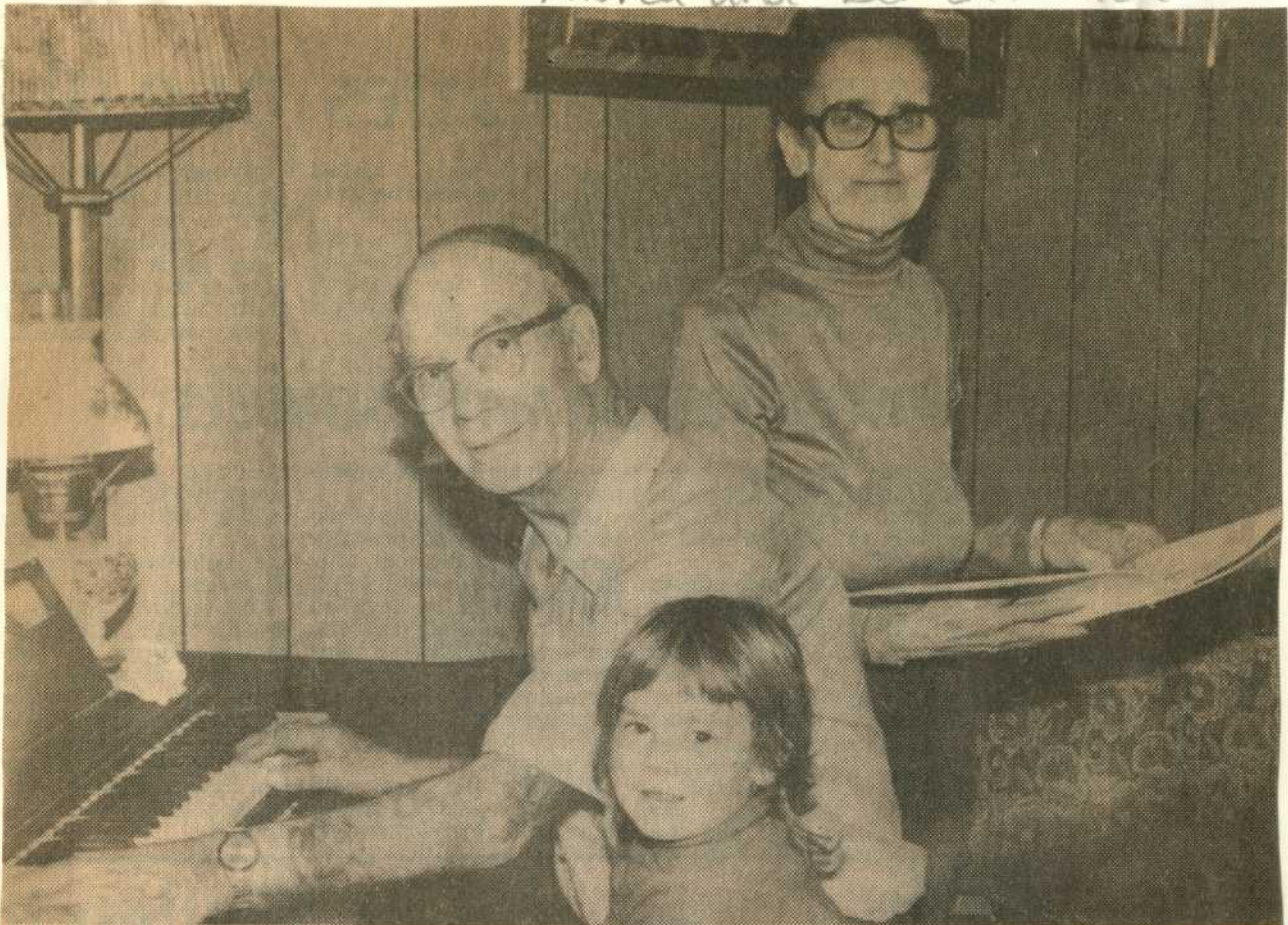


Alfred and Bertha Mead



Right in tune

Alfred and Bertha Mead of Cherry Valley are senior citizens who keep in tune with the music of the younger generation. Both are excellent dancers and singers and

this week their granddaughter Sarah enjoyed a duet performed by the enthusiastic pair.

Retirement philosophy *Wed Apr 10/80*

You've got to keep on moving

By MARG HAYLOCK
Staff Reporter

CHERRY VALLEY - When Alfred and Bertha Mead put on their dancing shoes and whirl across the floor in a polka, they are declaring their special philosophy of life.

"If you just sit around home and never do anything, you die," said Mead, 71, whose social calendar might exhaust a man 30 years his junior.

"We love life. I've never regretted retirement," he said.

His wife, who just celebrated her 65th birthday, said she and her husband often cannot find enough hours in the day for their hobbies and club duties.

"Wherever there's a singsong, that's where you'll

find us," said Mead, who has sung for 34 years in the Cherry Valley United Church choir.

Mead, who is a tenor, and his wife, who sings soprano, visit Rickarton Castle Hotel in Picton, frequently, to join in the singalongs.

"It's my second love," said Mead, who finds playing the organ his favorite pastime.

In addition to his enthusiasm for music and singing, Mead is a dancer of versatility and style. He and his wife may have waltzed during their courtship in England but today they rock and roll, polka and do the twist, as well.

"I don't want to sit back and listen to modern music but you can't beat it for dancing," said Mead.

"When he starts dancing at 9 p.m. there is no stopping

him until the dance is finished," said Mrs. Mead.

The couple bowls one night each week, attends a senior citizens club meeting once weekly and plays darts. Both are members of Branch 78, Royal Canadian Legion and Mrs. Mead is secretary of the Overseas Women's Association. She is also secretary of the United Church Women's group.

Mr. and Mrs. Mead take part in the Cherry Valley Bluebird Class and are members of the senior citizens' choir.

Alfred Mead was born in Bromley, Kent, England and came to Prince Edward County with his family in 1925. He worked on his father's farm in Bethel, until 1939, when he joined the Hasty P's. He served in the army for six years and was a prisoner of war in Germany for two years.

"I was captured in Sicily and imprisoned in Stalag 5B, Oflag 5A and Moosburg," he said.

Mead and his wife, who was born in Shoreham-By-Sea, Sussex met during the war and were married in England. This Saturday, April 12, they will celebrate their 39th anniversary.

The Meads have returned to England on vacation and both found the country greatly changed.

"He wore me out in England. He went right to the top of all those castles," said Mrs. Mead.

When Alfred Mead has spare time, he paints. His art work became important to him when he was a prisoner of war, drawing with crayons supplied by the Red Cross. He still keeps a sketch book filled during the war years.

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