

TAPE GUIDE

(Mrs. Purdy and Mrs. Finkle)

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Mrs. W. H. Finkle

Hastings County Museum, November 14, 1974

Mrs. E. M. Purdy

F: Mrs. Finkle
P: Mrs. Purdy
R: Rob Miller
N: Nancy Foster

R: O. S. D.?

F: Yes

R: What time did you teach from, from 19...

F: 1917 to 24, no 23. I was married in 23 so I guess that's it.

R: They converted the O. S. D. into a military training place didn't they (Mrs. Finkle during the second war) Do you remember that, then taking over the school.

F: I remember but I wasn't teaching then.

R: You weren't teaching at the time?

F: Oh, no that was in the forties. I was out of there in 23.

R: What was it just the main school then? that they had then?

F: No, they built, yes the main school, they had that big, and that was the new school. when I was there.

N: How many students were there at the school?

F: Oh, approximately four hundred I'd say, I don't know

R: It was a residential school though at that time?

F: Oh, yes.

R: That's interesting, we have some pictures of the O. S. D. in the museum. What period were they from, 19...?

F: Oh, they were way back. I know of some that you've got that were, they'd be before that. I'm really not sure.

R: Mrs. Purdy what school did you...?

P: Trenton, Dufferin Street School. I started in 1925.

R: It was a kindergarten class?

P: Yes, yes. ^{office} ~~Id~~ I did some.. you know when Mr., when the principal was out I went in there because my children went home early you see. But actually I was a kindergarten teacher.

R: In both your cases, going back and seeing the schools now, I don't know if you have contact with them, ^{do not} do you notice a very marked difference in the approach that's taken?

F: Oh, I do yes. I can't be too specific but I ~~th~~ think the modern method they have now, machines, that a child with any little bit of hearing, that is used. And of course that didn't use to be the case. That's the main thing in my opinion that I notice. I think it's wonderful.

R: What basically would you try to do to educate a deaf child? ^{at that time}

F: Well at that time they were teaching all lip reading and speech. They had to learn of course, they had to start ~~it~~ like a little baby, to learn the names of things.

R: Were you very strict about not letting them use hand signs? Was this a problem?

F: Well they weren't using hand signs at school, they did use on the playgrounds. Now I think they're using a combination which I think is much better.

R: The fingers kind of thing.

F: Yes, I really think that is better than all speech because the children, that's very difficult for them.

N: What grade did you teach?

F: Did they have grades?

N: Age group?

F: They were the junior, just say junior. The grades are a little different than in the public schools.

R: Mrs. Purdy in your Kindergarten situation, what kind of things

R: did you work on with the children?

P: Not entirely differnt from what there are now. They had their story period and their musis. But, they were much more controlled. They sat at little tables and we got up but we did it in groups, like they didn't, now it's the open concept, you know, every thing goes, they do what they want, but not then.

R: It wasn't the sort of situation where you'd have alot of toys around and they could all go around?

P: No, no, oh, no, nor we didn't go to toys too much neither,. It was a sand table, we built things and educational blocks. It was pretty the Mont^{much}~~essori~~^{essori} system.

R: Did you have the afternoon nap period?

P: Oh, every..you know, we had a break, we had a cookie period. They stretched out, or put their heads down. This was great with us, they had the long tables and they loved it. But they did it quietly, they didn't do it like they do now.

R: Maybe we could move on now to your husband's businesses or your family businesses. I know the Finkle family is a name you assosiate with Finkle Electric, are you part of that family?

F: I'm part of the family but I'm not electric.

P: Her husband had an entirely different business, ^{F: my husband} He found^d Bell Shirt.

R: Oh, that's the, where is it?

P: Right on the corner

F: It's down at the bridge, just the other side.

R: Oh, I remember, it's quite an old building. When did that, when did he start?

F: 1928.

R: And they started out right, producing shirts right away?

F: They started out, they didn't start in that building, immediately they started, the very first autumn that they were in business they made mostly what are known or ~~were~~ then as jack shirts, which were woolen. More of a jacket, more than a shirt. They started in business on Front Street. They were there for two years or three years and then they bought that building where they are now.

R: Do you remember competition with the other, I know one, Deacon Brothers.

F: My husband was with Deacon's originally. He was a Deacon, his mother was a Deacon, he started with Deacons and then he branched out for himself. I might say we didn't get much encouragement when we started but we survived. The encouragement was mostly, I don't think you'll last long.

R: They figured the old firm would be the one to succeed.

N: How many men did the factory employ?

F: Well it's mostly, when do you mean? way back when?

N: About when you moved to your ^{new} ~~ave~~ place on Coleman Street.

F: Well it was mostly women you see, it's a needle trade and.. I don't know, I have a picture there at the house with fifteen or twenty. Men, ~~eh~~ oh four or five besides salesmen. I'd have to stop and count them.

R: The way that we got in contact with you, the two of you, well originally the three of you was that we heard about Mr. and Mrs. Purdy's, industry, the mill that they had on Albion St. Can you tell us a little bit about that?

