

50th wedding anniversary

Congratulations to Howard and Jean Murray of Stratford on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. An open house was held at St. Johns United Church, Stratford on Sunday planned by their family Pat Cook, Cher Evans, Debbie Masters and Jim Murray.

Howard Murray and Jean Ross were married at the farm home of the brides parents near Embro on April 22, 1942 and lived in Embro, Woodstock and now Stratford.

Howard was employed by WOBI of Woodstock for 38 years and in those years he drove 2,000,000 miles for the company according to the mileage on all his cars. He is now retired but is a member of the Tri County Heritage Club in Ilderton and owns antique tractors, also a member of the Rotary Club, golfing and curling.

Jean does quilting and they love to travel. A Japanese girl that was here years ago on Rotary Exchange was in Canada again and was at the party.

The bridesmaid and best man Wally Ross of 50 years were in attendance also six grandchildren and one great grandchild. The granddaughters were in charge of the quest book.

The ladies of St. John United Church served the lunch to the large crowd of relatives, friends and neighbours.

AN OPEN HOUSE was held at St. Johns United Church Stratford on Sunday to mark the 50th wedding anniversary of Howard and Jean Murray of Stratford.



Cut paper dolls not usual ribbon at opening

By BARBEL HATJE
of The Sentinel-Review

EMBRO — The kids were busy coloring a chain of paper dolls for the opening celebration of the Embro Parent/Child Drop-In. Local dignitaries would later cut the ribbon of dolls.

Embro has the fifth rural drop-in established in the county since 1988. All are facilitated by Oxford Community Child Care (OCCC), and the Embro program is also financed by the Embro-West Zorra Optimist Club.

The program provides mothers with a program of speakers, crafts and cooking demonstrations while their children enjoy a craft and play program with their peers. The group meets Fridays 9:30 - 11 a.m. at Knox Presbyterian Church.

"I think the women who are at home need the support of other women and they need a break from childcare. It gives them the opportunity to be together with other adults," said Janet Stephens, OCCC program co-ordinator. "They come for the children as well, so that their children can play with other children."

It also helps children adjust to separation from their parents. That is good preparation for kindergarten, said Stephens. The pro-



THE EMBRO PARENT/CHILD DROP-IN opening was celebrated with the cutting of a chain of dolls colored by the kids. Participating in the cutting are (from left) Suzanne Stoop, board member, Robert Walton, president of the Embro-West Zorra Optimists, Kathy Fraser and her son Cory, program participants, Karen Karn,

child facilitator, Jim Gibb, mayor of the township of Zorra and an Optimist, Andrew Turnbull, minister of Knox Presbyterian Church and an Optimist, Ken Minler, lt. gov. of Zone 4 Optimists, and Kerrie Maycock, child facilitator.

(Staff photo by Barbel Hatje)

gram is for kids from birth to school age.

In Kintore and Otterville, where the programs were started in 1988, as well as in Innerkip and Salford, an average of 11-18 adults and 17-29 children attend the program.

"In one group we had 42 children one morning," said Stephens.

And the program has led to a lot of support outside of meeting days amongst the women, she said.

Two city drop-ins have also started this year. Both are co-oper-

ative efforts between OCCC and the churches where they are held.

The opening of the parent/child drop-in at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Ingersoll was celebrated Friday, Knox Presbyterian Church in Woodstock opens Nov. 5.