

History
of
Paquette Corners

Choice of Name

Mr. Paquette's home was located on the main road from Harrow to Windsor. He, being a very thoughtful and clever man, soon came to realize that his home, which was and about half way between Harrow and Windsor, would make fine guest house. He realized that horses, as well as people, would be tired by the time they reached his home. Mr. and Mrs. Paquette decided to make their home a resting place for weary travellers. Here the people could obtain a warm drink and a bite to eat. The horses could also rest while their riders warmed themselves near the cozy wood stove. While everyone was resting, the horses were also fed and watered in preparation for the rest of their journey. It was not long until Mr. Paquette's home became a gathering place for passers-by. Here they chatted and discussed the latest news, and exchanged community gossip. People soon referred to the guest house and Paquette's Corner.

Mr. Paquette's descendants still live on the same land. The corner, where the house was today as Paquette's Corner. Across the corner from the Paquette home, today, as of old, people gather at the gas station to hear and exchange news and gossip. In a sense, times really have changed very little since, times really have changed very little since Paquette's Corner was founded many years ago.

Site and Location

Advantages: When Mr. Paquette decided to move from River Canard, he had definite ideas in his mind of a good place to live. Mr. Paquette was a farmer and, of course, his main objective in moving was to locate where there was good fertile farm land. One day Mr. Paquette took his thrashing machine to Mr. Peter White's for a thrashing bee. He noticed how fertile and flat the land in this area was. Mr. Paquette decided to move his family to this new area. He chose to place his home near the main road that lead from Harrow to Windsor. This was, of course, an advantage because of easy access to market in the near-by city.

Disadvantages: Mr. Paquette's first job was to clear his land and build his new home. With the closest neighbour being half a mile away, this was a hard, tedious job that he must do himself. The only source of water was the water in the ground so Mr. Paquette had to dig a well for his water supply.

Another disadvantage of this site was the fact that it was so far away from the city. It was twelve miles and took him three hours to drive this distance whenever the occasion called for doing so. At this time, there were no railroads so his only mode of transportation was that of horse and buggy on an old mud road.

Mr. Cyril Paquette

Mr. Cyril Paquette was born on the fifth day of April in the year 1837. He was born in the vicinity of Windsor and was baptized at Assumption Roman Catholic Church where Assumption University is now located.

Mr. Paquette lived the normal life of a child of his times. In October of the year 1859, he married Cecilia Odette. They spent the first part of their married life in the River Canard vicinity. Here their first four children, Albert, Mary, Alice, and John were born. In 1869, he and his family moved to, and founded what is now, Paquette's Corner. Here the remainder of his eleven children, Adelaide, Dan, Fred, Louis, Louise, Lucy, Clarence and Wallace were born.

Mr. and Mrs. Paquette established a hotel in their home at Paquette owned the first steam thrashing machine in this part of the county. He would travel from farm to farm, thrashing for his neighbours during the harvest season. His old thrashing machine was hand-fed and was equipped with a straw carrier. This was considered a modern invention at that time. Later the carrier was replaced by a straw-blower which blew the straw into a stack or into the barn.

Mr. Paquette was skilled in the art of framing barns. He also helped to build houses in the neighbourhood. Some of them are still standing today. One of the homes is owned by Mr. Clifford O'Neil just a short distance from Paquette's Corner.

Mr. Paquette was politically minded, and served as a councillor for two years on the Colchester Council. He was also the assessor of Colchester Township for four or five years.

Mr. Paquette's wife passed away in April of the year 1924. She lived to the age of eighty-three. She was burried in the cemetery of St. Clement's Roman Catholic Church of which they were faithful members. This church is in McGregor which is about two miles south of Paquette's Corner.

Mr. Paquette passed away in April of the year 1929. He lived to the ripe old age of ninety-two. He was laid to rest beside his wife.

