

Couple marks 70th anniversary

# Port Elgin man found a treasure

By ANN KELLY  
Family Living Editor

"Know what you're looking for," is the advice of Jim Cluely of Port Elgin who found a treasure 70 years ago and has been reaping the benefits since.

His treasure was Matilda Louise Christman, daughter of the late Philipe-na Durst and William Christmann of North Bruce. James William Cluely, son of the late Mary Anne Robinson and Thomas Cluely of Port Elgin, took her as his bride on May 29, 1912, in the Evangelical Church in Port Elgin.

"It was as cold as the dickens, and wet that day. I had a good top buggy and used the oil cloth up front to keep the rain from coming in," he remembered. The couple travelled all the way to Paisley by CNR to spend the day following their morning wedding.

"I'm going to tell you she could build a load of grain," he said proudly of his wife. When the First World War was on she donned coveralls and worked as the "hired hand."

"You had to work with the men to make things go," explained Mrs. Cluely who took her place, indoors or out, as needed. "She wasn't frightened to get in and clean out a calf pen," Mr. Cluely confided. "Hard work is the secret to a long and happy marriage. I always felt better coming home at night ready for bed."

The couple did mixed farming until Mr. Cluely retired at age 65, then he took up carpentry work for 12 years or so. He built his house at North Bruce after retiring from the farm.

Remaking clothes came easily to Mrs. Cluely. "And we wore them proud as a peacock," said her son, Austin. His first baby clothes were made from his mother's white embroidered wedding gown. "She sewed and patched and made for other people too."

Mr. Cluely gave up smoking in 1974, but tried rolling a cigarette last Christmas, just to see if he still could. Up

until a recent trip to the hospital, he occasionally still used chewing tobacco.

Austin put in the garden this year, only because Mr. Cluely was in hospital, but he has certainly been out checking things over. There are apple, pear, cherry and apricot trees on the property and Mr. Cluely confesses that last summer he used a BB gun to save the cherries from birds. He's recognized as a crack shot.

The couple moved to Port Elgin in 1967 and still have their own apartment in the home owned by their son, Austin. Other family members include a daughter, Reba, Mrs. Howard Collins, also of Port Elgin, and a son, Eric, of Durham. There are seven grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Mr. and Mrs. Cluely are members of the United Church. Until last summer Mr. Cluely still drove the car. They both enjoy flowers and gardening, and neither is very far away from a good game of euchre.

As seniors Mr. Cluely says, "I think we are getting darned well looked after. I don't think there are very many people complaining." There isn't much he can't tell you about the area ball and hockey teams. He's proud of the fact that a special spot is saved for him at the park during ball season.

"I didn't feel any job was too tough for me, but cutting corn by hand was hard work. Eight of us could have an eight-acre field down by 11 in the morning, cutting by hand with a hoe." It wasn't uncommon for him to be on his way to the bush with a team and sleigh by 4 a.m.

Mrs. Cluely is the last surviving member of a family of six. Mr. Cluely has a brother, George and a sister, Hannah, Mrs. Jim Maas, still living in Port Elgin.

Mr. and Mrs. Cluely were guests of honor at a family dinner on Saturday evening. Messages of congratulations were received from the Queen, Prime



Sun Times photo

Mr. and Mrs. Jim Cluely

Minister Trudeau, the Governor General, as well as members of parliament.

Pride in his bride is very evident with Mr. Cluely. "She was a good cook. No-

body could make buttermilk biscuits as good as her, and she could still make them today, it would just take her longer," he said in jest.

Warm congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. James Cluely of Port who celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary last Saturday, May 29th. Can anyone top this? How lucky they are to have had so many happy years together. Three cheers to you both.



The 1989-90 outgoing executive of the Bruce Centre District Women's Institute assembled in Mour Hope, last Tuesday. From left to right are: Ev Faust, Jean Fenton, Janet MacKenzie, Eileen Ribey, Eleanor McLelland, Edna McCarrel, Ilene Stewart.