

Entricken's - bricks and tiles to go

VINTAGE VIEWS

By Tim Mosher

Tavistock and District Historical Society

Entricken's was a large brickyard located on the 15th Line of East Zorra Township, a little south-east of Tavistock. It was owned by Frank W. Entricken, a man known for his red and white bricks, field tiles and his world-champion pacer racehorse, The Eel, that died under mysterious circumstances. Mr. Entricken is standing on the right in the picture. No one else is identified.

By April 1900, the Tavistock Gazette reported that Entricken's was a serious concern, with 15 employees and three large kilns (ovens) that had a total capacity of 240,000 bricks. Each season, about 1,000 cords of four-foot-long (1.22 metre) softwood would be burned to heat the kilns and fire (bake) the bricks or tiles. The firing causes a chemical reaction in the clay changing it from greenware (clay shaped and ready for firing), to a permanently hardened, waterproof material, i.e. the final brick (bisqueware). Innumerable local homes, businesses and institutions were constructed using the bricks from Entricken's yard.

Tiles, too, for draining farmers' fields were also produced in large quantities here, from 1,000 to 11,000 feet (305 to 3,350 metres) per day, varying due to the size of the terracotta weeping tiles. Well-drained fields improve soil health, a concept well-understood for millennia.

Entricken's location had an unusual advantage as it had two colours of clay readily available: white and red. Two teams of carriages were on the road every day delivering their wares.

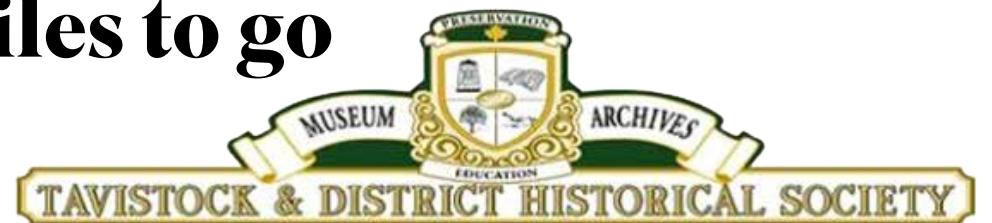
Close inspection of this photo reveals interesting details. The second man on the left is holding a brick form that the soft greenware was pressed into. Then, the fifth man on the right would use his two-handed wooden scraper to remove excess clay from the form by sliding his board across its surface. The third man on the left is holding an oil or water can for an unknown purpose.

The local milliner did good business, as everyone was wearing a hat. Suspenders or overalls with bibs were common work ware; belts didn't become popular until after World War I due to the lowering of men's waist lines. The lad on the left is clearly a minor, so either he had part-time employment here or the schoolmarm is wondering where he is. This appears to be a shoulder-season photo because everyone is wearing multiple layers despite working near the very hot kilns, including a few in union suits (one-piece underwear from neck to ankle), with the sleeves visible. There's almost no vegetation, save the leafy trees in the background.

Ironically, the brick wall behind the third man on the left seems to be collapsing.

Take a look at your homes, shops and meeting places constructed circa 1900. The bricks used to build them likely came from Entricken's - a silent echo from the past.

LAST WEEK'S HISTORY MYSTERY: The photo was of a cedar tree, its gargantuan size emphasized by a man posing with it to provide comparative scale. The question was: "What is the connection between cedar trees and the mortician's trade?" open



(PHOTOGRAPHER UNKNOWN; LEMP STUDIO COLLECTION #5017)

John Lemp and the five photographers who preceded his longtime photo (and pharmacy) business took many pictures of ordinary working life, but it's often not clear why they were taken. This is an excellent example showing labourers posing for a picture in their dusty work clothes. A great illustration of days gone by without any pomp or artifice but whose ultimate purpose remains a mystery.

to ages 21 and under. No one forwarded the correct answer. The answer is: Cedars produce an oil that repels insects and rot and so has been used since time immemorial for embalming and building caskets. Shipwrights also favour cedar for boats' hulls.

THIS WEEK'S HISTORY MYSTERY: What's the connection between the men's

facial hair in this photo and cycling? This question is open to all ages. Send your answer to tim_mosher@hotmail.com. The first reader to respond correctly will have their name, community or rural route number published in the next edition of Vintage Views.

The Globe and Fail: What do they know about young people's desire to buy homes?

SPENCER SEYMOUR

Gazette Reporter

The Globe and Mail managed to post what might be the most offensive article I've ever come across.

The headline read, "More Canadians are buying their first homes later in life, and they're okay with that."

No, we're not okay with that. We're pissed off. We're resentful of older generations who decided the sanctity of an ultra-capitalistic society was worth preventing us from having the opportunities to have our own places to live at the same ages that our parents and grandparents did. We're not resentful of our parents and grandparents specifically, but the fact is, the damage was done before we had a voice or even a heartbeat.

The article cites declining home ownership among younger adults and what they portray as a free-spirited la-di-da attitude.

Apparently, younger adults aren't buying homes because they just don't want to right now, as evidenced by the falling home-buying rate.

Look, I know it's legal now, but you shouldn't be that high when you write an article for a major publication.

Apparently, we would rather travel instead. They actually say younger adults are "undaunted by the pressure to reach certain financial and life milestones by a certain age," and that we're "living life on our own terms and at our own pace."

Firstly, it's not like taking vacations started with my generation. I'm pretty sure previous generations went on trips and did so while owning a home. Don't believe me? National Lampoon's Vacation was based on a typical family, not some distant planet we had magically gotten a vision from.

Secondly, the reason younger generations might take a vacation is to have a

brief, momentary escape from the dead-end future we've been sentenced to.

The article also goes on to have quotes from a financial planner who, I'm sure, has lived the same experience my generation has and says these late, first-time homebuyers can still save for retirement by "getting a second source of income, taking in renters, working past retirement age and living more frugally."

Hey, if you just wanted absolutely nothing and wanted to work forever, you could have everything you've ever wanted, unless another billionaire wants to shoot a rocket into space. Then the younger generation might need to settle for a bit less than nothing. I'm sure The Globe and Mail will be right there to tell us how excited we are about having less than nothing.

I don't know why, but The Globe and Mail decided they would try to gaslight people under 40 into thinking that, somehow, having destitute futures no matter

how hard we work and what salary we make is actually a good thing.

It sucks.

It sucks having no possibility of owning or even renting my own home unless I marry someone with a successful OnlyFans account. It sucks making a wage that should be enough and never is. It sucks working so hard for so little. And it's not because of one political party; each one is to blame. It's because of a brainwashing the wealthiest among us paid to have multiple generations indoctrinated into.

The Globe and Mail didn't post that article because they are Liberal or Conservative. They posted it because they are just one more example of a corporation run by people with the same ultra-capitalistic fetish that the generations before mine devoted their lives to.

We're not okay with it, but no one who can change it truly cares.

SEND YOUR STORY IDEAS TO OUR EDITOR GALEN SIMMONS AT GALEN@GRANTHAVEN.COM