

Father Wm. G. Smith announces retirement; killed in car accident

The Sunday before Christmas Father William G. Smith surprised St. Mary's and St. Helen's parishes by announcing his retirement effective in the new year.

Before he could retire he was involved in a head-on car-bus crash south of Watford, killing him instantly Friday, December 30th.

He was southbound in his '75 Oldsmobile when he ran into the front of a Charterways bus in which the driver and two passengers were injured. His car was a complete write-off, and \$25,000 damage was done the bus.

After a post mortem the body rested in St. Mary's Church, where hundreds of parishioners and friends visited and paid their respects to the family. Prayers were said Sunday night.

What was to have been the deceased's final services Sunday morning were taken by Father Clare Coleman.

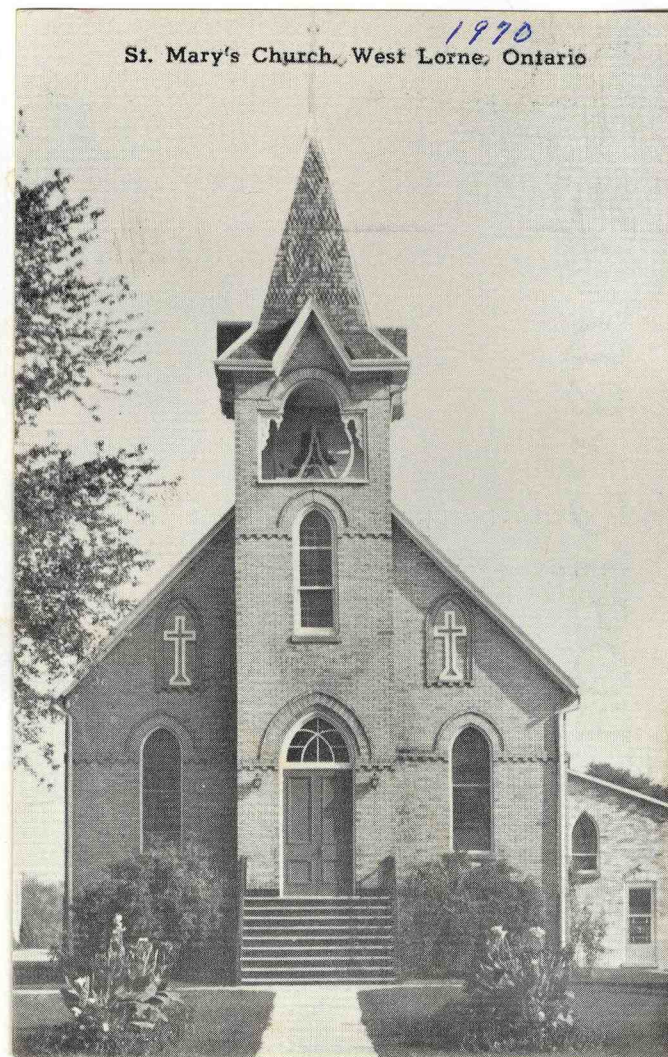
The funeral Mass was said to a crowded church Tuesday at 11 am., with interment at 2:30 in Glanworth Cemetery.

EDUCATION

Born at Glanworth 68 years ago to John and Jessie Smith, he attended public school there and Beal Technical School in London, planning a career in architecture. Later he changed his mind and graduated from Central Collegiate in London, and went on to study at University of Western Ontario.

Interested in music, he became an organist at an early age, being organist at All Saints' Anglican Church in London, while a university student.

Studying music with the organist of St. Paul's Cathedral, he was the youngest organist at the church the summer he was converted to Roman Catholicism.

