

Oct. 30 - 1959

Wallacetown Grandmother Earns BA in Three Years

It is just a little more than three years since a woman, who would be surely termed mature, approached with trepidation and timidity, the office of the Summer School and Extension Departments at the University of Western Ontario, in London, Ont., and queried of Miss Angela Armitt, "Just what has to be done to earn a degree?"

Today, Mrs. Norman (Margaret) Welch of Wallacetown, knows, for she has done just that, and will receive her coveted diploma which makes her a Bachelor of Arts at the convocation ceremonies tonight.

It was the desire for more musical education that started it all. Mrs. Welch, who already had her ATCM in music, had heard that Western was to be giving a special summer course in school music, under the direction of Earle Terry. To quote the graduate "I knew that would be very helpful, but I could not see the sense of driving 35 miles to London and back every day for just one course. So, I began to investigate the possibilities of further opportunities. One official said a degree could be obtained in three years, but, I wouldn't have much of a life. Then I happened to pass that remark on to Dr. Maine, head of the summer school department, and his reply was 'That's one way of living.' So that has been my life for the past three years, summer and winter, outside of school time."

The hardest part, Mrs. Welch thinks, was the Latin. After 30 years away from it, she took her grade XIII Latin Authors by correspondence through the Ontario Department of Education. Then came Latin 20 by University Correspondence, and both of these proved a real challenge. "I certainly didn't find Latin a dead language; there is nothing better to liven up powers of concentration. I think that is when I really



MRS. NORMAN WELCH

learned how to study again and concentrate," remarked Mrs. Welch.

The entire course has been completed by means of Summer School, Extension and Correspondence departments of the University. It has meant a great deal of driving. Last year Mrs. Welch had to go to Brantford for classes in the necessary subjects, a distance of 80 miles, one way, every second Saturday. "But," she smilingly remarked "I like driving and there is always something interesting to keep one's mind busy along the way."

Her reason for doing it all? There is more than one. First, she wanted to prove that it could be done by an older person. Mrs. Welch feels one has to really want to do it, then comes learning how to really apply oneself. It isn't nearly so easy to remember as when one is younger, but powers of concentration improve with age. Then, too, it afforded a perfect background for her school work. She is on the staff of Mount Elgin Indian Day School at Muncey where she teaches music, and senior grade history and geography. (She majored in history at Western). At present, she is busily engaged in preparing the students for the Rotary Music Festival in St. Thomas.

Her family were most co-operative. Even her fine young grandsons, David and John, youngest members of the farming family of Norman Welch and Son, Wallacetown, unflinching asked before coming in to visit, "Grandma, are you studying?" As for the opinion of the senior members of the family, her husband, son Kenneth and daughter-in-law, Helen, it's unanimous. "Just leave it to Mom, if she really wants it, she'll get it." They were so right.

all but a short period spent at Rosetown, Sask., Mr. and Mrs. Smith have spent their married life in south Dunwich. Eight years ago, they retired from the farm and moved to Wallacetown where they have since resided. They are adherents of the United Church there.

Mr. Smith formerly served as a trustee and treasurer of S.S. No. 1, Port Talbot.

