



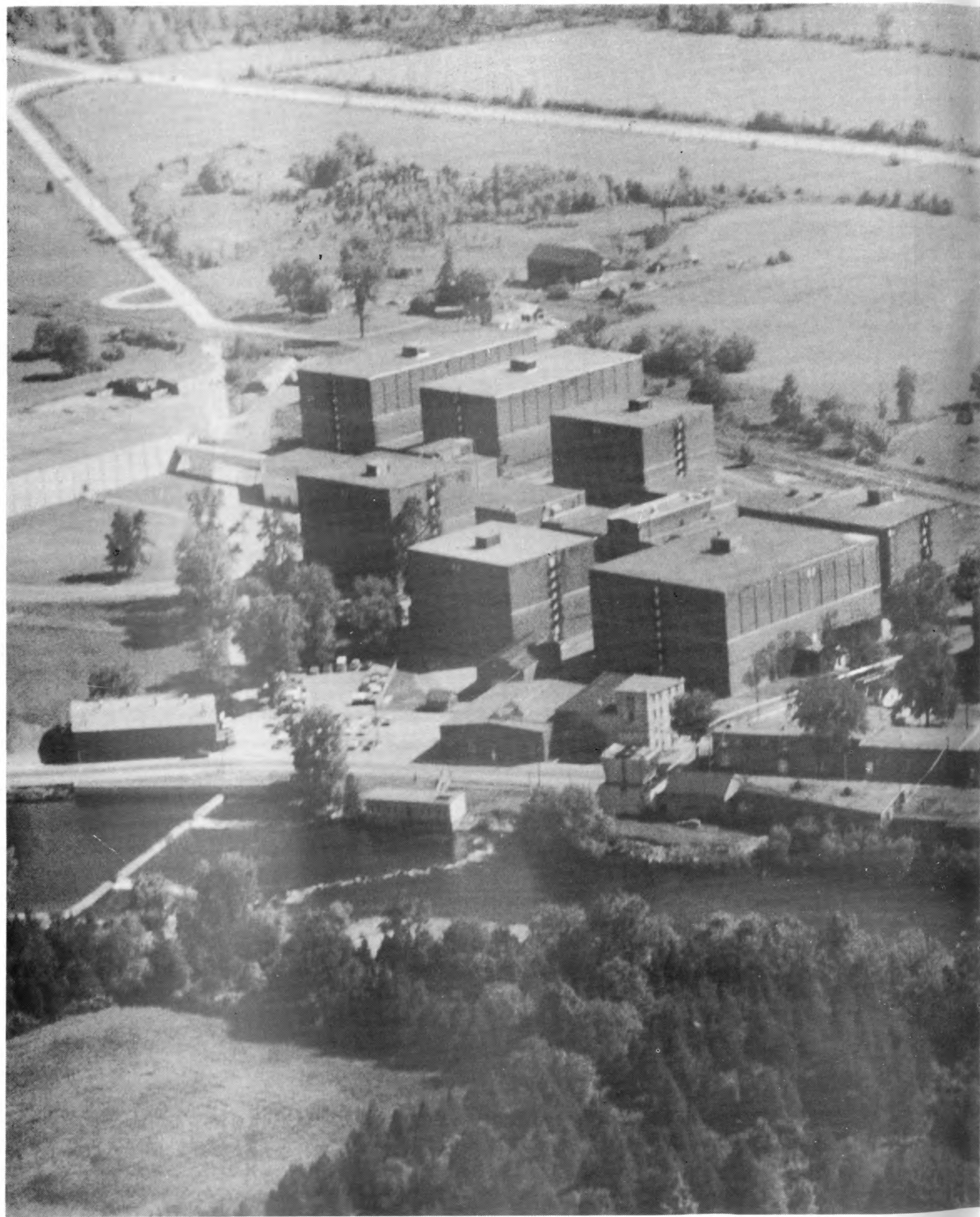
CORBYVILLE

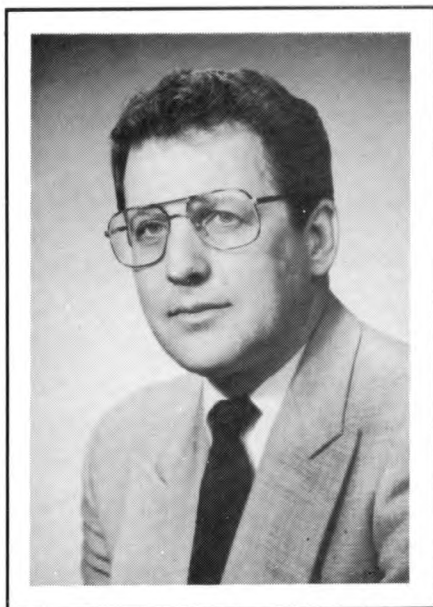
1991



This book is dedicated to every employee who made a contribution, whether large or small, to the Corby Story. Corbyville was a success. The reason for the closure was a business decision. It was not because we failed in our obligations to our employer. Corby Distilleries, as we know it, exists no longer. We hope, in some small way, this book will remind us of good times and good people.







Dear Friends and Former Corby Employees:

As the last Vice-President of Operations of the Corbyville Plant, it is with sadness that I write a few comments for this memorabilia of the Corbyville site, its history and its employees.

If the expression "A picture is worth a thousand words" is true; then this book must contain billions of stories, and experiences.

The Corbyville operation has always been a community "affair" from the early days of "grist" mill - the prohibition days - World Wars I and II activities -- the "hay days" of the 50-80's with bulk whisky and package sales reaching a peak -- to the restructuring of the 80's -- and finally to the closure announcement on May 23, 1991.

The hamlet took its name from the company and its facility. The community grew up around the plant. The site at one time comprised of: a hotel, a Post Office, a fire hall, a ball diamond, lawn bowling area, and at least twelve company owned homes.

This environment was of a community and as such the employee involvement and co-operation reinforced this atmosphere.

It is not surprising, therefore, that the plant closure was indeed the shutdown of a community and a way of life for most individuals.

I hope that as you go through these pages you will have fond memories of Corbyville and its people who made it a "great" place to work.

Best regards,

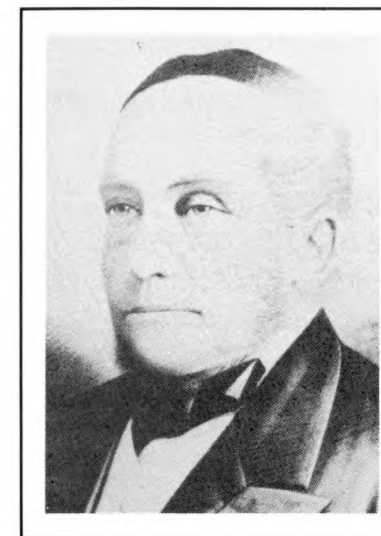
Elmer Cain
Vice-President, Operations

November 6, 1991

THE HISTORY OF CORBYVILLE

Henry Corby (1806-1881)

By 1816 quite a settlement had grown up at the mouth of the River Moira, and the community came to be known as BELLEVILLE.



Approximately 15 years after the settlement began to receive official recognition as the village of Belleville, a boat from Quebec made its way up the St. Lawrence, into Lake Ontario and tied up at the docks flanking the mouth of the Moira. Along with the supplies for the settlement, it carried passengers, and among those passengers was a young Englishman by the name of Henry Corby, (the Corby family in England is believed to have settled in Middlesex as a result of the migration from France of the Huguenots, the name Corby was originally "Corbil" which in French was pronounced "Corbee") who had just arrived in the New World, along with his wife Alma, in search of adventure and opportunities. So impressed were they with the beauty of the little Moira that they remained even though history has it that he only had a sovereign in his pocket. It was with this small amount that Henry Corby invested in merchandise and opened a tiny shop in town. Shortly after that he started a bakery and was, within a few years, the leading baker. In 1838 he abandoned the grocery and expanded the bakery. By now he and his wife had three children. Unfortunately tragedy struck in the later part of 1838 and his wife and children were drowned in the Bay of Quinte when the sleigh they were riding in broke through the ice.

Henry married again, the sister of his first wife, named Matilda, and together they had 12 children. His second wife and one child died and Henry married again, this time to a widow from Kingston. Henry's second son by Matilda was named Henry, and was called 'Harry' throughout his life, and played a large role in the history of Corby.

By 1837 Henry Corby had already established himself as a public-spirited and patriotic man and was therefore one of the first to volunteer when the McKenzie rebellion broke out in Canada. At the close of the rebellion Henry sold his bakery and purchased the steamer "Queen", which he operated for four years between Belleville and Kingston. It was around this time that he engaged in buying and selling grain, an activity which prompted his operation of a grist mill. In 1857, Henry established himself in the milling business, which ultimately led to distilling.

The Leader of the Conservative party strongly opposed Henry's idea of putting a dam across the Moira River, particularly in view of his plans for distilling whisky as a side-line to milling. Henry's friends in Thurlow Township however, arranged for Henry's dam site and mill to be established. The community arising around the mill and dam came to be known as "Corbyville".

The mill offered a grain cracking service for farmers in the surrounding territory. They would bring their wagon-loads of corn to the mill, where for a fee, Henry would grind it for them. Two years after the mill started operating, the distillery went into action in 1859, and was known as Alma Mills, and gradually the distillery grew, until the mill eventually became secondary although it continued to operate for many years, along with the distillery. Corby used high quality grain and pure water with a lime content, the prime necessities for superior whisky. It is thought that a remnant of stone wall that still exists today could well be part of a cattle barn or possibly the river wall.

In 1867, Henry was elected mayor of the City of Belleville. In 1867 the British North America Act created Canada as a Dominion of the following year, Henry became "H. Corby, M.P.P."

In the meantime, the word spread telling of the goodness of Corby's and Corby whisky was becoming more widely spread. A pail of Henry's whisky was considered as important as tools and implements at stumping and barn-raising.

Henry was 50 when he established the mill and distillery and over 60 when he served in the first provincial parliament.

Henry Corby died October 25, 1881, leaving four sons and seven daughters. Prior to his death, Henry sold the distillery to his son "Harry" for the reported sum of \$10,000.

Senator Henry "Harry" Corby (1851-1918)

Young Henry Corby (later to be known as "Senator Corby") was born in Belleville in 1851. In 1872 he married Marie Courtney, and they had three daughters.

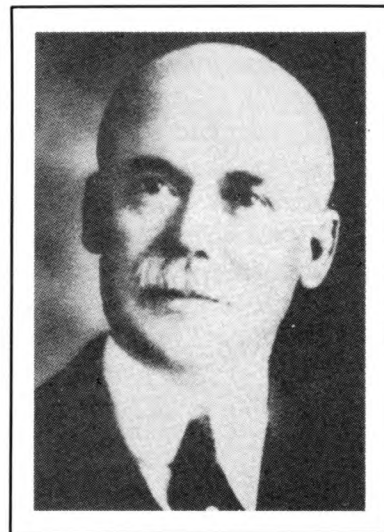
Under the direction of young Henry, the distillery grew rapidly. He built a suite of offices and a warehouse on the main street of Belleville, and operated his business from there. He was quick to see the advantages in bottling whisky for resale, rather than selling it by the barrel or to those who brought their own containers. For a time, great wagons pulled by oxen or multi-horse teams brought barrels of aged whisky down the road from Corbyville, to be bottled in Belleville. In due time, a bottling operations was installed in Corbyville, along with spurs from the Canadian Pacific and Canadian National railways. In addition to the distillery, young Henry did some importing of wines and Scotch whisky and engaged in the tobacco business. Henry was a philanthropist with a list of charities and good deeds too numerous to mention. It was also young Henry who recognized the need for a more speedy method of crossing the bay, and he promoted the bridge, which was at one time called the Corby Bridge.