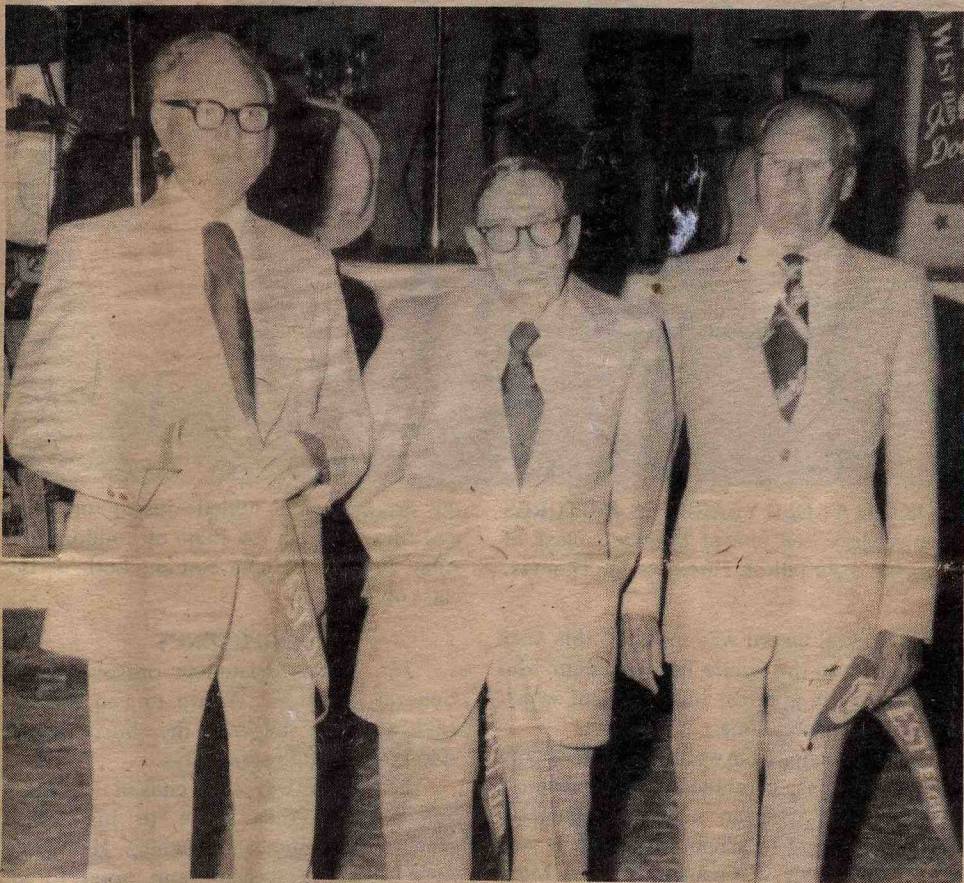


Saturday night's WESS reunion



FIVE MEMBERS OF THE ORIGINAL Students' Council attended: Jean Reid Leitch of Largie, Joe Fischer, Bob Ronson of Orangeville, Jill Arnold Soos the Treasurer, and Jon Jewell the President. Mercury-Sun Photo

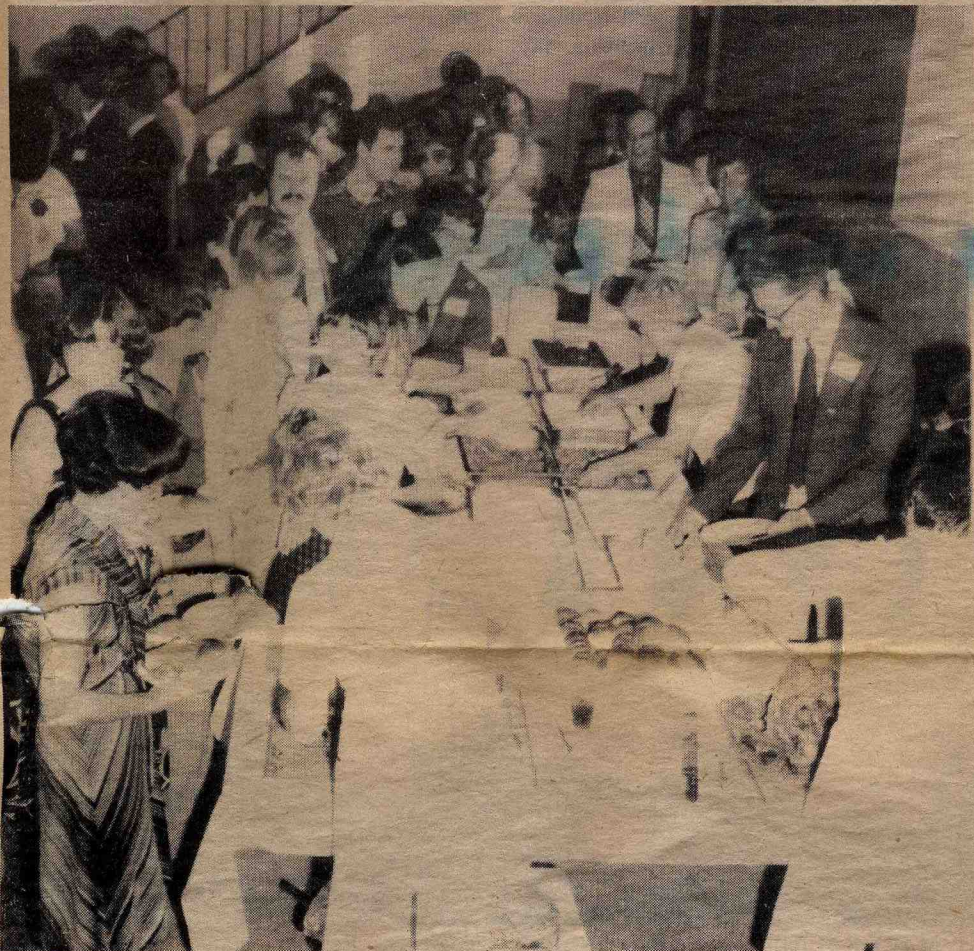
WESS'
25th



FORMER WESS BOARD MEMBERS Arnold Lee was recognized for having served the longest of anyone, and Joe Kearns and Wilfred Rewbotham for being original Board members. The only other original was Earl Lemon, who was a member prior to the school being built. Mercury-Sun Photo



ATTENDING FROM THE FURTHEST were Lillian Gemmel Keller of Sacramento, Calif., Pat Johnston of Vancouver, BC, and sister Linda Johnston Buker of Chetwyne, BC. Mercury-Sun Photo



ROAST BEEF SMORGASBORD WAS served to over 1,000 Saturday evening, with lines forming on both sides of two tables in the large room at the front of the arena, before individuals proceeded to the arena floor where tables and chairs were set up.



HUNDREDS OF FORMER WESS STUDENTS crowded the west end of the arena from five o'clock until the wee hours of the morning, first visiting with their former school chums, then enjoying a beef smorgasbord and finally dancing to the music of Johnny Downs and his orchestra. Mercury-Sun Photo



Old West Lorne Public School