



SCHOOL BELL TOWER BECOMES WISHING WELL
Mrs. B. Etwell, Betty Fox By Old S.S. 2

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Bell Tower Comes To E

South Monaghan Watches Changes

Little Red School House Just A House

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BEWDLEY (ENS)—A 72-year-old South Monaghan man went back to "school" recently.

A dog took-up residence in a schoolhouse bell-tower.

Babies and a television set are taking-up schoolroom space.

It sounds odd, but that's what happens when a "little red school house" became just a little red house.

Across South Monaghan Township, onetime schoolhouses are sprouting video aerials and signs heralding new ownership.

For one example, take S.S. 3, known in the area as South Monaghan school from the date of its construction (1827) until 1958 when it went out of use.

A dwindling district population and shrinking enrolment forced it to close.

Now a neat sign announces it is the hall of Loyal Orange Lodge 853 (L.O.B. 1336), and 33 lodge members have replaced the freckle-nosed small fry.

For more than half-a-century after it was built, S.S. 5 boasted no more facilities than its counterparts across Ontario. Then, in 1927, with school enrolment already on the downgrade, what amounted to a sweeping change

was made—a woodshed was added.

Now the woodshed is part of a kitchen and volunteer work by lodge members has completely changed the interior.

S.S.4, "the Bensfort school," is in much the same boat.

Built in 1877, it boasted with in two years an attendance of 82 pupils. Forty-odd years later, in 1923, the luxurious addition of a piano did nothing to halt dwindling enrolment, and attractions added in the ensuing years, while they stemmed the tides of change, couldn't halt them altogether.

Now the Bensfort school is a summer home for Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Adamson of Toronto. If the Adamsons have their way, it will become a permanent home. Mr. Adamson is hoping for a job transfer in Peterborough.

Its once-narrow windows have been widened, proclaiming the change that's much more obvious inside.

In place of the rows of desks a modern kitchen is shaping up, and a comfortable living room with built-in bookcase is virtually complete.

S.S. 3, once known as "the Brick" and thought to be the first brick school of the area, is about 100 years old.

But neither is it a schoolhouse.

Recalled vividly by an 83-year-old district resident as "my school," it's now the permanent home of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Lane and their two daughters, Sharon, 2, and Linda, 5.

Mrs. Lane herself is an alum-

completed his planned renovations.

The classroom has now become a living room, kitchen and two bedrooms.

Mr. Thom installed a new ceiling below the old, pushed the kitchen into what was the girls' washroom, used material from the washroom to build part of a porch he has added,

and turned the bell tower into an eye-catching wishing well on the lawn.

Original steps of the school now serve the porch, and the woodshed has been replaced by a two-car, all-metal garage.

S.S. 1, the Bailieboro school, did not become a hall or a home, but probably largely be-

cause it

in 1942.

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