

Gormley News

Correspondent
Mrs. Chas. Milsted Gormley 5421

Mr. and Mrs. Monty Johnson are improving following their recent accident. Mrs. Johnson has been removed to St. John's Convalescent Hospital, Newtonbrook. Mr. Johnson is still in Branson Hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. John Brooke welcomed their third daughter last week.

Mr. and Mrs. Paul Farmer and children have returned from a trip to the Maritimes and United States.

Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Cober, and Mr. and Mrs. Max Cober and children, Shelby, Mich., had dinner Wednesday with Miss Henderson. They also visited other relatives here.

Raymond Matsunaga spent a week's holiday in the Ottawa district.

Mrs. D. V. Nicklin is spending a couple of weeks with her nephew and niece, Mr. and Mrs. Westney Pickering.

Misses Pauline Brubacher of Elora and Nancy and Phyllis Wenger of Wakarusa, Indiana, are holidaying with their grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. Carl Reesor.

Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Gibson and girls, enjoyed a motor trip to the Maritimes last week.

Miss Kathryn Reesor, who is working at Fraser Lake Camp, Fort Stewart, for the summer, is spending a few days at her home.

Recent visitors of Mr. and Mrs. George French were Mr. and Mrs. Peter Stickle, Mr. and Mrs. Neal Connor, Mr. and Mrs. Murray Wideman and Wendy of Richmond Hill, Mr. and Mrs. Lowell Brown and children of Welland, and Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Fush and Bonnie of Ridgeway.

Mrs. W. C. Noble and Victor, motored via Trans Canada Highway to Kenora to visit their cousins, Dr. Harvey Johnston and Mr. and Mrs. Ross Carmichael.

Mrs. Dan Thornhill and girls of South Bend, Indiana, are visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Harmon.

Mrs. Lawrence Boynton and children spent last week at Head Lake, Muskoka.

Carman Matsunaga is spending two weeks holidays in the Muskoka area.

Mrs. W. F. Donnelly and Diane have been holidaying with her family in Newfoundland.

Miss Ethel Byer is holidaying this week with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Levi Byer of Clifford.

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Wideman and family spent last week at Elm Lodge near Peterborough.

Residents Recall A Night Of Horror In Maple

(Continued From Page 1)

A former volunteer fireman, Mr. Pineau donned a fireman's coat and helmet and helped fight the blaze. Sunday afternoon he was still standing by with other members of the brigade.

The Pineau family saved only the clothes on their back and the boys' bedding from the backyard shack.

A cemetery vault served as a refuge for a Maple family from the holocaust which threatened the village after Saturday night's explosion at the Superior Propane plant.

Mr. and Mrs. L. Bloom, whose Station Street home is just across from the scene of the explosion, and their two children huddled in the vault most of the night.

Sound of leaking gas alerted Phyllis Bloom, who phoned police to tell them what was happening. She just had time to rouse her husband and two children.

All four flattened themselves at the back door as the first blast came. Then they found their way to the vault and stayed there.

Mrs. Bloom's quick thinking was all that saved the family from disaster. A bedroom door was blown onto a bed one of the children had been sleeping in only moments before.

Mrs. Bloom and her 13-year-old daughter both required stitches in their faces the next day to close cuts from flying glass.

"I just had on my dressing gown," recalls Mrs. Bloom. "My face was cut and I was bleeding profusely. My dressing gown was soaked with blood from head to toe."

Extensive damage took place in the house. Most of the windows were broken, plaster and insulation had been dislodged, and there is a distinct danger of structural damage to the house.

Hoodlums apparently took advantage of the Bloom's plight to ransack the house. On Sunday afternoon, Mrs. Bloom reported that some \$60, the remainder of her vacation paycheck, was missing.

Some \$700 belonging to the cemetery and to a club, was gone from Mr. Bloom's wallet. Mr. Bloom is caretaker of the cemetery.

"It was a miracle we got off as easily as we did," commented Tom Gillings, Vaughan Township Building Inspector, in the aftermath of Saturday night's spectacular explosion.

Mr. Gillings and his assistants, along with a pair of police officers, were touring the area Sunday afternoon, closing homes and buildings which were no longer safe because of structural damage.

Bearded and tired after only two hours' sleep, he recounted the way he spent Saturday night and Sunday morning.

"We live about a mile west of Maple on the Maple Side-road. We saw and felt the first explosion. There was a tremendous shock, almost like an earthquake."

"I dialed 0 for operator to report what had happened, but through the entire series of explosions."

"Then the police came and told us we would have to leave in the house in case there was another explosion," he said.

"I didn't know what to do at first. I never saw anything of the kind," Mr. Matheson recalled.

