

June 1-77
1110

Remembering Peel Region Bios Bk

Cooksville in 1922

Mrs. Catharine Milburn admits she's as old-fashioned as the hills.

She has seen a great deal of changes in her lifetime; witnessed two world wars; lived through a depression; and watched as Mississauga grew and adapted to the 20th century.

But she remains a constant in an ever-changing world.

Born near Woodstock, Ont., Mrs. Milburn has lived in Cooksville, in the home her husband built, since 1922. On Saturday, she celebrated her 90th birthday amidst family and friends.

She and her husband owned ten acres of land on what was then known as Centre St. (now Hurontario) and farmed "all kinds of fruit". It was hard work, she says, but then, there were no problems of getting good workers. "We paid our pickers two cents a box." Good pickers are few and far between today, she says.

During the Depression a crate containing 36 boxes of strawberries sold for \$1. "But we stuck to it . . . didn't go on relief."

Centre St. was a dirt road in the '20s. Today a major four-lane highway runs in front of the big brick house that's tucked away behind the trees. "And the traffic is terrible."

But she isn't one to complain or express resentment at the growth or

changes occurring around her.

She has grown with the change, while still retaining those values that were the norm during her prime.

By the time she was in her early 20s, she was married and raising her family. "I was only 18 when I was married . . . that was the biggest mistake I ever made," she laughs.

"But things are different nowadays. We didn't argue or quarrel like young people do today." She recalls the only disagreement she and her husband had was a political one. "He was a Tory — and I'm a Grit."

But "we got along very well. If I asked him to do something, he'd do it, and vice versa. He was the boss, more or less . . . and a good boss."

Mrs. Milburn has never touched alcohol or cigarettes; never worn a bathing suit. And "we never thought of wearing pants. Ladies never wore pants."

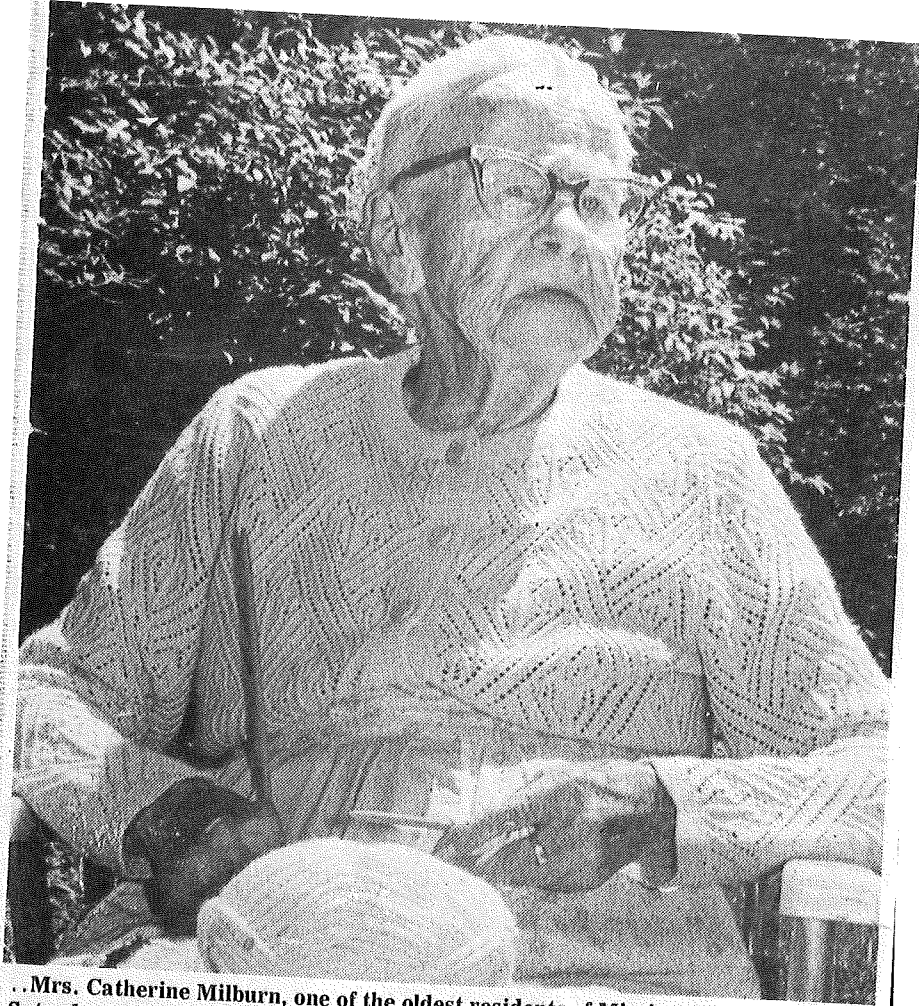
She's never been in an airplane — "I'm best on the ground."

She believes in work — she herself worked in the fields. But she still thinks a woman's place is in the home.

Somedays, she feels old, when her legs get tired. But she says she doesn't feel 90.

There's a lot of life behind her bright blue eyes.

cont next pg.



..Mrs. Catherine Milburn, one of the oldest residents of Mississauga, turned 90 on Saturday. She settled in the Cooksville area of the City in 1922, when Hurontario St. was known as Centre St.
(Staff photo by Michael Stuparyk)