



# *Conversation Pieces*

by  
Helen Marsh



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80 Richmond Street  
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N9V 1E9 (519) 736-9191

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## *Conversation Pieces*

In 1941 Helen Marsh gave up her teaching position at the Amherstburg Public School to join her brother John at the Amherstburg Echo, where she remained until 1980 when illness compelled her to retire at eighty years young.

The Amherstburg Echo of September 26, 1941 announced a new feature page entitled “Of Interest to Women”...

We are going to try and make this as interesting as possible for the ladies- and for the men, too, if they're curious about what the womenfolk are doing- and they usually are. It will contain topics of current interest, hints for the homemaker and suggestions that might help the hand that rocks the cradle to rule the world. Women are taking an active part in the affairs of their communities and in the Empire today and we will endeavour to chronicle the doings of those in the Harrow and Amherstburg districts...

The name of the page changed from “Of Interest to Women” to “Of Thrilling Interest to Women” to “Of Thrilling Interest to the World of Women” and finally “Of Interest to the World of Women.” The latter name remained for many years. However, Helen Marsh's miscellaneous column entitled “Conversation Pieces” was first presented in 1942 and remained a constant, interesting weekly feature until her retirement. In the following pages we present these columns, only slightly edited where absolutely necessary.

## ***Conversation Pieces***

*By Helen Marsh*

January 4, 1968

-Mrs. M. Makra has an Easter lily in her home with four perfect blossoms on it. It was in the garden, she brought it indoors and to her delight she had Easter lilies for Christmas.

-How to tell an oldtimer - the way he/she pronounces Ouellette Avenue, and also Amherstburg.

-This year, Our Miss Bessie celebrated Christmas and the New Year with beautiful red and white flowers, which were especially nice this season, the poinsettias and white azalea are in fine condition, to greet the New Year. Have had only six or seven yellow leaves form on the poinsettias and that's a recommendation for the growers in a drafty house because the front door on the west opens directly into the living room.

-Pictures of this area's Centennial activities taken by amateur photographers here will be shown at the General Amherst High School on Sunday night. This evening of enjoyment in local personal and candid pictures should be fun.

-When I heard the "plunk" "plunk" of a hockey puck hitting the boards at the skating rink at the park, early Saturday morning I was so happy for skaters that at long last the sheet of natural ice was ready. Young and old enjoyed the weekend of skating. On one side of us were skaters and on the other, kids had fun on the hills at the fort with their modern snow equipment. No sleds, believe me. I loved the flying colours from both south and north windows.

January 11, 1968

-The good old fashioned Canadian winter of my childhood returned in all its beauty and fury and snap and bite this past week and I have to be relegated to the old rocking chair, but I loved it from inside looking out.

-The four-year old son of Mrs. and Mrs. Lynwood Sinasac (Edith Kelly) wanted a cowboy suit for Christmas. Cowboy suits are a thing of another age, as we're in the space age now. Early in December his mother took sick and when in the hospital worried over her son's disappointment. So, a relative of Morley Murray's in Detroit called The Action Line Department of the Detroit Free Press (the paper is strike bound but there was a worker in this department). Through this department, Montgomery Ward in Chicago was contacted; that Chicago branch had one cowboy suit which was sent to London the Friday before Christmas. Heartwarming story - the spirit of Christmas in action.

-Mrs. Ernest Paquette was telling me that her daughter, Sister Phyllis of the Holy Names Community at St. Mary's Academy, is one of three nuns of the Order to wear modern dress for Sisters - sounds smart - short black skirt, black jacket, white blouse, white hair band and black veil.



January 18, 1868

-Mrs. Werner Steininger showed her Siamese cats at the Detroit Cat Show on Saturday. Mrs. Gerard A. Janisse of the third of Malden, who breeds Manx cats, showed her cats also. According to Mrs. Steininger, Manx cats are rare in the United States.

-The Public Relations Officer of the Anderdon Women's Institute, Mrs. L. Bondy wrote: *"I think at this time it would be fitting to say a few words of praise of our neighbors, Mrs. and Mrs. Irving Jones. I believe their motto is 'to do a good deed every day for someone else' and they not only live up to this but they never tire of visiting the sick, at home or in the hospitals, even bringing homemade bread, tarts or cookies to someone who needs her ready smile and his ready handshake. If there are any medals left over in Heaven - I hope they both collect them."*

-Once again, and it's not poverty of expression although this old Sun Parlor reeled and lurched in the weekend snow and sleet storm, we live in a mighty fine county as we escaped the full impact of the storm's fury and even though cars were stuck in the paste-like snow, we had hydro and water and telephones and good snow sculpture and tobogganing and wet clothes and a glorious white world.

-Arthur H. Alexander of North Buxton commenting on the Con Piece 'how to tell an oldtimer by the way he pronounces Amherstburg and Ouellette Avenue', is an oldtimer just like myself. Wrote Mrs. Alexander (and I agree with him): *"In my boyhood days in Amherstburg the accepted pronunciations were - Ouell (will)-ette and Am herstburg (silent h). So now I am confused - I was about to say "bugged" when I hear - O-let, Ou-let, Oo-let, or some shade thereof, and when I hear the h in Amherstburg not only sounded but stressed. I should be silent as the long-deceased general after whom the burg was named."*

January 25, 1968

-I am fond of pink in its densities, so loved the pink river, the pink snow and the pink sky at sunset on Friday.

-If Mrs. Angus McNeil's gay paper shopping bag is a fashion trend, brown paper shopping bags are certainly out of the doldrums. She told me that her shopping bag came from Syracuse and it was riotous in color and design. I think Europeans have brought glamour to the old brown paper bag too as Mrs. Steininger brought me a scarf from Venice last summer in a particularly stunning bag, I thought.

-They're going to be fooled and what do they eat? Mrs. Fred T. Pickering called Monday that a robin was in her yard - and wouldn't eat the grain nor the bread but nibbled on the wild grapes.

-Grade oners tickle me no end. One little girl on starting grade one asked her grandmother to help her with her reading. *"I want to know"*, said she. Another in her enthusiasm for school said, *"How can I read to myself if I don't go to school, I can't be read to all my life."* From the first wee reading enthusiast her grandmother and I learned a phonic trick, that is the "ck" is used following a vowel

as in duck, track, stick and only k after consonant as in talk - good spelling taught in puzzle form.

-A group of young Amherstburg musicians called The Creations entered the Battle of the Bands at The Purple Pad in Essex, Friday night and came out in third place. They were in competition with 18 bands. In this Amherstburg band are George Malott, piano; Marty Baltzer, lead guitar; Danny Trepanier, rhythm guitar; Calvin Sinasac, bass; Reggie Deslippe, drums; and singer Don Stewart. Their enthusiasm is certainly running high as they have this Friday and Saturday night engagements in Essex.

-Neighbor-friend G.E.W. gave me pleasure over the weekend with a copy of "That Darn Cat" by the Gordons, or "Under Cover Cat" as it was first published. This hilarious story of a zany Siamese "secret agent" which took the F.B.I. on an unorthodox caper, was very funny - in fact I laughed out loud as I read along. In the story were three Randalls whose parents were abroad and I found them very attractive young people - with real family understanding, respect and admiration one for the other. A real good amusing yarn, indeed.

February 1, 1968

-Surely the Town Fathers are pulling our legs when they even mention selling the Town Park. That beautiful tree outlined area in the middle of the town is not only an historical site but a glamour point in the old part of town, a town which because of its age (172 years old) is the envy of other places in Ontario who think that antiquity and tourist dollars are synonymous. Progress has no sentiment but people have.

-When the members of the Thursday Club were luncheon guests at Villa Maria last week all had a wonderful time. Dr. Rondot, aged 97, of Villa Maria and Mrs. Albert Burns, aged 91, of Anderdon, were two who enjoyed dancing together.

-David Botsford loaned me his autographed copy of The Ploughboy and The Nightingale, which is a very satisfactory historical novel by Doris Parkin Keil of Chatham. It was the story of Jenny Lind's visit to Chatham in 1851. It seemed that when Miss Lind, the Swedish nightingale, was resting at the Clifton House in Niagara Falls during her arduous American concert tour, she read Mrs. Anna B. Jameson's book, "Winter Studies and Summer Rambles" and became interested in Mrs. Jameson's description of her trip down the Thames River. As Chatham was not too far from Detroit, Miss Lind having decided to make the trip, had the paddle wheel steamer, the Ploughboy commissioned to take her and her small company on the trip. Of interest right here is the fact that this same steamer, The Ploughboy, was later renamed the Thomas L. Parke and had Capt. John Duncanson, grandfather of Mrs. F.E. Wilson, as its captain. Miss Lind's guide for the trip was Mat Van Dalsen, a young Chatham reporter and nephew of the owners of the Ploughboy. Amherstburg in 1851 is mentioned two or three times in the book as Miss Lind learns much of the history of the area on contrast to the old world. She loses some of her prejudices also, as she meets former slaves and their leader Henry Bibb, who had a negro paper in Sandwich and Rev. Josiah Hensen. I could go on and on telling of theatrical groups of one British group which came to Amherstburg to entertain troops at the Fort. But I'll conclude by saying as I began that I found the book most

satisfying and authentic too. Mrs. Keil certainly did a great deal of research for her first novel and her facts and timing of incidents were right, I think.

February 08, 1968

-St. Valentine's Day Greetings for Miss Bessie are to be expressed this year with poinsettias, the colour of the 14th, which extended best wishes at Christmas and made her extremely happy ever since.

-Looking over some old books Saturday, I came across a Greek testament which had been used by Miss Bessie's husband, A.W.M. when he was studying Greek. Miss Bessie told me all about that and other books of his which were brought to our house from Mrs. Dan Botsford's home, N.W. corner of Richmond and Sandwich, where he boarded before Miss Bessie and he were married. Then he went on "I think I'll re read Dickens."

-What a shock it was to read of the "veteran" tug ATOMIC aiding in breaking the ice jam at the mouth of the Thames River. That cocky youthful tug as it speeds upriver in a listing manner, is no "veteran" to me - in fact I went with Captain and Mrs. McQueen to Owen Sound when the ATOMIC was being built. It was part of the happy time we three had together there, so it's still a young living tug and a friend, and the word "veteran" doesn't apply.

-Our area changed to Spring pastels Monday and Tuesday, the mirror-river was quiet, the air so rare that Grosse Ile seemed close up to our shore and the sunsets made me drooly. Drooly and drippy was I, because I thought of the quiet here in contrast to the suffering and privation and water damage not too many miles away in the Chatham area. Speaking of sunsets here, Ione Gatfield Lyons, said that when her sister, Theresa Van der Motter, was here a fortnight ago from Cleveland, she (Ione) commented on our sunsets and Theresa said *"But we have sunsets in Cleveland."* Ione retorted *"But not like ours."*

(No columns Feb 15, 22 or 29)

April 4, 1968

-Baptized Sunday at St. John the Baptist Church were Melissa Mary Alice, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Donald Parks, sponsors Richard Parks and Mary Alice Airiess; Steven Allen Pouget, son of Mr. and Mrs. Murray Pouget, sponsors Joseph and Patricia Laframboise.

-No April Fool Joke, green grass in the park, and pussy willows in the living room.

-I wish that I knew the different bird songs (in fact I think that we have a book on birds and their songs). My knowledge is so limited that when I was listening one morning early recently, the music from out of doors was delightful, and I could only recognize a very few.

April 11, 1968

Soon - Easter!

-Easter - daffodils - tea - hope - the annual Cancer Society's Daffodil Tea is to be held at the Essex Golf Club on Wednesday afternoon when all those who put others above self, gather for tea and a chat. The work of this volunteer group is so rewarding to those dedicated people who have charity in their veins and who accepted the challenge to help those who need friendship and care when the dreaded disease strikes.