One day in about the year 1905, a salesman by the name of Davis called on young Henry on behalf of a tobacco house whose lines he handled. During the course of the conversation young Henry mentioned his willingness to sell out, his desire to increase his travels. Thus the distillery came into the hands of Mortimer Davis for an estimated million dollars.

Henry died of appendicitis in 1918 while he was in Honolulu on a voyage.

In 1907 the distillery burned down, and was rebuilt. In 1914 it suspended operations for the duration of World War I, an action paralleling its conversion to entirely industrial alcohol production in World War II. During this war millions and millions of gallons of alcohol were produced at Corbyville, a great deal of which was tanked to the U.S. for use in the synthetic rubber program and other war-time uses. (a tribute to some of Corbys employees who served in World War II is located further in the book).

In 1918, H. Corby Distillery Company Limited sold out to the Canadian Industrial Alcohol Company Limited, a holding company which was later to acquire Robert MacNish & Company Limited, Glasgow, Scotland, blenders and bottlers of the Grand MacNish, world-famous Scotch whisky. Outright purchase was also made of J.M. Douglas & Company Limited, makers of Wiser's Deluxe Whisky in 1928.



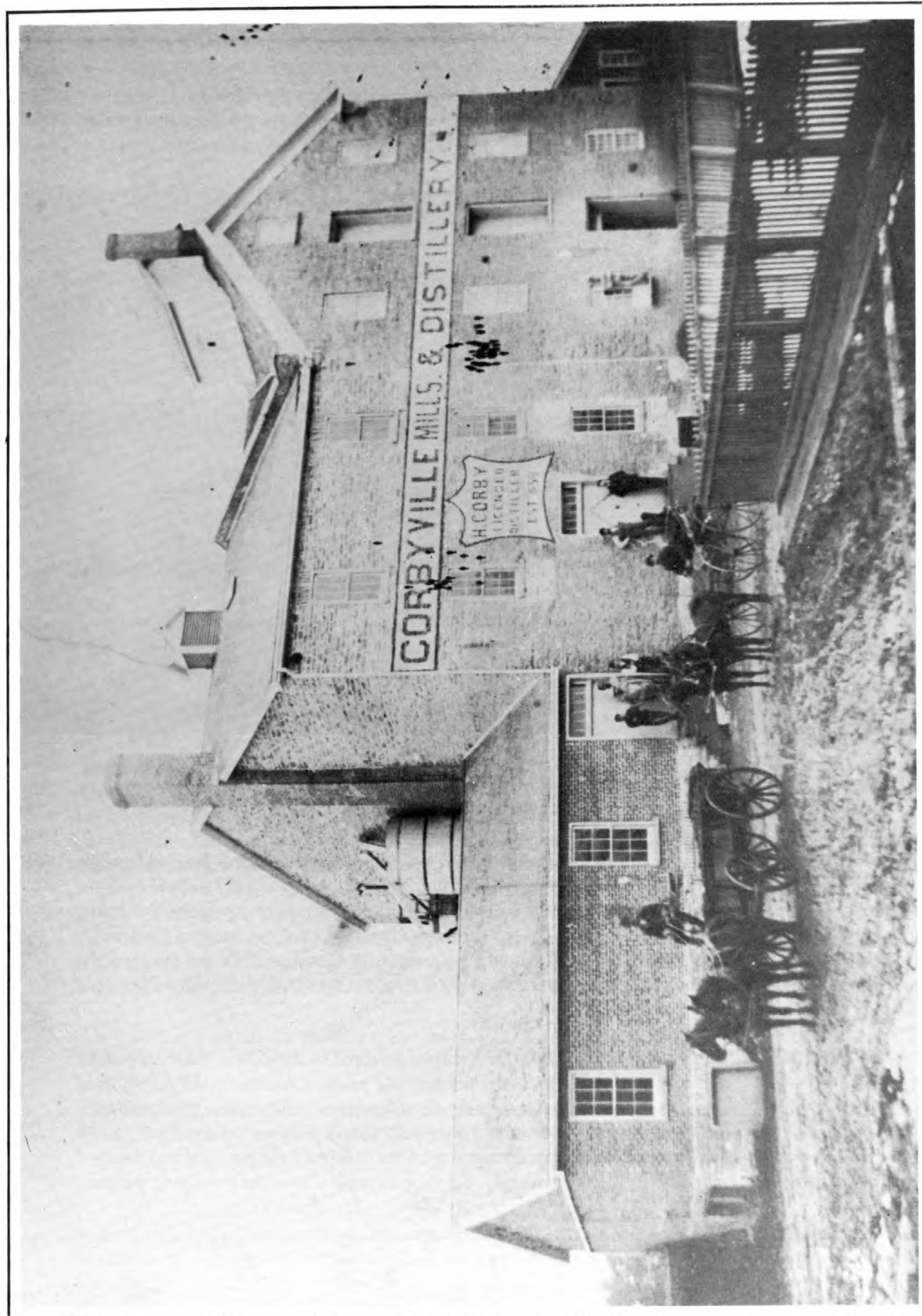
In 1950, it was decided to give the name of Corby's first prominence and the parent Company became known as H. Corby Distillery Limited. In 1969 the name was once again changed to its present name "Corby Distilleries Limited."



This picture of the first Ontario Provincial Parliament was taken about 1868. The arrow and circle point out Henry Corby.

There have been many significant changes in the Corbyville operation over the past 5 years or so. The first major changes took place when the distilling operations in Corbyville ceased in 1987 and the decision was made to relocate the maturing process to Hiram Walkers. Events took a more positive line when Corby purchased McGuinness Distillery in 1988 and commenced bottling their products in Corbyville. This, coupled with the opening of a new up-to-date bottling complex in March of 1989 and the changing of the operation to a blending/bottling plant rather than a distillery gave hope to all that Corbyville would indeed survive for another century.

However, this was not to be. On May 23, 1991 the Company announced its decision to cease operations at the Corbyville location on September 30, 1991 thus ending 132 years of tradition and history that will be remembered by all whose lives were touched by the threads of Corbyville history. But while the door may close on this chapter of our lives, one must remember that since its conception Corby stood for the highest traditions of integrity and quality which were maintained through the period of time because of the skill, dedication and conviction of its employees. We should all be proud of the History we help to create.



CORBY'S MILL — 1870

The small addition to the left is where the barrels were loaded to take to Belleville to the bottling plant.

PAST VICE-PRESIDENTS

WILFRED LAPORTE:

Always being referred to as Mr. Laporte, this true gentleman joined Corby's in August 1920 and worked as the Plant Manager at the Quebec distillery in St. Hyacinthe until the mid 40's when he transferred to Corbyville as the General Manager and was elected a director of the company in 1953.

Mr. Laporte retired from the Company in 1963, after some 43 years of service. He resigned as a Director of the company in 1968. He passed away on December 19, 1990 at the age of 92.

Always remembered as a Classic Gentleman.



HENRY (Harry) HOWLETT:

Harry joined the company in 1924 at the age of fifteen (15) and was actively involved in the growth of the company in bulk sales and the formation of the Association of Canadian Distillers as a founder member.

Mr. Howlett was elected a director of the company in 1963 and was the Vice-President of Operations and was appointed Executive Vice-President in 1973. Harry retired in 1974 after some 50 years with the company.

Mr. Howlett is remembered as a real "Bon Vivant" and sharp card player with an alert mind to "Close" the big deal especially during the prohibition years.



GEORGE (Mickey) MacDONALD:

Mickey, as he was better known, joined Corby's in 1926 at the age of seventeen (17) and served the company in many capacities as Office Manager, General Manager, Distillery Manager and finally on December 13, 1971, was appointed Vice-President and Distillery Manager.

He retired in 1974 after serving the company for 48 years and passed away in July 1987.

Mickey would best be remembered by all for his "team" player style of management and his "fatherly" guidance.



FRIEDEL BELLSTEDT:

Friedel joined Corby's as Technical Superintendent in 1959 and progressed through the management ranks to become Vice-President of Distillery Operations in 1976. He was elected as a company director in 1981 and appointed Senior Vice-President of Operations Division in 1983.

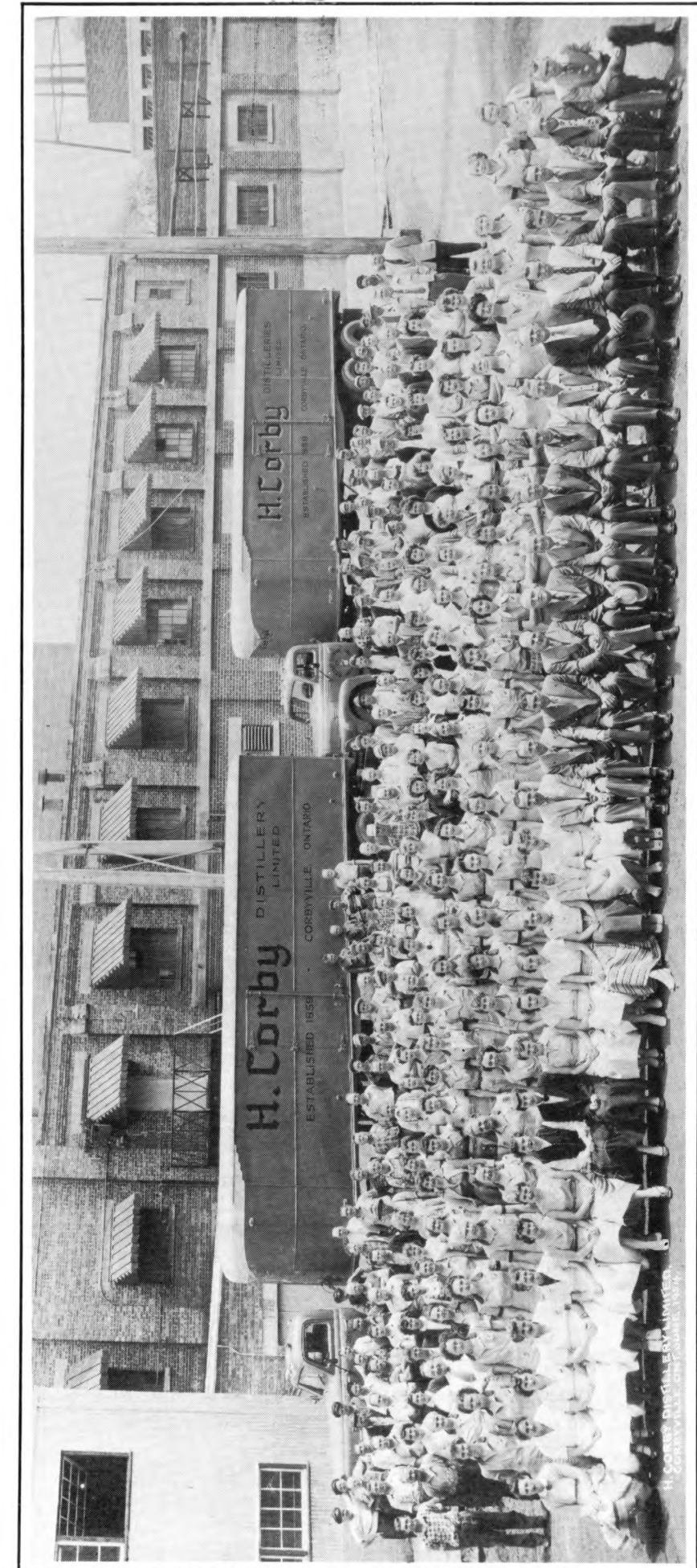
Mr. Bellstedt retired in 1985, and will be remembered as the technical "brainstorm" behind the pollution control efforts by Corby which was recognized by the A.V. De Laporte award on October 20, 1970.



