

REEVE HARLEY LASHBROOK PRESENTED EARL Lemon with an artist's sketch of his business block on behalf of villagers at last Wednesday's Earl Lemon Night in

the International Club. The sketch was drawn by Richard Barnard of West Lorne.

Mercury Sun Photo

400 pack International Club to honor V. E. "Earl" Lemon

"A roaring success" was the term Earl Lemon used to describe the testimonial banquet tendered him last Wednesday night at the International Club.

Four hundred turned out to honor him, which was a capacity crowd for the hall, and many were turned away when they arrived, hoping to be able to buy tickets.

And people came from far and near: as far as Vancouver and others from a distance in the province. Unfortunately his younger son, Bob, of Montreal, could not attend. However, their other professor son, Jim, of Toronto, and wife, did and like everyone else enjoyed the occasion.

Kiwanis President Ray Peckham acted as MC and after "O Canada" was sung, accompanied by Kiwanian Wilfred Leipmann, and an appropriate prayer by Pastor Norman Schlarbaum, the International Club Auxiliary served a tasty turkey banquet.

PROGRAM

A toast to the ladies was given by Kiwanian Dave Lawley, to which Kiween Alice Peckham fittingly replied. A sing-song

followed, led by Mrs. Janet Fisher, accompanied by Harvey Miller, in which Mr. Lemon favored by singing one of his old favorites "Clementine", much to everyone's appreciation.

WESS' new jazz ensemble played several current musical favorites, and Stuart McIntyre favored with a few violin selections, accompanied by Sophia Gowan.

Kiwanian Wilfred Johnston introduced the head table in his own inimitable way, with additional introductions being made in the audience by MC Peckham.

Kiwanian Harley Lashbrook introduced the guest speaker, former pastor of Mr. Lemon's Church — The Church of Christ Disciples — Pastor Fred Dunn of Canton, Ohio. He was thanked by Kiwanis Vice-Pres. Jim Hardenbrook.

PRESENTATIONS

Presentations were made to Mr. Lemon by the Legion, Kiwanis, the village, Masonic Lodge, Aldborough and the gathering.

Conrade Bruce Stalker, representing
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OLD FRIENDS WERE REUNITED LAST Wednesday at the International Club when Rev. Fred Dunn of Canton, Ohio, former

pastor of the Church of Christ (Disciples) West Lorne, was guest speaker at Earl Lemon Night.



EARL LEMON AMUSED HIS AUDIENCE with stories about the village and villagers in the International Club, when West Lorne Kiwanis sponsored Earl Lemon Night. Mrs. Lemon, at left, and Kiwanis President Ray

and Kiween Alice at right, laughed at some of the things he told about the night a posse of businessmen captured at Hill and Atkinson's garage and detained them all night.

Earl Lemon relates...

The night the posse caught the thieves with the goods

V. E. "Earl" Lemon obviously had the best time Wednesday night at the International Club, when West Lorne Kiwanians sponsored Earl Lemon Night and 400 attended and enjoyed a banquet and program, but most of all some of his stories.

With a few more to tell the hour was getting late so the audience was denied more for which they were willing to remain and hear.

But his best one concerned the night the posse of businessmen caught the thieves with the goods at Hill and Atkinson's garage, took them to the village lock-up where they were held overnight. Both were convicted and received jail sentences.

PHONE CALL

Mr. Lemon explained that Lloyd Brown, who operated the phone exchange at his store, called one night shortly after Mr. Lemon's wedding, to ask Earl to get his gun and come downtown because thieves were reported coming to town from Dutton in a Ford with a front bumper.

Other businessmen were phoned, including Ike Gibson, Jack Gilbert, George Norris and W. G. "Tommy" Thompson, when the latter was manager of the bank, plus others the names of whom have been forgotten.

Putting his rifle under his coat as suggested by Mr. Brown, Earl said he got down to the business section before the Ford arrived.

Pere Marquette station agent George Norris kept reporting on the situation as he

could see it from the back window of the station. When he saw two men in the garage he relayed this news by phone to Brown's store. Then the posse marched to the Graham-Main St. where Lin's Dept. Store is today, Mr. Lemon explained.

LEADER

There the group decided it needed a leader.

Mr. Lemon recalled someone suggesting he be the leader because he had been a sergeant in the war. He refused, prompting Ike Gibson to be the leader because, in Earl's words, he was a bold, outgoing character. That decided Ike took his posse the 100 feet to the garage, where the Ford with the bumper was parked.

There they roused out the two thieves, holding them for Dutton's constable's arrival, West Lorne's constable being on vacation.

One thief was held inside the car, with one of his guards outside reporting hearing a tinkling sound. It proved to be caused by the thief dropping coins down between the seat and them striking the metal of the car.

This one was sort of a nice looking thief, Mr. Lemon recalled, but the other was a tough looking individual. However, he said, he had learned not to base judgment on appearance.

The two were taken to the village's lock-up — the two-storey, white brick building on the north side of the road into Erie Flooring.

