

A New Business for the Village of Mapleton opened in September
of 1985.

We wish Barb and her "Just Yarns" the best of luck

More than "Just Yarns"

If you are a knitter or crocheter, there is a new shop in Mapleton you should try.

The Ganttner, Wayne and Barb and their three children Jo-Ann 16, Dean 15 and Jason 14 opened a yarn store, at their home, in September, called "Just Yarns". Although Barb runs the store, it is a family affair, since Wayne built the shop and the kids help when the yarn orders come in, sorting and stocking the shelves.

In addition to approximately 20 varieties of yarn, the shop carries patterns, knitting needles and crochet hooks. Barb is always willing to give free advice to her customers and encourages you to bring in any patterns you may have with an article you are making. Knitting classes are held once a week on Thursday evenings in the shop. The classes run for six weeks a session and are for anyone from beginners to long-time knitters, who just want to brush up on their skills. If Barb doesn't have the yarn you wish in stock, she will be more than happy to order it for you. There is no middleman, the shop orders directly from the mill.

The shop also sells hand-made articles, sweaters etc., with Barb doing the work



Barb Ganttner, owner of Just Yarns, in Mapleton.

herself. Sweater orders are most welcome and discounts are given to groups.

Just Yarns is located in

Mapleton, on the left hand side, on the big bend going south from Belmont on Hwy. 74.

They are open Tuesday to

Friday 10 - 5 and Saturday from 9 - 2. For any enquiries call 644-1239.

J. G.
E. G.

Although Ed Bridgeman closed the doors at the Mapleton Cheese Factory on Christmas Eve, this well known, high quality cheese will still be offered by Audrey McCann and her staff at A & K Grocery in Belmont. Ed said he closed because he just became tired and quit. The cheese factory, which was in operation for 38 years, hasn't actually made cheese there since 1982. At that time they scoured around to try and find factories that were producing cheese that met the quality that they had become famous for. Although Mr. Bridgeman said nothing was quite as good as what he used to make, they did find some that were close. The cheese that they have been selling since 1982 has come from Nova Scotia, Ontario and Quebec and comes from Bright's cold storage, thus sometimes carrying the Bright's label. Audrey has been selling this fine cheese in her store for some time and will continue to do so.

Jan 15-86

16-- ST. THOMAS TIMES-JOURNAL, Tuesday, December 24, 1985



That's it

Ed Bridgeman, owner of the Mapleton Cheese and Butter Company, will turn the sign

on his door one last time today. After 48 years in the business, Mr. Bridgeman says it is time to retire. — (T-J Aylmer Bureau Photo).

*Just
A.V.P.*

Workers face tough job hunt

Closure of Carnation's evaporation and canning division plants in Aylmer has left employees confronted with a difficult job search, or an early retirement that some aren't prepared for.

John Ingram, head of the Retail, Wholesale, Department Store Union Local 440 in the evaporation division, said about 10 of the 63 employees (those with the most seniority) were still working moving out machinery and taking inventory.

That includes Mr. Ingram, who at age 60 has been at the plant for 40 years.

Mr. Ingram said for those out of work, and those still at the plant, job prospects in the area - including London, St. Thomas, Ingersoll and Tillsonburg - weren't very good.

And for the 65 percent of Carnation employees over 50 years old, the job search will be even more difficult because they are out of the job market.

Anyone over 60 can retire with pension, but those between 50 and 60 need to find jobs.

Mr. Ingram will be looking for another job, but he isn't too optimistic. "I expect I'll have to retire."

He said financially he was able to retire, partially because of a settlement from Carnation, and he could enjoy staying at home. But he has been trying to find another position.

For Mr. Ingram, moving out of town to find a job isn't an option. He's a lifelong resident of Aylmer, with a secure home.

But, he said, he thought a lot of the younger workers would have to move because there was nothing here for them. "This town's really dying."

Austin O'Brien, 55, an employee of Carnation for 35 years, retirement is not a pleasant prospect. He said he was eligible for his pension, but "I just don't want to put my feet up."

He said he wasn't psychologically ready to retire, but financially he could handle it.

Mr. O'Brien is still working at the plant, and is fairly optimistic that he'll be able to find another job when he's finished.

