



Gas-Line Deadline November 1st, 1958.

These pictures were taken from King Sideroad between 7 and 8th concessins of King Township, where the Trans-Canada Gas pipeline is laid, showing a few rods of the gas line from Alberta to Toronto.

Toronto consumers should be burning Alberta gas in their homes and factories on or before November 1st, 1958. 1956-57 saw the first 1300 miles of pipe laid. This year's task was to lay 853 miles of 30" pipe from Port Arthur to Maple, north of Toronto. Total cost of 1958 operation is estimated at \$765,000,000. A mile of pipe a day is slow progress now, in contrast with the easy two or three miles daily across the prairies. The pipeline is designed to deliver 780 cubic feet a day. The newly built Laskay bridge surely had its strength tested, as soon after it's completion, the constant pipe delivery on huge transportation trucks carrying 60' length, 30" pipe began to their allotted destination.



## THE TELEPHONE

New residents in such little communities as King City do not always remember that some of the niceties and necessities of modern living are not the result of the migration of city folks to the country, but were installed because of the industry and planning of progressive farmers.

Such is the history of the telephone system in King City that will soon lose its identity as an old-fashioned service operated by friendly people who know their customers by name and voices. When King City exchange becomes Temple 3, on November 1, 1960, an automatically controlled dial system will be installed, with perhaps a quicker, but less friendly service.

The first telephone line in this part of Ontario began under the Bell system, from Yonge St. to King City, and was formally opened in 1886, with James C. Stokes its first manager. His switchboard was installed in the store on the north-west side of Springhill Rd., now a real estate office. There were just a few telephones then; the doctor, the stores and the small businesses being the customers.

There was another line at Laskay and Kinghorn, operated by the Bell to accommodate that busier part of the township, where flour and woollen mills, and the Davis Tannery with its 100 or more employees, were connected with the city.

Norman MacMurchy, 6th of King, remembers his mother's first telephone conversation when he accompanied her, as a small boy, to the store at Laskay.

In 1910 a few farmers decided that the telephone system should be extended to their homes, and they formed the King City Telephone Company, with Al Wells its manager. Shares were sold at \$20. each and farmers contributed sums up to \$200 for lines to be run up and down the concession roads to their farms. Some of these were Neil McMurchy on the 5th; Alex MacMurchy on the 6th; Fred Willis, Archie McCallum and Andrew McClure on the 8th of King. Of these, only Andrew McClure, in his 89th year, remains to tell of the early days.

The line was extended as far west as Nobleton, and Mrs. McClure was the first woman from the west side of the township to speak to friends in King City. Telephone numbers were recognized by their rings. "Our number was five longs and six shorts, and we were often confused with the neighbours who had six longs and five shorts," remembers Mrs. Alfred Gilham who was little Elizabeth McClure.

## NATURALISTS PRAISE KING PUPILS FOR DISPLAYS ON CONSERVATION

When 500 pupils in grades 4 to 8 of 18 elementary schools of King township will produce many displays of three-dimensional projects on methods of conservation, plus dozens of posters and scrapbooks, it proves their desire for the establishment of a "Wildlife Sanctuary in King Township". Such was shown at the pupil's display last Friday, June 1955.

Pupils of five schools read briefs to the township council, giving reasons for a sanctuary, suggestions for methods of setting it up and outlining its uses and ultimate benefit to the present and future generation of children and adults.

Reeve Elton Armstrong was inspired to tell them in a reply speech to children, teachers and parents: "Perhaps a year from now council will be able to assure you such a sanctuary will come about." He also said the late Aubrey Davis had made a conservation survey of the township in 1938, and his son is now chairman of the planning board which would be consulted on such matters. The non-competitive exhibit was held in the auditorium of Aurora and district high school on June 16. It was a tremendous achievement by the schools and an educational program sponsored by the Federation of Ontario Naturalists, to stimulate an interest in conservation. Through the leadership of inspectors Halman and J.F.Hodge, the various school principals and with the co-operation of the Federation of Naturalists and Ontario Department of Lands and Forests, the panorama spelled intensive study and research on the part of the children. Inspector Maynard Hallman was chairman of the gathering.

Mr. G. Marshall Bartman spoke on behalf of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists. The schools taking part were Oak Ridges, King City, Strange, New Scotland, Pottageville, Snowball, S.S. 7, S.S. 17, Lloydtown, Linton, Eversley, Temperanceville, Kinghorn, S.S. 26 and S.S. 24 (Amsterdam). Books will be sent to these schools by the Federation.

To describe each school project individually would be impossible but the general theme was picturing a wildlife sanctuary in a multitude of variations. Several schools explained the projects to the audience. The briefs expressed definite opinions for the need of a sanctuary. A film, "The world at our Feet", was shown. The boys and girls were treated to ice cream by the Federation.

