

Dec. 11, 1963.



STILL TUNED IN—John Kennedy, 41 Victoria Street South, Aylmer, who celebrated his 98th birthday Tuesday, keeps up with the times by

listening to the radio and reading. Still enjoying good health, he gets outdoors nearly every day and goes to church three times on Sunday.—(T.-J. Aylmer Bureau Photo).

At 98 John Kennedy Shovels Snow Goes to Church Three Times on Sunday

AYLMER — John Kennedy, 41 Victoria Street South, can't get around quite as well as he used to, but he's not grumbling.

For a man who celebrated his 98th birthday on Tuesday, the affable nonagenarian still gets around pretty well. He tends his garden in the summer, shovels snow in winter, makes regular trips uptown to pick up the mail and gets to church three times on Sunday summer and winter. And for these blessings he is thankful.

Mr. Kennedy, who farmed for some 60 years in the Calton area, lives now with his daughter, Mrs. Harold Holditch and her husband. Yesterday's celebration was quiet, but a host of friends did not forget to mark the occasion with cards, flowers and messages of congratulations. Many also called at the house.

When he can't get outside, Mr. Kennedy spends a good deal of time listening to the radio. Although his hearing has failed, he overcomes this difficulty with a hearing aid. He also loves to read, and manages with the help of a magnifying glass.

His happiest days are spent in the garden under the warm summer sun. Vegetables are his specialty and last summer he did all the work involved, bringing in the produce himself as it ripened.

Mr. Kennedy was for many years a member of Calton Baptist Church and now is a member of the Aylmer Baptist Church. He still attends three times on Sunday, twice

for church service and once again as a member of the men's Sunday School class.

The genial elder citizen admitted yesterday that he "wished it were summer all the time," so that he could get out in the garden.

"All I can do in winter is shovel snow when there's enough," he said, "but I'm not complaining."

Mrs. Holditch said her father has never been sick a day in his life and has never spent a day in bed.

Born Dec. 10, 1865, Mr. Kennedy spent his youth in Bayham Township at Maple Grove near Eden. He is a former member of the Tillsonburg Masonic Lodge and the Calton Public School Board and also served many years as a deacon of the Calton Baptist Church.

He was married to the former Minnie Wilson, also of Calton, on Christmas Day, 1893, at the bride's home. Mrs. Kennedy died 16 years ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Kennedy had six children, five of whom still reside in the area. Besides Mrs. Holditch, they are Mrs. Russell McKibbin, Aylmer; Mrs. Will McKibbin, Grovesend; Mrs. Earl Simons, R. R. 4, Aylmer, and Ralph Kennedy, who operates a general store at Calton. A daughter, Mrs. Bruce Burdick, of London, died a few years ago.

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CHECKING RESULTS — The opening shoot last night for members of the East Elgin Sportsmen's Association's junior rifle club attracted a goodly number of young people. Here a group of boys check a target with

Arnold McDowell, immediate past-president of the senior club and in charge of the junior organization. The boys, left to right, are Roger James, Eric Whaley, Dean James, John Frey, Frank Danbrook and Jim Rogers.
—(T.-J. Aylmer Bureau Photo).

AYLMER—Some 14 boys and two girls turned out last night for the first junior rifle club shoot of the season. The club is sponsored by the East Elgin Sportsmen's Association.

Arnold McDowell, in charge of the junior club, said there is still room for a few more boys or girls between the ages of 10 and 16 years. Membership last year was about 30 young people.

The club meets every Friday evening in the rifle range at Sportsmen's Park. The proper and safe handling of firearms is taught and the young marksmen have a good time shooting for Dominion Marksmen awards.

The awards are presented during a special program held in the spring. Club championship trophies, competed for on the final night, are also presented. Trophies in three categories are donated by the Optimist Club and jeweller Walt Wood.

Last year, a team from the club won the Optimist District 15 shooting championship in Toronto as representatives of the local service club.

