

Pastor John and Bea Cooper will be leaving Acton at the end of the month.

Pastor John is heading out

Canada has been good to Pastor John and Mrs. Cooper and as he enters semi-retirement, the couple hopes to remain in this country.

Pastor John and his wife Bea came to Acton from New Jersey five-and-a-half years ago to head the Bethel Christian Reformed Church. Now, many friends later, health reasons are forcing him to seek an easier life.

Some 22 years ago, Pastor John spent a few years in Sarnia, and was introduced to Canadian warmth and congeniality. His return to this country did not disappoint him. They want to be re-posted in this country, preferably Ontario.

In their time here, the Coopers have seen many new organizations start up within the church. Bea introduced the choir, and the ladies Share group and the Young at Heart, the seniors' group, both were born in the past few years.

At Pastor John's suggestion, the church has become more heat loss conscious, with a new entrance being built and insulation put in the roof gables. These moves have helped reduce the heating bill considerably.

The departing minister has also been most appreciative of the close relationship of all the Acton churches. He has served as president and treasurer of the Acton Clergy Association.

In his semi-retirement, Pastor John hopes for one of three options: either a small congregation, a counselling job; or an assistant at a large church. However, he likes the atmosphere of a small church, as he feels the congregation is closer to each other and to their minister.

But right now no decision has been made as to his future. After the new year, the couple will be heading to Florida for a month's vacation. In the meantime, a replacement for him in Acton has not been named, but he points out there was almost a year between Rev. Corvers and himself.

"During the past five and a half years of gospel ministry to the Acton congregation, we have made many good friends, and enjoyed the Dutch hospitality, traditions and customs and have had many interesting and memorable experiences," Pastor John noted.

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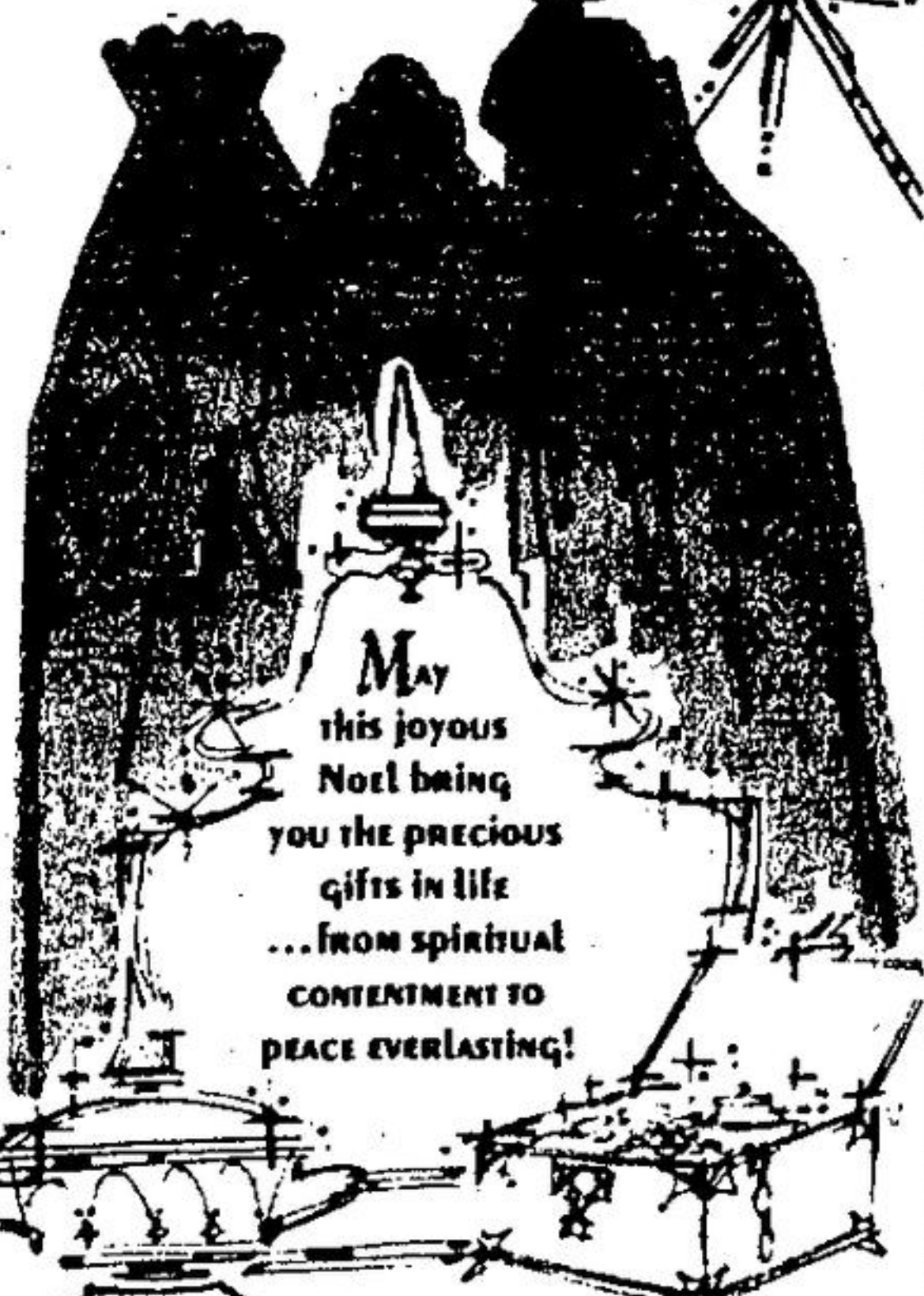
STARTING APRIL 1st, 1984

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