-Easter with its promise and joy is here - and I feel that for myself I'm bound that I'll keep looking up, stand straight with head held high to try to face the future with confidence as seen in that wide angle view - too many petty things and worries are to be found ready for picking from the narrow ground view if you look there too often. Sounds corny but I mean every word. How could I see the scarlet tanagers at the top of the linden tree if I didn't look up and if I don't, I'll lose touch with the real, the breathing things of life.

April 18, 1968

-The sunshine and mellowness of Saturday brought a family picnic to the park. I got a charge out of the last year's sun togs worn by the children - too tight, too short, especially the tops. The mother's job was evident.

-Got a laugh out of two pictures in the Toronto Globe, one a group of teachers-in-training in Toronto in 1918 in contrast to a group of smart mini-skirted teachers-in-training in 1968. That group in 1918 was a couple of years before my training period but I wore the same type of awful shapeless cover-up clothes, I know and thought I was properly dressed but through my 1968 eyes, 1918 clothes are a laughing point.

-Mrs. George McVittie and her husband of Colchester were in the office last week and she brought along her scrapbook to show me. I found it extremely interesting and recalled many events and people in my own life and times. Many of the clippings and pictures were not dated which means that the book loses its value.

-John Fraser, five year old son of Mrs. Jeanne Wigle Fraser, has a rare talent for his age I think. Recently I saw a complicated animated cartoon - depicting his uncle's experience, which he did and I thought it was cleverly executed and so understandable. This young lad had a picture of his hung at the children's exhibition at Willistead. His older brother, Glen, has a decided flair with a pencil also. I will be interested in seeing how their talent is developed as they grow older.

(No column on April 25th)

March 09, 1968

-Said R.W. Bailey of the Echo staff to his son Bob - *"Do you know why Miss Marsh got the Centennial Medal? It was because she is the only school teacher in captivity who could work as long as she has with a bunch of newspapermen."*

-Mrs. Fred Beneteau said since the change in the styles of women's shoes, lower heels, wider toes, etc., she noticed that the women at the recent Liberal convention in Ottawa were so much more comfortable and whereas at past conventions many had to take shoes off during the speeches, this time feet were comfortable. In the drastically changed comfortable styles, no one seemed to do that. Mrs. Beneteau also told of the smart mini-skirted women and the colored patterned embroidered or appliqued stockings in evidence.

(No column March 14th)

March 21, 1968

-On the 17th, brave crocuses and a few scillas burst into bloom on the warm south side of our house. I hope that they are trying to tell us something.

-I agree that it's hard to beat a simple black dress and pearls for pure sophistication . . . even though it's been said that the wearer lacks imagination in clothes.

-Mr. and Mrs. Henry Jacomb now in Florida, celebrated their 32 wedding anniversary February 29th . . . imagine the kidding!

-Mrs. H.W. Lenson, Sandwich Street, has a whole set of dishes (144 pieces) which she enjoys and uses for entertaining. Her father gave the set to her mother in 1896 when they were married in Illinois. They went with the family to Saskatchewan where they lived for many years and then back to Amherstburg in 1962. Mrs. Lenson told me that she and her guests and family have thoroughly enjoyed using them - that the food tastes better from them and they have become a point of conversation.

March 28, 1968

-The slogan "say it with flowers" was not a play on words Monday when Mrs. Henderson sent sick Miss Bessie a spray of pink amaryllis which she has been petting and nursing along just for our sick mother.

-No need to be bored with weather in this, the Sun Parlor of Canada, as the beauty and peace of the afterglow Sunday night and the pale yellow (with a dash of peach) mirror over which we know as the Amherstburg Channel, offset the violent snow storm and inconvenience of Saturday. Friends who have returned here to live agree that our sunsets as seen over the river and Grosse Ile are the most interesting and beautiful they have seen here in Canada or in England.



-John Squire Jr., should be a member of the Polar Bear Club, for on Tuesday, March 19th, he went to the river in front of their home on the river road in Malden in his bathing trunks and walked right in, to open the swimming season. In my day, the 24th of May was swim opening day.

-The old Georgian house on Ramsay Street (formerly the Louis Goodchild house) has beautiful classic lines and is made of Georgian brick - and the old, old house should be preserved so the beauty of the style of architecture in this fine example can be left for the future - our heritage as seen through architecture. Yes, elegant Canadians indeed must have built and lived in this house which is almost as old as the town.

-Mrs. Arthur Hall and Gordon Fry both reported robins in the snow at their homes over the wintry weekend. I feel sorry for the red breasted bird friends whose timing was bad and who are meat eaters and there were no grubs about - just snow, snow and snow.

-The new Women's Institute in Malden is called Fort Covington branch of the Women's Institute, named after the American Fort Covington which was where Bailey's dump is now on Highway No. 18, south of town. Governor Shelby of Kentucky was in command of this American fort and according to historian David Botsford, he found and photographed evidences of bricks on this site where bake ovens, stables and log huts had been originally. Mr. Botsford said also that there had been 8 or 12 burials of Americans on Canadian soil in this area. It seems that when a new Women's Institute is organized three names have to be submitted to a central committee in Toronto and a selection is made. The name Covington was picked on purpose having truly Malden flavour.

May 02, 1968

-Orma Brush Laramie was recognized at Windsor's Citizen of the Week over C.K.W.W. Sunday at noon. I missed the program so did not hear except second hand from her sister, Pearl Wigle, that Mrs. Laramie has been with the Children's Aid Society for 29 years. In the tribute to her, the announcer told of her work with unmarried parents and of her counselling and help to 2200 girls.

-April certainly tested our patience this year. It had its good points - birds, buds, green grass but because of the too many raw chilly days, April seemed to be a slide from late winter directly into early summer, I hope.

- I was so impressed with the picture of Mrs. Martin Luther King on the cover of Life. She, the widow of the slain civil rights leader, looked like a Madonna. In her grief and shock she showed much character, strength, poise, fortitude and control - sweetness and breeding. I was most interested in this brave woman, who believes that "women are the best and last hope for a world of peace and brotherhood."

May 09, 1968

- I didn't know until Monday that with the saleswoman of 1968, the article of apparel "house

dress" is unknown today. Even with we oldsters, slacks, shirts, sleeveless shifts, etc., are for home and the world "house dress" is obsolete.

-White lilacs mean continuing friendship to us as it was years and years ago that Mrs. Roy Wigle gave Miss Bessie a small shoot from her white lilac tree which this year as an old tree is full of blooms and will be a joy for Mother's Day - with its aristocratic white plumes paying tribute to both Miss Muriel Wigle and Miss Bessie.

-Burt Weir of Windsor is sculpting a piece of statuary (with a styrofoam base for easy manipulation and cutting) in the court yard of the Amherstburg Public School. The Wallace Smiths have one of Mr. Weir's sculptures in the front yard of their home on Richmond Street.

-A Mother's Day tribute to the 1968 mothers - to the smart mothers of today who can cope with most every situation - to the young mothers who are continuing their education - to the young grandmothers who are doing the same - and to the young great grandmothers (like Dorothy Fishman) who could do the same and certainly would never pose for a Whistler's Mother portrait - to all the mothers who keep themselves interesting and are interested in all around them - my best wishes on your day.

-I think the house across the park, formerly owned by Mrs. Thomas Cook, which is being fixed up, is a gem of the builder's art of 1890. It took paint, color, black shutters, etc., to really bring out the interesting builder's points. As a matter of fact I understand the same builder, Mr. Wilderspin, built the rectory for Christ Church, and if you look you can see similarities in design.

May 16, 1968

- Monday in the thoughts of the modern youth and maiden is just "another holiday without meaning with nothing to do." Being an old sentimentalist I hate the fact of the glorious 24th of May of my youth being relegated to a "has been" - a long weekend.

-With kind hearts and gentle people around like the Al Roberts family, the little creatures of this world will be looked after. A mother squirrel was killed on the highway near the Roberts on the river front road south. The little squirrels were left so were taken from the tree, fed with cat food formula and kept warm in the house until ready to fend for themselves.

-A full blooded Indian lad from one of the Indian reservations in B.C., who by perseverance and hardships got a university education and is now employed in Ottawa, told a cousin of ours that his people were being treated too well by the government, that they have too much, that many Indians were losing incentive to work for education.

-My head is younger than my body - the fact was demonstrated Tuesday morning when I tried to hop and ride on a school bus. The will was there but the skirts were short and the knees were weakish, but with a bit of help I made it and got a different perspective of Dalhousie Street. Wonder what people mean when they say, "She's a high stepper."

(No column May 23)

May 30, 1968

-A Christmas poinsettia from a special friend to Miss Bessie is still spreading its five red stars in our house. A bit incongruous with yellow tulips in the garden announcing the season, but because of the red stars' warm thought from neighbor G.E.W. I just can't deliberately impose an indignity on this poinsettia by putting it out.

-I made a mistake in weather predictions about April possibly being the uninteresting bridge between winter and summer this year as May (up to the time of writing on Monday) hasn't shown summer signs. In fact even the toots of the Bob-Lo boats had a mournful sound in the cold rain Sunday. However, the flowering trees have been spectacular in their beauty, I thought.

-With so many controversial things going on round about us I think what Voltaire said about freedom (whether education, thought, religion, etc., etc.), i.e. "I disapprove of what you say, but I will defend to the death your right to say it" - is applicable to our lives at the moment.

-The Victoria University magazine, April edition, contains several very nice pictures of Mrs. E.J. Pratt participating in the ceremony at the University of Toronto to mark the naming of the E.J. Pratt library and the acceptance of the Pratt manuscripts. Mrs. Pratt was the former Viola M. Whitney and was a teacher at the high school here in the late World War I days and she remembers some of her pupils, including the writer, which pleased me no end.

June 06, 1968

-Flashback of interest - R.A. Cozens brought in a picture of a wedding party taken on the Christ Church rectory steps. On the back was written H.O. Falls, 1884 to F.M. Falls, 1887. We have figured out that it is a picture taken after the wedding of W.S. Falls and a Miss Mears whose home was Lowe's Corners where Mrs. Ball lives now in Malden. We have identified Canon and Mrs. Falls, F.M. Falls, Miss Nellie Park and her sister, Grace, later Mrs. H.M. Stancliff. We think one of the men is Rev. Thomas Nattress. The children interest me particularly and I do wish that they could be identified. I was delighted with the clothes of that day, the poise and the bone structure of the fairly large group of fine looking adults and children and I'd like to know who they all are.

-Since mother has been so ill several people who have been at our house have commented on the view and the interesting things to be seen out our north windows. "Now I know" said one person "what you have been talking about." The Fort Malden grounds going in from Dalhousie Street have many trees of interest, river sights and views in the various lights and shadows that catch the eye of not only of the camera fan or the artist but the layman like me.

-The following could be from The Amherstburg Echo. From 'Anonymous' was the heading. Letters to the editor always are welcome whether they are complimentary or derogatory, the Daily News at Galveston, Texas told its readers in a recent news story. "These letters provide what we



think is one of the most stimulating features of the newspaper," the story said, cautioning at the same time, that letters must be signed, in order to be published. "Once in a while we get one that gives us a real laugh like when the writer concluded with this dare: 'You don't have the guts to print this' - and then declines to sign his name."

(No column June 13)

June 20, 1968

-It has certainly taken me a long, long time to get used to the current 'no hat' vogue - but I'm working on it - because I don't want to be out of step with the moderns so if my hair is in place, even though I know a hat finishes a costume - on occasion I'll be daring and go into Windsor when I can without a hat. We oldsters have to develop the ability to change - so here goes.

-The leaves have made a curtain of green all around us at home - in fact a bit too dense this year.

-So often I am asked what R.S.V.P. means on an invitation - it is the French for *Repondez s'il vous plait* - meaning please reply - in fact now I try to persuade brides to use Please Reply instead of R.S.V.P. As a matter of fact good manners says that any invitation where food is involved must be answered - I say any invitation should be answered out of courtesy to the person extending it.

June 27, 1968

-Bill McKenna of Florida came in Monday with two beautiful paper shopping bags which he had picked up at two posh Florida shops. Both were local design in exciting colors - fun to carry.

