

ROSELAND [Jackson's Corners]

In 1966 the city of Windsor annexed from Sandwich South a total population of 2,340 persons. The majority of this number came from the region now known as Roseland. However, despite its present modern appearance as a typical suburb, Roseland has quite a rich historic heritage and cannot be ignored when relating the development of Sandwich South.

Early settlers who first appeared in the region of Roseland were for the most part French, but the area was well interspersed with English and Irish homesteaders as well. Dumouchelle, Jessop, Dennison, Lauzon, Morand, Allen, Burke, Ouellette, Cahill, Mero, and Vollans are names prominent in the early years of the Roseland region. Some like Morand and Dumouchelle have their influence preserved with the naming of streets after them.



The Allen home in Roseland, located on Howard Avenue, on what was then known as the "Gravel Road." This house was used as the Jackson's Corners Post Office, with Charles Allen as postmaster, until his tragic death in a train accident in the early 1900'S. It is also remembered as occupying a piece of land constantly used as an Indian campsite before the turn of the century.

The name of 'Roseland' was given to the area by Mrs. G. Bell, in 1925, the favoured result of a contest effected specifically for that purpose. However, the original name of the region's centre, that being the present crossroads of Cabana and Howard, was Jackson's Corners. There are differing stories as to why it was so entitled, but the most common relates that the name came from an old black man, a Mr. Jackson, who sold soap from a decrepid shack on the corner.

In the early 1800's the area was reknown for being one of the largest Indian encampments in the county. An Indian cemetary was situated where now traf-
fic makes its noisy haste at the corner where Howard Avenue, North Talbot
Road, and Dougall Road all converge.

And Indians are reported as having frequently camped at the corner of
Cabana and Howard as well as on the site of the old Allen farm and the Jessop
land as well.

At its first inauguration into the agricultural world of the white settler, the
area was not one of preferable lands. The woods were extremely dense, and
filled with a growing number of harmful wild animals being pushed to the
periphery of settlement by Windsor's advancement. And common to all areas
of Sandwich South, water was extremely scarce; there being no creeks in the
region whatsoever. However, with persistence and hard work the settlement
became somewhat populated.

The factor establishing Jackson's Corners as a permanent and growing
community was the cutting of Howard Avenue from the farm of Mr. Howard
at Tecumseh Road, south through Jackson's Corners to the county beyond.
Originally under the supervision of Colonel Talbot, the road which was first
established in the early 1800's was barely a trail. The hired labourers attempt-
ing to follow the straight path the surveyors had laid, found themselves having
to cut through and remove stumps some six feet wide. Nevertheless with much
effort the road was finally laid using the 'corduroy' method of logs laid side by
side. And inconvenient as it was, the trail still provided the first and only link
for the settlers of Jackson's Corners to the village of Windsor.

Later towards the end of the nineteenth century, the road was commissioned
to private company and gravelled. Howard Avenue became known as the
'Gravel Road', and soon provided a direct stage coach route into the village of
Windsor. However, similar to the story of the Talbot Road's commission farther
east, the company immediately erected toll gates at Jackson's Corners, Grand
Marais, and at the Howard and Tecumseh crossroads farther north. And anal-
ogous to the toll gates in Oldcastle, Maidstone, and Essex, these other struct-
ures were soon condemned to death on the charge of insufficient service and
exorbitant prices, and justly met their end as a consequence of strange 'acts
of fate' in the late 1890's.

Nevertheless, the road continued to thrive and as stage coach service in-
creased, Jackson's Corners became a rest-station for the change-over of horses.
A post office known as 'Wimbledon' was then established on the farm of John
Jessop, a local magistrate who had received crown deed to his land from
Colonel Rankin.

Perhaps, the most famous person to emerge from the Roseland area was a
Mr. Joseph Hennin. Mr. Hennin married Alice Lefevre in 1903, and shortly
afterwards purchased property at Jackson's Corners. His new home, a small
four-roomed house, was moved from the south end of Ed Turk's twenty-five
acres to the north end. The post office was re-established in his home, and was
now named the Jackson's Corners Post office, with Mr. Hennin himself as its
first postmaster.

