

Jan Verdun, milk store pioneer, farmer, dead at 86

Jan Verdun, 86, a pioneer in the sale of three-quart milk jugs in Aylmer many years ago and the operation of an early 7-to-11 convenience store here died at St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital, Tuesday morning, October 22, 1996 of pneumonia.

He was a popular individual and a member of Aylmer Town Council and for many years constantly in the public eye.

The Rev. Norman Jones will conduct a memorial service, arranged through H.A. Kebbel Funeral Home, 1 p.m., Monday, October 28, at St. Paul's United Church.

This appreciation of his father's life has been written by Bob Verdun, publisher of the Elmira Independent weekly newspaper.

The man who made milk affordable for Canadian families died October 22 at the age of 86.

A true agribusiness pioneer, Jan Verdun opened Canada's first cash-and-carry milk store in Aylmer, Ontario in 1956 — creating the convenience store that we take for granted today.

The hours of operation that he chose — 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. seven days a week — are still followed by many variety stores today. The quantity of milk purchased by most families — now four litres — is a continuation of his choice of three quarts at the most convenient and efficient unit for family use.

Jan Verdun inadvertently did the pilot project for the Becker's chain, but never expanded beyond his own single store in Aylmer, although he did supply milk to similar stores that sprang up in nearby places like St. Thomas and Delhi.

He had to fight many battles before he could change the marketing of milk to meet modern needs, and make it more affordable for families. The town council in Aylmer, which already had two dairies, did not want to issue him a routine business licence. Canadian glassmakers initially refused to manufacture his revolutionary three-quart jug — but relented when Jan Verdun threatened to go to the U.S. to import American gallon jugs.

When he started to supply burgeoning convenience stores in nearby centres, he was charged with selling milk without a licence. He was jokingly called "the milk bootlegger," and the judge fined him \$10 because he was clearly violating antiquated laws that restricted competition to the detriment

of consumers. Mr. Verdun simply paid the fine, incorporated a new company, resumed the same trade, and was never charged again.

Consumers flocked to Aylmer store, often buying a week's worth of his high-quality milk at a time. Verdun's Dairy had a popular long-running special of a three-quart jug of milk and a pound of butter for only one dollar.

This modern version of the general store thrived. When Christmas fell on a Monday in 1961, the shelves of Verdun's convenience store were almost bare by the end of Christmas eve, as people took advantage of the only grocery outlet that was open. Verdun's Dairy was closed only one day a year: Christmas Day. Otherwise, it catered to local convenience seven days a week with groceries, hardware such as batteries, an old-fashioned soda fountain, and a short-order snack counter. All of the Verdun children worked in the business from about the age of 10.

Verdun's Dairy was built on new technology, as the founder located and adapted machinery to wash and fill three-quart jugs. However, when even newer technology arrived in the 1970s — packaging milk in plastic bags — the Verdun operation was too small to compete, and it was phased out.

By that time, Jan Verdun was already well established as a pioneer in a new field: importing and breeding Charolais beef cattle from France. The large, fast-growing cattle helped to advance the Canadian beef industry, which had been sticking closely to traditional British breeds.

Until he finally retired from farming in the early 1990s, Jan Verdun was active in the Charolais industry, which gave him many awards.

Mr. Verdun represented the kind of immigrant whose hard work and enterprise built Canada. The eldest of 12 children, he decided to leave Holland at the age of 19 to see what the New World could offer residents of a small, crowded country with little opportunity.

By the time he arrived in Canada in the spring of 1930 to be a farm labourer, the Great Depression had already started. His first job would last only one growing season, but he seized the chance to attend Ontario Agricultural College at Guelph in the fall of 1930.

A thoughtful admissions

officer overlooked the fact that he was not a citizen, and let him pay only the domestic rate of tuition. Jan took two jobs to work his way through OAC: as waiter in the college cafeteria, and also janitor.

Summer jobs were non-existent, so he bought a bicycle and loaded himself with scissors, ribbons, shoe laces, and other saleable goods. He travelled from farmhouse to farmhouse, slept in barns, and pedalled back to Toronto whenever his supplies ran low.

He managed to find time to sing in college shows, and was one of the most popular students. After graduation, he held several jobs in the dairy and feed industries before buying a feed mill in Aylmer.

He was active in the community, serving on the recreation council and the town council. He was an enthusiastic supporter of Aylmer Fair, including a term as its president. He also served as Sunday School superintendent at St. Paul's United Church. He loved to write letters to the editor of local and regional newspapers, and was keen to encourage fellow citizens who were brave enough to challenge the system.

While operating the feed mill, he purchased his first farm, and he was always an agricultural innovator. He became a leader in advancing the well-established Holstein dairy breed, which originally came from his native land. Holstein cows were so efficient that they were producing milk faster than it could be affordably marketed in quart bottles delivered door to door.

Attuned to changing trends and new opportunities, he saw the potential of the first cash-and-carry milk stores in the U.S., and decided the time was ripe in Canada. He tore down a little-used wing of the old rambling feed mill to erect the first phase of his dairy, which opened in March 1956. Eventually, all of the feed-mill buildings were demolished, as the dairy store expanded, and more parking was needed.

