

Local couple have joyful reunion with persons aided in World War II

Johanes and Janke De Vries recently returned to their home on Margaret Street after a trip overseas during which they had a joyful reunion with two people they had risked their lives to protect during World War II.

At that time the couple resided in a southern Dutch mining town under the heel of Nazi military might. There was constant fear of the Gestapo particularly if you were Jewish. In Holland alone, 105,000 Jews were exterminated.

Gallant Dutch men and women like the De Vries kept that number from going higher.

Two children found their way to the De Vries via a Dutch underground railway system. The De Vries fed and loved them as their own. Occasionally the entire family made sudden hasty exits from their home.

"Sometimes we knew we were being watched and it was time to go," said Johanes.

Began in 1942

Their story began in 1942 when a resistance worker showed up at the door with a little boy. Ostensibly, the skinny, black-haired lad was a Dutch refugee from the bombing of Rotterdam. In reality, the boy was a Jew from Amsterdam whose father was already in the Nazi death camps.

Soon the boy's tiny sister was located in a house about an hour's walk away. The De Vries decided to reunite that part of the family.

"You could get shot for one child as well as two," said Janke.

After the war the children left. Until this year the four had never been reunited.

Reunited in Jerusalem

The De Vries met their "son" Sihomo in Jerusalem in March. The skinny, dark-haired boy is now 38 and has three children. With tears streaming down his face, he met the De Vries shouting "Mother" and "Father". The "Grandchildren" hand-lettered a sign (complete with windmills) to welcome the De Vries to Israel.

Later, the De Vries met the girl, now a mother living in Paris, and the emotion would again wash over an airport tarmac.

In Israel, a silver medal was presented to the De Vries and they planted a tree with their names on it.

But the medal, scroll and tree-planting did not mean as much to the retired farm couple as being reunited with the children.

"They became our son and they became our daughter," said Johanes.

After the war, the children's mother appeared from hiding to reclaim the children. But tragedy still haunted their footsteps. The mother died of cancer shortly after.

The De Vries wanted to adopt the children but the mother's dying wish was for a Jerusalem education for the two. The adoption was thwarted.

The trip to Israel rekindled memories of the fears, hiding places, friends and enemies of a terror long past.

Johanes remembers a neighbor - a German - who undoubtedly knew there were two Jewish children hiding next door. The German quietly let it be known that the authorities were watching and precautions should be taken. His advice was heeded.

Another friend, a Dutch policeman, went as far as to hide the mother and children in the police station overnight during a particularly crucial period.

"Our worst fears and enemies were the Dutch Nazis and then the secret Nazis who wanted to impress the oppressor," Johanes said.

The De Vries moved to Canada in 1948 and Johanes worked for a farmer.

"What's your name?" the farmer asked.

"Johanes," De Vries replied.

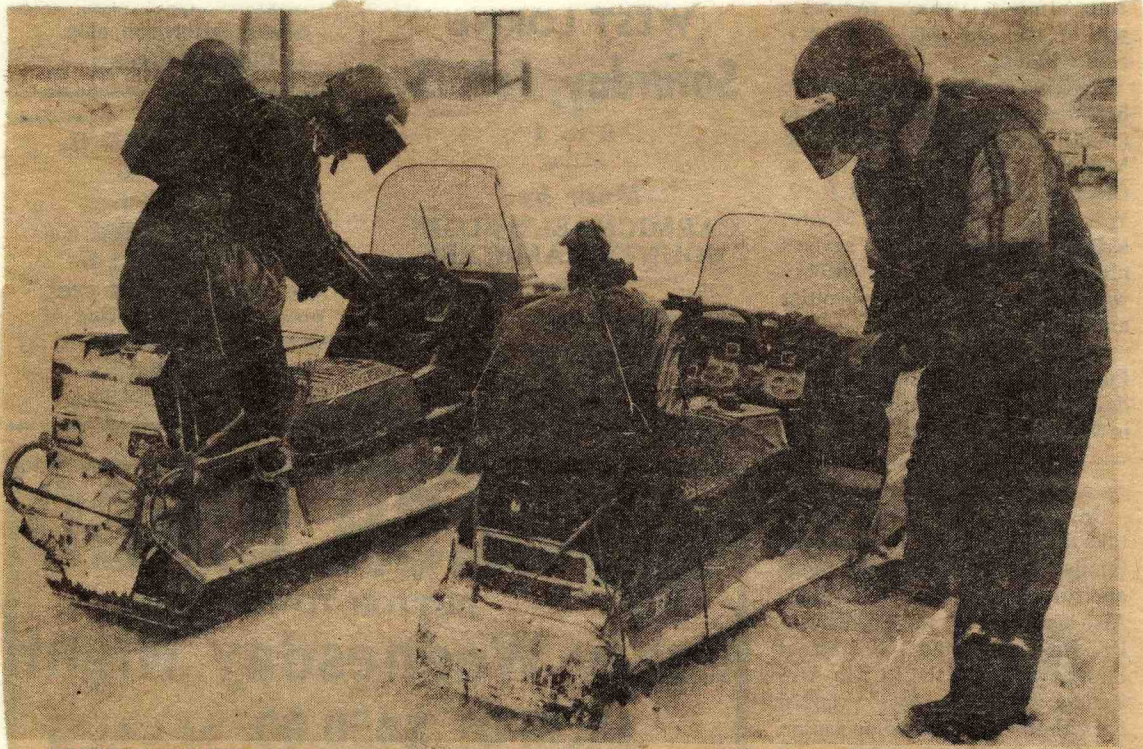
"Joe will do," the farmer said.

