

Scarborough at 350: Linking the Past to the Present

the century, some people continued to rely on horses, especially in the winter. Children devised their own games and generally played in their own neighborhoods with friends and relatives who lived nearby. Several people recalled those days and shared their accounts of growing up in Scarborough.

The Way It Was: Dunstan

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Margery Milliken Fancy recalled Dunstan in the 1920s and 1930s:

I lived about a mile from Dunstan village on the Payne Road, which was then called the Old Stage Road. Few people in town owned automobiles. Every family had a horse or two to carry them where they needed to go. In the fall those who had cars “put them up” for the winter. That was an appropriate phrase because the cars really were put up on blocks to take the weight off the tires. None of the roads were paved; they were dirt, and many areas became a muddy mess in the spring. Once there was any amount of snow, townspeople rolled the roads to pack the snow down. Drivers exchanged wagons for sleighs, and only vehicles with runners traveled the town roads during the winter.

Horses, though quite dependable animals, occasionally caused problems. Once as my father headed for home after working at Prouts Neck, he encountered a trolley just as he pulled out of the Black Point Road. The trolley, which everyone called “the electrics,” frightened my father’s horses, and they turned the corner, probably on two wheels, and threw Dad out of the wagon. He went to Dr. Benjamin Wentworth’s house, who lived



Sisters Elizabeth and Susan Robison at the Robison homestead in Pleasant Hill in the early 1900s. Scarborough residents relied on horse power well into the 1900s.