Although he could have expanded his dairy stores before Becker's copied his ideas, he always wanted to have time for his farm and his cows — so the business remained an Aylmer institution.

Jan Verdun suffered from Parkinson's disease, but continued to be active until about two years ago. Thanks to the efforts of his wife, Diny, he was able to live at

home on a farm, near Orwell.

Jan Verdun is survived by Diny (his second wife), and fondly remembered by her family.

Jan's four children are: David, a secondary-school teacher in Iroquois Falls, Ontario; Mary, a figure-skating teacher who lives in Kitchener; Bob, a newspaper publisher-editor in Elmira, Ontario; and Richard, an officer in Canada's navy, based in Halifax; also five grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Jan is divorced from Gladys (Agar) Verdun, a retired elementary-school teacher who lives in Kitchener.

He is also survived by a step-daughter Ina Csiki and husband Joe, several grandchildren, step-grandchildren, a great-grandson, a sister in Nova Scotia, three sisters and a brother in Holland, several nieces and nephews.

J. J.
A. D. R.

Edith Dressa Stover

A funeral for Edith Dressa Stover, 79, of Chateau Gardens, a homemaker and mother formerly of RR7 Aylmer, has been arranged for 1:30 p.m. Thursday.

She died at Chateau Gardens on Sunday, January 19, 1997.



Edith Dressa Stover

Mrs. Stover was born in South Dorchester Township on March 3, 1917 to the late Claude and Estella (Charlton) Hoover.

She was a member of Church of Christ Disciples, Mapleton, Women's Institute, the Rebekah Lodge and Women's Missionary Society.

She is survived by a son Harvey Stover of St. Thomas; a daughter, Eleanor Stover and husband David of RR7 Aylmer; a sister, Ruth Hoover of Tavistock, several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her husband Ralph Victor Stover.

The Rev. Richard Meyer, of Church of Christ Disciples will conduct the service at H. A. Kebbel Funeral Home with burial in Necropolis Cemetery.

Edith Dressa Stover

A funeral for Edith Dressa Stover, 79, of Chateau Gardens, a homemaker and mother formerly of RR7 Aylmer, was held Thursday, January 23.

She died at Chateau Gardens on Sunday, January 19, 1997.

The Rev. Richard Meyer, of Church of Christ Disciples, Mapleton, conducted the service at H. A. Kebbel Funeral Home with burial in Necropolis Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Kevin, Keith, Roger, Ken, Craig and Michael Stover.

Flowerbearers were Jim Georgeff, Carl and Ross Stover.

Soloist was Kerry Stover

STOVER-The family of the late Edith Stover take this opportunity to thank Rev. Rick Myer and Rev. Colin Stover for their kindly prayers and ministrations; Kerry Stover and Jean Hunt for the beautiful music; to the Pall Bearers and Flower Bearers; the Kebbel Funeral Home Staff. Thanks to our many friends and family who donated to the Mapleton Church of Christ Disciples and the Chateau Gardens Resident Council, sent flowers, cards or other acts of kindness. A special thank you to Dr. David Graham and the staff at Chateau Gardens Nursing Home. Thanks to the ladies of the church for the beautiful luncheon. Everything is appreciated and will never be forgotten.

David, Eleanor, Harvey and families

Sp

1997

J. J.
m. j. 3.
1998

Iva May Ashford

A funeral for Iva May Ashford, 95, of Sunnyside Manor, a homemaker and mother, has been arranged for Thursday, February 6 at 1:30 p.m. 1997

She died at Sunnyside Manor on Monday, February 3, 1997.

Mrs. Ashford was born in Malahide Township on January 11, 1902 to the late Harry and Eliza (King) West.

She lived her life in Aylmer and area, was a member of St. Paul's United Church, United Church Women, a member and leader of 4H clubs and recipient of an Aylmer Women's Institute 50-year pin.

She is survived by two daughters, Shirley Demeter of RR1 Brownsville, Marilyn Smith and husband Doug of Aylmer; several grandchildren, great-grandchildren and a great-great-grandson.

She was predeceased by her husband Myron Ashford in 1982, a son Ray in 1991, a son-in-law Henry Demeter in 1996, three brothers, Clarence, Harold and Charles.

The Rev. Norman Jones, of St. Paul's will conduct a service at H. A. Keibel Funeral Home with burial in Aylmer Cemetery.

SMITH

At her residence on Friday, February 7, 1997, Inez A. (Barons) Smith of Belmont in her 92nd year. Wife of the late Gordon L. Smith (1958). Predeceased by a son Barry (1968). Dear mother of Terry and his wife Donna of Belmont. Loving grandmother of Leigh Mauer and her husband Philip and Gordon Smith all of Belmont, and Stacey Smith of London. Loving great-grandmother of Bethany, Colby, Victoria and Madeliene. Predeceased by four sisters and one brother. Friends will be received at the Bieman Funeral Home, 3970 Hamilton Road, Dorchester (Sunday 2-4 and 7-9 PM). The Funeral Service will be conducted at the Belmont United Church, College Street, Belmont on Monday, February 10 at 2 PM. Interment Dorchester Union Cemetery. Memorial contributions to the Belmont United Church or to Knox Presbyterian Church, Belmont would be appreciated.