-Pat Bradt Durnford, sister of Robert Bradt and Mrs. Owen Malott of Amherstburg, has an experimental Grade 1 Class in Toronto Township, patterned after classes using an informal learning method with six year olds in Winnipeg and British Columbia. The class is divided in three groups, above average, average and slow, and no child fails. There is no apparent discipline, so it is a noisy classroom, typewriters are used, also recipes and actual food made and eaten. There are field trips of discovery, no formal arithmetic, learning is by doing measuring, etc. There is a big library and children read what they want to read and evidently one helps the other. One six year old in this experimental class in Grade 1 is reading at Grade 8 level. Because this is a new method of learning a child is finding out for himself. There is no old time lecture method. Mrs. Durnford has many visitors but they do not bother the pupils who go on as if no one is watching them. The whole new idea of learning sounds revolutionary to an old teacher whose word was law and who told the six year old what to do. As I've said before, I'm glad I lived all through this twentieth century and have seen the wonders in science, living and learning.

-When Mrs. Rogers Sr. was here from Fredericton, N.B., to see her son Dave receive a Master's degree at the University of Windsor, she had a hand loomed tweed, the New Brunswick tweed, skirt and matching hand knit sweater. Beautiful material which is typical of New Brunswick craftsmen.

July 04, 1968

-The Japanese lilac tree at the F.D. Wilson home, North Dalhousie, is a mass of lacy white bloom. This tree only blooms every other year and is a beauty spot indeed.

- Bill Taskey's orchestra played for dancing during intermission at the Cleary Auditorium on Saturday evening at the wedding reception for his cousin Frank Stechey and Mary Kuzemka. The orchestra of interested enthusiastic musicians "brought the house down." In the group are Bill Taskey, drums; Bill Woof, rhythm guitar; John Arison, first guitar; Denis Basden, bass guitar and Bob Roberts, singer.

- Dominion Day or Canada Day as has been suggested, passed off almost without a thought of its meaning here. On our street were three flags, a Canadian flag, a red ensign and a Union Jack. I'm an old sentimentalist and proud of our heritage and Canada and its 101st birthday, so hate to think that in a generation July 1st will be just another long weekend.

(No column July 11)

July 18, 1968

-The mosquitoes are vicious this year. They dive bomb around and take bites and draw blood and come back for more. Sneaky ones hitch hike rides into the house on clothes and seem to enjoy the chase there.

-Mr. and Mrs. Will Thrasher will celebrate the diamond anniversary of their marriage in December. The spirit, will, interest and apparent health of this awfully nice couple, has been told to me twice recently when they take part in a square dance at the wedding of their granddaughter Deanna Atkinson, Saturday and also square dance in June at the Gloria Martin - Gerald Bezaire wedding reception. If I could, I'd like to grow older graciously as they are.

July 25, 1968

- I just hope that dresses with a waistline (waist and skirt effect) never come back in vogue - not in my lifetime have I know such comfort of a dress as this year - and that's without shorts or slacks or bikini in my wardrobe.

-Because of the mail strike I feel sorry for the near-brides who have wedding plans made and can't get their invitations to the people they want as guests. For a small wedding the telephone could be used but many weddings just aren't that small now-a-days.

-"Everyone should see our beautiful country," said the enthusiastic Mrs. R.D. Wigle, after a recent trip to the Maritime provinces. I've always contended that Canadians should have first hand knowledge of our own land before taking trips abroad - and Mrs. Wigle now agrees with me.

- If you'd like to see a real modernistic painting (one you'd understand) in all the greens, come into my kitchen and look at the moat and the mound at sunrise time - the long strips of green mobile light playing on the darker shakes gives a fascinating effect.

- I'm so interested in the restoration of Mrs. Mary Hamilton's house on Park Street, to what it was or what a house in Canada was like 80, 90 or 100 years ago. Mary and Arthur Hall and family, the owners, are taking a great interest in Canadiana and the restoration, with modern conveniences of course, is a family interest and project. The Halls have interested J.A.M. in Canadiana and he got an illustrated book of articles and furniture used in the Canadian homes 100 years ago and has received a great deal of enjoyment from same.

(No columns Aug 01, 08, 15, 22)

August 29, 1968

-The demolition of the post office is the end of an era. I feel sad as if an old friend is gone.

-When friend Anne from Harrow went to Romania and Yugoslavia in July she wore a gold maple leaf pin. She told me that the people there commented on it and she always said, "It represents more than gold." She and her mother arrived home here in Canada, the Thursday before the invasion of Czechoslovakia.

-The day that the newspaper strike ended in Detroit, J.A.M. said, "Here's a present for you" and it was a copy of the Detroit News. When you have grown up with both Detroit papers as I have, it was a good present indeed.

-David Botsford has identified all the people in the W.S. Falls wedding picture taken on Christ Church rector steps in 1884. For several months we have been trying to name all the fine looking people. In the front row is a group of children and the one on the end is Alice Park later Aikman, Billy Aikman's grandmother.

-To give interest to our lives we need cultural affairs like the Open Art Show on the museum grounds Sunday when over 1,400 persons showed their interest or need for wider interest in the paintings on display.

-Before Malcolm Knight left London, England, he was a guest at the Queen's garden party. There he met Mr. Diefenbaker who, when he knew Malcolm came from Amherstburg, questioned - Do you know the Cuddys?

(No column Sept 05)

September 12, 1968

-Good news - the little black dress is back in the fashion news again, for which I am glad. For a few years we women were considered unimaginative in dress if we only had a black best dress - new this year "if you only have one 'dress up' dress, let it be black and change accessories as the occasion demands.

-The ginkgo tree was called a "living fossil" by Darwin. It is the only plant left of a group that flourished in the days of the dinosaurs. The ginkgo is a seed plant, but it is a primitive kind. I enjoy the ginkgo tree on the mound looking north east from out kitchen, it is not a native but does well in this the Carolinian belt.

-With all the tearing down here in Amherstburg our proud past is certainly not being preserved. The demolishing of my church, Wesley Church, is heartbreaking, as there are only a very few examples of church architecture like it left in Canada. Father Dan Callam agrees with me that the old church had beauty and interest architecturally. But age and progress ganged up against it - so it is going.

-Mrs. John Wigle (Gladys Nye) is in Toronto instructing the Canadian hairdressing team in marcelling. The team has entered the world competition in hairdressing in Austria. Mrs. Wigle is one of the few instructors in Ontario who has done marcelling and is familiar with that old way of curling hair. In fact she still has the equipment. I had a flash back when I heard of Gladys demonstrating and teaching this method, to the early 20's when Miss Bessie used to help me put up my hair on strips of rag or kid curlers to get a curl. It seems that about that time I was invited to St. Louis to visit the Prices and I lived dangerously and had the latest marcel. Oh you kid!

September 19, 1968

-The calendar tells of Autumn and so does the gold leafed Linden tree and a circle of golden leaves underneath on the mound at the fort.

-Well, we larger women were almost disregarded in the new Autumn Vogue Pattern Book. All the designs for Autumn clothes with three exceptions, went up to size 16 only - one dress pattern could be had in an 18, one half-sized dress and one coat to 20. If a dress only goes to 16, I know it isn't for the larger, fuller figure, so after hunting through the new book for an idea, I came to the conclusion that in the early fall market we (older and bigger) don't count. I grant that youth rules the market but a smart outfit does a lot for our morale too. So don't forget us.

-A woman I know of was in the Scandinavian Countries last year studying teaching methods. She told her friend that English is the second language of students and is started with beginners and that classes there are not as large as the classes here.

-A new acquaintance of mine here in Amherstburg is a deep thinker and a father of several, who is dedicated to being a good parent. He said that he, his wife and the children have a family club

meeting around the dining table periodically when everything in connection with the family is discussed, aired and viewpoints of each child on the subject "kicked around." Then too, if a child just doesn't understand something or other he has a chance to question at the club. This idea makes for a good parent-child relationship, I thought. The teachers' job too is going to be easier because of this family relationship - and many private and personal things are straightened in the minds of the children in the privacy of a family club.

September 26, 1968

-Grand moving pictures for therapy are the sunsets of late. I find that the changing colours in the west at sunset time are restful and satisfying indeed to my love of color.

-Mrs. S.M. Sweetman has two commemorative spoons and a medal in remembrance of the Allies marching into Mons to end World War I, November 11, 1918. Her husband, the late Rev. S.M. Sweetman, was one of the Canadian soldiers on that historic march. As this November 11th, 1968, will be the 50th anniversary of the Armistice, Mrs. Sweetman wondered if there were any other commemorative articles in the area.

-At the meeting of the Retirees group the other night, according to Fred Risk, the spark behind this group, one of the men spoke up and said that he thought there was need for a Widows' Club in town - in fact the name of a clever woman to head it was mentioned to me.

(No column Oct 03)

October 10, 1968

-Autumn with its strong colours delight me in pumpkins, bittersweet, dahlias, sunsets and monarch butterflies who probably were heading for jumping off spot at Point Pelee.

-Thanksgiving is a good time for all of us to recall what Benjamin Franklin wrote 200 years ago "Our country offers to strangers nothing but a good climate, fertile soil, wholesome air (this was written 200 years ago), free government, wise laws, liberty, a good people to live among and a hearty welcome. Those of other lands who have all these things or greater advantages at home do well to stay where they are."

-It seems that O.E. Thrasher in Anderdon became acquainted with a dentist in Windsor from India. This Indian's parents were in Canada visiting and wanted to see a typical Canadian farm. So Sunday week they were guests of the Thrashers. The mother, charming in her sari with ruby in her nose and caste mark on her forehead, rode on the tractor with Mr. Thrasher. Then they went to see milking machines in operation and to a modern chicken farm nearby. It was a wonderful day for the guests and their hosts.

-David Goldman, principal of the Amherstburg Public School and chairman of Essex-Kent English section, was asked to teach a class in Creative Writing at Windsor Teacher's College on Saturdays and is doing so.



-Thanksgiving always makes me misty-eyed as we have so much to be thankful for. So often the petty criticisms around about take the edge off the significance of the day. To talk to a friend of mine from Harrow who took her mother to Bulgaria and Yugoslavia to visit relatives this summer, makes me want to get a box and stand on the old P.O. corner and proclaim to all what we have here in Canada and how smallness can fester in the minds of people who don't look beyond the "breaking-down" point. Have you noticed that to criticize is one of the easiest habits to acquire, one of the most boring to some listeners, what's more, one of the most damaging. Thanksgiving in Canada should mean re-assessment of the individual and time of rejoicing rather than for fault finding, i.e. adopting the attitude that everything's wrong with me.

October 17, 1968

-Thanksgiving garden roses called Salmonella were sent to me. They are a beautiful color which fits right into the autumn colors round about and the hot Thanksgiving sun.

-When Marlene Bastien was married to Gary Mower a fortnight ago she carried an heirloom handkerchief which had been carried by the bridegroom's grandmother, Mrs. Forest Pigeon, when she was married in 1907, and by the bridegroom's mother when she was married in 1947.

- Friends from Harrow saw hundreds and hundreds of the Coho salmon in a stream in Northern Michigan, over the weekend. There was so many salmon jumping the small dam, that one old timer told them that it wasn't sportsmen who were catching them, that the fishing had become a racket (as I had heard on T.V.) as men standing by had nets and also hooks and lines but only for effect.

-There was certainly no generation gap evident last Wednesday when the Detroit Tigers won the world series. As I walked up the street even the littlest boy called out that the Tigers had won. Mothers, fathers, children, grandparents and the teenagers all had an interest - Tiger hysteria. Alex Callam, the treasurer of the Tiger organization, flew into Detroit from St. Louis with the triumphant team and his parents and brothers had the fun of attending one of the games even though the Tigers lost the day they were there.

October 24, 1968

-The autumn pink clothes, the colour of the petunias in our garden, are so smart, I think.