P: Well actually my husband's people from, there's a picture of his grandfather's mill, home down in the Northumberland Atlas. And the grandfather, it was a company business, they were

P: interested in lumbering and grain, wheat. The manufac uring of farm feeds. They had, the Rathbun's as you know, they bought several of these ^{Rathbun} things, one in Tweed. Well then there was another son in Kingston. And when my husband knew nothing of this, he had just gone to school, he had apprenciticed for a druggest. Well we wanted to get married and it was, well everything was booming in 1929 ^{when we were married} till it suddenly crashed, you see. But I mean they bought the old Judge Jones milling property here and set him up. Brought a miller from Tweed that had been an errand boy you see, and set him up. He ran the business for thirty five years, since 1929 they started and I don't think they closed, he sold, it is now a cold storage ~~plant~~ plant, Zegouras you know, Zegouras bought it and turned it into a cold storage plant because there was ~~storge~~ space and there was a very well insulated grain elevator where they filled each fall for, you know , the farm supplies. So he used this as a basis for his ^{and that's where} cold storage ~~so there~~ it is today.

R: I think I picture the building, I've seen it before, because I remember going down Albion and sceing the, it's got a tower type thing on it.

P: Yes, that was the grain elevator you see and they had access, the reason the Judge Jones milling people had, and spent a great deal of money on it and after the war they went broke, you see, so the building was just there and ready for use, and that was why it was, and it was also access by rail and much of the shipping at that time was done by rail. [Remember this too, that it's a business that this, you know the community

P: here, previous to that and during the next, say, twenty-five years was a farming, agricultural district which so much so that the banks, I don't think there is another place in Canada that, Mr. Elliot was the bank manager and a very keen business man and the banks opened up Saturdays ^{simply} to accomodate the market the agricultural community. The market, ^{came} Saturday was the big day. Every person, it was not only a commercial but a social event, everybody went to market. It was just part of Belleville's life, wasn't it Fran?

F: Yes. Well there was a huge cheese industry too.

P: Which is agriculture.

F: A very big cheese industry at that time.

P: The whole community was geared, but you see from that time to now its been industrialized. It's a complete change. Belleville is no more the same. We came here, we were married in 1929, we actually started in 1930, you see, the beginning of 1930 and at that time there is no more, Belleville ^{was} ~~is~~ so entirely different. It was a county town, actually, very dignified. All the airforce, the airport had started and the people ~~from~~ the west came and all the trees, they admired the trees, beautiful Bridge Street. Belleville was a community in itself and almost completely agricultural economically. Agriculturally geared. Now of course it's completely, you go to the little market and it's so different. Everything has completely changed in this period of time that I've lived here.

F: Well we still have Corby's.

P: Yes, but that too was grain, the reason that ^{Corby's} ~~that~~ was put there was because of the grain, the products ~~from~~ the farms. It was completely an agricultural.

F: And there was Canada Cement. ~~at that time~~

P: Yes.

F: I don't know when it was established but...

P: The reason they did that was they were able to take and buy all the ^{as} ~~they~~ you know and go down through there which is very sad now. It was never replaced. All the top soil was... once again it was the country part of Belleville was, well was completely geared to that. It was stripped... the land was completely ~~stree~~ stripped to accommodate the Canada Cement.

R: Do you think that Belleville has lost something in this change from agriculture to another kind of community?

P; Well of course, I do, but we have to face it from a business angle. I think it's lost a great deal.

F: Well, it's lost the intimacy. In those days Business, Front Street business was locally owned. The people lived here. Before the days of chain stores. I don't know Lowblaws started for instance, but there was no Lowblaws. In my early married life I phoned the grocer which was Wallbrige and Clark and ordered groceries.

P: They were sent up too and the same with your meat man you had him deliver.

F: A very nice way. It was a much nicer life

P: Much more leisurely, almost an English type of ~~life~~ existence here because everything was done in a sort of a county town, dignified manner although they really, the people who when I came here, unless you'd been here for at least twenty-five or thirty years or longer you weren't a Bellevillian. You were just, accepted graciously but you ~~still~~ still weren't, you know

,Dick Akken

F: ...Dorothy said to Allen: ^ "Oh, of course I'm a new-comer to Belleville." He says, "How long you been here?" She says, "seventeen years". And he says, "Well I don't think that's very new."

N: Can you remember any other old family businesses in Belleville? *You mentioned Wallbridge and Clarke*

P: Wallbridge and Clarke,

F: And the Richie Company.

P: Now that Mrs. Hickey will tell you something about that, but it won't be accurate.

F: Oh she knows all about it. I bet it will be accurate.

P: No, it won't be.

F: Well she was the bookkeeper there for seventeen years, she told me.

P: Yes, but that was fifty years ago.

F: She was an old woman, but...

R: Will you talk about ... okay, go on.

F: I wasn't going to say anything. Go ahead.

R: When you talk about Belleville and its intamacy, it makes me think about going down Bridge Street. When I go down Bridge Street and I see the old houses: This place itself and some of the others, perhaps your ~~house~~- houses, perhaps your own. I don't know exactly which they are, but

F: Mine was an old house right across the street here.

R: When I go down here and I see these houses, I think, this, here you can see remnants or patches from the old Belleville. Did you feel at that time that Bridge Street was sort of the center of the community?

P: Oh yes!