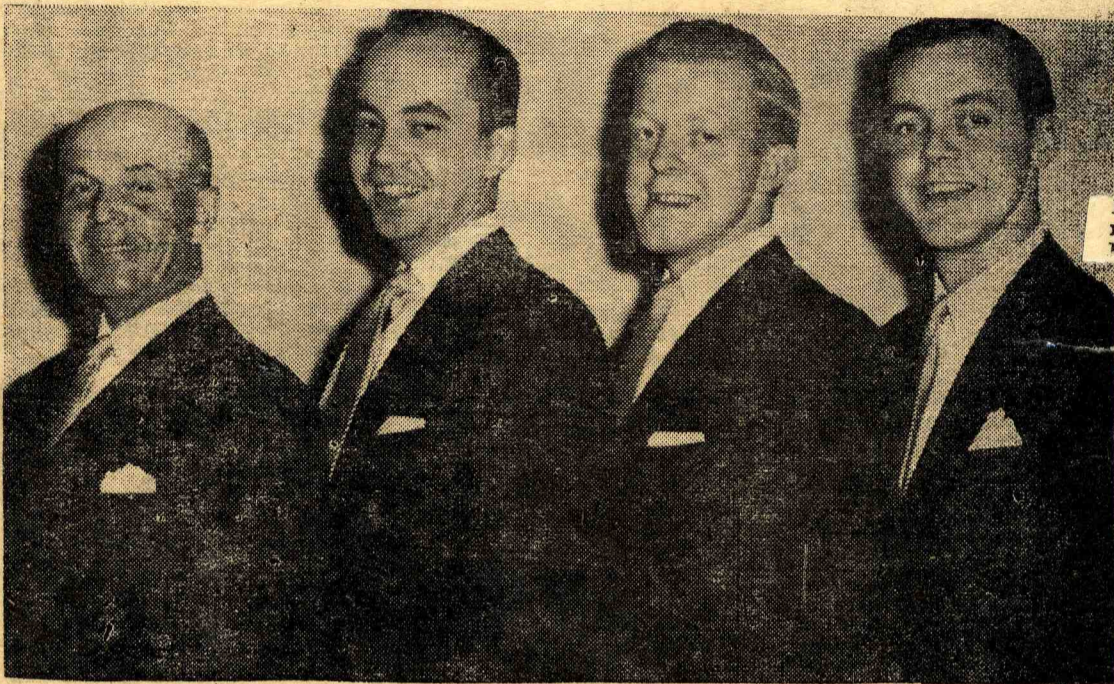
The only surviving guest at the wedding 60 years ago is Mr. Smith's sister, Mrs. George Jewell, north of Dutton.



MARK 60th WEDDING DAY — Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Smith, well-known Wallacetown couple, are shown as they observed their diamond wedding anniversary on February 5. The event was marked at a family dinner at the home of their son, Harold E. Smith, and Mrs. Smith, London, on February 4th. Many friends called on February 5th to offer congratulations while messages were received from others at a distance. 1962

Later in 1967 observed their 65th Anniversary

LXXXIV



THESE MALE SONG BIRDS made history last year by producing a long-playing recording of eight old-time religious numbers that is being well received. They are, left to right, Morley Page, Tycon-

nell; his son, Bill Page, Lambeth, and Morley's nephews, Jack and Don Page, of London. The recording has brought considerable fame to the quartette and they are busy on other records. 1958



MISS IRIS PAGE, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Morley W. Page, Wallacetown, who received a degree of Bachelor of Science in Nursing. Iris will take a position with the Toronto Health Office. 1954



RONALD G. CAMPBELL Graduates With B.A. Honors Degree

A graduate with his Honors Bachelor of Arts degree, in journalism from the University of Western Ontario, London, is Ronald G. Campbell, son of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon R. Campbell of Wallacetown. He has accepted a position on the staff of the Winnipeg Free Press. 1963

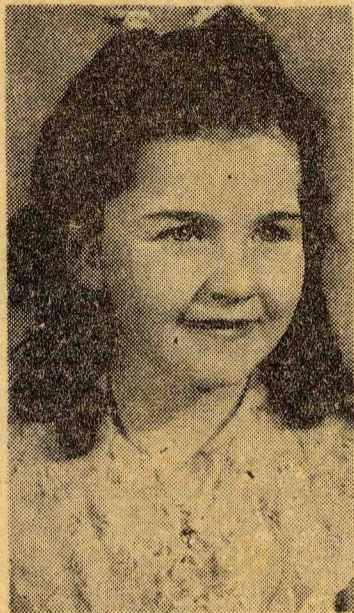
Mr. and Mrs. F. E. Smith Married Sixty Years

A well-known and highly-regarded Wallacetown couple, Mr. and Mrs. Frank E. Smith, observed their diamond wedding anniversary on Monday. The event was marked by a family dinner at the home of their son, Harold E. Smith, and Mrs. Smith, in London on Sunday. On Monday, the anniversary was observed in an informal way when a number of friends and relatives called at the home of Mr. and

Mrs. Smith to offer congratulations. Messages were also received from Queen Elizabeth, Prime Minister John Diefenbaker and James McBain, M.P. for Elgin.

