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The Late Harry Siddall, Writes his First Column! - Continued from August 13th!

Do you know what is really embarrassing? Every school term the darn newspaper prints the attendance of all the kids in the school and tells how many days they missed. In February, they printed the results for my old school, S. S. # 8 in Moulton Station. It was for the fall term and as always I was right up there with the worst. Mind you my brothers, John, Lorne and Willie were there with me. Dad keeps taking us out of school to work on the farm and we can't keep up. Here is our record out of 21 days of school. My brother John missed 6 days, I missed 10 days, Lorne missed 20, that was the same as Percy Downey. My brother Willie missed 19 days. Willie even missed the exam! If I continue school, I am going to Dunnville High next year and that is even worse, because there they give out the marks of everyone in the class. I don't do too well in school and hope they don't do that to me.

No sooner did we finish the verandah on Aunt Matilda's house, when Aunt Nettie wanted one on their boarding house. They already own the nicest house on the east side of Port Maitland, but a verandah was needed. Maybe they were concerned Aunt Matilda's was going to outshine theirs.

My baby brother Garfield, didn't seem to like the move to Port. Mom says she can't get him to sleep and he wakes up at the first crack of dawn as those infernal fish tugs are getting all steamed up across the road in the feeder canal. She says she can hear every word that Stephen McKeown and John Mckee say while they are steaming up the *You and I*. She says she likes the sailing tug *Enterprise* owned by the Taylor brothers because it slips out of Port without a sound.

Mom is going to have to get along with Stephen McKeown since they have a son Maitland, who is the same age as Garfield. Mrs. McKeown is okay, - real pretty! Mom says that she likes talking with her when they take the ferry over the river on the walk to Christ's Church. She says Rosetta, - Mrs. McKeown, is a good Anglican. She is real young, only about four years older than me. Her father is Dilly Thompson, my Uncle Jim's old enemy. Her mother is Sophia Ross. Sophia is the sister to Frank Ross, my aunt Nettie's father, so that makes Rosetta and my aunt Nettie first cousins. Everybody is related to everybody else it seems. I have to be careful what I say or I am likely to get hit in the nose by someone's cousin. Stephen McKeown built a house just down the road from Uncle John's and Aunt Nettie's. Only just a few feet south of Uncle John's there is a new cottage built last year by Doug Lockhart for Lawrence Gardiner. The Gardiner's are wealthy Americans from East Aurora NY. They used to board with Uncle John and Aunt Nettie. They are great friends, as are all of John and Nettie's guests, but I guess they thought it was time to get their own place. Last year Mr. W. E. Werner built a store on the west side of the river and all we have to do is go across on the government ferry to get our groceries. That beats going to Dunnville! Jim Haney is the new government ferry master and he painted the name of it on the side. There it is in big bold lettering, all capitals "*TRANSIT*." Captain Haney is new to Port. He moved into the lock house in June where all the ferry masters have to live.

My Uncle John Turner, who married my Aunt Sarah, used to be the lock master and he knew Mr. Weller the Superintendent of the Welland Canal Co. That helped because the pier on the east side of the river was washed out last fall in a storm, and I got a job helping to repair it. I worked on a barge that had a pile driver on it and my job was to stoke the fire for the steam engine. We tore down the old pier and Mr Weller gave the timber and planking to the Lower River Knockabout Boating Club in Dunnville to build a new dock. My older brothers Tom and George, got a job helping to build that dock at the northern end of the Long Bridge in Dunnville.

Tom and George wanted to work on the new Victoria Hotel in Dunnville, but my Uncle Bill Aiken, who owns it and is married to my mother's sister said they needed more experience and should keep working building the dock. Uncle Bill contracted Robert Bennett and Bill Shirton to build it for him. It is three stories high and about 135 feet long. Tom got a chance to start a new gasoline engine that they are using to mix the concrete. George worked on the barge *Maple Leaf* for a couple days taking sand from the lake, just off the beach to Dunnville to mix with the concrete.

Charlie Ross, he is Aunt Nettie's uncle, has made a deal with a fish company from Buffalo. They call themselves the "A. Booth Fishing Trust." He built a new fish house below the sand hill on the east side of the river. Charlie is the agent for them and he told the fishermen they are prepared to handle all the catch from Port Maitland and will pay the highest prices around. No sooner did Charlie get things going and along came the New York Fish Company, who says they will pay a better price.

The tourists love to go down to the fish docks and look at the fish. They enjoy seeing the big sturgeons. Sometimes they get in the way of the fellows trying to do a day's work, but the old fishermen like to talk to them. One day this summer, thirty-seven boxes of fish were shipped to Buffalo and in one week twenty tons were shipped from the Stromness Station. Almost every day the fishermen shipped as many as seven boxes of Sturgeon to Buffalo. It is not only Sturgeon that they catch, you should see the herring, perch, and whitefish! What really ticked the fishermen off though was the fishing licence from the Ontario government for the tugs went from \$50.00 a year to \$250.00. Then to top things off several tons of fish were seized in May at Fort Erie by Mr. Shelly, an inspector from the Ontario Fisheries Department. A lot of the fish were from Dunnville and Port Maitland. The government said that the boxes contained pickerel and bass which were forbidden to be caught at that time of the year. The fishermen checked with Mr. Bastedo of the Fisheries Department and he told them that there was no close season for blue-pickerel and since they did not ship yellow-pickerel which do have a season, the fishermen don't understand what the fuss is about. Now they are going to go to court to appeal the decision.

If you have items, you wish to have written about or pictures you would be willing to lend me, please drop me a note. Let me know how you feel about these articles. William (Bill) Arthur Warnick 180 Rosslyn Ave. South HAMILTON, ON L8M 3J5 e-mail wwarnick@cogeco.ca Phone 905 549-6086.