Framing and Erecting a Barn

Present day farm buildings are built with a "Balloon Frame" construction in which relatively light two-inch planks are spiked together to form a frame. However, until about the year 1925, most barn frames were "framed" of heavy native timbers held together by wooden pins in a "mortise and tenon" system.

First, the proper trees had to be selected in the woods with proper consideration being given to variety of tree and size. These trees were then felled and cut to correct length and all assembled at the barn site where a durable stone or cement foundation would be built. The logs were set up off the ground on blocks and, with the use of chalk line, square, axe, broadaxe and adze were squared into timbers usually eight inches square. This was a tedious and exciting job and usually was done by a gang of men through the winter months before the barn was to be built.

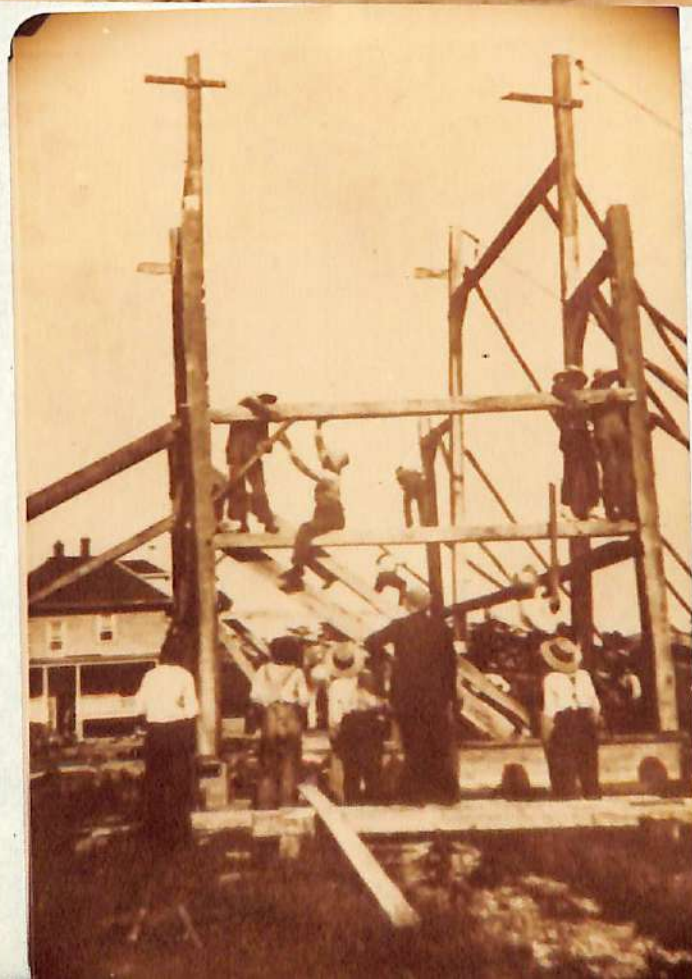
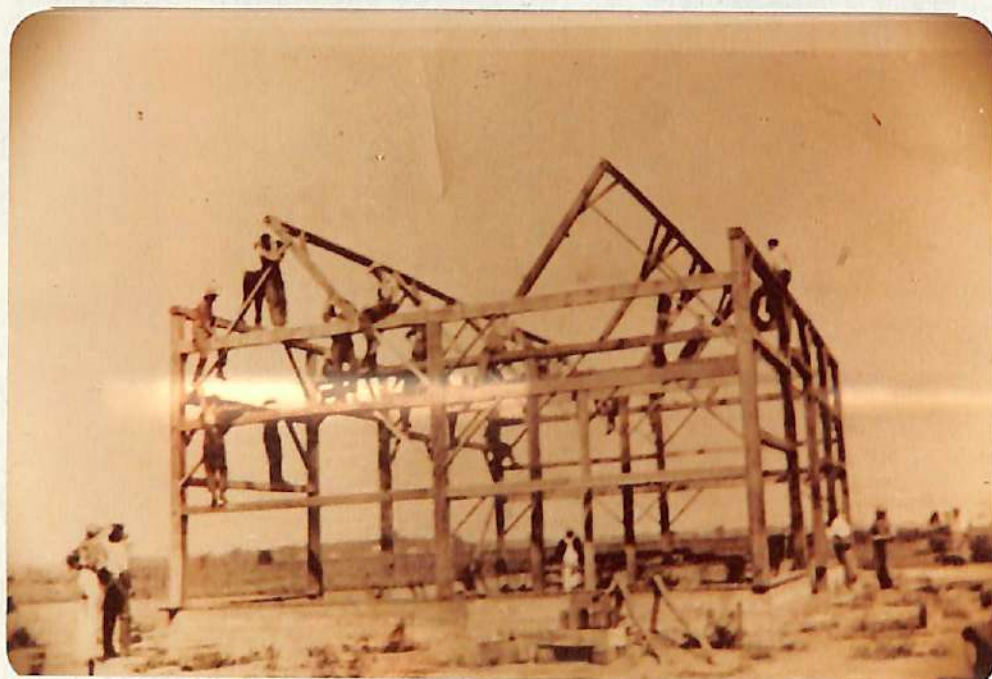
A competent cartenter, who was skilled in the art of barn "framing", was then engaged to supervise the work. Timbers had to be accurately measured and marked. A close watch was kept on the workers as each timber had a definite place in the structure and had to fit perfectly.

