

BY ANN KELLY

Family Living Editor

"Pretty soon down all, it's nothing worth writing about," said Mrs. Mary Rydall of Wharfedale, reflecting on 100 years of history.

Mr. Rydall was referring to her own life as she crossed the threshold into the second century of living on Dec. 2.

It was in Yorkshire, England, in 1874 that William Stephen Whiting and his wife Margaret welcomed their first child into the family. Little Mary's birth coincided a six-mile walk for her father to get a doctor.

Reflecting on her childhood Mary Rydall said, "I could read before I went to school, my father taught me. He was a well educated man."

How did she react to separate schools for boys and girls?

"I look it as a matter of course and didn't think much about it at all."

Mary Rydall was christened in the Church of England.

"My mother's father was very strict, he wouldn't allow you to even read the paper on Sunday. There was nothing done on Sunday that couldn't be done on Monday. I'm thankful for that," she added.

Mrs. Rydall has never played cards in her life and never danced.

"Oh that damned aught, but I never cared for it. I was a great big girl before I ever saw a movie, but I had a very good life."

"They used to have concerts and such like, and travelling shows used to come to the village," Mrs. Rydall recalled. "My father was quite a talented singer. You paid a penny for a concert."

Mrs. Rydall used to teach Sunday School in England. She was always a good reader. This might be attributed, at least in part, to the fact that her father's uncle was an author.

Mrs. Rydall can't see well enough to read now but added, "I can remember what I have

read and can read them over in my mind. I know the Bible well and have read to me many of the prophetic fulfilled. I don't think the old world is going to stand many years. Nobody knows, of course, but the signs are there. Don't you think it's a pretty wicked old world, all for pleasure?" she queried.

Mrs. Rydall married Berford Ordner William Ewart Gladstone Rydall about a year after coming to Canada. His parents came from England and settled around Berford Lake. Hence his mother wanted the name Berford. His father, a conservative, was a follower of Gladstone, hence the name Gladstone. When they were married Mr. Rydall was a widower with two sons, Richard Liner Rydall lives in Owen Sound and Gordon Clifford Rydall lives in Durham. Mr. Rydall died in October of 1902, according to his wife.

Mrs. Rydall, who keeps almost all current events through the radio, doesn't think people are as happy today as when she was young.

"So little around us then. It takes so much now to amuse children."

Reflecting on Christmas in England Mrs. Rydall said, "We used to go around to visit people a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. There wasn't much under the tree but we always hung our stockings up. I can remember getting a rag doll once. It was very good, I guess, but I buried it in the sewing box." Mrs. Rydall was definitely not

impressed with that doll.

Mr. and Mrs. A. J. V. Lomber had a birthday party for Mrs. Rydall to celebrate a century of living. The tiny guest of honor made the trip to the Lomber home without incident. She has been living in the Hilltop Nursing Home, Wharfedale, since her husband died. During the day she shook hands with about 100 people.

In making conversation Mrs. Rydall said, "I think I'm wearing me. I can't use my right hand. I have friends come and read to me. I like Dickens' works and all that kind. I have those books, all of the old fashioned novels."

If she had her life to live over Mrs. Rydall can't think of a thing she would change. She says she had good parents and grandparents, and two good boys.