

Wore Wet Shirt to School; Hoped to Catch Pneumonia

MARMORA (ENS) — Edward Donald O'Connor, this village's oldest man, and one of its most active residents, celebrated his 90th birthday Sunday with his bride of 50 years ago at his side.

Baskets of autumn flowers decorated their home at 14 McGill St. Sunday afternoon when many friends from Marmora and district called to congratulate Mr. O'Connor. Refreshments were served by the couple's grandchildren, and a family dinner was held later at the home of their eldest son, Breen, at RR 2, Marmora.

A parchment scroll, inscribed with the apostolic blessing was presented by their pastor, the Rev. F. J. Spence.

Earlier, the O'Connors had attended eight o'clock mass at Sacred Heart Church.

On Friday, members of Marmora Senior Citizens Organization, of which Mr. and Mrs. O'Connor are active members, honored him with a surprise party. "Bells of Ireland" formed Mr. O'Connor's boutonniere, and birthday cake made by Mrs. Tom Young was served.

Mr O'Connor was born in Marmora Township, Oct. 2, 1876. He is the youngest and only surviving son of Michael O'Connor and the former Elizabeth Wolfe. His only living sister (Margaret), Mrs. E. J. Keating, also resides in Marmora.

He attended the White School which still stands on the Old Madoc road, the Deloro separate school, and Madoc High School. Mr. O'Connor recalls disliking the first months of high school so much that he tried wearing a wet shirt to school in hopes of getting pneumonia. This phase soon passed and he has many happy memories of his Madoc high school days.

Only three of his high school chums are still living, Archie Kincaid of Madoc, Tom Hogan of Windsor, and Carrie Sheridan of Queensboro. After graduation from high school Mr. O'Connor attended Belleville Business College and received his diploma from there March 16th, 1894.

He then returned to Marmora where he worked at the hotel



RECALLS WITH HUMOR EARLY DAYS IN AREA
Ed O'Connor, at 90,, still leads active life

smelter stood just off Marmora-Delora road about 1500 yards from Marmora Station and operated under the name of Canadian Gold Fields. This was destroyed by fire in 1899.

The opening, operating, closing and re-opening and closing of Cordova Gold Mines was all in his day.

He has an old Marmora Business Directory for the year 1885 and remembers well the 12 names and places of business listed in it. He and his father assayed the village of Marmora in 1902 and it is interesting to hear him describe the village of

sociation for eight years.

Mr. and Mrs. O'Connor are enjoying the best of health and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary last year. They don't believe in missing a good game of bridge, euchre or bingo, and are always happy to visit with their many friends who call.

Mr. O'Connor maintains his own flower and vegetable garden, enjoys shopping and meeting his many friends on his daily trips to the post office.

He is looking forward with keen interest to celebrating Canada's centennial.

business with his father until taking over as owner in 1900.

In 1904, he married Agnes Murray who died in 1905. They had one daughter (Mary) Mrs. J. E. Donnelly of Niagara Falls. Mr. O'Connor ran a flourishing business in the White Bear Hotel until a local option vote closed all liquor outlets in the township in 1913. He then reverted to farming until he retired and moved to Marmora village 19 years ago.

In 1915 he married Maude Hogan. They have four children — (Margaret) Mrs. D. F. Courneya of Elgin, Breen of Marmora, (Joan) Mrs. Andre Verreault, and Michael, both of Montreal. There are 35 grandchildren and 11 great grandchildren.

Mr. O'Connor remembers well the building of the still existing Trenton-Maynooth Railway, was present for the arrival of the first train to stop at White Bear Siding (Marmora Station) and also saw the last steam engine pass just a few years ago.

RECALLS SMELTER

Mr. O'Connor recollects the first Deloro Gold Smelter which was built on a piece of land purchased from his father. This

64 years ago.

SENSE OF HUMOR

He claims the Marmora Volunteer Fire Department is much better organized now than it was the night the old hotel burned. "They seemed to concentrate on saving the dishes and bedding and in the confusion the pillows and sheets were carried downstairs and out the door while the dishes were carried upstairs and tossed out the windows." Mr. O'Connor seems to have found the humorous side of every event and personality that has entered into his 90 years.

He has always taken a leading interest in church, social and municipal life in the community. He has written the history of the first Roman Catholic Church, the site of which is still maintained on the east bank of the Crowe River. The present RC church and all other churches in the village were built during his time.

He was secretary of Deloro separate school for 52 years, president of the Silver Leaf Cheese Factory for 25 years, assessor of Marmora and Lake Township for 15 years and director for Hastings County and Ontario Cheese Producers As-