

SOUTHWOLD
GOLDEN AGE
CLUB



TOP BRASS — Frank Martin, president, left, Mrs. Arthur Carder, secretary, centre, and Charles Jackson, treasurer, three members of the executive of the Shedden and District Golden Age Club, at the formal opening of the club on Wednesday afternoon.

Shedden area seniors happy with new club

BY TRISH WILSON

SHEDDEN — Cloudbursts didn't keep the oldsters away from the formal opening of the Shedden and District Golden Age Club Wednesday afternoon. About 50 people were expected and the Odd Fellows Hall in Shedden was filling up rapidly at 2 p.m. when activities began.

Card games and movies were slated for the afternoon, followed by a buffet dinner and entertainment in the evening.

John Wise, MP for Elgin, Geoffrey Knight, an organizer of the Federal New Horizons program for senior citizens and Gary Monteith, Reeve of Southwold were expected to drop by during the festivities.

"It's very gratifying to organize something so that older people can get together," Frank Martin, president of the club, said. "People are very happy here today."

Mr. Martin said the club had about 30 members and expected to gain 10 more by the end of the afternoon. The club caters to people over the age of 60 who live in the district. There are no dues, just an initial membership fee of \$3.

The group received a grant from New Horizons of \$8,986. The money will be used for material for quilting, leatherwork and remodelling of the hall. Funds have been set aside to build a patio for the hot weather.

The club has also obtained a shuffleboard table, dart board, movie projector and 50 new chairs for the hall.

They plan to apply for a provincial grant of about \$400 for bus trips.

Meetings will be held every Wednesday afternoon in the Odd Fellows Hall in Shedden. All area seniors are welcome.



l to r: Ann Wise, John Wise MP for Elgin, Frank Martin Gary Monteith Reeve of Southwold, Berniece Monteith.

St. Thomas Times Journal
April 22, 1976

Friday the 13th really spooky as tombstone found in Shedden porch

By ROBERT BRODIE
T-J Staff Reporter

SHEDDEN (Staff) — Friday the 13th is a day often associated with eerie, spooky happenings.

Much of it is myth and fable, however, designed to put fright into the minds of many, with Friday the 13th films leading the way.

This past Friday the 13th took on a morbid form of reality for Shedden resident Bob Jones, with a strangely coincidental appearance of the number 13 making matters even more incredulous.

Mr. Jones and a neighbor, Doug Ouimette, were removing a small addition at the back of the former's Shedden home when a strange discovery was made.

MADE OF MARBLE

When hammering at his back porch, Mr. Jones noticed part of it was made of marble. Upon turning the step over with the help of his neighbor and two passers-by, Mr. Jones learned shockingly that it contained a tombstone.

The realization that the discovery had been made on Friday the 13th came quickly. It became even more spooky when, upon reading the tomb-

stone inscription, Mr. Jones learned the individual concerned, Rebecca McSharry, died March 13, 1871 (a Monday that year).

The date of death occurred 113 years ago. Mrs. McSharry was 48 years, nine months and 13 days old at the time of her passing.

Three 13s, all occurring on Friday the 13th. It was a little much for Mr. Jones to take.

"All those 13s really bothered me," he said of the find behind the house he took ownership of last Oct. 13.

DOESN'T WANT IT

There's also the matter of the tombstone itself to deal with.

"Maybe somebody moved in here and didn't want a tombstone in their yard, so they turned it into the bottom of a step," he said. "All I know is I don't want the thing here."

If, however, there is indeed a body buried beneath the area where the step once stood, he conceded it's a different matter.

"It depends on whether there are any living relatives," he said. "If there is and they want the body to stay here, I say it stays."

"If it turns out the stone has been

stolen, we want to put it back on its grave."

Mr. Jones said it was quite common many years ago for people to be buried on their homesteads. At the time Mrs. McSharry lived, he said there may have been only 900 residents in all of Elgin County, "so that narrows it down."

It may be possible Mrs. McSharry was buried on a different part of the property, he said. Mr. Jones discovered four blocks, possibly resembling a grave marking, about 50 feet from where the step was constructed, by the stump of an old apple tree.

These, he said, may also have been used as a lot marking.

An official from the cemeteries branch of the Ontario Ministry of Consumer and Corporate Affairs in London, Ont., said such tombstone finds are quite common.

"They have a habit of popping up all over the place. But it's sometimes hard to know whether there was a cemetery around there or not."