"I haven't given up," he said, adding he thinks there's a job out there, somewhere. But it would probably be something seasonal, and at a lower wage.

He worked in quality control at the plant. He said that didn't qualify him for the same position at other companies like Labatts because all their employees university or college degrees.

Gerry McKean, 61, a former employee in the can division, said financially he could retire, but he's not ready to.

He worked at Carnation for 32 years. After working that long, it was very difficult to get up in the morning and not have a job to go to, he said. Right now he's spending his time looking for work, fishing and golfing.

He also walks a couple of miles each morning because, "You just can't sit."

Mr. McKean said even though he wants to work, "who's going to hire you." Even a man 50 years old would have problems. "I don't feel optimistic. The young people can't find anything."

The committee set up to help Carnation employees with their job searches was "window dressing," for workers his age, said Mr. McKean, although it may have helped younger ones.

Ernie Wall, 49, an employee in the evaporation division for 12 years, said the job search wasn't going well. He's been working hard trying to find a job, but so far nothing has happened.

He said he didn't want to have to take Unemployment Insurance, but if he couldn't find a job, it would be necessary financially.

Employers in the area didn't want to talk to someone about a job after they were 45 or 46 years old, he said, so age was the major problem for him.

Although the committee set up to help was trying hard, it couldn't work miracles, he said. "I don't know just what's going to happen."

Ron Jacklin, 51, a former employee in the can plant, said for him the job search was difficult. When a person was aged 50 to 55, employers "just look at your age and forget about you."

He said he had been on the road for a week looking for a job. In St. Thomas, Tillsonburg and Ingersoll, he had applied at about 95 percent of the factories. So far he hasn't received any calls.

Mr. Jacklin said the only way he could get a job was by knowing someone at another factory or with the help of lady luck.

There was "nothing in Aylmer," he said, adding if he had a trade it would be easier.

He is hoping to stay in the Aylmer area, but is willing to commute to London if necessary.

He said only seven or eight Carnation employees had new jobs, including two or three who were transferred to another plant.

He said he felt age was a big factor. Not many in the can plant were younger than he was. "It's going to be tough on everyone."

For Mr. Jacklin, this is his first job hunt in 30 years, and the last one was much easier.

For now he's keeping himself busy looking for a new job. Next he will try London, and re-contact factories he's already applied at.

Al McDowell, secretary of the Retail, Wholesale, Department Store Union Local 440 said his wife had found a job in Oshawa, so the family was moving. They have three children with two in school.

He said he was optimistic about finding a job in Oshawa, "the job markets are better," but he would have preferred staying in Aylmer.

"It's bad for the people trying to stay here," since there

aren't many jobs available.

John Schuster, 60, said he would still be looking for a job, but didn't feel there was much of a chance. For men aged 50 the search was difficult enough. "It's hard to get a job."

The jobs available were at half the pay Carnation employees had received.

Mr. Schuster said he was enjoying his leisure time and had enough "jobs" gardening and other things around the house that he wouldn't get bored. "I don't get paid for what I'm doing."

Jim McLean, 55, a former employee in the evaporation division, has found a job in Trenton as a stationary engineer, the same job he had in Aylmer.

He said he had hoped to stay in the area but would have to go where the work was. He and his wife moved to Springfield three years ago after he got a job at Carnation. He said they came here with hopes to retire here.

Carnation was acquired by Nestle Enterprises Ltd., early in 1986. On October 21 that year, employees were called to a special meeting at Saxonia Club when the closure was announced.

A press release at the time said "market conditions and the fact that the evaporated milk plant has been reduced to a 10 months a year, one-shift operation," left the company no option but to close the Aylmer plant.

The evaporation division ceased production on May 8, with the can division following suit about a week later.

The evaporation and canning plants have been a part of Aylmer since it was founded in 1881 as the Aylmer Canning and Evaporating Company.

J.H.
EJS
190388

June 10, 1992



Greg Zavitz of Belmont works in quality control at St. Thomas Freightliner of Canada plant. The plant was officially opened in

May although first trucks came off the line in January. The company expects to produce more than 20 trucks daily by mid 1993.

The first truck rolled off the assembly line at Freightliner of Canada in St. Thomas on January 20, 1992, 18 months after construction of the building started.