R: Can you tell me something about, ah, Bridge Street ^{as it was then} society and I assume you knew a lot of people along here.

F: Well, Bridge Street was the center in the sense that it was the nicest street in the city.

P: It had all these beautiful trees you see, and all the old homes.

F: I don't think they've got a street to compare with it today. But you know, they're cutting down all the trees. But I wondered where the ideal street is, I don't know. But Bridge Street was the centre. As far as people coming into the city. They ^{all} wanted to drive up Bridge Street. -Actually,

P: Well they did, you see actually, Dundas Street, Number 2 was right through here, wasn't it. Particularly coming from the West you see, you came right through ^{Bridge Street} Now ~~of~~ of course they've switched it to Dundas.

F: You asked about what, you know, local business back then. There was Burrows,

P: Sandy Burrows.

F: Well Sandy's father.

P: Yes

F: started the, he had a insurance business.

P: Listen, I'll tell you some person, tell them to find..(Dickens)

F: McIntosh, McIntosh stores have been there for years, McIntosh

R: We have done an interview with Mr. McIntosh, Nancy did one.

Mr. Dickens it was felt was too ill.

F: Well he's better now except that today his sister's being
buried so I wouldn't contact him for a few days but he had
a business of course on front street.

R: We are very interested in contacting him because alot of people
spoke about the Dickens Tea Room.

F: Oh, of course

P: And his mind is still keen as I'll ^{all} get out.

R: So we'll contact him later then, we didn't have much luck the
first time, but maybe again.

F: Yes, well he's all right now, physically he's fine. What
other businesses? Geens of course, they've been there for a
hundred years or something.

P: You're doing them I suppose, Alvin Geen, Geen's Drug Store.

R: We have them on our list, I'm not sure if they're arranged or
not.

N: I think there's only a grandson running it now though.

R: What about the entertainment business in those days, what forms
of entertainment did you have?

F: We had quite a lot of local

P: Caramel, I was in the Caramel theater just once, but then it
was torn down. That's where Dr. Forrester lives

F: They had musical comedies that came through like they might
today.

R: I think that we're about to get kicked out of our office

P:always in the military you see the ... was here and that was a very important....

tape interrupted

N: Do you want to go over that last bit about the military again?

P: You asked what social ~~things~~ things there were. It was a very strong church oriented city, wasn't it? Yes the people belonged but you mean the gay social life.

R: We are interested in the...

P: ... Bless his heart. He had wonderful parties there. Parties for all the young people once a year. He was a bachelor.

P: And the... but the men belonged to the Belleville Club. The Belleville Club was an institution. The Twenty-second Club was an institution.

F: It wasn't that far back

P: It certainly was When I came here the Belleville Club, both were going strong.

F: Twenty-second club?

P: Twenty-second club; Mr. Alec Gillun was one of the charter members, he and Mr. Smith.

N: What was the twenty-second club?

P: Well, it's still., and so is the Belleville Club. The Twenty-second club is, it was supposed to be twenty-two men who met on the twenty-second of every month and they would have a speaker and some business person or from out of town. But this it was a group of business people. And when somebody died than when somebody died another one was put in in his place.

F: This was social

P: Well now they play bridge and everything but they didn't play bridge in those days.

F: Well no, they'd have a speaker.

P: Well yes they had a..this was the main thing, they had a speaker. Now this was the men's, well then of course there were so many bridge clubs. But the Belleville Armouries, and they had a social life of itself and also the wives and ga families of the Belleville Club were very, you know those were the big events, the dances and the parties.

F: There were ~~th~~ also the social clubs like the ... I can remember a way back but I've forgotten the names of them, the clubs.

R: Do you remember when the fraternities came in, when they were strong, the Masons, the Knights of Columbus, the Oddfellows?

P: Oh I think they've always been

F: As far as I have known

R: Do you feel that they played a significant role?

P: Much more important that they do today. You know they really were much more important and I don't know anything about the Knights of Columbus but I do know that the countryside went to the Masonic and it was very strong and very important to the members. You know Gerald Anderson, say Gerald Anderson is a person, of course he's over in the county. The Anderson family have, you know, and he's really interested in historical R. R. #1, Gerald Anderson.

E: That's one we haven't gotten at all.

N: What about women's groups, like the I. O. D. E. or the church groups?

P: The I. O. D. E. There was one with the Armouries, the military you see, well then there was another one too. I don't know,

- P: There were just...
- F: You don't know when they started.
- P: No, but I know that they were, they've been there was both I.O.D.E.'s when I came here in 1930.
- F: Well then there was Canadian, Women's Canadian Club
- P: Very important, yes.
- F: Started in 1914 I think, I wouldn't be positive. Have you a record of Women's Canadian Club?
- N: No I don't think so.
- R: It doesn't register at all.
- P: Well that was very important, you know one of the important social things everybody..
- R: What did that entail?
- P: They had, it's the Canadian.
- F: They had things connected with the country. That was their special interest. Speakers.
- P: P+ Once a month, there were about ten speakers a year, either eight or ten and they brought them here from other places. They would have the speakers. There was a central, I don't know whether it was in Ottawa or Toronto, the Canadian Club.
- F: Ottawa.
- P: And they were organized there and then these speakers were hired and they'd perhaps speak in Trenton tonight and Belleville tomorrow, you know.