The marriage of Frank E. Smith to Miss Mary Lucas took place at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Lucas, south of Wallacetown, on February 5th, 1902. Mr. Smith is a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Smith who came to Dunwich and settled on the Lake Road 66 years ago. He later took over the family farm and operated it for 40 years. For

**WINS TROPHY
SECOND TIME**



ELAINE KEILLOR, six-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Keillor, of Wallacetown, who has won the Peggy Whiteman juvenile piano trophy at the Stratford Music Festival for the second consecutive year. The young pianist also achieved this year the mark of 95 for her performance in the eight and under piano solo class and topped a class of 13 competitors in the twelve and under piano solo in the Bach section with a mark of 92.

Awarded Piano Trophy



—Photo by Stollery.

ELAINE KEILLOR, eight-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. Keillor, of Wallacetown, again captured a number of honors at the Stratford Music Festival this year. She came first in the piano class for eight years and under, second in the Bach piano solo class for competitors up to fifteen years and under, and first in the piano class for eighteen years and under, in which the competitors played a Haydn or Mozart sonata, receiving 86 marks. And finally, she was awarded the St. Marys Piano Trophy, for which the winners of other classes up to eighteen years and under, competed. Miss Keillor has held the Peggy Whiteman juvenile piano trophy for winners twelve years and under for three years and was adjudged as playing perfectly, but could be awarded only one trophy. The juvenile trophy was awarded this year to Diane Miriam Smith, of Toronto, also eight.

ELAINE KEILLOR

Elaine Keillor, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Keillor, Wallacetown, was born September 2, 1939. At a very early age she showed signs of astonishing musical ability. Taught by her mother, when only five years old she first entered musical festival competitions and has won many awards playing against competitors many years her senior. At present, Elaine is studying violin under Mrs. Zoe-Addy Watson of London, and her piano study is under the direction of her mother with special coaching by Mr. Reginald Bedford of Hamilton. Her progress is shown by the following partial list of trophies, scholarships and medals.

ROYAL CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC OF TORONTO—Four Silver Medals for the highest examination marks in the Province of Ontario, and a Special Diamond Jubilee Scholarship.

STRATFORD MUSIC FESTIVAL—

Winner of the Peggy Whiteman Trophy, 1945, 1946, 1947.
Winner of the St. Mary's Trophy, 1948.
Winner of the Open Scholarship, 1947.

LAMBTON COUNTY MUSIC FESTIVAL, SARNIA, 1949—Winner of the highest award, Festival Scholarship, donated by Holmes Foundry Company.

LINCOLN COUNTY MUSIC FESTIVAL, ST. CATHARINES, 1949—Winner of the Senior Piano Scholarship, the Carmichael Senior Trophy. Also won the Mozart Club Rose Bowl in recognition of scoring the highest mark of any contestant in the festival.

KIWANIS MUSIC FESTIVAL, CHATHAM—

Three trophies, 1948.
Three trophies, 1949.
Violin Scholarship, 1948 (Canadian Industries Ltd.)
Piano Scholarship, 1948

CANADIAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION, TORONTO—

Winner in Piano Competition (Perfect score - 100 marks) 1947
Winner Violin class under 11, 1949.

KIWANIS MUSIC FESTIVAL, TORONTO—

Winner of Senior Bach Class, 1950
Award for Senior Beethoven Class, 1950
Award for Piano Trophy Competition, 1950.

Elgin Girl Returns A Star

By JOE McCLELLAND
Free Press Staff Reporter

WEST LORNE—Elaine Keillor, who before she learned to talk was picking out notes of bird songs on the piano, returned a recognized concert artist last night to present a piano recital here in the high school she attended a few years ago.

