

A daughter's tribute

Lester Millers 50 years married

By Mrs. Denzil Lawrence
The Fellowship Room of St. Paul's United Church, Milton, was appropriately decorated in gold and white for the golden wedding celebrations for Mr. and Mrs. J. D. Lester Miller, formerly of Milton, Hornby and Nassagaweya. Two guests originally at the first wedding were Miss Lillian Packard of Windsor, sister of the bride and maid of honor for Mrs. Miller, and Mrs. Harold Whewell of Hamilton first cousin to Mr. Miller and a young guest at the nuptials.



A HAPPY ANNIVERSARY was observed by Mr. and Mrs. Lester Miller recently when they held an open house at St. Paul's United Church to mark their 50th wedding anniversary. Former residents of this area, they now live near Stayner.—(Staff Photo)

A golden album filled with pictures of the bride and groom and their family, relatives and friends during the 50 years of their marriage was an interesting feature for the assembled guests. Instead of gifts, guests were asked to provide a recent picture of themselves and family for a Golden Wedding Memory Book. Nelson Lawrence, grandson of the happy couple, took pictures of guests and friends to add to the memory album, with his Polaroid camera.

Many guests
Guests were welcomed from Windsor, St. Catharines, Peterborough, Hamilton, London, Stayner, Creemore, Glencairn, Acton, Georgetown, Glen Williams, Toronto, Richmond Hill, Jerseyville, Ashgrove, Port Credit, Guelph, Milton and Nassagaweya. An added surprise was the arrival of cousins never met before from Manitoba, who have recently made their home in Brampton.

Mr. Miller was born at Creemore, where he grew up until enlisting in the Simcoe Foresters during the War of 1914-18. While he served overseas his parents took up residence in St. Catharines. The war over, he worked for what is now Winters Transport of St. Catharines (a well-known name on today's highways) when that firm was only in the moving business (1920's) and owned one van and two wagons with horses. Mr. Miller can tell many interesting tales of trips in the van over the muddy roads of the day and inspection troubles at the border on trips to the States. You had to be your own mechanic as garages weren't on every corner then and tires and equipment weren't up to today's standards. Trips took days instead of hours because high speeds were only 20 and 30 miles an hour, especially with a loaded van on poor roads. It was a hair-raising adventure climbing hills like Clappison Cut, shifting gears and praying you wouldn't start rolling backwards...brakes weren't even what they are today.

Early guide
In St. Catharines, he met and married Miss Maud Pickard, daughter of a merchant of that city. In her youth, Mrs. Miller has the distinction of being in the first Girl Guide troop in Canada, formed in St. Catharines in 1910. Mr. and Mrs. Miller were married in a quiet ceremony at the home of the bride's brother Harmon Pickard. Three children were born to the young couple, Marion the eldest (Mrs. Denzil Lawrence) of Milton, Stuart is farming at Stayner as is Norman the youngest.

In 1931 the family moved to a farm at Jerseyville with Mr. Miller's parents. They made many friends among the neighbors during their year stay. With regret they found it necessary to move, to a farm at Freeton. The depression years were now in full swing and Mr. Miller was able to sell a whole pig for only \$3. For a number of years during this period, the highlight of Christmas was the arrival by mail of a large box resembling a coffin in shape. It came from loving aunts and uncles left behind in St. Catharines. Among the many parcels enclosed was a pair of high topped boots which had been recommended for Marion's wobbly ankles but were worn with much childish frustration for sometime. One favorite uncle took his "uncle duties" very much to heart by including along with candy, a bottle of castor oil. Misfortune dogging the young family's footsteps, they were forced to move again and found themselves on Milton Mountain during 1933, in time for the three children to be caught in Bell School when it's roof blew off during a cyclone that hit the district that year. It was a nightmare experience and those who saw the debris, marvelled that some of the children weren't killed. Having this farm sold out from under him and having no money to hire a lawyer, the family again regretfully left their many good neighbors and spent the cold winter of 1933-34 on the old Sinclair farm near Hornby.