Mortises, which are square or oblong holes to receive the tenons, were cut in their proper places. These were made by drilling a row of holes with a two inch auger. This was either a straight auger with a wooden cross handle twisted by hand or a "boring machine" which was a simple geared tool hand cranked by either one or two men. If the mortise was to go completely through, the timber was turned over and corresponding holes

drilled in the opposite side to meet the other holes in the centre. This was then neatly squared with the aid of large flat and corner chisels and a wooden mallet. Tenons were formed on the ends of the proper timbers with the use of a saw, axe and adze. These tenons were extensions on the timbers and are formed to fit perfectly in the corresponding mortise. One inch holes were then drilled across both mortise and tenon in perfect line to receive a wooden pin after assembly. Corner braces of two-by-four hardwood were cut to fit diagonally in the corners in mortises cut for them. These were not pinned in but fit tightly and could not come out.

When all the framing was completed, the complete structure was assembled and erected at the "barn raising bee" when all the neighbours gathered to help. Cross sections of the frame known as "bents raising bee" when all foundation and raised in a perpendicular position. This was done without the aid of any mechanical help but by hand with the use of varying lengths of "pike poles" which were strong poles with a heavy spike in the end to spear into the timbers. These poles were each manned by five or six men. Usually heavier poles termed "bull-poles" were chained to the section to be raised. These heavier poles were drilled crossways near the bottom end to receive crowbars for handles. As each section or "bent" was raised in position, men working on the uncomplace frame put into place all the connecting timbers, braces, and wooden pins. Long timbers called "plates" had to be hoisted up and put in place. These were the full length of the barn, and went on top of the upright posts to hold the base of the rafters. Other plates went even

higher to support the centre of the rafters. This was high, dangerous, and heavy work, with room for very few men to work as a glance at the accompanying picture at the actual "barn-raising bee" and the siding and roofing of the structure was left for the carpenter gang.







Social

The first school, used to educate the children of Paquette's Corner was built in 1873. It was an old frame building located about a half mile from Paquette's Corner.

The first school was later replaced by a new brick structure on the same site. The old school, still being in fairly good condition, was moved to Paquette's Station where it served as a black-smith shop. It is now part of Mr. Roger Lounsborough's granary. The original blackboards can still be seen in it today.

The new brick structure was heated with a wood burning, box stove. This school served until 1924. The second school was replaced by a larger brick building complete with basement and furnace. This third school served until 1959.

A modern two-room brick school is now located on the same site as the preceding three schools.

