

## CURRENT EVENTS FEBRUARY 1966

There seems to be no dearth of news these last few months. Everything from the natural to the supernatural, from crowning Beauty Queens to rain-making, walking in space and calling on Mars.

Despite the problems created by the drought in the early part of summer, the rains, whether created by the rainmaker or not, came in the nick of time and Elgin County is having bumper crops of wheat and there are all the signs of a good harvest of later crops.

Royalty has been much in the news. Queen Mother Elizabeth has safely completed a pleasant visit to Canada. Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip visited Germany--an unheard of thing 10 years ago; and Prince Philip created a hornets nest with his opinions on Rhodesia. Politics has even been called a short-haired beetle. A hand-shaking marathon tired Prince Charles at a garden party in Scotland; chatty like his father, he revealed he'd just flunked two examinations at Gordonstown and passed five.

After 30 years of exile, most people were pleased at the reconciliation of the Royal family with the Duke and Duchess of Windsor when they were visited in their London hotel suite by Queen Elizabeth and his sister the Princess Royal, only to be saddened by his sister's sudden death after visiting her ailing brother. Other sudden deaths in the news were Adlai Stevenson and Lionel Massey.

Multiple births are becoming a habit with two sets of quintuplets born in less than a week. By coincidence both mothers had been given hormone treatment prior to the births. Medical science is growing by leaps and bounds. Serious heart operations are becoming routine work at Sick Children's Hospital. One doctor in Bombay thinks salt intake causes colds. Judy LaMarsh says addict drugs are a retrogressive step. A Vancouver school board finds school children use tranquilizers because of pressure to do well at their studies. A London Ontario doctor says a hyperbaric oxygen chamber saved the life of a Sarnia youth suffering from carbon monoxide poisoning. Dr. Miller said the chamber is believed to be the only one of its kind used in Ontario.

There have been strikes and more strikes--steel workers strike, builders strike, canners strike, and perhaps the latest and causing the most inconvenience to the most of us is the Post Office workers strike. We never miss the water until the well runs dry and it is funny how suddenly we got the urge to write a letter to Aunt Kate, cousin Jane, or some long forgotten friend, so we were relieved when the mail got moving again, if only temporarily and hope for a satisfactory settlement for all concerned.

Suddenly Elgin County became a place on the map with rumors of a giant plant building near Talbotville and ~~inx~~ Dunwich township seems to be running over with black gold, that is oil, with drilling rigs running on three district farms. New addition has been built to the Talbotville Sales Barns and silos are springing up in the Paynes Mills area. Elgin County may well wake up some morning and find



itself the hub of a big industrial empire.

If you are looking for a new job and an unusual one you might apply for the job of a cleaning woman at the Victoria Wax Museum because 10 have quit their jobs in recent months. At night when you are alone it is downright terrifying to look at those was figurines showing blood and sweat and bulging eyes or from an iron cage see a skeleton grinning at you.

If any of you ladies are husband hunting you might do as a Los Angeles grandmother did, set out on a hitch-hiking trip through Africa to find a husband. After nine months and two pair of shoes she received her first proposal from an African but he wasn't very cultured. In Ghana a Lebanese who already had two wives asked her to be his third. However she refused because she said the python skin he said he would give her daughter seemed a little on the cheap side. She also had offers from an Africaner farmer and a Moslem trader in Abigjan. If she hasn't found the right man by the time she reaches Egypt she may embark on a hitch-hiking trip through Europe. Where there is a will there is a way.

This vicinity has had its share of tragedies--a district farmer was killed when his tractor overturned and another when pinned beneath a combine. Another died in a fire which destroyed his home. Fire also destroyed three large barns on the farm of the Ontario Hospital.

A happier note is the suggested 150 bed home for the aged in St. Thomas.

Fashions for the fall include more lady-like hem lengths, sleeveless armholes and high rise collars. There are moderately wide skirts and waist-lines turn up all over the place from the lofty empires to the low waisted effects. It is said you can almost tell what is in a woman's head by what she puts on it. There will be new crocheted caps borrowed from the mods in England, helmets swiped from the astronauts and argyle caps to match gaudy hose.

On a nostalgic note we read of about 35 people turning out on the farm of Doug Campbell to view a demonstration of horse shoeing and to hear a talk on the care of horses' hooves. At a meeting of the Ontario Motor League Mr. Ian Cameron took his audience through the years of muddy roads, cedar block pavements and brick paving of 1917. Mr. Cameron said there was no parking signs in those days, no stop lights and no one way streets. St. Thomas streets were populated with every type of conveyance.

Here are just a few editorial notes found in recent issues of the Times-Journal. All it takes is a box of candy to make a wife happy or suspicious. A big wheel at the office is often a flat tire at home. Rock and Roll has been called the "Sound of the Sixties"--Come on you Seventies.

Come to work pickled and you are apt to get canned. Children can work most things at home, including parents. When a photographer charges you \$50.00 a dozen for prints of your picture, how can he expect you to look pleasant! Think hard now--just what was that New Years Resolution you made on January 1st.



