

Requiescant in Pace

REINHART, Wilbert - March 14, 2015 at St. Mary's Hospital, age 82. Husband of Theresa, father of the late Kim, Kevin (Marianne), Paul (Theresa), Deborah Hess (Greg) and Marianne. Predeceased by his parents Henry and Magdalena, sisters Eileen and Beatrice, brother Jerome and sister in law Sheila.

BRUDER, Leonard Gordon—March 17, 2015 at Grand River Hospital, age 89. Husband of Evelyn (Starnitzke), father of Leonard (Mary O'Connell), Diane, Richard & Karen Bruder. Survived by a sister Elsie (Nicholaisen) Mann. Predeceased by parents Christian Nicholaisen Gladys Bruder, and a brother Lars.

MENARD, Albert - April 5, 2015, age 89. Husband of the late Marcella Graff, father of Randy, Karin Long, James (Sandy), Debbie (Brian) Kroetsch, Marci Norris, Ken (Mary), Wendy, and Dennis (Carolyn).

Zinger, Anthony "Doc" - May 11, 2015 at St. Mary's Hospital age 89. Husband of Elizabeth "Betty" (nee Snider), father of Judy (Jim) Lauber, Kathy Wagner, Mike (Josee) Zinger and the late Tom and Patricia Zinger. Brother of Cyril "Pat" Zinger.



Many residents from the Maryhill area have been called to serve the Roman Catholic Church. Tony Mancini, a former President of the Historical Society and a retired priest writes about these individuals.

Father Ed Dietrich Written by Tony Mancini

It is my privilege, to write about Fr. Ed Dietrich, as he was my rector at St. Thomas Scholasticate, the house of studies for the Resurrectionists. I personally knew him as a very humble man with a big smile and lover of repairing things especially cars. In all of his assignments there were multiple stories of Fr. Ed fixing cars in the church parking lots.

Father Ed was born in Wellesley Township on Sept. 20, 1915. He made a commitment to join the Resurrectionists and on the day of his entry into the novitiate, July 22, 1932, Monsignor Becker saw him in the fields and surmised that Edward was chickening out. He put him in his car and drove him to the novitiate. Fr. Ed humbly related this to the seminarians when he was rector in 1957 and I was a student. He had trouble making decisions but when he made them they were excellent.

After his studies at St. Peter's Seminary in London, he was ordained on May, 18, 1940. He then proceeded to the Ontario College of Education for his education degree. His first assignment was teaching at Scollard Hall, North Bay College from 1941 to 1951. He then taught in Brantford at St. John's

College from 1951 to 1956. He was then assigned as superior and rector of St. Thomas Scholasticate in London for the years 1956 to 1962. A superior's term of office was for a three year period and renewable for another three years. He succeeded Fr. Walter Schnarr, C.R., who recently passed away at the age of 103. Fr. Ed returned to North Bay to teach from 1962 until 1971 and then to St. Jerome's High School. In 1986 he became associate pastor of St. Mary's, where he was well known for helping people with car problems.

He retired to Resurrection Manor in 1988 at which time he regularly offered Mass at St. Mary's Hospital. It was there the last time I saw him, not celebrating Mass but as a patient. On December 3, 1989, following a lengthy

illness he died in his 75th year and 55th year of religious life. A Mass of Christian burial was had at St. Mary's and internment in the Resurrectionist Community plot at Mount Hope Cemetery, Kitchener. Fr. Ed influenced many young men who became priests and those who chose other vocations. He was a priest for all people.

Father Ed was influenced by his loving twin sisters Mildred and Mary. Mary Voisin lives in Maryhill and is featured on the previous page. Mildred, became a Sister of St. Joseph, now celebrating 71 years of sisterhood and took as her religious name Sr. Edwardine, CSJ.

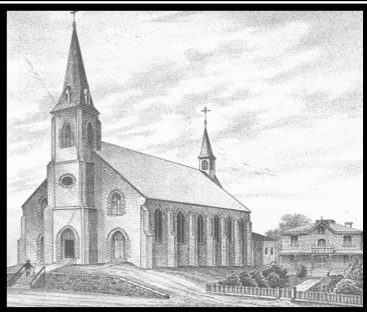
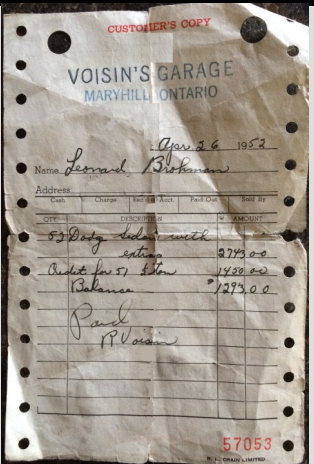
We thank God for the gifts of these families.

