

**"Dear Elizabeth":
Maple
syrup time**



Mrs. Elizabeth Brinkman, Oberahmede, Germany.
Dear Elizabeth:
No building permit was needed back in the 1920's to build what the boys called the "sap house" and no unionized carpenters were engaged to put together a sturdy hut that stood for many years in our father's maple bush. No blueprint other than what was in the boy's imagination was used and yet it turned out to be a well designed little shack that answered the purpose for which it was built, that of providing a sleeping place when someone had to be on hand overnight to keep the fire going under the huge iron kettle. This was suspended by wire from a strong straight pole, possibly ironwood, which in turn was laid in forked sticks planted in the ground at either end and secured with more wire. A fire pit was dug out until there was a deep depression in the ground and this was surrounded by a ring of stones packed with mud to keep the fire contained. Sticks and leaves had to be raked away for a considerable distance to eliminate the risk of sparks causing fire in the bush.
To return to the shack, along the left as one entered the door was built a double decker bunk on which was spread mattresses of clean straw, the bedding being some of mother's older, heavy quilts supplemented with horse blankets. Nights could get pretty cold in the latter days of March and early April. Along the centre of the back wall was the cast iron cookstove, outmoded in the farm kitchen and discarded to the scrap pile awaiting the next visit of the "scrapman". The boys got permission to remove it to the shack where it worked like a charm after the first few puffs of a downdraft smoke let you know that there was smoke there was

fire. No one was allowed to light it until they understood how the dampers and drafts worked, so the younger members of the family had to content themselves with gathering twigs and brush for kindling and lugging old newspapers from the house about three quarters of a mile away.
Cupboards and shelves made of scrap lumber and orange crates and an old, old table completed the furnishings. Foodstuffs were not left long in the shack for obvious reasons, but on the shelves there was an odd assortment of pots and pans, some of which were likely salvaged from the scrap heap and fixed with "mendits". I recall that some of them were roped and banged up but they boiled coffee or heated hot chocolate. Variety in canned goods in those days was almost nil but "pork and beans" tasted pretty good when your appetite had been sparked by hard work. Chairs were not needed because there were any number of blocks of wood that the boys had cut to the right height and usually we ate outside and sat on a log, a safe distance from the fire.
The terrain of the small 13 acre woodlot which was our sugar bush was uphill and down, over a spring creek several times as it ran through the gullies, so it was no easy job gathering the sap from the overflowing buckets every day. What made it easier was the fact that the neighborhood children thought it a special privilege to be able to help us gather the sap and carry it to the sap house where it was emptied into larger tubs and cans. Anything that happened to fall into the sap enroute only enhanced the flavor and was fully sterilized in the boiling and by a special process of clarifying later at the house by the women folk.

Muddy days in March

Equipment and supplies had to be carted between the house and the bush by way of stoneboat, a flat wooden platform built on skids and drawn by a horse. Also, we were warned to always carry something as we went back and forth. Very seldom was there much snow left after the bright sunny days in March, but the frosty nights stiffened the mud up so it did not get too soft until the syrup making was over. How our mother dealt with our muddy feet and clothing I do not remember, but she must have taken it in her stride as I do not recall too much lecturing over it as I might give my youngsters when they "played" in the mud after school. There were many times we accidentally slipped into the creek with one foot or both, or slid down a muddy bank on our clothing.

Since we did have to go to school it was the late afternoon and evening hours when the sap had to be gathered, then we would eat the supper that mother sent back with us consisting of a pot of baked beans, fresh biscuit, applesauce and cookies. An alternate meal might be cold spare ribs with lots of meat on them or boiled eggs which we cooked in the hot sap, thick slices of homemade bread toasted over the coals of the big fire, spread with butter and brown sugar, or huge chunks of fresh gingerbread or johnny cake. No wonder our young friends liked to help, and of course everything tasted so good because of the hard work in the outdoors. As well as gather sap we had to be forever lugging wood to the

chopping place where the boys cut it into proper lengths for the fire and the stove.
The girls never got up enough courage to stay overnight in the shack but many of the neighborhood boys took turns staying with my brothers. Many were the tricks played on one another in the middle of the night when one of them would get up to replenish the fire. We heard tales of ghosts, wild animals and escaped prisoners visiting the camp, which was one reason the girls never took their turn at staying.
The girls, however, did make use of the shack during Easter holidays when we used it for our supper stop after a three or four mile hike through our farm to the next concession, around the road until we came to the path that led into the sugar bush and to the shack where we enjoyed our picnic supper of hot dogs, baked beans, coffee and cookies. After gathering some of the first flowers of spring and enjoying some outdoor games and a sing-song around the fire we would arrive home just before dark which was our curfew time.
In the summertime, the sap house was a halfway house for our berry picking pails and lunches, but that is another story which will have to wait for a later letter.
Best Regards,
Eleanor Coulter.
Who can appreciate your integrity and goodwill until you give samples?
Even a tea bag never knows its own strength until it gets into hot water.