The program was televised. In the morning King City school was televised. The program was made from grades 7 and 8, among them pupils from Strange. Those who were fortunate in our community to be looking at T.V. on June 29th at 5.15 P.M. recognized many local faces from the Aurora scene and King City.

The switchboard of the King City Telephone Company was transferred to the grocery store of Milt Winters, where Robert O'Reilly still operates a general business. One of the first operators was Mrs. Jim Burns who lives at Erindale, Ontario. Mrs. Winters was night operator. The yearly charge was light, being only \$12. for the privilege of repeating messages to local people--during the hours of 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. There was a charge of 25 cents on all calls between 6 and 9 p.m.

At the same time a private telephone company began operating from Maple, and it amalgamated with the private line at Woodbridge. After a few years the Vaughan-Woodbridge company bought the King City system, paying back their capital investment and dividends to the farmer investors.

This company operated successfully the business in King City that grew to 60 lines on one position in 1930, when Mrs. Bruce Hall came to relieve during the holidays. Then there were three girls employed on full time, and one on part time on the King City exchange, that has been moved to its present building on North Keele.

When the Bell Telephone Company bought the independent Vaughan, King and Woodbridge lines in January, 1951, there were seven operators employed on the busy local exchange, operating three positions. Now business has increased, with four positions crowding the office, which employs a staff of 12 operators.

"What will our girls do when the dial system is installed," the reporter asked Mrs. Hall this week.

"Some of the girls who stayed with us after they married, will keep house. Some have accepted transfers with the company, and some are undecided," said Mrs. Hall.

Section of Maple Tree Marks History Dates.

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There are still grand old trees in King Township that have lived all the years between the two Queens Elizabeth. One<sup>is</sup>/a maple, cut down to make room for new growth in the bush lot on Donald C. Gillies' farm, 6th Con., King. A slice of this tree was part of a study in conservation shown by the pupils of King City Public School at Aurora & District High School last week.

Ross Gillies, great-grandson of the original Scottish emigrant farmer, Archibald Gillies who settled on his Crown Grant of 100 acres and has continued to be the home of his descendants, along with his school friends, Danny Buddin and Barry Wallace, have learned a great deal from this slice of Maple tree. With their teacher, Carson Bice, and other classmates, they counted the rings of growth and discovered that it was quite a tree in 1665 when Champlain sailed to Quebec.

At the display of conservation study, the rings on the tree were marked to show the time when Wolfe captured Quebec, when Brock fell at Queenston Heights, the Battle of Trafalgar and the beginning of the Great War. These were among the historical events and scientific discoveries studied by the pupils and marked on the tree trunk.

CONSERVATION

Land Judging Competitions are Here

1957.

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Livestock judging used to be the rage in farm districts. Now, some farm groups are turning to their soil, giving it that same thorough inspection once saved for the cattle. They are finding out that each field on the farm has characteristics which make it unique.

In the fall of 1957, land judging competitions made their debut in Ontario. This competition in York County was sponsored by the Metropolitan Toronto conservation authority of York County. Seventeen young farmers were peering into pits to study the soil horizons, rubbing topsoil and subsoil in their hands to test the structure and texture, sizing up the topography of the fields, and filling out their score cards.

Soil scientists from the Ontario Agricultural College took the groups to several farms before the competition was held to coach contestants on how to identify the characteristics of various soils.

## THE FOX

The hamlet of Laskay made history in the beginning of Centennial year when a one and a half million dollar movie based on D.H. Lawrence's movie, "The Fox" was filmed on the original Baldwin farm, now the Charles Shields Estate. The farm tenant is Scott Smeltzer, a third descendant of John Smeltzer an early pioneer of Laskay district.

The Rayan production is being directed by Mark Rydell and stars Ann Heywood, Sandy Dennis and Keir Dullea. With the exception of the head cameraman and a few technicians, the crew is Canadian and the Fox is filmed in color. The American Movie Co. chose Canada for this production because of lower costs and because snow was needed. Snow and below zero weather on some of the coldest nights of the winter was a real challenge to the actors working outside under big klieg lights until one, two and three o'clock in the morning.

Throughout the picture, a marauding fox, which has been stealing the farm's chickens has been hunted. Finally, one night in the forest, Miss Heywood comes upon it and was unable to shoot. It has become for her the symbol of masculinity. The fox's place is taken, in her mind, by the sailor; Trained foxes were shipped in from California and a local veterinarian, Dr. C. Heder assisted on Fox days.

Prior to movie taking days, much preparation took place. Insul brick siding was removed from the farm house, and replaced with old tongue and groove for authenticity. A closed in verandah was added to the south of the house and a porch at the back door entrance. The T.V. aerial was removed. The roadway bridge was re-inforced for heavy traffic. Rail fences were erected on each side of laneway and farmyard. A dead elm tree, was uprooted from a field and placed in dooryard, which in the film was cut down by the two farm women, when the tree shifted and fell on the one and killed her.

