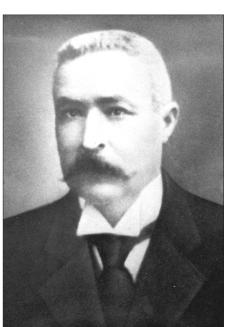
## **Business**



## Dan O'Connor 1864~1933

Dan O'Connor was born in 1864 in Pembroke, Ontario. He arrived in Sudbury in the late 1880s and immediately became involved in the industry, economy and life of the district. His first enterprise was lumbering, where he became well known as a sawmill operator in Northern Ontario. He soon branched out into mining and prospecting. He managed the Comstock Mine in Wahnapitae and pursued many other mining interests. As a sideline, Dan turned to hotel management. He operated the White House Hotel (former site of the Nickel Range Hotel on Elm St.) for many years.

Sudbury officially became a town in 1893. In that year Dan O'Connor was elected to Sudbury's first Council under Mayor Stephen Fournier and in 1894, this enterprising gentleman became Sudbury's second mayor. He was a vice-president

of Sudbury's first Board of Trade.

At the turn of the century, Dan's interests turned to more northerly regions. He travelled to Temagami hoping to discover some mineral prospects and to take advantage of the lumbering boom that was going on in that area. What he found was the natural beauty surrounding the Temagami area and, entrepreneur that he was, Dan O'Connor capitalized on it by turning the area into a summer resort. In quick succession he opened the Temagami Inn, The Ronnoco Hotel (his name spelled backwards), Lady Evelyn Hotel and later a general store.

In those days, transportation routes were inadequate so in order to facilitate travel between the lumber camps in the area, he established a steamship company. The Temagami Hotel and Steamboat Company operated three boats on the lakes in the region.

Dan O'Connor was still very active in his prospecting activities. He was lured further north in search of gold and he made several promising discoveries. He owned many claims, among them the Ronnoco & Cleaver Gold Mines.

Financially, Dan O'Connor did well in life and he didn't hesitate to help those in less fortunate circumstances. Various accounts tell of how he helped Indians, trappers, prospectors and other residents of many northern communities.

At the time of his death, on March 29, 1933 Dan O'Connor was living in Timmins with his family.

# Fred Woods 1881~1966

A t various times throughout his life Fred Woods was a woodsman, a merchant, a broker, a butcher, a baker and a bottler. He was born at Roaches Point near lake Simcoe and came north to Sudbury in 1900.

He began as a clerk at the Spanish River Pulp & Paper Co. and became manager in 1929. He remained in that position until the business folded. In 1938 he opened Nickel City Beverages, which later became part of the Coca-Cola chain after he retired in 1956. He opened the first location of Birk's jewellery store.

- Founding member of the Sudbury Golf Club in 1923. He scored the first hole-in-one at the newly created Idylwylde Golf Course.
- Founding member of the Sudbury Rotary Club and past president.
- Founding member of the YMCA where he served on the board for many years.

#### Giovanni Cecutti 1881~1956

Born in Undine, Italy, Giovanni arrived in Sudbury in 1907. He opened Cecutti's Bakery on Fir Lane in 1910, three years after arriving in Sudbury. Giovanni served in WWI (he was wounded) and his wife Anna took over the management of the bakery while he was overseas.

Giovanni enjoyed music. He was a member of the Great War Veteran Association Citizen's Band and he taught music to children as well. In 1931 he won the Dominion championship in sight reading at the CNE in Toronto. He was a founding member of the Caruso Club and, with Oliver Comisso, was instrumental in organizing the Caruso Boys' Band. Giovanni helped many Italian immigrants

find employment in Sudbury and acted locally as an agent for the Italian Consulate.

By the 1940s, the bakery had the capacity to bake 1,000 loaves of bread every hour and had about 80% of the baked goods market in Sudbury.

Giovanni's son Oscar opened a second location of Cecutti's Bakery on Martindale Road in 1967. The company shipped bread all over the north and offered 12 varieties of breads and rolls and 75 pastries and donuts to their customers. In 1987, Cecutti's Bakery was sold to Weston's Bakery. During the Depression Giovanni never turned a hungry person away from his door. Men were assured of a meal and even a place to sleep in return for splitting wood to keep the bakery fires going.

On July 17, 1919, Lieutenant Moore piloted the first plane to land in Sudbury.

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# Business



## John Carl MacIssac b. 1906

J. C. MacIssac was born in Butte, Montana and moved with his family to Cobalt at the age of four, the family later moved to Cape Breton where his father tried mixed farming.

J.C. left home at the age of 18 and headed for Timmins, where he began working at the McIntyre mine for .53¢ an hour. He spent the next few decades working in various mines as a labourer, shift boss and superintendent. His specialty however,

was the knowledge and experience he gained in sinking shafts.

In 1947, J.C. travelled to Sudbury to bid on a job for Falconbridge and was awarded the contract to sink a shaft near Murray Mine. MacIssac Mining and Tunnelling was born and was incorporated in 1953. The company has completed projects across North America and beyond.

