

## Wellburn Caterers

# A Visit To Wellburn

By Jack Matthison

For the next few weeks the Village of Wellburn will be featured. Its businesses and a group of ladies who made the village famous, "The Wellburn Caterers" will be highlighted. To write about the "Caterers" is a pleasure for a country lad who enjoys charm, hospitality, reliability and good food "country style" that has been a legend for 10 years in the Wellburn area.

It all began in 1967 when five ladies agreed to supply food for 450 people at the West Nissouri Township Centennial Ball in Thornedale. It turned out so well that the group of Roberta Atwell, Mabel Patterson, Vera Baynes, Shirley Baynes and Edna Wiseman started taking orders for weddings, anniversaries, the St. Marys Rotary Club (where they have served weekly meals since 1968), the St. Marys Kinsmen and Lions. The Upper Thames River Conservation Authority has enjoyed their meals and at the St. Marys Golf and Curling Club the group have served bonspiels, tournaments and banquets. They have travelled as far as London to serve the curling club and received praise for their accomplishments of tasty home cooking.

They have served at 153 weddings and in the Christmas season four or five banquets a week. They even had four engagements in one evening which was one of the times the ladies called in competent help from the neighbours for serving or cleaning up. They also received support from their own families at home.

How a group becomes so much in demand being asked time and time again to cater stems from the fact they never served anything but home cooked meals from their own ovens. They never purchased any restaurant equipment to speed up the volume of food cooked.

Mrs. Baynes mentioned that in 1967 they received \$2.00 a plate for their meals, ten years later the price had risen to \$5. Only two engagements have been missed (both on account of stormy weather). They also went to a trousseau tea one day early, but seeing that these ladies have hearts that

like to please, a day early would not alter their thinking of each other.

ON request costumes were worn to suit the occasion and meals served to go with the event, (like serving cold poached salmon which none of the ladies had tried before). So it can be seen that their dedication to everyone has made them a little tired and they have decided to call it quits. Now, they plan to take it a little easier at home, because serving away in bad weather of the winter time has made their job very treacherous over the past three winters.

The day Bob Brien and Jack Matthison called to take pictures, the first thing asked to enjoy was a cup of coffee and an assortment of dainties. These were impossible to refuse at the home of Lorne and Roberta Atwell. The pictures of Lorne driving champion horses for himself and for the late Walter Clarke at different fairs were on the walls making for good viewing. The hospitality of Roberta, Mabel, Vera, Edna and Shirley was very much enjoyed as they reminisce about the satisfaction of serving so many and the enjoyment of each others' company.

### THE WELLBURN STORE

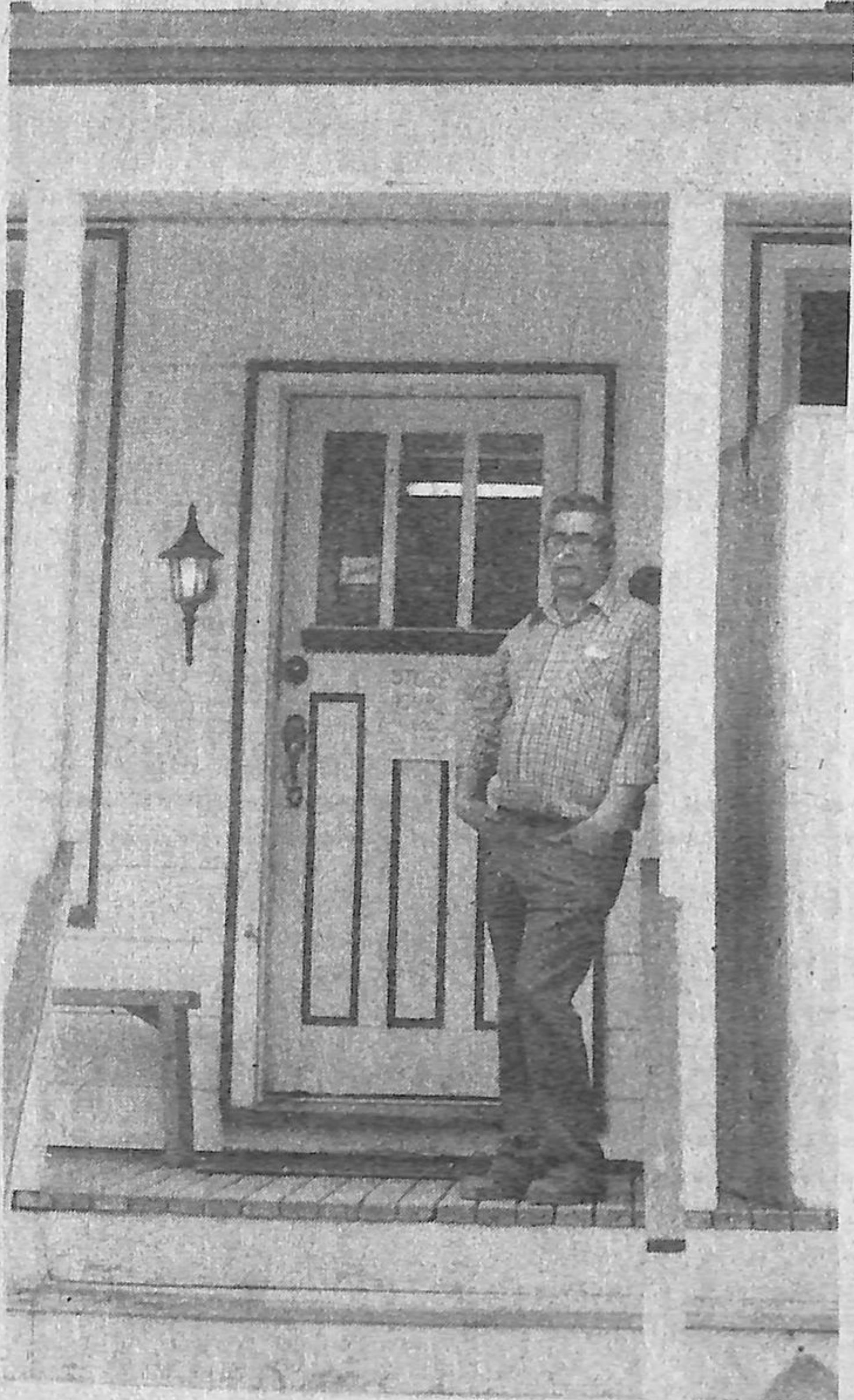
Mr. James Burns built and run the hamlet of "Opposition Corners" first grocery store on the same corner where it now stands.

It had the first Post Office and it is believed that the Postal Authorities in Ottawa changed the name to "Wellburn". The name comes from two local families, "Burns" and "Wells".

Other store owners have been Mr. Waites, Mr.

Randall, Mr. Falconer, Mr. McMurray, W. J. Jameson, Al. Marshall, Richard Quance, Roy King, Scott Kerr, Gordon Bonnell, Lorne McAndrew, Ronald Davies, Mrs. Grace Braby and the present owner Bob Ayers who reopened the Wellburn Store on March 1st

WELLBURN  
GENERAL  
STORE



THE WELLBURN GENERAL STORE was re-opened March 1 by Bob Ayers.



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THE WELLBURN CATERERS, AFTER serving splendid meals in the area for 10 years have finally "tossed in their aprons". Here reflecting the past over a cup of coffee are, left, Roberta Atwell, Edna Wiseman, Shirley Baynes, Mabel Patterson, and Vera Baynes. (Staff Photo)