-Wind bells - friend in Harrow showed me some very attractive wind bells made by an Essex woman. Several friends along Dalhousie Street have wind bells and I am always pleased with the pleasant tinkling sounds as I walk from home to office, they put a little fun in my life.

-Alaire Menzies Reilly was telling me that she and Dan have a stable of seven horses which run at the Windsor Raceway. One called "Timmy Dare" driven by Greg Wright is her very own horse, having been her birthday present.

-When Margaret McGee Breeze was in New Brunswick this summer she bought a skirt length of the famous New Brunswick tweed and enough matching wool for a sweater. She was in the office wearing the finished outfit, a matching saddle brown flecked with gold sweater and skirt and it was stunning, I thought. So many women (including myself) consider these matching pieces almost like a uniform, they're comfortable and can go most anywhere.

-"Give it to Miss Marsh and she'll have fun playing around with it," said Reg Cozens. "It" was an aluminum communion plate found in Christ Church House, part of a whole communion set with individual wine cups. The inscription on the plate reads, "To the Glory of God and in sacred memory of S.J. and Anna M. Johnson. This communion set was presented to Christ Church by the Smith family sisters and brothers of Mrs. Johnson 1913." Being an oldtimer I remembered Steve Johnson's food store filled with delicacies at the corner of Bathurst and Murray and their home on Bathurst where her brother John Smith lived (Malcolm Shaw lives there now) and I believe Johnson is still imprinted on the silex walk. The sister mentioned was Theresa Smith or Aunt Tess as the late Helen Smith Menzies called her. The older brother living north of John (where Carlos Bates has his shop now) was Fred Smith, father of the late Stephen. So much for the family, it was the aluminum that interested me - silver having always been used for communion sets, I thought. But evidently in 1913, the coming metal, the new metal, the smart metal was aluminum (\$1 per pound then according to Arthur Hall) so this memorial set was made of the latest metal. I did indeed have fun kicking around the history behind the memorial gift and it's kind of fun to be an oldtimer of Amherstburg even though the historian and newspaperman Louis Blake Duff called me an upstart so far as old Amherstburg, Anderdon and Malden families were concerned.

October 31, 1968

-If you missed what Gordon L. Duffin said at the end of his speech at the opening of the new part of the Malden School last Monday, I'm quoting: "In spite of all these changes there is a good deal of student unrest particularly at the college level. Dean Webster, the Dean of Students at Queen's University, in speaking to our regional superintendents earlier this month, indicates that this movement at Queen's is led by a core of about 5% of the student body. This core is divided into three groups. The more militant are the activists, who are usually the offspring of the professional and managerial adults in our society. They rebel against the method of operation. A second group are the anarchists the product of broken homes, they feel lost and uncertain as a result of the lack of love and parental guidance and support. They need understanding. The third group are the hippies, who in most cases are brilliant but who rebel against the materialistic objectives of our society. They point to "The lilies of the field who toil not neither do they spin yet Our Heavenly Father feedeth them."

November 07, 1968

-Hunger, which is as old as civilization, claims millions of deaths each year in many parts of the world, a Simcoe librarian from India told students of Simcoe Composite School last week. The meeting in the school was sponsored by the United Nations Club and after hearing the startling facts

in this hunger-stricken country, the students and staff members took off their shoes and ate lunch on the lower hall floor - brown rice and a glass of water, all for 35 cents. Foster Hutton, son of the late Dorothy (Honey) Jones Hutton of Amherstburg, is principal of this school.

-Out of doors Saturday in a sleeveless dress. Closed my eyes, had summer on my mind, but my sense of smell, the burning of leaves, belied that notion.

-To Help Others - The members of the Key Club of General Amherst fixed up the parking lot on Friday at Leone residence for disturbed women, at 509 Kildare in Windsor. According to Joan Warren Smith, Diane Hobbs of Addiction Research, having no place to send women with problems, was the spark behind the founding of this home as a temporary shelter for women with problems. Mrs. Smith told H.M. that 10 of the 14 women who have used the home so far are now able to be on their own.

-When Mrs. H.E. Hamilton was in Boston last week she met a young man, Arturo De Francesco, whom she hadn't seen for 16 years since he was a lad of 12 in Colombia, South America. When she and her husband were in Colombia, Mrs. Hamilton played the organ in a small country Catholic Church and several of the friends she made there have come to the Boston area and Mrs. Hamilton is able to see them occasionally.

-After hearing the actress Helen Hayes read the preface to her autobiography on T.V., I got the book entitled "On Reflection". She pleased me no end with her thoughts of having had the privilege of living in the 20th century and I quote, "It's been marvelous, (her birth date was October, 1900) yes, I came with the century and I believe always in leaving with my escort. It would be nice if it can be managed. I don't want to miss a thing." I feel as if I know, actually know Miss Hayes. I have always admired her as a woman and a performer and as I read along, I feel proud to have her as a "friend" even though she's only a friend of a friend.

November 14, 1968

-I'd just like to know what satisfaction a person got out of passing out chocolate covered mothballs to children. Imagine spending time, that precious commodity, making the sauce and covering the balls. Shocking - but I do feel sorry about the mind of the maker.

-On Tuesday, November 19, our paper will mark it's 94th birthday. Ninety-four years of continuous publishing in this old garrison town is quite a record.

-That section of Amherstburg south of Richmond Street is the old part of the town so none of the old log houses in that section should be destroyed even though not occupied, as I told Lester Conway, who lived in one of these houses on King Street, before moving to the Murray-King corner.

-Mr. Trudeau or Mr. Pearson - don't snap at me, but I think the manufacturers of many Canadian flags should be jacked up as the dyes used in the maple leaf flag, are poor. I've noticed so many faded out, tired looking flags round about and some of them aren't old by any means.



- I missed it - Wednesday morning at 7:30 as I looked around at river, park, sunrise, the lovely yellow leaves were still on the ginkgo tree on the mound to the north-east of my kitchen window. By nine a.m. when I looked out the tree was bare and I missed the fall.

November 21, 1968

-The Banana Belt has certainly put on a show this fall, wonderful weather, glorious gold all around and the annuals are still blooming in our south garden at the time of writing (Monday a.m.) Essex County has my vote.

-I who am a creative arts buff, was delighted with the Evening of Arts at the Public School last week. When you get little boys leaning against the wall, killing themselves with laughter over some of the creative vignettes put on by the drama group who have stimulated interest which has many facets including reading. I'm a great one for building up from a youngster a self-sufficiency which will aid an adult and there is nothing like interest in one form or another of the arts, in my estimation, as a leisure activity.

One of the gracious historic homes on the Malden front, of the early 19th century, the old Elliott house, has been bought by a nephew of the late Mrs. Fred Elliott, (Theresa Duff), in the person of H. Grant Duff. Mr. Duff is hoping to restore it to its original grandeur. This large brick home was built in 1835 by Robert Barclay Elliott on crown land taken up by his distinguished soldier father, Col. Mathew Elliott, who came to Malden about 1784 with 60 slaves from his Virginia plantation. As children we would walk to Elliott's point, and at 24th of May pick wildflowers in the bush and browse around Eliza's cabin on the property north of the large brick house. This cabin was allegedly a refuge for slaves who had escaped from the south.

Is it a sign of an open winter, questioned Ed Finn of the Echo staff who had a twig of a thorn or hawthorn tree Monday on which were white blossoms. This is the second time that the tree has bloomed this year said Mrs. Ulysse Gignac of the fifth of Anderdon, who sent the twig to Ed.

November 28, 1968

-In talking with William Murdoch about Friday night's spectacular sunset and the glorious afterglow, he agreed with me that we here in this area have the "finest of the fine" - and continued with a joke about a man who was ecstatic over a sunset and asked a friend if he had seen a particularly good show, etc. "No," replied the friend, "I've been on the wagon for over six months." - N.B. I'm still chuckling.

-For me being able to see interpretive dancing by Sudha Chandra Sekhar, a widely acclaimed Indian dancer, was a rewarding and enlightening experience. The stories told by this young Indian woman in the dance, the beauty of her body in rhythm, the graceful meaningful movement of eyes, hands, feet with anklet bells, all attuned to music created a delightful experience through my eyes and ears. The lovely dancer, who lives in Windsor now, said that she would like to come back to Amherstburg and bring her mother and seven months old daughter. Her mother dances the traditional dances and

stories of their country also, and in time her daughter will dance also. The flashing lights from her jewels and gorgeous clothing became alive and danced. The Arts and Crafts Guild through Mrs. W.O. Steininger, brought Mrs. Sekhar to Amherstburg.

(No column Dec 05)

December 12, 1968

-Thursday night, because of a change in the wind, you could actually see the water going out of the river and children had a bit of adventure walking on the river bottom almost to the channel bank, picking up treasures - cray fish and mud puppies, they said. As children we did exactly the same thing when the water was low - "looking for buried treasure" - along the river bottom from the waterworks to McEvoy property.

-Of late I've been helping assemble the papers downstairs on Thursdays and often am interested at the difference in colours of the newsprint of the two sections. I really shouldn't be surprised as I knew there were 12 different shades of white and the difference in paper is noticeable.

-When Mr. and Mrs. William Houghton of Harrow were in the north recently they went to a small place near North Bay where he lived and went to school 55 years ago when he came out from England as a Bernardo boy. They went to see his teacher of 55 years ago and had dinner at a lodge run by relatives of his old teacher. It was a real family dinner and as Mr. Houghton said to his wife, "That was an enjoyable family dinner among strangers."

December 19, 1968

-The Minor Hockey League in town has certainly stirred up a great deal of interest among the young players and the parents of same. I'm enthusiastic too as many of the young participants have chatted with me and I'm getting a real charge out of their lively faces when they tell of a game and their enthusiasm is delightful.

-This past week I was taken back to my girlhood when we used to have a sewing club when I saw a picture of a dainty, fine pointed pair of stork scissors, that fine pointed tool used by seamstresses embroiderers or knitters. Miss Bessie always had a pair in her sewing basket, maybe those interested in stitchery use them now. I also found an initialed huck towel which I had made at the club. I remember using a fifty cent piece to draw the scallops. The towel is quite coarse but certainly usable, maybe not for a 1968-1969 bride's "green trunk" but nice and sentimental for me.

- This year with the holidays in the middle of the week our style is being cramped. The Christmas edition will be out on December 23rd and no paper will be published on January 2nd - a holiday week for H.M., Bill, Eddie and part of the week for Lena. The rest of the staff will be on duty as usual and the front office open.

-The Union Jack is flying on the pole in front of the mess hall at Fort Malden. It was a delight to see it unfurled and standing out stiffly in the south west gale. I thought of Williamsburg, Va., and the thrill of walking along Duke of Gloucester Street looking at the citadel with the Union Jack in full mast above. We get used to things in life even though we don't really like them, but not my two traditionalist friends, so I know they both will rejoice in the beauty of the Union Jack flying once more in Amherstburg - I like it too.

-The building on Richmond Street which the Toronto-Dominion Bank has offered to purchase from Stanley Nicholson, is not the former S.S. 2 school house but is the old Union Sunday School building next to the S.S. 2 school house on the 4th of Malden. This old Union S.S. Building was the hub for activities in that section of Malden. It was where social life was carried on, concerts, debates, etc., etc. The building was given to the Red Cross, then acquired by Sol Goldman, then Lester Hamilton and finally Stanley Nicholson.

December 23, 1968

-“A Christmas blessed with Joy and a New Year abounding in Peace be yours” - From a card sent by Rev. Dan Callam, C.S.B.

- In the last few days of 1968, we moderns of the twentieth century took the Apollo VIII's trip to the moon in our stride. I for one am so pleased to get into such fantastic goings-on. As I write (December 21st) the space ship lifted off from Cape Kennedy with everything ok, ok. The three astronauts are on a trip around the moon. They expect to be in the vicinity of the moon on Christmas Day - 1969 is almost here and I've thoroughly enjoyed the others years of the 1900's so my Christmas wish is that I am able to take 1969 in my stride. In talking to Ted Boutette in Harrow on Tuesday, the talk of education and the future was revolutionary indeed and my final retort to him was - "I'm glad I am alive."