He said the particulars of each case have to be known before it can be decided what, if anything, the cemetery branch can do about it.

Mrs. Rebecca McSharry was a relative of Mrs. Wesley Ross who once lived in the house now occupied by Bob Jones. It is believed that the body of Mrs. McSharry was moved from the cemetery at Iona to the newer Fairview Cemetery between Dutton and Wallacetown. Perhaps a new tombstone was erected and this one was discarded. It is said that Mrs. McSharry died in childbirth.

(Picture on next page)



AND HOW WAS YOUR FRIDAY THE 13TH? — Bob Jones, left, and neighbor Doug Ouimette were having a fine Friday the 13th until

they made this discovery while breaking up a section of a porch behind Mr. Jones's Shedden home. It's a tomb-

stone inscribed with facts about the death of a woman March 13, 1871 — 113 years ago. — (T-J Photo).

(Story on previous page)

Shedden Tweedsmuir History

B. Vicary

Torch sparks a traffic jam when relay visits Shedden

By Bill Eluchok

London Free Press

SHEDDEN — More than the Olympic flame was shared Tuesday afternoon when the cross-Canada torch relay paused briefly in this Elgin County community west of St. Thomas.

The resulting crush of cars, vans and trucks bearing hundreds of sightseers from the surrounding rural area produced something residents who live here seldom see — a traffic jam.

"I've never seen anything like it," said Vivian Cairns, who lives along Highway 3 in the police village.

"I can't remember when there's been this much excitement," remarked Bonnie Lackey, another local resident.

The main reason for the interest was the Olympic flame itself, borne into the community about 10 minutes late by James Paterson, 38, of Oshawa.

Paterson, who was raised in nearby Rodney where his father operated a hardware store until his retirement a year ago, said his reason for being in Tuesday's leg of the 18,000-kilometre torch relay was personal.

"I wanted to carry the torch through the area closest to my parents' and wife's home."

Many of the 85 torch bearers selected to each run one kilometre during the 100-kilometre leg from Aylmer to Rodney on Tuesday were locals.

One was Steven Garvin, a 33-year-old Shedden village trustee and member of a committee to raise money for a new \$125,000 medical centre.

Garvin, an avid athlete who also coaches the Shedden women's slo-pitch team, said he wanted to carry the torch "because this is as close as I will ever get to actually participating in the Olympic Games."

"He's a great guy and a great coach," said Lackey, who plays on the team.

Garvin lost out on a bid to run into Shedden. He ran his kilometre out of Port Stanley more than an hour earlier in the afternoon. Friends and family, including his parents and two sisters from Toronto, were on hand when his shuttle van pulled up.

"He's my son-in-law," Vivian Cairns said. "I'm very proud of him."

Despite bitter cold and a raw wind that made the -10-degree temperature seem like -24, several hundred supporters were on hand to welcome the flame in Aylmer, Port Stanley, Wallacetown and West Lorne before the relay stopped for the night in Rodney.

A crowd of about 1,000 took part in welcoming ceremonies before St. Thomas city hall and another 1,000 lined city streets to cheer on the runners. Port Stanley

■ Unsung heroes keep Olympic flame alive **B3**

Reeve Ray Lavereau remarked: "I'm excited — and I'm freezing."

In nearby Fingal, three dozen residents in the hamlet 12 kilometres southwest of St. Thomas braved the cold as torch bearer Deanna Lees, a 15-year-old Parkhill high school student, jogged past the main intersection.

Just moments earlier, Norman Ackland of RR 1, Southwold, had stopped in Fingal for gasoline while driving his 11-year-old daughter Marsha home from her contribution to the Olympic relay.

Marsha was one of the early torch bearers departing from Aylmer early Tuesday morning, running and walking her kilometre despite knee injuries from two car accidents in 1985.

The accidents shattered the Grade 6 Southwold Public School pupil's hopes of becoming a gymnast.

"I had a dream to go to the Olympics some day, but that dream died."

By participating in the torch relay, "I found a new dream."



Michael Jordan/London Free Press

Torch bearer Janice Auckland of RR 7, St. Thomas, waves to the crowd gathered at Port Stanley for the flame's arrival.

December 29, 1987

SHEDDEN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Dora McArthur - Curator
February 1990

Here's who's carrying torch

There were 43,445 applications submitted by Olympic torch relay hopefuls to become one of the 72 torchbearers needed to carry the flame 107 kilometres today through Elgin.

Here are the names of those who were chosen to do the job. They are from Ontario unless noted otherwise.

