



FRAMED PICTURES OF WEST LORNE were presented Thursday night to Pastor Norman and Dorothy Schlarbaum at West Lorne Kiwanis-sponsored Recognition

Night for the couple in West Elgin Legion Hall. Pictured with them are Loretta and Andrew Brndjar, daughter Ruth of London, and son John of Hamilton. Their other son,

David, was unable to attend, living in Alberta.

Rev. Andrew Brndjar speaker at recognition night for Schlarbaums

After Pastor Andrew Brndjar delivered a This is Your Life - type of address at Pastor Norman and Dorothy Schlarbaums' recognition night Thursday in West Elgin Legion Hall, everyone knew a lot more about them.

Sponsored by West Lorne Kiwanians, 160 enjoyed a roast beef banquet catered by Lorna Rebekah Lodge, which was followed by the program.

The speaker explained that Pastor Schlarbaum has given 37 years of faithful ministry — 16 years at Eastern Bible College in Peterborough, where he was Dean of Men 13 years, followed by a three-year ministry in Newmarket and 17½ years in West Lorne and Rodney Baptist churches.

When Pastor Schlarbaum was dean, Andy Brndjar was a student. Because the Dean was a good disciplinarian the speaker said students thanked God for him.

This phase of Pastor Schlarbaum's life came after he had spent five years as a

sergeant in the Army, which the speaker said was the reason for the pastor's booming voice.

"Norman's character and ministry is an example to thousands of his students and parishioners," Mr. Brndjar stated.

LETTER

A letter was read from David Mainez, host of televised 100 Huntley St., informing that he had also been a student of Pastor Schlarbaum for three years. Because of taking many courses from him, Mainez's letter explained that was the reason he went into personal evangelism. Concluding the letter were the thoughts that Mr. Schlarbaum had faithfully served his Lord for many years, and it had been a pleasure to know such a man.

A London minister wrote a letter to be read at recognition night, which stated the writer had known Mr. Schlarbaum many years, and assured he will be missed by many, but the fruits of his ministry will last for many years.

Born in Galt, of parents who owned two grocery stores, Norman always had something to do, but declined entering the business. With two sisters he attended a United Church Sunday school. Later he attended a Nazarine-Free Methodist Church, finally deciding on the Pentecostal Church, Mr. Brndjar reported.

After war service, Mr. Schlarbaum entered the Pentecostal Church's Bible College from where he graduated with honors. Because of that and his other attributes, he was asked to join the college's staff, which he did and taught 16 years.

AS A STUDENT

Being a student of Mr. Schlarbaum's, when he was Dean of Men, the speaker said students thought how they could break the college's laws. But if caught they were up on the carpet before the Dean, who was always fair.

During these years Mr. Schlarbaum continued on page 17

Pastor N. Schlarbaum recalls local ministry

Speaking at his recognition night, which West Lorne Kiwanians arranged Thursday night in West Elgin Legion Hall for 160 friends, Pastor Norman Schlarbaum reported his 17½ years of ministry being what God expected of him.

In this, he assured not many people realized what all he had done for area people through the years. While his ministry at West Lorne and Rodney Baptist Churches concluded the end of January, he reported still being called back to the area to see people.

However, now that he and his wife, Dorothy, are living retired in London, their visits to the area will be fewer.

Concerning his years here he reminisced in his address which he termed "The man with the keys."

RING OF KEYS

Coming to West Lorne he said he walked around with a ring of keys in his hand, first to the post office when it was in Earl Lemon's building, and later in the

new location in the Gangle building.

During those morning walks down town he said he always had a "Hi Neighbour" for everyone he met which, friendly greeting he said he did not find other ministers giving.

At first, he reported, Portuguese looked at him in wonderment when he greeted them so, but as time went by they accepted him and sometimes brought him into their street conversations.

Because of being accepted by them, although most are Catholic, he considered that a breakthrough with them. However, he assured there are a few Portuguese Baptists', two of whom he married and that further broke the ice with the Portuguese community.

"If you ever have an opportunity to attend one of their weddings and receptions, I recommend you accept, because food is great and abundant", he assured.

STREET CONGREGATION

As far as he was concerned, he had

two congregations — one in his churches, the other on the street.

He reported his street congregation held a going away party for him in the basement of West Lorne Community Hall at which 30 to 35 attended.

Organized by Irene McGregor, a Catholic, Father DeJonge attended, whom Pastor Schlarbaum assured was a member of his street congregation.

"Some of them attend church, and some don't, but I reached them on the street with the Word of God", he explained.

Because he was one of two or three ministers living in West Lorne, he explained that he was called on to pray at special events. One was the official opening of the village's sewer system.

Wondering what to say, he reported having looked everywhere, but couldn't find where any minister had dedicated a sewer system. And he said it no doubt

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Rev. Andrew Brndjar

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taught over 1,000 students who are scattered across Canada, United States and overseas, the speaker reported.

"All of them would have liked to have been here tonight to pay tribute to Norman, and all would have said nice things about him," Pastor Brndjar assured.

During his years at college, Pastor Brndjar reported being president of Student Council, which brought him in close contact with Dean Schlarbaum.