Industry

Local Farming

In the picture we see a horse drawn grain binder on the Robert Shuel farm. It is driven by Mr. Maurice Rochileau about the year 1917. These machines cut the grain and tied it in neat bundles with twine. These bundles were then placed upright in "stooks" to dry and cure. Later machines are now completely replaced by grain combines.

Farming is the important industry at Paquette's Corner. The crops of early days were wheat, corn, oats, barley, sugar beets, hay, tomatoes, and tobacco.



Social

The Church of the Redeemer

With the population increasing, and the only mode of transportation being horse and buggy, the people of Paquette's Corner decided to build a small Anglican Church. A piece of property was donated by Mr. Robert Shuel for the church grounds. The church was built in 1900 to seat approximately eighty people. The first service was held in 1901. During the service, the horses and buggies could be sheltered from the cold winds and storms in a shed built beside the church.

Services are still held in this little church but several changes have been made around the grounds. Except for minor repairs and paint jobs the interior of the church still remains as in olden times.

Socail
Paquette's Station

The station at Paquette's Corner was built in 1887. It served as a waiting room for passengers coming and going on the trains. There were four passenger trains daily, serving all points from Walkerville to St. Thomas. Mail and express was delivered by train to the station and then taken to the Post Office which was next door to the station. At first, the people picked their mail up at the Post Office. Later on, a route was established and the mail was delivered to the farms. First it was delivered by horse and buggy and later by car.

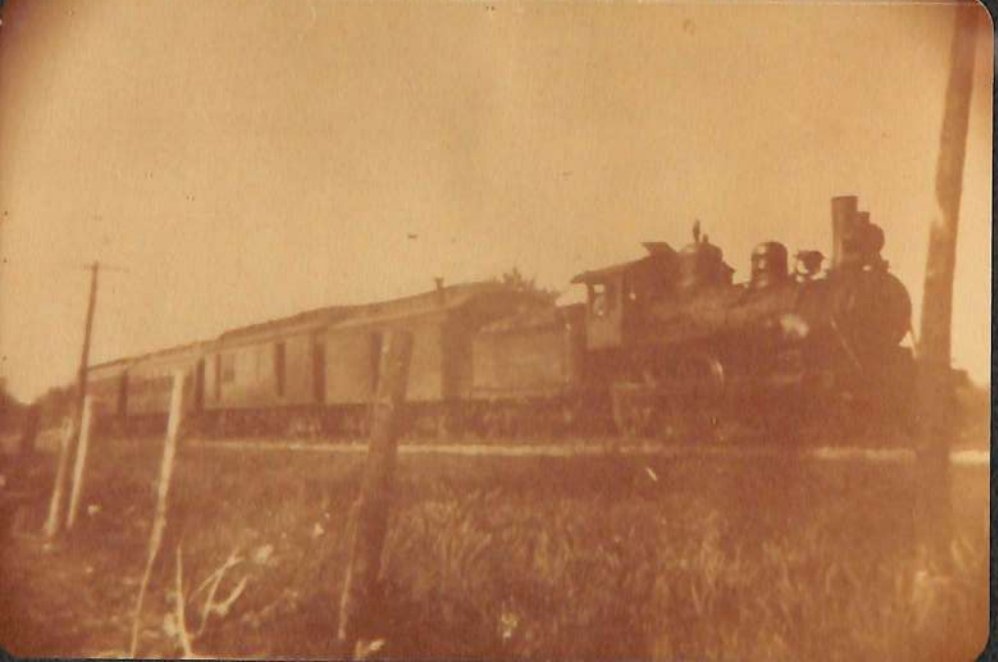
The time soon came when trains no longer delivered by truck to the Post Offices Paquette's Corner, not being on the truck's main route, changed its Post Office to Oldcastle. With the Post Office at Oldcastle, the station at Paquette's Corner, being of no further use, was torn down. Oldcastle is about two and a half miles from Paquette's Corner. The mail is now delivered by car.

Today, in place of the old station at Paquette's Corner, a new beet loading machine has been erected.

