

A Perspective on Postwar Essex Junction

Essex Junction Some 200 New Homes Constructed in Village in Past Three or Four Years

With the advent of the dial telephone system, Burlington and Essex Junction will no longer be separated by a toll charge.

This is still another indication of the growth of the community seven miles from Burlington which many now call "a suburb of Burlington."

The 1950 census listed the town as having a population of 2,701. In 1940 it was 1,901.

This means that the town gained 800 residents. The percentage of the gain is far larger than the 10% increase registered for the larger community, Burlington.

The southernly section of town, around South Summit Street, Cherry Street, and Curtis Avenue is the section with the most new dwellings.

New developments first began with the opening of 25 lots on South Summit Street in 1947.

Prices for new houses ranged from \$8,500 to \$12,000, with a few higher. A real estate dealer declared

that rentals are now about on a par with those in Burlington, but he thought the units more attractive for the comparative price levels.

For several years after the war, rents were noticeably lower.

It was estimated that businesses here absorb only about a fourth of the working population. The remainder commute for their livelihood.

One commuter complained of the deterioration of the road because of the increase in traffic.

A steady stream of cars moves over the road between 8 and 9 a.m. and between 4:30 and 6:00 p.m.

One farsided builder saw an increase in retail stores in the community to take care of trade that now centers in Burlington.

Advantages of the community quoted by former Burlingtonians were the attractiveness of the streets, the quiet atmosphere, larger lots, a feeling of small-town co-operation with neighbors, and excellence of schools.

The Suburban List
September 13, 1951

Ehler's **SUNOCO**

We're open for business

1 1/2 miles from the
5 Corners in Essex
East on Route 15
Tel. 878-4907

- * Kelly Springfield Tires
- * General Repairs
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We also would like to thank all our customers who have traded with us in the last six years at our old location on Pearl Street, to enable us to be going into our larger new station. We hope you will find it easy to visit us at our new location.

"Unusual new service station is this one on Vermont 15, between Essex Junction and Essex Center. Mr. and Mrs. Duke Ehler have converted the old Wright Bigelow barn into a station, which has been very busy since it opened two weeks ago. The Ehlers live in the house next to the station."

The Suburban List, November 5, 1970.

Editor's note: The barn has been torn down and replaced with a Maplefield's convenience store. Since 2002 Ehler's RV, located at the intersection of Route 15 and Route 289, has been owned by Peter Beauregard.