IN RODNEY

Coming to Rodney as pastor of the Pentecostal congregation, the speaker reported Mr. Schlarbaum would pay a visit each summer to unwind, the two going fishing during the day, and Andy arranging nightly meetings throughout the area for Mr. Schlarbaum to preach at.

That was before he proposed to Dorothy when 40 years old, the speaker recalled. Actually, he reported everyone tried to get him married off before that, but he waited to find the right lady.

However, in 1962 Mr. Brndjar reported receiving a phone call from Pastor Schlarbaum who stated he had found the right woman, and asked Andy to be his best man, which he happily accepted.

With Andy's Rodney connection, Pastor Schlarbaum was introduced to Rodney and West Lorne Baptist congregations when a Pentecostal minister at Newmarket. And this is how the Schlarbaums came here and ministered for 17½ years, Mr. Brndjar explained.

ONLY FAILING

The only failing the speaker said his friend has is his ability to carry a tune, and he proved it by playing a tape of the church's 110th anniversary, where Mr. Brndjar was guest minister. Included was some of Pastor Schlarbaum's monotone singing, tapes of which the speaker said he would sell for \$10 each. There were no takers.

A man of good humor, diligent in his

hospital visitation, which resulted in him driving thousands of miles a year to see congregation members and all others from the area, Mr. Brndjar said the community was sorry to see Pastor Schlarbaum go into retirement and move to London.

In conclusion, the speaker asked no one to be sorry for ministers who have no cottages, don't spend winters in Florida, because a University of Western Ontario professor's studies prove preachers' sex lives are longer than most other professionals, including editors, doctors, architects and other professional people.

REASON

The reason? Ministers spend more time around the house, have a quiet, more satisfying life, their wives marry for love rather than money, resulting in ministers living to ripe old ages, thus the real reasons for them having long sex lives.

Because of this, Pastor Brndjar said that should be a key to recruitment of young men into the ministry.

He congratulated Kiwanians for holding recognition night for the couple, which was a wonderful, warm and worthwhile gesture.

Kiwanian Harley Lashbrook introduced the speaker, and Kiwanian Wolfgang Leipmann thanked him.

ENTERTAINMENT

A trio of Cindy Walker, Nancy Fedor and Laurie McLeod sang several appropriate religious numbers.

Head table introductions were made by Kiwanian Winn Leipmann. Club President Bob Walker spoke briefly and presented the Schlarbaums with a half dozen pictures of West Lorne in a frame, which will be a constant reminder of their years in the village.

Kiwanian Bill Graham played the guitar and led a sing-song, accompanied at the piano by Kiwanian Ray Peckham. The latter also acted as chairman.

Schlarbaum

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was the first time the editor reported such a prayer in the paper.

"If you don't believe prayer is answered, you have to because the sewer system is still working," Mr. Schlarbaum mused.

WATER USE

"At our church they put a tv camera in the sewer line to determine why so much water was being used, then apparently not realizing baptism in our church is by immersion," he said.

"I later prayed to dedicate the water treatment plant, and the arena's new ice-making equipment."

The latter was such a great prayer the editor quoted it and it made headlines in the Mercury and Sun," he recalled to the amusement of the audience.

Referring again to his ring of keys, he reported Baptists trusted him with keys to the manse and the church, and he batted 99 percent — almost as good as the claim on Ivory soap — at turning the heat up and down, and playing the chimes.

"The keys opened many other doors — doors to people's hearts."

In his 150 visits last year to the hospitalized in Chatham, London and St. Thomas, the miles involved he assures he never considered.

HOSPITAL VISITS

But in making hospital visits he said he tried to make them different from those of other ministers. Instead, he visited as a friend or neighbour in their sickness and loneliness, no matter what church they attended, he explained.

Mr. Schlarbaum admitted missing Wilfred Johnston, because he had spent many hours with him on several visits to the hospital.

"If I forgot, Wilfred would ask for prayer. He never forgot!" the speaker said.

One of the sad aspects of his ministry was that he buried 125 choice people no matter their church affiliation.

"Some people thought Emerson Padfield phoned me to preach at funerals because the deceased didn't have a minister. In most instances they had another connection with me," he assured.

Happier times were marrying 75 couples, and as a Protestant minister he married them irrespective of their affiliations, because he understood that Jesus would have done the same thing.

GOD'S KEYS

"God gives keys to ministers, priests and everyone else interested in the beautiful outreach of life, which results in saving some from hell and for Heaven," he explained.

However, after leaving West Lorne he said he is putting away the keys he used so much locally, but in God's providence and everyone's prayers he assured he will be able to use other keys in the work of the Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ," he concluded.

Kiwanis Pres. Bob Walker thanked Pastor Schlarbaum for his message and everyone for helping to honour such a great couple. And he thanked all who made the recognition night possible, including the Legion for the use of its facilities.

In conclusion, he read verses of "If I can help somebody," which were most appropriate.

*“Wolfgang Liepmann
Night”*



**Elgin International Club
Saturday, May 23rd, 1987**

Sponsored by West Lorne Kiwanis Club Inc.