DOUG McLEAN:

Doug joined Corby's as General Office Bookkeeper in Lindsay, Ontario in 1941 and transferred to Corbyville in 1943 as Assistant Paymaster — took a leave of absence from 1943 to 1946 to serve as Flying Officer in the R.C.A.F. After World War II Doug returned to Corbyville and progressed through various management functions and was appointed Distillery Manager in 1974 — appointed Director of Production in 1981 — appointed Vice-President, Technical Services in 1983.

Doug retired in 1986 after some 45 years with Corby's.



EMPLOYEES OF H. CORBY DISTILLERY LIMITED

Corbyville, Ontario — June, 1954



YEARBOOK COMMITTEE

BARB MURRAY	LYNDA CHARBONNEAU	KELLY COOPER
	ALISON HARTLEY	
EARLA TILBROOK	PAULINE HOSKIN	CAROLINE O'HARA



J.P. WISER'S RECEPTION CENTRE HISTORY OF THE BAR

The beautiful bar located in the Reception Centre was originally built in 1859 (same year as Corby Distillery was founded) in Dublin, Ireland. There were four identical bars built for the Budweiser Brewery for export to the United States. This particular bar found its' home in a Newark, N.J. railway station where it remained for close to 100 years.

When the Railway Station was demolished, the bar was sold to some New Englander's for a Vermont discoteque in the 1950's. When the bar was closed soon thereafter this fine antique remained stored for about 20 years until it was discovered by some Corby Executives and bought for the J.P. Wiser Reception Centre which was being built in 1979.

Corby's arranged to have the bar refinished (it had been painted black) and here is the beautiful result. There are three different kinds of wood in the bar - the top is mahogany, the front, rosewood veneer, and the back is oak. The finish is all hand rubbed and took a considerable length of time.

The glass is original bevelled glass and the slag glass along the top edge is also original and predates "Tiffany" by 25 years.

The brass rail at the front was not original but was added as a finishing touch to protect the front of the bar.

The solid nickel and oak cash register which dominates the centre of the bar was built in 1910 circa in Dayton, Ohio. It originally belonged in a hotel and it still works and even has a print out tape. It takes 4 or 5 men to lift it and special supports had to be added under it to support its weight.

The Corby parrot is today a familiar trademark.

Years ago, as far back as 1859, when potable spirits were also portable and could move from the distillery to the grateful consumer without passing through bonded warehouses and liquor control depots, the lusty farmers of the day were happy to take their pay for grain delivered partly in liquid cash and partly in liquid refreshment.

*say
Corby's*



This was not an under the counter deal as there were no income taxes and no mention had to be made of any other valuable considerations that may have been involved in a business transaction. If the farmer made any book entries, he would likely write "Sold to Mr. Corby, so many measures of my very best grain for the sum of so many dollars", and let it go at that. There would be no record of any little fringe benefits.

*This served the simple accounting of the day. Should the better half of the farm family remark on any slight decrease of cash brought home after the trip to the distillery, this was easily explained as the result of a corresponding slight decrease of grain market prices without mention of any increase in thirst potential. **Those were happy days.***

Now it so happened that one hale and hearty farmer delivering his grain to the distillery owned a parrot which had a remarkable ability to pick up human remarks, some more colourful than others. Being a bachelor, he made it a practice to bring his pet with him to provide a little conversation during the trip.

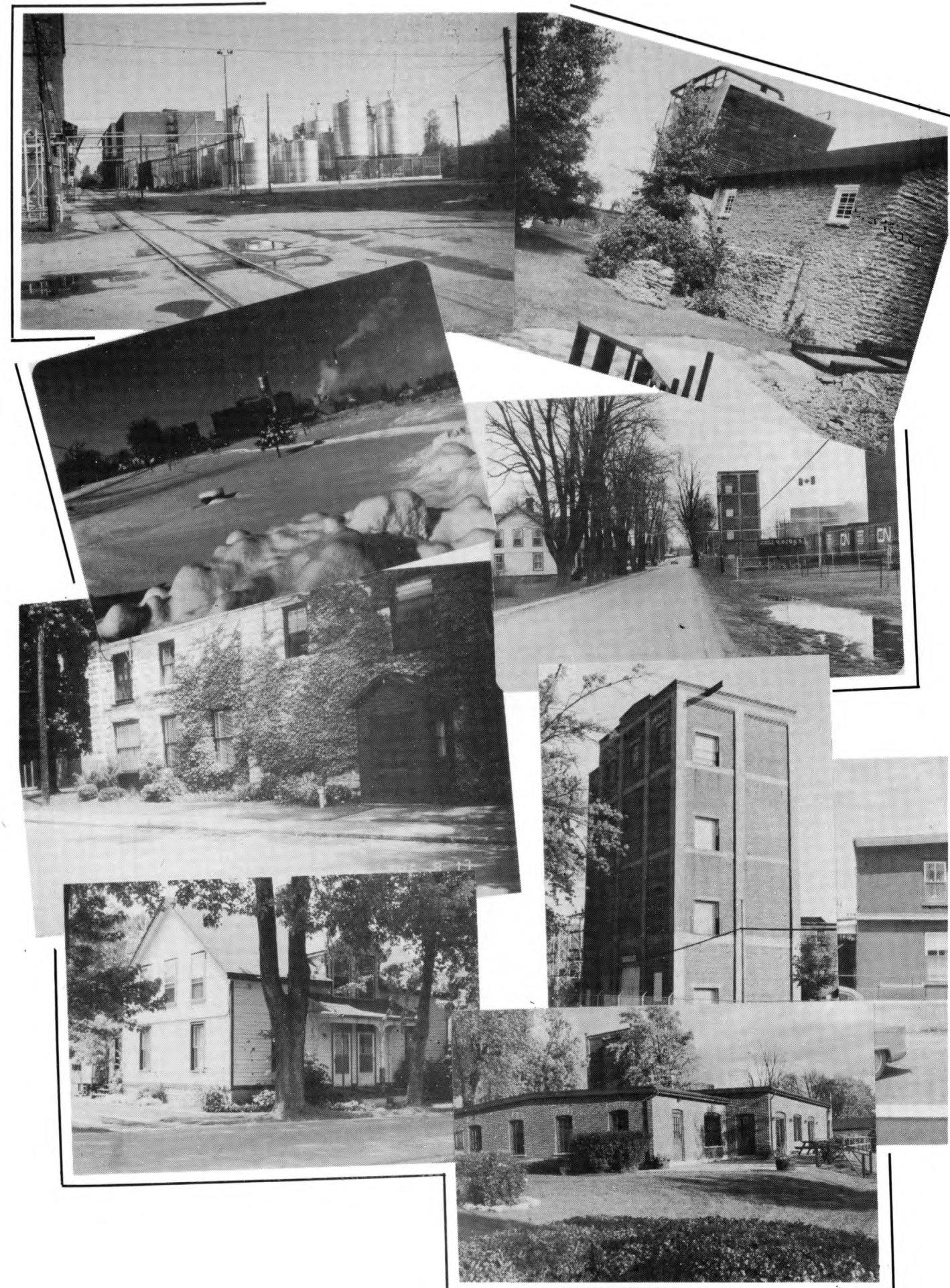
*Having received his cash, plus his usual bonus from Henry Corby's stock of whiskies, he would show the bottle to the bird with the command "**Say Corby's you so-and-so**". It did not take long before the wise parrot mastered the words, conveniently disregarding the epithet. All the way home it would repeat; "**Say Corby's, Say Corby's, Say Corby's**".*

