

Browns Sunday School Anniversary

June 25/80

Brown's Sunday School celebrated the 200 Anniversary of the founding of the Sunday School with a birthday party last Sunday morning.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Tate and family were guests at the wedding of Ronald

McLellan to Laurie Leslie, in Thamesford United Church last Saturday.

Mrs. Jack McMurray held a "Trousseau Tea" in honour of her daughter Sharon's forth-coming marriage.

Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Tate were guests at the wedding reception following the marriage of Shirley Harkes to Rod Mitchell, in the St. Marys Arena.

A shower was held in Brown's School, last Thursday night in honour of Sharon McMurray. Mrs. Murray Taylor was Master of Ceremonies and called on Mrs. John Conway and Mrs. Hubert Uren, to lead in a sing-song.

Heather Brooks favoured with a piano solo followed by a reading by Jodi McKay.

Mary Brookes gave a piano solo, followed by a reading by Mrs. Fred Arthur. Kristina Tate gave a piano solo, followed by a duet by Nancy West and Dianne Henderson.

A "holstein cow" which had jumped the fence from "Farmer Miller's" pasture field, wandered in to chat a while and provided everyone with laughs galore.

Mrs. Edythe Howe, a former teacher of Sharon's spoke briefly of Sharon's school days and expressed warmest wishes for the

future.

Lisa McKay gave a piano solo.

Sylvia Marcellus read the

address and Sharon opened her many beautiful gifts and thanked everyone in her usual amiable manner.

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Students Enjoy Playday

A J Baker and Wildwood Park students had an enjoyable day on Monday as the two schools got together for a playday. The day was filled with games, races and tug-of-war.

Last week, an old toy collection belonging to Mrs. Erma Beaty was shown, and Mrs. Dyer taught a unit on pioneer toys. Sorry for the error in the previous column.

Mrs. George Quinn acted as chairman for the Grade 8 Graduation on Tuesday evening. Those present were entertained as the Grade 5-6-7 classes danced the Patty Cake Polka and the Virginia Reel under the direction of Mrs. Mann. The Grade 4 class presented a humorous skit, and Tom McLeod recited a poem, "Highlights of Schooldays". Mr. Gordon Calder introduced the guest speaker, Reverend Wesley Ball of Thamesford. Mr. Ball spoke to the graduates on the importance of excellence. If you take the excellence from within yourself, and add to it he wisdom you receive from God, you shall achieve greatness. This formed the basis for Mr.

Ball's talk. The grade 8 class presented Mr. Ball with a gift of appreciation.

Mr. Reg Cartmale, principal, presented the awards, Academic Proficiency to Stephanie Baldwin from Mrs. John Conway on behalf of Browns Womens Institute; Most Improved in English Literature to Suzette Pastoor from Mrs. Wallace Heron; Mathematics Proficiency to David Bleiker from Mrs. Jim McPherson; Science Proficiency to Brent Hryniw from Mr. Cartmale; Industrial Arts Proficiency to Tom McLeod and family Studies Proficiency to Stephanie Baldwin from Mrs. Doug Spearin on behalf of Kintore Womens Institute; French Proficiency to Diana Hunter from Mr. Cartmale on behalf of Kintore Grain; History Proficiency to Kirsten Petereit from Mr. Cartmale on behalf of the Admiral McDougal IODE; Geography Proficiency to Sarah Slater from Mr. Cartmale; English Proficiency to Diana Hunter from Mr. Cartmale; Overall Student to Stephanie Baldwin from Mrs. Wallace Heron; John Bolton Award to Don Guthro from Mrs. Slater on

behalf of the Uniondale Womens Institute; Academic Proficiency Plaques to Stephanie Baldwin and Diana Hunter; Male Athlete to Don Guthro; Female Athlete to Diana Hunter; and Citizenship to the Grade 8 class from Mr. Cartmale. The graduates were then presented with their diplomas by Mr. Cartmale and Mr. Boaz. The graduates are Bryan Andrews, Stephanie Baldwin, Bruce Bellaire, Kevin Doey, Don Guthro, Charles Harris, Douglas Harris, Brent Hryniw, Diana Hunter, Kevin King, Mark Kittmer, Peter Lansdell, Tom McLeod, Blake Mossey, Suzette Pastoor, Ingo Petereit, Kirsten Petereit, Keith Quinn, Paul Richardson, Steven Churchill, Sarah Slater, Steven Smith, Roeland VanOostveen, Sawakhont Wong-Seni, David Bleiker. Refreshments and a social hour followed.

