

Television spotlights focus on Terra Cotta church

Members of Union Presbyterian Church in Terra Cotta finally got to see their stone church on television Thursday night.

The 1884 building was used for three days last fall for filming scenes in a segment of CBC's The Great Detective mystery series, aired last week.



Twenty-second in a series

Money earned through the television rental of the church helped pay for the renovation of the church's kitchen, begun at the time of filming.

Billie Young, 65, a church member since she got married and moved here 40 years ago, remembers peeling squash for one of about five meals the women of the church prepared for 50 people working on the TV segment.

"The city people were absolutely in awe," Mrs. Young said. "Pies came in that were still warm from the oven." She said some of the pies went on a bake table being filmed for one of the scenes.

Located on the Halton Hills town line near the Chingacousy



Gearing up for a 150th anniversary in 1983, the Union Presbyterian Church congregation is looking for the cornerstone to this building. They found it once in 1924 when they broke it open to discover historical treasures dating back to 1884, when the stone building was constructed. This time, the congregation wants to open the cornerstone to put current material into it. (Herald photo)

Herald stories and photos by Ani Pederian

Union Presbyterian congregation searches for missing cornerstone

Gearing up for their 150th anniversary in 1983, the Union Presbyterian congregation is looking for the cornerstone of their church.

Found once in 1924 when they were preparing to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the congregation, the cornerstone's position has since been forgotten.

Inside it are historical materials of great interest, revealing concerns of the times and the lifestyle of the early pioneers.

Long-time member Eldred Anderson remembers when the cornerstone was first cracked open in April, 1924. She still has a copy of a dedication paper inserted by the Rev. Joseph Alexander, minister at Union Presbyterian from 1852 to 1887. It was during his ministry that the stone building was erected in 1884, and the cornerstone filled.

"Underneath the cornerstone which is now about to be laid this 14th day of May 1884 by the Rev. Joseph Alexander, M.A., and the pastor—Mr. George Leslie—

the Senior Member of Session—and Mr. James Reid, an esteemed member of the congregation and a liberal contributor towards the building—there are deposited together with this scroll and a few small silver coins; a copy of each of the following publications viz:—"The Presbyterian Record", "The Canada Presbyterian", "The Daily Globe", "The Daily Mail", "The Halton News", and "Georgetown Herald", writes the Rev. Alexander.

In opening the cornerstone in 1924, the glass jar in which all these historical treasures were placed was broken. A new jar replaced the broken one when the cornerstone was sealed back up.

As well, instead of the Georgetown Herald, it was found that the Daily Witness had been placed in the glass jar.

The Rev. Walter Patterson defended the move to break into the cornerstone in 1924. He said it had been done "when all other means had failed" to prove it was the congregation's centenary year in 1933. The material



Billie Young, 65, has been a member of the Union Presbyterian Church on the Halton Hills town line since she married and moved to the area 40 years ago. She said many of the families going to the church are the descendants of pioneers who settled in the Esqueving and Chingacousy areas back in the 1800s. (Herald photo)

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Letter to the editor

Reader slams farm program

Continued from page A5

ers, ultimately beef and hog producers must quickly solve their marketing woes.

Ron O'Dell (Artemesia township) hog farmer quipped, "12 years ago I got more money for my hogs than I do now, yet my input costs have quadrupled - what's the sense of trying to hang on?"

While most of those present felt a supply management system is about the only alternative they have if they're to prevent bankruptcy, this would be at least five years 'down the road.

"We need a fair price for our product and we need it now." The present ripoff scandal perpetrated on consumers and farmers alike by the large chains such as Loblaw's, Dominion store etc. must stop "and I'm prepared to support drastic action to back up my position," reiterated Michael Burke of Glenelg Township.

Failure by farmers to take forceful action now would be exactly what the packers, banks, chain stores etc. are hoping for.

The rapid buildup of neighborhood co-operative spirit amongst farmers will make the task much easier.

It's time we either, "Stand together or hang separately." Signed on behalf of all present, Doug Leith, Ralph O'Dell, Ken Watson, Michael Burke, C. Black, K. MacNeill, Ron O'Dell, Bev Watson, Whitney Edwards, Leonard Manion.

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cousy Sixth Line, Union Presbyterian Church attracts admiring gazes from many a passer-by with its fine architectural lines.

DRIVE BY
"It's amazing the number of people who drive by, like the church building and come back to get married in it," Mrs. Young said. "It's very plain but very beautiful in its simplicity," she said. Two of her daughters were married there.

The building was erected debt free, thanks in part to a lot of free labor in constructing it and the donation of land from local farmer James Frazer.

"There's a story told that they hauled Credit Valley stone up the Terra Cotta hill by teams of horses and wagons," said Mrs. Young.

was hauling the stone and took off his gloves, throwing them on the rigged stone during a rest break. When he took up the reins again to continue the climb, he found he just couldn't move the wagon. His gloves made it too heavy. It's a family story I've heard told over and over again," Mrs. Young laughed.

There are a lot of stories connected with the country church. Perhaps the most proudly remembered one is that the author of "Anne of Green Gables", L.M. Montgomery, used to teach Sunday School and put on plays with the church youth. Her husband, the Rev. Ewan MacDonald, was minister at Union from 1926 to 1935.

NEXT DOOR
Eldred Anderson of Terra Cotta, a life-long member of
Continued on page C7

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