## CURRENT EVENTS JUNE 1966

Our Federal Government has supplied us with plenty of interesting and spicy news in the last few months.

Munsinger, Sevigny, Spencer, Watson are all familiar names and Seven Days future is still in doubt. While Bennet Cerf is all for Seven Days, Charlotte Whitton takes swipes at current controvercies; says she saw Seven Days once by intent and never again by accident and said "I think it a tragedy that the majority of Canadians like to wallow in muck every Sunday night. Other things cause some serious thinking-- the renewal of the Truscott case and the near bombing of the Parliament buildings by Paul Chartier.

Most of us are interested in the doings of Royalty. Queen Elizabeth passed her fortieth birthday, donned her best bib and tucker and celebrated it by opening Parliament and then following her favorite sport, horse racing, at Epsom Downs while her eldest son in Australia is busy writing pages to a girl friend Rosaleen, a farmer's daughter in England. Her five year old son is busy learning to read by the initial teacher's alphabet. Canadian born Dutch Princess Margriet will marry a commoner Pieter Van Vollenhoven.

Two wives of former Prime Ministers have died in England--Lady Dorothy MacMillan, daughter of the Duke of Devonshire, and Lady Megan Lloyd George.

On the local scene, commencements, graduations, and ordinations are the order of the day. Miss Marion Pow received her Bachelor of Household Science from Mac Donald Institute and Mr. John Brown was ordained as a minister of the United Church. These young people and all others who pass in the coming exams we offer congratulations and best wishes. While these are starting out with high hopes for the future, others well known like Mr. Trevithick, Mrs. Lewis of the St. Thomas Collegiate, Miss Mary Belle Edmonds of A.V.S.S. , and Mrs. Beulah Helka a public school teacher, are retiring from active service at the end of the school year. We wish them many years of leisure and pleasure.

In the medical field new things are happening--Siamese twins were born to a Guelph couple, two boys have been fitted with radio controlled pacers in heart operations and a kidney transplant patient looks hopefully to the future. New evidence is found that a virus causes cancer. While these hopeful signs develop new worries are appearing. The L S D drug taken by some beatniks causes hallucinations and instability and the drugging of athletes with stimulants and sedatives are potential dangers.

Now modern day tensions have caught up with the placid pig. He is getting stomach ulcers blamed on crowded, confined operations and high energy rations used to make pigs grow faster.

Talbotville Ford site is a busy scene. Operations have begun with the demolition of once familiar farm buildings and homes causing a sigh of nostalgis to most of us. The railway spur line is advancing fast for the new business but the Port Stanley Incline Railway makes its last run, It

started in 1870 and was one of the few transportations in Canada to retain its 5 cent fare. This they call Progress. The old white brick school in Shedden is 100 years old and plans a centennial celebration on June 25th.

The space ship Surveyor has landed on the moon and has moved mankind another step in space and underlines the urgency of restricting celestial bodies to peaceful uses.

A Calamity--down go the skirts and dutch cut replaces long hair not popular with the young people.

May was the coldest in years.

The emptier some folks heads are, the more they want to talk them off.

When the Lord took Adam's rib he created the first conversation piece, and wouldn't it be wonderful if someone would invent a switch to turn off some people's mouth ( mine for instance ) like a television set.



## CURRENT EVENTS DECEMBER 1966

So much has taken place since I gave the last current events in June. It is hard to know what to include and what to omit. Some of these have been sad and some glad.

As the Institute is the nearest to us, the passing of our late president is the saddest. Her general outgoing, energetic and devoted interest in her work will long be remembered. As one member said at the time "Susie was so easy to work with." May this be an example for us all to follow. We were saddened by the death of Mrs. Lena Lyle known to us all by her activity in institute work in Elgin County. We were sorry that a sister institute Talbotville found it necessary to disband.

On the other hand, some very happy events have taken place. The placing and dedication of plaques at this hall was a pleasing and enlightening evening. Two bus trips were enjoyed--one to Orillia to visit the Craft Fair and the Stephen Leacock home, and one to London to visit Eldon House museum with a luncheon at the Seven Dwarfs Inn. A number took advantage of the bus to attend the London Area Convention at Goderich. This was largely attended and interesting. ~~The hat making course~~ ~~was well~~ patronized and many are sporting original hats of their own making.

Shedden Public School celebrated its 100th birthday while many other one room schools in Elgin County were closed and had reunions at close of school in June before joining a central school. This is progress, but much social activity and contact will be missed.

Royalty has been busy. The Queen and Prince Philip had a successful trip to Ireland despite several unpleasant incidents. Princess Anne spent her 16th birthday with her father and brother enjoying Calypsoland in Jamaica while attending the British Empire Games. Prince Charles, now 18, has become more or less of age and can take in many royal duties. And Princess Margaret has been named the No. 1 Woman for Wearing Outlandish Hats, but then she didn't take the Paynes Mills Millinery course.