The Last Word

In 1930 the average cost of a new car in Canada was \$600 and the average annual salary was \$1,000. A new tire, priced at \$3.69, would have also cost more than a person's average daily income which was only about \$2.50 a day. By 1940 the average cost of a new car was \$850 and the average annual salary was \$1,900. The shift to a wartime economy created economic growth, more employment and greater incomes. This growth made automobiles increasingly more affordable and would help to usher in the car culture of the post-1950s (thus the need for 4 gas stations in Maryhill).

In 1952, as shown on this receipt from Voisin's Garage in Maryhill, a brand new "Dodge Sedan with extras" was purchased for \$2,743.

Today the average cost of a new car in Canada in 2014 is \$33,000 and the average family income is \$74,540.



GREETINGS FROM NEW GERMANY CANADA



The Historical Society of St. Boniface & Maryhill Community
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Summer 2015

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Local Events At the Halter House This Summer



Wednesday July 1
1pm to 4pm
Halter House, Maryhill

- Antiques, Antique Cars & Tractors will be on display
- Tours of the Halter House
- Cake and Refreshments
- Cemetery Tour



Halter House
Open House Sundays
June, July and August
11am to 2pm

Drop by if you are doing family research or tour through our house. Review our pictures for a trip down memory lane!



Sunday September 27
Maryhill Heritage Park
Community Centre

- Tour of the Wayside Crosses
- Lunch
- Slide Show of Photographs from the past

Item from our Past: Full Service Gas Stations

Years ago, we'd pull up to the gas station, and drive over a thin black pneumatic hose that snaked across the pavement. A faint ding could be heard inside the gas station or garage alerting the attendant that he had a customer. The attendant was dressed in a uniform, usually coveralls with a company crest on it, and a cap. Gas was 25 cents a gallon and we'd request 'fill'er up' to the attendant. Not only would we get our tank filled for \$5 or maybe \$10 depending on the year, but we would always leave with our windshield clean and an offer to check the oil. The attendant, most often a friendly man, would chat with us while he filled the tank. He often had a big rag hanging out of his back pocket that he used to wipe the oil dipstick. Then, he'd present the dipstick to the driver for his inspection. It was unheard of to consider charging a customer for air to fill their tires. Full service stations are hard to find these days, although there are still a few around. To cut costs, the major oil companies offer self-service stations now where the motorist does it all and where there is usually only one person working behind the counter. Way way back in the late 1800s the first place to sell gasoline was the pharmacy, as a side business and by 1905 'Filling Stations' started to appear. They offered both "Regular and Ethyl" (which contained more lead to boost the octane and was a few cents extra). By the mid 70's our choice was "Leaded or Unleaded". Today, we fill our own tanks, pay at the pumps with our debit/credit cards, then drive our cars through automated conveyor-belt driven touch-less, super-wash that even apply wax to our cars – all without talking to a soul!





Ask Diane

thousand people where Reverend Phillip Lardie had an eloquent plea for vocations to the religious life. Then thousands of people walked in a procession through the village of Maryhill reciting the rosary.

Dear Diane:

Today we have to travel to Guelph or Shantz Station for gas but years ago we were able to purchase gas in Maryhill. Where else could we fill up besides Voisin's garage?

Dear Readers:

Believe it or not, at one time we had a choice of 4 gas stations in Maryhill. In the early 1950s. Voisin's Garage had White Rose pumps. Across the street were City Service Pumps. Zinger's general store had Esso Pumps, as seen in the picture below. And there was yet another set of pumps beside Voisin's garage where the welding shop is.

From local news articles we learn that the very first garage and gas station opened on July 17 1922. "Mr. Alfred Roth is starting a garage in Mrs. Weiler's Wagon shop." and a month later "Alfred Roth has put up a gas tank and pump in front of his garage". The Weiler Wagon shop was at the intersection in Maryhill, across the street from the Sherrer Hotel. Many years later the Wagon Shop became the Mini Mart.

Dear Diane:

I've seen pictures of the Eucharistic Congress celebrated at St. Boniface in June of 1951. It looked like a pretty elaborate parade. What was this?

Dear Readers:

If you lived in the Maryhill area in 1951, you certainly remember the Eucharistic Congress for the Hamilton Diocese held on June 20 1951. The theme that year was 'vocations'. This gathering of Roman Catholic clergy and laity (nuns and brothers) consisted of one hundred and seventeen priests. The 10:30am mass was led by Bishop J.F. Ryan and assisted by 20 priests. The ladies of the Parish served both lunch and supper in the school hall to the priests. Over one thousand children attended a special 'Children's Hour'. Many travelled by bus to attend. In the evening there was a Benediction service attended by more than five

Diane Strickler is a local historian with a wealth of knowledge on genealogy regarding St. Boniface and Maryhill families. Send your questions to any of the committee members and we will feature questions in our newsletters.

