

To Commemorate its "Fifty Years of Service" The Guide-Advocate this week reverts to the original form of make-up. Newspapers then followed the British style of page or "blanket sheet" as it was known to the trade.

Watford Guide-Advocate

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HUNDREDS OF TOMS, DICKS, MARYS AND JANES WERE ALL HERE FOR "OLD HOME WEEK"

THE BIGGEST CELEBRATION EVER STAGED IN WATFORD. THOUSANDS ATTENDED EACH DAY. FINANCIALLY AND SOCIALLY A HUGE SUCCESS.

OLD HOME WEEK in Watford has come and gone; the streets again take on their accustomed appearance; the strings of electric lights which turned old Main St. into a Fairyland each evening have been taken down; most of our guests have departed for their respective homes, and nothing now remains but the memories which will live in the hearts of each and every participant in the grand old "Welcome Home."

Former citizens have re-visited Watford in previous times; hundreds of "Old Boys" had the time of their lives at the former Reunion seventeen years ago August 19th and 20th 1907, but never before in the Fifty Years of its incorporation, has Watford kept open house to all visitors so successfully; never before have so many visitors accepted our hospitality; and never before have we opened our hearts to give them as warm a hand-clasp and bid them "Welcome Home" with the same degree of sincerity that was manifested on innumerable occasions during Old Home Week.

Back from the orange groves and oil fields of California, back from the beautiful cities beyond the Rockies, back from the Golden West, back from the busy marts of New York, Detroit and Toronto, back to the reunion in their beloved home town came Watford's sons and daughters to visit again the scenes and friends of other days and rejoice in each other's good fortune and with the same depth of sympathy to comfort each other over their misfortunes and griefs. Some came in motor cars from Iowa, Minnesota, New York, Ohio, Michigan and the East; others, came by train. Some came paying tribute to Watford training for the gold they have since won, whether material gold or the gold of good opinion; others who returned had not become much wealthier or more famous since leaving, but whether the tide of Fate had placed them in high position or left them in a lower niche they came possessing the gold in their hearts as when they left. The tributes paid to Watford and early training obtained therein that were most appreciated were not necessarily those of the men and women the names of whom the world today utters with respect but the ones who could say "Because of what I was taught here I am better able to serve by fellow-man." On this occasion Watford had no respect of persons—and, what was even a happier sign of the spirit of the occasion, no one looked for it.

Monday morning was a busy time on Main Street, visiting Old Boys wandered from store to store noting

Rev. D. deCoursey Rayner of the Congregational Church presided; the memorial address was delivered by Rev. H. V. Workman of the Presbyterian Church; Rev. J. H. Hosford of Trinity Church read the Scripture Lesson, and Rev. S. J. Thompson of the Methodist Church offered prayer.

Members of the R. C. Church retired to their cemetery across the roadway where Rev. F. Quinlan conducted their individual service.

Hundreds of cars were parked on the roadsides and in adjoining fields and the attendance is conservatively estimated at three thousand.

"Old Boys and Girls" were given ample opportunity to spend a few quiet moments at the graveside of their departed friends and relatives; while the Cemetery looked its very best and showed the great amount of labor and finance which has been expended in beautifying Watford now has a Cemetery which will be referred to by surrounding towns as a model for comparison and much credit is due Messrs. Joshua Saunders, John Thomas and W. H. Harper who so ably assisted the Cemetery Board. The new Memorial Gates and fence make an imposing front, and the decoration of all graves by the Cemetery Committee, with potted plants and cut flowers made every grave a place of beauty. The old Presbyterian cemetery, 4th line, and St. James' cemetery, Brooks, were also greatly improved and beautified and many there were who quietly withdrew from the throng and sought the resting places of their forefathers; there to give silent thanks for the devotion and guidance they had been given and to re-consecrate their lives to the Divine Command.

The Memorial Service at the Cemetery was the most impressive event of the entire week and memories of it will live long with the hearts of both present citizens and visitors.

