

Airmen During Last War Knew This Village Well

By JAMES EMERSON
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Jarvis, Jan. 21.—With a population today of only 600, this Haldimand County village has never acquired the 750 citizens it needed to make it a village. Yet, village it is—with sign, seal and incorporation since 1910. How could this be?

Between placid puffs of a Bond Street stuffed pipe, 85-year-old village clerk, Ivan W. Holmes, smiled sagely and explained the mystery.

"We didn't have near enough people," Mr. Holmes chuckled quietly. "But, we were determined to be a village. So we finally figured out a plan. We took the census on fall fair day."

Fall fair days are a thing of the past in Jarvis now, as are the World War II days when hundreds of airmen at a nearby bombing and gunnery school thronged the village streets.

The old airfield has long since gone back under the plow and the harrow and Jarvis today—its citizens descended mainly from British stock—as a small community of well-groomed homes sharing their serenity with the bustle of one of the country's largest independently-owned dairies.

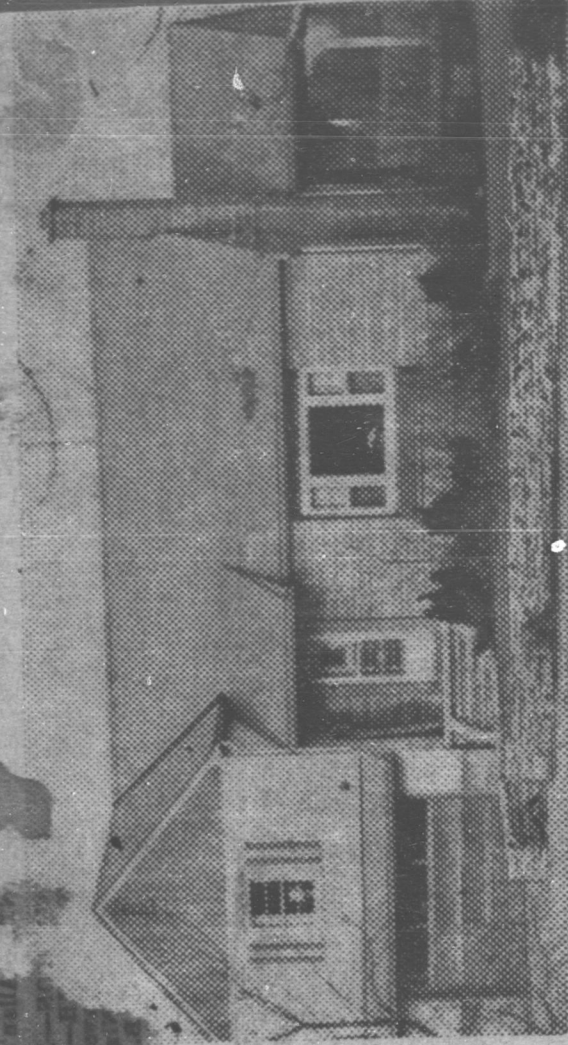
Mr. Holmes, who helped considerably in the fall fair census, was born on a farm some 15 miles distant but came to Jarvis as a young man seeking work.

UNDERFAKER, TOO

He became, eventually, the village undertaker, a job he still carries on to this day with the aid of his son, Leighton. A member of the first council, Mr. Holmes continued on council—in 1916, as reeve—until he took the clerk's post in 1924.

Despite his 85 years, Mr. Holmes is much better preserved than the yellowing, tattered atlas (seven years younger) from which he sought out the village's early history.

Jarvis, the atlas revealed, came



Modernization Is Keynote

Small community of new well-groomed homes such as this reflect modern trend in village.

into being with the old plank road built in the early 1800's between Port Dover and Hamilton. James Shearman, its first settler, put up a shanty and blacksmith shop at the junction of the plank road and Talbot rd. (now No. 3 Highway), setting the stage for an eventual succession of five hotels, a steam planing mill, a steam plow factory and a steam grist mill. Steam had to be used for power in the absence of a stream which could be harnessed for industry.

Jarvis, unlike numerous other Ontario communities, did not gain its name from its first settler but rather from William Jarvis, an aide to Col. Talbot. Mr. Jarvis never at any time lived in the community. Largest industry today in Jarvis is the Marshall Dairy, operated since 1917 by Lee Marshall and now—with a payroll of about 30 employees—one of the biggest independent dairies in the country.

BIG BUSINESS

A million pounds of butter and 3,000,000 pounds of powdered milk are shipped out each year, processed from the 35 million gallons of milk trucked in from surrounding dairylands as far as 40 miles distant.



Editor Helps In Dairy

Laird Miller examines sheets of dried milk from powdered milk machine at Marshall Dairy, one of largest independent dairies in the country. He is executive assistant to president of dairy and also editor of village weekly paper, the Jarvis Record.

Newt Marshall, plant superintendent with 31 years experience in the dairy industry, said his father started out 53 years ago as a cheesemaker in Norfolk County before finally arriving in Jarvis.

The influx of tobacco into former dairy farms has put a crimp in the milk sources for the dairy Mr. Marshall explained but the plant still goes at a busy pace.

Other industries in the village are two feed mills and a branch of the Simcoe Wool Stock Co. At this latter plant about 20 women are employed sorting rags, old clothes and tailors' size, has the usual complement of churches, stores, service stations and community groups. Probably the best known business couple in the village, though now retired, are Mr. and Mrs. J. Stacy Burwash, 80 and 81 years of age respectively.

They operated a dry goods store, founded by Mr. Burwash's father in 1879, until 1948. Both in good health and looking much younger than their years, the couple can recall the days of \$4-a-month rent and when a dipper and barrel of whisky used to be a common thing in stores for customers to help themselves.

WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

Despite its small size, Jarvis even has a weekly paper—The Record. Founded in 1878, it was taken over in 1935 by Laird Miller, whose father before him had run it.

"I'm editor, reporter, advertising salesman and what have you," grinned Laird, who also finds time to be executive assistant to the president of Marshall Dairy.

But most unusual fellow of all—black, beady-eyed rogue that he is—is the village loafer—Raymond.

Oh, yes, you are, Raymond. It's the truth and you know it. So, sue if you like—but any other able-bodied crow your size would be off working over a corn field somewhere instead of hanging around school with the youngsters and latching onto nickels and pennies which curious passers-by throw out.

But, don't sulk, Raymond. Actually, the kids—and older folks, too—have learned to love a part of their life a year ago. And if ever the villagers decide to apply for incorporation as a town, Raymond, you'll likely be included in the census.