

# Kintore youngsters get special gift

BY ROBERT PREIDT

On Christmas morning, most children find dolls, model airplanes, and other assorted toys stuffed under the Christmas tree. But this past Christmas two Kintore lads found a barn under their tree.

Michael, 6, and Robert, 8, Unholzer received the large wooden model of the barn on their family's farm from their parents, Nancy and Joe.

Mrs. Unholzer had the barn made by another Kintore area man, Cecil Pearson, who is an industrial arts teacher at Blossom Park School in Woodstock.

The idea for this unique Christmas present came to Mrs. Unholzer after she had seen some of Mr. Pearson's work, including a barn he had constructed for someone else.

"I thought they, (her sons) would get a lot of use out of the barn," said Mrs. Unholzer who added it was, "mainly because of Michael, the smaller one. He farms continuously."

"He really didn't know at first because he knew how many hours were involved," she said.

She said she just wanted a barn but Mr. Pearson suggested he do a replica of the family barn, so it would mean more to the boys.

"He did much more than we expected. We're really happy with it," beamed Mrs. Unholzer.

The barn includes many small details, including separate stalls for the animals, as well as cleaning troughs, sliding windows and doors, a cooler in the milking room and hinges on the roof which open and expose the inside of the barn.

The barn is painted a brown and white, the colour scheme the Unholzer's hope to paint their real barn. The paint job was done by the older Unholzer's while the barn was being kept at a friends, well away from Michael and Robert's prying eyes.

When the boys came down on Christmas morning, early morning that is, all they saw was a large bulky object covered with an afghan.

"Michael wanted to peek, but I wouldn't let him," said Robert. He added his brother thought it was a doll house, "but it looked more like a barn to me, not a doll house," he said in a self congratulatory tone.

Both said that it took them a few minutes to recognize the barn as the one sitting beside their home. Mrs. Unholzer said the boys had to set up all their toy animals and farm equipment before any other presents were opened.

At first they had a little bit of conflict over who would play with it when but that problem has since been resolved and they play together now.

Each of the boys has an

aspect of the barn which they like the most. For Michael the best thing about it is, "that it has windows that slide in and out."

And Robert chose something different as his favourite feature. "The roof opens up and you don't have to stick your hands through the door to stand up the animals and see what you're doing."

Michael, who everyone agreed plays with the barn the most, said he thinks an addition, which Mr. Pearson left for the boys to build and add on themselves, will be hard to do but he said he's still looking forward to it.

Robert said he thought Mr. Pearson had done a great job on the barn and said it should last a long time, "if we're careful with it."

Mr. Pearson, who has been an industrial arts teacher for 13 years said he built the barn in his spare time and said it took quite a few hours to complete.

He said he worked on a similar model the Unholzer barn was built on, "an approximate scale. It's a visual scale only."

Mr. Pearson said he does various craft work in metal and wood and, "it was my suggestion this barn would mean more to the boys if it was a replica of their own barn on the farm."

He said for him it was somewhat of a return to days past. "I understand



Robert Unholzer, Cecil Pearson and Michael Unholzer pose with the barn Mr. Pearson made for the two boys. The toy barn is a replica of the Unholzer family barn.

barn construction because I'm a retired dairy farmer and during that time I did a lot of remodelling so I was right back again in my old job by doing this."