HUDSON

At Country Terrace Nursing Home, Komoka on Monday March 24, 1997. Dorothy H. (Whitcroft) Hudson of Belmont in her 91st year. Wife of the late Everett E. Hudson (1976). Predeceased by a daughter Beatrice A. Pastorius (1985). Dear mother of Jack Hudson and his wife Thelma of St. Thomas and Keith Hudson and his wife Mildred of London. Loving grandmother of Diane Smith of Etobicoke, Laurraine Pastorius and Douglas Hudson both of London, Paul and John Hudson both of St. Thomas, Raymond Hudson of Whitby, Brenda Swan of Australia and Pat Hudson of Florida. Loving great-grandmother of 13 great-grandchildren. Predeceased by 14 brothers and sisters. Friends will be received at the Bieman Funeral Home, 3970 Hamilton Road Dorchester (Friday 2-4 and 7-9 PM) where the Funeral and Committal Service will be conducted on Saturday March 29 at 2 PM. Rev. Lloyd Brown of Belmont United Church officiating. Interment Dorchester Union Cemetery. Memorial contributions to the Belmont United Church, Canadian Cancer Society or to the charity of your choice would be appreciated. A Memorial Service under the direction of the Monta Rebekah Lodge #239 Belmont will be held in the Funeral Home, Saturday afternoon at 1 PM.

1997

PETTIT

Mrs. Clara Isobel (nee Ferguson) Pettit, wife, mother, grandmother, formerly of RR1 Belmont died peacefully on Friday, June 13, 1997 at Terrace Lodge Seniors Home, Aylmer. She is predeceased by her husband Melvin James; and infant son Melvin Neil and a sister Ida Green. She is survived by her sons Ralph and wife Joyce and Murray and wife Betty, all of RR1 Belmont. Loving grandmother of Mary, Ann, James, John, Jeffrey, Christopher, Suzanne and Tom Pettit and loving great-grandmother of 9 great-grandchildren. Also survived by nieces and nephews. Friends will be received at the Bieman Funeral Home, 3970 Hamilton Rd., Dorchester (Monday 2-4 and 7-9 p.m.) where the Funeral Service will be conducted on Tuesday, June 17 at 1:30 p.m. Rev. Lloyd Brown of Belmont United Church officiating. Interment Dorchester Union Cemetery. Memorial contributions to the Heart & Stroke Foundation of Ontario or to the charity of your choice would be appreciated.

Anna Jane Moore

A funeral for Anna Jane Moore, 88, of Terrace Lodge, a homemaker and mother, was held Monday.

She died at Terrace Lodge on Friday, April 4, 1997.

Mrs. Moore was born in South Dorchester Township on September 11, 1908 to the late Duncan and Jennie (Ferguson) Taylor.

She was a member of St. Paul's United Church and resided in Aylmer area for many years.

She is survived by a sister Beatrice Fuller and husband Grey of RR4 Aylmer; several nieces and nephews.

She was predeceased by her husband Russell Moore in 1973; a son Marvin Moore, in 1996; a brother Glen Taylor; two sisters Eva MacIntyre and Bernice Lyons.

The Rev. Pat Ferrer, of Ingersoll conducted the service at H. A. Kebbel Funeral Home with burial in Aylmer Cemetery.



Twenty Third Psalm

The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.
He maketh me to lie down
in green pastures;
He leadeth me beside the still waters.

He restoreth my soul;
He leadeth me in the
paths of righteousness
for His name's sake.

Yea, though I walk through the valley
of the shadow of death I will fear no evil;
for Thou art with me;
Thy rod and Thy staff they comfort me.

Thou preparest a table before me
in the presence of mine enemies;
Thou anointest my head with oil;
my cup runneth over.

Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me
all the days of my life;
and I will dwell in the
house of the Lord for ever.

Service for

Donald Frederick Taylor

Born

Yarmouth Township, Ontario
August 15, 1924

Died

London, Ontario
Friday, April 18, 1997

Service

Belmont United Church
Tuesday, April 22, 1997; 1:30 pm

Officiating

Rev. Lloyd Brown

Cremation

21
TAYLOR, Donald Frederick of Lot 16, Conc. 14, Belmont, died at London Health Sciences Centre, Victoria Campus, on Friday, April 18, 1997. Born in Yarmouth township, Ontario on August 15, 1924, son of the late Frederick and Gertrude (Barons) Taylor. Don was a lifelong resident and farmer at R.R. 1, Belmont. He was 72, a long-time member of the Belmont Arena Board, the Belmont United Church and belonged to the London Competitive Pool League. Beloved husband of Betty (Gilbert) Taylor. Dear father of Janet and husband Bob Cooke of White Rock, B.C., Gilbert "Harv" Taylor and wife Mary of R.R. 1 Belmont, Mary Ann Gillard and husband Brian of London and Mark Taylor and wife Josepha of R.R. 1, Belmont. Loving grandfather of Phil Gaudette of Edmonton, Dan, Chris and Anna Cooke of White Rock, B.C., Matthew and Benjamin Gillard of London and Mitchell Taylor of R.R. 1, Belmont. Brother to Muriel Brenneman of Mississauga, Jean Bannatti and husband Les of Oakville, Dorothy Bennett of Port Credit and Raymond Taylor and wife Joan of R.R. 1 Belmont. The funeral service was held from the Belmont United Church on Tuesday, April 22, 1997 at 1:30 p.m. followed by cremation. Donations to the Cancer Society or the Heart and Stroke Foundation would be appreciated.