"It seemed like everybody for 20 miles had seen the flash and heard the explosion and was trying to get closer to it. It was a wonder any of the outside police and fire departments even got into town."

Mr. Gillings estimated that at least half a dozen buildings would be ruled unsafe.

A least one Maple resident slept right through Saturday night's propane explosion and fire. Wilbur Matheson, who lives along the railroad which runs through the village, told us that his granddaughter slept through the entire series of explosions.

Mr. Magee's new home, next to his former home he had lived in for 11 years, had many of its windows broken and a good deal of plaster had fallen from the ceiling. Two bushel baskets of broken glass were sitting on the front lawn.

"I was in bed and asleep before it woke me up. The sky was all lit up, so I got dressed. But the little girl didn't wake up so I didn't do anything till the police came."

"It didn't hurt the house; except it knocked out five or six windows," he stated.

"We just got moved into our house and now we'll have to start all over again." E. J. Magee was talking in hushed tones about the damage Saturday night's explosion in Maple inflicted on his home next to Vaughan Township municipal offices.

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"My wife doesn't even remember what happened," Mr. Magee told me. "We were just five blocks down the street when the second blast came. I could feel the heat moving down the side of my arm."

"I thought the whole town would be engulfed. We had the doctor look at Mrs. Magee. She doesn't even remember him. Then we went to stay at my son's home at Richmond Hill."

Saturday night's explosion brought some extra money into the cash register of local restaurants, but at least one restaurant owner didn't think it was really worth it.

Metro Police Chief James Mackey had asked Mr. and Mrs. Bob Payne to reopen their Keele Street restaurant Saturday night shortly after midnight to serve Metro policemen. For the rest of the night the restaurant swarmed with policemen, firemen, residents who had evacuated their homes, newspaper reporters, photographers and radio newsmen. Business boomed as it never had before, according to Mrs. Marion Payne.

But the price of the added business was pretty steep. It included death to a neighbor (Mr. Joslin), the knowledge that good friends would suffer hardship as a result of the explosion, and two badly frightened children.

The series of blasts broke the front display window of the restaurant and a kitchen window at the back. The restaurant is a quarter of a mile from the scene of the explosion.

According to Mrs. Payne, her daughters, Ellen, 2, and Elizabeth, 4, were still a badly frightened pair of youngsters Sunday afternoon.

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CARRVILLE

Correspondent Mrs. Bert Middleton Phone AL. 7-8920

August Birthdays

Gayle Melnic was 12 years on August 4; Brenda Boustead 11 yrs. old on August 6; Kirk Del Brocco also August 6; Douglas Bone on August 7; Mrs. A. Read on August 11; George Melnic on August 15; Mrs. J. Melnic August 16; Christina Gray and Mrs. Douglas Bone on August 19; Mrs. J. Barton on August 21; also Susan Clare Manning August 21; Paul Winger on August 30. We hope all these folks have a very fine time on their own special day. Mrs. Melnic took Gayle Melnic out to dinner on Saturday evening to help Gayle celebrate her birthday.

Socials

Mrs. Hillier on Carrville Rd. celebrated her 80th birthday on August 2, so her neighbor Mrs. Frank Purvis baked a birthday cake for Mrs. Hillier and had Mrs. Annie Clement and Mrs. Fred Broom and children to help her celebrate.

We were very sorry to hear that Mr. and Mrs. George Wood, lost their tiny baby son who was born pre-mature on Thursday. He was buried in the Carrville Cemetery on Tuesday. Our sincere sympathy to his parents.

Church News

The Carrville United Church is closed for the month of August. At the last Sunday in July Mr. and Mrs. Merrill Wilson were appointed to the pastoral relations committee. They will be serving with Mr. and Mrs. Jack Bushell. When services resume in September, Rev. Howard J. Veals will be the minister. Rev. Hugh R. MacDonald will preach his farewell sermon at Carrville on September 9. Congratulations to Rev. and Mrs. MacDonald on the birth of their son at Branson Hospital on July 26.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Middleton are spending a week at a cottage on the Severn River, and Glen and Denise Middleton are spending the week with Mr. and Mrs. James Ash and family at Moorefield, where the Bert Middleton's spent the past week-end.

Mr. and Mrs. Dick Greenfield and family spent a week camping up near New Liskeard.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Nursey and Norma and Don, and Mr. and Mrs. Walter Cherry and daughter Kim, of Toronto, visited Mr. and Mrs. Bob Walker and family on Saturday evening.

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- Contestants are only eligible to win one of the weekly prizes, plus the grand prize. Enter as often as you wish, using official contest slips. The contest lasts for five weeks and mixed-up firm names will be changed each week.
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