

From Hurricane Deck Of a Cruising Hack To "First Citizen"

Dr. Frank Robinson, Newspaper Publisher, Druggist and Leader of a Mail Order Religious Study Group With Membership in Sixty-Seven Countries, Recalls Early Days in Belleville—The First Rubber Tired Victoria—The First Ford—The Men Who Drove The Hacks That Met All Trains And Boats—Olden Days And Golden Days Recalled.

From driving a hack in Belleville to the status of first citizen of a thriving city in western United States seems a far cry but that happens to form the two ends of the life history of a young man who began business life in Belleville, drifted west and won fame and fortune, now known as Dr. Frank B. Robinson, of Moscow, Idaho, one of the first citizens of that thriving western city, owner of the leading daily newspaper, three drug stores, the Robinson Professional Building, a tea rom, a wonderful home with beautiful pipe organ in it, and recently donated Robinson Park to the city.

Frank Robinson will be remembered by many Bellevillians as a clerk in Templeton's drug store located at the corner of Bridge and Front streets some thirty odd years ago. To a former Belleville friend Dr. Robinson said that he has always retained a warm spot in his heart for Belleville the beautiful, adding that the happiest days of his life were spent in this city. He remembers living with a Mr. and Mrs. Brason, who ran a boarding house, and he says they were a fine old couple. He also remembers Mr. Charles Bowell who ran The Intelligencer and had a fine horse and rig. After working for Mr. Robert Templeton in Belleville, Robinson went to Toronto where he was employed by J. G. Templeton (a relative of Robt. Templeton) in the drug business at 142 King Street West, Toronto.

Early Hack Drivers

Returning to his early days in Belleville Dr. Robinson remembers driving a hack for Coe Graham. Working at the same place at the time were "Gibber-Gabber" Harrington, and "Rusty" Marlowe. Coe had the first rubber-tired Victoria there, and Dr. Robinson says he used to be as proud as a peacock to drive that elegant equipage to the depot to meet the trains.

From hack driving this ambitious lad graduated to the "Big Apple" and was employed by R. J. Graham in what he describes as the "apple factory". Here he worked under Gene Fairfield, George Rennie and Chas. Chasson who drove for Col. Lazier and Arthur Sutton are mentioned as friends of those days. Wonder at days he called them.

The First Ford

Memories of Belleville old days and old boys came flooding back as Dr. Robinson chatted with his friend, and he recalled driving a carry-all for Bob McCoy, later do it.

working for George Sills, packing apples. Early love affairs and the girls of those days of bustles and long dresses and dainty ankles which were only visible on rainy days at muddy crossings brought back smiles and heart warmings. Happy days as a member of the militia with the old 15th were recalled and the faces of the friends of long ago floated past in memory's mirror. Others recalled included "Whale" Mackey, Johnny Consaul and old Dr. Tracy—and that red-letter day when Dr. Gibson took the road with his first Ford. It went chugging up Front street—and then stopped—all the King's horses and all the King's men could hardly get it started again—being one of those runabouts, which ran about a block and then stopped to consider the next start if any, a hectic period in early automobiling long since passed away.

Shady Lanes And Quinte Waters

Friends who attended the Ontario Business College were also recalled with pleasure and the many happy days and nights spent in the horse and buggy days and the days when boating on Quinte waters was considered the peak of enjoyment, particularly sailing.

Leaving Belleville Frank Robinson drifted west, coming to rest for a time in Vancouver where he drove delivery rigs and took various odd jobs which added experience if not much money to his assets.

Taking an interest in religion he took a course in a Bible Training School at the suggestion of Dr. Elmore Harris of McMaster University, and from that study came "Psychiana", a religious movement of which he is the head which has enrolled thousands of students, and he claims has spread to 67 countries with a membership of over half a million and is still spreading. This includes home study groups with textbooks furnished from headquarters in Moscow, Idaho, last year's publications reaching nearly half a million dollars. Dr. Robinson says that he believes "Psychiana" is bringing happiness into the lives of hundreds of thousands and he is very happy in it.

This Belleville Old Boy with the interesting past and more interesting present and promising future wished to be remembered to a Belleville citizens who may remember him and stated that if he receives an invitation to attend the next Old Boys' Reunion at Belleville he will be there if he has to shut down his daily newspaper to