FREIGHTLINER

FREIGHTLINER OF CANADA LTD

The plant was formally opened May 8.

John VanLingen of RR1, Aylmer worked at VME in St. Thomas for seven years before joining Freightliner's workforce.

He started at Freightliner last December and said he had no regrets.

"I like it very much, they are into people here. Everyone is on an even basis with each other. If you've got an idea, they let you speak your mind."

As trucks travel along the assembly line, Mr. Vanlingen works on the dash, electrical build-up and testing area.

His duties require him to assemble electrical harnesses and test each system to ensure all dash switches and gauges are working properly.

He had no complaints about his previous employer but preferred working in the new factory.

Had he found anything he didn't like about Freightliner?

"I've not come across anything yet," he said in his sixth month on the job.

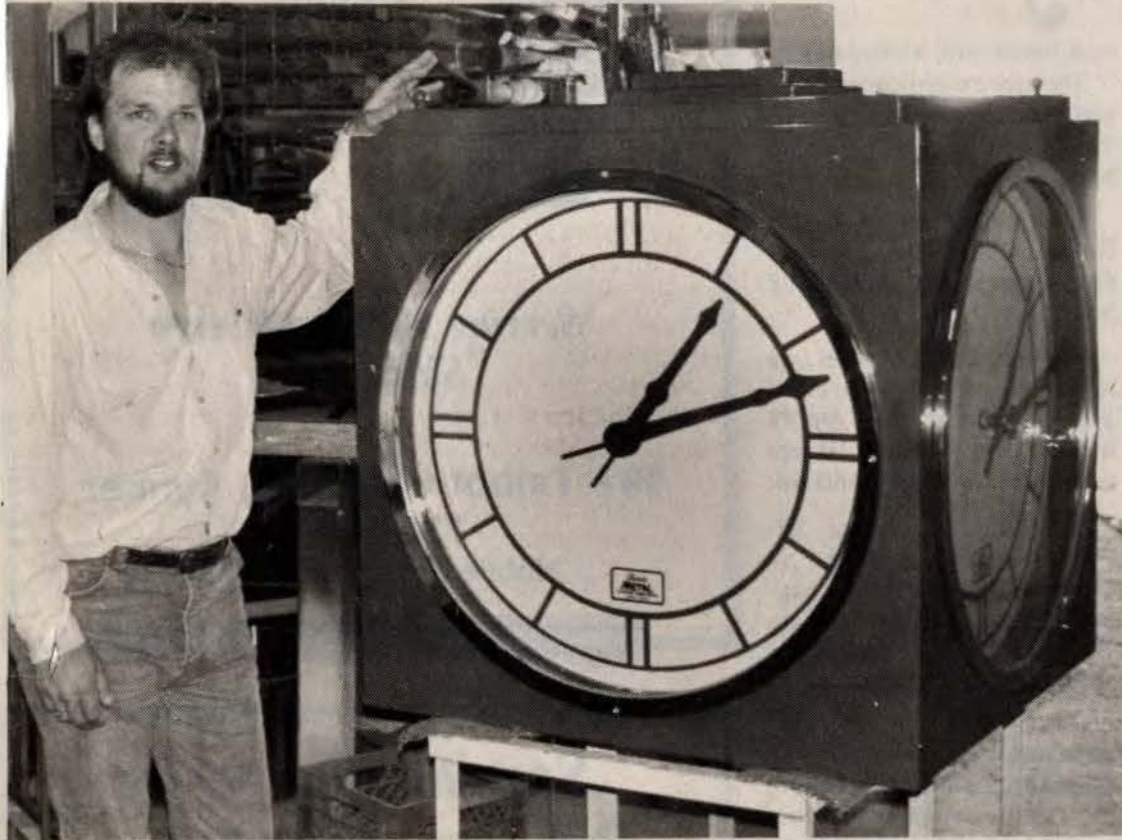
"As I said, they are really into people and that's what it's all about. They go out of their way to make you feel comfortable."

Greg Zavitz of Belmont also works on the new assembly line and he too spoke highly of management and worker rapport.

The East Elgin Secondary School graduate had previously worked at a St. Thomas trucking company.