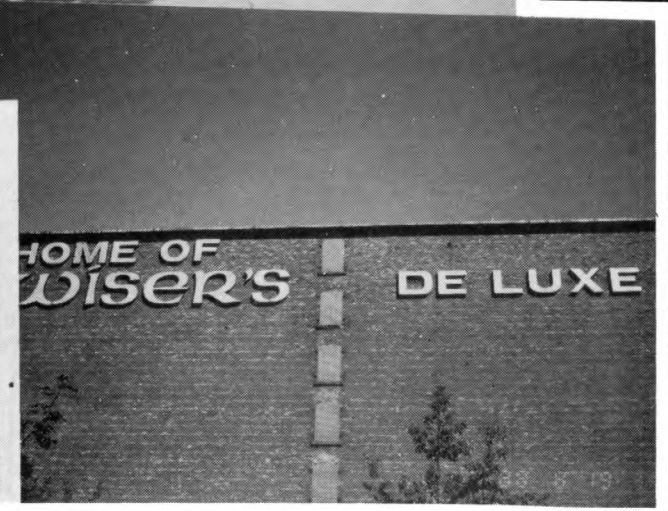
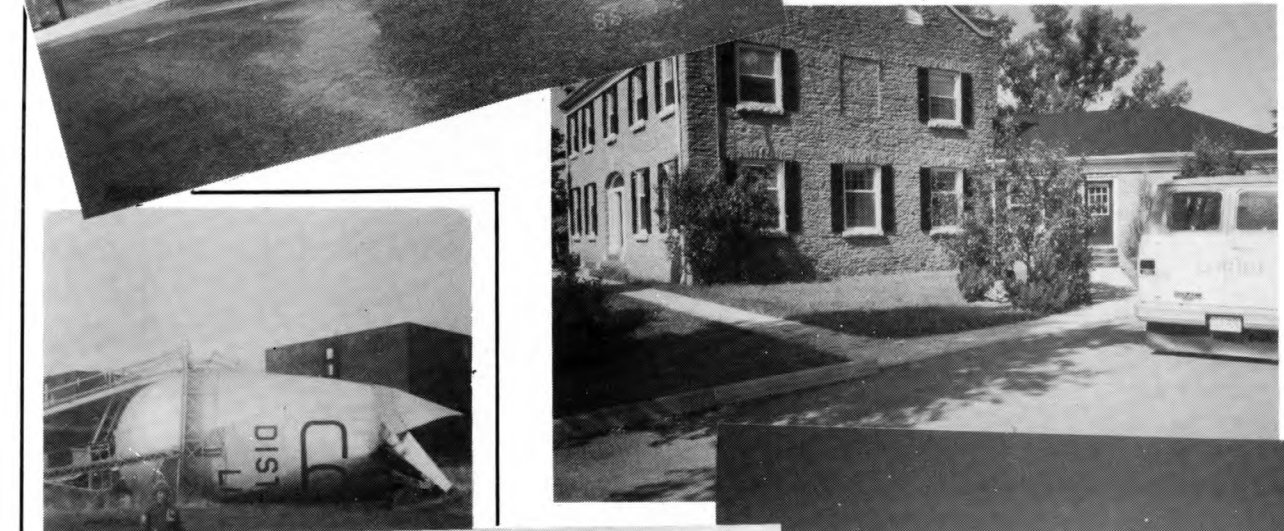
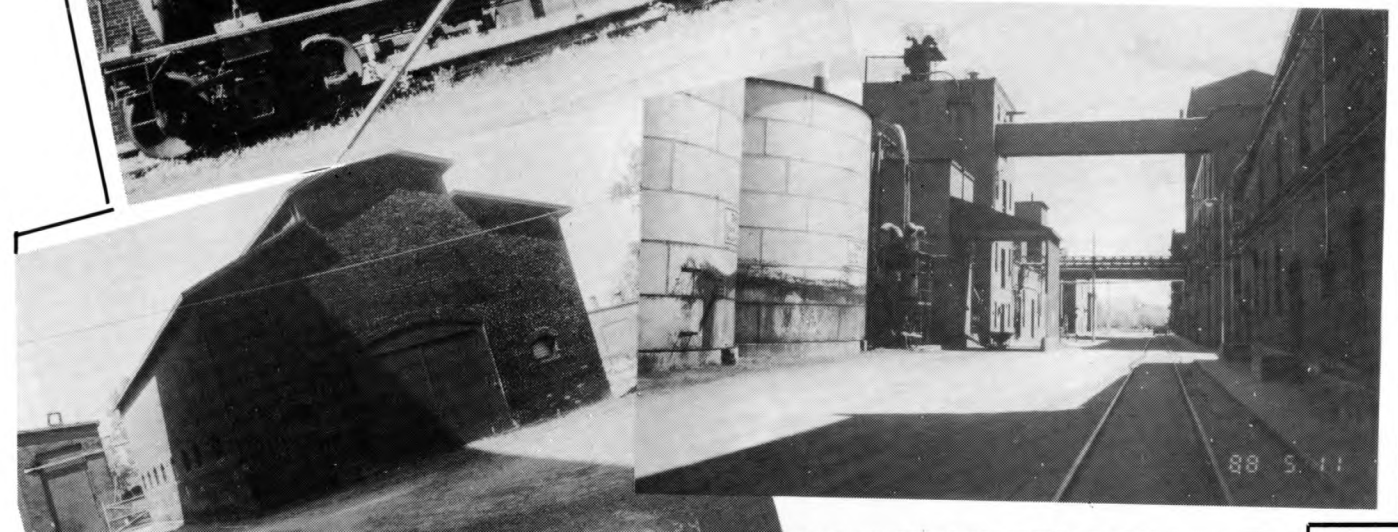
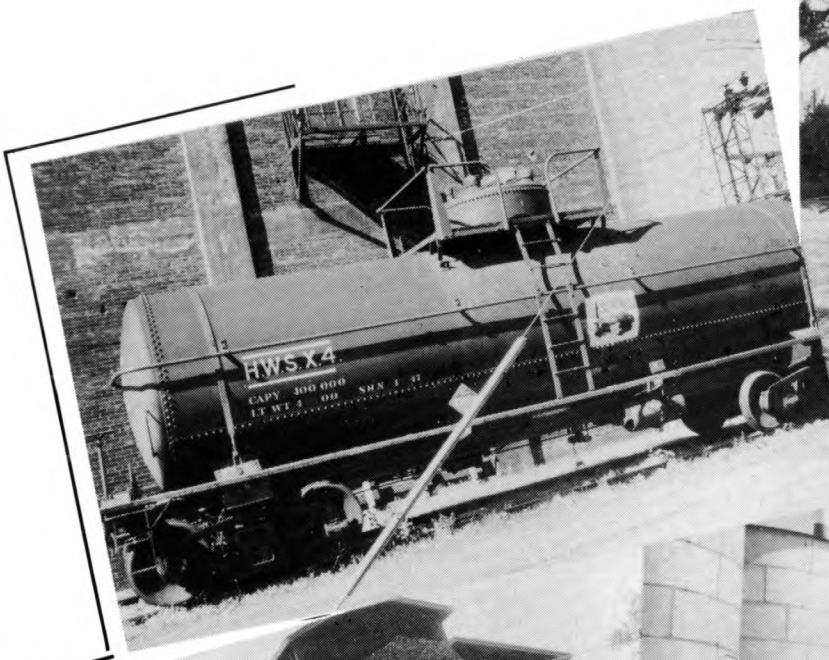
So pleased was the farmer at the bird's quick grasp of its lesson that he, one day, ventured to take it into the distillery office and offer it to Henry Corby as a gift. Mr. Corby was loath to part the two good companions but he agreed to accept the offer on the understanding that the bird should remain in the home of its former owner as a star boarder, its room rent to be paid by a regular supply of what worthy beverage it so cleverly boasted.

Corby's parrot became a personage of note and was adopted by the distillery as a mascot, later as a trademark, to appear on every bottle of Corby's whiskies, where it remains to this day. That is the story as it reached the ears of the writer.

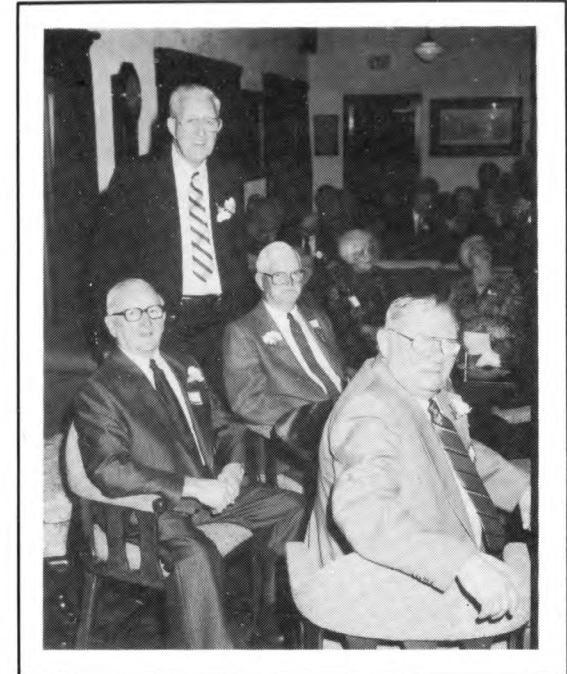
Of course the picture of the parrot has changed over the years as advertising art has progressed. Like all eminent personages, including George Washington and the late John A. MacDonald, its picture has been somewhat idealized by later artists in order to portray some degree of its mental greatness as well as its physical form. And so the parrot has stayed with Corby's just as Corby's stayed with the parrot.



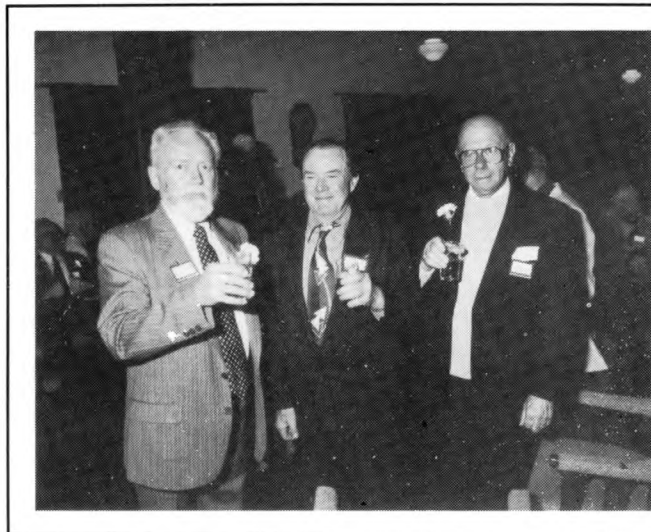
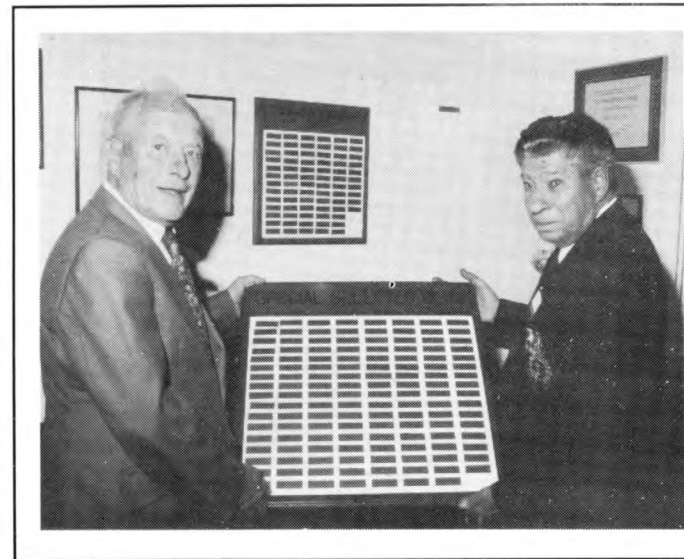