VOWS AND RINGS were exchanged in St. Stephen's United Church, Hornby when Vivian Royce became the bride of Ben Haller.—(Milton Photographic Photo)

Chilly winter
The family lived in two rooms and were still cold, the weather being below zero all winter with lots of snow. Mrs. Miller's canned fruit froze and even food was scarce. People didn't buy canned foods like they do now. In the 30's they put the grocery bill up too high. It was so cold the chickens' combs froze. The frost on the outside wall in the bedroom was so bad that when the mild spells came there were puddles on the floor and the boys had to climb over their parents' bed to get to their own, and the mattresses had to be put over the fence when warm spring days came to get the dampness out of them. Of course few people had furnaces and houses were mostly heated with wood or coal (if you could afford it) and that house wasn't in the best of shape at that time and very cold.

In the spring a move was made to a good farm at Ashgrove and from that point the family fortunes started to improve. First of all the children couldn't go to school because of lack of shoes in the early spring snow and slush. Mrs. Lawrence remembers the wonderful day a cheque appeared in the mail-box like an unbelievable miracle. In St. Catharines, Mr. and Mrs. Miller had taken our Education Insurance for each of the children. Marion's had been cashed some years before and the money put to good use. They had tried to cash Stuart's but were unable to. People in those days were unbelievably suspicious of even banks, lawyers and for sure of anything written in fine print. Few had much education, crime detection hadn't reached the fineness of today, people were frequently "taken in" by hucksters at the door if they weren't careful and in those hard times banks had found it necessary to foreclose and take away homes and farms. It was a very real fear. The security of today's Canada was an unbelievable dream. The Insurance Co. produced a regulation that said Stuart's policy couldn't be cashed until he was seven. Mother and Dad were sure it was a "run-around" and an excuse to get out of paying it at all. They had written it off as a total loss long before 1934.

Like a million
So you can imagine their amazed delight, in the midst of their dire struggle, on receiving this "gift from heaven" so to speak. It was equal to what "a million" dollars would be worth today, to them in their need. After the first delirious joy the family climbed into the family model "T" car (better known as Lizzie) and went on a shopping spree in Georgetown. What did they buy?...White beans, brown sugar, raisins, white sugar, flour, oatmeal and the like, with a very small little gift for each family member. The proverbial "wolf at the door" of the '30's had been banished, never to return, all because of a cheque for \$70.

Christmas in those days as always was what you make it... but even more so then. Gifts were more often than not "home-made". Unbelievable as it seems in this day and age, we children were given a quarter to buy our Christmas gifts for the family. You either made your gifts to stretch it out or if you were the lazy type or not too resourceful, you made it do. Happily though, you could buy gifts for a nickel if you scanned the "Five and Ten" carefully. The boys made the agreement one year between themselves to give each other a nickel "Jew's Harp" (how did they get that name). They became quite professional at getting music out of them, too.

The Ashgrove farm like the community was good to the Millers. After six wonderful years they had a good opportunity and bought their first farm in Nassagaweya township, midway between the old No. 7 and No. 8 school. Life continued to be good. The family growing up, Marion had left home finding work over the years at Smith and Stone, Georgetown. Acton Telephone office, Glen Woolen Mill, Glen Williams and finally Victory Aircraft Ltd. at Malton. Quitting this job in 1944, she married Denzil Lawrence, a farmer near Milton. They have four children, Dr. Betty Gannon of London, Bryon, Nelson and Fern at home. In time, Stuart married Margaret Thomas of Dixie and they have three children, Bruce John and Janice. They live on a farm at Stayner, next door to brother Norman and Mr. and Mrs. Miller Sr. The girls just never seemed to catch up to Norman and he has remained a bachelor.

Selling their farm in Nassagaweya where they spent so many happy years, Mr. and Mrs. Miller bought a farm at Stayner, Mr. Miller's travels taking him full circle. After a journey with many ups and downs some very far down it seemed at the time; it is a source of great satisfaction and pleasure to their children and friends to see them now so happy and comfortable, enjoying the fruits of their labors, so as to speak. After moving to Stayner both Mr. Miller and Norman became avid bowlers, standing high on competing teams for many years. Mrs. Miller's hobby of beautiful crochet work has given pleasure to herself and others almost all her life. She is pleased to see it come back so much the fashion as it is now. She has made three beautiful heirloom bedspreads which will be enjoyed for many generations to come.

Great 150 guests
There were 150 relatives friends and neighbors who gathered on Oct. 17 to wish them happy years ahead and to offer congratulations on 50 years of married life. Many more wrote and phoned to offer congratulations and to say they wished they could be with them. Success is surely not measured in the gold you accumulate, or how far you travel, the things you've seen or the dreams you had that never matured, but in what you are as a person, how you've handled hardships and disappointments, what you've made of life right where you are and the good friends and neighbors you've made along the way. As their daughter, I'd say Mr.