J.H. S.L.

Traditional town clock gets new life at Belmont metal company



Mark Fisher, owner and operator of Classic Metal in Belmont, displays a section of a new civic clock destined for Sackville, New Brunswick. Classic specializes in custom

metal work but in recent years, a good portion of business has been building new town clocks and restoring older models.

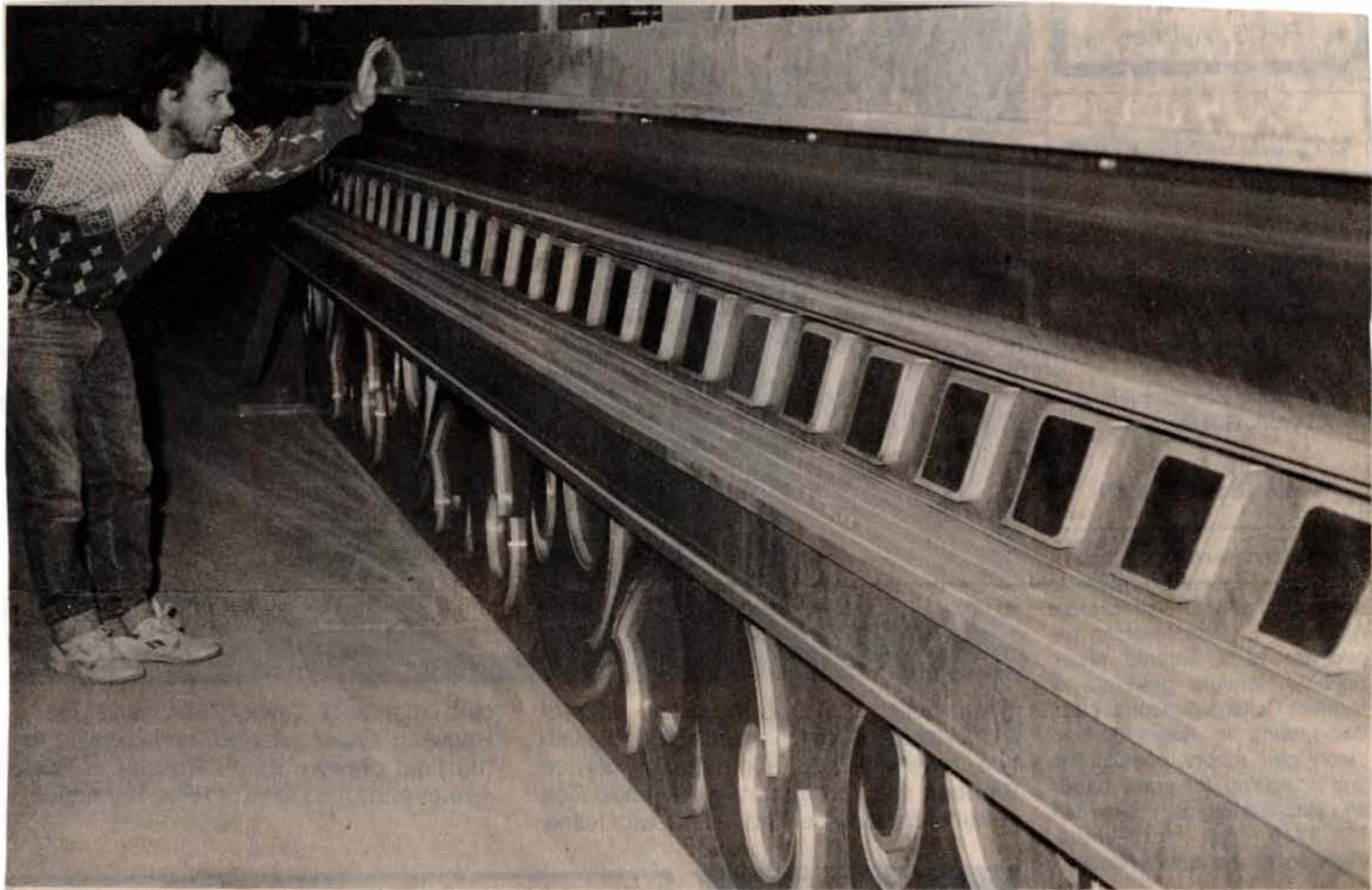


Larry Jenkins assembles the computerized heart of clocks built at Classic Metal. Electronic technology makes the v more precise and reliable than mechanical timepiece. company officials.