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GIRLS, TOO — Boys aren't the only ones who like to shoot. The two pretty youngsters seen in the above picture turned out for the first junior rifle club shoot last night at Aylmer. They plan to give the boys a run for their

money. Max Whaley, a senior instructor, left, took time to explain the parts of a rifle to the girls, Cheryl James, 12, and Wendy Whaley, 13, as Bob Whaley, official scorer, looks on.
—(T.-J. Aylmer Bureau Photo).

Feb. 17, 1964.

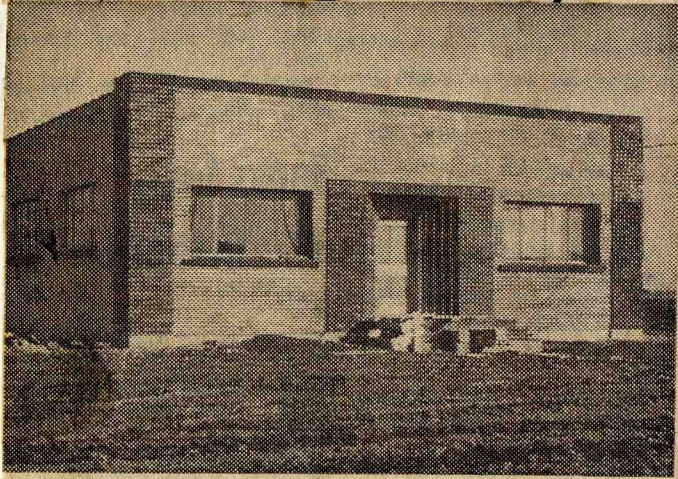
THE ST. THOMAS TIMES-JOURNAL



FOUR GENERATIONS — Four generations of the family were on hand Saturday when retired Calton area farmer, Russell McDowell, celebrated his 90th birthday at the home of his son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Arnold McDowell, R.R. 6, Aylmer. Pictured above, left to right, are Mrs. Fred Lowes, Straffordville, a daughter; Mrs. Allen Walsh,

also Straffordville, Mrs. Lowes' daughter; Mr. McDowell and, in the foreground, 11-year-old Lyn Walsh. The family enjoyed a dinner later at Mr. and Mrs. Lowes' home. The nonegenerarian and his wife have a second daughter, Mrs. Vilo Andrews, Woodstock; six grandchildren and 14 great-grandchildren. (T.-J. Aylmer Bureau Photo).

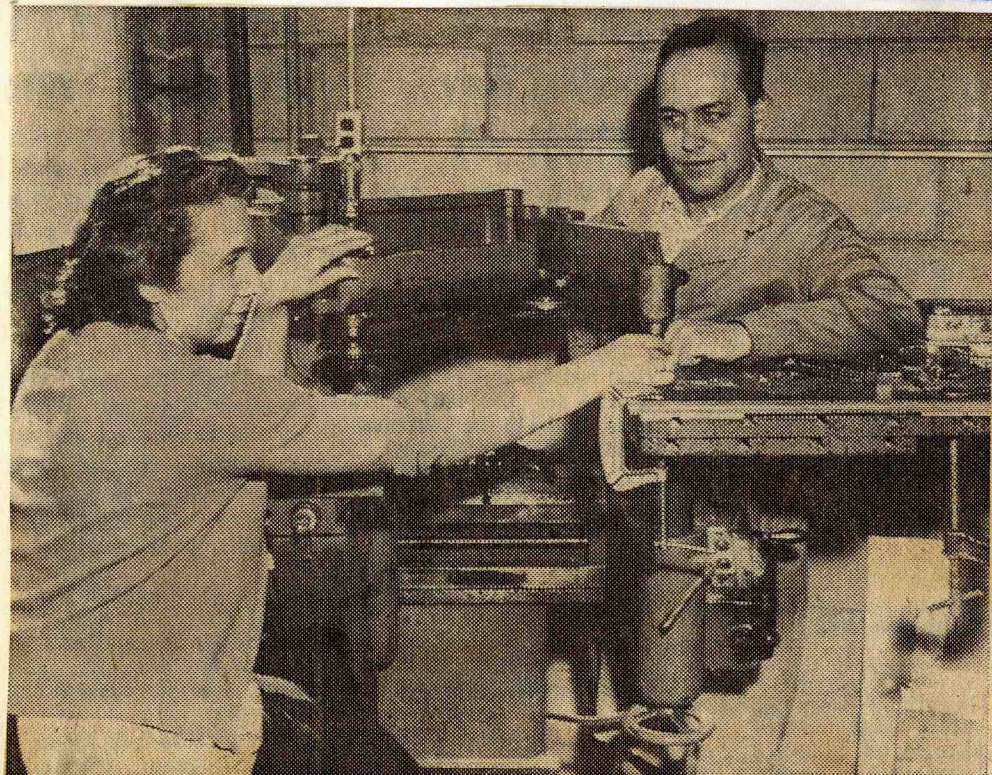
Young Belgian Couple Prefers Country Location For Thriving Industry



