

## Friends 'N Neighbors

by Jessie Miller Orillia with their daughter and two sons, 15, Eddie and Heather to visit with Mrs. Smith drove down from Smith's parents in the



WHO ME?

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All Record readers, advertisers and customers

THE WH RECORD

will be

**CLOSED**

FROM DECEMBER 20th TO DECEMBER 26th

for staff holidays. There will be no issue December 27th.

For the January 3rd issue, all ad copy and correspondence must be in the office by Monday, Dec. 31st since the office will be closed New Year's Day.

Presbyterian Manse in Jarvis.

There was considerable excitement as the Smith family were reunited with their pet dog, Chocolate, which has been boarding with the manse family for a little more than two weeks. The Smith's have been living in a motel at Orillia until their house became available in the town. They left Sunday for their new home in Orillia early in the afternoon, taking a happy Chocolate with them.

Mr. Walter Mills is a patient in West Haldimand Hospital. Mrs. Tom Robinson (Barbara) stayed last week with her mother, Mrs. Mills. Also with her were her daughters, Kathy and Julia, all from Caledonia.

Miss Lorraine Mitchell, R.N. of Toronto spent the weekend with her mother, Mrs. Wallace Mitchell.

Mr. Ralph Gowan will act as stand-in for the Rev. Mark Reeves, who with Mrs. Reeves has gone to Thunder Bay to visit her father in hospital, following a mishap. Also to bring her aged mother for nursing care. Sympathy is extended.

A well-attended Christmas pot-luck supper was held in Knox

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## Rev. Wubbels Tells Of Pat O'Mahony

He is one of the many Irish bachelors who emigrated to Canada. He went first to the West and saved enough money to buy an old farm close to Mt. Forest, Ontario. He got, according to himself, a real bargain, because no one else wanted the farm without Hydro, with leaking roofs, a wornout barn, and a lot of weed in the field and around the house.

The first thing Pat did was to repair the gate to have privacy. The only contact he had with the outside world was through a big old radio he had bought at a sale. It worked on a battery because he lived too far from the road and the connection with the Hydro should be too expensive.

Pat was one of our writer's parishioners and which day would be more opportune to visit him than on Christmas in his loneliness! It didn't happen every day that he got visitors and Pat opened the door with a smile and the warning—Watch your head, Father, the entrance is low! We came first in a shed filled with woodblocks and all kind of junk. Some cats got disturbed in their sleep and ran away.

The next door led us to the livingroom, bedroom and kitchen, all in one! The bed was covered with rags, Pat used as blankets.

Mr. Jack Atkinson of Cheapside is recovering from a broken ankle. The Disciple Church at Selkirk held a special Christmas Program on Sunday night. The highlight being Mr. Shippey and his Choraleists. "Just lovely," say those visiting neighbors.

Rev. and Mrs. Earl Sider attended the annual Christmas dinner last Thursday at noon, put on by the Senior Citizens at the Selkirk Community Hall.

St. John's Anglican Church held their Christmas program in the Cheapside Hall on Sunday evening.

Mrs. Peter Fraiss of Sarnia is visiting her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Johnson. Dr. Fraiss will join them this week - end for over Christmas.

On Monday, Dec. 17 the Community Hall was filled to capacity for a Christmas concert presented by all the pupils of the Canadian Christian School.

The singing, acting and speaking developed the beautiful theme - "God's plan unfolded," emphasizing Christ's birth, death and resurrection as God's plan of salvation.

The host took some papers from a chair and invited his guest:—"Make yourself comfortable!" He put some wood in the stove to make coffee and "cleaned" some cups in a dirty pail of water and it didn't last too long before the coffee was ready.

It was such a pleasure to listen to his Irish brogue that the pastor took the risk of finding housekeeper mad when he came too late for his Christmas dinner that night!

Pat told how happy he was with his life, being his own boss. He went to bed when it got dark and the sun woke him up next morning. He had two horses and preferred them above a tractor: cheaper and better company. He took his bicycle to go once a week to town for his shopping he drove to the highway, put the bike in a ditch and hitchhiked farther! He did the same thing on Sunday to go to Church.

Pat's philosophy was "I worked enough in my life and take it easy now: 2 cows and 50 acres of land, that is enough for me."

When asked why he never got married, Pat had his answer ready. "The women in Ireland were too bossy!"

Dear reader, may the peace, I found with Pat, be yours at Christmas!

Father G. Wubbels.

## Sunshine Club

A feeling of Christmas was in the air for the December 13th meeting of the Seniors.

Mrs. Jessie Cripps, at the piano, saluted the Queen. After a discussion on the knotty

problem of budgeting, the seven tables of progressive Hoss settled in for a gay afternoon of cards.

The prizes went to Ladies' High, Mrs. Edna Keith; Ladies' Low, Mrs. Effie Huffman; Men's High, Mr. Harold Johnson and Low, Mr. Jim Brown.

Mrs. Winnie Preston and Mrs. Madeline Corrigan, in charge of refreshments, were pleased by the enthusiastic response of the club members to their choice of menu.

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## Old Time Christmas In Canada

Christmas Cheer among the earliest pioneers in Upper Canada (Ontario) varied greatly, for what we think of as Christmas fare was very scant. In the earliest period before the War of 1812, salt pork, potatoes and Indian corn were the only supplies available. To obtain flour, the settler's grain had to be carried - - often on his back - - to a distant mill for grinding. Children were fed porridge made from Indian corn, boiled sometimes for a whole day to produce a soft mush.

Occasionally the settlers were able to shoot partridge, pigeon or game, but powder and shot were scarce, and fish while plentiful, took time to catch. With little or no fencing, chickens and livestock could not be kept because of the all - enclosing forest, into which they were likely to stray and be lost.

As for the quality of pioneer cooking, Dr. William Dunlop, the "Backwoodsman," who wrote one of the earliest accounts of life in Canada, quotes the old saw: "God sends meat and the devil cooks". Not surprising, since without cold storage facilities, butter, milk and cheese soon became rancid.

As the years passed and conditions improved, holiday fare became more plentiful. Ann Langton, in her journal (published as "A Gentlewoman in Upper Canada") describes a Christmas party in 1838, just a year after the Rebellion. Ann tells of "popping three plum puddings into the pot" for a holiday dinner, which included "soup, boiled pork (the national dish), roast goose, chicken pie and vegetables, with a second course of plum pudding, apple tart and a trifle".

Winters were really

## Correction

In last week's write-up on the Ebenezer Reformed Church, one name was left out of a paragraph.

It should have read as follows:

Following the benediction by Rev. Dykstra, greetings were extended to the congregation by: Rev. Perry of the Anglican Church, Father Wubbels of the Roman Catholic Church, Rev. Taylor - Munro of the Presbyterian Church, Mr. Miller Reeve of Walpole and Mr. Davidson, Reeve of Jarvis. A letter from Rev. Reeves of the United Church (who was unable to attend) expressing the best wishes of the families of that church, was received as well.



May the peace and serenity of the season be in your hearts and in your lives - not only at Christmas, but all through the year. Thanks for your friendly support and patronage.



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