J.H.
Sx.

November 18, 1992

Toronto hospital donor designed, built in Belmont



Quality workmanship is important to Mark Fisher as he inspects the top of the 40-foot Wall of Honour to be installed at the Hospital for Sick Children in Toronto. The 12-foot high wall and complementary pieces was constructed at

Classic Metal in Belmont and will be shipped to Toronto in sections. The seven employees at the plant took a year to complete the \$400,000 project.

*Just
SX*



A massive glass and copper sculpture depicting the sun showing through cloud will help recognize contributions from children towards cost of constructing an addition to the Hospital for Sick Children in

Toronto. Mark Fisher and his staff in Belmont designed and constructed the monument as part of a donor recognition project to be erected in the hospital entrance.



Shane Chapman, of Classic Metal, cleans the marble base which will hold the two-ton sculpture destined for the children's

hospital in Toronto. The hollow stand will contain a large music box for youngsters to operate.

J.H.
S.C.

Harold Jenkins and Tom Roberts honoured by the CCCA



Retired Catfish Creek Conservation Authority members Harold Jenkins and Tom Roberts, centre, were presented with framed photographs commemorating their service to the CCCA by authority member Phineas Pressey, right. The presentation was made during a dinner to honour the two men held by the authority at Pleasant Valley Golf and Country Club. Mr. Jenkins served 24 years and Mr. Roberts a member for 15 years. Mr. Harold Jenkins was chairman from 1973-78. During Mr. Jenkins' time the authority grew and matured. "We acquired the Brownsville property, Brown property and the Aylmer Conservation Area, later renamed for Ivan Steen," Mr. Caverly remarked. Perhaps Harold's greatest accomplishment as chairman was overseeing the development of the Springwater Conservation Area. During Mr. Jenkins' term the area's west campground was established, washrooms built, fencing installed, gatehouses built, roads developed, a picnic shelter erected and walkways paved. Mr. Jenkins enjoyed his years on the authority, working with the members and staff.

Aylmer Express
March 1986

J. A.
E. J.

CONGRATULATIONS to these young people who did so well
Spring 1986



The South Dorchester Optimist Club held its annual oratorical contest recently. Winners include, front row from left: girls runner-up, Dianne Van Bommel, 11, who spoke on "Teachers"; second place, Angie McCallum, 10, "Gymnastics"; first place, Patricia Foster, 11, "Optimism: A

Way of Life", back row: Optimist Doug Howey, boys runner-up Bert Howey, 11, "Farming"; second place, Jamie Faulds, 11, "Gordie Howe"; first place, Andrew Hodgson, 11, "Handicaps". All the speakers are pupils at South Dorchester Public School.

*J.A.
EJS*

Congratulations to these young people who did so well in the Optimist Club public speaking contest.



Winners from area Optimist Club public speaking contests met at the Aylmer Optimist Hall last week for the Zone 19 public speaking contest. Zone winners in the girls and boys division are, front row from left: Colleen Bartley, second place, from Belmont club; Patricia Foster of South Dorchester club;

Kimberly Pigram of North Dorchester club; back row: Grant Gedies, zone winner, of North Dorchester club; Andrew Hodgson of South Dorchester club; John Wilson of Aylmer club and; Jennifer Van Acker, zone winner of Aylmer club.

MARCH 1986

J. A. E. J.

October 2, 1991⁴.

Lyons Optimist Club induct
1991-1992 Officers.



Lyons Optimist club recently held an induction of officers for the 1991-92 year. Installed were: from left, James Wilson, lieutenant governor; Clyde Pond, vice-president; Doug McCallum, president and Ron McNeil, secretary-treasurer. Absent is Doug Howey, vice-president.



Raymond Vanhoucke, left, recently received the Optimist International award for recruiting five new members in one year. Ron Ellsworth, current lieutenant governor being replaced by James Wilson for the coming year presented Mr. Vanhoucke with a plaque at the Optimist club in Lyons.

J.H.
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