Sandy Anderson, Teeswater; Jennifer Armstrong, London; Karen Crich, London; Annette Droog, Thorndale; Patrick Murphy, Schaumburg, Ill.

Jay Myatt, London; Marsha J. Ackland, Southwold; Cheri Lynn Bradish, Glanworth; Jill L. Hind, West Lorne; Jennifer L. Pickard, St. Thomas.

James A. Tyson, St. Thomas; William F. Beard, Tecumseh; William G. Berry, Aylmer; Moira J. Beveridge, Aylmer; Jane E. Charlton, Tillsonburg.

John M. Croft, Aylmer; Stephanie A. Dakins, Aylmer; Tracey L. Firby, Aylmer; Mark Foffano, Stoney Creek; Timothy G. Hill, Aylmer.

Philip Huber, Aylmer; Garry V. Inananen, Irlington; Tony Lileikis, Tillsonburg; Sylvia B. Love, Delhi; Elizabeth J. McLaughlin, Mt. Elgin.

Daniel R. Murray, Straffordville; Larry F. Nelson, Aylmer; Jayson Oliver, Aylmer; Debra Ann Sittler, Elmira; Tim J. Sittler, Elmira.

Colin W. Taylor, Dorchester; Diana L. Telfer, Aylmer; Darrin J. Whaley, Aylmer; Marguerite A. Adams, London; Peter K. Afman, St. Thomas.

Richard C. Bailey, London; Ronnie L. Burbank, Toronto; Robert H. Burbank, Toronto; John J. Coderre, Lon-

don; Andrew J. Dalglish, Lucan.

Joanne M. Dalglish, Lucan; Paul O. Difonte, St. Thomas; Ronald O. Douglas, St. Thomas; Richard J. Greenfield, London; Donald R. Gutoski, Lambeth.

Melissa L. Harris, St. Thomas; Linda Hopper, St. Thomas; David R. Jones, St. Thomas; Shanin Karmali, Mississauga; Carol L. Lepage, St. Catharines.

David J. McConnell, St. Thomas; Richard D. Newson, Scarborough; William H. Rogan, London; John F. Rupcic, St. Thomas; Scott C. Sherin, London.

Brian E. Vaughan, London; Janice E. Auckland, St. Thomas; Randy C. Dawdy, St. Thomas; Brenda V. Dowell, London; Steven V. Garvin, Shedden.

Evelyn Glover, Fingal; David L. Johnson, St. Thomas; William H. Mahu, St. Thomas; Jennifer J. Morrow, St. Thomas; Martin D. Quinn, Lambeth.

Jody L. Brokenshire, Iona Station; Jeffrey L. Gray, London; Bonnie J. Hitchman, Shedden; Marion E. Jones, Dutton; Deanna Lees, Parkhill.

Marie A. Meeks, Dutton; Jeremy M. Snow, Dutton; Martin L. Beneteau, Windsor; Linda E. Donkers, Rodney; Peter Faussett, Ridgeway.

Anissa K. Gurchin, Glencoe; Patsy A. McGill, West Lorne; Lisa B. Muldoon, Kingsville; James S. Paterson, Oshawa; Linda S. Rudover, Toronto.

Steve G. Sabjan, Calgary, Alta.; Steven C. Salmons, Guelph; Janet L. Swain, West Lorne.

Medals, certificates presented in Olympic torch ceremonies

Elgin communities are honoring local amateur sports and community boosters by awarding Celebration 88 medals and certificates as the Olympic torch passes through en route to the Winter Games in Calgary, Alta.

Following are medals and certificates awarded today in East and Central Elgin, and St. Thomas.

During ceremonies in Aylmer this morning, Celebration 88 Medals were presented to recipients in front of Town Hall by Elgin County Warden Bill Martyn. Two male athletes were chosen: John Hueston for his involvement in motocross racing and cross-country skiing races, and Norm Barr for local and national pistol shooting competition. Danielle Brunelle is the female athlete of the year for her figure skating accomplishments at all levels of competition. Marilyn McKinnon received the volunteer medal for contributions to the figure skating club, the swimming program and the Parks and Recreation committee. Bob Gilson was chosen coach of the year for involvement in minor hockey, minor baseball, and men's baseball. Joel Falkenham, of Aylmer IGA received the sponsor medal for contributions to hockey, baseball, and slo-pitch teams and individuals. Paul Rabbets was chosen official of the year for umpiring and refereeing all sports.