STRANGE SETTING — In a field about a half mile north of Calton, in East Elgin, sits the building above which houses ETBO General Industrial Engraving. It's an unusual setting for such a firm, but owner, Etienne Borm, and his wife think it's just fine. The business has been expanded since its former location at the rear of the home of Mr. Borm's brother, Romein, of R.R. 6, Aylmer. (T.-J. Aylmer Bureau Photo).



HEAD DRAFTSMAN — Etienne Borm, a native of Belgium, who operates an industrial engraving, tool and die business, near Calton, is his own head draftsman. Here he works on a drawing in the front office of a new building being completed to house the operation. (T.-J. Aylmer Bureau Photo).



WIFE HELPS, TOO—Mr. Borm's wife, Marie-Louise, helps in the company shop operated by her husband. She handles the fine, industrial engraving work and is seen above at the engraving machine while her husband looks on. (T.-J. Aylmer Bureau Photo).

March 1964

AYLMER — More than one motorist driving north from the hamlet of Calton, southeast of here, must be puzzled by what looks like a manufacturing firm located smack in the middle of a tobacco field. But that's precisely what it is.

The one-storey brick and cement block building houses the ETBO General Industrial Engraving Company, operated by a young Belgian couple, Etienne Borm and his wife, Marie-Louise.

Mr. Borm, who came to Canada in 1957, is owner, president, general manager, plant foreman, technical draftsman and skilled workman all rolled into one. Marie-Louise helps with the fine industrial engravings and, just two months ago, the Borms hired their first employee, Albert Visser of St. Thomas who is learning the business.

Mr. Borm turns out custom

dies and tools as well as industrial engravings and says he has all the work he can handle.

Although he started construction of his new building only last fall Mr. Borm actually began operating the business not long after he came to Canada. He started in the back portion of the home of his farmer brother Romein Borm of R. R. 6, Aylmer. The building provides plenty of room for equipment within its 3,000 square feet of space.

Why did Mr. Borm establish his firm in the country? Mainly because he was sick of big city life. He operated a similar business for 16 years in Antwerp in his native Belgium, and has been glad to escape from the constant noise and turmoil of the city.

And there are other reasons, too.

"I admit it's a funny place for my business, but it doesn't depend on people walking past on the street," the genial owner explained.

Mr. Borm pointed out also that his brother lives nearby as do an aunt and uncle.

"They are all the family I have and we like to be near them," he said.

Mr. Borm's customers may not be passing in front of his firm, but he apparently has lots of them — manufacturers spread all across Southwestern Ontario from Toronto to Windsor.

After coming to Canada, Mr. Borm worked for a few months as a technical draftsman for St. Thomas Metal Signs before starting his own business.

He recalled that when he and his wife arrived they could not speak a word of English and that "it wasn't easy." However, they both like Canada and don't want to go home except perhaps, as Mrs. Borm said, "just for a visit."

The new building, not yet completed, contains a couple of offices as well as plenty of space for the heavy equipment needed in the business.

Mr. Borm admitted to a Times-Journal reporter that it wasn't always easy, having to look after nearly all aspects of the business himself, but he is optimistic that the picture will change.

So is his wife, who added, with a confident twinkle in her eyes; "Come back again next year and maybe we'll have the place filled with workmen."

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