January 09, 1969

-I was just like a gourmet on Sunday when I read and re-read all our Christmas cards and seemed to savour each one.

-White and silver is a favourite combination of mine so I loved the silvery frost flowers, grasses, old cans, glamorized bits of debris and sticks, on a white background, from inside looking out these past few days and I particularly delighted in the very tall, beautifully shaped stately spruce tree reaching skyward on the Wright lot to the east of us. Unusual picture as it reached heavenward when the sun was rising in the background.

-In ladies world - seersucker and gingham are to be popular fabrics for warm weather wear - hurrah! as both are smart and cool.

January 16, 1969

-It seems that a former hockey player from the Canadian West has had an artificial ice skating rink built in Houston, Texas, the only one in the city. So Roy Delmore and his daughter Anne flew to Detroit on Friday to weekend with his father, Frank Delmore, and incidentally to buy good old Canadian skates for himself, for Anne and for second son Pat.

-When Mr. and Mrs. William Thrasher celebrated their diamond wedding anniversary early in December. His present to her was a ring with six diamonds in it - one for every 10 years of marriage. Mrs. Thrasher was proud also to show her original engagement ring which was a cluster of small rubies and sapphires. "I was so proud of it, when I got," said Mrs. Thrasher, "and enjoyed wearing it for over 60 years."

-Kangaroo soup from down under - During the holidays I had kangaroo soup which was brought from Australia by one of the Flying Tigers. It was similar to our vegetable beef soup, but the meat had a stronger taste than beef - unfamiliar to my taste buds. On Tuesday I talked to Charles McDonald in Harrow and told him of the kangaroo soup because he returned from New Zealand in September. He said that he hadn't taste it, as it (the soup) was only for export. Charles also went on to tell of the amicable race and colour relations in New Zealand and that the natives were originally Polynesian.

January 23, 1969

-Robert Taylor of Ann Arbor, who is Fat Bob the Singing Plumber on T.V., was invited to sing the National Anthem at President Richard Nixon's inauguration in Washington, Monday. Bob is a grandson of the late John F. Taylor, an Essex resident and jeweller.

-Georgina Hirons Cornwall (Mrs. D.H.), R.R. 1, Kingsville wrote: "We spent the holidays in Florida and called on Dorothy and Ian Coker on Christmas Day and had just a wonderful visit. It has been about twenty years since we have seen each other and she looks just the same. We also spent New Year's Eve and Day with Mrs. and Mrs. Jim Fowler of Malden at their winter home in Holiday, Fla. Onellia is a long time friend of mine, forty-five years to be exact."

-The ancient art of darning has become almost extinct. I have a darning ball and darning needles and darning cotton from Miss Bessie's sewing basket. And I didn't realize until recently that they belong to another time and are almost items of Canadiana, that in this the day of reinforced nylon stockings and stretch socks, darning isn't necessary and is considered a waste of time.

January 30, 1969

-The other night I saw the actress Jessie Royce Landis on the Ironsides T.V. show. She is a very, very attractive older woman who had everything about her person just right for her age, ie. - hair, clothes and etc. In the fall I bought a high white fur fabric hat exactly like the one she wore in the

picture but hers looked so much smarter than mine (I wonder why). Anyway, in the 20's when Miss Landis was at the Bonstelle Theatre in Detroit, she and several other actors whom we knew used to come to our house for Sunday tea. So from the other side of the T.V. screen I feel very friendly towards her.

February 06, 1969

-When some of the members of the National Ballet Company come to Amherstburg on February 19th to put on two performances, I'm going to invite myself to see what the dancers do for the school children and how this form of movement to music is explained. I'm very pleased that the children here are to be introduced to the beauty of the ballet.

-In the technological world we live in, there's no place for the ground hog story I know, but I still think that a little fantasy and fun doesn't hurt the youth of today and a little "let's pretend" between adult and child makes for better communication.

-Mrs. E.W. Lamoure, R.R. 1, Harrow, won first prize of \$200 in a recent province-wide poster contest. There were 350 entries in this contest sponsored by the C.W.L. in conjunction with a project for Children's Aid. Mrs. Lamoure certainly has talent, I think, having a sculpture accepted in the Essex County Artists Show at Willistead and I liked several at the outdoors show on the museum grounds in August and also at C.W.L. showing in Harrow.

-I call them go-go beads (long strings like we wore in the roaring '20's) but evidently boys in their late teens call them "love" beads and almost cleaned out (from table to pocket) friend who had many strings on display and "now she had them, now she hadn't" type of deal. Now I'm curious what the boys do with them - do they wear them themselves or give to their steady?

February 13, 1969

-When the days of loving hearts comes, this season is on the wane as the days are getting longer and longer to light and warm man and his world in this area.

-Perfect timing - as our Christmas poinsettia is still beautiful I had the idea that its color would greet me on St. Valentine's Day - but on Monday evening I found a pot of heart red tulips proclaiming Spring and the 14th on the front porch, and the friendly poinsettia is taking second place - the day of loving hearts in action.

- If we have good weather on the evening of the 18th, the evening star Venus in the south western sky and the crescent moon, should make a striking view.

February 20, 1969

-Mr. and Mrs. Clayton Nichols have bought an old house on the 6th of Anderdon, owned by the



late Gervais Sinasac. They are remodelling same and in stripping off wall paper found that an old Echo March 25, 1892, had been used as wall paper. Five layers of different kinds of wall paper had been put on through the years over the Echo. The Bartlet and Macdonald in Windsor ad is quite interesting and very legible, also Flood and Anderson, Harrow.

-Years ago I occasionally read aloud to young people's groups at the church. I thought of that over the weekend when I read a charming little book by Mary Stewart entitled "The Wind Off the Small Isles." This little masterpiece would be just the thing to read aloud to a group - and the heavy off white paper on which it is printed and the delightful wood cuts heading each chapter were pleasurable to the reader's sense of touch and to her eye. The locale of the story is the Canary Islands so I hope Mrs. Jose Nobrega of Victoria Avenue, a native of the islands, reads the little book as she will get so much more than I from the beautiful written words as her homeland is described.

-Experiencing live theatre - area Public School pupils in Grade 7 and 8 and General Amherst 9 and 10 grade students had the thrill of seeing programs Wednesday put on by some of the members of the National Ballet Company. The value of these introductory exercises in the performing arts and their place in the education program of every child is freely acknowledged by educationalists so Amherstburg young people were fortunate indeed to see fine ballet and feel the impact of this beautiful dance form. Pupils at the Harrow High School will see the company in action on Friday afternoon.

February 27, 1969

-The death of Toby Reaume over the weekend brought the following thoughts to my mind. Being a natural comedian Mr. Reaume gave much pleasure to many people in Amherstburg as an amateur song and dance man and his clever repartee always "brought the house down" in the days of the minstrel shows in Amherstburg.

-That old cliché "travel is broadening" will be puffed out of the bag again this summer when 22 General Amherst students and their leader, Eugenia Zin Fee (Mrs. Joseph), are to have six weeks travel in Europe. What a wonderful experience for all the youth and for Mrs. Fee too! The party from here will join other groups and will be shown the lands from whence we all have come, at one time or another.

-The I.O.D.E. here has a new safety scheme for youth as a project. For a very small amount young people and children are to be able to buy dangle reflector wrist tapes and also, a new type of reflective tape for bicycles.

-Scott Young, whose sports and feature columns have appeared in The Globe and Mail for the past 12 years, has been assigned to Ottawa, where he will write special reports on the background and personalities of Canadian politics. Mr. Young who was born in Northern Manitoba is a friend of the Greenaway family. His assignments have ranged from championship boxing to the funeral of Sir Winston Churchill, from U.S. political conventions to Canadian constitutional conferences. But his

own interests and tastes reflected in columns about his family, his cronies and his country have given him a personal bond with his readers. I'll miss him as what he has written has interested me.

-Arnold MacLean, principal of the Anderdon Public School, has snowdrops in bloom in the south east corner at his home in Cottam. Snowdrops in February is setting a record indeed for the wonderful weather we have been having of late in the Banana Belt of Canada.

March 06, 1969

-The C.K.W.W. Citizen of the Week in Windsor is Grace Park Lewis, a former Amherstburg resident, who is the instrumental music teacher in several Windsor schools.

-A preview of colour in newspapers of the future was given to us February 24th when the Detroit Free Press came out with spread after spread. Beautiful printing which certainly grabs at readers' attention.

-The ecumenical service in the A.M.E. Church on Sunday impressed me as a happy occasion. Christians in action need not be solemn and forbidding as was shown by the tone of the service in the message by Mrs. Hoffman and music.

- Last week when writing of the proposed trip of High School students to Europe this summer, almost wrote Mrs. Joseph Fee "chaperone". That word is obsolete now I'm told so I called Mrs. Fee, guide. I had the same trouble with the word "conform" when was told by a parent "Don't you know there's no such word nowadays." I didn't - but now I do.

March 13, 1969

-Young friend who recently returned from a holiday in Acapulco, Mexico, said that women's togs for evening there now are all pants outfits - that they are the evening dress of the holiday-ers.

-Mrs. L.C. Angstrom, a member of the Ontario Humane Society, brought in a brochure from the Society headed - "Crisis, The Ontario Humane Society in Danger." The society naturally is against the legislation proposed in Bills 73 and 74 which would have the effect of forcing all shelters to surrender animals for medical research. This legislation, the society feels has created a crisis in the affairs of the Humane movement in Ontario and if the proposed Bills 73 and 74 are passed into law in its present form, the humane movement as we know it will soon cease to exist.

- When a Toronto reporter asked the well informed Geoffrey Jackson, head of British Government offices in Ontario what he knew about Apollo 9, he said "nothing" and then quoted:

"O moon whene'er I see thy face

A floating on so kind

I wonder, shall I ever see

Thy beautiful behind" -

and the astronauts have.

In Josephine Lawrence's book on "The Aged" and what is to happen to all of us "65 years old and over" people in the future, gave me a great laugh. Evidently all are to live in compounds and to be experimented on by young students of geriatrics (the study of the old). Anyway that ideal state of the future is not for H.M. believe me. All this preamble leads up to Cliff Wigle who is to retire the end of the month. Cliff certainly is prepared for a fine retirement as his interests are wide and varied. Cliff is creative and that's a therapeutic quality for us. He has a green thumb and his garden looks manicured and pedicured. He has a fine sense of colour, and can paint pictures as well as houses. He is a musician - a singer and knowledgeable about music, etc. and etc. Time certainly is not going to hang heavy on his hands and he won't need a young student of geriatrics to help him in his retirement as Josephine Lawrence suggested for we - "The Aged."

March 20, 1969

-On St. Patrick's Day I received a card with an old Irish Blessing which read: "May the road rise up to meet you, May the wind be always at your back, And May God hold you in the hollow of His Hand." A lovely thought for me to start Miss Bessie's Day, wasn't it?

I thought the plate given Rev. M.C. Davies, Sunday, commemorating the golden anniversary of the Royal Air Force, was a beautiful piece of china. Spode made a limited supply of these crested plates so in time they will be collectors' items.

March 27, 1969

-I saw an outfit - everything a girl needs for new kind of '69 dressing Friday and it was smart - flared pants, buttoned down the front coat (which could second as a mini-dress) and turtle necked sweater.

-In their wisdom, the members of the Fort Malden Guild of Arts and crafts, have bought the old station on Richmond Street and will convert this interesting brick building into an arts centre for this historic town. Mrs. Wallace Smith, Richmond Street, herself an artist and interested in every phase of cultural development is the president of the Guild. Mrs. Charles D. Bailey is also behind this side of Amherstburg's "growing up."

-Modern children don't know the old fable about the strength of the wind vs the sun. But I thought of it last Friday at 9:30 as I walked west on Rankin from Sandwich to Dalhousie heading into that strong west wind. The '69 child will say H.M. how corny can you get - what if you did have to hold your coat on, so what! I still like a little make-believe in my life, however and I chuckled at that west wind trying so hard to be strong.