Memories

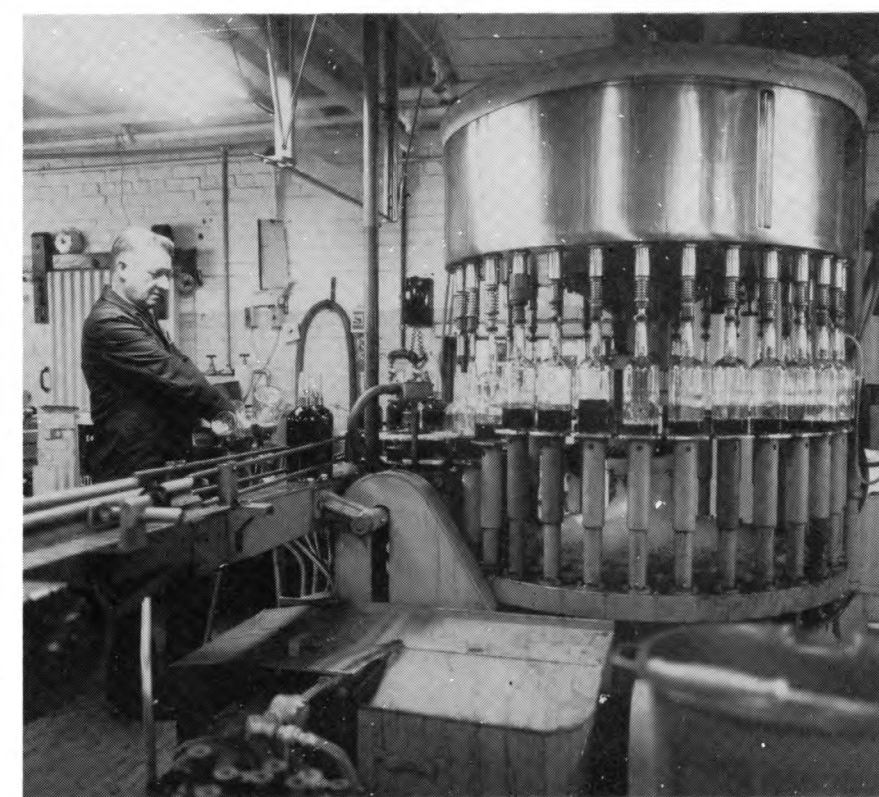
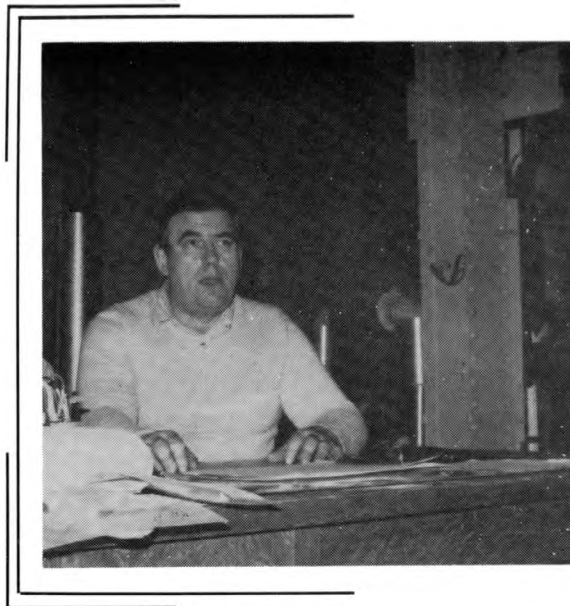
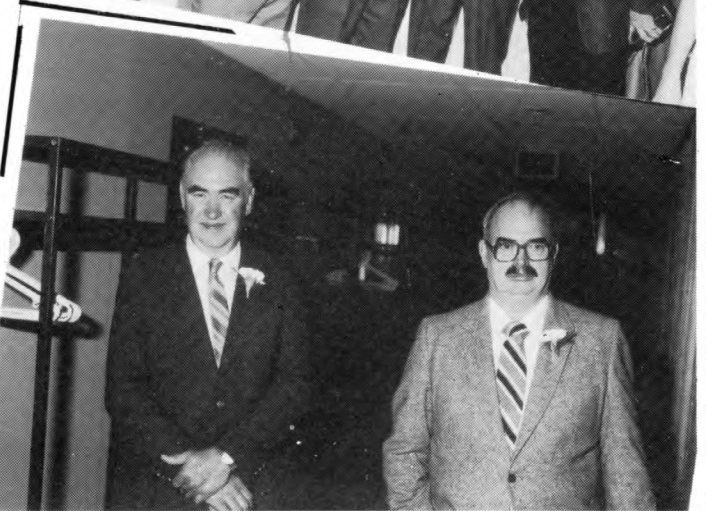






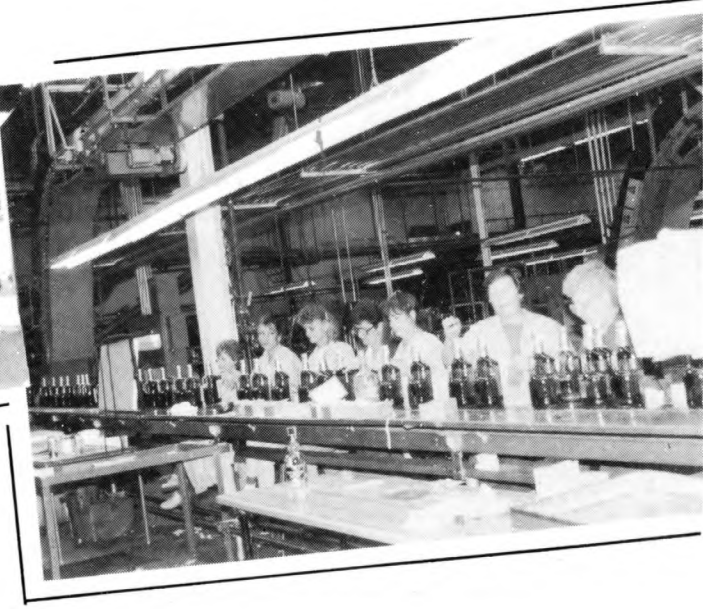
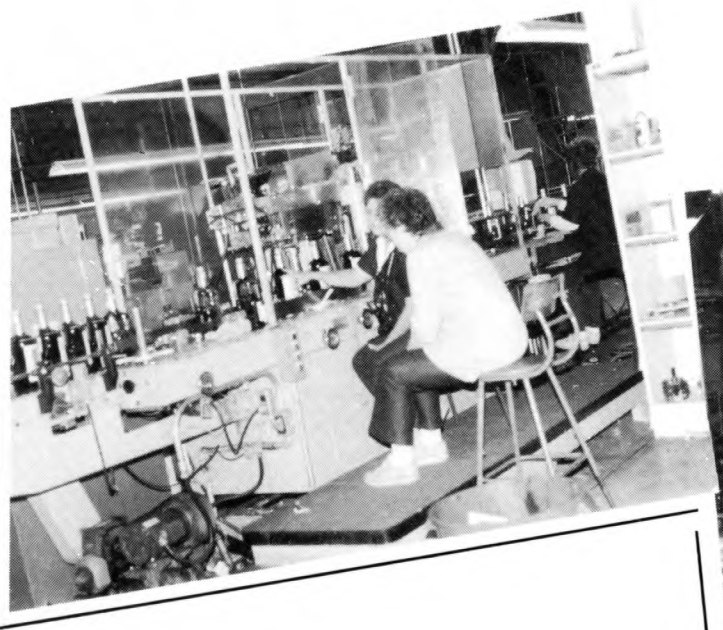


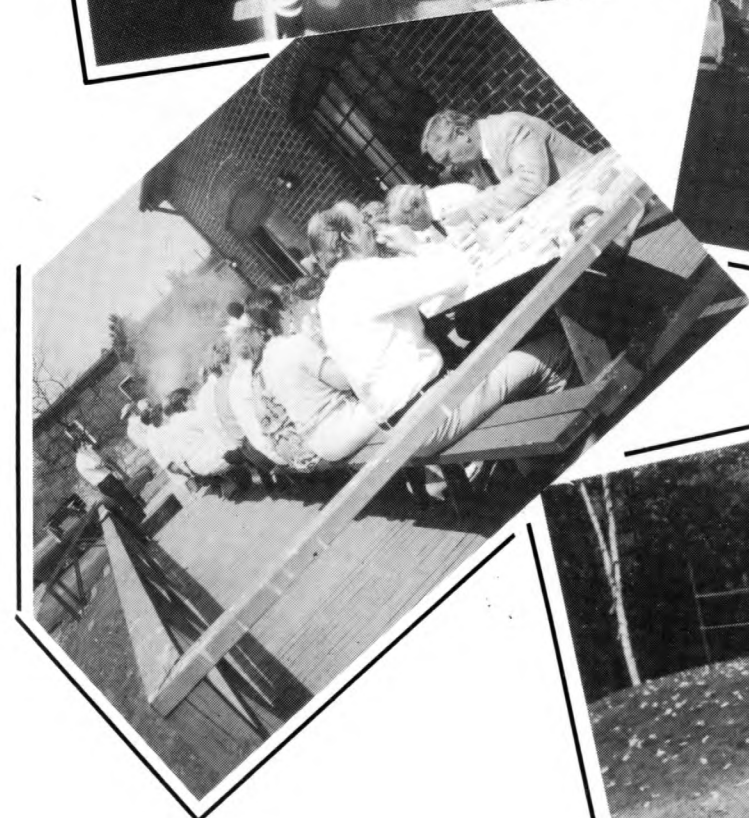
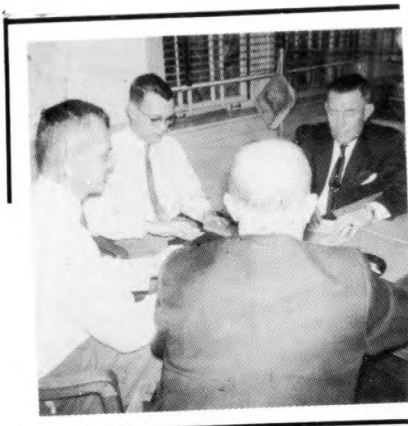


