelled about Prince County, my work took me to O'Leary which is one of the busiest centres in the country.

Before arriving at O'Leary I stopped at Paugh's Service Station and there found the proprietor, Urban Paugh, busy working on a car. Inside I saw Jim Paugh repairing the generator on Helen Paugh's car before starting to West Devon where she is employed as school teacher there. Looking on was Jacob MacNaught and at that time Frank Bryan drove up in his truck for gas accompanied by his dad, Hugh Bryan. Following close behind was John Arsenault and his good wife who were riding in his new car purchased from Dr. Fraser in Alberton. They were on their way to the Egmont Bay Exhibition.

I then moved on to O'Leary where as usual was the scene of much activity in spite of the fact that the weather was very unpleasant.

My first stop there was at the new service station operated by Stanley and Albert Dumville. Stan was busily working on Ken Turner's truck while Albert was repairing a defect in Robert Oulton's car. George MacIsaac had Ray Jelly's car up on the hoist and was busy greasing. Ray, by the way, is home from Toronto visiting his mother.

Stormy Argument

From there I had to call at the meat market which is owned and operated by Jack Pate. There I found an argument in progress regarding the storm which was reported. Jack was giving his version while Mr. MacGregor was ably defending his views. Swabey Jelley didn't have very much to say while Roland Turner, a driver with the S.M.T., was just looking on. On leaving there I went across the street which was partly blocked by the new Post Office which had just arrived from Mount Pleasant airport, being hauled there by two trucks driven by Amby Boyles and Ken Turner.

I looked on for a few minutes and then went in to the drug store where I was served by Millicent Crozier as Eva MacLennan came out from the back room where Mr. Matheson was filling prescriptions. I then crossed the street again to the MacWilliams and Turner store. It was noon and I found Harry MacWilliam and an efficient clerk in Doris Leard serving their many customers while the remaining staff was off to lunch. Continuing up street, I stopped for a moment at the new Verdun bulletin board to see what was showing at the Verdun Theatre. The Verdun is one of the most up-to-date theatres in the province and is owned and operated by Milton Smallman and Son.

On crossing the track, I entered the Matthews barber shop and again found Mr. MacGregor, but this time he was sitting quite at ease while Mr. Matthews manouvered the razor. Cliff Ellis was sitting back by the stove looking over some of his new insurance books. The rain had prevented Jack Ellis from digging potatoes, and he was leisurely sitting back on a chair as Elmer Matthews entered with his lunch can tucked safely under his arm, it being too wet to work on the road. He must have been discouraged with the situation as he remarked that we would be better off back at the Arnhem airport delivering trucks to Czechoslovakia. I did not think much of that idea and as I put on my raincoat to leave, the men were discussing the flag pole which was having a hard battle with the strong wind the previous day. Going farther up street, I passed Claude Jelley's barber shop which was closed at the time.

I then went in to Claude MacNeill's store where I found Lewis Bernard opening a crate of bananas while Jean Stetson was waiting on Mrs. Palmer. Most of the customers were strangers to me; however, I did notice Allie MacNeill from West Cape and Ralph Adams.

Other Places Visited

Going farther up street I passed Ken Campbell's barber shop, Bertie Campbell's store, the Co-operative and Jelley's Department

Store. I went in to Jelley's egg grading station to chat with our good friend, Alfred Dignan, who was surrounded on all sides by eggs. He was grading a case of eggs for John Lecky. Farmers were bringing in their eggs and going off to buy their groceries. Alfred thought it must be great to be a farmer for he comes in and goes out with a slip of paper worth five dollars or more, but the producers couldn't see where farming was such a rosy life with groceries and feeds going sky high in price while his produce remained at the same low price. During the conversation several ladies including Mrs. Dan Saunders and Mrs. Harry MacWilliam came in for cracked eggs for baking.

As I was leaving we stood at the door for a few minutes talking prices of cars when Ed Turner came out from his place of business and was about to drive off when he was asked what he did with all the spare smoke. He insisted that the car he had recently purchased did not use oil as he had checked it after a trip.

\$ 5⁰⁰ Summerside, P.E.I. Dec 16th 1918

Received from Mrs John Pale

Five xx Dollars

for Dr. Tammam, for Anesthetic

Prince County Hospital

Am Ross

WILLIAMS & CRUE, PRINTERS, SUMMERSIDE

To The Prince County Hospital, Dr.

