

June 8, 1993



## GRANDMA CLAIMS HER PRIZE

Frances McCallum of West Lorne is hugged by grandson Michael Howard, 13, after getting her bachelor's degree in social sciences Tuesday at the University of Western Ontario. McCallum started her degree in 1931 at age 16 and left to teach a year later. She proved persistence pays off, graduating 62 years after starting.

Susan Bradnam  
/London Free Press

April 7, 1977

# Rev. and Mrs. S. Andrews honored by congregations

By Mrs. D. McMurchy  
Saturday evening congregations of Largie and Crinan churches met at Largie to honour Rev. and Mrs. Stanley Andrews, who came to the joint charge 10 years ago,

and 41 years since Rev. Andrews entered the ministry. Despite a very heavy rain storm a capacity crowd attended. David Gillies of London, a staff member of Fanshawe College, a talent-

ed pianist, played while the crowd gathered.

Norman McWilliam, Clerk of Session of Largie Church, was chairman for the evening. In his opening remarks he told of events leading up to the induction of Rev. Stanley Andrews from the Presbytery of Glasgow, Scotland, on Oct. 27th, 1966.

### PROGRAM

The program opened with a talented group of young people from Largie singing, accompanied by guitars. Donald Leitch spoke on behalf of the Largie congregation and Lorne Carroll for Crinan congregation.

Stewart McIntyre rendered selections on the violin, accompanied by Amy MacDonald of Largie. Mrs. William (Aleta) McCallum



Rev. and Mrs. S. Andrews

read a humorous poem she composed, entitled "There is Hope for Stanley". She told of Mrs. Andrews' help through the years in various organizations of the church and community, and what a help she has been to her husband, plus many humorous episodes about coping with Canadian winters.

Rev. C. D. Farris, Clerk of London Presbytery, brought greetings, as did Rev. E. A. Lorimer on behalf of the Dutton Ministerial Ass'n. and presented a gift. Dr. James Colvin of Fanshawe College, brought greetings from the college staff of which Rev. Andrews is a member, teaching Bible history and English literature in the mornings.

Young children from Crinan sang two songs, accompanied by Mrs. Larry (Ruth) Howard.

### THANKS

Jim Andrews son of Rev. and Mrs. Andrews, spoke on behalf of his sisters, Rosalyn and Elizabeth, and Mrs. Andrew's sister, Dr. Ruth Russell of Scotland, who is a visitor at the manse, thanking the congregations for the kindness shown their parents through the years, especially during their settling in Canada.

Norman McWilliam read telegrams and cards from friends and relatives in Scotland, as well as from local people unable to attend. All expressed congratulations and best wishes. One message was from former British Prime Minister Harold Wilson, who was a classmate of Rev. Andrews.

Mrs. Victor (Norma) McMillian of Largie, spoke on behalf of the Largie Women, also expressing thanks to Mrs. Andrews, and reminding Rev. Andrews what a help a good wife is. She then

called on Douglas McMurchy, Clerk of Session at Crinan, who spoke briefly and presented Mr. and Mrs. Andrews with a wall clock from his two congregations to which both made fitting replies.

A smorgasboard lunch was served which brought a very pleasant evening to a close.

Minnie A. Livingstone



## Annie Isobel Tait serves 40 years as organist

On Sunday, July 5th, 1992, Argyle Presbyterian Church, Crinan, was the setting for the joyous celebration of the 40th anniversary of Annie Isobel Tait's service as organist of this church.

The congregation, the choir, former choir members, relatives and friends filled the sanctuary for this occasion.

Rev. Ralph Fluit welcomed everyone to the regular church service. The choir under Annie Isobel's direction sang two numbers, "In My Heart There Rings a Melody" and "Each Step I Take."

Everyone was invited to the church basement to view slides and pictures of "Forty Years of Memories."

After a luncheon a social hour was spent renewing old acquaintances and making new ones.

Bringing everyone to order Rev. Fluit acting as chairperson called upon the following people for comments - Rev.

Donald McCallum as a relative and past minister - Laura Kieraszewicz reading correspondence from former members and Lorne Carroll as a member from the congregation.

Presentation of a plaque from the Session by Duncan McPherson was followed by the presentation of a ring and tickets for a bus trip to see "Phantom of the Opera" by Minnie Livingstone from the Argyle Church, Crinan congregation, friends and relatives. Mr. Ken Carmichael congratulated Annie Isobel, his cousin, and wished her many more years as organist.

Annie Isobel expressed her thanks to everyone and made some very fitting and interesting remarks about her forty years of service.

Mrs. Anne Fluit read selected verses from Proverbs 31. Rev. Fluit closed this appreciation Sunday with prayer.

# Churches are OK, blame the gods we worship today

When we realize science, technology and economics don't have the answers, the God of the scriptures will still be there.

By Ralph Fluit

Churches of every denominational stripe have worked hard for several decades to provide relevant and appealing programs (and worship services) to the church-going public. Innovations in worship, modifications to sermons, altering the tempo of the music and introducing children's sermons are only some of the changes.

However, the percentage of Canadians that attend church continues to decline. Our innovations have not worked. They have not been the panacea for the woes of the church. What must we do?

Sociologists and those who don't attend church would quickly urge more change, more relevance. The fault, they would say, lies with the church institution. You hear a string of if onlys: If only the church met at a more convenient time; if only the church threw out the word sin; if only . . . if only.

