



Old home on Ste Marie site

This photograph, taken in the 1940's shows the white house in which Mr. and Mrs. Victor Beatty once lived and the excavation of some original stonework in the ruins of Sainte-Marie among the Hurons, the 17th century French Jesuit

mission. On the left is Dr. Wilfrid Jury who directed some of the archaeological excavation and reconstruction of the historic site.

## Pilgrims thought house was part of historic site

More than 30 years ago, when Sainte-Marie among the Hurons was in ruins and the Wye Marsh was privately owned land, Mrs. Elva Beatty was kept busy shoeing religious pilgrims out of her home.

Mrs. Beatty and her deceased husband Victor, were the last people to raise a family in the two-storey, white frame house, which stood next to the site of the destroyed 17th-century French Jesuit mission.

Every summer from 1942 to 1949, Mrs. Beatty had to contend with the thousands of people who made a pilgrimage to the Sainte-Marie site. Many of the pilgrims presumed the adjacent house was related to the mission site and often entered uninvited.

"We couldn't call the place our own," laughs Mrs. Beatty. "The pilgrims came by the trainload and we often had to keep the door locked, otherwise, they would be wandering through the house."

Now living on King Street in Midland, Mrs. Beatty has probably had closer contact with the excavations and reconstruction of Sainte-Marie, and development of the Wye Marsh Wildlife Centre than any person not directly involved with the work.

Mrs. Beatty married in the early 1920s, she and her husband moved to a farm on the Old Fort Road, just east of Sainte-Marie. Victor Beatty's parents had lived in the white house next to the mission site, since John Beatty accepted a position as caretaker and gamekeeper of the Wye Marsh in 1902. At that time the marsh was owned by a Torontonian named Kemp and maintained for duck hunting.

John died in 1921 and his son Charles took over the caretaker's job. Twenty years later, Victor and Elva Beatty moved their family

into the house and assumed the duties of caring for the Wye Marsh.

Mrs. Beatty remembers the ruins of the mission community. Their garden was close to the remaining stone work.

"All that remained (of the original mission) was the stonewalls that are visible now and," Mrs. Beatty said, "the Jesuits had erected a monument. The ruins were almost entirely overgrown with weeds. I knew it was old and significant and I had a feeling someday it would be developed."

Sainte-Marie was a French Jesuit mission community built in the centre of the Huron Confederacy as a headquarters for the missionaries dedicated to Christianizing the Indians. Begun in 1639, it thrived as a cornerstone of French culture about 800 miles of wilderness from "Kebec". In 1649 the priests burned and abandoned it, and went to Christian Island with their Huron converts.

Mrs. Beatty raised four children, Ken and Mervin, both in the Canadian Armed Forces, and Marlene and Gail, who were young

enough to enjoy playing around the ruins of Sainte-Marie.

"The odd time we dug up a relic in the garden, but I don't think we ever found anything of value," Mrs. Beatty said.

One summer morning, she rose to find Dr. Wilfrid Jury and some archaeology students at Sainte-Marie. During the years of excavation she met Professor Ken Kidd of Trent University and Elsie Jury.

"We used to watch Dr. Jury working," Mrs. Beatty said, adding her two young girls became quite fond of him.

In 1949, exactly 300 years after Sainte-Marie had been destroyed, the government lease on the house expired and Mr. and Mrs. Beatty moved to a new home on the west side of the Wye River. The white frame house was demolished, making way for further excavations of Sainte-Marie.

In the evenings, the Beattys often walked across the railroad bridge or canoed across the river to view the work done during the day by the archaeologists. Victor continued his duties as

caretaker of the marsh and on weekends Mrs. Beatty prepared meals for the hungry hunters. The Beattys lived in that house for 15 years until, what at that time was called the Ontario Department of Information and Tourism, purchased it.

Over the years Mrs. Beatty has maintained her historical interest in Sainte-Marie, the Wye Marsh and Huronia. She has spent the last four years working at the Huron Indian Village, adjacent to the Midland Park.

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by Bill Player

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## YMCA names and news

A national tumbling award was recently earned by Kim Gagnon, 12, in the Y gymnastic program. Gymnastic instruction and testing for both boys and girls continues on a regular basis at the Midland YMCA.

**Kindergym** - The Parents and participants in the kindergym program enjoyed a special presentation during the last session of the present course. New kindergym programs will begin Friday, January 9 and Saturday January 10. Registrations are now being accepted.

**Camp Kitchikewana 1975** - Dates for the 1975 boys camps are June 28 to July 12 and July 12 to July 26. Girls camps will be held from July

29 to August 12, and August 12 to August 26. The 1975 Family Camp will operate from August 26 to September 1. Application forms for all these camp programs can be obtained by adding your name to our camp mailing list without obligation.

**Recognition for physical director** - After 17 years with the Midland YMCA, our physical director, Lloyd Stackhouse, has accepted a position with the Indian Affairs Department as recreation co-ordinator in the James Bay region. Lloyd has established an excellent relationship with the people in that area and we are convinced he will do an outstanding job in his new

challenging position. Lloyd's enthusiasm, energy and dedication will certainly be missed at the Midland Y. The youth and adults of this community are indebted to his leadership throughout the past years, and we all wish him well in his new career which will begin in February 1975. Y president John Leitch and general secretary Austin Matthews are working on plans for a testimonial dinner for Lloyd which will take place late in January. Anyone interested in having more details on this recognition night is asked to leave his or her name at the Y and further information will be forwarded as it becomes available.

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### Forms mailed in December

## Farm Tax Reduction continues

Robert A. Humphries Associate Agricultural Representative

**North Simcoe**  
The Farm Tax Reduction Program which allows owners farmland a 50 per cent rebate on municipal taxes is being continued this year.

The program was initiated in 1970 to remove some of the municipal tax pressures brought to bear on farmers. Application forms for the rebate were mailed during the first week of December. To qualify, the applicant must certify that 50 per cent of the 1974 Municipal Taxes

have been paid and that the current farm operation produces farm products valued at not less than \$2,000 in a normal productive year.

If the assessment status of the property should change from a farm to residential, industrial, or commercial purposes on or before 1984, all tax rebates are considered repayable with interest at 8 per cent per year. Questions on this program should be directed to the Subsidies Branch, T.E.I.G.A., 56 Wellesley St. W., Toronto, Ontario.

## Peewees down Thornbury

The Midland Minor Peewees downed Thornbury 4-3 last Sunday on home ice. It was a close game which saw the home team trailing for much of the game before they managed to pull up their socks and take a win.

Danny Hall opened the scoring off a pass by Gerry Bors before the game was a minute old. David Valcourt popped in the first of his three goals for Thornbury to leave a tie game at the end of the first period.

Valcourt picked up his second (unassisted) goal of the game, and was the only marksman of the second period.

Opening quickly, Pat Brodeur slipped the puck into the net twice for Midland in 40 seconds in the third frame. They were his fifteenth and sixteenth goals of the season, both coming in the first minute of play. On each occasion linemates Ken Mugford and Alan Sangster

were credited with assists. Hall popped in the winning goal and his eighth of the season just short of the five minute mark with an assist from Bors. Valcourt finished off the scoring with an assist from Tom Christenson at 12:03.

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