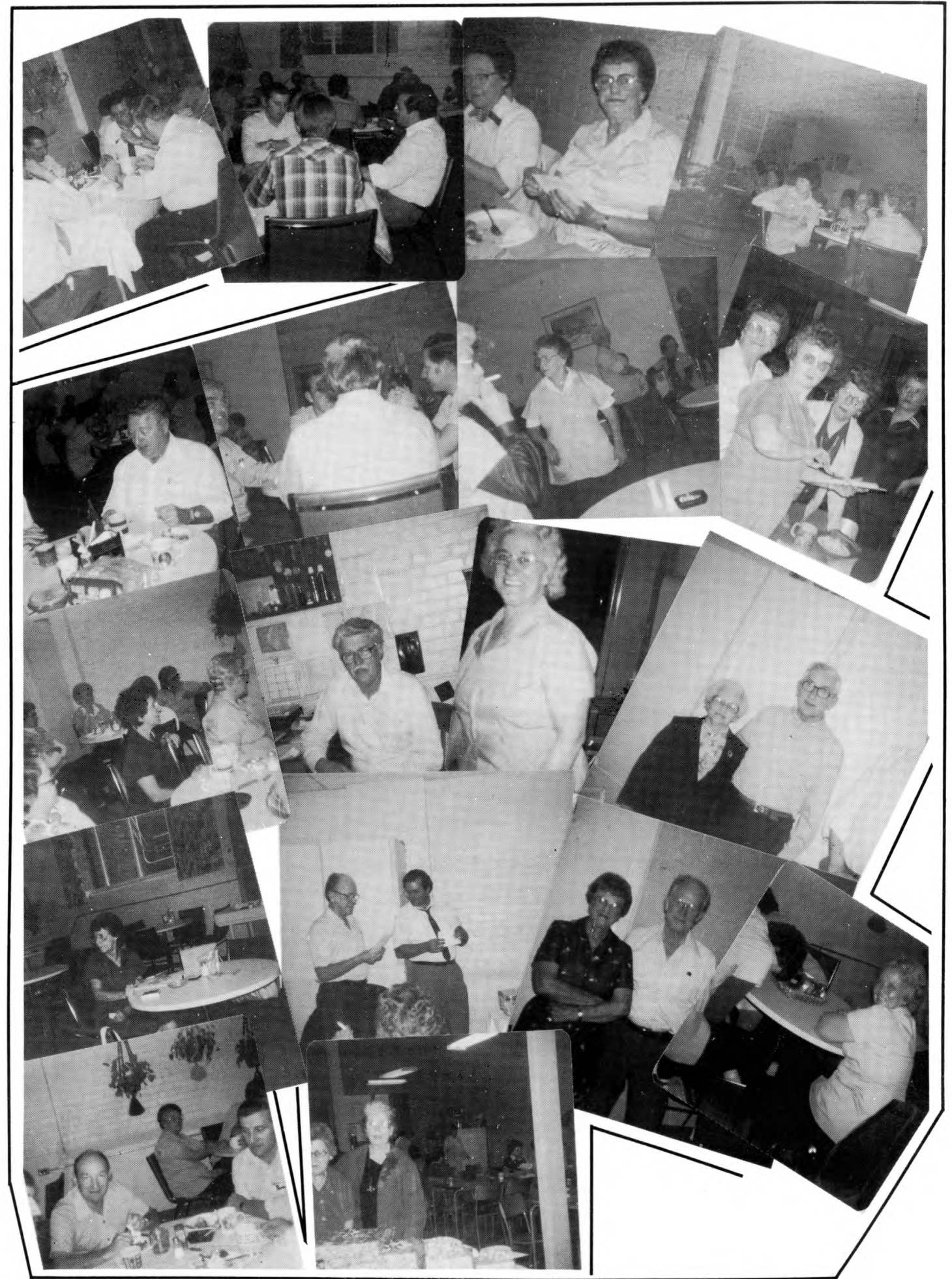




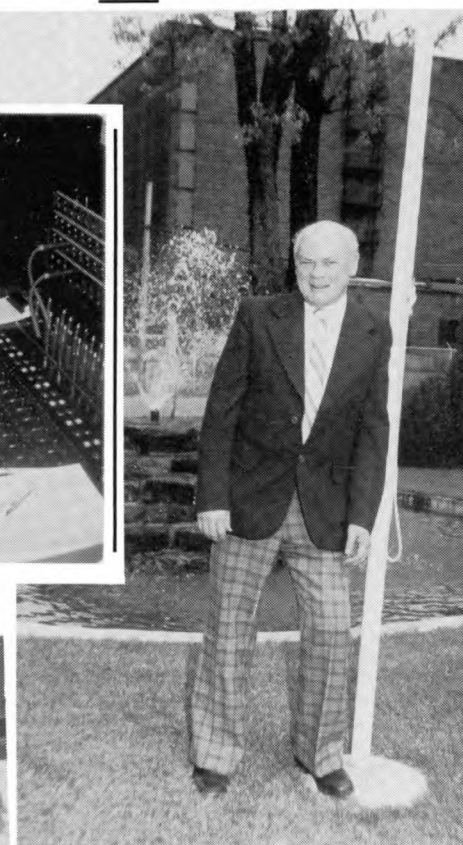


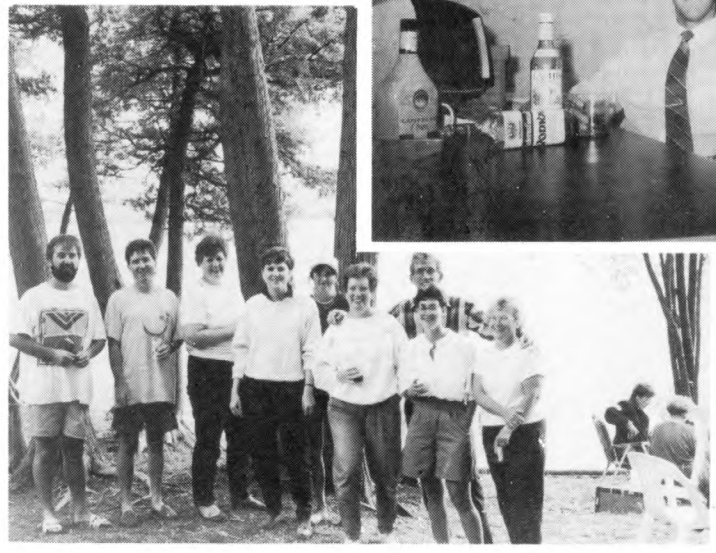
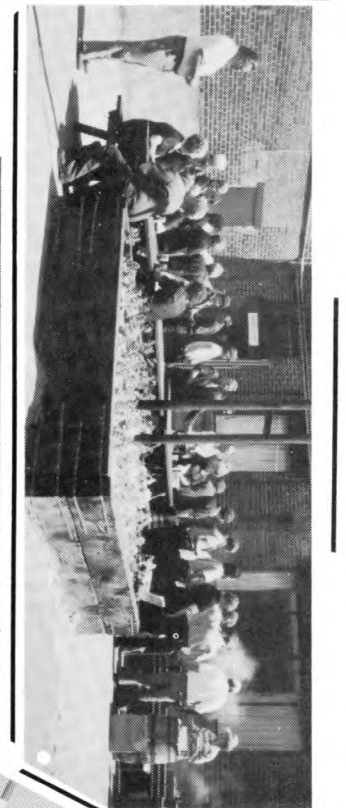
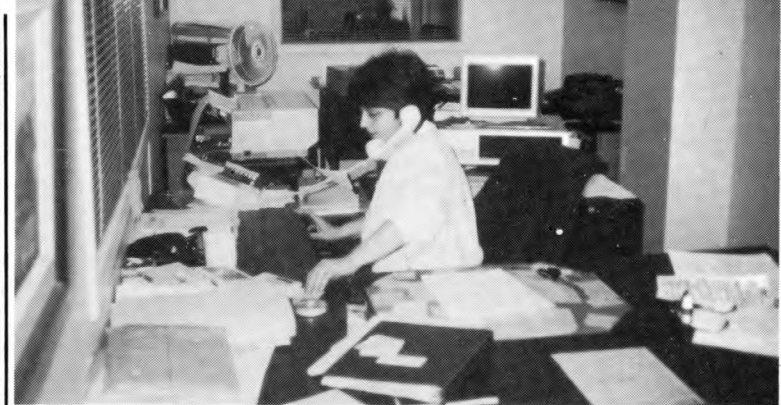
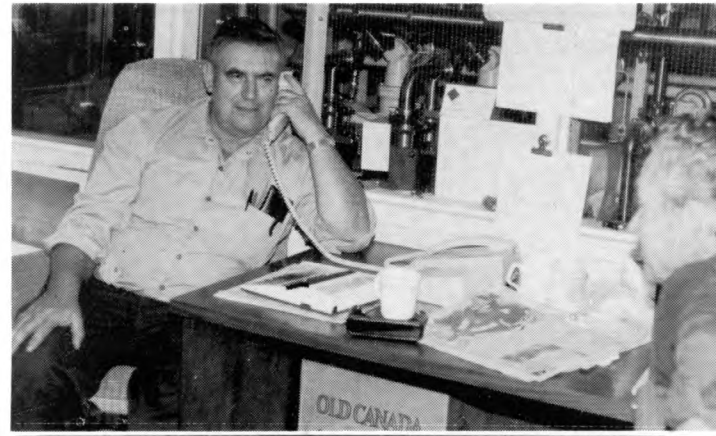
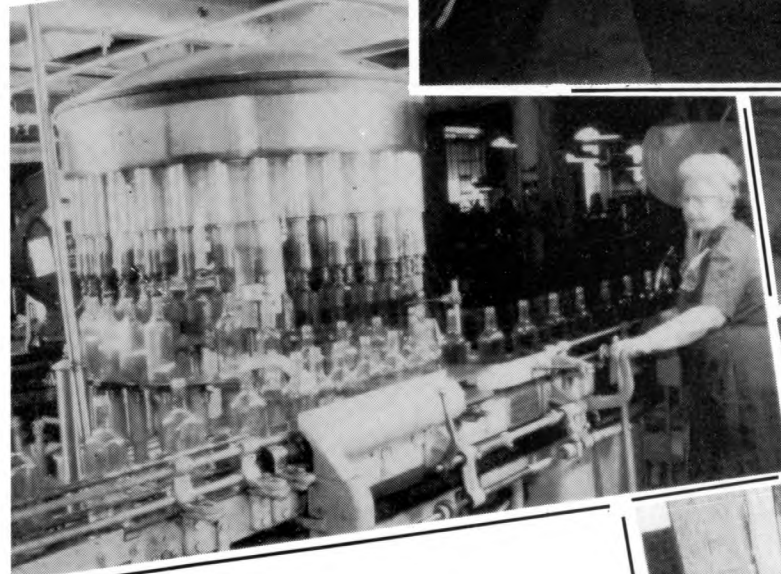
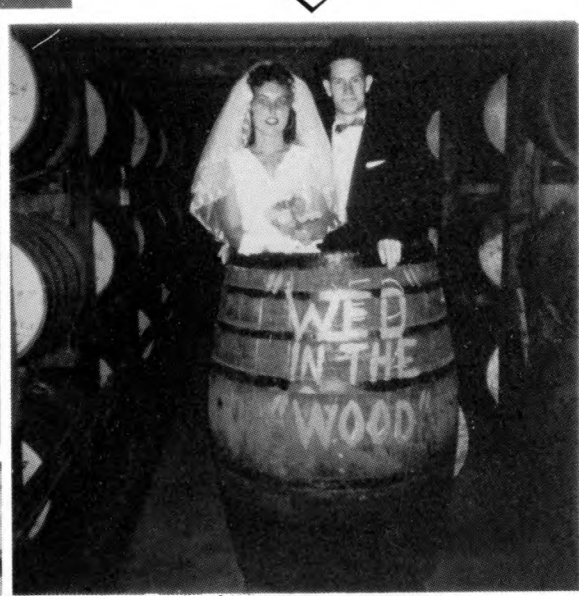
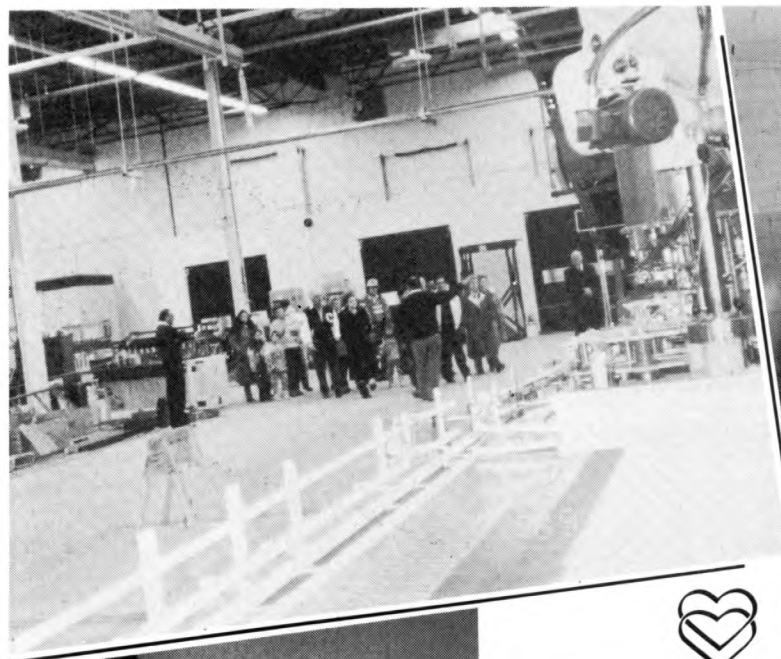