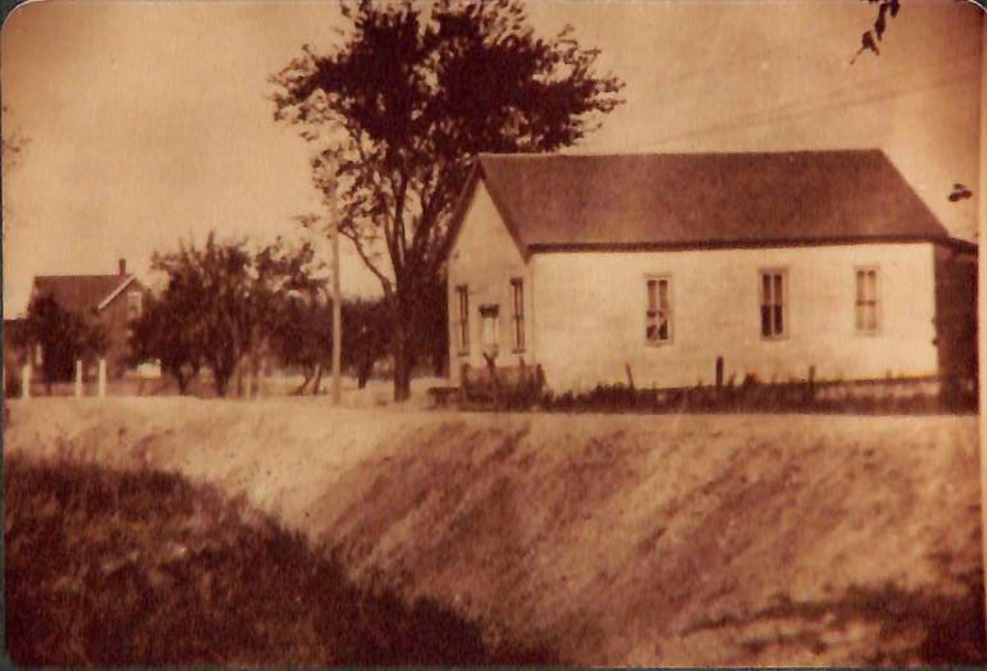
Post Office was located in the home of Mr. Frank Lounsborough. He was the Postmaster. Mail delivered by Mr. Harry Reyner.











Socail

Orange Hall

The Orange Hall was built near Paquette's Corner in 1893 by the members of the Orange Lodge held regular meetings in it until the year 1968 when the lodge disbanded.

The Orange Hall served as a social centre of the neighbourhood. It was the only hall around. For sometime, it was used by the Anglicans as a church and Sunday school. When the Church of the Redeemer was built, the church services and Sunday school were moved to and held in the new church.

Large banquets and dinners were often held in the hall. Every second Friday night during the winter months, a card party and square dance was held in it. These events were sponsored by iether the Lodge or the Anglican Young People's group. The adults would gather at 8:00 and play cards until 9:30 or 10:00. By this time, the hall would be packed by young folks, who usually came in time to indulge in the delicious lunch prepared by the ladies. After everyone had eaten, the music began. Before long, everyone was engrossed in dancing and in having a wonderful time. The building would shake from the enthusiasm of its dancers. In corners and in the balcony, some of the older men would often sit and continue to play cards. Everyone danced and enjoyed themselves until the wee hours of the morning.

No one missed this evening out and no matter what the weather was like everyone was there.

With the building of the new Tully Hall behind the Church of the Redeemer, the Orange Hall became vacant and has not been used since. It still stands but plans for its removal are under way.

Economic

Transportation

Before the coming of the railroad the only mode of transportation was by horse and buggy or carriage. Most farm folks owned a democrat which could have the back seat removed and bulky materials could be carried in the back. For Sundays and special occasions, a fancy buggy or carriage for the whole family was available.

