



MARK SIXTIETH WEDDING DAY—"The traffic doesn't bother me a bit" said soon to be eighty-five years old, Frank E. Smith, who with Mrs. Smith drove to London, Ont., last Sunday, to celebrate their diamond wedding anniversary at the home of their only son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Harold E. Smith of 497 Melcrest Road, where a family dinner and reception was held. Mr. George Jewell of Dutton, who was a bridesmaid at the wedding sixty years ago, was present at the family gathering. Mrs. Smith who will be eighty-three on May 2 does her own housework, with some assistance from her husband, and Mr. Smith is looking forward to Spring when he will be able to get out and do some gardening. The couple were married at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Lucas, who lived near Wallacetown, on February 5, 1902, and farmed for forty years on the Lake Road, before moving to Wallacetown, where they have resided since 1954. Mr. and Mrs. Smith are members of the Wallacetown United Church; Adah Chapter, O.E.S., of Dutton, and Mr. Smith belongs to the Masonic Lodge in Dutton. An informal open house was held on Monday at the couple's home in Wallacetown when friends and neighbors called to offer congratulations. A number of cards and beautiful bouquets of flowers and plants were received by the couple who were also particularly happy with a telegram of congratulations received from the Queen and letters from Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker and J. A. McBain, M.P. for Elgin. (T.-J. Photo)



MARK SIXTY-FIFTH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY—Mr. and Mrs. Frank Smith, of Wallacetown, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary yesterday as friends and relatives gathered at their home to offer congratulations. The couple, married at the home of Mrs. Smith's parents, the late Mr. and Mrs. John Lucas, in 1902, have resided in Wallacetown since 1954. Mrs. Smith will be 88 on May 2 and her husband is approaching his 90th birthday. The couple served at yesterday's celebration and received a large number of cards and floral arrangements from friends, relatives and government officials.—(T.-J. Photo) 1967

Wallacetown Couple Marks 65th Anniversary

WALLACETOWN (Staff)—Mr. and Mrs. Frank Smith of Wallacetown yesterday celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary with a reception and tea at their home.

The couple, married at the home of Mrs. Smith's parents in 1902, received many cards of congratulations, floral bouquets and letters from friends, relatives and government officials.

The couple moved to Wallacetown in 1954 after farming on the Lake Road for over 40 years.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Smith are members of the Wallacetown United Church and the Adah

Chapter, O.E.S., of Dutton. Mr. Smith, an avid gardener, is a member of the Masonic Lodge in Dutton.

Mrs. Smith, who will celebrate her 88th birthday May 2, still carries out the housework in their Wallacetown home. Her husband will be 90 this year.

The couple's only son and daughter-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Harold E. Smith, live at 497 Melcrest Road, London, and attended yesterday's celebration.

Also in attendance were Rev. and Mrs. J. W. Shaver, of Wallacetown United Church; Mr. and Mrs. John Leitch, of Dutton; and about 40 other friends and neighbours.

A Great Old Entertainer



JOSHUA BOBIER, one of the best old-time fiddlers in this part of the country, celebrated his 93rd birthday this week at his home in Wallacetown. —Photo by Stollery

Joshua Bobier Entertains Friends on 93rd Birthday

WALLACETOWN, Oct. 19. — Joshua Bobier's night to howl rolled around again this week and a lot of his best friends and two city slickers came to help him celebrate. It was his 93rd birthday party and he enjoyed every minute of it. So did all his friends, including the city slickers.

"Uncle Josh" was as spry as ever and he provided most of the entertainment for the party himself, as well as the place for holding it—the bed-sitting-room-kitchen in the small house here where he has lived alone for many years. He had his old fiddle going full tilt most of the evening.

The year Uncle Josh was 85 was the first time his friends descended on his house to fete him on his birthday. They've been coming back every year since. Just how much he enjoys these parties was apparent when he said at the end of this year's he wished he had a birthday every six months.