**Donald
Frederick
Taylor**

A funeral for Donald Frederick Taylor, 72, of RR1 Belmont, a farmer, was held Tuesday.

He died at London Health Sciences Centre, Victoria Campus on Friday, April 18, 1997.

Mr. Taylor was born in Yarmouth Township on August 15, 1924 to the late Frederick and Gertrude (Barons) Taylor.

He lived his life in the Belmont area, was a long-time member of Belmont Arena Board, Belmont United Church and London Competitive Pool League.

He is survived by his wife Betty (Gilbert) Taylor; two daughters Janet Cooke and husband Bob of White Rock, B.C., Mary Ann Gillard and husband Brian of London; two sons, Gilbert 'Harv' Taylor and wife Mary of RR1 Belmont, Mark Taylor and wife Josepha of RR1 Belmont; grandchildren Phil Gaudette of Edmonton, Dan, Chris, and Anna Cooke of White Rock, B.C., Matthew and Benjamin Gillard of London and Mitchell Taylor of RR1 Belmont;

Three sisters, Muriel Brenneman of Mississauga, Jean Bannatti and husband Les of Oakville, Dorothy Bennett of Port Credit; and a brother Raymond Taylor and wife Joan of RR1 Belmont.

The funeral, arranged through H. A. Kebbel Funeral Home, was conducted from Belmont United Church. Cremation followed.

J.F.
117.9.3.
1998

Gertrude Holmes



Gertrude Holmes

A funeral for Gertrude Holmes, 85, of Chateau Gardens, a homemaker and mother, has been arranged for Wednesday, September 3, at 1:30 p.m. at H. A. Kebbel Funeral Home.

She died at Chateau Gardens on Sunday, August 31, 1997.

Mrs. Holmes was born in South Dorchester Township on October 4, 1911 to the late John and Laura (Simpson) Evert.

She lived in Aylmer since 1940, was a member of St. Paul's United Church, United Church Women, a life member of Women's Institute, and a 4-H program leader.

She is survived by four sons, John and wife Carolyn of Peterborough, Robert and wife Joyce of Cambridge, Donald and Linda of St. Thomas, Kenneth and wife Candice of St. Thomas; two daughters Wilma Rasmussen and husband Kai of St. Thomas, Laura Dohnt and husband David of Aylmer; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren, a niece and two nephews.

She was predeceased by her husband William Holmes in 1995 and a brother Ross Evert.

The Rev. Donald Graham, of St. Paul's United Church, will conduct the service with burial in Aylmer Cemetery.

Mabel Legg

A funeral for Mabel Legg, 101, of Sunnyside Manor, a homemaker and mother, was held Monday.

She died at Sunnyside Manor on Friday, August 8, 1997.

Mrs. Legg was born in Aylmer on Tuesday, October 29, 1895, to the late Randall and Sarah Ann Learn, at the family's home on Talbot Street West. It stood to the west of the historic Sinclair house at 418 Talbot St. W.

Her father was a horse dealer who raced the animals and traded in them. Her mother was a homemaker.

In a 1995 interview with



Mabel Legg

The Aylmer Express, Mrs. Legg said she could recall a time in her childhood when Talbot Street was paved with wooden blocks and most of the town's streets were dirt roads.

After attending Aylmer Public and High Schools, she got her first job as a cashier at the long gone, downtown department store of Youell and Wrong.

She used her pay to buy a car with the help of her mother. She started driving in 1911 when she was 16, and didn't stop, by her own decision, until she turned 95.

At 21, Mrs. Legg was married to Gordon Legg, who operated a gravel truck and looked after beef cattle for farmers. They resided in South Dorchester, where they had three children. He died in 1974.

22.

She was active over the years in Aylmer Church of Christ, Mapleton Church of Christ Disciples and Kingsmill-Mapleton Women's Institute.

She enjoyed living in East Elgin, and said she wouldn't change any part of her life. "This is home."

Mrs. Legg is survived by two daughters, Doretha Roland and husband Robert of St. Thomas, Irene Dickhout and husband Ward of Aylmer, a son-in-law Mac Robins of Ingersoll, several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by a daughter Marjorie Robins, in 1969, a grandson Stuart Robins in 1980, a brother Mac and a sister Hattie.

The Rev. Ken Turnbull of Church of Christ, conducted the service at H.A. Kebbel Funeral Home with burial in Aylmer Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Bob and Bill Putnam, Jack McCallum, Larry Dickhout, Ron and Alex McNeil.

Flowerbearers were Ron Bradt and Gray Fuller.

1997

Lewis Brown

A funeral for Lewis Brown, 87, of St. Thomas, a retired public school teacher, carpenter and farmer, was held Saturday in St. Thomas.

He died at St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital on Wednesday, August 6, 1997.