The Kintore Beavers spent the afternoon in Pearsons bush on Wednesday after school. Attempts at building a dam were soon abandoned for playing in the creek. Hotdogs and marshmallows were enjoyed by all. Thanks to the leaders for giving so freely of their time.

Browns UCW Bus Trip

June 25, 1980

View Mennonite Country

The June meeting of Brown's U.C.W. took the form of a bus trip, arranged by the convenor of the Stewardship and Finance group, Mrs. Murray Kingdon. We travelled through St. Marys, Stratford, along No. 19 highway through Gadshill, Poole, Millbank, and then taking Highway 86 through Hesson, Dorking, and so on until we reached Elmira. This is of course the country of the Mennonites, and we noticed their meeting houses, farms, and often saw these people along the road in their buggies or working in their fields. Upon arriving at Elmira we first visited the 'House of Dolls'. This is a fascinating exhibit of dolls from every country of every era. There were dolls from 1870 or earlier. Bride dolls, dolls from Portugal, France, Ireland, Yugoslavia, and many more countries. They were made of felt, corn husk, apples and one special doll was created for the song "I found A Million Dollar Baby, In a Five and Ten cent Store. A most satisfying and delicious lunch was enjoyed at the Stone Crock. Following lunch, a member of the Elmira Chamber of Commerce boarded the bus and

directed us on a tour of the district. In the parking lot where the bus was parked we noted that accommodation was made for parking horses and buggies as well as motor vehicles. The Mennonites belong to the Elmira Farmers' Shed Association, and for a fee are assured of a place to leave their horses and buggies regardless of where they want to go or how long they may be absent.

The bus passed the recording studio of 'The Mercy Brothers', meeting houses of both Old Order Mennonites and Progressive Mennonites. There are seventeen different Mennonite groups in the area. We were taken to the farm of Simeon Martin a famous Carriage maker and farmer. Mr. Martin employs nine men, mostly retired farmers. The buggies and carriages are made here from scratch, at a cost of \$1,150. plus tax. Buggies must be ordered ahead and there is a six month waiting period. The surreys with the fringe on top, found in Niagara, are all made at this shop.

Our guide told us something of the Mennonite tradition. They live simply, are of Swiss German back-

ground, and came to the area from Pennsylvania where at that time land sold for \$100.00 an acre. In the Waterloo area they purchased land for .7 cents an acre. They deemed that the land where the black walnut grew would be fertile soil. Old Order Mennonites pay school tax and support their own schools. The parents maintain the building, and supply wood for the stone. The schools are within walking or bicycling distance for the pupils. The pupils attend school until they are fourteen, the teachers are some of their own girls who have completed Grade 8. The Waterloo Department of Education gives a course that these girls may attend. Their homes have no telephones or hydro, no curtains, green blinds, wood stoves, no mirrors, kerosene lamps, plain wooden chairs and tables. The women make beautiful quilts, comforters, adn braided rugs, and of course, "Food that really schmecks." At West Montrose, we climbed out of the bus, and walked over the Kissing Bridge, the last covered bridge in Ontario. It was erected in 1881 by John Bear for \$300. In the olden

days lamps were lit every evening, and in the winter men were employed to shovel snow on the bridge to accommodate the sleighs and cutters. Later it was reinforced for cars. Here also we visited the Country Store, which sold groceries, crafts, maple syrup, quilts, etc. We passed through Hawkesville which was founded by four Hawkes brothers in 1839. It was hoped that it would be the County Seat, but this honour went to Berlin (later Kitchener). In 1848 John Diefenbaker's father was a wagon maker in Hawkesville and John was born here. Mennonite weddings are at the home of the bride's parents and last from two to two and a half hours. The ceremony is in the Pennsylvania Dutch dialect and sets forth that the girl is subservient to her husband and must obey in all things. The bride makes her own dress and it resembles her usual style of dress. The gifts are small and very practical, the families providing whatever the young couple require.

After the ceremony the bride presents to each guest, a piece of candy, and a swatch of her wedding dress; the groom gives each a chocolate bar.

Elmira is famous for its Maply Syrup Festival, the proceeds of which go to help the retarded. Martin's Feed Mill is the largest Independent Mill in Canada. In Conestoga there is a machine shop and wagons are made. There is no hydro; the power provided by generators.

In St. Jacobs there is the David Bart Meeting House which accommodates three different congregations of Old Order Mennonites. The Schneider's Flour Mill is named after Jacob Schneider.

There is a Home Hardware Complex for all of Canada. At St. Agatha the minister also is owner of the tile yards, which is a very flourishing business.

Following our sight-seeing tour we shopped for a while in Elmira, then boarded the bus for home, very pleased with our interesting day.

"cow" Evelyn Arthur
Cheryl Anne West