



### Bride of 76 years

Bernard and Ida May Ryckman will be celebrating their 76th wedding anniversary on Sunday. They met in grade school and often saw each other at church services.

It was love at first sight for the couple.

(Photo - Marg Haylock)

# Couple celebrates 76th anniversary

By MARG HAYLOCK  
Staff Reporter

PICTON - Bernard Morris is not superstitious about the number 13 for he was born on April 13, 1888 and on Dec. 13, 1905 he married his bride of 76 years, Ida May Ryckman.

"There's nothing unlucky about 13," he says, while making plans to celebrate his 76th wedding anniversary this Sunday.

Skeptics may discount love at first sight but the Morrises say they knew, immediately, that they were right for one another.

"She was the only girl I ever went with," says Morris, 93, speaking of his wife, who is also 93 years old.

The couple met in grade school and often saw each other at church services. On Sunday evenings, Morris courted his bride-to-be, while walking her home from church. When they said good-night at the front gate her father, on more than one occasion, reminded the young lovers that it was after nine p.m.

The Morrises were married

in Bloomfield by the Reverend D.S. Houck on Dec. 13, 1905. They arrived at Bloomfield United Church in a rented livery rig, after dancing until dawn at a party the night before.

At the turn of the century, honeymoons were not a common tradition and Bernard and May Morris, both 17, settled into married life at their Huff's Corners farm immediately following their marriage. They later lived on farms in Hillier and Cherry Valley and moved to Picton in 1929.

Both say that marriage was

a much more serious step, when they said 'I do', 76 years ago, than it is today.

"You never heard tell of a divorce then. I knew just one man that separated from his wife," Morris says.

The Morrises say that the key to a long and happy marriage is the ability to work together.

"You know that when you get married," Mrs. Morris says.

Throughout their courtship and in the early years of their marriage the couple enjoyed

the community dances that formed an important part of

the social life of rural Prince Edward. Frequently, the dances were held in private homes and carpet tacks were pulled in order to roll back the rug. Square dancing was popular, with some round dancing for variety. Dances often continued until five or six a.m. and May Morris can remember driving home, once at 9 a.m., with the sun shining on their cutter.

The Morrises also enjoyed community euchre parties and Bernard Morris still plays cards regularly.

The couple lived at their Hill Street home for many years before an accident forced them to move. Three years ago, Mrs. Morris fell from a porch and injured her leg. She is now a resident of Picton Manor Nursing Home, while Bernard Morris resides with his daughter-in-law, Gwen, wife of the couple's only son, the late Irvin Morris.

The Morrises have one daughter, Mrs. Eva Gledhill of Chateaugay, Quebec.