Today Joe De Vries has retired. He and Janke sold their farm outside London. They can sit quietly in their home here and not worry about a knock on the door.

They have mementoes of the rough years in the form of dog-eared pictures. And they have the silver medal from the Israeli government.

Johanes' eyes mist slightly when he clasps the tiny piece of silver.

The inscription reads: "He who saves one life, saves the universe."



FRIENDS IN NEED - Many people who in the past haven't been all that happy about snowmobile operations are changing their tune this winter as owners of these machines perform various helpful deeds. Included are the transportation of stranded persons and picking up groceries and other supplies for neighbors. Two men who helped in this way are Allister Cameron and Albert Vanderploeg, who are shown as they left Dutton Main Street with supplies.

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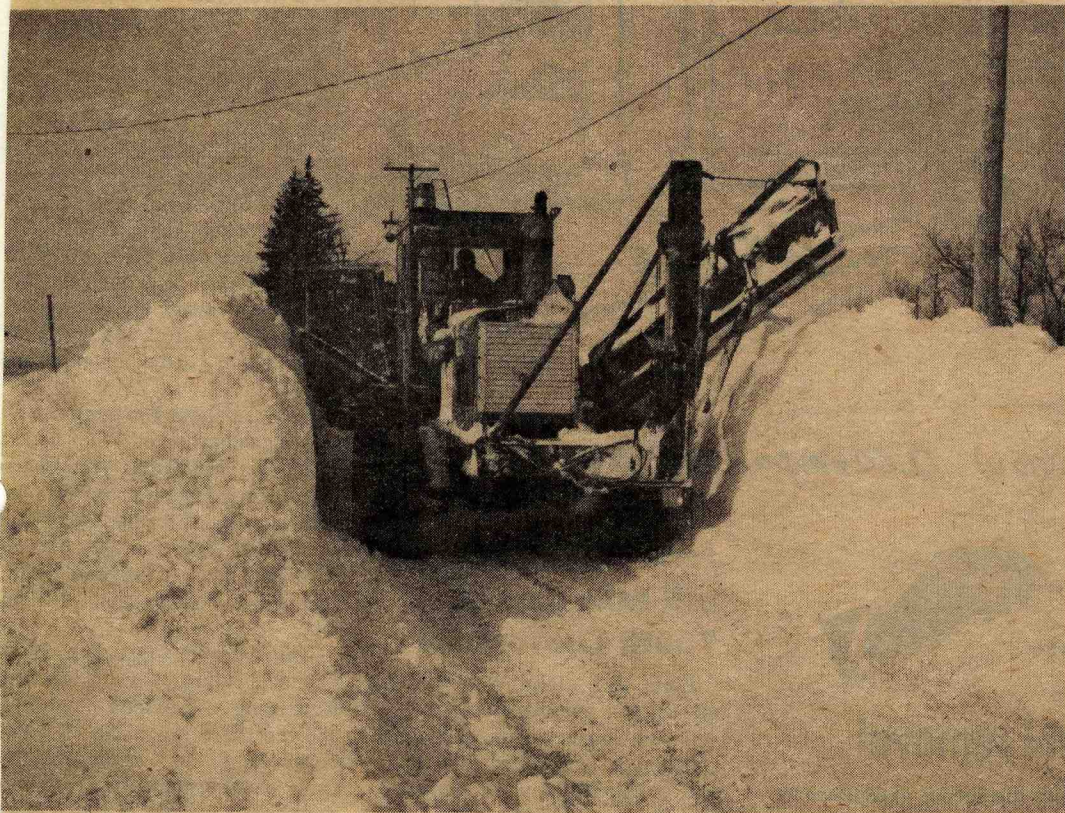
People helping people order of the day as result of storm

People helping people is the order of the day as a result of the unusually severe weather. There have been innumerable cases of people aiding stranded motorists, opening their homes to strangers and so on. Typical is the experience of Rev. Stanley Andrews of Largie.