Aylmer certificates went to: Ron Allen; Robert Aviss; Blair Barons; Dave Caverly; Wilfrid Chalk; Sydney Glover; Guy Gooding; Alfred Grimes; Bob Habkirk; Mahlon Hale; Robert Hosie; Gord Kerr; Ted Kidder; Irma Koleada; John Mantel; Thomas McCully; Isabel McNiece; Joe Mennill; Forrest Moore; Dave Moffatt; Bill Percival; Mary Shepard; Dr. Donald Wright; Joe Yesbec; Lorraine Clark; John Slavin; and Jean Matheson.

ST. THOMAS

Certificates to St. Thomas more than 100 contributors will be presented at a special ceremony Feb. 12 at Memorial arena but Olympic 88 medals were awarded at the torch ceremony today.

St. Thomas male athlete medal went to Brian Webb for accomplishments in soccer, rollerskating, and judo. Jannette Popp is the female athlete of the year for success in Special Olympic events at provincial and national levels. Lino Lattanzio was honored with the coaching medal for involvement with local soccer. The volunteer medal went to Gary Cruikshank for 15 years of dedication to the Association for the Mentally Retarded. Ald. Bill Topping, of St. Thomas Pest Control Services Ltd. is the sponsor medal winner for supporting hockey, slo-pitch, softball, fastball teams. Local referee Mike Van Berkel is the official of the year for devoted many years to community sports.

PORT STANLEY

In Port Stanley, Jill Wismer received the female athlete medal for her figure skating achievements. Chris Haight, a deaf child who plays minor hockey and minor baseball, is the male athlete of the year. Ron Johnson was honored with the coaching medal for involvement with minor hockey. The sponsor award went to Elgin Electric for sponsoring hockey teams and helping figure skating both monetarily and personally. Peggy Runciman, Port Stanley is to receive the volunteer award as founder of the Port Stanley Figure the official medal recipient for his activities with the Ontario Minor Hockey Association.

Port Stanley certificates were awarded to athletes Natalie McCrea; Mary LaCroix; Glenn Golem; Jamie Hodge; Paul Bolt; Alvin Culver; John Moore and William Dees. Coach certificates will be presented to: Don Bell; Bill Siverthorne; Jim Howie; Joe Livingstone and Gary Bailey.

Sponsor certificate winners are: John Barendregt, of Sundown Farms; Royal Canadian Legion 410; Morris Shaw, of Shaws Ice Cream; Port Stanley Optimists; Kettle Creek Canvas Co.; Port Stanley Lions Club and Orton Sutherland, of Shaws Dairy Store 24. Volunteer certificates go to: Gloria Smith; Lorne Thomson; Dan Smith; Hall Wengrinowicz; Port Stanley Arena Board; Don Donaldson; Sharon and Larry Larmour; Fred Howie; Glen McIntyre; Mirka Back; Ted Stephens; Bernice Lidster and David Johnstone. An officials certificate goes to Roger Basoon.

Community volunteer certificates go to: Figure Skating Board Executive; Rose Johnson; Buelah Dempsey; Orville Durr; Dave Gilbert; Ray Lavereau; Lionel Bolt; Faye Smith; Elly Luke; Larry See; Rod Nicholson; Jill Noad; Sherry Wismer; Leroy Waite; Cathy Graham; Rod Roush; United Church Women; Anny Farris; Helen Waite; Alec Wood; Bob Davidson; Ada Makey; Ernie Fahner; Ernie Glover; Frank Prothero; Ed Lotus (posthumous); Stan Speers; George Marr; Max Marr (posthumous); Bruce Miller; Marg Berry; Barbara Whalls; Rev. Nick Wells; Sharon Marshall; John Nemett; Norwood Meek; Port Stanley Lioness Club; John Bolt; Harris Wismer; Bea Golem; Dennis Cronheimer; Skip Taylor; Dave LaCroix; Blance Nemett; Ken Chapman; Dick Galloway; Sam Vary; Bob Ketchum and Mel Hyde.

SHEDDEN

As the torch passes through Shedden, Celebration 88 Medals will be presented at 3:27 p.m. Kim Brown, a dedicated figure skater at local, national and international competitions has been selected the female athlete recipient. Male athlete of the year is Julius Stephen Virag for his accomplishments as a fastball pitcher at all levels of competition. Peter Hitchman will receive the coaching medal for his involvement in minor soccer and other community sports and activities. John Carder's continuing involvement in local sports is being recognized by the officials medal. Palmers Red and White Store is the sponsor of the year for activity in minor hockey, softball and soccer programs. The volunteer medal will be presented to Lorne Spicer for his commitment, energy, and enthusiasm in local sports year round.

