

A Historic Album of Tiverton 1879 - Centennial - 1979

APIARIES

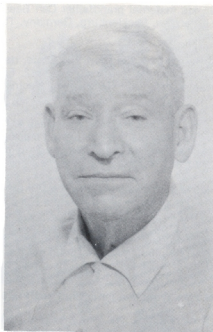
John McFadyen started with a hive of bees that his step father Alan McFadyen received from his brother Dan McFadyen in 1912 and by adding more colonies each year it had increased to 24 by 1920.

By 1927 John started to manage the bees himself and in 1929 moved to Tiverton Braeside, building a beehouse and making it a business. The beehouse burnt Oct. 23, 1957 while many were attending anniversary services in the Presbyterian Church. The C.K.N.X. news story said "The Sweetest fire this side of Heaven."

The years between 1952 and 1958 were lean years as the alsike and sweet clover stopped yielding as the weed spray used affected the blossoms. Farmer's started



John McFadyen Bee house. It burned 1967.



John W. McFadyen.

growing Bird's Foot Trefoil and Vernal Alfalfa that the bees gathered from and by 1968 the alsike began yielding blossoms again.

George McFadyen bought 600 colonies from Stuart Jackson east of Glamis in 1951 and worked with his father until 1958, he moved his outfit to the Peace River District in Alberta.

John and son Ronald continued in the business until Aug. 1972 and Bill MacKenzie bought the business using the Slade School on Highway 21, approximately three miles south of Tiverton, as his head quarters. In 1977 he bought the sales barn in Tiverton and worked preparing it for extracting the honey and will still use the Slade School to sell honey from as new regulations have been passed prohibiting extracting and selling in the same building.

Others in the honey business in a small way are Willis Dickson that worked with John McFadyen some.

Carl Morton a hydro worker living on Queen Street West in Patterson Park had some honey in 1976 but he has since moved to Glamis.