In the evening after the services in the various churches, a monster Community service was held at the Park, where sacred music was supplied by Petrolia Citizens Band and an inspiring and reminiscent address was given by Canon Roger S. W. Howard. One thousand people filled the grandstand and open air seats in front and fully two thousand additional stood throughout the service.

The huge crowds at both services on Sunday got Old Home Week well under way for the succeeding days of jubilation.

MONDAY

Monday morning was a busy time on Main Street, visiting Old Boys wandered from store to store noting

fireworks display was presented by the Hand Co., Hamilton, featuring huge rockets, bomb shells, flares, and beautiful set pieces which included The Prince of Wales, the acrobat, a Fountain, etc. The fireworks were acclaimed by many to be one of the best features on the program.

At 11 o'clock a Community Dance was started on Main Street pavement which was later transferred to the Armory as the noise of the merry-makers drowned out the dance music.

TUESDAY

Tuesday's crowds were not quite as big as on Monday, but the finance committee were well satisfied with the revenue derived. Amusements at the park were going fully as well as on Monday and prizes were awarded for the participants in the Calithumpian Parade. Following are the winners: Decorated cars, first William Kerr, London; second, little Louise McCormick, Watford; decorated chaise and shetland pony; Billy Cook driver; third, William Early, Watford. Calithumpians—First, S. B. Chambers, country band and wagon, Warwick Township; second, D. A. Maxwell's old-timer, 1900 model automobile, Watford; third Clarence Hone and Mel. Buchner, cowboys on horseback, Watford.

At the grandstand performance, John Farrell, immigration officer, London, officiated as chairman, and introduced Frank Hillis of Toronto, a Watford old boy, who gave a short address and delighted his audience by reciting with his old-time vigor, "The Cremation of Sam McGee." Frank's elocutionary talents are only exceeded by the continent-wide reputation he made for himself in his younger days as an athlete, records of which are well remembered by the older folk and which will be read with interest by the younger generation who were privileged to make his acquaintance last week.

Sarnia 21; Strathroy 1

Promptly at four o'clock the baseball game commenced which was a league fixture of the Southern Counties League between Sarnia and Strathroy.

In a batting festival Sarnia collected a total of 21 hits for 21 runs, while Strathroy's five hits were not so timely, as they resulted in only one run. Borchert opened the pitching for Strathroy and was found for

ford, (Roche)..... 3 4 3 4
Maudie Mitchell, P. Lotton,
Appin, (Lotton)..... 5 5 5 5
Best Time 2:21.

2:25 Class, Trot or Pace,
Purse, \$325.

Joe Unko, C. Pettit, Dorchester, (Pettit)..... 1 1 1 1
Elsie Gratton, G. Lett, Mitchell, (Lett)..... 5 2 2 2
Polly Peters, Goodison Farm, Sarnia, (Roche)..... 2 3 3 3
Clara F., S. Feathers, Sarnia, (Feathers)..... 3 4 4 4
Queenie Unko, F. Taylor, Exeter, (Taylor)..... 4 5 4 5
Queenie Smith, G. Hunter, Exeter, (Hunter)..... 6 6 6 6
Best Time 2:19 1/2.

The officials were; Starter, Roy Brothers, Stratford; judges, Wm. Goodison, Sarnia, Dr. J. McGillicuddy, Watford, and W. W. McCrae, Petrolia; Timer, R. McDiarmid, Alvinston.

The evening performance was as usual. The finance committee were so elated over the afternoon's successful production of revenue at the gate that they reduced the Adults' admission for the evening from 35c to 25c, grandstand seats and children's admission free.

After the park performance, thousands of people from far and near, assembled on Main Street pavement and proceeded to turn the last night of the reunion into a carnival of jollity. Bands paraded the business blocks drawing the dense crowds after them, interspersing "It Ain't Gonna Rain No Mo'" with "Hail, Hail, the Gang's All Here." Everyone joined in the funmaking, strangers from surrounding towns and cities jostled good-naturedly with local citizens and visitors and like the Irishman at the "wake," a "good time was had by all."