April 10, 1969

--The cantata "Olivet to Calvary" sung by members of St. Andrew's Anglican Church choir on Palm Sunday at the last of the Lenten inter-faith services was very well done. The blending of the



voices and the professional air about the whole presentation pleased me. Commendable solo work was done by Mrs. Bill Smith, Mrs. Carl Bates Jr., Miss Jane Lalonge and Hans Bruggink. In all, the cantata showed the result of hours and hours of work by the choir members. The appreciative audience felt as I did, that this cantata was a good way to end the ecumenical Lenten services.

-After Dr. David Thomson, grandson of J.G. Parks of Malden, a scientist in Montreal doing cancer research, received acclaim last week for his large part in the recent cancer breakthrough, his wife wrote, "what a time to spell Thompson with a "p" (as a newspaper did). Dr. Thomson devised the technique for the detection of bowel cancer.

April 17, 1969

-When Mr. and Mrs. Victor Ouellette were in Los Angeles recently they saw President Richard and Mrs. Nixon. Mrs. Ouellette said that Mrs. Nixon in the flesh is lovelier than her pictures show her and that she is a very small woman.

-Milton McGorman of Harrow will be ordained into the ministry of the United Church of Canada when the London Conference meets in Windsor, May 15th. Mr. McGorman and his wife, Kay Klie, have four children. She is a daughter of Mrs. Darwin Wismer of Anderdon. Mr. McGorman was in business for many years and when he decided to go to Emmanuel College in Toronto to commence a course in theology, he was head of a company in Dresden. After ordination his first wedding will be that of his niece, Gloria Langlois, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Langlois of Malden, who will become the bride of Peter Veighey on the 17th.

-Mrs. William Bobek who left Amherstburg on Tuesday for Syracuse is a very fine artist. In fact one of her paintings has been hanging in the University of Windsor Fine Arts Centre where she, Mrs. William Woof and Mrs. Wallace Smith are taking lessons in painting and sculpture. Mrs. Bobek's contribution to the Fort Malden Guild of Arts and Crafts will be missed.

April 24, 1969

-J.A.M., who went to Collingwood on Friday with Bill Bailey, was more than pleased with his trip. Tourism is big business up there he said, with the vast ski industry and the Blue Mountain pottery. H.M. got a present of a mug from the pottery which is ideal for small arrangements of flowers - in fact have enjoyed hyacinths in it all week.

-I actually watched the lilac leaves on the north side of our house growing last week and felt that my own patience was strengthened when I thought of the patience of the shrubs and trees waiting out the winter. I have a date to go to Bob-lo in a month's time (before the island opens) to renew an experience of my youth, looking for wild flowers and picnicking there as we did years ago on the 24th of May.

-John McPhedran, son of the late Bill McPhedron of the General Amherst staff, who is a student

at Ryerson in Toronto, is bronze medalist for wrestling in Canada. This young man is gold medalist in wrestling for Ontario.

May 8, 1969

-The members of the Fort Malden Guild of Arts and Crafts are busy as beavers on a do-it-yourself project, getting the old abandoned M.C.R. station into shape for a permanent gallery and the work is progressing very well. It is a concerted effort by volunteers, all working toward one goal, i.e. to give this old town a gallery which will be a beauty spot in the old town's heart - a place where things cultural can be displayed, used and studied and interest simulated by both young and old in the arts - a place where we can go to learn and study about arts and crafts and thus enrich our lives. A town which has grown up has varied interests available for our leisure so without much money being handed to them the members and friends of the society are doing all the "joe work" themselves and their enthusiasm is running high, as it always is when people actually work for a goal, as in life we value what we pay for, and they are paying with time and talents and far-seeing ideas to bring beauty into our lives. Amherstburg has reached a cultural plateau, thanks to these members. In the Station, the Gallery, there will be something of interest for everyone. This gallery - an art centre - is to be opened in the old M.C.R. Station in June.

- The old station was the heart of the town at one time before the advent of cars. People got in and out of town on the old Plug, going to McGregor - then branching off to Windsor or Essex or Harrow - rather than taking the Fox stage coach up the river front road, the old Sauk Trail. When the gallery is finished people here can study in proper beautiful surroundings and innate talents may be developed - who knows? "Want," "need" and "do" are three words that the members of this active society know and are demonstrating to the rest of us.

(No column May 15 or 22)

May 29, 1969

- Did you know that we are considered provincial in this area (including Detroit)? Why? Because (so the fashion reporter said) the pants suit and long pants dress haven't been used here as much as in the east. I like them - think they're smarter than smart for the "younger than I" woman.

-If the powers that be had left the old 24th of May, the Queen's birthday holiday, where it belonged on the calendar, all would have had a glorious (quite the best weather so far this spring) weekend but through the tamper method our last Monday holiday (May 19th) was a cold, dreary, rainy day, no good for man nor beast. However, that's progress - and as in my youth, the day isn't a highlight any more just a long weekend.

-J.A.M. and I both enjoyed the new book Jennie, which is the life of Lady Randolph Churchill, mother of Winston Churchill, during the Romantic Years, 1854-1895. Jennie, born in Brooklyn was beautiful, intelligent and talented. When she married the scion of the historic Marlboroughs, she

found new vistas opened to her energies and ambitions. She helped Lord Randolph Churchill become one of the most important men in the Empire, and was a dynamic force in the life of her son, Winston. The book is peopled with the great and powerful of those days - and is very good reading.

June 5, 1969

-The old waterworks dock has gone - and with it fond memories of our youth.

-Why didn't I think of the following tip? - and it works beautifully. Boil asparagus in a frying pan for 10 minutes - delicious, long stalks fit for a gourmet.

-It was 30 years ago now that King George VI and Queen Elizabeth were in Windsor. Well do I remember the day that we herded the pupils to the hillsides along the train tracks way, way out from the Windsor station, and there we all stayed all day waiting. As I remember it, the children were wonderful, buoyed up with anticipation and expectation to see a real King and Queen. The day went by and in the twilight the train backed in and as I remember it, about all I saw were red coats of the Mounties and the flashing red and blue of the flags waved by the enthusiastic children on both sides of the tracks. As there was a scare a revolutionist had been picked up in Detroit a day or so before the royal visit, the Mounties were everywhere and the couple wasn't allowed off the reviewing stand at the station. However, it was a fun day and those children of 30 years ago were so well behaved and happy during the hours and hours of waiting.

-Judged second place in a recent Miss America contest at Miami was Mary Stewart Verdiana, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Vincent Verdiana of New York (Barbara Yeoman of Amherstburg) and grand-daughter of Dan O. Yeoman, a former manager of the Brunner Mond. Because Mary Stewart teaches in Vermont she was in the contest as Miss Vermont.

June 12, 1969

-Evidently as an older woman I am not adventuresome in the fashion world because I'm labelled - as I still wear pearl chokers, suntan stockings and red lipstick - all taboo.

-Sunday, June 22nd, at 3:00 p.m., the ribbon at the Old Station, now the Gibson Gallery, will be cut to open to the public this ambitious project sponsored by the Fort Malden Guild of Arts and Crafts. The members have worked like beavers to get the gallery in shape, the painting done and the landscaping finished. This Gallery is a long-sighted venture for Amherstburg and area and everyone is asked to show interest in the endeavour by attendance at the opening ceremonies. Of particular interest will be a collection of paintings of Essex County scenes on loan for the opening period. Mrs. Wallace Smith, president of the Guild, is not only an artist and an executive but a "worker" and "doer" and her mastery of a paint brush and hammer, two other art forms, is commendable.

June 19, 1969

-The ebony Bechstein grand piano at the McQueen house is stilled as Mrs. McQueen, the pianist

with the wonderful ear and expressive touch, has passed away. Years ago when Capt. McQueen, Mrs. McQueen and I were listening to Liberace playing Rachmaninoff's majestic Prelude in C sharp minor and commenting on the execution of same, the Capt. said "My wife can play it better than that."

-Twenty-four people from Harrow went to West Lorne last Thursday night to dance to Guy Lombardo's "sweetest music this side of heaven", and look over the new enclosed ice arena built there recently. The Lombardo music is my kind of dance music - velvet melody, for sure.

-Jack Ouellette is going to teach a class in art for teenagers at the Gallery on Richmond Street, this summer. Jack has a wonderful flair in the art field and the collages which he had shown in the outdoor art show on the museum property last summer, were interesting indeed. To the layman such as I, a collage using different textures, different materials and lots of paint, is a startling bit of art expression.

June 26, 1969

-When Mr. and Mrs. Eddie McCaffrey (Pat Deslippe) were in a dining car on a train somewhere in England recently, a man knowing that they were Canadians because of their maple leaf pins etc. spoke to them. It turned out the man who talked to the young people had been in Amherstburg visiting John A. Marsh and wrote a note to John which Pat brought to him Friday. He and his wife are from Urbana Illinois and he is a senator in Washington. The young people from Amherstburg were pleased to meet him, and he they.

-The opening of the Gibson Gallery in the old M.C.R. station, Richmond Street on Sunday was a gala event. A modern town can have its arena, marina, swimming pool, ball teams, hockey teams and museum but it reaches maturity when it has a gallery, a place where everyone old and young interested in art forms, can have their interest and learning processes stimulated in beautiful surroundings all under one roof. The members of the Fort Malden Guild of Arts and Crafts saw the possibilities in the old station and a wonderful team effort developed and carried through the project in very good taste.

The crescent shaped windows with prisms that make rainbows in the interior when the morning and afternoon sun strikes them will please many people as they did the writer when she was a small girl sitting in the station waiting for the 4 o'clock train (the Plug) to take her to Essex to Grandma's. In conclusion, members of the XI Beta Chapter of the Beta Sigma Phi along with Mrs. Bruce MacGregor and Mrs. George McCallum, served punch and cookies. The gallery will be open all this week through Friday from 7 to 9 p.m. and again on Saturday and Sunday afternoons from 2 to 6 p.m.

(No column July 03)

July 10, 1969

-How fortunate we people were who were in the path of the wild violent wind and rain storm,

Friday night. Property damage, yes, but no loss of life. Never in my memory have I gone through such a storm with its eerie yellow-green cast, with its noise and very poor visibility which closed us in and we couldn't see what was happening outside. The storm evidently hopped the lake and the damage and loss of life in Ohio was awful, so God was good to us and the fierceness of the elements subsided soon and the mopping up outside and inside began - and soon forgotten.

-After 23 years of business in Amherstburg, Mrs. Nicholas Semeniuk has sold the Tea Garden Restaurant on Richmond Street. Mr. and Mrs. Semeniuk bought one of the oldest and loveliest houses in Old Amherstburg, the old stone Borrowman house, from the Dr. A.E. Bowman estate and converted it into a good restaurant. Mr. and Mrs. Semeniuk and their children, Stephen, Alice and Mary Anne were good citizens and made an impact on and contribution which won't be forgotten, to this town. Five years ago soon after Ivan, the second son was born, Mr. Semeniuk died suddenly and since that time Mrs. Semeniuk has carried on the business and is going to the University of Windsor at the same time. Her older children are all university graduates and are now pursuing their own interests away from Amherstburg. So, the Tea Garden is sold. Mrs. Semeniuk and Ivan will make their home with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Zin, R.R. 3, Amherstburg for the time being. As a clever business woman, a student of world affairs, an understanding mother and a person, who values education and has set a standard for herself and her children, she will be missed. But after years and years of work and study, she needs a rest from the hard, hard work of the restaurant business of today and a chance to do what she wants with her own life now and have time to enjoy the company of friends, relatives and her intelligent children.

July 17, 1969

-Mary Cameron of Colorado, formerly of Amherstburg, whose engagement is announced today, is the only female forest ranger in the United States.