- F: The other way around.
- P: Yes. Oh tell them about the Community Concerts.
- F: Well Community Concerts started in the 1930's
Have you Leona Riggs name on there. She was...
- P: Yes but she says she's an American and she doesn't
it's not...
- F: Yes but she started Community...she started
Community Concerts. I thought of her in con-
nection with that and also her grandfather was
in business here and he was mayor here, and she
is...
- P: *But*.she stressed her Americanism so much you know
that she's not too interesting.
- F: Sure she's interesting, what makes you say that?
- P: Well I mean, everything unless its American isn't...
- F: No I don't think that at all. We're very good
friends.
- PE O, I am too, I think she's.
- F: I don't think she's all American. I don't think
that at all. Well any way she'd be good to inter-
view because she did.
- P: But she didn't live here.
- F: She lived her, she's lived here for forty years.
Oh yes.
- R: Can you give us some idea of these Community
Concerts, What they are?

P: She's the one that'll tell you Community Concerts because she's the one that started it.

R: They were something at Christmas?

F: Oh no, no, no, they were through the year. They still have them but they only have three concerts a year now I think. Originally it started as a Canadian group but that only lasted a very short time and the organization broke up, I don't mean locally. I mean where it started in Toronto and we switched from that then to Community Concerts which were American based, New York. But that was about 1940, somewhere in there which I wouldn't have the exact and they carried for years. They're still bring concerts, about three a year.

N: What about women's church groups, did they have their big annual bazars and things like that.

P: Indeed they did, they're still having them.

N: Were they bigger than they are now?

P: Yes, much more, at that time many of the churches carried a huge debt, and these the women, were auxilliaried to clear away these debts. As long as there was a debt they worked, oh so hard and successfully you see but in later years you know they...

F: Got lazy.

P: Yes, they don't seem to be having any difficulty in getting money do they?

F: Well, I don't know

P: There've been a couple this wee last week that were very successful and raised large sums of money, Bridges Street and St. Thomas Anglican Church.

R: There was, I know there was a much stronger role played by the church in the community before..how close, how important was the church to..

F: Well it was sort of the social centre as well as church, I would have thought, wouldn't you?

P: Anything, there were always the clergy opened up, did everything you know, the beginning even the parliament but you see it's been all just side tracked now, it's, they are invited but you know, it's not, they don't carry the weight.

F: Then there's the Y. M. C. A. which you probably know all about It started originally just upstairs over a Front Street store and then they had the building on Campbell Street and then in ~~later~~ more recent years the one in the east end you see.

R: Now there were two, there were two big things that happened to Belleville and that was..

F: the flood.

R: The flood, do you know much about the flood?

F: Do I ever

R: Would you like to talk...

* * * * *

End of Side 1

F: I think it was the first garage ever in Belleville, I'm quite sure it was.

R: The McLaughlin Garage

F: McLaughlin would sell Buick

R: Oh, I see, did they produce?

F: It's now General Motors. Well, they sold, they were McLaughlins. Do you not know McLaughlins?

N: Sam McLaughlin?

R: I know McLaughlin, I just didn't know what he did here.

F: ^{Back in Oshawa}

F: Well it was just an outlet, sales and repair.

R: So it was the first car sales in..

F: I think so, I wouldn't be absolutely sure but I've always thought so. And we bought that building from McLaughlins.

P: They still owned it ~~oh~~ Fan after all those years.

F: I don't know how long they hadn't been using it but..

R: I knew a man in this area, you see there was a chance for the Oshawa set up to come here to this area and Mr., I'm not sure of his name now, he was offered the chance to, he had a carriage factory, to change his carriage factory to the McLaughlin Factory and he turned it down.

F: I think maybe that was St. Charles, does that sound familiar to you?

R: I'm not sure, the names..

F: I think perhaps but I'm not so positive of that.

R: Now, when, oh yes, the flooding..

P: I always say that you never go anyplace but that you learn something.

F: I remember the St. Charles people and I'm quite sure that was, but isn't that interesting that McLaughlins still owned your

place when you bought it. And there were...must have...
there leases in between. *there must have been*

F: I don't know at all.

P: Because it was a printing. Ellis was in there.

F: Well that was after we were there. We didn't own...
we didn't use the ~~north-part~~...

P: ...the upstairs...

F: We didn't use this part of the building. We used
the north part.

P: Well it wasn't...you must have leased from the same
people.

F: Well, they leased from us. We owned the building.
Ellis
and used that end of it.

P: You didn't buy that...you were in there a long
while before you bought it.

F: We owned it from the first. Then we sold that end.
And we bought it back again.

P: I was going to say.

R: Now, do you want to...

P: Because you people didn't do the apartment, did you?

F: No, no I don't think we did no. I think Russell Smith did.

R: Would you like to talk about Belleville's floods now?

P: Well, Fan knows more, but I'll tell you something
interesting, about the floods. You know the red car-

P -peting that is in the dining room. That was the time that Sandy Burrows was doing over his house. And that carpeting they bought from Eatons. It had been shipped and it was in Eatons on Front Street when the flood came, and Sandy, at the Belleville Club, "Get that up, get it up!" and they got it up and out and it wasn't injured, but that was the connection. That carpeting was in Eatons in the flood.