Shedden certificates of achievement for athletes: Elizabeth Glover; Peggy Glover and Bonnie Lackey; Steve Annett; Bruce Bogart; Dave Clinton; James Goodhue; David Hagerty; Donald Hagerty; Robert Lidster; James Lyle; Leonard Lynch; Forbes Oldham; Leonard Palmer; Sandy Ross; Murray Silcox; Ted Smith; David Sparenburg; Wesley Stafford and Larry Walker.

Volunteer certificates go to: Dan Annett; Jack Barrett Sr.; John Berdan; Paul Berdan; Bill Brown; David Carroll; Carl Chamberlain; Kay Chamberlain; Gary Clinton; Dan Logghe; James Lunn; Roger Lunn; Jim MacPherson; Hugh Orchard; David Palmer; Jean Palmer and Pat Palmer.

Athletes and volunteer certificates will be awarded to Roy Orchard and Donald Pyatt (posthumous).

Certificates also go to these coaches: Brian Barrett; Jack Barrett Jr.; Lorne Barrett; Donald Bogart; Bill Collard; Robert Hagerty; Ken Palmer; David Pell; James Rapelje and Ted Silcox.

Sponsor certificates go to: Fingal Farm Supply; Joe Dees Wholesale; Shedden Farm Supply; Spicer Mobile Feeds; Streib Trucking and Wayne Stuart Sunoco.

SHEDDEN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE

Dora McArthur - Curator
February 1990



FROM LEFT: COMMITTEE FOR OLYMPIC TORCH RUN
Phyllis Lendvay, Melba Marr, Shirley Longhurst, Kay Chamberlain,
Hugh Orchard, Roger Lunn, Jean Palmer, Harold Ellis, Ruby Glover,
Len Lynch, Peter Oostvogels.



PROGRAMME COMMITTEE FOR OLYMPIC TORCH RUN

Bud Marr, Hugh Orchard, Jean Palmer, Melba Marr, Len Lynch.
SHEDDEN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE TWEEDSMUIR HISTORY Dora McArthur - Curator
March 1990

Turkeys, not tickets handed out by OPP

By MIKE WALSH
T-J Staff Reporter

William Moore of Shedden received a pleasant surprise Thursday when a St. Thomas OPP officer gave him a Christmas turkey instead of a ticket.

Mr. Moore was first surprised to be stopped by police, especially after he became a little extra attentive about his driving when he spotted Const. Doug Maquire in a cruiser watching passing traffic in Shedden.

The big surprise, however, was to learn he was approached by the officer not to be penalized, but to be commended.

"He had his seatbelt and headlights on. He was driving within the 60-kilometre speed limit and he was watching the intersections," said Const. Maquire. "Courtesy and safe driving are what we are looking for."

Dubbed Operation Christmas Turkey, officers with the nearby provincial police, Fingal Optimist Club and Palmer's Red and White are working together to promote safe driving by rewarding one area driver per day with a turkey.

The officers are selecting at random, motorists in and around the Fingal and Shedden area who practice safe driving techniques and show courtesy to fellow drivers and pedestrians. It is not an easy task. "It's kind of hard because most people are obeying the traffic laws," the constable said.

"It's really hard to find someone doing something a little above the normal."

Even though the project is time-consuming, the officers say it offers many benefits. "This operation will get a lot of publicity and as a result will make drivers in our community more aware and safer drivers," Const. Art Manning, OPP community relations officer, said.

A young male motorist who used his signal light to pass a jogger as well as practice other safe driving techniques is one of a handful of motorists who already have a turkey in the fridge since Operation Christmas Turkey began Dec. 3. "The young man was grinning from ear to ear," Const. Maquire said.

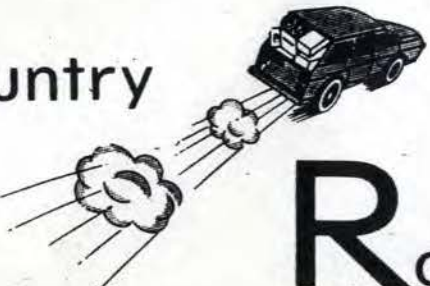
Then there's the man who stopped and gave assistance to a woman whose vehicle wound up in a ditch. A woman who took time to clear the snow off all the vehicle's windows, then turn her headlights on, and signalled before pulling away from a curb was also rewarded with a Christmas turkey.