Mr. Brown was born in South Dorchester Township on April 2, 1910 to the late Herbert and Mabel (Thomson) Brown.

He lived most of his life in South Dorchester.

He is survived by his wife Hilda (Speight) Brown; two sons David Brown and wife Lynn of Ingersoll, Dr. John

Brown and wife Mary Ann of RR3 Granton; a daughter, Rosalie Edwards and husband Larry of RR7 Aylmer; a brother George Brown and wife Helen of Ingersoll; several grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by a son Michael and a brother John.

The funeral was held at Williams Funeral Home, St. Thomas with burial at Mapleton Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Paul Faulds, Jim Thomson, Steve Crowe, Rob Speight, Nathan and Jeremy Brown.

J.S.H.
A.V.P.

John Peter Van Roestel

A funeral mass for John Peter Van Roestel, 62, of 382 John St. S., formerly of RR4 Aylmer, a retired farmer, gas fitter and truck driver, has been arranged for Wednesday, June 10, at 11 a.m. at Our Lady of Sorrows Roman Catholic Church.

He died at St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital on Sunday, June 7, 1998 where he was being treated for melanoma cancer.

Mr. Van Roestel was born in Helvoirt, The Netherlands on March 22, 1936 to the late Cornelius and Rika (Schel-lekens) Van Roestel.

He moved to Canada with his family in 1952 and farmed in Malahide Township.

He was a gas fitter and truck driver for Central Pipeline and Superior Propane for 23 years before joining his wife and children in produce farming in 1975.

After adding greenhouses in 1987, they went on to specialize in the flower market in 1992 which continued until his 1997 retirement.

He was a member of Our Lady of Sorrows Church and served on the parish council in 1966-67.

He was always interested in his community, was a member of the Knights of Columbus since 1963 and served as Grand Knight from 1973 to 1975.

He was a leader in the Squires and a 1982 charter member of Aylmer Lions Club.

Mr. Van Roestel is survived by his wife Josepha (Hoevenaars) Van Roestel; two daughters Caroline Van Roestel Seward and husband Al of RR1 Blenheim, Lisa Holmes and husband Steve of RR7 Aylmer.

A son, Kenneth Van Roestel and wife Charlotte of Aylmer; five grandchildren, Sara Van Roestel, Marissa and Scott Holmes, Neil and Paul Seward.

He was a brother of Tony and Margaret, Harry, Adrien and Anita, Case and Lony, Leo and Mary Van Roestel of RR7 Aylmer; Annie Baertsoen and Arnold of Orwell; Willy Vermeersch and George of Courtland; Rickie Juurlink and Herman of Shubenacadie, Nova Scotia; Mary Van Roestel of London, and Diane Van Roestel of St. Thomas.

He is also survived by several nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

He was predeceased by a brother Albert in 1964.

Father Terrence McNamara will celebrate the mass, arranged through H. A. Kebbel Funeral Home with burial in Queen of Peace Cemetery.

Charles Leroy 'Chuck' Evert

A funeral for Charles Leroy 'Chuck' Evert, 54, of RR1 Belmont, an agricultural equipment salesman, was held Monday in Aylmer.

He died at Parkwood Hospital, London, on Thursday, August 20, 1998. He was diagnosed with cancer in April.



Charles Leroy
'Chuck' Evert

Mr. Evert was born in St. Thomas on June 4, 1944 to the late Ross and Marie (Legg) Evert.

He lived most of his life in South Dorchester Township and was a member of Church of Christ Disciples in Mapleton.

His wife Jean (Willsey) Evert said he was devoted to his family, particularly his grandchildren.

He loved his grandchildren dearly," Mrs. Evert said. His two granddaughters were born two-days apart and he nicknamed them "grampy's girls".

When his grandson was born, Mr. Evert did his best to spend as much time as possible getting to know the youngster, she said.

He was an enthusiastic

hunter and fisherman, coached minor ball in Lyons and minor hockey in Belmont. "He loved to go to baseball games and hockey games."

Mr. Evert is survived by his wife Jean (Willsey) Evert; two sons, John Evert and wife Sharlene of Aylmer, Paul Evert and wife Sue of RR1 Belmont; grandchildren, Natalie, Nicole and Matthew Evert; and long-time friend Larry Jinkerson of Lakefield.

He was uncle of Judi, Mike and Leeann Fisher; great-uncle to Chevy and Madisun Fisher.

The Rev. Richard Myer of Church of Christ Disciples conducted the service at H. A. Kebbel Funeral Home with burial in Aylmer Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Ross Jolliffe, Harold Greenwood, Roy Gardner, Alvin Helkaa, Jim Ashford, and Bill Light.

Flowerbearers were Raymond Light, Gary Robinson, Dave Goble, Larry Edwards, Jack Wackley, and Albert Gredig.

Jeffrey Adam Brasser

A funeral for Jeffrey Adam Brasser, 16, of RR7 Aylmer, a Grade 11 student at East Elgin Secondary School, described by teacher John Loney as a young man who "displayed, clearly, all the characteristics for success" was held Friday at Church of Christ Disciples on Mapleton Line.

More than 300 persons attended the church filling the main floor and basement. Those in the basement followed the service on a public address system.