Unable to reach his home from Dutton on Friday, he was accommodated at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Robertson Cameron here until Sunday evening. As it was apparent roads would not be open for several days, Mr. Andrews realized that it might be some time before he would reach home.

It was then that a couple of other Good Samaritans turned up in the persons of Arnold and Cathy Clarke. They provided two snowmobiles to transport Mr. Andrews and his belongings home. Naturally, he is deeply grateful.

At the other end of the line, Mr. and Mrs. Andrews' daughter, Mrs. E. Fenwick, Mr. Fenwick, Juliet and Mark, who arrived at the Andrews' home on Friday were unable to return to their home at Campbellville.



BANANA BELT? - A pretty good idea of road conditions in what is often referred to as the "banana belt" may be had from this shot. It was taken on Main Street north near the site of the former creamery. County snowplow operator Bill Sloetjes took a dozen or so runs at this huge drift before he was able to penetrate it. Not visible to the left of the photo is a station wagon which the driver was forced to abandon on Friday. It was still there Tuesday.

smashed in Elgin

By **BOB PADDON**
T-J Staff Reporter

At seven o'clock Thursday morning Norman Dakins, of RR 6, St. Thomas, heard a big "ka-boom." A few minutes later, his nephew came into the house to tell him that the barn was gone.

The barn, owned by George Helmer of RR 2, St. Thomas was one of many in Elgin County that was ripped apart by the hurricane force winds of Thursday's storm.

Saturday afternoon Fred Willand, Gary Minor, and Al Wilson of the Golden Acres Snow Riders Club took a Times-Journal photographer and reporter to some of the inaccessible regions of central Elgin.

The storm laid waste to many barns and sheds leaving debris across much of the countryside. Without a moments notice, several structures collapsed under the intense force of the winds, while in other cases the destruction came after repeated, agonizing blows.

Robert Flintoft, of RR 6, St. Thomas, had the east and west ends of his barn blown out early in the morning. The rest of the building collapsed at noon. Four horses survived the accident and were still in the ruined barn on the weekend.

FEEDING HORSES

Mr. Flintoft's son, Kim, was in the barn feeding the horses shortly before it collapsed. He described the experience as "eerie."

"The barn was howling and creaking, and I kept close to the door ready to jump down from the loft."

Mr. Flintoft was unsure of the exact damage but said "the only way to fix it is to rebuild it." He estimated that it would cost \$10,000 to build a barn to house the horses.

Charles Lawton, of RR 4, St. Thomas, breathed a sigh of relief, oddly enough, when his power was cut off Thursday morning.

The hydro pole, located between the Lawton residence and an implement shed, stopped a large, approximately 15-foot by seven-foot, section of the shed roof from crashing into the house.

SNAPPED POLE

The piece of roof, torn loose when the building was destroyed at 6:45 a.m., snapped the pole in half and cut off power to the house.

Mr. Lawton was prepared for a power shortage and managed to keep the house at a warm 80 degrees fahrenheit using a tobacco burner in the basement and a propane barbecue in the living room.

"Two years ago, during the ice storm I got the idea for the propane barbecue," said Mr. Lawton," as well as providing heat it gives you something to cook on."

Mr. Lawton claimed that in his 60-years as a resident of Elgin county he had never seen a storm such as the one on Thursday.

The high winds also victimized barns in the Iona Station area according to Mrs. J. R. McKillop.

Jack McKillop's barn on RR 3, Dutton had the end ripped off as well as an implement shed and a garage damaged. Neil Robb, on Highway 3 near Wiley's Road; Barry Macdonald, on Highway 3 near Wallacetown; and Robert Bobier of Iona Station all had some damage to their barns.

TRAILER OVERTURNED

Mrs. Murray Ritchie, of RR 6, St. Thomas, narrowly escaped serious injury when her camping trailer was overturned Thursday. Mrs. Ritchie had been trying to get an oil

burner out of the trailer but the door was jammed. She had just stepped away from the trailer and entered the house when a strong gust of wind overturned the camper and hurled it about 100 feet the length of the driveway.