For Miss Keillor, now 20 years of age, her appearance before nearly 400 of her old friends and neighbors in West Elgin District High School was perhaps slightly more difficult than the natural strain she experiences in each of the scores of concerts she has given on two continents.

Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. S. E. Keillor, of nearby Wallace-town, she has been studying music for all but two of her 20 years. She is accomplished also as a violinist, but she had to choose whether to concentrate on violin or piano, and she chose piano, because even for her it would be impossible to excel at both, said her mother.

Three Curtain Calls

Last night she received three curtain calls and among the entranced audience listening to the two-hour recital was a surprisingly large number of young people who gave rapt attention.

She was presented with roses by 10-year-old Anne Klapko and her brother, Billy, 11, children of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Klapko, of West Lorne. A small reception at Grace Anglican Church followed the program.

The congregation of Grace Church sponsored Miss Keillor's recital here, her first appearance here in five years, and her first performance in her home neighborhood as an established artist. Ten years ago she gave a piano and violin recital to a capacity crowd at Dutton.

Hamilton Headquarters

Wallacetown is still her home, though her business headquarters are in Hamilton, said Miss Keillor, who has just completed a six-month coast-to-coast Canadian tour during which she presented as many as five concerts per week.

"I'd prefer if I had only three concerts a week," she said, admitting the pace grew exhausting, but she is now looking forward to a holiday at home, although how long the vacation will be is indefinite.

Last Sunday night she provided the peak half hour of the final concert of the season of the Brantford Symphony in that city, playing Schumann's piano Concerto in A Minor. Twice she was recalled.

Program

For her performance here last last night she chose Capriccio by Joseph Haydn; Prelude and Fugue in E Minor by Felix Mendelssohn; Sonata Op. 53 (Waldstein) Ludwig van Beethoven; Three Etudes and Polonaise in A Flat by Frederic Chopin; Etude in E Flat by Paganini-Liszt; Impromptu in A Flat by Emanuel Faure and Etude Tableau in E Flat by Sergei Rachmaninoff.

Rev. F. A. Gadd, rector of Grace Church, in his remarks following the recital, said that Miss Keillor is "not only entertaining an established music-

loving clientele but she is also helping a whole new group among the public, appreciate good music."

Noise-Makers

The public today gives tremendous attention and millions of dollars to "noise makers" of the popular music field, he said, and, in this, the perspective of the people is out of balance.

Miss Keillor, with exceptional talent and nearly 20 years of hard work, he continued, is contributing to a correction of this imbalance but in the long run the survival and extension of the appreciation of good music depends on public encouragement.

So devoted to her art has Miss Keillor been since early childhood that she has never attended school, with the exception of the year she spent in classes at the school here. The rest of her young life she has been taught by private tutors, taking her lessons between frequent and extensive trips away from home to compete, to study, and to entertain.

Her formal education was never neglected because of her music, and what subjects she did not learn through tutors she studied by correspondence courses. She not long ago learned German, and she plans to continue study of other subjects when time permits.

Studied in Europe

Last summer she studied music in Europe and was chosen from a field of 70 pianists to perform at the Bayreuth Opera-house. She gave 40 concerts during her Canadian tour this last season.

The youthful artist's mother is a music teacher and a former professional concert musician herself. The family's lives are intertwined with and through music. Miss Keillor's father was a student of her

mother's before their marriage. He is a singer.

But Elaine was hardly out of infancy when she began to reach even beyond her mother's musical accomplishments, said Mrs. Keillor.

Surpassed Her Mother

"She always knew what I was going to teach her next, always ahead of me. She's far beyond me today. She can play a composition through once, and after that she knows it by heart."

Thus, said Mrs. Keillor, Elaine not only has an astonishing repertoire, better than most of the foremost artists, but she never plays with music sheets before her.

