

## A Look At Business In Jarvis

### Post Office



Larry Scarr

From the wampum totting Iroquois and Algonquins of the pre-white man era through the ages of canoe, steamboat, horses, automobile and airplane, the history of the Canadian Post Office provides some surprises, some education and many changes.

The Jarvis post office, managed by postmaster Larry Scarr, has not gone untouched.

In 1851, the year which the provinces first took over from the United Kingdom full responsibility for ad-

ministring mail services, the Jarvis post office was established (June 6th).

Throughout the years, it has passed through the hands of many postmasters and survived many alterations in the system.

1851 also goes down in history as being the first year in which stamps for the prepayment of postage were first issued.

At that time, Canadians thought the addressee should pay for the delivery of a letter. Why should the sender

pay, they argued, when a letter in those pioneer days might never reach the recipient? The practice of buying, licking and adhering postage stamps - prepayment - was adopted, resignedly at least, when the recipient was forced to pay a fine on unprepared letters.

Also in that year, the first railway sortation system in North America cut the delivery time from Quebec City to Windsor from 10 to 2 days.

Jarvis' first postmaster was C. W. Shannon. His successors in order and year they began were: James Sill, Sept. 1, 1861; Robert Sill, Sept. 1, 1870; Mrs. Urania Sill, July 1, 1880; James Noble, Nov. 11, 1901; Albert Morgan Williamson, Sept. 3, 1910; Edward Francis Jones, Sept. 1, 1912; Albert Morgan Williamson, May 2, 1933; Morgan C. Williamson, Feb. 23, 1950; Stanley George Burditt, Aug. 18, 1950; David E. Blythe, Dec. 31, 1969; William Larry Scarr, March 24, 1970.

Mr. Scarr moved to Jarvis in 1970 to replace Mr. Burditt as postmaster. He came from Tobermory where he had worked for 2 1/2

years. Prior to that, he was with the post office in Port Elgin for six years.

The new post office, which was built in 1951 by Mr. Burditt and replaced the old one once located in the vacant lot between Leathdale's and George Walker's Insurance Agency, has experienced some growth, Mr. Scarr told the Record. Since his arrival, they have added 92 boxes and rented out 30. And, the post office has received quite a few more customers. It presently serves 350 homes in Jarvis, 400 in the rural area and could service another 200 patrons, Mr. Scarr said.

If the Stelco and Texaco projects develop as they say, a new post office might be required in the distant future, he added. But, 200 additional patrons would mean an awful lot of people.

Many people complain that the mail service is slowing down. However, this is because our mailing system is in the process of change, Mr. Scarr explains. The post office is switching to a coding system which will speed mail delivery up, but it won't be working good until '75 or '76, he said. At the

moment, the transition is a little disruptive.

Under the new coding system, letters bearing the code will be handled by a machine quickly, while the machine rejects un-coded mail. If the people use it, the code system will deliver mail to their doors much faster, Mr. Scarr said.

The post office has also branched into other services such as selling pens, wrapping paper, larger envelopes and parcel sealers over the counter. This, explained Mr. Scarr, is because the post office had been in the red for a long time. They're trying to make it a paying proposition.

Another money saver has been the introduction of area distribution centres such as Brantford.

At Christmastime, the Jarvis post office cut down on their extra hours by 50 per cent because all Christmas

cards went to Brantford for sorting, Mr. Scarr said. Throughout the year, all mail except for Jarvis' and Hagersville's also goes through Brantford before delivery.

The Jarvis post office employs one full-time worker besides Mr. Scarr. Mrs. Fay Walker, along with part-time employee Mrs. Donna Dunnett helps serve the community. Jarvis rural route contractors are Mrs. Marie Brohman and Mildred Addison.

"Neither snow, nor rain, nor gloom of night stops these couriers from the swift completion of their appointed rounds," wrote the Greek historian Herodotus about 430 B.C.

He was paying tribute to the postmen in the service of King Xerxes. The motto still applies to today's postal employees.



Jack And Hank

### American Hotel

In 1879, it was easier for a hosteler to make a dollar than it is today. They didn't have the overhead which exists now - such as high taxes, liquor licencing and governing.

And, that is why five hotels were able to survive in Jarvis in the nineteenth century, but now there are only two of them remaining, Jack Lloyd, co-owner of the American Hotel explains.

Mr. Lloyd and Hank Adamowich, his partner, first moved to Jarvis in 1969 when they quit their jobs with the Steel Co. of Canada in Hamilton and bought out the American from W. Hynes.

"We wanted to strike out on our own and get somewhere," Mr. Lloyd said. And, they made the move to Jarvis because this area has a potential for growth with the influx of industry to Nanticoke.

Construction projects in the Jarvis area serve the American ideally since their seven sleeping rooms cater to the construction worker who lives in the village during the week and travels home on the weekend.

In addition to sleeping accommodations, the hotel has two men's and one ladies and escorts beverage rooms for the gathering of young and old in a friendly atmosphere. Many ball teams also find their way to the American after a hard and hot game.

Mr. Lloyd admits that

he and Mr. Adamowich have minor problems such as occasional rowdyism. But, "it's a hazard of the profession," he said. "When you deal with the public, there are always problems you have to face."

Lowering the drinking age to 18 has not worsened the situation at the American as some people would think. "It's not the young ones," Mr. Lloyd said. They are no trouble at all. They can handle themselves and mix in well with others. Troublemakers are kicked out of the hotel, he added. We don't put up with a lot of nonsense.

The dining room, which was first put in at the hotel by Major Bixel in 1948, is presently changing face - and atmosphere. Barnwood and cosy decor has altered the room into a friendly English pub.

Besides Jack, Hank and Jean Adamowich are working at the hotel full-time, they also employ one waitress part-time during the week, plus one waiter. On special occasions, such as the 24th of May, three or

four extras are hired.

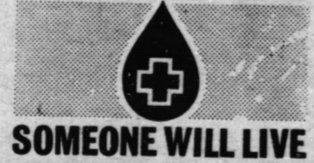
The American hopes to continue to expand with the growth of the town - "more development, more people, more business." And, Mr. Lloyd and Mr. Adamowich would like to be able to provide liquor (mixed drinks) here in the future for people who don't like beer and are forced to drink gingerale.

Liquor was sold in the American in the 19th century and this is one old custom, the hostellers would like to see revived.

Besides spirits, in by-gone years, a visitor to the hotel could also purchase cigars and beer at five and ten cents a glass while his horse was put up at the back of the hotel. Times and prices have changed and so has the hotel business.

American Open For the second year

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From Jarvis, take No. 3 Highway, turn left at Renton, go 1/2 mile down Cockshutt Road. First road off Cockshutt on the right. First place on the left.