Economics

Transportation

When the railroad was built in 1887, within a quarter mile of Paquette's Corner, it was a natural selection for a station and freight siding to be known as Paquette's Station. This was a great boom to the area's development as it provided a convenient means of bringing in sand, gravel, and lumber for building purposes, tile for drainage work, and all other heavy freight. Thousands of tons of sugar beets, tomatoes, canning corn, small grains, other farm produce, and livestock have found their way to market on this railway.

Four passenger trains a day provided passenger service to all points between Walkerville and St. Thomas. The people of Paquette's Corner surrounding areas often went to the Windsor market and to Windsor to shop.

Of special interest to the younger people was the church picnic excursions which were arranged each summer. At this time, extra coaches were added to the train to provide transportation to the Kingsville park on Lake Erie. This was usually the one and only trip to the lake during the summer. These excursions were discontinued after 1912 with the advent of the automobile.

With the building of more and better roads, the coming of the trucks and automobiles, a gradual change took place through the years. Outgoing freight is limited to sugar beets and passenger patronage dwindled until it was no longer profitable to operate the passenger trains. Their last run was made in the 1930's.

While the railroad's place in the community today seems unimportant, too much credit cannot be given to it for its place in the early development of this pioneer area.

Industry

Sheep Shearing

The picture on the opposite side shows two men shearing sheep. Sheep shearing in Paquette's Corner was done about 1916. This was a yearly springtime job. In the picture, it is being done with a thin modern hand-cranked shearing clippers. This method was replaced in later years by electrically driven clippers. Very little, if any, sheep are sheared in Paquette's Corner now.



Oldest House

This log house is situated on the Walker road about one mile north of Paquette's Corner. It has been modernized with electricity, hot water heating, and exterior insulbrick covering. It is still in use today as a residence. The date on which it was built is not known, but it was likely in the 1860's.



THIS is one of the oldest log houses around the McGregor settlement. It was built by Mose Dufoe of rough-hewn logs and plaster. Although not as old as some of the other houses nearer the lake shore, this has served as a dwelling for over 60 years.

Industry

Saw Mill

As the Paquette and surrounding area was a heavily timbered, wet, fertile area, much heavy work had to be done in clearing and draining the land. Trees had to be felled and disposed of before drainage work could be completed. Much of this wood was used for fuel, but also it was hauled into piles and burned. However, the building industry, both in the country and in the city, required quantities of good lumber so a local saw mill seemed to be the ideal answer for dispensing of the large quantities of better grade logs.

In the year 1889, a large mill was moved from Gesto, a village about four miles away, by Mr. Robert Shuel. It was assembled on his farm on the town Paquette's Station. Mr. Shuel, who was one of the first pioneers in the area and a large land owner, had a considerable quantity of timber of his own. By buying timber and logs from his neighbours, and by doing custom sawing for the area, he was able to keep the mill running a good share of the year. The power was supplied by a stationary steam engine powered with a bricked in wood burning boiler. It was housed in a large frame building which was later moved away. It is still being used as a farm barn. Products of the mill were used in construction work in the area and in the cities of Windsor and Detroit. Some of the better lumber found a market as far away as Buffalo.

In 1900, after eleven years of operation and after the better timber was depleted, the mill was dismantled and moved to Duck Island in Georgian Bay.



Economics

Industry

Since the land around Paquette's Corner is very flat and low and has very poor natural drainage it was very wet and it was almost impossible to walk on the land during the Spring and early Summer seasons in pioneer days. Large drainage ditches had to be constructed as an outlet for the farmers' small ditches and furrows. This surface drainage was slow and not very satisfactory. Also the ditches and furrows took up a lot of valuable land. They required continual repair and maintainance. A system of underground drainage which consists of clay tile buried about thirty inches deep in long lattral rows across the land was imperative. The low end of the tile drain empties into a drainage ditch. This drainage system seemed to be the answer to the problem. At first, this work was all done by hand, and was a very slow and tedious task. Later gasoline-powered machines were developed to do this work. The first machine of this type was owned and operated by Albert and Louis Paquette and sons of Cyril Paquette. This machine of land. Eventually, better and more modern machines came into the country and the old machine was dismantled.