"This program cannot help but encourage safe driving, especially at this time of year when there are more accidents on the road," said Murray Silcox, co-owner of the grocery store who is supplying the Christmas birds. "And if the police happen to stop a person who needs a Christmas turkey, that's great too."



SAFE DRIVING REWARDED -William Moore, left, is among 21 local motorists who will receive a Christmas turkey this year in recognition of their safe driving habits. Mr. Moore receives a turkey from Ralph Palmer, right, co-owner of Palmer's Red and White who is supplying the Christmas turkeys, and Const. Doug Maquire who selected Mr. Moore as a safe driver.
-(T-J Photo)

Country Roads



by SUSAN McCONNELL
St. Thomas District Reporter
S HEDDEN — This little village has always been a warm hub of activity especially since it has been discovered by weekend day-trippers.

Due west of St. Thomas on Highway 3, Shedden has one of the best homemade food eateries in the area: the Old School House Tea Room. (The secret is out and reservations are recommended on weekends). There's lots of interesting shopping within footsteps of the 118-year-old Southwold No. 9.

But first, to the Village Pantry Boutique. Proprietor Eileen



Carr opened the doors to this made-to-look-old house in 1979. It is full of delicious smelling candles, craft supplies, gifts and quilts. Carr (who grew up on a mixed farm here; her father was the late Harold Koyle) and husband Gary launched the business and bought the school house next door and developed the little strip of property next door to that.

"It just started out as a hobby and then we thought it would be nice if people had a place to eat."

"It just started as a hobby," she said, "and then we thought it would be nice if people had a place to eat..."

Enter Nancy Smith, Gary's sister, schoolhouse cook and gracious hostess. Both she and Carr attended the school. There's good stick-to-your-ribs cooking like shepherd's pie and mouth-watering desserts. Daily sna-

The Secret's Out!

Day-trippers discover Shedden's attractions



Eileen Carr of Village Pantry Boutique and her husband Gary operate this little gift shop in Shedden and the Old School House Tea, located right next door.

SHEDDEN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE
TWEEDSMUIR HISTORY
Curator - Dora McArthur
May, 1991

FROM OUR FARMHOUSE OF DELICIOUSLY WHOLE YOU ARE INVITED.
 OPEN Tues.-Fri. 10-12 & 1-5 p.m.
 Sat. & Sun. 2-5 p.m.
 Special Group times by appointment
 32 Talbot St., St. Thomas 631-4537



The Trillium Studio

GALLERY

Originals, limited edition prints
 of rural Ontario

Why not have your home or farm painted by Mary Rose? Commissions accepted. The studio also features unique gift shop and expert custom framing of your photo, needlepoint, print, etc.

Open 10-5 seven days a week

76 Talbot St., St. Thomas, Ontario

(Across from Jumbo monument) (519) 633-8226

TALBOT TRAIL

GENERAL STORE & TEA ROOM

Stop by and enjoy a delicious homemade meal.
 *NOW SERVING FULL COURSE MEALS
 *GIFTS *SOUVENIRS
 *RELAXED COUNTRY ATMOSPHERE

Ryckman Bros.
 Miniature Circus
 Display

Open Daily
 until 7:30 p.m.

Closed Monday



88 Talbot St. On The Hill 633-8040

Specials are written on the old blackboard. For under \$3 you can have a fresh and hot bottomless cup of coffee and generous slab of baked-this-morning pie.

Smith and her husband John are farming in a smaller way these days, 20 acres in Iona Station, because John has gone into business here, too. He runs 'Once A Tree', crafted pine and oak furniture with diningroom sets the hot item. When Farming visited, he was trying out a new bread baker on the counter and the aroma of raisins drifted through the wood-filled shop.

John sponsors the annual apple pie baking contest at Shedden Fair in late August and Nancy, no amateur in the kitchen, joked she was going to enter a pie under someone else's name and "throw a loop into the contest!"

John's shop has access to both streets on the main corner and on the west side he is buoyed by Village Square Salon, Joe Dees Country Deli and the Glass Menagerie.