F: In the basement.

P: Yes.

F: All the basements were flooded you see at that time. Water running out of the Queen's Hotel, and the front door...but ah...

P: And they used to boat. We were going to Toronto that night. The night that it was it's you know peak you see. And we got started. Culla was with us,*and we were taking her up to her brothers. (* and Bert) Then we ~~die~~ decided when we got up near Bowmanville, up near that, we'd better turn back, which sounds ridiculous. But we did come, ^{back} and when we came back we came down Number 2 came down you know. And right by your factory, there was a row boat.

F: O there was a real river down Coleman Street. Well that was the flood of 1936, I think.

P: Two wasn't it? 32

F: No, I'm not...

R: I'm not sure. I interview one...

P: Well it may be thirty-six, Fann.

F: It was thirty-six hours. The one that affected us. There was more than...I can remember a flood about 1919. There was another flood but I can't tell you too much about that. Although I remember.

P: I'll tell you something funny about the 1919 one. The "Women's Christian Association" at the time had a building which they had for the indigent. They were a group that you know, owned the hospital. You've likely had a lot about that. Well, they had a house on Coleman Street. And they kept these older people. And they didn't have indoor conveniences. And one of the old men got out in the outhouse, and they couldn't get him out.

F: O dear, dear!

R: What a place to be stranded in!

F: Where was that now?

P: On Coleman Street.

F: Coleman Street.

P: Along there where, Springer Lock is you know, like they were the whole thing then as they are now you see, but this...

F: Well in the 1936 flood, the ice went right through the middle of our building. Took the whole thing right out. And the wall on the other side. There

WERE big garage doors, ^{at that time} you see, on our Front wall. See it was originally a garage as I said. Those doors were found a way down on the Bay front. But, that flood stayed for eight days. The water pouring through there, and everybody standing on the bridge waiting for that building to fall down. But the building was built very strong and had steel ^{ee} garters, beams through it. ^(girders?)

R: So it survived, did it.

F: Oh yes, it survived.

R: ~~Did it~~ Did it... I think I was in the middle of a question, was I? I have a short memory I guess. Did it take long to get the business back into operation again?

F: Oh yes, quite a while. We had, ah, you see we had our materials up on tables, but, the water came right past that level. We had a, I suppose you'd call it a hell of a time. Is that being recorded? But yes, it was pretty bad. And the next year we had a fire, which was ^{equally} bad. (~~equally bad~~) Everything ruined.

R: How did your businesses do when the depression came along? I guess you survived, was it...

F: Well our business was just in the beginnings. We opened in 1928, so ...

P: We not only survived. We thrived.

- F: The market crash was 1929. Just a year later. And from then on everything went very, very...well you've heard stories.^{of the west} ~~However~~ terrible everything was. But we survived.
- P: Survived and thrived.
- F: For years and years I knew my husband took all kinds of orders, where he wouldn't make anything.^{Not} Anything. They had the work, and could keep people working and paid.
- R: A business at that time would have been based on, just faith that it would eventually come out, I suppose, was it?
- P: And if you had^{the working up you had} sufficient funds to carry on, you know. Because, at that time, money from the bank was very difficult. Collateral you had to have. It was... But also, you must remember, we - both theirs and ours, were basic necessities. The people, the farmers the whole economic state, community rested with the farmer. Well the farmer had to feed and reproduce it. Then, it was work shirts, wasn't it really?
- F: Mostly.
- P: And the people had to... you got and worked. You weren't given the relief and things that they get today. And so people did work and they worked for very little. Therefore...but they had to have clothes, so they bought these things. They certainly got them at bargain.^{prices} One of the big things I remember

about the depression. Remember, at that stage in that stage in the game, the world's situation wasn't too important too me. You know we were, it was more have a good time. And but, I do remember, I had been. I hadn't kept house, you see. I was just starting to keep house. I can remember so well rarely a day I would say three or four times a week or sometimes daily, there was a knock at your door and you gave a hand-out. You gave food and you gave willingly, to everybody who came.

F: Every day.

P: So that is...

F: Wandering beggars all the time. ~~East-to-West~~ And the people ran the rails, you know, from East to West and West to East, very usual.

P: But it was surprising in a community that was substantial and actually, well you know we've never had really many real poor people in Belleville. Now Belleville has been well looked after. For instance, Senator Corby, when, before, in his will, to the people, the needy of Belleville, he left a fund of twenty thousand dollars. We're still getting the...this was invested, and this comes every year. At that time, what they did, they bought a ton of coal or a cord of wood for the needy at Christmas. And that was considered a tremendous gift. So they must have had homes and as I say, there weren't needy like we think of, in the big cities: people with nothing you see. These people did have, and this cord of wood or ton of fuel,

coal was the main thing, was a real gift, at Christmas.

F: At that time people didn't expect as much as they do today.

P: No they didn't demand as much.

F: They didn't expect all the frills.

P: But that is the state of Belleville. ^{It was never} Well you know, while there poor people...

F: Depression area.

P: ...as if you speak...like when Dorothy speaks about the depression out west. They were hit so much harder than...