There they found one cell full of furniture, so unusable, and some straightening around required in the other before it

could house a prisoner the rest of the night.

LOOKS

Mr. Lemon couldn't recall the reason why the nice looking chap was placed in the cell with John Gilbert his guard. The tough looking customer was seated outside with Mr. Lemon his guard.

Before the posse broke up Ike Gibson gave Earl his fully loaded 38 calibre revolver just in case he had occasion to use it to keep his thief from escaping.

As the night wore on, Mr. Lemon said he found his prisoner not too bad a fellow, despite his looks.

On checking his coat he found it tweed on the outside and rubber on the inside.

"If you ever wore a coat like that,

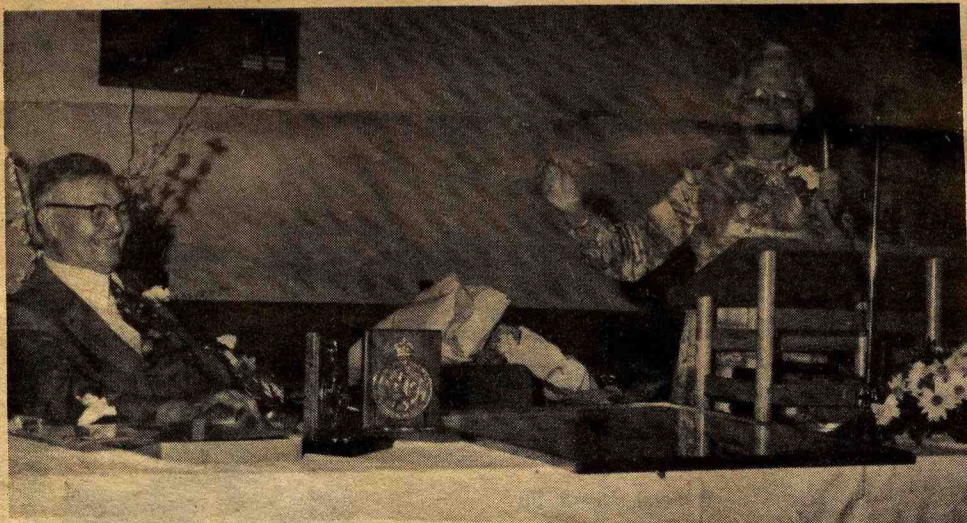
you'll realize you perspired profusely," he recounted. Not only that, but some time before Lemons store had eight of the identical coats in stock and all eight had been stolen one night.

Checking the coat further, Mr. Lemon discovered it was one of those stolen from their store.

In the morning the two thieves were taken away by police, with them finding the tough looking fellow's Thamesville area home well stocked with stolen goods from all over the area.

In the court case he was sentenced to a term in prison, and the mild manner fellow two months in reformatory.

The audience got a kick out of the story as Mr. Lemon recalled it.



MRS. LEMON PROVED A GOOD STORY teller at Wednesday's Earl Lemon Night at

the International Club, as proven by he husband's laugh.

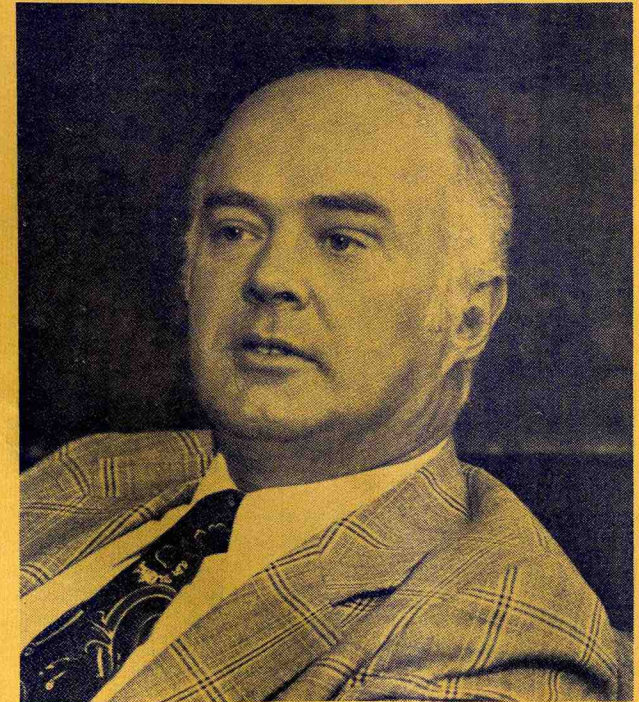
Souvenir Program
of
Wilf Johnston
Night



Outstanding Citizen
of
West Lorne

International Club
West Lorne
May 16th, 1981

25th ANNIVERSARY
RODNEY AND WEST LORNE KIWANIS CLUBS
AND
HONOUR NIGHT



Dr. Robert A. Bandeen
President Canadian National Railways

WEST ELGIN SECONDARY SCHOOL
WEST LORNE, ONTARIO
FRIDAY, APRIL 11th, 1975