For board and nursing of Mrs John Pale in the Hospital

from 2 weeks 0 days

at \$ 7⁰⁰ per week

of Room Expenses

14	00
6	00
\$ 20	00

Summerside, P.E.I., Dec 16th 1918

Received Payment

Am Ross

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF ODD FELLOWS
Official Certificate

\$ 2.00 O'Leary, P. E. I., Apr. 9th 1919
 This Certifies that Bro. Geo. A. Bates
 WHOSE SIGNATURE APPEARS IN THE MARGIN HEREOF
 HAS PAID
 To VERDUN June 1st 1919 LODGE NO. 133 L.O.O.F.
 of O'Leary, P. E. I., Jurisdiction of Maritime Provinces,
 the sum of Two xx Dollars
 in full for all charges to July 1st. 1919
 EXCEPT ASSESSMENTS LEVIED AFTER THE DATE OF THIS CERTIFICATE
 To 291 Geo. A. Bates
 NOT IN FORCE AFTER DATE CANCELLED
 SECRETARY
 JAN. 1917 FEB. 1918 MAR. 1919 APRIL 1920 MAY 1921 JUNE 1922 JULY 1923 AUG. 1924 SEPT. 1925 OCT. 1926 NOV. 1927 DEC. 1928

SEAL


Signature of Holder

THE BOY SCOUTS ASSOCIATION

This is to Certify

that ROLAND B. TURNER
 OF THE
1st O'LEARY Troop
 has satisfactorily completed the Patrol Leader's Training Course.

Date February 1, 1939.

 R. H. Johnson
 District Commissioner
R. H. Johnson
 Leader in Charge

HELP FOR A SICK BABY

When I was three years old, a new sister arrived in our family. She was received by me with both pride and loathing because she

cried a lot, always seemed to be wearing a wet flannelette diaper, drank from a bottle with a big red nipple on it, and required a lot of attention that used to be mine. At three months of age she contacted whooping cough and was very ill. One morning after all the children had gone to school, my mother put a coat on me and told me to run next door to summon the doctor, as our neighbour had the only phone in the area. It was frosty that morning and as I ran across the green patch wearing my brother's new gum shoes, I remember looking at the white frost on the ground and the little sprigs of wheat etched into the rubber on the boot toes and realizing the boots were on the wrong feet.

I knocked on the kitchen door and eventually the woman of the house came and looked out of the high window in the door, but she could not see me, so she went back to her morning chores. I then went to her front door and rapped. She looked out of the high window in that door, and not seeing anyone again retreated. So I returned to the kitchen door and this time kicked it several times with the result that a white scratch appeared on one toe of the new gum shoes and I felt I would be punished for making a mark on them but did not know what else to do. Again she looked out the high window, but this time I called out, on the verge of tears. She finally opened the door and was able to deliver my message, adding "Mama said to give it importance."

The doctor and his nurse came and ministered to the baby which was so congested it could hardly breathe, but it seemed futile. She was blue and lifeless and eventually the doctor abandoned the fight to save her and went on his way to attend to his other patients. But the nurse remained, unable to give the baby up to its fate.

I remember her crouching in front of the oven, holding the baby inside to absorb the heat. What other ministrations she performed were beyond my understanding.

To everyone's relief the baby survived.

She is my younger sister Jean who just celebrated her 60th birthday (1992).

MRS. ELLIS' HOUSE BURNS

I started school when I was five years old. The school grades 1 to 4 were taught in the "Little Room." There was no indoor plumbing and the "back-house" was located at the back of the school yard.

On one of the first spring days I was returning from a visit, reluctant to go inside out of the sunshine, wandering through the school yard, looking at spring slowly taking shape around me. When I raised my eyes to watch a flock of birds flying overhead, my sight was drawn to

Mrs. Ellis' house across the street. It was a quaint house, with ginger bread around the eaves and a thatched roof. There was smoking rising from the roof and as I watched a tongue of flame leaped up.