F: Well they had the...

P: Crop failures too.

F: Yes. The drought. That's the word I was trying to think of. Then that's something else again.

R: Another thing, a big thing that came along right after that was World War II.

P: The explosion at Trenton?

R: Do you remember that?

F: ^{I sure do.}

F: Do you remember it?

P: Well no but my husband just; he wasn't old enough to drive a car, but his father was, he drove the car. They drove down; took the family; they had a family car. And he, ah, his brother was overseas. The oldest brother. Bert was about 15, 14. Anyway, he could drive the car. He drove them and a family

who lived in one of their houses: Carters, down to Belleville to, some people, the Carters, and they spent the night there. Because their homes were not too far... This explosion was in a ...

F: O that explosion broke every house... every window in my mother's house. And the chimney and the front door. I was in Belleville, but I heard the explosion. *in Belleville*

R: They were storing gun power, or dynamite?

F: Yes, it was "TNT".

P: "TNT" yes. It was high explosive, yes.

F: Well it was the explosive that blew up Halifax Harbour, which was in ~~Trenton~~ Trenton. Do you know anything about the Halifax explosion? Well it was terrible. It was worse than the Trenton one because so many people were hurt. But in Trenton, for some reason, people weren't hurt. But one reason, there was a brave railroad man that went in there and took out a big... I don't whether there was more than one car. ~~There was~~ That was filled with that explosive.

P: Which was a most heroic act wasn't it.

F: It was, it sure was. It saved a good deal. But it was bad enough. *f* My sister was at home with the flu at that time and my mother saying she got her out in the garden wrapped up. It was cold you see.

P: I know, I know.

Mrs. Purdy and Mrs. Finkle

F: November.

P: Well I don't know if it was November.

F: Well anyway, it was late, it was the last of the Trenton Chemical Plant.

P: But it was cold!

F: That was the end of the war. Must have been 1918.

N: What about the second world war. We've talked to a couple ^{of people} who ran factories, and they said that the government took over a lot of their production, for war means. Did you have anything ~~to~~ to do with this?

F: No. My husband wouldn't have anything to do with it. He said he didn't want to work for the government.

P: Mind you, it proved very profitable for the ones who did didn't it.

R: Did you find it had the effect on your industry that when the war came everyone produced everything they could; everybody in the community was putting everything out; getting the ~~biggg~~ biggest output they could from everything they were doing. Did you find that your ~~industire~~ industries had that attitude?

P: Oh, it increased consumption, production, I'll say they did. And you know I can remember some...

F: I don't remember that especially.

P: O well you see, my husband handled sugar. Sugar, yes. You know and it was rationed. You know, this was one of things. But I can remember the fabulous stories by people saying the thousands of dollars he made in sugar.

He really didn't you know but he made a good profit:
I'm not saying that. But I mean this they'd say,
oh, this they got it, and sugar never went like it did
for this but it did jump to about 5¢ a pound to about 25¢.
Well, of course, we loved it because at that time, Re-
member Tom Will's mother coming up to the mill with carrying
her bag of sugar you know. And of course Kelly and,
ah, ~~Isabelle~~ Isabel - - - then you see, and all our
friends. We supplied sugar for...they paid for it of
course, you know, but I mean...

F: You could get it.

P: Yes, they could get it.

F: Well, sugar was rationed, which didn't bother me esp-
ecially, because...

P: And the farmers loved it. Don't you ever think that
the farmers didn't love that. I don't remember the
first war because I didn't own. But I do know that
the farmers would come into the mill and just gloat
at the prices, they would get for their things You see.
And there was no question during ordinary times. You
know they beef about the price of antibiotic. These
things were all coming that had to be put in mill
feed. You really had to have enough science to know,
because mill feeds or, ah, the vitamins. These things
were all being put in and they would complain about
the high of the feed, but ^{not} during the war, it was easy, come
easy go. They were just delighted to buy anything. Of course

they were getting as they thought tremendous prices for their eggs and butter and chickens and what not you see, so it was a very lucrative business. Small business, but you know, a...

F: I remember the sugar rationing. There was a farmer from it doesn't matter where came into the factory. He was selling my husband some honey. And he bought two or three pails from him. Some for this one and some for that one. And the next day sugar rationing went on so many people hound...he was just trying so hard to sell it the first day, and the next day he had to get away from the people that were after him. It was really quite funny.

P: Honey pail, makes me think of a story that I think, and it was in this McLaughlin building. Bev worked for the... And he was in there. And well anyway, McLaughlin Cars you see, and with the high prices, they didn't have much difficulty in selling cars. And people payed Cash for them, but they sold armour out here, one of these, and, ah, the fellow came with a honey pail. He was to take the delivery of the car, you see. And he started counting out...opened the honey pail, and filled with money. And he started counting out, and the car cost twelve hundred dollars, and there was only eight hundred. O, he said, I've got the wrong honey pail. He went out and got another honey pail. He paid cash. For the car.

F: I wish I had a honey pail.

P: Don't we all!