Wedding
Haller - Royce

Vivian Royce became Mrs. Ben Haller when vows and rings were exchanged in St. Stephen's Anglican Church, Hornby on September 18. White bows marked the guest pews and Canon J. Maxwell officiated at the 4.30 p.m. ceremony.

The bride is the daughter of Mrs. L. S. Royce of 180 Ontario St., Milton. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. W. Haller of R.R. 2, Campbellville. Given in marriage by her brother Grant Royce, the bride looked radiant in a floor length, empire-waisted gown with rose patterned trim covering the bodice. A four foot train fell softly from the empire waist and the gown featured long puffed sleeves with two inch cuffs and a small stand-up collar. A wedding band, lace covered pillbox held her shoulder length veil edged with lace. The bride carried a cascade of miniature yellow and daisies and yellow, red, white and purple dried flowers mounted on a white lace covered bible, given to the bride by her mother.

Kevin Harris acted as organist and the groom's sisters, Louis Haller and Fredda Cruz sang "O Perfect Love". Sister at her side
The bride's sister Mrs. Valda May of Hornby acted as maid of honor. Flower girl was Monica Haller of Oakville, niece of the groom.

The maid of honor wore a mauve chiffon empire-waisted gown with the bodice and cuffs of the dress forming soft gathers. The gown was accented with purple flowered trim and she wore matching mauve satin shoes. A crown of white pearls and sequins was fixed in her hair and she carried a cascade of white roses, pink carnations, daisy and white mums and yellow, red and white dried flowers.

The flower girl wore a mauve and white A-line dress with a white satin ribbon at the empire waistline. She carried a nosegay of white roses, pink carnations and multi-colored dried flowers surrounded by white lace and yellow hanging ribbon streamers.

The maid of honor received a pearl drop necklace and the (Continued on Page B7)

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CUTTING THE CAKE following their marriage in Sixth Line United Church, Moore township, Lambton County, are Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Duncan. The bride is the former Melba Eyre of Bridgen, daughter of Mrs. Lila Eyre and the late Elvin Eyre. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Duncan of Milton.—(Photo by Dolamore Studio, Chatham)

Wedding
Duncan - Eyre

Wedding vows were exchanged recently in Sixth Line United Church, Moore Township, Lambton County, between Melba Eyre and Gerald Duncan, with Rev. L. J. Hardy officiating.

The bride is the daughter of Mrs. Lila Eyre and the late Elvin Eyre of Bridgen. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Duncan of Milton. Given in marriage by her uncle, William Anderson of Mooretown, the bride wore an empire-styled gown of silk organza featuring a high neckline and bishop sleeves. Rows of Chantilly lace overlay highlighted her gown and the back fell in soft fullness into a brush train. Her lace edged mantilla cascaded from a Juliet Cap into a chapel train.

Orange and floral hues
Matron of honor was Mrs. Alice May Sutherland, friend of the bride. Betty Ann Sanders, a fellow graduate from Chatham School of Nursing was bridesmaid while Sue Ann Eyre, niece of the bride acted as flower girl. All the attendants wore identical gowns of orange crepe with ruffled necklines and sleeves and contrasting floral print pant skirts. They carried baskets of fall flowers in matching colors. The groom's attendants were Lorry Tiguer of Curunna and Graham Hern of Preston. Ushers were Alan Duncan, brother of the groom and James Maw, nephew of the bride. Honey-moon north
For a wedding trip to Northern Ontario the bride donned a coat and dress ensemble of brown and pink polyester with brown accessories. The newlyweds have taken up residence in Burlington. Guests attended from Chatham, Milton, Orillia, North Carolina, Wallaceburg, Preston, Blenheim and Glencoe.

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Haller

(Continued fr flower girl a go the bride. The b necklace, a gift Groom's Groomsman Timbers of Mil groom. Ushers Harv Haller o brothers of the Royce of Lindsa bride and Joh Hornby, brothe bride. Ring b Feenstra of Hor the bride. An evening re the wedding in St. Stephen's approximately 7 attending. Pin streamers and the hall. Guests att Liverpool, Engla Guelph, Oakv Campbellville Georgetown, St Burlington. The bride's m vests in a figur green crimplene white fur. She v ccessories and a corsage. The groom's mo a deep purple ce with white ace corsage of white