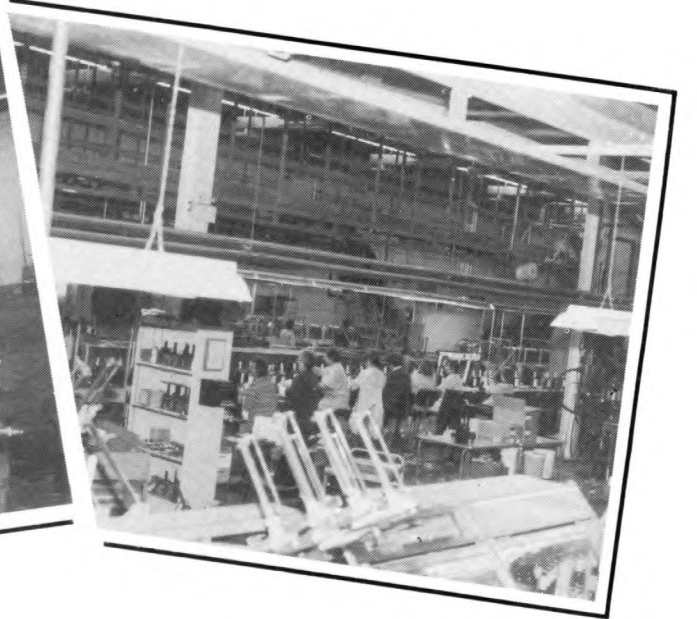
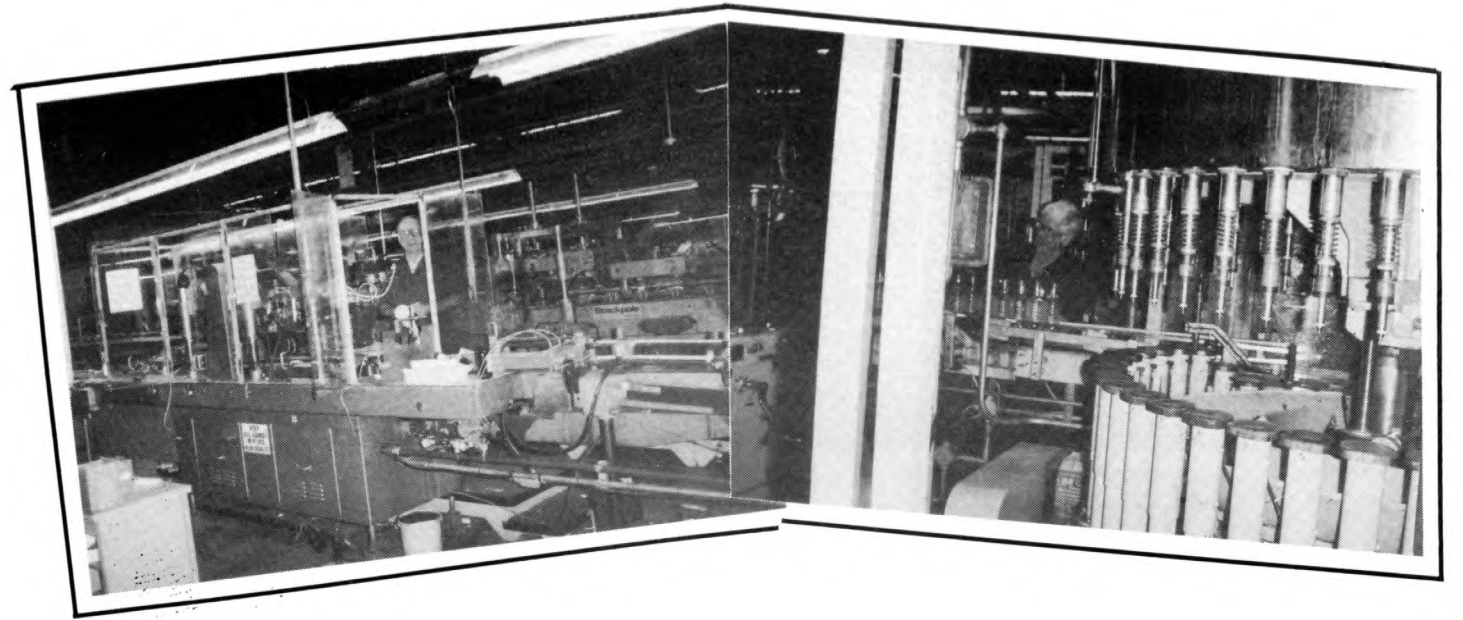
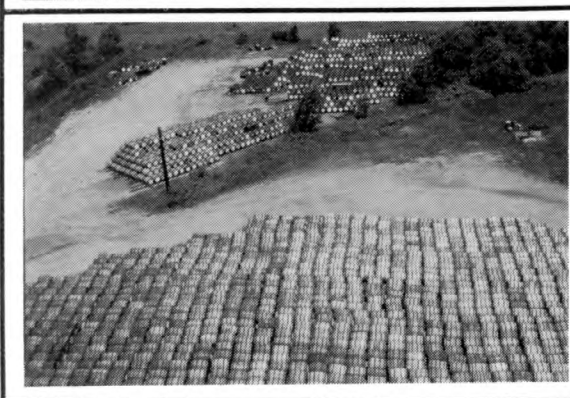
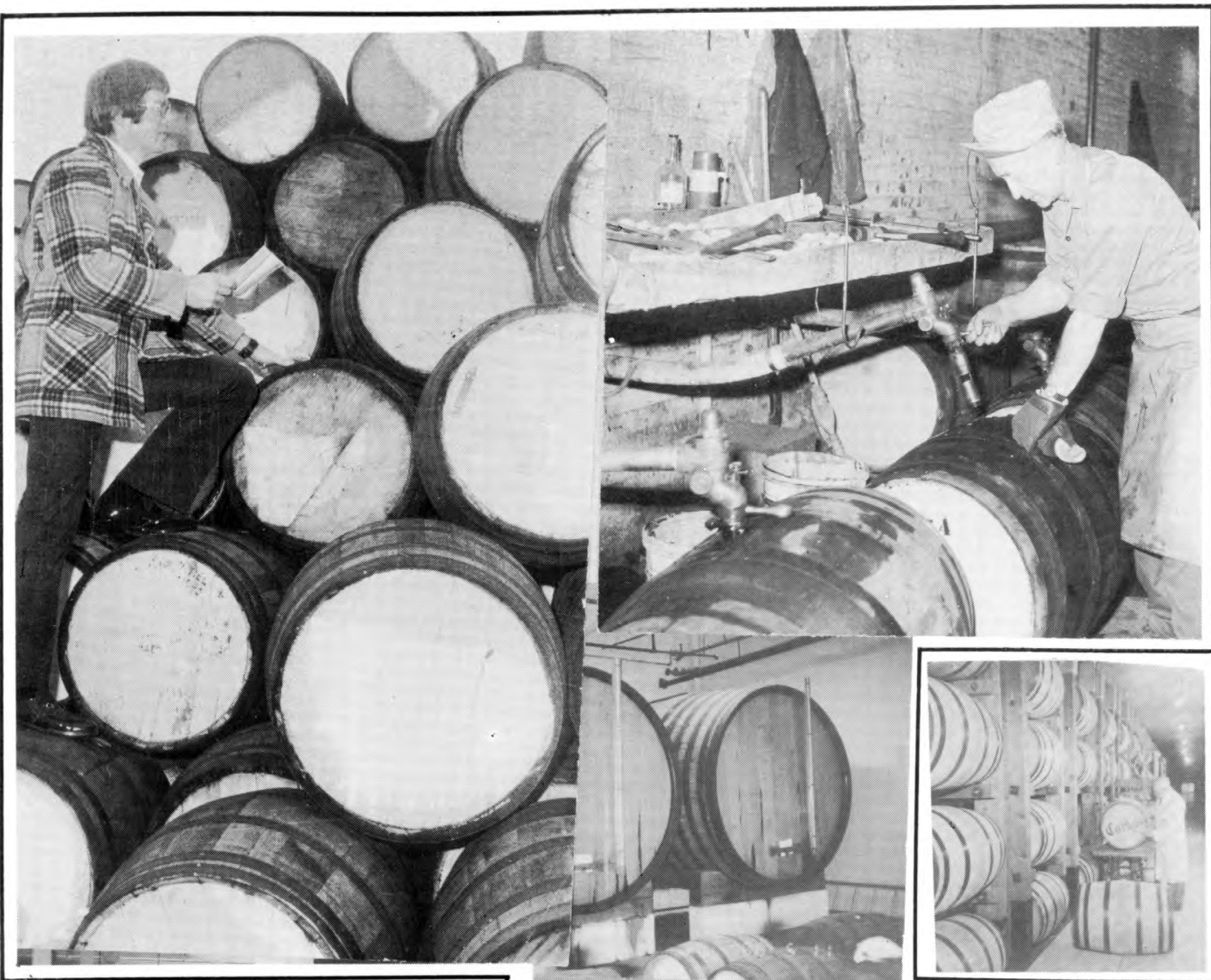


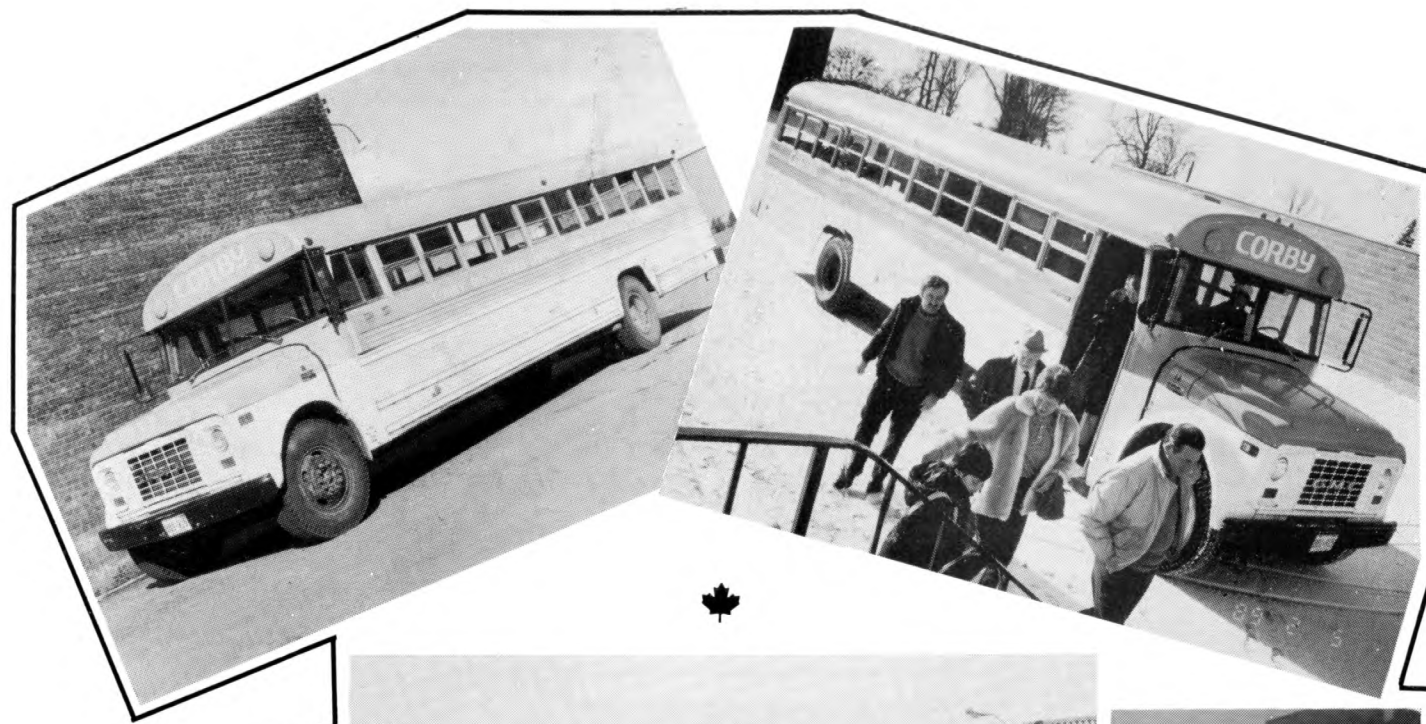
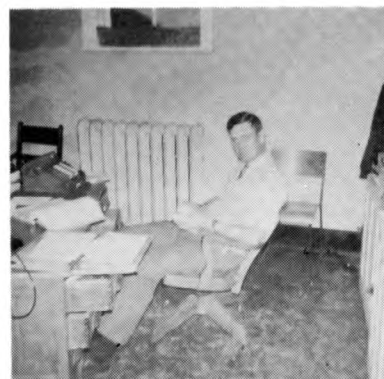