I was prodded to instant action. Rushing inside I alerted the teacher who ran to the door and stopped a passer-by to summon the firemen. The house was saved with only a hole burned through the roof. Later that day her son came to the school looking for the little girl who had turned in the alarm. He shook my hand and thanked me for my quick response. I was highly embarrassed at being the heroine of the day, but proud of myself too. Since we all lived in wooden houses and dreaded fire, the natural thing to do was to alert someone who could do something about it. But Mrs. Ellis was very old and almost blind and the inference was that my quick thinking had probably saved her life.

GETTING RID of FRECKLES

I was a small child, smaller than the rest, with dark brown eyes, dark brown hair cut in a Dutch clip, and a darkish tinge to my white skin which spoke of a Mediterranean somewhere in our background, and freckles. I tried everything to get rid of these freckles, even going to the neighbour across the street with a small bottle to get some mare's milk from his old mare. Someone told me that was a cure. He laughed and went to the barn, coming back with the milk bottle which he handed me saying, "let me know if it works."

I smeared my face liberally with it and was letting it dry when Mom looked at me and said, "What's on your face?" When I told her she said, "Oh my stars, child", and scoured me with "Surprise" soap and water. Either it was not left on long enough or was not true mare's milk because it did not work and I am still "blessed" with freckles.

THE BROOK

North of the factory was a sparkling little brook. It had rushes and alders growing on the banks, and its water ran clear and cool.

There I picked many cow-slips and weeds to adorn our hone, fished for brook trout with little success, and lay on my stomach staring into its clearness, marvelling at the colored pebbles resting on its bottom, and the dappled pattern created as the water trickled over them.

It was a magical place. I spent many hours playing there and even drowned the family cat by putting her in a burlap sack and

dropping her off the bridge.

When I visited the brook recently it had lost its mystery and beauty for me. Its banks were overgrown and the water ran sluggishly chocked by years of effluent from the factory.

WINTER

We loved the winter. When the snow would drift into banks against the high spruce hedge that grew at the back of the neighbour's and our garden, it made wonderful slopes for coasting. "Crusty" snow after a sleet storm was the best. We could fly out the driveway, cross the road and down the field where no one had yet built a house. Windy days were the best. We would hold our coats over our head to make a sail and fly on our sleds before the wind. Walking back was a nuisance but the ride was worth it.

One of our chief winter pastimes was "hooking" rides on passing sleighs. This was before cars became so common and there were no snow plows to clear the snow from the roads and pile it into your driveway. We would jump on the side of the sleighs as they passed, standing on the runner and hanging on, and the faster the horses went the better we liked it. Most of the drivers did not mind, and some would even stop to let us get on. If you slipped and fell under the runner, a broken leg was often the result.

Jaunting sleighs were the most fun. They had a board along the side to which the runner was attached and it was very convenient to stand on. Also, when they went through the pitches and slews they seemed to do it with more gusto thereby enhancing the thrills.

The slow moving wood-sleighs were not as much fun, but it was nothing to see convoys of them returning from the river laden with smelly muscle mud dug from the river beds to be spread on the land for fertilizer.

Before snow plows became common the winter traffic took the way of least resistance through the snow banks that piled up, through fields and people's yards and across frozen bodies of water. Many good "rigs", as horse and sleigh were called, were lost when they broke through the ice and the horses drowned.

We loved the winter, and would ride the sleighs till our hands and feet were numb with the cold, even when we were forbidden to do so. Of course, if a kind-hearted driver stopped and offered you a ride, that was a different story and we made sure when we accounted for our late arrival home that they had all offered.

WORK IN THE POTATO FIELDS

The school for the higher grades was let out for a few weeks each spring and fall, so the children could help with the planting and harvesting of the potatoes, the crop so important to the economy of P.E.I.