The Eucharistic Congress procession through the village - June 1951. Note the gas pumps in the background and house. These pumps were out front of Zinger's store. The house in the background, was owned by Frank Fehrenbach but today is owned by the Historical Society and is called 'The Halter House'.



RAFFLE TICKETS

With this mailing, we have included Raffle Tickets for our Annual Fundraising Event. The draw will take place at Heritage Day September 27th. If you are able, please sell these tickets. Money and ticket stubs (or unsold tickets) can be returned to any committee member or in the collection basket at St. Boniface, or mailed back to us. If you have any questions—please email info@maryhillroots.com or call 519-648-2172.



Who's This from Our Community?



This summer the Historical Society features long-time residents of Maryhill:

– Roman and Mary (Dietrich) Voisin.

Romie was the 2nd oldest of 9 sons born to Edwin and Leona (Lorentz) Voisin. The boys grew up getting their hands dirty tinkering in the original Voisin's Garage in St. Clements.

Mary and her twin sister Mildred were the youngest of 13 children born just outside St. Clements, to Eugene and Elizabeth (Busch) Dietrich. This couple met as teenagers. Cupid's arrow stuck when Mary's older brother and Romie's buddy Harry introduced the two.

After all these years, Romie still remembers their first date. "We went to see *Angels with Dirty Faces* at the Capital Theatre in Kitchener. The admission was 35 cents." Mary's first employment was at Sittler's Grocery Store in Waterloo in 1945. She then worked at Kitchener Packers as a secretary until 1963. Romie was first employed as a licensed mechanic for Raitor Transport. He then served in WWII, in Canada, as a mechanic. After the war, Romie worked for a short time for his uncle Edward Lorentz baling and delivering straw and hay.

What brought the couple to Maryhill? The short answer to this is 'the Lorentz family'. Romie came to Maryhill because his good friend, and uncle, Scotty Lorentz, had moved to Maryhill when he married Mary Drexler. It was 1946 when Romie and his brother Harold purchased the corner lot from Mrs. Strohm with the vision of building their own garage, but in 1946, that proved to be a difficult task. Although WWII had ended, there still were few supplies available for building materials unless you were a commercial builder. Many times, Romie drove across the border to Buffalo and purchased bags of cement. Joe Hummel helped him to

mix the cement and Bill Sherrer (the owner of the Sherrer Hotel) helped to lay the bricks for the original 30 X 50 block building. They opened the doors for the "Maryhill Garage" in November of 1946 repairing everything from tractors to cars. Later the couple purchased 3 acres adjacent to the garage, from Frank Oliniski Sr. The property was empty except for an old shack that had once housed a leather shop. Mary and Romie were married in 1951 and built a house on this property. They severed two other lots and sold one each to the Reinhardt and Frank families. In 1955 they changed the name of the garage to "H & R Voisin" (after Harold and Romie) when they added the Chrysler Dealership and started to sell cars, tractors and trucks. Romie remembers the first three cars they sold were to Frank Fehrenbach, Leonard Brohman and Billy Frank. Mary became their full time receptionist until 1995 and part-time until 2011.

Father Ron Voisin, our current pastor at St. Boniface, (serving our community for the past 20 years) is a first cousin to Romie Voisin.

The couple described the Maryhill of years ago. The original Weiler Blacksmith shop was located across the street from the garage in 1946. At that time it was owned by Jack Weiler. Soon after Cyril Brenner's Groceries occupied the building. The couple said that mass was offered daily in the Convent located across the street from the church. And the hotels were bustling. Many locals would stop into the Sherrer Hotel for lunch and most people would stop at one of the two hotels after work for a beer. The local chopping mill owned by Scotty Lorentz, was booming at harvest time, and the wagons would line St. Charles Street. The farmers would sit in the hotel while they waited for the chopping mill to grind their harvest. Romie said he is sure many of the horses must have known their way home, because the drivers, after sitting in the hotel for a few hours, were in no condition to direct them!

The garage offered White Rose Gas to the big fashionable gas guzzlers. The pumps were removed in 1992. In 1994 the garage was sold to their nephew Greg Voisin and wife Cathy and now operates under the name of G&C Voisin Automotive.

Today Mary (88) and Romie (91) both still live in the house they built together. They drive, attend daily mass and enjoy good health. Note that never once did the couple advertise their business. Their customers came for service, came back again and shared their experiences with their friends and family. The Voisins truly appreciate the loyalty of their customers and the hospitality of the Maryhill community. And in turn, the Voisins have treated their customers and friends with honesty and respect. **While Mary and Romie may have roots in St. Clements, they certainly have made Maryhill their home.**