The storm uprooted many trees and played havoc with television antennas and hydro lines. Most roads had been cleared by Saturday although some were still treacherous as a result of drifting since the time they were plowed.

The main weekend activity was snow removal, as rural residents dug out of the worst storm of the decade.

Cliff. Hodder's ducks survive three weeks under snow

Stories are still being told about the severe storm of January 26th and one of the best comes from Cliff Hodder, who farms just north of Dutton.

Following the big blow, Cliff discovered that four of his Mallard ducks had disappeared. When the storm abated and there was no sign of them he gave them up as lost, figuring they could have been blown away or buried.

Much to Cliff's surprise, however, on Tuesday morning, almost three weeks after the storm, he discovered one of the missing drakes on top of a snow-drift on the farm. It's loud racket attracted Cliff to the spot and upon investigating the other three ducks emerged.

With the exception of one duck all appeared to be in good shape despite their ordeal under the snow.

Adah Chapter, O.E.S. founded here in March, 1953 *April 22nd 1978*

In connection with the silver anniversary of Adah Chapter, O.E.S., the following history was prepared by Mrs. Ella Corby, Mrs. Hazel Brown and Mrs. Jessie Love.

The decision to form an O.E.S. Chapter in Dutton was made at a meeting in the Memorial Hall, Dutton on March 10th, 1953.

At the second meeting March 18th, 1953, Mr. Sidney Thompson, Parkhill, Ont., representing the W.G.P., conducted the organization. The first eight officers and three trustees were elected.

It was decided to call the Chapter "Adah", and to meet on the 4th Monday of each month in the Memorial Hall, Dutton.

A meeting was held April 9th, 1953, in the Dutton Public School Auditorium, when Adah Chapter, No. 276, O.E.S., was instituted by Mr. Wellington Smith, W.G.P. assisted by other Grand Officers.

The work of the order was exemplified by Flower City Charter, No. 91, St. Thomas, Ont.

To enable us to qualify for our Charter, Mr. Wellington Smith, W.G.P. inspected the Chapter on September 3rd, 1953.

At a special meeting on October 9th, 1953, Adah Chapter was constituted by W.G.M. Allison Gooch (Walker) and her Grand Officers, when we received our Charter. There were 68 names on the Charter.

We have three life members, Mrs. Hazel Brown, Mrs. Mary Ellen Lucas and Mrs. Jessie Love. Other life members were the late Mr. John E. Davies and Mrs. Grace MacLean.

Mrs. Mary Ellen Crawford (Lucas) was Grand Electa in 1956 and was elected to the Grand Executive Committee for three years in 1957.

Mrs. Hazel Brown was appointed Grand Representative to Washington State in Ontario in 1959 and Mrs. Mary Ellen Crawford (Lucas) Grand Representative to the State of Utah in Ontario in 1960. Three of our members have been honored with the position of D.D.G.M.: Mrs. Marion Forsyth, 1960; Mrs. Margaret McGregor, 1972; Mrs. Dorothy Bruce, 1976.

Through the years we have had many efficient and dedicated officers. Special mention should be made of the faithful services of Mrs. Elva Corneil, who has been soloist for 25 years and Mrs.

Florence Bennett, organist for 24 years.

Over the years our main project has been Estarl. We have also made donations to the Cancer Society, Crippled and Retarded Children and many other worthwhile endeavors. We have also contributed equipment to the Bobier Home and our members make monthly visits, taking with them treats for the residents.

During the past 25 years we have had many special occasions, including entertaining Grand Officers and neighboring Chapters, as well as various social functions.

Through the work of our Order in the past quarter century we hope we have brought cheer to the sick and shut ins.

We also appreciate having the opportunity of meeting and working together. It is our sincere hope that Adah Chapter, No. 276, O.E.S., will continue to prosper and we shall "Love One Another".

First Officers

The first officers of Adah Chapter in 1953-54 were:

Worthy Matron, Mrs. Hazel Brown; worthy patron, Mr. John E. Davies; associate matron, Mrs. Mary Ellen Crawford; associate patron, Mr. Arnold Crawford; secretary, Mrs. Hazel Martelle; treasurer, Mrs. Hilda Crawford; conductress, Mrs. Marjorie Lucas; associate conductress, Mrs. Jean Walters; chaplain, Mrs. Grace MacLean; marshal, Mrs. Ella Corby; organist, Mrs. Grace Wheeler; Adah, Jessie Love; Ruth, Mrs. Jane Wilson; Esther, Mrs. Bessie Malcolm; Martha, Mrs. Marjorie Brown; Electa, Mrs. Gladys McMillan; warder, Mrs. Grace Page and sentinel, Mr. William Cheeseman.