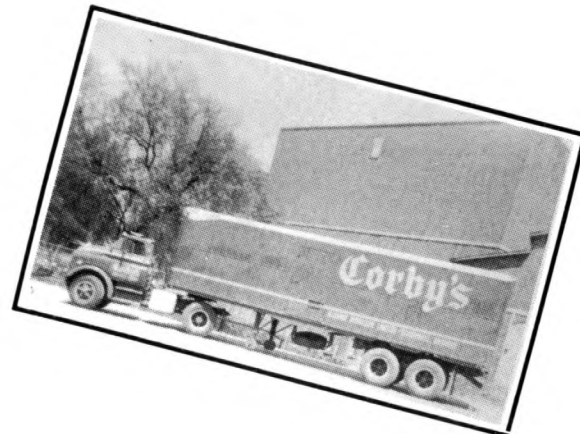
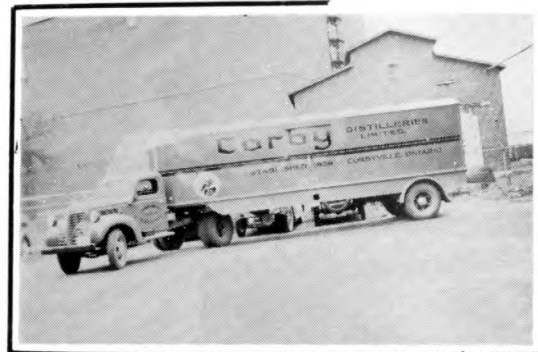
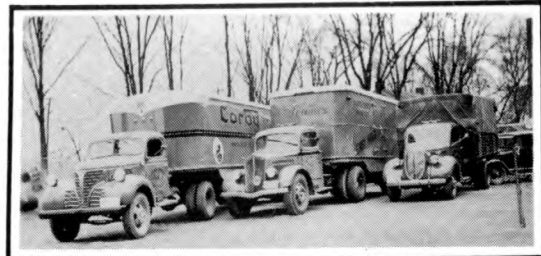




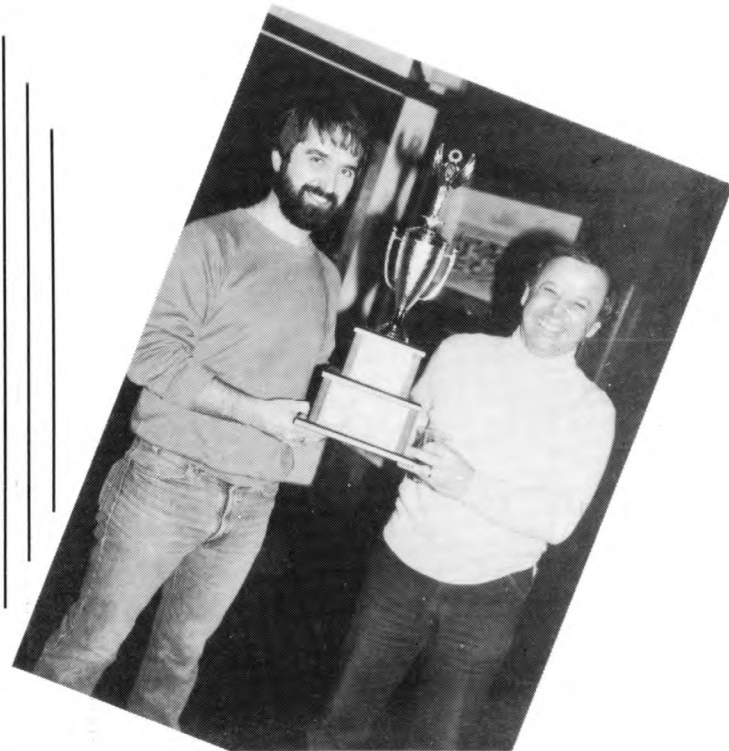
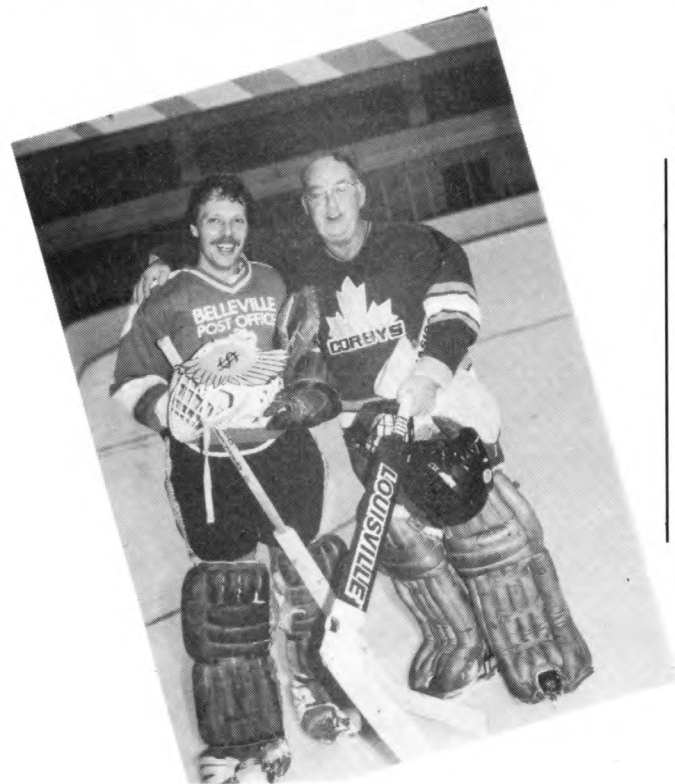














Wishing everyone ALL THE BEST in the years to come. I was glad to be a part of the Corby team for the last year and 1/2. Hope we meet again. Rose Catala

Bye Bye
and
All the Best
Sharon M.

Thanks for
the many wonderful
memories - Laurie H.

Best Wishes to One and All
Marilyn Mathews - Laurie

I'm gonna
miss this place.
Best of luck to everyone!

I enjoyed working
at Corby's and will
miss the people
I have worked with.
J. Ample

Best wishes
to everyone
Kelly
Cooper

Now we're here : now we're gone.
But, Corby's Spirit will live on!
CHOW GUYS by Bill Nicol

Hope to keep in
touch. Thanks for
all the good times
and many memories!
Valerie Forester

Best wishes! Thanks
for the fun and
memories.
Candy
Newman

I have many fond
memories of my time at
Corby's. I know we all
do! Carol Best

Good Luck &
Best wishes
Judy B.

Best wishes to a Friend team
second to none.
Jewel Brown

Wishing you all
the Best of luck
and God's Speed!
Alesia H.

Goodbye and best of
luck to everyone. It's
been nice working
with you.
Sandra L.

Good Luck to all
Paul Saw

Corporate Challenge, golf and
Christmas parties will
never be forgotten!
Best wishes to all!
Christine
Tru

Best wishes to all!
Caroline Ottara

It's been great to be
back with everyone this
past year. I will miss
seeing my friends.
All the Best
Lori

Best wishes to all
employees at Corby!
Shari Phillips

All the Best
Michael

To My Fellow And New Fellow
Employees - I'm out spending
my SEVERANCE. SEE YOU
OUT THERE

BEST WISHES
DAN JACKSON

Think of me
when your launmower
breaks down.

Good luck
to all my friends
Joan Hunter
IF OUR Trails should
Cross Down the Road.
Don't Forget to say
Hello.
Best wishes to y'all.

Uncle George
The Best to all
in the future!
Hi Everyone, May McDonald
It's been great working with you,

Good luck to
everyone in the future
Sharon Kellar
see you in the future
all the best to all
my fellow employees
in the years ahead.

see you in the
Bum Section
of the Liquor Store!
Linda Ingram

Good luck to everyone,
maybe we'll meet some
day in the future
Julie Saylor

KEEP YOUR EYES ON THE ROAD
AND YOUR HANDS UPON THE WHEEL
AND DON'T LOOK BACK!
BEST REGARDS TO THE FUTURE OF ALL
Pat Ch...

It's been a great run.
Unfortunately it's over.
But wishes to everyone.
Stay positive.
To the future
Bob Anderson
Best Wishes
To the future
Doug Burns

Woke up this morning
Got myself a beer
The future's uncertain
The End is always near
Paul Jensen

Best of luck
to all
Frances, Ronelle
Good luck in
the future!

BEST OF LUCK
Bill Mark

Disco's
Mike McWemott
Hol. Law
Paul Rodhouse
Barry Smith
Lone McB
Clifford Purchase
John Dan

Art Phelan
Allan Farney
Donald Thompson
Gordon Hale

Bill LaVeague
Howard Valchak
Clak Thompson
Ken. Hannon

Gerry Inua
F. P. Buzant
Tim Enright
John Burr
Susan Gibson
Carolyn Courtney

Best of luck in the
future
Garry Bonigan
Barry Smith
Vern Velsch
Richard Steins
Paul Hays

Don D. La...
Richard Munk...
J. Lass...
Gand...
R. Mac...
Jenny Forstell

Johnnie Marie Goldnick
D. Lloyd Robertson
Loray McCaw
Bonnie Burns

Janice Mackey
Nancy Macdonald
Margie Monaghan
Pat Gordon
Cheryl Malcolm

All the Best. Linda Tilkens

Best of luck to
everyone.
Tom H. Robins

ROLL OF HONOUR
OF THE
H. CORBY DISTILLERY COMPANY
LIMITED

To commemorate the names
of those employees who
answered the call of King
and Country in the great
war for freedom 1914-1919

✦ FRANK BARNUM
✦ D. PHILIP BRENNAN
THOMAS BELLIS
THOMAS CAVANAGH
ERNEST JOSE
SOUTHER MEAD
ARTHUR PALMER
SAMUEL PALMER
PETER SANCHEZ
THOMAS SIMPSON
P. R. VINCENT
† HAROLD WILSON

† KILLED IN ACTION

✦ DIED

✦ WOUNDED