A windmill was transported to the scene and erected. Some farm animals, hens and ducks were moved in. Miles of electric cable were used and power was generated on the spot. Trailers were set up for an office and make-up rooms.

The cast were brought in by bus from Toronto daily. Outside catering for noon or supper meals was partaken of in Laskay Women's Institute Hall, which also served a second purpose, a place to get warm.

Mrs. Ross Morgan next door to the Hall, came to the rescue of the star actor and actress one day, when she was called up to dry out their clothes in her clothes dryer, when they had been drenched from forced rain, on a cold winter day.

The farm house and driveway finally got back to normal about the

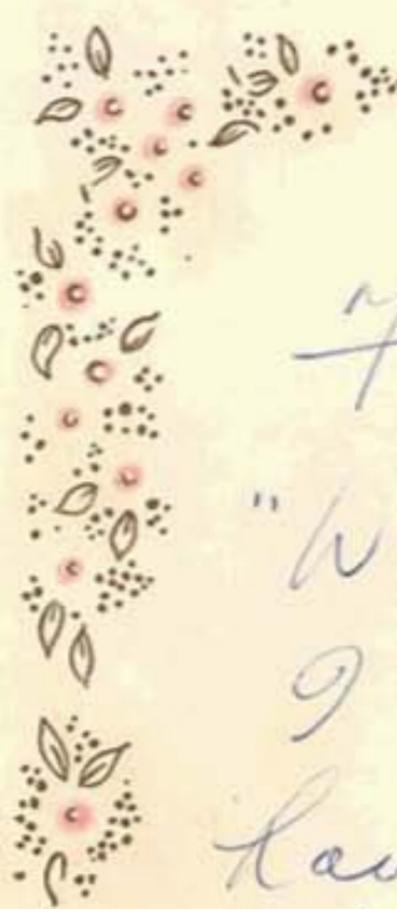
## CONSERVATION

### Land Judging Competitions are Here - 1957 (Continued)

Then when they went into the four fields of the Russell Hoover farm at King, they were prepared for judging. This competition was held on farm Lot 1, west part of Con. 6, about one mile from Laskay, where the ladies of Laskay Women's Institute catered the noon lunch to the group of men.

end of May. The lane was impassable in the spring, but has now received a good gravel covering.

The film was first shown in Toronto in May 1968.



For the Laskey  
"Women's Institute,"  
I wish I could  
have had the  
pleasure of  
meeting you all!  
Sincere good  
wishes and good  
luck in all you  
do!  
Anne Jeffrey Wood  
1967

FIRE DESTROYS LANDMARK RESIDENCE IN KING TWP. - January - 1956.

Fire destroyed a landmark dwelling on the farm of G.G.Wanless, sixth concession of King, four miles northwest of King City, late Monday afternoon. Mrs. Winnifred Diceman, 28, the farm manager's wife was able to get her two youngest children, Margaret, 16 months and Steven, three months out of the house.

Her husband, John Diceman, 30, was at King City getting special milk for the baby when his wife telephoned Rigwood Supermarket to tell him the kitchen stove pipes were on fire. Carol, four was with her Father and Norman 8, and Linda, 6 were at Strange school.

The fire had a head start before fireman arrived. When the truck tank was empty, fireman had to take the truck 70 rods to a nearby lake (Boys Lake) for more water.

When neighbours arrived on the scene they got some furniture and an odd piece of household equipment to a driving shed nearby. But the greater part of the family belongings was destroyed. Mr. Diceman had no insurance on his possessions. The family spent the night at the Ross Folliot farm house and were to stay there as long as they needed help, Mrs. Folliot stated.

The King City firemen stayed at the scene until 11 p.m. to safeguard the large barn and other buildings. The six-room house was made of logs covered with clapboard. It was built nearly 125 years ago by Isaac Boys and was used by three generations of the Boys family.

The last of the family to occupy the farm was Fred Boys of Oak Ridges. He modernized the house 10 years ago. It was sold five years ago to Larry McGuinness who sold it to Mr. Wanless. Total loss of dwelling and contents, including a deep freeze belonging to Mr. Wanless, was estimated at over \$15,000.

Communities help burned-out family.

Excavation will be started soon for a two storey modern dwelling to replace the above house. On Tuesday neighbors collected clothing for children and took in home baking and groceries to the Ross Folliot farm where Mrs. Diceman and children are staying.

Mrs. Wanless brought a carload of clothes she collected from her Toronto friends and a layette for Stephen, and other articles. The King City Lions club is supplying winter under clothing and emergency items for the children. A community shower for bedding and miscellaneous articles will be held by Laskay W.I. in the Laskay Hall, on Saturday night.

SCENES TAKEN AT THE FILMING OF THE FOX