-Talking to me of London, England, which I love as a city, T.W. Moffat said, "We saw the best dressed people there," Dr. E.L. Paquette said, "We saw more pretty girls in London than in any of the other countries we visited," and Mrs. C.P. Merlo and Kent Wigle both commented on the short, short, short - skirts worn by the women and girls there.

-In a letter from Sister Alexandrine (Catherine Callam) who celebrated her 50th jubilee in the Order of St. Joseph on Friday, in London, she told that Clois Terry McConnell, formerly of Amherstburg also, whom she hadn't seen for 50 years, attended the ceremonies for her in London.

-Meet the Duke - last Saturday night while waiting in the Windsor airport for Sharyn Hall's postponed flight to Toronto then Frankfurt, Germany and Vienna, Austria, Terry Hall spotted Duke Ellington, the very famous jazz pianist at the telephones. Soon after there he was at the seat next the Hall family picking up his coat and brief case. Sharyn, the musician, stood up and said, "Hello, Mr. Ellington." He seemed surprised but pleased when she commented on his artistry. She introduced her family and Mr. Ellington stood talking to them. He was charming and spoke with a soft-spoken voice, Mrs Hall said. He took their addresses and told that he was en route to Ottawa for a concert.



He and Sharyn took the same plane and in Malton airport when waiting for their next plane connections, sat for three-quarters of an hour discussing music and Sharyn's plans for the future in the world of music. It was a delightful unexpected treat for all the Halls to meet the great artist. - H.M. thinks that Sharyn made such a hit with Mr. Ellington because of her fresh, natural look, her breathless way of talking as if life is exciting and because of her easy grace.

-Get with it, Miss Helen - Mary Cameron's wedding invitations tickled me. They were on soft orange paper, fold over type, and the printing was decidedly black face, straight line and heavy like the heads we do here on our Ludlow machine.

July 24, 1969

-Earl Dufour, Anderdon, was a mid-wife Sunday when he delivered a baby boy to his daughter-in-law, Elaine Lucier Dufour, at home. Because of the baby's persistence Mr. Dufour had the honor of delivering his 21st grandchild.

-Sunday night - the romantic moon wasn't so far away for when I looked at it, I envisioned the two astronauts ready to step out - and the Man in the Moon was smiling.

-Tips in our fashion world - Gray is the colour that's really taking off for fall and I'm glad. Then too satin, the glamour material I think, will be in the limelight for day or night time clothes. If we want a high fashion touch we are all to go on a fringe binge, long fringed scarf, etc., smart ! !

-A feature story in the Detroit Free Press headed "Anyone Can Make These Instant Rugs" tells of the rugs (with picture) made by portrait painter, Mrs. William H. Hassard Jr. of Bloomfield Hills. And another picture in the article illustrates three dimensional stitchery and it is "Bruce the Moose" done by Mrs. Hassard's aunt, Mrs. Glenn (Laura) Hamilton of Amherstburg. Mrs. Hassard (Ginnie) as aunt Laura calls her, who as I said before is a portrait artist, started her career with wall hangings. People think they have to be expert at stitchery to make things like instant carpets, wall hangings, etc., but it's not true. Look in coloring books for simple outline drawings and use them for patterns.

-Felix Burns, now of Villa Maria, formerly of Anderdon, celebrated his 90th birthday last Sunday (July 13th) by attending Mass in St. John the Baptist Church, the church where he was baptized.

-Well ! ! Man, the explorer, walked on the Moon Sunday night. And the whole world (except China, Albania and North Korea) marveled at the combination of man, science and technology which brought about the beginning of the Moon Age. As for me I was awe struck and wished that I had company with me to view the moon walk as I was nervous and scared and even talked out loud to Commander Neil Armstrong when he stepped on the moon's surface saying "take it easy, boy, the green cheese of fiction may be quick sand." The whole marvelous feat was way beyond my comprehensive but I did leave the T.V. feeling that accomplishment makes men great. Now to moralize, I couldn't help going over accomplishments in my life time - telephone, hydro, cars, nylons, permanent waves, radio, T.V., general living, medicine, etc., all history making, etc., and the

tremendous strides in technology in the past 15 years and felt man is master and the superb performance of landing two men on the moon on which effort people from all over the world co-operated gave me the idea that with a concerted effort, social control, economic control, are within the grasp of man in this century and I hope that I live long enough to see it.

- "Please tell John I applaud him constantly for his drive on soaring taxes. The complete apathy of the general public to government excesses seems frightening. Very few editors seem to have the courage to speak out," - so wrote Wenonah Cuddy from Brampton. Miss Cuddy is a former resident of Amherstburg.

- More moon talk - science fiction is no longer fiction but fact - scientists and technologists at the Harrow Research lab observed on Tuesday that there must have been moisture on the moon at some time as the astronauts said that some of the rocks they picked up were colored.

July 31, 1969

- "Many are grumbling over the price of meat," said Mrs. Owen Malott, so she laughed over a sign she saw at Neil Souigny's meat market - "1 lb. of cigarettes \$6.15."

August 07, 1969

- When Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Duffin were in London, England in June, they ran into Mr. and Mrs. T.W. Moffat at Piccadilly Circus, neither couple knowing the other was there. The Duffins' daughter Judy, Mrs. Paul Walansky, Dr. Walansky, who is a plastic surgeon in Toronto, and two children were in the United Kingdom at the same time as her parents also.

- The celebration of Ruby Anniversary of Marriage can be a stunning occasion I thought as I looked at the ruby motif at the anniversary reception for Helen and Murray Smith on Sunday. And 40th, 50th and even 60th anniversary brides are in this 1969 year smarter in every way than they were even 20 years ago. Older people nowadays think and act young and are interested and interesting, so age is not as frightening as it used to be. H.M. has found that out when she goes over the old files of the Echo and reads of a "venerable" 50 year old or a three score and ten years' birthday of an oldster who seems to have been sitting around just waiting. Glad I live in 1969 when life is full.

August 14, 1969

- Mrs. Joseph Fee, the leader of the group of young people from General Amherst High School currently touring Europe, wrote the following card to H.M. from Innsbruck, Austria - "had wonderful time in London and Paris - saw 2 marvelous plays in London - girls delighted with mini-skirts and long hair on both girls and boys in London and how polite they were. Paris was grand, despite fact that Parisiennes are short-tempered with tourists. Our boys broke the record reaching top of Eiffel Tower - reward was having picture taken and taxi ride to residence. Innsbruck is marvelous as you

can see from picture. Today 7 of our group climbed to top of a 7,000 foot mountain. Everyone happy and healthy and on to Mediterranean Wednesday."

- Mrs. Dan McCurdy (Helen Jones of Amherstburg) who was in Florida recently, sent along the magazine section of the St. Petersburg Times in which there were two lovely pictures of Mary Verdiana, daughter of Barbara Yeoman Verdiana, who was runner-up in the Miss U.S.A. pageant at Miami Beach. The accompanying article was by a correspondent and judge at the contest and gave his vote to Mary. Wrote the judge: "I voted for Miss Verdiana (Mary) whose windblown out-of-doors look, sunny disposition, and flashing smile appealed to my logical mind. Her real name is Mary Verdiana, she's 19 years old and is a student at Vermont College and although she didn't get the top title she came in second, and even if I didn't pick Miss U.S.A., I picked a near Miss."

August 21, 1969

-I was so pleased with the enthusiasm of the children attending the children's art classes at the Gibson Gallery. Those I saw were certainly interested in their own attempts at creating in working with color and materials. Evidently the mobiles appealed, the movement of same was exciting to the children no doubt, as there were so many of them around the room. This constructive art and crafts project for children will start a trend of interest I'm quite sure - it just isn't something to fill in the holiday time.

-Read a letter from an old friend who had serious surgery. She said philosophically "It's alright, I don't worry now I belong to the O.H.T. Club with several of my friends. O.H.T. meaning Only Half There." Friend is gay in spirit and keeping active and travelling with her niece. I hope I can accept life with a flourish as she is doing.

-Some people say that they don't read "slop overs" from one page in a paper to another. So when we had a "continued on page 6" recently the punch line of a good story was lost to many as instead of page 6, the end of the story turned up on page 4. However some people found it and liked it but others missed it. Here it is repeated. It was at the end of the story on the arena which read: - "Perhaps you may wonder how you can manage a good gift to this necessary recreational facility. Well, here is how my family will do it.

- ▶ From Mark, Mike and Debbie, all of whom hope to use it...\$15.00 cash
- From my wife and myself.....\$25.00
- Plus \$5.00 per month for one year ..... \$60.00
- Total .....\$100.00

If each family with a regular and average wage does the same, we can have our arena this year.

(The Rev.) Bill Ashby, Rector, Christ Church"

(No column Aug 28, Sept 4, )



September 11, 1969

-Of late I've attended several affairs where (1) the hostess wore a long flowered hostess gown, (2) where two hostesses wore lovely pajama or pants outfits. All were stunning in my books - and I wish I were built right.

-I'm not a grandparent nor a great grandparent but I want to know, like and understand today's youth so I read, "Between Parent and Teenager" by Haim G. Ginott and liked it very much and saw where I was wrong in my thinking many times. This is a book for "competence to parents who wish to stand, withstand and understand their teenagers."

-So glad I'm not a stickler so far as dressing for the calendar - I'd say let the weather guide us. Despite the date, Saturday, I felt that on such a hot, humid day, summer things were in order, not as I overheard a smart person in a real fall costume say when asked if she were hot, "it's Fall."

-Evidently some of the high school pupils who took the European trip got the travel bug as I understand the talk is now "go west, then on to Hawaii." The future for the planners holds much of interest in the travel line because of the "bug" caught when they are young, enthusiastic and receptive.

September 25, 1969

-My old heart was warmed recently when younger friend who lives off the river said, "husband and I drive along the river road often to watch the sunsets."

-The clever Mrs. Alvin McCurdy, who is blind, is composing hymns, as both melody and words of same come to her as she does her household chores. A friend does the transcribing for her and according to musician Lucienna Wismer Jones, Mrs. McCurdy's original hymns are really good.

-The cicadas around our house are certainly hailing the end of summer in a vociferous manner. We have old and young shrilly chirping ?? away in raucous tones.

-Erma Bombeck, the syndicated columnist in the Detroit Free Press, usually gives me a giggle with her simple homey articles. Mrs. Bombeck made the remark when interviewed on T.V. that she always laughed at or commented on things relating to herself, her husband or her family, then no one could be peeved at her. Years ago even I learned the hard, hard way not to say "do as I say" when I wrote "don't wear socks with high heels." As I evidently caused a real "international" incident - innocently of course. Now, this Erma Bombeck - H.M. scribe says that with her mini-skirt ?? she has conditioned herself to bend her knees and almost sit on heels when picking something from the floor.

- If I were an artist I would paint what I saw in our back yard - truly an autumn picture - a monarch butterfly perched on an open milkweed pod with the little brown seeds and their parachutes restless in the gentle breeze.

October 02, 1969

-Not only colour in the trees but migration is later this year - also migration of monarch butterflies, according to an authority at Point Pelee.

-Wilfred C. Krug's recently published book "What's Happening to Our Money?" is receiving interesting recognition and almost daily requests for the book are arriving. Mr. Krug, a market student for 40 years, who has a Canadian and American background, is a Windsor-based investment adviser and consultant and in this latest publication he analyses and reviews economic, monetary and political problems. He is a brother of Mrs. J.R. Gibson who gave J.A.M. one of the first editions. The book is written in very readable style easily understood by the layman.

-The Harrow United Church choir under the direction of Dr. W.W. Wren, sang over W.W.J.T.V., Sunday morning in the program Church of the Cross-Roads.

