

PROFILES

with JENNIFER BARR



It didn't work and Ozzie had to walk home. He didn't get his car back for three days.

Born in Rockwood

Ozzie Meadows took over Route No. 1 at the age of 21 after his father had it for 22 years. Before that he worked at anything he could get his hands on—shovelled quarry chips and gravel for 25 cents an hour, among other things.

He was born in Rockwood in the little house next door to his present residence on Alma Street. Of course, Alma Street was a little different then. For one thing, it wasn't Highway 7 as it is now: it was a little dead-end street with five or six houses on it. Guelph Street was the main east-west route through Rockwood.

Houses on Alma Street were surrounded by fields and trees, goats, chickens, and sheep wandered around. Ozzie kept a variety of animals himself from rabbits and calves to fishing worms.

He and Jessie have lived in their house for 40 years after having the hundred year old cottage moved from north of the village. They raised four children in that house: Vernon, Floyd, Carl, and Nancy. All but Vernon live in Rockwood. There are four Meadows grand-children.

Ozzie was also custodian for the old Rockwood Public school for 17 years.

When he left that job, he took a Conestoga College course in upholstery and now refinishes and reupholsters many pieces of furniture, mostly for friends. Mrs. Meadows makes the most beautiful quilts.

But this is part-time stuff. Ozzie's main job is still delivering the mail. He's got a five year contract so it looks like he plans to keep going for a bit. He's feeling good after several years of medical problems including a hiatus hernia from stretching out of the truck to reach mailboxes.

And he's still falling in ditches.

"The other day I went in the ditch. I was looking in at the trees and I just didn't go around with the road—had to get pulled out. Generally do about once a year."

Apart from these minor distractions neither rain nor sleet nor hail nor snow shall deter this Rockwood courier from his rounds. Hasn't for nigh onto 50 years.



Jessie and Ozzie Meadows

Seven years ago when we lived north of we had a friendly 'old-timey' mailman who wouldn't think twice about loading his truck with parcels, bread or supplies, and even rabbit cages (to deliver to me!) Along with your mail in the rural mailbox you got a friendly visit and you knew any assistance you might need was there in the form of Ozzie Meadows.

In September, Ozzie will be receiving awards, plaques, and recognition from Her Majesty's government on the occasion of his 50th year as rural mailman for Rockwood.

He also received copious recognition five years ago on his 45th anniversary. His wife, Jessie Meadows reads the newspaper writeup and murmurs,

"It says here, you were supposed to retire. You didn't tell me you were going to retire."

Ozzie retorts, "Well, I didn't!"

In fact, Ozzie plans to keep delivering the mail "till I die".

Twice as many boxes

The 22 mile mail route that comprises RR 1 Rockwood has changed over the last 50 years. It still takes in the north-east section of Rockwood, north of Highway 24 to Oustic, but now there are 160 mailboxes instead of 70 and it takes one-and-a-half to two hours instead of the five hours it took by horse and buggy.

The country's filling in, houses are being built, so many rural people go out to work. No-one has time to stop and chat to the mailman any more.

So for the past umpteen years (she can't remember how many), Mrs. Meadows has been accompanying her husband, sorting the mail, putting it in the boxes, and generally keeping him company.

"I don't know whether it's company or not," she comments.

In 50 years, Ozzie has worked with only three postmasters. Frank Day had the position till his son George took over. Now Marg Cox is Rockwood postmistress in the seven year old building replacing the tiny old original postoffice on Main Street.

Ozzie sorts his route's mail in the morning before piling it in cardboard boxes in his pickup in preparation for delivery. Until a few years ago he also used to get the mail bags from the trains, sometimes seven times a day. Now trains don't stop at Rockwood any more—there's no more station.

In the old days Ozzie used a horse and cutter or buggy when the winter closed in, although he drove a motor vehicle in the summer. Roads weren't cleared of snow then, so cutters were pressed into action.

He would check on some of the older people on his route and once was instrumental in saving an elderly lady who had fallen and nearly frozen in her kitchen.

Ozzie would even bring bread and coal oil to people who were snow bound on farms.

Now only about ten of the original families remain.

Washouts were a seasonal hazard. Ozzie remembers getting trapped by caved in roads at the top of his route and having the water completely cover his car motor.

Another time, 30 years ago, Ozzie says:

"I mind one day going up... the snow was soft and it started to snow again... I got stuck and had to get a fellow to pull me out with a team. I remember him setting up there on the radiator driving that team."

Biker injured

A 21 year old Acton man is in hospital following a car-bike collision last night (Tuesday) at the corners of Church and Willow Street.

Cliff Creasey, 274 Elmore Drive, was struck late last night while riding on Church Street. Injuries had not been determined at press time.

Eight Acton churches co-operate to bring two 'boat' families here

Eight churches in Acton are banding together to bring at least two "boat" families of Vietnamese refugees to Acton in the near future.

Acton Churches for Boat People got off the ground in two recent meetings with enthusiastic representatives committing their organizations to join in raising an immediate \$5,000 to qualify for sponsorship of two families.