The operation on the Guelph siamese twins was a medical accomplishment as one child is alive and apparently doing well, but they tell us that, along with cigarettes, tea and grilled meat may be possible causes of cancer. Soon we will all be on diets. High blood pressure has been lowered by patients taking inactive sugar-coated pills they thought contained medicine. Doctors have known for many years that substances containing no medicine are effective in producing remissions in some diseases.

Startling things in Science are taking place. Recently astronauts have been walking in space and taking pictures in split seconds, and 4 professors in the U.S.A. tell us "God is dead". Ironically, another man advocates the freezing of man and bringing him back to life in 500 or 1000 years hence. They say God is dead but man is to immortal!

Strikes still abound. Even the farmers put aside their timidity and became bold enough to go out on the roads with tractors to try to up the milk prices, and



the housewife is having her say by boycotting food prices at chain stores. The railroad and airline strikes have held up traffic.

Farther from home the war continues in Viet Nam. The Prime Minister of South Africa was assassinated, and the slide of rock and slag in Aberfan, Wales, killed 200, many of them children.

Holidays this summer found a number enjoying the sights of far away places as well as the beauties of Old Ontario. Mrs. Lewis journeyed to the West Coast. Mrs. Reid visited in Saskatchewan; and Mr. and Mrs. Albert Auckland attended a convention in Halifax on the East Coast. I, myself, got as far as Newfoundland. Others were at summer resorts, Detroit, Niagara Falls and other places.

Younger members of the community have embarked on various vocations--Marion Pow is teaching High School in Elmira, Pat Adams is a nurse in training in Woodstock, Lois Lyle continues her studies at Western, Bill Bawden is at Queens, the Blackman twins are studying in London at Fanshawe and others have accepted positions in St. Thomas. Some others decided that wedded bliss was the best.

If you have any thought of robbing a witch, just don't do it. Dame Sybil Leek, a British witch visiting in St. Louis, had 3 magic rings and \$450.00 in money stolen. She says she is weaving a terrible hex on that man and when he is found all Hellishness will break loose!

So on to Christmas with its joys and pleasant recollections in this confused and rapid-changing, unsettled, hurly-burly world. Let us not take the Christ out of Christmas. Here is a recipe for Christmas--

Take a quart of joy and gladness  
A peck of folk and kin  
A dash of Christmas spirit  
And toss some laughter in.  
Take a large amount of giving  
And spread it generously  
Read directions from the good book  
And apply them carefully.  
Garnish well with human kindness  
On crystal leaves of cheer  
And you will have a batch of Christmas  
To last the coming year.

Mrs. Wes Abbott

Current Events 1966 - 1967



## CURRENT EVENTS 1967 - 1968

So many things have happened during the past year, it is hard to remember and figure out what are the most important events. I have tried to pick out a few that I thought would be most interesting to our community.

1967 being Centennial year celebrations were held all over the Dominion. Also along came the Mini skirt which has caused much controversy--young people in favor, older generation disgusted. The era of the hippies came into being with their love songs and long hair.

Miss Ethel Chapman, beloved editor and writer, was honored along with four others in recognition of their outstanding contributions to Agriculture in Ontario. This event took place at the University of Guelph. We were very proud of her as she was the only lady among four men. These are outstanding men whose names appear in the newspaper--Mr. Harry Dawson, fruit grower in the Niagara Peninsula; Professor Frank Hart, farm economist; Professor G. E. Raithby, animal scientist; and Wm. P. Watson, former Ontario Live-stock Commissioner, now manager of Royal Winter Fair.

We were sorry to learn of the death of General Vanier. We hope the appointment of Roland Michener as Governor General will be ably filled.

April 28th was the opening of "Expo" and before closing in October thousands passed through the gates every day. All expectations of record attendance were broken. Some were disappointed, others thought it wonderful. Each was left with his own impressions. We were pleased that our own community was among the thousands.

The late Miss Muriel Bostwich, granddaughter of the late Adelaide Hoodless, founder of the W.I. has bequeathed one third of the interest on the residue of her estate to the Adelaide Hoodless Scholarship fund at McDonald Institute. Also from her belongings a portrait of Mrs. Hoodless and some of her jewellery to the homestead at Stoney Creek.

We were very happy to help Mr. and Mrs. Frank Auckland celebrate their golden wedding anniversary. We wish them many more happy years.

Celebrations took place in the Netherlands over the birth of a male heir to the throne.--the first in 116 years. Mother Crown Princess Beatrix lived in Canada near Ottawa during the Second World War, along with the Royal Family.

During April the weatherman seemed rather confused. In southern Alberta he dumped 64" of snow in 10 days. Ranchers and cattle were marooned. Helicopters were sent out with food and feed. Hundreds of calves and cows were lost. Cattle in Florida were slaughtered on account of the drought. California was hard hit by torrential rains and frost. Australia was hard hit by drought, lambs being slaughtered. Perhaps that is why we see so much New Zealand lamb advertised.

We were happy to extend our congratulations to Judy Harwood who graduated from Toronto General Hospital. We wish her the best in her chosen profession. Best wishes also to Karen Auckland who entered Western University.