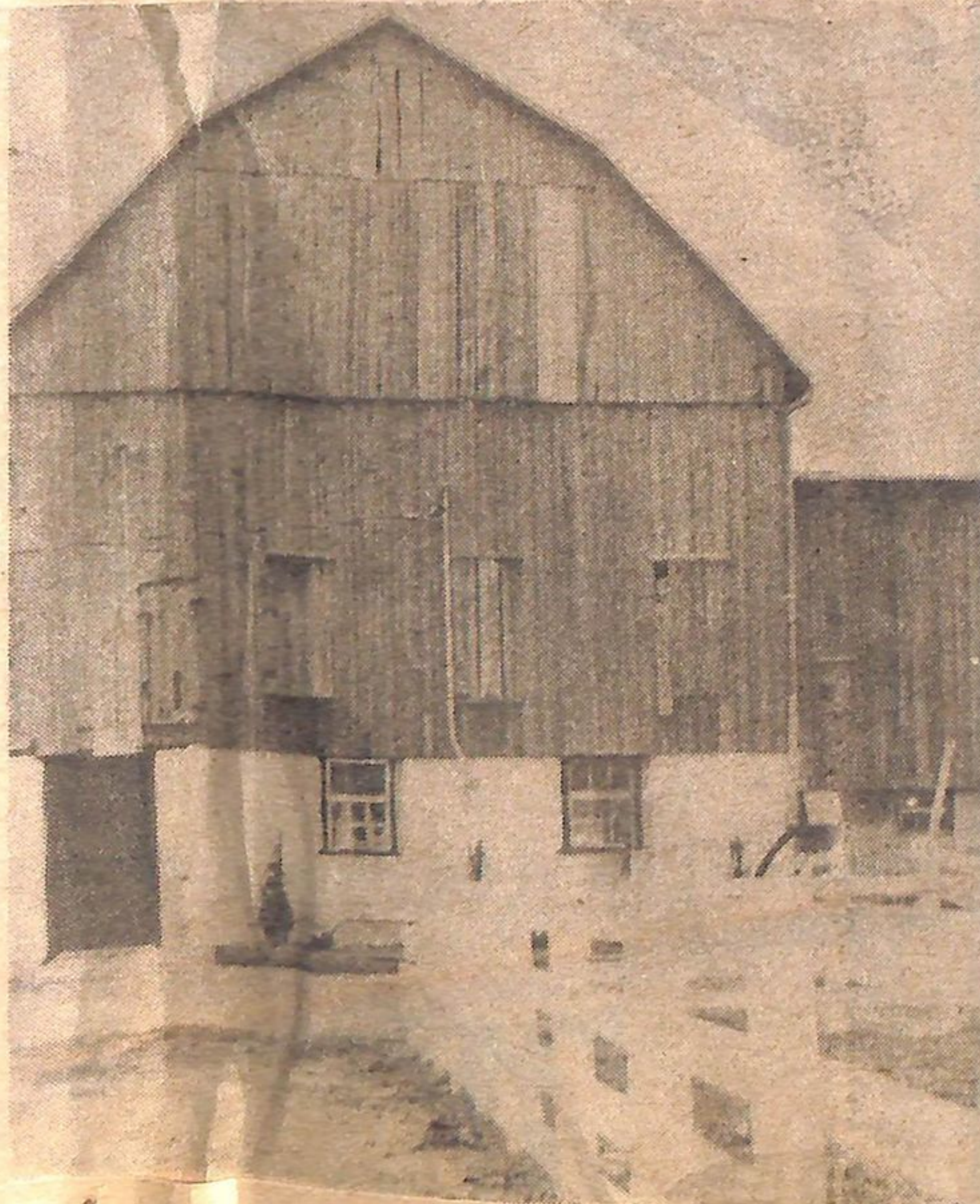
Mr. Pearson said he real-

ly didn't consider the barn's educational value while he was putting it together but after some reflection he said it certainly does provide the boys with lessons in such things as keeping the barn neat and setting up animal pens.

"I realize the value of playing constructively with what could be their life's

work," he said.

He said he was pleased to make the barn for the Unholzer children because of his interest in farming and the fact the Unholzer's are friends. He added he thought it was nice to see children interested in what their parents were doing, "but I guess that's what life in the country is all about."



The original barn

## St. Marys Journal-Argus, Wed., Jan. 5, 1983

Mr. and Mrs. Pirie Mitchell called at the manse one evening recently.

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Haynes, Karen, Daniel and Adam spent Christmas at the home of Mr. and Mrs. John Haynes and Joy of Thamesdord. Also there were Mr. and Mrs. Andy van Koot and Becky.

Wendy and Murray Kitmer of Fountain Hills Arizona were home for Christmas and were also there for New Year's. Fountain Hills is a suburb of Phoenix.

The Hargreaves family were all at their daughter's Mr. and Mrs. Lorne Handford, Andy, Jennifer and Barbara's of London for their family Christmas on Monday, Boxing Day. Other members present were Mr. and Mrs. Carl Reeves, Cathy, Mark and Dwayne, of Foldens, Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Hargreaves and Rachel, Beachville and Mr. and Mrs. Ted Hargreaves, Robbie, Ryan and Meagan.

In the afternoon, Pastor Ross and Coyla Hargreaves went to her sister's Mr. and Mrs. Jack Griffins Cathcart and stayed returning to the manse Thursday.

On Wednesday evening Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Tate, Kristine and Kevin were dinner guests with Mrs. Eva Tate of Kintore.

Mr. and Mrs. Rottermund, parents of Mrs. Pirie Mitchell, have returned to their home at Waubaushene, Ont. after spending some time at the Mitchells'. Mr. Rottermund was in University Hospital at the beginning of their stay in this part of the province.

Mr. Pirie Mitchell took a short trip to Montreal to see his mother who is ill.

Mr. and Mrs. John Squire, John, Jason and James were dinner guests with Mr. and Mrs. Allan Simms and family Friday last.

The new year was ushered in with great enthusiasm and much success at the masonic hall by many members of the community

and area. The committee in charge was Leonard and Audrey Wakem, Jack and Lillian Knight, Eric and Anne Facey and Ralph and Marie Wood.

The music was supplied by Mr. Lawrence Mitchell accompanied by his wife Cora.

An abundant lunch was enjoyed by all which featured an anniversary cake celebrating ten years of bringing in the new year at Kintore.

Mr. and Mrs. Larry Haynes spent New Years Day at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Hocking and Ken of RR1 Mitchell, Ont.

Guests at the manse were Mr. and Mrs. Ted Hargreaves and family, Mr. and Mrs. Dwight Hargreaves and Rachel, Mr. and Mrs. Lorne Hansord and family and Mr. and Mrs. Jack Griffin.