The only incident that marred the night's gaiety was the burglarizing of two local stores sometime between midnight and two o'clock.

Two cases of whiskey, valued at \$100, and about \$50 in cash were stolen from the drug store of B. F. Cook, and about \$75 worth of tea and \$40 in cash were taken from a general store, owned by P. J. Dodds.

Both the stores are located on Main Street, and it is believed that the thieves counted on the special illumination of the street, and the noise of the Old Boys' carnival for the success of the robbery. In each case entrance was gained through the cellar windows, but the thieves were unable to open the cellar door of the drug store, and, standing on a large packing case, they climbed through the transom window.

Carl A. Class, jeweler, occupies the other half of the drug store, and a large amount of valuable jewels and cash were within easy reach of the robbers, but were untouched. Mr. Class had been in his store about 12:30, and everything was in order at that time. Mr. Cook was returning from the community dance on entering the store, he noticed the cash register standing open and empty. Discovering the theft of the cash, he investigated further and discovered two cases of 60c bottles of

AN APPRECIATION FROM THE OLD BOYS AND GIRLS

We, the Old Boys and Girls of Watford and vicinity, who have been gathered together from cot and grange, from the moorland hill and village street, from the far-flung confines of our own Dominion and from our great sister Republic, at the cordial invitation of our Home-folk, do, before leaving for our various homes and callings, desire to express our feelings at the splendid reception that has been tendered, as well as the joy that the home-coming has afforded us. A few of us have therefore met to formally give a slight expression of our feelings and in the name of all the old Watfordites, it has been resolved that to the people of the town and vicinity are due our greatest and most sincere appreciation and thanks for the pleasure they have afforded us upon our return to the old familiar surroundings. We also congratulate our home folk upon the beauties of our home town and country. It has been a special pleasure to see the progress which has been made generally in the surrounding country and towns to feel the spirit of co-operation among all. Especially we wish to congratulate the various committees upon the complete arrangements made for the Reunion and to assure our friends that the success of the event is greater than will ever be known because never fully expressed. We also hope that we again may be afforded the pleasure of attending the next Reunion and at the same time extending to our friends a cordial invitation to visit us each and all in our individual homes.

Bryce and Lucas Families Hold Reunion

The annual reunion of the Bryce and Lucas families was held during the Watford Old Boys' Reunion, at the home of Robert Fleming on the fourth con. S. E. R., Warwick, when nearly two hundred members of the two families gathered for their annual renewal of acquaintance. They came from Chicago, Illinois, Yale Michigan, and Capae Michigan, in the United States; and from Biggar Sask., London, Sarnia, Dresden, Oil Springs, Watford and Warwick township in Canada. Social fellowship and all kinds of games were on the program throughout the day, and a splendid program of races of various kinds was successfully carried through with prizes for each event.

Two tug-of-war contests between the city fellows and farmers was decided in favor of the farmers, the prizes being a whistle for each of the team. Two ball games were played, the first between mixed teams of girls and men, when the winning team received gold medals and the losers sticks of gum. The other ball game between city fellows and farmers was decided in favor of the city fellows; the final score being: city fellows 21; farmers 10.

Dinner and supper was served under the trees in the orchard, the tables being heavily laden with good things. Following supper, the officers for the 1925 Reunion were elected as follows: President, John Bryce, Watford; Vice-president, Thomas Kerr, Warwick; Secretary-Treasurer, Rus-

RECORD OF AN OLD TIME ATHLETE

Frank Hillis' Visit During Old Home Week Recalls His Many Feats of Strength and Skill Back in the Now Distant "Eighties."