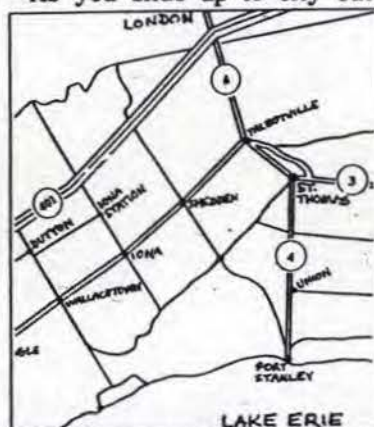
On the other corner is Palmer's Red and White, an institution in the family grocery store business, started in 1922 by Leonard and Ruth Palmer, passed to sons Clarence (now retired) and Ralph and working with Ralph are his sons, Len and Murray, and daughter Brenda Silcox and her husband Murray. They're celebrating their 68th year in business and like most of the other businesses here, they are closed Mondays. Tourist shops are open weekends.

North of here by Highway 401 is Quality Swine, one of the most successful farmer-owned co-operatives in Ontario. Here a research and development herd has been cultivated to help improve genetics in the pork industry.

To the south of Shedden, the road curls to Port Stanley and en route during apple harvest there are some great roadside stops — Great Lakes Farms, operated by Bob and Marge Thomas with the apple barn the centre of some furious pie-baking, south past On-

tario Apple Marketing Commission director Adrian Brooyman's ship-shape farm, to Frank Turville's apple orchards. Due east of Shedden is St. Thomas. (You pass by the Lyle side road, presumably named after the progressive Lyle farm families of Elgin County).

As you slide up to city out-



skirts, a slight jog up the hill will bring you to a centre of tourist attractions: Elgin Military Museum, Elgin County Pioneer Mu-

seum, the life-like statue of Jumbo the elephant and right across the road, artist Mary Rose Sanderson's Trillium Studio and the Talbot Trail General Store and Tearoom with perch, ribs and English sausage on the menu and take-home goodies like beef stew.

Tucked a street or two behind this collection of 'must stop' places is St. Thomas Church (the corner of Church and Walnut Streets). With its distinctive early English gothic revival architecture, the 1824 church and its Alfred and Mary Maxwell lych-gate (1948), it's worth a look.

(Keep your eyes open along country sideroads: the gigantic haunting turkey vultures seen here are preparing to migrate south and flocks with as many as 20 birds, wing spans of up to six feet, can be seen).

Country Roads is a regular feature by Farming Today reporters. Next week: Some sites to see while visiting the International Plowing Match and Farm Machinery Show near Paris.

Once A Tree

- Solid wood furniture for every room in your house
- Custom furnishings in cedar, pine, oak, maple and butternut
- Framed prints
- Great gift ideas
- Our always treasured child's wagon
- VISIT US TODAY!



In the Shedden Village Mall

764-2371

VISIT SHEDDEN ON HIGHWAY 3 WEST



THE VILLAGE PANTRY BOUTIQUE

Come and browse through our house of antiques

- Antiques • Handmade Quilts
- Old Village Paints in 18th & 19th century colours (lead free) for interior or exterior
- Beehive Yarn and VIP Fabrics

Tues. to Sun. 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
 Open Holiday Mondays

764-2777

Enjoy a cup of tea, snack on goodies or try our daily lunch special

SUNDAY BRUNCH 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.
 TUES. to SUN. 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

OPEN HOLIDAY MONDAYS RESERVATIONS & CATERING 764-2272

VISIT US BOTH AND SPEND A DAY

THE OLD SCHOOLHOUSE TEA ROOM AND RESTAURANT



SHEDDEN WOMEN'S INSTITUTE
 TWEEDSMUIR HISTORY
 CURATOR - Dora McArthur
 May 1991

Harry and Lydia Killins have been shopping at Palmer's Red and White Supermarket since it opened 70 years ago. As the oldest residents in Shedden, they were selected to cut a huge anniversary cake baked for the occasion.

The store was originally opened in 1920 by Leonard D. Palmer and the former Ruth Mann. Mr. Palmer came to Canada as a Barnardo boy from England when he was 11. He served in the First World War at the age of 16 and served overseas.

When he returned from the war to Peterborough, he and Ruth were married.

They bought the corner store in Fingal and stayed there for two years. In 1922, they bought the store in Shedden and living quarters were attached.

The Palmers raised four sons, Clarence, Douglas, Ralph, and Eric. Clarence and Ralph became the eventual owners when their father and mother died in 1952 and 1953, respectively.