Mr. Bobier is a remarkable old man who, at 93, can't recall that he ever had an ache or pain. He'll still do a step dance and jig as sprightly as you please, and he's as nimble fingering his fiddle as he ever was in the days when he used to play in old time orchestras for barn dances and such-like all around the countryside.

W. M. (Bill) Blain, the Dutton lawyer, was among those who attended the party, and he extended congratulations on behalf of everybody present to Uncle Josh. He said he was glad to see him looking better than a year ago. That was just after Uncle Josh had undergone a session in a convalescent home.

Uncle Josh recalled he'd been mighty glad to get out of that place. "They darned near killed me with all their fussing," he said.

Family Trio

The party at Uncle Josh's got under way around half past nine—it was strictly stag—and his 17 guests were hardly inside the house when he unpacked his violin and reeled off "Turkey in The Straw," with variations. He went on from that through a whole repertoire of encores and then joined his nephew, Carl Bobier, playing second fiddle, and Jack Bobier, pumping the organ, in nearly an hour of old Scotch and Irish airs. It was great stuff—these Bobiers are all musical and they could play all night without playing one number twice.

Between Uncle Josh's numbers and those he played with his nephew Jack Lamb and his towering

little time and picked the rest up myself."

Mr. Bobier is the last of 13 children of the late Joshua and Elizabeth Bobier, who brought their family from the County of Wexford, Ireland, to Canada in 1867 when young Josh was just nine. He remembers the trip across in a slow steamer, about the landing at Quebec and coming by train to London and thence directly to Port Talbot. His father took the land immediately west of the present Talbot Estate farm on the south side of the lake road, now occupied by Clarence Bobier. Uncle Josh says that when he was a child a lot of the land here in the south part of Dunwich between Port Talbot, Tyrconnell and Wallacetown was still heavily wooded. He grew up a farmer and farmed all his life. His wife died nearly 40 years ago.

Independently Happy

Mr. Bobier is still active and seemingly strong and looks as though he could still do a pretty fair job of running a farm. But he gave it up a long way back and retired on old-age pension. He manages to get along on that and he's happy where he is with his independence. He is no great shakes of a housekeeper, but that doesn't matter to him. It's his house and he's the only one who lives there. His most frequent callers are children of the neighborhood who come to hear him play his violin for them and teach them to dance.

There are numerous Bobiers about the Wallacetown countryside, but Uncle Josh is the last of the original family. Edward, who was one of his younger brothers, lived in a big house in Dutton which, on his death a few years ago, was willed to the community for hospital purposes and it is now the Bobier Convalescent Home.

The annual parties for Uncle Josh were first organized by Fred Hillis and his son, Roy, who run a service station here. They are generally attended by the same group each year, these including nephews John, Carl and Earl Bobier, Charles Lyons and his son Carman, Jack Lamb and his sons Jack Jr. and Ted, Russ Ford, Constable Ray McDonald, Charlie Mathews, Larry Smith, R. H. McNeil, Chris Schollenberger, Bill Blain, Don Crawford, Finlay McPherson and a few others. The city slickers who got in on this year's party were a couple of fellows named Agnew and Stollery, from St. Thomas, who succeeded in wangling invitations to next year's party too.

Joshua Bobier Was In His 97th Year

The death occurred at Elgin Manor on Tuesday of Joshua Bobier, a resident of the Wallacetown district for 88 years. He was 96 years old.

Mr. Bobier was born in Ireland, but came to the Wallacetown district when only seven years of age. He lived the greatest part of his life on the Willey's Sideroad on the farm now owned by Clarence Bobier. Later he moved to Wallacetown where he resided 17 years and a little over a year ago he took up residence at Elgin Manor.



Joshua Bobier

An expert on the violin, Mr. Bobier was in demand at many gatherings, and he continued to enjoy this hobby until shortly before his death.