In later years, Mr. Fred Paquette, grandson of Cyril Paquette, purchased a modern tiling machine and does most of the tiling in the Paquette neighbourhood. This machine is self-propelled and is mounted on rubber wheels for ease of transportation on the highways and country roads.

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Economics

Industry

The rapid growth of Windsor, the comfort of modern automobiles, and improved country roads have been instrumental in bringing more and more city people out into the country to live. A large number of these people have had the desire to build a new home in the country away from the congested city. So Paquette's Corner, being situated on one of the main roads leading to Windsor could expect its share of these suburban-minded people. The owners of the Shepley Construction Company were able to anticipate the possibilities of a suburban development. So, for this purpose, they purchased nearly the entire frontage of the original Cyril Paquette farm.

A large rock well was put down, and a water main put in for future development. Drainage was provided and utilities such as telephone, hydro, and natural gas arranged for. Since 1955 sixteen attractive, well-kept, brick veneer houses, have been erected on this frontage. It is very probable that many more will be built there in the years to come.

Social

The Church of the Redeemer

The picture on the preceding page shows the Church of the Redeemer as it stands today. The grounds have been enhanced by lovely evergreens. Gay flowers bloom around the building in summer.

The old horse and buggy shed has been torn down and in its place there is a parking lot and driveway.

In 1950 a hall was added to the church to serve as a Sunday school and a social centre for the community. Dances, card parties, dinners and wedding receptions are held there.

The hall was named in honour of the Rev. Joseph Tully, a minister of the church during the years 1929 to 1948.



Social

School

The top picture on the preceding page shows the school as it was from 1914 to 1959. The school is still standing but is used only as a store room for supplies.

The school at the bottom of preceding page shows the new two-room school now in use. It was built in 1959 and accommodates approximately seventy to eighty children. It is located on the same site as the preceding schools.

Local Industry

In 1953 a large livestock sales barn was built by Mr. Jack O'Neil. A weekly community auction of livestock was carried on for one and a half years. In 1953 it became the Windsor Assembly yard, of the Ontario Hog Producers Association. Nearly all the hogs of Essex County are assembled here for sale. Through the Association's head sales office located in Toronto the hogs are sold by the teletype and Dutch clock system. Hogs are delivered to the marketing yard by the local farmers and hauled out in large trucks. These truck loads of hogs are often marketed as far away as Hamilton and Toronto.

In a one-year period as many as twenty-six thousand five hundred hogs have been assembled in this market yard. To date, in its six years of operation, a total of one hundred seventy-five thousand hogs have passed over the scales and have been shipped out to many distant points of Ontario.

Local Industry

Since 1915, Paquette's Corner has been an important loading station for sugar beets being shipped to Mount Clements, Michigan and Chatham, Ontario. In early days, they were hauled by wagons and teams and forked into railroad cars by hand..

In 1958 Canada and Dominion Sugar Company installed a mechanical elevator and loader to serve the area from Amherstburg to Essex. All beets are now hauled by truck and mechanically cleaned and loaded into railroad cars which haul the beets to Chatham.

Services

Police and Fire Protection

Police protection in the pioneer days was very seldom needed. When needed, police had to be called from the city. Today, the area is well protected by the Ontario Provincial Police whose headquarters are on Highway 401. Radio equipped cruisers patrol the roads night and day. Police service and assistance can be obtained in a few minutes by telephone.

The only fire protection in the area in the past was the neighbourhood bucket brigade. Today, we have very good protection through an agreement with our neighbouring township of Anderdon. We can call for their fire equipment and crew whenever it is needed.

Services

Power

In pioneer days, farm power was supplied by oxen, farms windmills were used to pump water. Water power for milling and other heavy work was unknown in this part of the county. Wood burning steam engines were developed and were used for power in threshing grain, in sawmills, in elevators, and at other heavy work. Later, these engines were replaced by gasoline engines. At the sametime, gasoline tractors replaced oxen and horses. Electricity, which was first distributed in the country in the 1920's, was used to drive engines to pump water, to wash the clothes, churn the butter, and elebate the grain. These engines, also furnished the power for many other jobs on the farm. Tractors and electricity have taken most of the drudgery out of farming.