Co-ordinating the new group is Pastor Das Sydney of the Baptist Church. Other churches joining the group are the United, Presbyterian, Anglican, Christian Reformed, Roman Catholic, Pentecostal and Salvation Army.

Don Long of Georgetown representing Operation Lifeline, an overall co-ordinating group operating out of Toronto to assist sponsors, spoke to the assembled Acton group about their responsibilities.

A minimum of five people are needed to sponsor a family with a bank deposit of \$2,500 and an earning capacity of \$10,000 per group (or a bank capital of \$10,000 for an individual without earnings).

Sponsoring groups must be willing to support the family for a year or until self supporting. Experience has shown most families are independent within four to six months, Mr. Long explained, adding, "I think the time period will be even shorter."

Mr. Long described application methods, immigration red tape, organization of jobs, housing, food, and clothing and post-arrival procedure.

Language interpreters are being assembled by Arlene Bruce, representing a private Acton group sponsoring a third family.

According to Mr. Long, jobs are available in many areas for refugees. Nurseries and farm operations have already indicated desperate need for labor in menial jobs which they have difficulty filling with Canadian labor.

Many companies are coming forward with donations, food vouchers, bedding, area co-ordinators are swamped with clothing. Even housing is available. Long said he felt the Acton group should have no trouble tapping the resources of the town and other nearby groups.

The sponsoring group is expected to pay OHIP fees for their family, who are immediately covered on immigration.

A transport fee of \$750 is charged each refugee family and is handled, in the event of cash shortage, by an interest-free loan on behalf of the government.

Acton representatives discussed the setting up of the local organization. Sponsorship and financial guarantees should present no problem because of church backing. Rev. Chuck Beaton of Trinity United indicated the United Church of Canada had issued a blanket guarantee of funds for any United Church sponsoring refugees.



Acton Clergy Association met Thursday to discuss the sponsoring of two "Boat" families, Vietnamese refugees. Representatives of some of the eight religious organizations involved with the project talk

over ways to raise the initial \$5,000 needed. From left to right they are: Rev. Brian Rennie, Rev. Chuck Beaton, Don Long of Operation Lifeline, Pastor Das Sydney, Rev. John Cooper and Mrs. Wilma Coles.

The group is looking for donated services of a local doctor and dentist although OHIP will be paid. A major drug chain has guaranteed donations of prescription drugs needed.

The Salvation Army, new in town, are organizing the collection and storage of clothing. Donations may be made by dialling Lorne Pritchett at 853-1140 and indicating specific donations for the "Boat People."

Five thousand dollars is needed as soon as possible before application can be made. Tax deductible donations may be made through any of the Acton churches or directly to the "Acton Churches for Boat People" account at the Toronto Dominion Bank in town. Rev. Das Sydney will be co-ordinating efforts, telephone: 853-1835. Other

telephone numbers to call are Rev. John Cooper in charge of immigration, 853-1675; Steve Ormsby, accommodation, 853-3588; Marjorie Kirkwood, furnishings, 853-0039; Marjorie Lillie, 856-4723 and Barb Walton, 878-1096; food, Rev. Chuck Beaton, fund raising, 853-2090.

Other members present at the meeting and helping in various capacities were, Rev. Brian Rennie, Edith Binney, Peter Binnie, Dave Walton, and Jennifer Barr.

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DOWNTOWN ACTON



Nancy Phillips assists Caroline and Michelle with their bible study lessons at Vacation Bible School taking place this week in the Acton Baptist Church. By Tuesday there were 46 pre-school youngsters registered and more than 150 in the school. Organizers were delighted with the turnout.

Street up for grabs

Regional council has referred the question of parking on Main St. in Milton back to committee of the whole after giving the item first reading.

The region has proposed giving Milton sole control of Main St. so it can more easily institute by-laws to conform with Business Improvement Area plans.

While the proposal seems fine on the surface, Milton members of regional council are concerned with the financial implications.

The street was upgraded a few years ago with the funding debentured by the region. One of the questions that causes Milton to pause, is whether it would have to assume the debenture in this turnover.

Montreal Trust REALTOR

ANNOUNCEMENT

ARTHUR J. JAMESON

Montreal Trust Company is pleased to announce the appointment of Mr. Arthur J. Jameson as sales representative for their Oakville Real Estate Branch. Mr. Jameson who moved to Oakville recently was formerly President and General Manager of Halton Cable Systems Limited and is well known in the Halton area. Mr. Jameson will be providing a service in Residential Real Estate as well as the Commercial and Industrial field.

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150 g. +75 g. Free Bonus **Bromo Seltzer** 225 g. **1.85**

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Green Giant 14 oz. **CUT WAX or CUT GREEN Beans** **2/79¢**

E.D. Smith 19 oz. **APPLE-CHERRY Pie Filler** **89¢**

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Del Monte 4 x 5 oz. Pkg. **PEAR • PEACH • PINEAPPLE • FRUIT SALAD Fruit Cup** **\$1.19**

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