Jeffrey was drowned in Lake Erie, off Port Stanley on Tuesday, June 16, 1998 while attending an impromptu celebration of ending school classes at EESS.

He was born on June 20, 1981 to Gerry and Linda (Esseltine) Brasser of RR7, Aylmer.



Jeffrey Adam Brasser

Teacher John Loney said "Jeff was a good kid who loved music. He displayed all the characteristics for success but had not yet had time to explore them".

Fellow student Jordan Roovers said "Jeff was a congenial person who always

had a smile on his face, was a friend to everyone who came into his life and was always ready to share a humorous story".

Besides his parents, he is survived by a brother, Paul and a sister Lisa, at home; a grandfather Gerald Brasser in London; several aunts and uncles.

The Rev. Richard Myer conducted the service, arranged through H. A. Kebbel Funeral Home with burial in Necropolis Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Chad Simpson, Chris Gooding, George Appleford, Nigel Vallance, Ryan Lynch, Jeremy Brooks and Kevin Duncan.

Flowerbearers were Ken Green, Paul and Lisa Brasser, Derek Duncan, Bill Slegers and Steve Thomp-

Peter A. Provoost

A funeral for Peter A. Provoost, 73, of 31 Hawthorne Crescent, a retired dairy farmer formerly of RR7 Aylmer, has been arranged for Thursday, October 8 at 11 a.m. at Aylmer Christian Reformed Church.

He died at St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital on Monday, October 5, 1998.

Mr. Provoost was born in Biervliet, the Netherlands on August 26, 1925 to the late Peter and Sarah (Zonneville) Provoost.

He came to Canada in 1947 and was a dairy farmer for many years.

He was a member of Aylmer Christian Reformed Church.

He is survived by his wife Mary (Buis) Provoost; four daughters, Fran Provoost of Aylmer, Sandra Kikkert of Brantford, Anne-Marie Woods and husband Mark of Port Colborne, Christy Provoost of London; two sons, Peter Provoost and wife Heather of RR7 Aylmer, Nick Provoost and wife Nelly of RR7 Aylmer; a son-in-law Morris Kikkert; several grandchildren, great-grandchildren and cousins.

The Rev. John Hellinga will conduct the church service arranged by H. A. Kebbel Funeral Home with burial in Aylmer Cemetery.

L. Helen Widner

A funeral for, L. Helen Widner, 79, of RR4 Aylmer, a retired elementary school music teacher, has been arranged for Thursday, October 15, at 1:30 p.m. at H. A. Kebbel Funeral Home.

She died at London Health Sciences Centre, Victoria Campus on Monday, October 12, 1998.



L. Helen Widner

Mrs. Widner was born in Malahide Township on October 2, 1919 to the late Lorne and Estella (Warwick) White.

She lived her life in Aylmer area.

Her son Mark Widner said she was music teacher at a number of elementary schools in Aylmer area.

She was a member of St. Paul's United Church, Mary and Martha Group of United Church Women and a life member of Kingsmill-Mapleton Women's Institute.

She is survived by her husband Jack Widner; a son, Mark Widner and wife Teri of RR2 Aylmer; a daughter, Kathryn Brandon and husband David of Tillsonburg; grandchildren Angela Brandon, Bryan and Brandon Widner.

The Rev. Donald Graham, of St. Paul's United Church will conduct the service with burial in Aylmer Cemetery.

Geraldine Jenken

A funeral for Eleanor Geraldine Jenken, 72, of RR1 Belmont, a homemaker and mother, was held Saturday in Aylmer.



Eleanor Geraldine Jenken

She died at home Monday, November 16, 1998.

Mrs. Jenken was born in St. Thomas August 15, 1926 to Mr. and Mrs. John Richie.

She lived her life in Belmont area and was a member of Knox Presbyterian Church, Eastern Star Carnation Chapter 139, Springfield and Rebekah Lodge Monta 239, Belmont.

She is survived by a son, Bev Jenken of RR1 Belmont; a daughter, Connie Stevens and spouse Doug Esler of Belmont; a brother Leroy Richie and wife Evelyn of London; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her husband Hiram D. Jenken in 1993.

The Rev. Gloria Langlois of Knox Presbyterian Church conducted the service at H. A. Kebbel Funeral Home with burial in Aylmer Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Russel and Brian Lunn, Art Crinklaw, Brian Robinson, Raymond and Ralph Taylor.

Flowerbearers were Chris and Shawn Kalpin and Anthony Esler.

Beatrice Belle Fuller

Beatrice Belle Fuller, 88, of Continuing Care Centre of St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital and formerly of Malahide Township, a retired teacher, died at her residence on Thursday, September 9, 1999.

Mrs. Fuller was born in South Dorchester on April 1, 1911, to the late Duncan and Jennie (Ferguson) Taylor.

She was a lifelong resident of Aylmer district until eight years ago, when she went to Continuing Care Centre.

Mrs. Fuller taught school at Malahide SS 22.

She was a member of Aylmer Baptist Church, where she taught Sunday School.

Mrs. Fuller was a life member of Kingsmill-Mapleton Women's Institute.