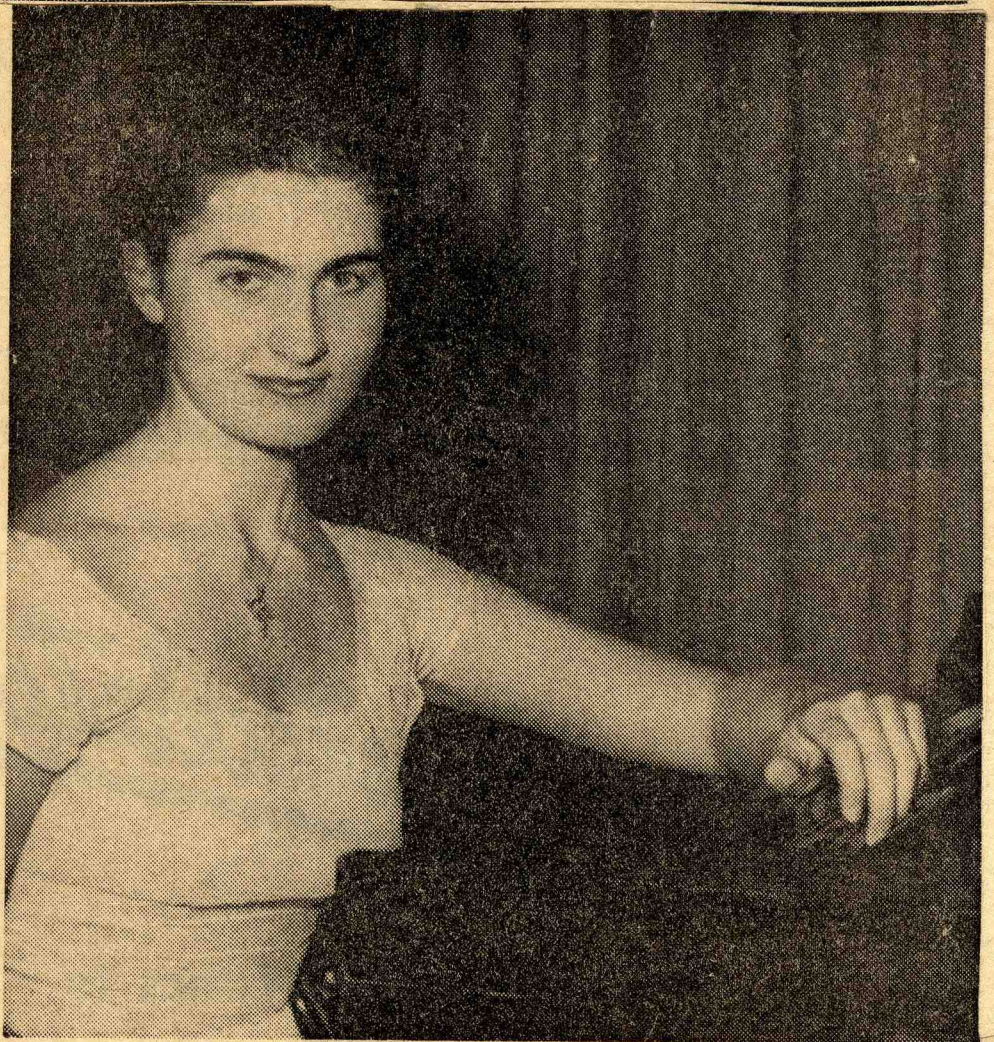
When she was small she was often refused admission to symphony concerts in London and other centres because she was so young, but her achievements in music festivals throughout the province quickly brought her recognition as a genuine prodigy.

The late Carl Friedberg, of New York, acclaimed her talent as "absolutely phenomenal" and predicted a brilliant future for the girl with such unusual range of gifts, among them power, delicacy, clean fingering and

musical insight of outstanding calibre.

She made her first public performance at the age of two and a half years and passed her first examination at four years, winning first class honors. She holds the distinction of being the youngest in Canada to receive her graduation degree, ARCT, at 11 years of age.

Her repertoire includes 20 concertos, and she has performed with orchestras in Canada, the United States, and Germany. Her career already has been highlighted with numerous radio and television appearances.



MISS KEILLOR, OF WALLACETOWN, AT WEST LORNE RECITAL

(Photos by Bosman)