

# Wants to keep Orange Hall

Dec. 2, 1976

Orange Lodge No. 938 presently has only about 44 members, with just one or two of these still residing in the Purple Valley area. The Lodge will be disbanding in the near future, after operating for over 100 years.

The story of Orange Lodge No. 938 "is a history story of a success, a story of a Lodge that survived and flourished while neighbouring lodges succumbed to the pressure of adverse circumstances," says a 90 year history of the Lodge written in 1961 by members Lorne Hambly and Allan Howe.

The Lodge began in Colpoys Bay in 1870, when members had to trudge many miles over roads that were little more than bush trails to attend meetings.

In May of 1879, the Lodge moved to Purple Valley, which was then known as the Watchhorn Settlement. A year later, members of the Lodge discussed "the advisability of admitting well-conducted Indians into the Orange Order." This they did the following year, in 1881.

Up until 1886 the Lodge had been meeting in the schoolhouse but that year they passed a motion to build an Orange Hall on the north side of the schoolhouse.

In 1889 a motion was approved to have James Crawford build

the new hall for \$20, and it was erected by 1890.

In 1926, they began making plans to have a new hall erected on the same site, and this work was completed by 1936. This is the structure that still stands there today, and its a link with local history that community members are understandably reluctant to let slip through their fingers.

One question that may be in many minds is what will happen to the Purple Valley Maple Syrup Festival if the Lodge Hall is no longer available for community use.

Edna Cook, on the Festival committee, said that it may go ahead on a smaller scale, but it will definitely not be run in conjunction with Purple Valley Orange Hall fate uncertain.

A meeting Tuesday night in Purple Valley failed to resolve whether or not the citizens of that hamlet will be able to purchase the community's Orange Hall.

An offer of purchase has been made on the hall by a Torontonian, Les McLean, who attended the meeting with Purple Valley residents Tuesday night.

According to Audrey Hepburn, Mr. McLean told the meeting that he had not obtained a release from the purchase agreement, which expires Dec-

ember 17.

However, Mrs. Hepburn told the Echo that solicitor for the Purple Valley residents, Peter Pegg, informed them that Mr. McLean did indeed have a release.

If the latter is the case, the community of Purple Valley will meet with the Grand Master of Orange Lodge No. 938, to make arrangements to purchase the hall.

Mrs. Hepburn stressed that members of the community felt they should not have to pay full price for the Lodge Hall, since it was established by their forefathers, but they will pay any reasonable price to obtain it.

The Orange Lodge Hall in Purple Valley is very important to members of the community. Many met their husbands or wives there, smoked their first cigarette there, and had their first taste of an alcoholic beverage there.

They are upset that when the Orange Lodge No. 938 decided to sell their hall, they did not give the community the first chance to buy it, but rather merely listed it with Bennett Real Estate. Before the community had a chance to organize regarding its purchase, Mr. McLean had already stepped forward with an offer.

The Orange Lodge No. 938,

says a member, "took the wise step and put it (the hall) up for sale. The Lodge has no objection to the Purple Valley people having it, but that young man came forward so quickly he took everyone by surprise.

## Purple Valley

DEC. 2, 1976

(by Audrey Hepburn)

-Mr. and Mrs. Bob Bolton and Leslie, Don Mills, visited with Clifford and Betty Gilbert on Saturday.

-Mrs. Helen McCartney has been staying at Bill Wrights, Hepworth while they are away for a holiday.

-Recent visitors at the Cooks were Mr. and Mrs. William John Crawford, Wiarton, Lila Cuthbert and Carol Ann.

-Several of the ladies from this community played in an exhibition broomball game at the Wiarton Arena on Sunday. Many attended the weekend tournament and dance.

-Rachel Hepburn is very proud to have won first prize in the Legion Essay Contest on "Remembrance Day". Cathy Cook received an honorable mention in the same contest.

-Mr. Finn, Michael White and friend were up for the weekend from Toronto.

-Herb and Norma Urbshott and family came to call on Lottie Urbshott for awhile on Sunday afternoon.

-The fate of our local hall is still undecided. Several meetings have been held to see if it couldn't be kept as a community centre.

-Bill and I had as guests for Sunday supper Steve Wallace, Garnet Chaney and Eric Puze, Penetanguishene. It never ceases to amaze me all the nice and interesting people we meet in this sawmill business. It seems we aren't the only ones with sawdust in our blood.

- "Rocks" are what Debbie Gilbert and Rachel Hepburn have in their blood. They spent all day Saturday at the Curling Club, along with a good number of other young people learning how to curl. Both seemed to enjoy it very much.

-Election day will soon be here. Don't forget to go out and vote.

-I know what we are doing at our house but I don't know what you are doing at yours. Phone me 534-0188.

Dec. 9, 1976

[By Audrey Hepburn]

- Lorne Hepburn visited with Nora and Ron Fenner, Wiarton, and enjoyed Sunday supper with them.

- On Saturday night Clifford and Sharon Gilbert attended the Keady Christmas concert held for the staff and reported an enjoyable evening.

- Bill and Judy Glassford had a number of guests over the weekend: Steve Burt of Burlington and Paul Burt of Waterloo, John and Jan Burt and children, Johnathan and Jennifer of Wiarton. Friday night Judy and Bill were guests at a "Miracle Maid" party at Don and Maureen Crow's.

- Cathy Cook spent the weekend with Wendy Gatis at Colpoys Bay. Carol Cook visited with Brenda Barfoot in Wiarton.

- Kim Gilbert was seen marching proudly with the majorettes at the Santa Claus parade on Saturday. Connie Cook took part in the clown band. Did you girls get to whisper in Santa Claus' ear what you would like for Christmas?

- Don't forget the Women's Institute meeting at Mrs. Gail Gilbert's this Thursday evening.

- Achievement Day for the 4-H Clubs was held on Saturday, December 4th at the Wiarton High School. This project was called "Leisure Wear" and the girls made some beautiful nighties, pyjamas, caftans and housecoats for themselves. Mrs. Elaine Rouse and Mrs. Eva Goodale were the leaders for the Purple Valley Club which had seven members: Carol Urbshott, Connie Cook, Connie Cunningham, Debbie Gilbert, Eileen White, Rachel Hepburn and Shelley Blandin. If you were ever a leader you will know and appreciate how much effort is put in by these leaders to teach the girls something about cooking or sewing. Besides all the good things the girls learn they each receive a silver spoon for each project completed.

The afternoon programme is very enjoyable with each club putting on a skit or demonstration for the visiting mothers and

Monday evening here are several off the cuff remarks heard..... Bill Hepburn, "Imagine an old fellow like me heading the polls again."

Wilf Ashcroft, "I was just a bit worried there for awhile. I knew we had some keen competition with two women running against us."

Doug Thompson was not available for comment. He must anticipate two years of hard work and stayed home to get rested up.

All in all I feel they are very conscientious and will do a good job.

guests. I really enjoyed my afternoon and if you want your daughter to learn some really worthwhile ideas about home-making, let her get involved in 4-H. There is another project coming up in January.

- Our municipal election is over again and by your vote the councillors and reeves have been chosen.

In Albemarle Township Bill Hepburn, Wilf Ashcroft and Doug Thompson were elected to sit on council for the next two years.

At a gathering of friends and well-wishers at our house on

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