

Gormley postmaster Peter Koropatwa will retire Jan. 16 after twenty-three years' service. When he was hired to fill the position, the Gormley Post Office was located west of Woodbine Avenue in what is now The Menger Gallery. Mr.

Koropatwa has seen many changes in the past two decades including an increase in the price of stamps from three to thirty-four cents. — Jim Thomas

An early retirement Gormley postmaster recalls 3 cent stamp

By JIM THOMAS

GORMLEY — Peter Koropatwa can remember when a postage stamp cost three cents.

That's going back a few years — twenty-three years in fact. He feels it's time to call it quits.

Mr. Koropatwa will leave his second home, of thirteen years, Jan. 16.

The friendly Gormley postmaster began his career as an inside sorter and later a counter clerk at Terminal A on Front Street, Toronto.

While Gormley was his first permanent postmaster's post, he did a brief stop-over along the way at Markham and Unionville. He and wife Minnie reside in Unionville. He is the father of four and the grandfather of five.

When he arrived, the Gormley Post Office was located west of Woodbine Avenue at what is now The Menger Gallery. Later, a site on the north-east corner of the intersection was chosen. It serves the public well, Mr. Koropatwa says.

"His policy also serves the public well. You must listen to the people," he says, "after all, they're paying our salaries."

Each complaint must be acted upon, he states.

The Gormley Post Office, he explains, is held in high regard. And so are members of staff — assistant postmistress Judy Steckley, Wendy Shropshire, Mary Kokkinos, Cathy Wideman and couriers Patrick Savelli, R.R. 1 and Harry Copps, R.R. 2.

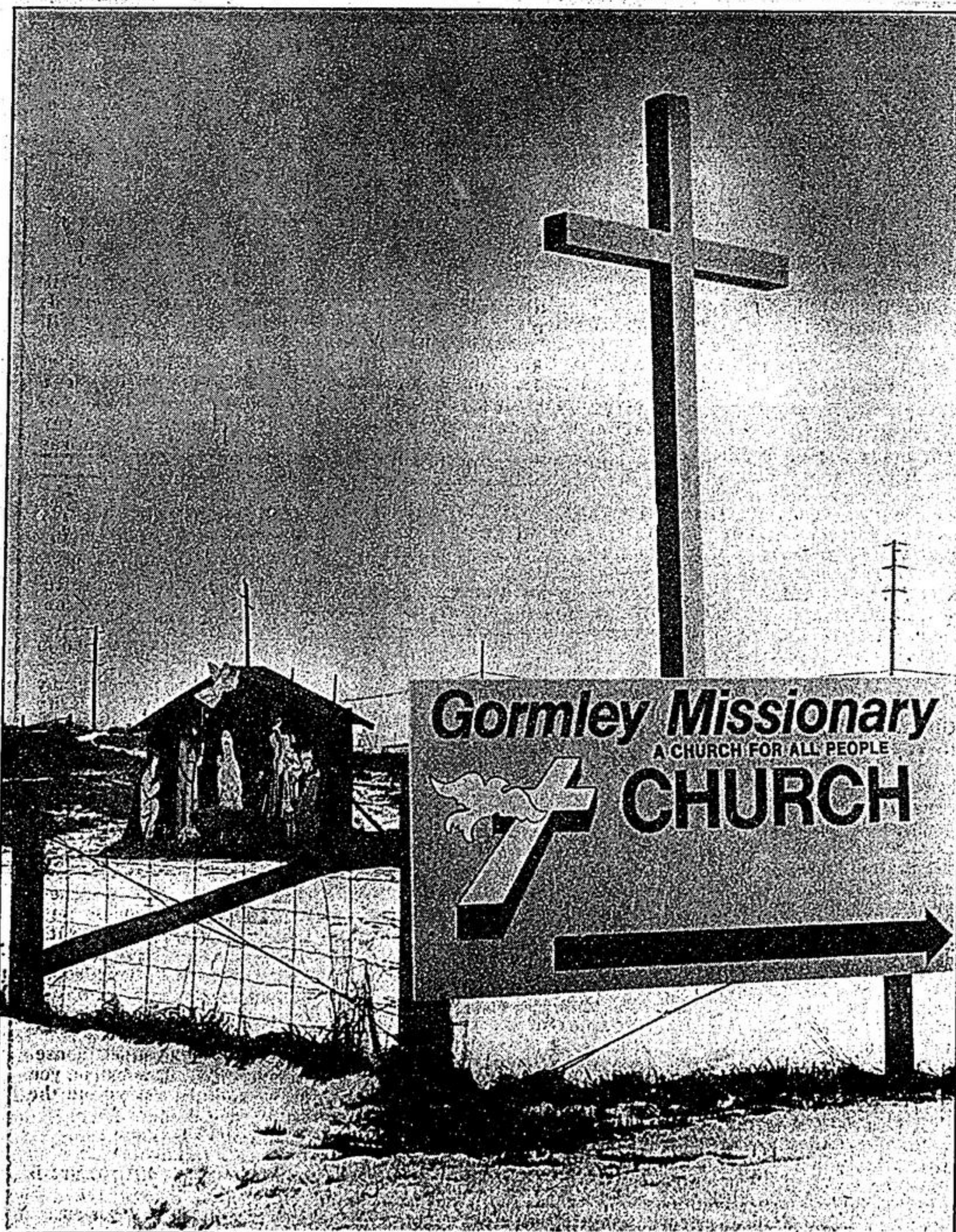
Office hours are 8:30 a.m. to 5:45 p.m. Monday through Friday, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday. However, access to postal boxes is round-the-clock Monday through Friday, and Saturday until one.

Mr. Koropatwa is proud of his work record — fifteen years, without a miss. He's often on duty as early as 7:30. "I enjoy being busy," he says.

While he'd initially intended to retire the end of December, he was asked to stay on until May. "We reached a compromise," he explains, with Jan. 16 being his official retirement date.

What'll he do? Peter's looking forward to spending extra time at the family cottage south of Midland on Georgian Bay. He and Minnie also plan to do some travelling, down Florida way and to Arizona.

And while the mail will still go through, things won't seem quite the same with Peter Koropatwa out of the office.



Church cross marks the site

A beautiful illuminated cross and an accompanying manger scene marks the location of property purchased recently by the congregation of Gormley Missionary Church. The site is near the intersection of Leslie Street and the

Stouffville Road. While there's no immediate plans to build a new sanctuary, members are obviously looking to the future. — Jim Thomas

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