R: Especially the right one. They last question that we have here. Of what we've prepared, is about this place itself. You know, especially you as a guide (to Mrs. Purdy) you know a lot about the history of this place. What we're interested in is your relationship to the history. One thing you mentioned was Mr. Sandy Burrows who I understand married Philipa Faulkner. Did you know the Faulkners.

P: Yes.

F: Sandy Burrows was the father of Philipa Faulkner.

R: O, I've got that wrong.

P: Philipa married Doctor George Faulkner.

R: I see.

F: Her father was Mr. Sandy Burrows.

R: Did you know these people? Can you tell us...?

P: Very well!

F: I knew Sandy Burrows. And of course, I knew Philipa Philipa Faulkner.

R: Do you remember visiting them in this house?

P: Very well. I remember where those bird cages are, was Philipa and George's living room. They brought those bookcases downstairs downstairs and put them around down there. George Faulkner did that. And that was their living room because the house was very, very cold

and I don't think at any time during the winter they were particularly comfortable, but that was quite a comfortable room. Philipa belonged to the same group as I did, and we came there you know several times to meet. And she had a big shower for Mary Mulhall. And when she was married, they had the shower. That was all...that was in the summer. And it was then very lovely. Big piano which they played on the , and social events. And Sandy I can remember. It was a O I think it was Rotary or something but we came out with the Dredges, and they had a musical night in there.

R: So the Faulkners, even when this was a private for the Faulkners, this was sort of the, being one of the larger houses, it was sort of the base of social activities?

P: No, it really wasn't. Not, you see Mrs. Faulkner; Mrs. Burrows died when her girls were quite young. Sandy he was the song leader for the Rotary. ^{did have} He had the odd thing like that, but, they played a lot of bridge, or poker, what have you, but he didn't entertain extensively. Then when the girls got older you see, Shiela went away, didn't she?

F: Yes, Shiela went to New York.

P: Yes, it was after Philipa married George Faulkner, that they really...that I had any entertaining, except when Sandy Burrows had... I think it was Rotary. ^{I've forgotten} I can't remember. I remember the Dredges picked us up for this and Molly was here.

- F: Mrs. Burrows was ill for a long time too.
- P: I just remember her for...
- F: Yes, she died but she was ill for quite a few years.
- P: Yes.
- F: So there wasn't much social life for some time.
- N: Do you remember Philipa's wedding? I've heard about that.
- P: Yes, well it was...she didn't come down the stairs. She didn't wear a white veil of anything she wore a hat. And smart. She looked beautiful. It was a grey outfit and there was a big rose on the hat. You know you'd think with a stairs like that and you see Shield was married in New York. Coldest day in the year.
- R: So Philipa was married in this house was she?
- P: I'm, it, I, no I'm sure. I don't know. I can find out though.
- N: I think she was. An annt of mine was a good friend of theirs. She remembers, the flowers and things they had in the...
- P: Beautiful. They had a reception here, but what I mean is you see, Doctor Faulkner was divorced. And at that time, if you were divorced, you couldn't be married in the church you see. Perhaps Perhaps it was here, I don't know but, you could go by the registration.
- F: Hugh Faulkner from Peterboro is the his son.
Did you know?

R: O, the Secretary of State! I didn't know that.

F: He's George Faulkner's sone by his first marriage.

R: Has he visited this house, Mr. Faulkner?

F: I don't think so, but I don't know.

P: I donbt it because you see he was very small. His mother remarried. He was brought up by another father. And he's very, very proud of this doctor that brought him up. And his biography that's...you know when they wrote him up in the Weekend Magazine, there was no mention...

F: of the Belleville Connection.

P: No, no.

R: Well, that'w very interesting. Did the Faulknrs occupy much of the house or just sort of...

F: Well I imagin they used all of it.

P: When, when after. This was before the marriage the second time...married George. You see George and Philipa lived across. You see, Sandy was still alive. Well then after he died, the house was left to the two girls. Well Shiela has her positmon in New York. She was very interested and she a daughter. So she came home in the summer from Brockville. And they divided the house because you couldn't heat the big living room. She took that part. That was ...she took the far side and Philipa took this side, you see, and instead of having the big kitchen down stairs, in that little office that's

back of the dining room, they put some burners in, ^{that's where Phillip did} you know, the~~r~~ daily...their breakfast and their... and then...so that was why. They used the bedroom, I think where the apartment is now. That you really couldn't heat, ^{that upstairs} at all. In the summers they opened it up you see. but that was... she used. Well, ^{later} she moved the kitchen up to the big office. She really went to work took out the window and everything. But that was the side of the house that was under the furnace. Where the furnace was. That's why the...ah, they kept the house...did...she would have people in. She lit the fire-place and you'd sit in there ^{they used the living room} but very, very little. You know all the time that when the children Sandy and the children, in the cold weather: all was closed off.

R: I'd like to thank you both for your interview. I have to get back to my Math class now. Is there anything in particular you'd like to talk about, or... that we haven't covered?

P: No, not me.

F: No.

