

## MARK DATE



Celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Hagersville Women's Institute included a look at dozens of antiques, from old quilts to ancient lamps. Studying some of them are, from left, Alice Giles, president in 1942; and Mrs. Maude Eubank, a member of the WI for more than 30 years. (Staff Photos)



Preparing to cut the decorated anniversary cake are, from left, Mrs. William Mitchell, president of the Hagersville WI, and Mrs. Arthur Roth, convener. Costumes depicted shions of years ago.



Among the five area students named to the Dean's Honor Lists, achieving consistently high academic standing at the recent Mohawk

College graduation on May 16, was Douglas James McBride, son of Mr. and Mrs. Cliff McBride of Main St. S., Jarvis. He is an electronics engineering technician. Douglas accepted a position with the Electro Home Company at Markham and started work on May 14.

Y, February 2, 1967

Authorized as Second Class Mail

## Tragedy Strikes Walpole Family

### TWO CHILDREN DIE IN BLAZE WHEN HOUSE DESTROYED

An absolute tragedy is the only way to describe the fire, early last Saturday morning, that razed the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edgar Helder, on the sixth concession of Walpole, and claimed the lives of their two daughters, Barbara, aged 8, and Mary Ann, 3.

The Helder family settled in Walpole Township after emigrating from Holland 14 years ago. The family consists of eight sons and two daughters, both of whom were lost to them in the fire.

Mr. Helder, only recently, returned from a visit to his homeland. Too, they had only recently leased the Esso Service Station in Jarvis. The station was opened earlier last week.

The family, apparently, had all retired shortly before the fire broke out. Mrs. Helder awoke at 12.45 A.M. and smelled smoke. She awakened her husband. He found flames emitting from an air vent from the basement. Within moments the whole house was aflame. Mr. Helder took every means he could to arouse his children, but he could not gain entrance to the room where his two girls were sleeping. His son, Jake, jumped from a second storey window to the roof of a one storey room of the house and tried to get into the girls' room. The flames forced him to jump to the ground. The phone was out of order, due to the fire, or otherwise, and Mr. Helder was unable to telephone for assistance. Two of his sons went to a neighbour's home to call the Fire Department. On arrival the Fire Department found no hope of saving the dwelling. The family escaped, other than the two daughters, with only their bed clothing.

The firemen fought the blaze until 4 A.M. and returned at 7.30 A.M. to retrieve the bodies of the two girls lost in the blaze. The bodies were found under rubble piled upon them when the second storey floor and roof caved in.

The funeral for the two Helder girls was held from the McKenzie-Hyde Funeral Home at Hagersville, on Tuesday afternoon. Interment took place in Knox Church Cemetery, Jarvis.

## LOCAL ORGANIZATIONS LEND ASSISTANCE

The Jarvis Lions Club, The Jarvis Women's Institute and the local Red Cross were quick to come to the assistance of the Helder family after the disaster that came to them early Saturday morning.

With Mrs. Cora McKenzie acting in a clearing capacity, clothing and basic household needs were quickly subscribed. A fund was also opened at the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce in Jarvis and those who wish to render assistance to the Helder family may leave their contributions there. Mrs. McKenzie has informed the Record that the tangible goods, such as clothing and furniture, seems to be adequate at the moment.

The family has been re-established in the home of John Lightfoot a mile or so from their original home and it is Mr. Helder's hope to re-build a home for his family on his home farm.



A 50,000 gallon water tower, 120 feet high, has recently been installed for the village of Jarvis. The tower, placed on the farm of John Kramer, R.R. 1 Jarvis, was erected at a cost of \$42,000 by Horton Steel of Fort Erie. (Reformer Photo)