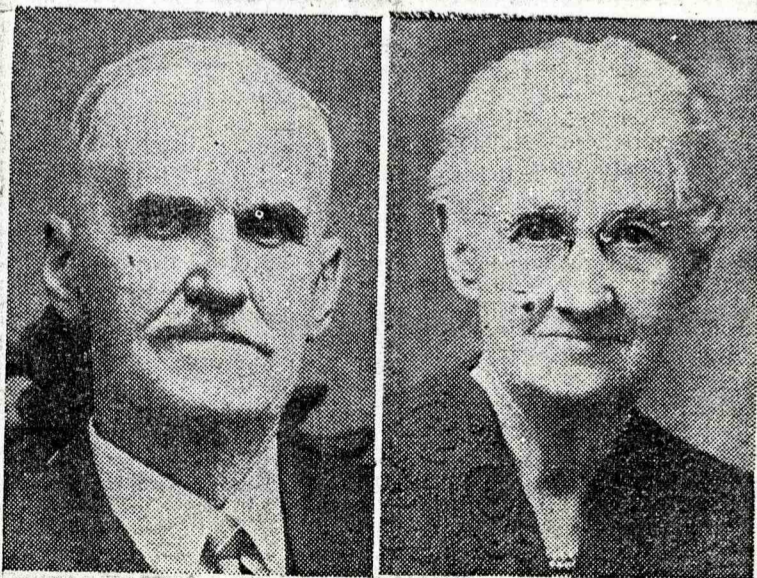
He was the last of a family of 11. His wife, Phoebe Spence, died in 1930 and surviving are two sons, William, St. Thomas, and Spence, Iona Station; seven grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Resting at the Beil Funeral Home where service will be held at 3 p.m., Friday. Rev. H. F. Cross of St. Peter's Church, Tyrconnell, will conduct the service. Interment will be in St. Peter's Cemetery.

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DUTTON, ONTARIO, DEC. 30th, 1943

Fifty Years Married



MR. AND MRS. HENRY BOBIER

play all night without playing one number twice.

Between Uncle Josh's numbers and those he played with his nephews, Jack Lamb and his towering son, Jack Jr., sang duets in fine voice with Jack Sr. also providing a solo effort. The rest of the evening was filled in with story telling. Lorenzo Holland, Roy McNeil, Chris Schollenberger, Charlie Lyons and others contributed a succession of have-you-heard-the-one-about.

One of the city slickers was given the special honor of making a presentation to Uncle Josh on behalf of the throng. It was new pipe and a supply of tobacco. Ye host was doubly grateful having broken his old pipe an hour or so earlier.

Though Uncle Josh is not prone to rehash the experiences of his 93 years, he did so with a little prodding during the evening. Among other things, he mentioned that he first took up music when he was 40 and it has been a source of everlasting enjoyment to him—and others—since.

Archie Duncan His Teacher

"I started taking lessons from Archie Duncan, who lived near the Littlejohns close by St. Peter's Church," he said. "Archie was a real musician. This old violin of mine I paid \$15 for. I can't play that old organ over there, just keep it around to be played when somebody who knows how drops in. I only took lessons from Archie for two quarter-terms, but he was such a good teacher I learned about everything I could in that

St.
wan
part

William Christine
 Lyons O'Brien
 Daughters
 Mabel Shipley
 Maude Braddon

Lulu Barber
 Florence McKaghin
 Hazel Eckhardt

Came from
 Joyce Suttin
 year?



year 64
 THE ST. THOM



KENNETH BETTS

Kenneth Betts Scholarship Winner

DUTTON—Kenneth Betts, son of Mr. and Mrs. V. Betts, R.R. 1 Fingal, and a graduate of West Elgin High School, West Lorne, has been granted the \$1,000 C. M. Weber Scholarship at the University of Waterloo. The award is for the student who has completed two years of high academic standing combined with contribution to undergraduate activities.



PAGE QUARTET — The Page Quartet have been singing together for some 15 years and were part of Wallacetown United Church's memorial service held at Tyrconnell Cemetery Sunday. The members of the

quartet are from left, Morley Page, Bill Page, Jack Page and Don Page, all born in the Tyrconnell area with their family settling here in 1885. (T.-J. Photo).

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