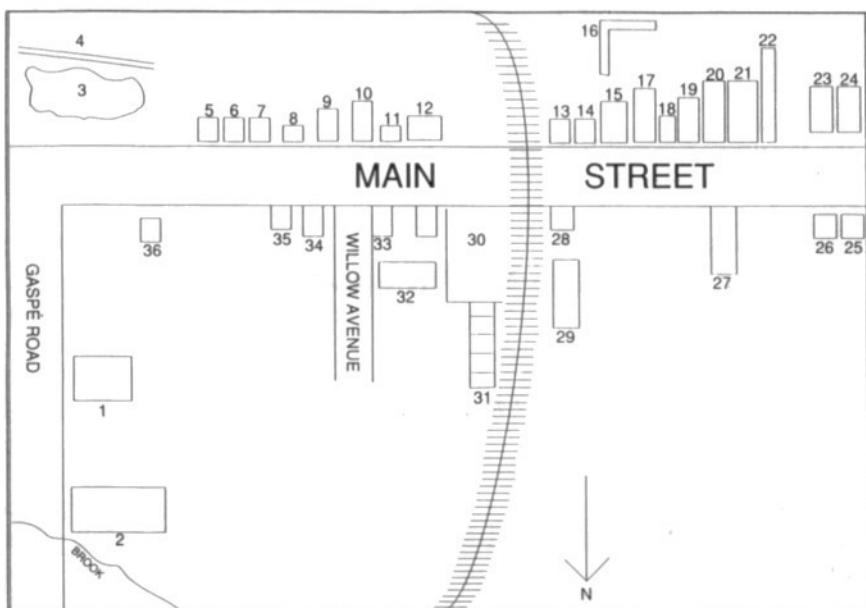
The pay was good but every penny was earned as the work was back-breaking. The planting was especially meticulous because the potatoes were sown for seed to be exported and had to be done by hand to eliminate all diseases. So we plodded up and down the rows all day, laden with our planting sacks full of potatoes, cutting and dropping our "sets" making sure each one had enough "eyes" to carry it, dropping diseased or misshapen ones between the rows to be horse hoed out later. This method of planting was called "Tuber Unit". The crop had to be perfect to pass inspection after harvest.

The harvesting was harder still because the potatoes were plowed out by the farmer and pickers came behind picking in half bushel baskets, and emptying into sacks placed at intervals along the rows. We were bent over double as we picked our baskets full. When emptying them it was often hard to straighten up. There was also a knack to emptying your basketful into the sack without spilling any and thereby having to pick them a second time.

The farmers' wives played their part by preparing delicious meals for the crews, and I will always associate ginger bread with whipped cream as one of their favourite desserts.

I earned enough money one spring to buy my first "store bought" coat and that fall enough to buy my first pair of ice skates that were not hand me downs, and bent out of shape by someone else's feet. But I never did become a good skater.

I also learned to smoke at this time, not that it took much effort to learn. I took to it like a duck to water. It was considered very daring and sophisticated by my age group. In years since I wished many times that I had never learned this cursed addictive, expensive habit. So easy to start and so hard to quit.



O'Leary as Remembered by E.M. Classon.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Home | 19. Birdie's store |
| 2. Factory | 20. First Co-op |
| 3. Big trees | 21. Hal's new store |
| 4. Chicken wire fence | 22. Frost & Wood John's machinery shed |
| 5. Tailor shop | 23. Community Hall |
| 6. Shoe repair | 24. The Little Room School |
| 7. Garage | 25. Doctor's house |
| 8. Jewellery shop | 26. Mrs. Ellis' house |
| 9. Old Post Office | 27. Garage |
| 10. Pate's Store | 28. Cenotaph |
| 11. Butcher shop | 29. C.N.R. station |
| 12. General Store of MacWilliams & Turner | 30. Village Square |
| 13. Barber Shop | 31. Warehouses |
| 14. Barber Shop | 32. Horse sheds |
| 15. Hal's store, later an egg grading station | 33. Bank of Nova Scotia |
| 16. Horse sheds | 34. Matheson's Drug Store |
| 17. Claude's store | 35. Telephone office |
| 18. Barber Shop | 36. Hotel |

Excerpts from Mrs. P.N. Pate's diary, courtesy of granddaughter, Mrs. Florence Turner.

May 22/1903

Mrs. Boulter's funeral held today – a very large crowd. Children had a half day from school.

June 20/1903

Mrs. P.N. Pate was up to see Mrs. A.J. Matheson's new boy – a beautiful little thing.

July 22/1903

Mrs. Turner's funeral today. We sent flowers – a wreath. A large funeral.

Dec. 20/1903

Mr. Gillis preached in the church. It was full. It was blowing with heavy rain.

Dec. 24/1903

Annie O'Halloran, Mr. Pate and Mrs. P.N. Pate went for a drive out on the ice to see the trot. Had a lovely drive on the ice. Roads were very good.