Upper-Austen Senior Citizens spend holiday week at lodge

The marriage of Lita Barbara Austen to John Adam Upper took place at St. George's Anglican Church in Lowville May 20 at 2 p.m. in a double-ring ceremony.
The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. R. E. Austen of R.R. 2 Campbellville and the groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Upper of Atwood, Ontario. Both the bride and the groom are employed by the Royal Bank of Canada. They have taken up residence in Toronto.
The church was decorated in white mums with white bows on the pews. Rev. R. P. E. Jeffares officiated while Mrs. John Nicholson was the organist and Mrs. Art Leonard sang the solos, "O Perfect Love" and "Be Thou with Me".
The bride wore an empire styled dress of white chantilly lace over taffeta with elbow length sleeves and a white chapel coat of organza. The veil was a cape length, held by a petalled headpiece. She carried a cascade of white bridal roses entwined with white ribbon.
The bride's attendants wore floor length mint green dresses of empire style. The skirts were crepe and the bodices were of lace. The sleeves came to the elbow and then flared out, and they wore matching headpieces.

Miss Marie Harrison, a friend of the bride from Toronto, was maid of honor. Miss Elizabeth Robinson of Campbellville and Miss Pat Brooks of Toronto, also friends of the bride, were bridesmaids. Miss Madeline Austen, sister of the bride, was the flower girl. R. E. Austen, father of the bride, gave her away.
Raymond Kiddle of Dearborn, Michigan was the best man and Jack Cullaton of Galt and Doug Schroeder of Toronto were ushers.
The reception was held at the home of the bride, Northgate Farms in Campbellville. Seventy five people attended.
Mrs. R. E. Austen wore a pale pink silk linen dress with a lace bodice and a matching jacket, with pink accessories. Her corsage was of sweetheart roses.
The groom's mother Mrs. J. C. Upper wore a sky blue coat and dress ensemble of lace with blue shoes and white accessories. Her corsage was of sweetheart roses.
Table centres of white mums and pink carnations, potted mums and big double mums decorated the house. The three tiered wedding cake was made by the bride's mother and the archways were decorated with cards and wedding bells.
The bride's going-away outfit was a two-piece blue suit with white fox collar and elbow length sleeves. She wore a blue hat and white accessories and white carnations. The

couple honeymooned in the Pocono Mountains in Pennsylvania and returned June 1.
The bride attended Milton High School and Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Toronto. The groom graduated from Waterloo Lutheran University in 1965.
Guests from Dearborn, Michigan; Bergen, New York; Toronto, Guelph, Kitchener, St. Pauls, Oshawa, Galt, Listowel, Atwood, Campbellville, Mount Forest, Palmerston, Cayuga and Milton attended.
Miss Pat Brooks of Toronto and Miss Betty Jeffares of Campbellville gave the bride miscellaneous showers on April 10 and April 23.

Ladies Aid, W.M.S. hears of Star Ruby

The Ladies' Aid of Nassagaweya Presbyterian Church met on Thursday, July 6 at the home of Mrs. C. Cargill with Mrs. V. Norris, president, in the chair.
Mrs. Norris read several interesting quotations from the Friendship Book. The minutes were read by Mrs. J. Roberts and the financial statement given by Mrs. S. Robinson regarding the catering at Nassagaweya Centennial weekend. It was decided to work on the bale quilt on Tuesday, July 11 at Mrs. Norris'. The members agreed to cater for a tea in September and the meeting closed with recitation of the Lord's Prayer.
The Women's Missionary Society under the presidency of Mrs. E. Dredge opened with a reading of the Centennial hymn