Water Supply

The picture on the opposite page shows a wooden windmill built about 1918 on the Thomas Pettypiece farm. It served to pump all the water from a deep rock well for the stock and house use. It was later replaced by an electric pump when electricity was installed on the farm in the year 1927.

The farms in Paquette's Corner at one time had at least one windmill and sometimes two. Today, the water supply is pumped by means of an electric pump from the wells.



Wooden Windmill 1900 —
Thos. Pettypiece farm



Mr. John Shuel

Mr. John Shuel is the oldest child of Mr. Robert Shuel. He was born in 1891 on the seventeenth day of september. He attended S. S. #4 school and was and still is a faithful member of the Church of the Redeemer. For sometime he was a Sunday school teacher and the Superintendent of the Sunday school. Mr. Shuel was also a member of the Anglican Young People's Association. Since 1911 he has been the treasurer for the church. In the years 1917-1918 Mr. Shuel was on the council of Sandwich South Township.

In 1918, he married Florence O'Neil. They were blessed with Margaret, Robert, Warren, Dorthy, Jim and Mary Anne.

Mr. Shuel was a chauman for the Essex District High School from 1953-1959.

He was the director on the board of Ontario Vegetable and Canning Crop Association from 1937-1954 and the chauman from 1942-1943. Mr. Shuel was also the chauman for the Essex County Milk Producers for some years.

In 1957 Mr. Shuel was the Church of the Redeemer representative for the formation of Conterbury College at Assumption University. Mr. Shuel has been on the board of Management of the church and has been the warden from 1954-1961.

This industrious, able welliked man still continues to take a very active part in the church and community.





Mr. Robert Shuel

Mr. Robert Shuel was born in 1840 in Castle Main, Ireland. Mr. Shuel father died two months before he was born. In 1837, he came to New Brunswick with his mother and seven other brothers and sisters. They settled thirty-five miles from St. John. In 1853, the family moved to Detroit where they stayed for a year the family then moved to Sandwich South near Paquette's Corner in 1854. Here Mr. Shuel with the help of some of his brothers and sisters cleared the land and hauled the wood by oxen to Detroit. This wood was used for fire wood. The money they received for it helped to pay for their living. In 1887, Mr. Shuel moved to a house on the eighth concession. In 1888, he married Sarah Jones. They were blessed with four children John, Robert, Banford and Erin.

In 1889, Mr. Shuel moved a sawmill from Gesto to his farm. The lumber products from this mill were taken to Windsor, and some lumber was shipped as far away as Buffalo. The sawmill was in operation until 1900. He also continued to farm his four hundred acres of land. Mr. Shuel, in 1900, donated a portion of his farm land to Redeemer Anglican Church. The Church of the Redeemer was erected on this land.

Mr. Shuel was noted for his skill in handling an axe and helped to blaze the roadways in the Paquette district. He was also a good deer hunter, raised cattle, and was a dealer in cattle.

Mr. Shuel died in February, in the year 1928 at the age of eighty-eight years. He was laid to rest in Windsor Grave Cemetery. Mrs. Shuel, at the age of eighty years passed away in May of the year 1950. She was laid to rest beside her husband.

Paquette Development.

Sept. 28, 1957 — a ²¹ 100,000 building boom over
The last 2 years has changed the face of Paquette.
The new Sunnybrook development has seen 10
new homes erected to more than double the pop.
of the village. Most of the home owners are employ-
ed in Windsor and commute daily. Lawrence ~~Bag~~
Shepley, a building contractor in Paquette was behind
the development. Each owner planned his own home
and Mr. Shepley builds it. All of brick Const.
range in price between \$9,500 + \$13,000.