The 20's and 30's were a struggle for everyone. Mrs. Bessie Clements, who lived in Shedden and recalls when the store was purchased, remembers deliveries made by horse and buggy and the primitive ways food was kept with no refrigeration. Her

daughter, Millie was a clerk in the store during that time.

In 1929, the store joined a Red and White chain - a company no longer in existence but the store kept the name and is independently owned.

Clarence retired five years ago and Ralph, with sons Leonard, Murray, and son-in-law Murray Silcox are the owners.

Through the years, renovations and additions have increased the floor space, while many can remember there being Braddons furniture store, Dr.'s office, barber shop, real estate office, dance hall, post office, library,

etc.

Through corresponding with relatives in England, it was recently stated that Leonard D. Palmer's father was a store

keeper, therefore, the younger generation sorting pop bottles, filling shelves, carrying out groceries, etc., are the fifth generation of interested store owners.

Shedden Women's Institute
Tweedsmuir History
Dora McArthur - Curator
April, 1993



FAITHFUL CUSTOMERS - Longtime shoppers of Palmer's Red and White supermarket

Harry and Lydia Killins cut an anniversary cake to mark 70 years of business. - (Staff)



HORSING AROUND — These cardboard steeds took top prize in the Best Marching Group category at Sunday's Fingal Optimists Santa Claus Parade. It was the village's 18th annual

Christmas event and about 1,500 watched. This award-winning entry was the creation of the folks at Palmer's Red and White, grocery store in Shedden.
—(Lynn Billard photo)

Santa warms Fingal crowd ^{Dec 1992}

FINGAL — It was a chilly December day, but that didn't keep the crowds from coming out for the 18th annual Fingal Optimist Santa Claus Parade.

Organizers estimated that about 1,500 parade watchers and participants converged on the village Sunday. Around 48 entries, from the traditional candy-throwing clowns to colorful floats loaded with waving children and whimsical animals, proceeded along the one kilometre route.

In keeping with the "Christmas 125 years ago" theme, there were three horse-drawn

wagon entries and a few old fashioned costumes. Participants came from Port Stanley to Dutton and in between, to take part.

"It was a tremendous response," said John Peart, parade chairman and vice-president of the Fingal Optimists. "A lot of work and thought went into the floats this year...I think it was fantastic."

As usual, the festive train concluded with the caboose that everyone waits for — the float with Old St. Nick. But this year Santa didn't arrive in his traditional sleigh. Instead, he had a brand new workshop,

where his elves and Mrs. Claus worked inside, while the jolly man of the hour waved to his fans from atop the chimney. In front of the float, eight well-known reindeer milled about in a corral.

After the parade, hot chocolate was served at the United Church and children had a chance to visit with Santa Claus. Alana Bogart from the Lawrence 4-H Club helped St. Nick hand out goodies.

"I like helping out Santa and the kids are seeing all the kids happy and smiling," she said.

Shedden Women's Institute, Tweedsmuir History
Dora McArthur - Curator

April, 1993



CHRISTMAS SPIRIT:

Carol O'Connor, left, and Peggy Lehrbass, of Palmer's Supermarket, spice up their entry in the Fingal Optimist Santa Claus parade with a bit of humour. Leading them dragging a tree were two people in a horse costume. (T-J photo)

2007

Shedden W. I.

Tweedsmuir History Curator

Dora McArthur

April, 2008



OLDEST — Marcia Carr, 12, left, and Karey Logghe, 13, carefully position the plaque to mark this Silver Maple tree on the property of Joseph Carroll, RR 1, Iona Station, reportedly the oldest maple in Ontario. — (Staff)

Trees in west Elgin marked for history

Two historic trees in west Elgin have been officially designated as part of the Shedden Wildwalkers 4-H club achievement program.

A huge Silver Maple tree — reportedly the biggest in Ontario — was adorned with a shiny plaque after members joined hands around the tree to measure its diameter which is 23 feet and 4 inches.

The second tree marked was on John Street in Shedden. The plaque dedications were done in co-operation with the St. Thomas Field Naturalists who have been

marking other trees in Elgin County.

The 4-H club's program was called "A Walk on the Wild Side" and members studied topics such as hiking, trailwalking, setting up camp, identification of wild life, and reading a map.

To raise money for the plaques, members filled 4-H mugs with homemade trailmix to sell.

Group leader, Pat Palmer said the Naturalists hope other groups will take up projects such as this one to continue the tree dedications in the county.

Shedden W.I.
Tweedsmuir Hist.
Dora McArthur-
Curator.

April 1993