and prayer. "Unto the Hills around do I lift up my longing eyes" was sung and the minutes read by Mrs. Cargill and approved.
Mrs. Pyatt, as convener, spoke of the precious star ruby discovered in the 20th century and carved into the likeness of Christ. This beautiful, dark red ruby has fulfilled its destiny with the completion of the carving by Harry Derian of Los Angeles. New lustre has been added to his already well earned reputation as a gem sculpture.
The carving, named ECCE HOMO, depicts the suffering and sacrifice of Christ on the Cross. Derian, who spent his early years in Jerusalem, was familiar with the theme and could draw on his childhood impressions of the Holy Land.
It is a fascinating thought that a stone from the old mines rediscovered in the 20th century, should be carved into a likeness of Christ, who was born of Mary, whose husband Joseph was a direct descendant of King Solomon.
A short paper was read on "The Hope of Canada" and Mrs. Pyatt closed her part of the program with prayer. "O Safe to the Rock that is higher than I" was sung to complete the meeting.
Mrs. Cargill served a bountiful lunch with a Centennial theme.
—Knox, Boston and Omagh Presbyterian Church members are worshipping at St. Paul's United Church in Milton during July, while their ministers enjoy holidays.

family hymns. Mrs. McPherson, Niagara Falls, spoke a few words and made an appeal for funds for the renovation of the old church. \$35 was taken up in the collection.
Mrs. Bill Scott, Milton, also paid a visit but the Senior Citizens were at Warton when she called.

Paper drive

Save your discarded newspapers — Milton Boy Scouts are planning another paper pickup drive on Friday, July 21. Trucks will be calling at local homes from 4 to 7 p.m., and the boys would appreciate it if you would bundle your papers securely and place them at the street by 4 p.m.

Lucas - Freeman

Baskets of white chrysanthemums and snapdragons decorated Ebenezer United Church on June 3 for the double-ring ceremony that united Carol Anne Elizabeth Freeman and Lloyd Arthur Lucas in marriage. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Freeman. The groom is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Lucas of R.R. 1 Campbellville.
Rev. Walter Leeman officiated. Soloist, Mrs. Kenneth Griffiths of Lowville, sang "The Wedding Prayer", "The Lord's Prayer" and "O Perfect Love" accompanied at the organ by James Zehr.

veil and she carried a cascade of white bridal roses.
The bride's attendants were Mrs. Doug Black of Guelph as matron of honor, Miss Winifred Dunbar of Campbellville and Miss Susie Richardson of Guelph as bridesmaids. They were dressed in formal floor length pink sheath gowns with empire bodices featuring an overlay of white Swiss lace, with brief sleeves. A panel of chiffon fell from a bow at the waist.
Pink crystal combs centred with a rose and tulle veils formed their headpiece. They carried a colonial bouquet of pink miniature roses and long velvet ribbon streamers.
The flower girl was Miss Barbara Stokes, niece of the bride. She wore a white organza dress with a full skirt and wide pink chiffon sash and a pink velvet ribbon enhanced her hair. Her flowers were the same as the bridesmaids. The ring bearer was Master Lawrie Smith of Rockwood, nephew of the groom.
Bruce Jenkins of Oakville, a

friend of the groom, was best man. The ushers were Ross Lucas, brother of the groom and Charles Stokes, brother-in-law of the bride.
The reception was held in the church parlor. The bride's mother received wearing a two piece ensemble of blue lace over taffeta and white accessories. The groom's mother received wearing a two piece aqua ensemble with matching accessories.
After the wedding a dance was held at Brookville Hall for friends and relatives. The couple left on a trip to North Ontario, the bride wearing a lime green two piece linen suit and white accessories with a white orchid corsage. They are making their home at R.R. 2 Rockwood.
Honored guests at the wedding were Nelson Anderson, grandfather of the bride and Mr. and Mrs. Wilfred Langevin of Hamilton, great aunt and uncle of the groom. Other guests were present from Burlington, Oakville, Milton, Dundas, Guelph, Oshawa, Rockwood, and Campbellville.



MARRIED AT EBENEZER United Church on June 3 were Floyd Arthur Lucas and Carol Anne Elizabeth Freeman. The newlyweds are making their home at R.R. 2, Rockwood. (Photo by John Harrison)

A ... received from ... brother ...
... were held ...
... On April 3 ...
... Mrs. Beatrice Fletcher assisted by Mrs. B. D. Young and Mrs. Stan Robinson ...
... May 8 at the home of Mrs. Doug Black of Guelph assisted by Miss Winifred Dunbar and Miss Melen Richardson, all friends of the bride. On May 11 Mrs. Wallace King assisted by her daughter Mrs. Lorne Colling held a miscellaneous shower. On May 26 the ladies of Ebenezer United Church held a miscellaneous shower in the church parlor. The ladies of the U.C.W. presented the bride and groom with a lovely Bible.

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