

a furnace. It was heated with wood stoves - people are going back to them now. We had oil lamps until 1936. There was no radio or TV or electric washing machines. I washed with a tub and washboard at the start.

"But yes, it was really nice. The former owner, George Preston had everything up-to-date for the time. There was a big kitchen with two pumps, one for soft water from the cistern, and another for hard water from the well. That was considered a convenience, not to have to go outside for water. There was a dining room with a bay window for plants. And a parlour, naturally, and five bedrooms. All the rooms had softwood floors, meant to be covered with carpets. Blake and I didn't have carpets then. The ceilings were oak, and the mouldings were elaborately turned.

There was even a bathroom. The rain water from the roof collected in an upstairs tank. The pipes went through a fire box and the water ran down into the tub by force of gravity. There was no toilet in the bathroom."

"It's all changed," Mrs. Meriman said. "But, it is still in the family. My son, Arthur, lives there."

For three years now, Mrs. Meriman has been at Extendicare in Kingston. She can hardly hear and barely see, but her mind is clear and her power of recall almost total. She loves to have her friends in, to talk of old times and learn the latest news.

CHURCH HISTORY

The first church was the Singleton's Corners Methodist New Connection Church, built in 1838. It was located where the cemetery is now, on land donated by the Leggett family. In 1888, a new church was built across the road. Tenders were let out for its construction. After some negotiations, Mr. John Paul's bid of \$1952.25 was accepted. To keep the cost down, the church trustees had agreed to get along without a basement or spire. The congregation was able to pay for the church's construction, but a year after it was finished the total collections for that year were \$32.32 and expenditures were \$34.78, leaving a deficit of \$2.46.

In 1902, Mr. William Harding donated a bell to be placed in the church steeple. The 700 pound bell was specially manufactured by the best bell maker in the U.S.A. It came with a 15 year full guarantee.

On June 25, 1967, Rev. Fred Styles preached the last service of what was then the Crosby United Church. Rev. Styles was the 22nd minister to preach at Crosby. The church was closed. Since then, the building has been torn down. The congregation was told to go to Newboro United Church.

THEIR MISFORTUNE CAN BE OUR SALVATION

It has been said that Canada is divided because its people do not have a common purpose. During Canada Week 1979, our country has the tremendous opportunity to not only pull itself together but also to fill one of the greatest humanitarian needs our society must meet if it is going to continue to have any respect for itself.

I am referring to the hundreds of boat people in Malaysia and Vietnam who are forced to starve or drown because we in our comfortable chairs are unwilling to be involved in trying to save them from the misery forced on them by the Vietnamese government. In Canada, we find ourselves living in a country blessed with more uninhabited space, more food, more resources, more potential wealth and more waste than almost any country in the world; yet we are looking with indifference on thousands of people living without all the essentials of life in small sinking boats, ready to drown, or die in crowded refugee camps from where they may be expelled to face starvation any time.

Why cannot we as a nation help these people, and in the process help ourselves by being engaged in a common purpose? You may say, "how"? By each community or neighbourhood, for instance, adopting one family; by providing them with shelter, food and clothing for the time it takes until these people can look after themselves in our country.

In a town like Seeley's Bay, for instance, we waste more food, have more available housing, more closets full of unused clothing, more wood to provide heat, and enough big warm hearts to take care of one if not a number of families. I am confident that this is true of practically any of our Canadian communities.

Why cannot some of the groups or people in the community take the initiative of approaching our member of parliament and offer our help, adopt one family or more and assist them in making the transition to our Canadian society? Since many of these people are hard working professionals or trades people, or businessmen, it will not be long until many of them will make their own employment and contribution to our country in the same way as our forefathers did when they came to Canada.

If you are interested in helping, let's get together and form a campaign to save the Boat People. Anyone willing to help get this underway, call 387-3308, or write to Boat People, Box 160, Seeley's Bay.



CROSBY PUBLIC SCHOOL (about 1949):

From the back,

Carol Leggett, Elsie Day, Mary Burtch, Donnie Palmer,

Gordon Wing, Bertha Day, Ernie Day, Mary Eleanor McCarthy, Charlie McCarthy,

Evelyn Leggett, Wayne Proud, Ann Dowsett, Joe McCarthy, Sheila O'Meara

Teacher: Margaret Jean Rowswell,

Bobby Burtch, Steve O'Meara, David Whallen, Lorraine Burtch, Neal Proud, Keith Haskins, Tom O'Meara.

FOR SALE

Right now there's grass,
And later snow.
You need a Bolens
To make them go.
I've got ten horses,
With attachments two.
Make any offer
And we'll consider you!

928-2190