She is survived by her husband Grey Fuller of RR 4 Aylmer; son Dr. Alex Fuller of Simcoe and his friend Ewa Taubenfligel of Toronto; daughter Marion Duff of Toronto; grandchildren Leanne Duff, Todd Fuller and Stephanie Fuller; and several nieces and nephews.

Mrs. Fuller was predeceased by brother Glen Taylor and sisters Eva MacIntyre Jane Moore, and twin sister Bernice Lyons.

The Reverends Donald Graham and Norman Jones conducted the funeral service at H.A. Kebbel Funeral Home in Aylmer on Saturday, September 11.

Mrs. Fuller was buried in Aylmer Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Ray Anderson, Ken Abell, Ron Bradt, John Walker, Bill Hare and Gord Gracey.

Flowers were carried by Arnold Belore.

Jack E. Widner

A funeral for Jack E. Widner, 75, of RR4 Aylmer, a retired farmer, was held Tuesday.

He died at St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital on Saturday, February 27, 1999.

Mr. Widner was born in Malahide township on December 1, 1923 to the late John and Annie Mae (Eagan) Widner.

He lived and farmed at RR4 Aylmer for many years.

He is survived by a son, Mark Widner and wife Teri of RR2 Aylmer; a daughter Kathryn Brandon and husband David of Tillsonburg; grandchildren, Angela Brandon, Bryan and Brandon Widner; several nieces and nephews.

He was predeceased by his wife L. Helen (White) Widner in 1998; a brother Donald Widner; two sisters Helen Baughman and Dorothy Ryder.

The Rev. Donald Graham, of St. Paul's United Church, conducted the service at H. A. Kebbel Funeral Home with burial in Aylmer Cemetery.

Agnes Margueritte Ashton

* A funeral for Agnes Margueritte Ashton, 92, of Terrace Lodge, a homemaker and mother, has been arranged for Saturday, October 30 at 2 p.m. at H. A. Kebbel Funeral Home.

She died at Terrace Lodge on Tuesday, October 26, 1999.

Mrs. Ashton was born in South Dorchester Township on May 30, 1907 to the late

James and Elizabeth (McRay) Mitchell.

She moved to Aylmer from Kingsmill in 1970, was a member of St. Paul's United Church and United Church Women.

She is survived by a daughter Greta Teskey and husband Bill of Wyandotte, Michigan; grandchildren Allan, Donald and John Teskey; and five great-grandchildren.

She was predeceased by her husband Melbourne Ashton in 1993; brothers Arthur, Kenneth and Keith Mitchell; sisters Eva Moore, Vera Mitchell and Dorothy Barrett.

The Rev. Norman Jones was to conduct the service with burial of ashes in Aylmer Cemetery.

Thomas Bouthoorn

A funeral for Thomas Bouthoorn, 94, of RR1 Belmont, a retired farmer, has been arranged for Wednesday, December 8 at H. A. Keibel Funeral Home at 2 p.m.



Thomas Bouthoorn

He died at St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital on Monday, December 6, 1999.

Mr. Bouthoorn was born in Heinenoord, Holland on June 13, 1905 to the late Bastiaan and Cornelia (Borst) Bouthoorn.

He came to Canada in 1949 and farmed in Aylmer area for several years.

He was a member of St. Paul's United Church.

He is survived by his wife Petronella (DeJong) Bouthoorn; two sons Bastiaan Bouthoorn and wife Myrtle of Haliburton, Piet Bouthoorn of RR1 Belmont; a daughter, Lia Ellyatt and husband Paul of Tiverton; several grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

He was predeceased by two sisters and two brothers.

The Rev. Donald Graham, of St. Paul's United Church, will conduct the service with burial in Aylmer Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Bob Putnam, Henry Weverink, Peter Bouthoorn, Paul Ellyatt, Mike Whelan, and Cees VanLeer.

Amy Cox

A funeral for Amy Cox, 78, of St. Andrew Street, a homemaker and mother, was held Friday.

She died at St. Thomas-Elgin General Hospital on Tuesday, January 18, 2000.



Amy Cox

Mrs. Cox was born in Yarmouth Township on September 14, 1921 to the late John and Alma (Smith) Hepburn.

She lived in Aylmer for the past 30 years and had previously resided in King-smill.

She was a member of Aylmer Baptist Church.

She is survived by a son, Lawrence Cox and wife Brenda of St. Thomas; two daughters, Barbara Brower of Aylmer, Betty Michaud and husband Brian of Straffordville; grandchildren, Larry Cox and wife Marie, Barry Cox, Rob Brower and wife Dawn, Jim Brower and wife Tammy; and five great-grandchildren, all of Aylmer.

She was sister of John Hepburn and wife Barbara of St. Thomas, Ervin Ike Hepburn and wife Anne of Union, Lyle Bud Hepburn and wife Gwen of St. Thomas, Norma McCallum and husband Bert of Aylmer, Freda McGregor and husband Alex of St. Thomas, Geraldine Ancliffe of St. Thomas, and Nettie Campbell of St. Thomas.

She was predeceased by her husband Herbert Cox in 1989 and a brother Neil Hepburn.