Later Mr. Hennin moved across the street to where there was a small motel

and opened the first grocery store in the hamlet of Jackson's Corners, in the same building. In December of 1922, Mr. Hennin sold the premises to a Mr. I.L. Whipple who continued the store's operation and became Postmaster as well. Mr. Whipple operated, amongst other things, a grocery truck which travelled from farm to farm delivering goods, saving a great deal of time and inconvenience to local farmers. Mr. Whipple was postmaster until 1949, and remained in business with his store until his retirement in August of 1969.

Meanwhile, Mr. Hennin, who had left the grocery business, was elected to the Sandwich South council for two years in 1923-1925. Following this term he was then elected Reeve of the township in 1926. Mr. Hennin held the longest term of any reeve in this township and retained his position for 23 of the township's ninety-one years! In 1941 not only was Mr. Hennin our own popular reeve, but he was also elected by his fellow reeves of Essex County to be the Warden of the County as well. After a long and faithful service to Sandwich South and the County of Essex, Mr. Hennin eventually retired from municipal politics in late 1947.



Mr. Joseph G. Hennin and his wife here honoured at a testimonial dinner held by the Roseland Women's Institute in January of 1948.

Pictured here from left to right are:

Mr. Robert H. Wilson, K.C., Windsor

Mr. Percy McKee - reeve of Sandwich South

Mr. Hennin

Mrs. Hennin

Rev. Joseph Tully, of St. Stephen's Church in Sandwich South.

A descendent of the Vollans family, one of the original settlers in the Rose-land area, a Mr. Tom Vollans, bought 200 acres of land on 'Mill Road', (the first road past St. Stephen's Church on Howard Avenue), and established a large grist flour and lumber mill. This particular mill produced large quantities of three-inch planks in white oak, and Tom sold them profitably to Detroit ship builders.



Rose Vollans, the mother of Mildred O'Neil, who still resides in Sandwich South on Walker Road. Rose was the daughter of Samuel Vollans, who was born on July 26, 1846, of immigrant parents which had come to Sandwich South from England, in 1835. The Vollans family are prominent in the area of what was once Jackson's Corners [Roseland]

His lumbering saw which stood vertically, was $\frac{1}{4}$ inches thick, and the grist mill consisted of two 6 foot stones with a silk bolt attached, which separated the grain into flour and bran, etc. The mill's repute was far-reaching and it is said that in the spring, logs were piled ten feet high from the 'gravel road' (Howard) to the mill. Later Tom sold the mill to his brother Sam, and built in its stead two more mills in Windsor.

However, perhaps the most interesting business venture in Roseland was undertaken by our former clerk-treasurer Bert Bedford. Mr. Bedford operated for several years, the 'Old Orchard Rabbitry', on his over one hundred year old farm on Cabana Road. The rabbitry produced, and quickly one might add, a large 'crop' of New Zealand white rabbits to be used for laboratory and medical researchers.

But alas, poor Mr. Bedford soon became too busy keeping the township in its proper order, and the rabbit industry was abandoned.

Mr. Bedford is a walking encyclopedia of information concerning Sandwich South, and for good reason. First serving the township as assessor, he later became clerk-treasurer in 1959, and continued to hold this position for 18 years. Prior to 1965 the administrative offices of the township were even situated in Mr. Bedford's home here in Roseland. All told Mr. Bedford faithfully served the township of Sandwich South for 45 years, from 1932 until the spring of 1977.

Roseland Public School started as a one room school house at the turn of the century, and still serves the community under the Windsor Board of Education; though in a much expanded and modernized form.

Roseland is now a sub-division of the City of Windsor, though some of its older residents still feel more attached to Sandwich South than they do to the fast encroaching hustle of Windsor.