DEATHS

FINKLE, FANNY of 252 Bridge Street East, Belleville at the Belleville General Hospital on Thursday December 6, 1990 in her 96th year. Beloved wife of the late William Henry Finkle (Co-founder of Bell Shirt Company Limited). Beloved daughter of the late William and Selina Curry. Loving mother of Elinor and her husband Dr. Doug Eaton of St. Johns Newfoundland, Charlotte and her husband Jack Kuntze of Belleville and Frances and her husband Lt. Gen. Donald McNaughton of Perth. Fanny was the last of her family. Loved by her nine grandchildren, Bill and John Eaton, Beth Wilson, Dick, Don and Jackie Kuntze, and Charlotte-Anne Walsh, Ian McNaughton and Jean Dabros. Also survived by sixteen great-grandchildren. Friends are invited to call at the BURKE FUNERAL HOME (908-6908) 30 Meira Street West, Belleville on Friday 2-4 and 7-9 p.m. Funeral Service will be held in Bridge Street United Church on Saturday December 8, 1990 at 11 a.m. Rev. Dr. Harold Wilson and Rev. Maurice McLeod officiating. Interment Belleville Cemetery. Memorial donations to the V.O.N. would be appreciated by the family.

**FANNY GERTRUDE CURRY
FINKLE
Belleville**

The funeral for widely-known Belleville resident Fanny Gertrude Curry Finkle, was held Dec. 8 from the Burke Funeral Home to Bridge Street United Church where Rev. Dr. Harold Wilson and Rev. Maurice McLeod officiated. Mrs. Finkle, 95, of 252 Bridge St. East, died Dec. 6 in Belleville General Hospital.

Born at Stockdale, she was a daughter of the late William and Selina Curry.

Surviving are children Ellnor Eaton, St. John's, Newfoundland; Charlotte Kuntze, Belleville, and Frances McNaughton, Perth.

Besides her parents, she was predeceased by her husband and siblings.

A teacher by profession for many years, Mrs. Finkle was active in many community activities and in Bridge Street Church. She was a past president of the Women's Association, of the former Queen Alexandra School Home and School Association, the Women's Canadian Club, the former Belleville Community Concert Association, a member of Albert College Guild, the YMCA Board, Belleville General Hospital Auxiliary and more. Bearers were grandchildren Dick Kuntze, Donald Kuntze, Jacquelyn Kuntze, Charlotte Walsh, Jean Dabros and Ian McNaughton. Burial was in Stockdale Cemetery.

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ing. Cremation to follow. As expressions of sympathy, donations to the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated by the family. **BELLEVILLE FUNERAL HOME & CHAPEL (968-5080).**

PURDY, ELIZABETH MARGARET of 260 Bridge St. E. Belleville, at her residence on Thursday, March 23, 1995 in her 92nd year. Beloved wife of the late Albert Edward Purdy. Beloved daughter of the late George and Rhoda Haley. Predeceased by her son Edward Purdy. Lovingly remembered by her 5 nieces of the Haley Family, 3 nieces and 2 nephews of the Purdy Family and several great nieces and nephews. Friends are invited to attend a funeral service in St. Thomas's Anglican Church on Saturday, March 25th, 1995 at 10:00 a.m., Rev. Michael Pollesel officiating. Interment Belleville Cemetery. Memorial donations to St. Thomas's Anglican Church or the Belleville General Hospital Foundation would be appreciated by the family. Funeral arrangements entrusted to the **BURKE**

FUNERAL HOME, 30 Moira St. W., (968-6968), Belleville.

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Obituaries

MARGARET PURDY

Belleville

A woman who distinguished herself through community service in the Quinte area, Elizabeth Margaret (Beth) Purdy, of 240 Bridge St. East, Belleville, died Thursday, March 23, 1995, in her residence, at the age of 94.

Born at Smiths Falls, she had been a Belleville resident for many years, during which time she was active in the Women's Christian Association as well as other organizations such as the Hastings County Historical Society, Quinte Morning Music Club, Corby Library Reading Club, and the Hastings County Museum, for which she served as a guide and benefactor (including a donation of rare crystal goblets.)

As president of the Women's Christian Association in 1948 she presided over the formal transfer of ownership of Belleville General Hospital from the association to the municipality. She also served as a board member for many years on the Women's Residence on Highland Avenue.

She was honored last year by the WCA with a life membership, and also won the Canada Employment Centre for Students Award of Merit in 1992. Also in 1992, she received the medal for the 125th anniversary of Confederation of Canada to honor "Canadians who have made a significant contribution to their fellow citizens, community or country," nominated by Quinte MPP Hugh O'Neil.

Before retiring, Mrs. Purdy taught school for many years, including in the former Dufferin School, Trenton, which was her last school. She was also a member of St. Thomas Anglican Church, Belleville.

Surviving are nieces, members of the Haley family — Barbara Mumby and Betty Mumby, both of Burlington; Ruth McCaw, Deep River; Margaret Fenderson, Portland, Maine; Marion Lorimer, Brockville; sister-in-law Olive Purdy, Kingston; niece and nephew in the Purdy family Suzanne Clancy, Kingston; and Robert Alyea, Ottawa.

Besides her parents, George and Rhoda Haley, she was predeceased by her husband, Albert Edward Purdy, and one son, Edward Beverley Purdy.

The funeral was held from the Burke Funeral Home to St. Thomas Anglican Church where Rev. Michael Pollock officiated. Burial was in Belleville Cemetery.

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Apr. 26, 1995, p. 19