-I found "Look to the North Star" - a book by Victor Ullman, a treat indeed. The story was the life of William King, a slave owner and Presbyterian minister, educated in Edinburgh. Mr. King and his slaves founded the Buxton settlement in 1844 before the Civil War as a haven for black fugitives from the U.S., both slave and free. The settlement found use of varied skills having, for instance, the first brick works and saw mill in the country. Because Mr. King was a teacher, a fine school was established, the first integrated public school in North America. After the Civil War many who were educated in Buxton returned to the south - namely doctors, teachers, ministers and political leaders, to help their own people. Buxton's proud roll can be seen there now as it is a Canadian Historical shrine where the Liberty Bell is still rung, the bell which sounded on the safe arrival of every fugitive who sought the freedom of Buxton. The author, a former newspaperman and teacher at the University of Toledo, acknowledges the help of the late Fred Landon of London, Dr. J.A.K. Farrell, a friend of Father Ted Gatfield, and of Arthur Alexander who taught several generations at the Buxton school and Mrs. Alexander. All assisted him with material for this most interesting book.

October 09, 1969

-The Time of Plenty in Canada Has Come Again- for Which We Are All Thankful.

-A collection of Ukrainian art belonging to Alice Semeniuk is on display at the Gibson Gallery and is well worth a visit there over the weekend. Alice in her charming modest way spoke on her collection to friends of the Arts and Crafts Society last Tuesday.

-For the first time in my memory I saw peanuts in plenty growing on the root structure of a plant brought into the office on Monday by Mrs. Milton Prior.

-Kate Kelly McGillis loaned us an old family Bible printed in 1859, which has a great deal of interest. In the back are family pictures but as none is labelled nor dated, we haven't been able to figure out who's who. This old historical book with its interesting pictures proves my point that

everything should be labelled, with names and dates. To find out when this Bible was published I had to call the St. John the Baptist rectory to ascertain when Pope Pius the IX was head of the church, then try to interpret Roman numerals, etc. If properly labelled the time of printing, etc., could have been established at a glance.

October 16, 1969

-The whole American shore all the way up to Wyandotte was in a startling spotlight at 8:10 a.m. Tuesday. A strong sunlight from an eerie rising sun sliced the park and lighted Bob-Lo, Grosse Ile and upriver.

-Sonja Henie's death took me back to the time Cuthbert Falls and I stood in the gods at Olympia in Detroit to see her perform. I've wondered so often if people nowadays use the gods in a theatre as we did, or stand through a performance when "hungry" for the performance and haven't money for orchestra seats.

-Major Otis Newport of Cold Lake, Alberta, son of Mrs. Harold Thrasher of Harrow, while on special assignment in the United States met Neil Armstrong, the first astronaut to step on the moon, and said that he was a wonderful man.

-Many children won't believe this tale but we had delicious pumpkin pie recently made from a pumpkin - imagine ha! ha! The taste and smell and looks of the pie took me back in memory to my youth and the dinners at the Essex fair - believe me I thought, this real delectable dessert is a gourmet's delight in 1969, made so by the changes in our living and working and eating habits - while in the good old days, pumpkin pie was a season dessert and pumpkin pie and October went together.

-I have a baby spoon with Barbara on it, August 26, 1965, which was found in a friend's yard, probably brought in in a load of fertilizer.

(No column for Oct 23)

October 30, 1969

-Ever since the landing on the moon there is an upsurge in interest concerning the signs of the zodiac - have you noticed?

-The 16 mile walk-a-thon in aid of the arena fund on Sunday created a lot of interest and fun - the project showed that the youth of Amherstburg have a lot of will power and power of endurance to complete something that they are interested in - no confusion in attitude on Sunday, a real positive example of what the young people can do.

-Mrs. W. Hamel attended the Stella Maris party at the K. of C. Hall on Saturday night with Murray

and Leta Gibb, grand-daughters and their husbands. Mrs. Hamel danced and danced the whole evening as she has all her life, the music making this light-footed woman one of the best dancers on the floor.

November 06, 1969

-One day recently a life long friend and I were laughing about a man we both knew in old Amherstburg. She said that someone certainly ought to write a book about characters in old Amherstburg, and we laughed when one of us observed "maybe we'd be in it."

-Hallowe'en this year was a pleasure at my house as I had many, many little callers - and they were all so good and polite and appreciative - and when I ran out of treats - that was alright too.

-I had a three-year-old visitor recently and was delighted with her speech. It was correct and clear and she had a nice vocabulary and good pronunciation. I have a phobia about proper speech for children as I know how hard defects are to correct when the reading and spelling programs begin. Baby talk is cute but not so cute as the years go by. Evidently my young friends talked correctly to their child and her ear became tuned to it. She was learning to speak well with no prompting nor correction.

-I read Daphne du Maurier's new book "The House on the Strand" recently and it left me cold. It is really science fiction (reality and hallucination) in period dress. The trips taken by the hero of the book after taking hallucinatory pills, I found scaring. Possibly I'm hiding my head in the sand about such things but I couldn't seem to get with it and the thread of the story escaped me.

November 13, 1969

-The golden trees all around the Fort and park this year have been a pleasure, even though there hasn't been much sunshine to highlight the regal colour.

- I wish I had invented those small baggie twister ties that we use to keep food fresh or seal garbage bags, etc. - in fact I wonder how I ever kept house without them.

-To we people who forget too soon - November 11th has just become another holiday and the significance of the day seems to be another sentence or two in a history book. I walked on Vimy Ridge once among the poppies and saw the memorial to Canada's dead in the making and saw the cemeteries so even though we (the Marsh family) had no one in World War I, I felt its awfulness that day and feel that Armistice Day or Remembrance Day should be a day for you and for me to help to do our part starting right here in Amherstburg, to make a world at peace.

- On November 19, 1969, the Amherstburg Echo will be 95 years of age, the first edition having been published Nov. 19, 1874, with J.A. Auld and W.A. Balfour, publishers. So we go into our 96th

year with a determination to serve and service our community to the best of our ability - so let's make 1970 a two way street - and we'll do more than our share - that's fair enough.

November 20, 1969

-An eyecatcher indeed - a bouquet of bittersweet in my living room for pre-Christmas interest before the reds and greens take over.

-We had an enterprising young lad in the office Thursday to see if he could have a contract to deliver Echoes in the new H.O.M.E. sub-division at the south east corner of the town. Friday, J.A.M. and I went through this newly laid out area and saw the plan, the crescent shaped roads and the fact that the services were in so we laughed and thought this fore-sighted lad certainly should get the job as he seemed to be looking into a future market.

-Dog gone it ! ! ! I missed the fall of the leaves on the gingko tree on the mound, in the wind Friday night. Saturday morning the tree was bare and on the ground into the moat was a wide band of yellow, a lovely effect in the morning sun.

November 27, 1969

-When Mrs. Loretta Reaume, former librarian, had her testimonial retirement reception, she received a wire of thanks from Peter Busby, now in Victoria, B.C., which read: "Best wishes and many thanks for your assistance in the formation of my proper and lasting reading habits." What better testimonial could a librarian or a teacher get than that? I remember being in the library one night years ago when Bill Busby, the father, brought four-year-old Peter into the library to talk books with Mrs. Reaume. Now Peter is out of the Army and is taking Honor English at the University of Victoria.

- Last week I saw two smart wide brimmed plastic rain hats down in front and turned up behind (like those Patty McQueen used to wear) both were clear plastic with under chin ties and very smart.

-The death of Dr. John Scratch "Doc" as he was known to generations of patients and friends in the Maymont, Saskatchewan area, brings to an end the old western country doctor, the pioneer doctor of the west, the beloved doctor whose territory was miles and miles and miles in area, the horse and buggy doctor who took days to travel his territory and lived in with his patients en route, the doctor who used a motor sleigh (when that was a new type of vehicle) when the snow drifts were high and the temperature low, the doctor who was kind and broad in his thinking, who alone raised two sons to be doctors, who took produce and grain or nothing for services rendered and who was a sound psychologist, learning this field on the bleakness of the prairies in the old days. It was in 1905 that "Doc" graduated from the University of Toronto medical school and went west and he became the beloved doctor of Northern Saskatchewan. The people in the area said thanks with tangible things - a car, etc., etc., several times during the years - but nothing could balance what "Doc" gave to them. It was a hard life with no comforts and the worry of the harvest year after year, but friendships were



deep and lasting and there was fun at times. With the death of this pioneer doctor, an era is ended in the opening up of the west. He loved the west so much that he wanted to live, die and be buried there. Many eulogies will be written about this brave, altruistic doctor, who was a native of Amherstburg, whose spirit of optimism seems to characterize prairie people. His name is part of the history of Saskatchewan - who as a young doctor heard the call "go west, young man" - who gave of himself but the rewards were great.

December 04, 1969

-The Leamington Choral Group under the direction of Helen Clarke Law is planning a trip to Wales in the spring to compete in a music festival the Eiddesford. (Eisteddfod)? Years ago I gave an evening on this Welsh national music festival at the United Church, illustrating my talk with music played by the late Patty McQueen.

-Had an interesting talk with Mrs. Gerard Janisse of the 3<sup>rd</sup> of Malden who is breeding chinchillas. Mrs. Janisse speaks so interestingly of the genetics involved.

December 11, 1969

-As I looked out at the glorious shocking pink south eastern sky at sun rise on Saturday morning, I thought that all I needed was a star on the stately blue spruce in the foreground on the lawn at the property now rented by Mr. and Mrs. Cameron Jones. That star which I saw in imagination told me of Christmas 1969. A Christmas as I know it - not as some of the theorists are trying to make me believe. I agree with Mrs. Nettie Hoffman, the charming United Church ordained minister in commenting on the shockers re Christ and religion which I've read recently, - "You've got to be kidding."

-Under the guidance of Miss Greta French, Wesley Church members are being directed into a happy singing lot. The junior choir directed by Mr. and Mrs. Tony Stickings has a membership of 34 voices. The objective is to have as many in the Senior choir. On Sunday as the congregation gathered there was a sing-song and a choice practice at 12:10 (Sunday and every Sunday hereafter) for a half hour for persons who will give of their voices for their own pleasure and that of the congregation. The weekly choir practice is on Thursday. When this ministry of song really gets going, it will add greatly to the life of the church and the enjoyment of listening or doing. Vocal music is an art whose instrument is you.

December 18, 1969

-Although not the traditional Christmas green and red, I thought the decorations at the Gibson Gallery on Sunday were stunning. They were strong pink and red - startling but certainly expressed the Message of the Season.

-A husband and wife doctor team, Dr. Donald and Dr. Elizabeth Hillman and their five children

have left Montreal for Kenya, Africa, where they will work at the University of East Africa training Kenyan medical students. Dr. Elizabeth will work on a team under Dr. Isobel Wright, formerly of Amherstburg.

- I think the waist length cape-like cover-ups the women are beginning to find warm and fashionable, called ruanas are stunning. Our neighbor has a plaid fringed ruana which gives her a look of old Mexico. Then Mrs. David Smith of Windsor, a friend of both Mrs. William Cavan and Mrs. Gordon Knight, has a ruana which is elegant. It is soft and luxurious, made from wool which she carded then spun on her spinning wheel and then wove into a ruana to wear over dresses instead of a sweater or stole, when the need arises. Incidentally Mrs. Smith is to speak to the members of the Arts and Crafts Guild at the Gibson Gallery on January 5th.

-Joe Heard, formerly of the Brunner Mond Canada Limited, sent a card to his son, Pete from Los Angeles picturing a group of people lunching at Farmer's Market. Joe wrote, "Please note John Marsh in the foreground." I've always heard that somewhere in the world everyone has a double and there was John's double on the post card.

December 25, 1969

- I like to be a Christmas believer. I like to have always been a Christmas believer and to say to all Merry Christmas and mean it.

- Laughed out loud as I read Erma Bombeck's column headed, "Hitch age to hem and regain youth." The first paragraph in her column said, a leading fashion designer said the other day for every inch your hemline hangs below the knee you can add ten years to your age. For every inch above the knee, subtract ten years. Mrs. Bombeck at 40 goes on to say that she understands the new math. And then goes on to tell of her experience with her hemline ending that now after she was supposed to have taken off 20 years by the shortening process was going to perform a transplant on her coat.

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