**NEW LOYALTY:** We, who are within the church need to be constantly critiquing ourselves. Nevertheless, I surmise that the problem is not really with the church at all. I believe the issue centres on a shift in loyalty, in allegiance. Years ago the loyalty of the average person in both small and large communities was to the God of the scriptures. And that loyalty was passed on as a tradition within Christian families. Therefore, generation after generation attended the church of their tradition.

It is loyalty to this God that has been subverted. It has been replaced by another loyalty. To say it differently, the God of the scriptures has been replaced as the God of our world.

If this is so, then it's no wonder the church is irrelevant, for it continues to proclaim a God few wish to serve, and to whom

few wish to bring honor.

It's a rule of life — when one loyalty is abandoned, it is invariably replaced by another. No one is ever loyalty-neutral. If one is no longer loyal (devoted) to communism, for example, he or she must fittingly be devoted to another ideology. We have no choice in this. It's a fact of life.

**REPLACEMENT:** What then has replaced the God of the scriptures? Who (or what) is the one to whom we have given our deepest loyalty? It appears to me, and many others, that we have entrusted our loyalty to three things: science, technical expertise, and the economy.

Science, we believe, will provide us a way to conquer any and every illness and problem faced by modern society.

Technical experts will be able to translate that scientific knowledge into practical methods to help us master our environment.

The growth of the economy, along with its rising standard of living; is still seen as the ultimate goal in life, and the only route to personal happiness and societal harmony.

These are the "gods" of the modern world, even though we're all becoming increasingly aware of the fact that these "gods" cannot deliver on their promises.

Science merely extends life for a time

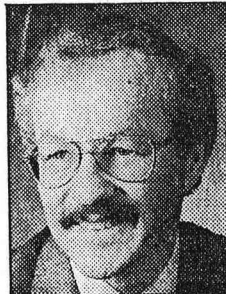
while retarding cancer cells or by transplanting an organ. It does little to deal with the major issues of life.

While technical experts make machines designed to ease our lives, as our own human creativity is undermined we become worried about our own personal self-esteem.

And the economy sputters along providing neither the employed, nor the unemployed, any real sense of well-being.

The "gods" have failed, and we plod along too proud to admit their failure and our foolishness.

Until we're ready to set aside our pride and admit that our "gods" have failed us, we will undoubtedly continue to experience disharmony in the land, and will indisputably encounter much personal distress in our inner spirits. The God of the scriptures awaits our return.



**RALPH FLUIT** is a Presbyterian minister at Duff Church in Largie and Argyle Church in Crinan, both in Elgin County.

## The Church on the Hill

In old Ontario's landscape fair  
In days long since gone past  
Great men from other lands have come  
To make our Empire fast.

They settled down to build a life  
Where lesser folks would fail  
And history shows they built it well  
Ere called to cross the vale.

All honour to those intrepid folks  
Who left their kith and kin  
To settle in a lovely place  
Their livelihood to win.

They came from far away Argyle  
'Tis claimed for pious reason  
And built themselves a church anew  
Down at a place named Crinan.

So t'was set upon the rugged knoll  
To be seen by everyone  
Was this new edifice, so fine  
In the year of 1861.

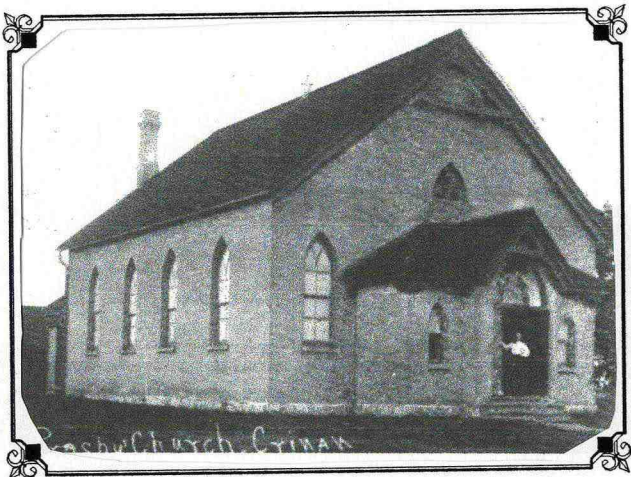
For there it stood for many years  
A place of meditation  
A hallowed spot loved by all  
For many a generation.

Today, a church there stands  
Along the Graham Road  
To perpetuate what was begun  
By the settlers of old.

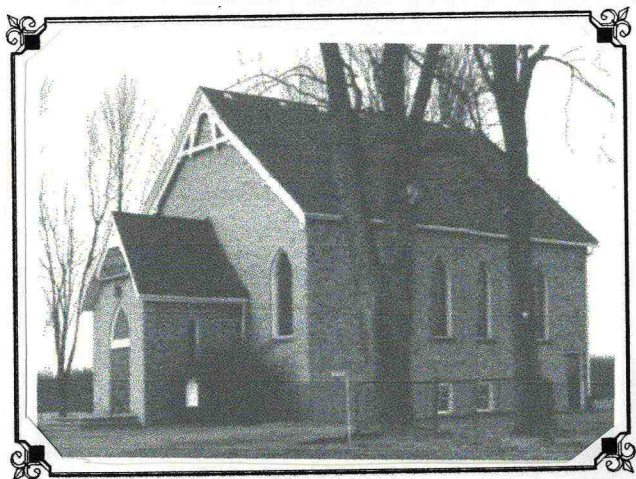
— John McKenzie.

found in a book by  
Hugh Jossre Simms.

ARGYCE  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH CRINAN



1861 - 1948 - 1998



ARGYCE  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
CRINAN  
*Rebuilding  
History*  
1948 - 1998