Present Officers

Worthy matron, Mrs. Jean Walters; worthy patron, Donald Bruce; associate matron, Mrs. Nan Blakely; associate patron, Ivan MacAdam; secretary, Mrs. Wilma MacAdam; treasurer, Mrs. Marilyn Mitchell; conductress, Mrs. Dorothy Bruce; associate conductress, Mrs. Marlene Douglas; chaplain, Mrs. Gertrude Page; marshal, Mrs. Margaret McGregor; organist, Mrs. Florence Bennett; Adah, Mrs. Gladys I. Graham; Ruth, Mrs. Ruth Robertson; Esther, Mrs. Gladys F. Graham; Martha, Mrs. Connie Arnold; Electa, Mrs. Alma Drager; warder, Mrs. Helen Sweetman; sentinel, William Douglas.

Past Matrons and Patrons

1953-54, Hazel Brown, John E. Davies; 1954-55, Mary Ellen Crawford (Lucas), Arnold Craw-

ford; 1955-56, Grace Page, Morley Page; 1956-57, Jean Walters, Ezra Martelle; 1957-58, Marion Forsyth, John E. Davies; 1958-59, Marjorie Brown, Donald Forsyth; 1959-60, Aillean Good, Alvin Good; 1960-61, Ella Corby, Morley Page; 1961-62, Ida Galbraith, John E. Davies; 1962-63, Gertrude Page, Stuart Graham; 1963-64, Margaret McGregor, William Graham; 1964-65, Elizabeth Johnson, Harold Smith; 1965-66, Gladys I. Graham, Stuart Graham; 1966-67, Betty Smith, Harold Smith; 1967-68, Margaret McGregor, Alvin Good; 1968-69, Wilma MacAdam, Ivan MacAdam; 1969-70, Flora Carroll, Ivan MacAdam; 1970-71, Lorna Tripp, William Graham; 1971-72, Margaret McGregor, Rev. Alexander Clements; 1972-73, Dorothy Bruce, Donald Bruce; 1973-74, Dorothy Bruce, Donald Bruce; 1974-75, Rosemary Champion, Anthony Champion; 1975-76, Nan Blakely, John Blakely; 1976-77, Rosemary Champion, Anthony Champion; 1977-78, Jean Walters, Donald Bruce.

Other Past Matrons

Jessie Love and Grace MacLean, Electa, West Lorne; Agnes Clements, Palmerston.

MEMBERS & SOME OF THE 1st MEMBERS
Officers in the
ADAH CHAPTER APRIL
1953



CHARTER MEMBERS—When Adah Chapter, O.E.S., was formed here 25 years ago this group were among the 68 charter members. On April 22nd they attended the anniversary banquet in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Wallacetown. Front row, from left, Morley Page, Mrs. Grace Page, Mrs. Hazel Brown, charter worthy matron; Mrs. Hilda Crawford, Mrs. Gladys MacMillan; second row, Mrs. Hazel Martelle, Mrs. Jean Walters, present matron; Mrs. Mary Ellen Lucas, Mrs. Jessie Love, Mrs. Ida Galbraith, Mrs. Betty Beill, Mrs. Mary Hafele; back row, Herb Campbell, Mrs. Florence Bennett, Lloyd Corby, Mrs. Elva Cornell, Mrs. Ella Corby, Mrs. Jane Wilson and Mrs. Bessie Malcolm.

Wallacetown ST. ANDREW'S CHURCH

1978



ADAH CHAPTER OFFICERS—These people comprise the officers of Adah Chapter, O.E.S., in the silver anniversary year. Shown as they attended the banquet at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church on April 22nd are: Front row, from left, Ivan MacAdam, associate patron; Mrs. Jean Walters, worthy matron; Donald Bruce, worthy patron; Mrs. Nan Blakely, associate matron; second row: Mrs. Wilma MacAdam, secretary; Mrs. Alma Drager, Electa; Mrs. Gladys I. Graham, Adah; Mrs. Gladys F. Graham, Esther; Mrs. Helen Sweetman, warder; Mrs. Gertrude Page, chaplain; third row: Mrs. Florence Bennett, organist; Mrs. Dorothy Bruce, conductress; Mrs. Margaret McGregor, marshal; Mrs. Connie Arnold, Martha; Mrs. Marlene Douglas, associate conductress; William Douglas, sentinel.