Of all the hundreds of Old Boys who assembled in Watford for the Reunion last week, there was probably no one more familiarly known to most residents of forty years ago than Mr. Frank Hillis, now residing in Toronto, who for ten years was a Watford athlete whose records for long jumps, etc., threw him into the spotlight that flashed his name throughout the continent.

Many Old Boys were again glad to meet Frank Hillis, with keen regrets that illness prevented his old-time friend and sportsman, Mr. David Roche, from also being present. The old days were all lived over again and the old stories were re-told with even keener relish and much information on forty years ago was readily forthcoming.

To perpetuate the memory of Mr. Hillis' victories and triumphs, we publish the following excerpts from his record as furnished us by the ancient files of The Guide Advocate:

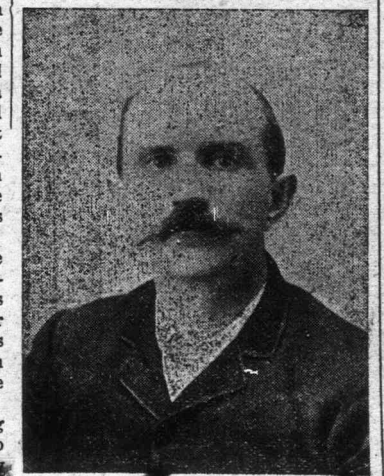
"In 1876 in Watford and Petrolia, he swept the competition in a hop step of 42 ft. and a running long jump of 19 ft."

"In the following year Webster, of Poplar Hill, was easily downed in Strathroy by a stretch of 41 feet."

"In 1878 Jos. Cook, of this place, in a contest set him back slightly by a jump of 43 ft., Hillis covering 42 ft., 8 in."

"In 1879, at the Firemen's demonstration here, he took the olive at 42 ft., 4 in. Cook tying him on a running jump of 19 ft., 4 in. In the same year at Watford he won two very creditable victories over Tisdale Green and Smith, with a score of 43 ft., 3 in., and 20 ft. 8 in."

"In 1880 he made perhaps the longest leap in his history against George Gibb of Woodville, and



"PASSING GLANCES"

On Old Main Street.

It is not often that Watford celebrates, but when we do it, we do it well!

Was there anyone who didn't notice "Humpty Jack" in the Calithumpian Parade?

Palmer's United Attractions proved a big addition to the amusement of the multitude.

"Sleep." Of all the 450,000 words and phrases in our dictionary, no other so completely expressed our desire after it was all over.

The Committees appreciate the large attendances from neighboring towns. We shall endeavor to reciprocate at every opportunity.

Did you ever see as many motors in a town three times our size? With our brilliant lighting system and congested motor traffic, a couple of traffic cops on every block would have been quite appropriate.

The traffic and crowds on old Main Street bore witness to Sam Cooke's assertion:—"Watford on the main line of the old Grand Trunk, the only stop between Toronto and Chicago."

To the majority, the Memorial Service at the Cemetery on Sunday was the most appreciated feature of the reunion. And no citizen was ashamed to take his visitors for a look at the new Cemetery Gates and fence.

We did our best to persuade the assessor, Mr. W. H. Shrapnell, to get out any hour of the day or night and take the census of the town, but he was too busy checking up the revenue rolling in at the ticket booths.

No Ku Klux Klan will ever be permitted in this vicinity—not after the intermingling of the Orangemen, the R. C.'s and Freemasons on the Sunday parade to the Cemetery. Did you ever see the "Brotherhood of Man" more impressively exemplified?

Did you see Dave Maxwell's original 1900 model in the parade. Although Mr. Maxwell's ideas on motor locomotion were along the right lines away back 25 years ago, Dame Fortune turned her wheel of chance in favor of Henry Ford instead of our fellow townsman.

Isn't it surprising, the number of people whose chief desire, apparently, is to put their stomach out of order. They surely were afforded abundant opportunities, what with "hot dogs and onions," "The Trip to Mars," government liquor, a "hootch." If it failed, they tried another.

About \$1,500 Surplus From Old Home Week