Dec. 30/1903

Special at Webbs tonight – won't be many there. Johnnie Perry and John Pate went up. Mr. Pate gave them a dollar. Very stormy.

Jan. 24/1904

Mrs. Moreshed was buried today.

Jan. 27/1904

Mrs. McEwen, Mr. Turner, Miss Campbell, Mrs. Matheson, Dr. MacDougall, Joe Gillis and Mrs. P.N. Pate went to Alberton on noon train to a Burn's concert. Went to Dr. Ross' stayed all night. Returned next morning to O'Leary.

Jan. 29/1904

A very stormy day. The social did not come off because of a terrible storm.

March 9/1904

Herman Adams & Bertha Sillicker were married today. A big snow storm.

April 1/1904

The Odd Fellows train went west today.

Aug. 5/1918

Two were charged for stealing apples & damage to trees – they were fined \$2.00. Fines were paid in O'Leary.

Nov. 27/1918

Travelling mileage was 10 cents a mile they received for attending court.

May/1920

Peace Committee – racing horse on public road through O'Leary – fine \$1.00 or ten days in Summerside jail.

1924

Trueman Pate & Georgie (Adams) MacGregor both had their tonsils & adenoids taken out on the kitchen table at Jack Pate's house & Dr. J.K. Champion & Mrs. Alice Turner took them out and Mrs. Ellie Pate sat up with the two children all night.

Oct. 30/1929

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Turner and boys arrived from Calgary to take up residence in O'Leary as Mr. Turner started a harness shop.

Dec. 25 Xmas/1932

A beautiful day nice and sunny – car running and nice roads. Children had entertainment in church.

Jan. 8/1933

Fulton Thompson and Charlie Dennis went to Portage with the trolley, an Indian lady missed getting off the train in Portage and they took her down.

Feb. 1/1933

Big carnival in O'Leary rink – a lot of prizes given out. A beautiful clear night. All of children turned out dressed as Gipsy, Scotch girls, Indian boys, even baseball outfits.

Mar. 14/1933

A beautiful day – S'side girls up for hockey game – came on train – stayed in O'Leary one night. Had a little time at Mrs. Vern Matthews for them. S'side girls won.

Mar. 15/1933

A big thunder and lightning storm tonight – the big concert was called off because of it. Was to be held in O'Leary hall.

Mar. 18/1933

A big pantry sale at Turner and MacWilliams store for Girls Hockey team also a big game on for the girls team tonight.

March 19/1933

Marne Kennedy went to Lot 7 to see the seals & got a little white one. Jack Pate took it to his uncle's house Jack Pate and let it go on the kitchen floor. Later he gave it to Ira Silliker.

March 30/1933

Mrs. A. MacGregor, Mrs. Ed Gorrill were at house I had a mat in. We hooked all day. The snow shovelers were out. It was a stormy day – quite a lot of drifting.

July 18/1933

Big Tea Party at Bloomfield – a lot of folks went out for supper.

Nov. 24/1933

Big Fire in O'Leary at about 1:30 p.m. Ray Kennedy's, Art Bell's, Big Frost Proof Farmers' Warehouses were all burned to the ground.

Nov. 25/1933

Art and Dan Smallman started their store in the building known as Joe Henry (C).

Dec. 13/1933

Special train from Ch'town to Tignish with Governor Dalton's remains on it. Mr. A.J. Matheson, Will Dennis, Miss Dorgan, a teacher in Unionvale, went with them – big crowd on special train.

Feb. 20/1934

It was 29 below zero in O'Leary a terrible terrible cold night.

March 6/1934

Waldron Leard's (flour mill) engine blew up and he was caught under it. Jack Pate was taking in his ice and some of the men working at ice had to carry him to his house. Roads were very bad soft snow and some of the horses got down and hurt. He did not get to Dr. till next day. Potatoes were down to 50 cents bushel.

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If we have neglected to name anyone who has participated in any way to make this history possible, the committee begs your forgiveness.

*Men's books full oft with chaff are stored,
God's, naught but golden grain affords;
So leave the chaff and spend thy pains
In gathering all God's golden grains.
(Found on the fly leaf of an old Bible in O'Leary)*