The Rev. Cam Watts of Aylmer Baptist Church conducted the service at H. A. Keibel Funeral Home with burial in Aylmer Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Jim Race, Larry Randle, Branko Cindric, David Chalk, Larry Roszell and Mike Hepburn.

Flowerbearers were Bill Light and Raymond Dance.

J. St.
a.v. R

West coast honeymoon



The Rev. and Mrs. Wilbert Zavitz

Saturday, August 7, was a day of joyful celebration when the marriage was solemnized between Miss Stephanie Lois Jenkins, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Jenkins of Belmont, Ontario, and Rev. Wilbert Harold Zavitz, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Zavitz of Watford, Ontario. Rev. Dr. Das Sydney officiated at the eleven o'clock ceremony in Aylmer Baptist Church.

Floral arrangements were carried out in baskets of gladioli, carnations, Stargazer and Casa Blanca lilies, daisies and statice. Marking the pews were bows of white satin with mauve netting and suspended bells of white crochet.

As the guests assembled, violin selections were beautifully played by Miss Emily Ann Helsdon. Soloist on this occasion was Mrs. Debbie Wilson, cousin of the groom, who sang "The Wedding Song" for the bridesmaids' processional, and "Love Will Be Our Home" during the signing of the register. She was accompanied by organist Ms. Neila Lawson.

The radiant bride entered the church on her father's arm to the strains of "Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee". She was wearing a gown of white satin. The sweetheart neckline and bodice were trimmed with applique of sequins and pearls, and from her neck hung her great grandmother's gold watch. Both the train, which was attached at the waist with a large bow, and the dress were edged at the hem with lace. The waist-length veil of tulle illusion was held in place by a band of small white flowers and pearls. Her cascade bouquet was composed of Casa Blanca lilies and daisies.

Miss Vanessa Farrelly acted as maid of honor for her cousin, and Mrs. Lorraine Otto, sister of the groom, as bridesmaid. They were gowned alike in Victorian floral cotton, with white lace and mauve rosette bows in their hair. The bouquets were of Stargazer lilies and daisies. Miss Melissa Zavitz, niece of the groom, was a charming flower girl in a mauve ankle length dress of cotton and carried a basket of miniature daisies.

Mr. Zavitz was attired in a white cutaway coat with tails, his brother, Mr. Lawrence Zavitz, as best man, the ushers, Messrs. Larry Jenkins and Stephen Farrelly, brother and cousin of the bride respectively, were in white dinner jackets. All wore daisy boutonnieres.

Mrs. Jenkins, the bride's mother, was in a pale pink dress of satin appliqued with lace and pearls. Her corsage was of pink carnations, and her accessories were in pearl gray. Mrs. Zavitz, mother of the groom was wearing a two piece ensemble of French lilac shantung, with accessories of the same shade and a corsage of pink roses.

Mrs. Lois Jenkins, of Belmont, Ontario, Mrs. Phyllis Stephens, of Brownsburg, Quebec, both grandmothers of the bride, and Mrs. Irene Zavitz, of Forest, Ontario, grandmother of the groom, were present to celebrate this happy day.

Twice during the ceremony the groom sang, with deep feeling, to his bride, his first selection being, "Only God Could Love You More", and the second, "Cherish The Treasure".

Following the ceremony the bride and groom were taken for a surrey ride by Mr. Keith Danbrook, after which pictures were taken.

A buffet luncheon was served in the church parlours where the floral arrangements were in the same colours as the three tiered wedding cake - white and mauve.

The happy bride chose as her going away outfit a silk dress of steel blue with Peter Pan collar of lace dotted with pearls. The newly-weds plan to travel to the West Coast. Upon their return, Rev. and Mrs. Zavitz will take up residence in the Baptist Manse in West Lorne, Ontario.

Guests from out of town attended the wedding from many points in Ontario and Quebec.

August 1994



KATHERINE LUNN SHIVELY MARRIED
HERMAN MINNEMA
AUGUST 12 1994

September 1994



MOORE - HELKA

Michele Moore and Gord Helka were united in marriage at the Belmont United Church, September 3, 1994. Maid of honour was Shelly (Bradt) Vincent and bridesmaids were Jackie and Tracy Moore, Melanie and Melissa Helka and flowergirl was Tara MacIntyre. Best man was Deryck Helkaa and groomsmen were Bill Moore, Lloyd Perrin, John Evert and Jeff O'Rourke. The happy couple have returned home from an enjoyable Caribbean cruise honeymoon and are residing in London. 12p



Ian & Connie Foster wish to congratulate their son Robert on his marriage to Michele Harrison on Aug. 31, 1996. The ceremony took place at First United Church with the reception held at the Elgin Labour Temple, St. Thomas. The bride is the daughter of John & Leona Harrison of Oro Station.

Bridal attendants were Diana Wyonch, Karen Pickard with Kim Remnant as Maid of Honour. Ushers were Dan Foster, Jim Harrison with Chris Perry as Best Man.

Guests attended from British Columbia, Manitoba, Alberta, Windsor, Sudbury (the brides hometown), Aylmer and the surrounding area.

The happy couple honeymooned in the Poconos and are now residing at Northwood, R.R. #4, Aylmer.

140L-16p

August wedding for Robert Foster
and Michele Harrison 1996.