In the 1960s, Sudbury's mining industry was booming and J.C. noticed expansion and jobs were being held up because steel companies were taking months to deliver fabricated equipment needed by the industry. J.C. opened Baycar Steel Fabricators and began to design and fabricate a wide range of mining equipment including mine cars, ore chutes and scoop-tram buckets.

In 1974, J.C. opened Sudbury Downs on a 143 acre piece of land he had purchased in Rayside Balfour. He'd been a horse racing fan for many years and had purchased many standard bred horses which he trained and raced in Toronto. The Sudbury Downs' facility was capable of holding 3,000 people, had barns for 360 horses and a half-mile track.

'J.C. was a hands-on business owner and was still on the job when most people in his position would have been enjoying their retirement. When he was 63, a 3,000 pound dump door came down on his legs at Falconbridge's Lockerby Mine. After bone grafts, six months in casts and losing 3.5 inches in height, J.C. was back on the job.

Today, MacIssac Mining and Tunnelling and Baycar Steel, remain a family owned business within our community.

#### Louis Jodouin

Born in Montebello, Louis married Louise Fortin of Pembroke (she was the mayor's daughter).

In 1888, Louis started his ice business in Sudbury. He cut 50 blocks of ice from Lake Ramsey and distributed them to businesses and homes within Sudbury. Cutting ice was by no means a cushy job. Blowing wind and snow, extreme cold and dangerous open water sections made it a less than coveted job but somebody had to do it and there was money to be made.

The ice was cut with long two-man saws into long chunks. It was pushed through a channel of open water toward the shore where the long piece was chopped by axe into blocks. Louis built a warehouse where the entrance to Bell Park is today. In 1922 the company cut 2,000 blocks of ice and by 1943, with an ice cutting machine and conveyor, invented and patented by Louis' son Arthur, L. Jodouin & Sons cut 16,000 blocks of ice. By 1951 the company was capable of cutting 2,000 blocks a day and had

five distributors to make deliveries throughout Sudbury. Usually, the ice on Ramsey was never more than 18 inches.

For those of us too young to remember a life without electrically powered refrigerators, ice boxes were a necessity in any home. Ice cut in the winter, could be kept frozen in the warehouse until the next harvest by packing it tightly with sawdust. Blocks of ice were delivered to homes in Sudbury on a regular basis, much the same as milk was delivered.

Louis also began manufacturing gingerale in downtown Sudbury in 1891. His was the first bottling works in Sudbury and the company remained open until 1903. Louis was elected to town council in 1897 and was also a member of the Board of Health.

In 1902, Louis bought a piece of property on Ramsey Lake, built a hall with an outdoor playground intending it for public use as a picnic place. He purchased a 30 foot gasoline-powered launch that ferried people to their destinations around Ramsey Lake.

#### Karl Nurmi

Karl Nurmi arrived in Canada in 1910 from Finland. He worked in mining as a labourer until he got a job as a delivery man with Koivulas Bakery.

In 1916, in partnership with his brother Arvid, Karl opened Star Bottling Works. The original plant was located on the corner of Kathleen and College Streets. Equipment in those days was very basic. They washed bottles, by hand, in a tub and had a foot operated filling machine and capper. Their product was delivered by horse and wagon until the company purchased its first Model T in 1920. Karl Nurmi also ran a wholesale business in the same building as the bottling

works. He sold that part of the business in 1946.

In 1930 Karl and Arvid introduced Sudbury to a drink called Howdy (we know it today as 7 Up) and became the first franchised bottler of 7 Up in Canada. As well as producing standard sodas like orange, strawberry, root beer and gingerale, they sold some creative concoctions such as sarsaparilla, birch beer and champagne cola.

Star Bottling was one of the first Pepsi bottlers in Canada when Karl and Arvid purchased the Pepsi franchise rights in 1935.

Karl Nurmi retired in 1948 and his sons, Carl, William and Fred, took over the helm.

D. H. Stewart was the first president of the Kiwanis Club formed in 1943.

# Adding Quality To The Mix

In 1952, Rainbow Concrete's reputation was cast when Bulgarian immigrant Nick Naneff purchased a small concrete block-making machine. Each single block was created with Nick Naneff's hands-on approach that assured quality.

The work was hard with long hours, but Nick Naneff knew that by building long-lasting quality into each

block for his customers, he was also building a long-lasting future for his young family in his new country.





**Concrete Solutions** 

Today, under the direction of Nick's son Boris, Rainbow Concrete Industries ships concrete products across the continent and beyond and has the capability to produce over 44,000 blocks per day from their plants. Additional specialized plants produce pipe, manholes, core floor slabs, standard and architectural blocks, precast, paving stones, landscaping products and shotcrete across the north.

Rainbow Concrete continues to leave its imprint of quality on Sudbury's landscape. From area

homeowners to large scale commercial projects such as the new Nickel Rim South Mine Project. Rainbow Concrete continues to build enduring relationships with their customers by adding a little extra quality to the mix.



**Boris Naneff** Vice President

