

"I've lived a pretty good life"

David Matthews looks back at 88 years

The July 4th celebration in Cass City had special significance for David Matthews.

It was 70 years earlier that he had seen his first Independence Day celebration, in Port Hope, only three days after he had arrived in this country from England.

The Hadley Road, Decker, resident, then 18, came here with his brother Alfred, then 16. They, like their uncle before them, came for the same reason.

"There was no future there (in England)," Matthews explained. "There was no future for the young fellows."

Britain had a huge army and navy at the time, he explained, staffed entirely by volunteers because civilian jobs were hard to come by and low paying.

Britain had reached its peak during the Victorian Age, but the Victorian Age was over. "It wasn't a growing nation. It was a nation on the downturn."

David and Alfred were following in the footsteps of their uncle and older brother, both named George Matthews. Uncle George

came first for the same economic reasons, and eventually settled on a farm in the Kinde - Port Hope area about 1877.

Brother George came for different reasons, to get out of the Army. He was then in Ireland and left illegally. He settled near his uncle.

David Matthews was working as a baker when he left England, a trade he had started at age 12 as an apprentice, after finishing the fifth grade. Alfred was working as a gardener.

The two lads lived in a small town seven miles from Basingstoke, which is about 40 miles southwest of London. Their father, who died before they left, had been a bricklayer.

DAVID MATTHEWS VIVIDLY remembers their voyage to America. They left June 20, 1910, on the Teutonic, from Southampton. They were never to return to England.

They arrived in New York June 30. They were processed through customs and on July 1, boarded the Erie Railroad to Buffalo, transferred there onto the Grand Trunk and traveled through Canada to Port Huron.

It was late at night July 2 that the pair finally arrived by train at Kinde. Brother George met them and drove them via horse and buggy seven miles out in the country to his farm home. By then it was July 3.

When they awakened later that day, they went to Uncle George's.

The next day was July 4th. Uncle George took the new immigrants to Port Hope for the celebration. It was quite a day. The two boys saw their first baseball game and foot races were held on the unpaved main street. "All in all, it was a good 4th of July and I thoroughly enjoyed it."

AFTER THAT, IT WAS time to earn a living. Matthews worked on a farm, built Ford cars in Highland Park, then worked for the Parke-Davis drug manufacturing firm in Detroit.

He was a sailor on Great Lakes ships a couple of years, then went out west to Idaho, the Dakotas and Montana, working in logging camps, wheat fields and various other jobs.

He remembers a July 4th

celebration at Fort Shaw, Mont., an old Army fort which he was helping to provide temporary housing for settlers. There were bucking broncos at the celebration and a fats vs. leans baseball game. "I played with the leans because I was so skinny."

Matthews was married in April, 1917. His wife, Myrtle, died in 1922. The union produced one child, Robert, who now lives in Port Huron. IN JULY, 1917, WHEN the United States had entered World War I, he was drafted. Just before he was supposed to go to Europe, he caught the flu. Three days after he got out of the hospital, the war ended. While he was in the service, he gained his U.S. citizenship.

Alfred wasn't so fortunate. He enlisted in the Canadian Army and died of war injuries in France in 1917.

Another brother, Albert, came to America at age 12, and served in the Army after World War I. He lives in Memphis, Tenn. He and David are the only ones of four brothers and two sisters still alive. The sisters had remained in Britain. Their mother died in 1951.

AFTER WORLD WAR I, Matthews went to work as a pipe fitter in Port Huron, then for a plumber in Bad Axe.

He came to Cass City in 1926 and opened a plumbing shop. He operated out of various buildings with various partners, and for a couple of years out of his home, before closing his last shop in 1965. During World War II, he worked as a pipe fitter in Bay City.

From 1965 until three years ago, Matthews worked out of his home as a plumber, before finally retiring at age 85.

In 1931, he married Helen Mitchell, who died in November, 1978. They had four children, Fred and David, both of whom also live on Hadley Road; Doris (Mrs. Gary) Jones, Cass City, and Karen, who lives in California.

Matthews has been living in the same house since 1936, which he and his late wife

purchased from her father.

ALTHOUGH HIS HEARING and eyesight aren't as good as they used to be, at age 88 Matthews hasn't slowed much.

He feeds 21 calves each day in his barn that belong to his son Fred, fitted about 200 acres of Fred's ground this spring, driving his son's tractor, and maintains a large garden.

The farmland he has owned has always been farmed by someone else. "It (farming) is too expensive a game for what you get out of it," Matthews commented.

"I've lived a pretty good life," the octogenarian said in looking back on his life. And on the day before this year's Independence Day celebration, he recalled the significance of his first 4th of July.

"It was the first one," he said of that long ago day in Port Hope, "and something was different. I could see the freedom."

"In England, you had to be careful where you trod or you would be on someone's private property. Then to see the freedom here, that was foremost in my mind."



WORKING IN HIS GARDEN is one of the activities that keeps David Matthews active at age 88.

Ugly church plans wrap-up for centennial

Members of the First Presbyterian Church in Ugly will be conducting their final centennial year activity Sunday in conjunction with the Ugly Homecoming.

Following the morning services and the homecoming parade, in which the church has a float entered, parishioners will conduct a picnic on the church lawn.

The 75-member parish held its centennial worship service May 4 with Rev. Alex Holmes of the First Presbyterian Church of Caro as guest speaker.

A father-son banquet was held June 8.

The church traces its history back to April 14, 1880, when at a meeting in Bay City of the Presbytery of Saginaw, a commission was appointed to visit Bingham township to study the feasibility of starting a church there.

The first devotional services were held May 6 of that year in the Sinclair schoolhouse. Several area residents were received as members and the organization was named the First Presbyterian Church of Bingham.

Robert Hagen was elected ruling elder. The first pastor was Rev. Neil Currie.

The second pastor, Rev. P. A. Martin, preached at Bad Axe each Sunday, walked to Ugly to preach and then accompanied Hagen via horse and buggy to Cumber for his third service of the day.

The church's present building was constructed in 1882-83 on Washington Street, north of the present manse, which was built in 1904-05. The church was dedicated Dec. 30, 1883, when Rev. Martin was pastor.

In 1909, the church building was moved to its present location at Main and Pike Streets. A north wing was added at that time and stained glass windows installed. Brick over the wood siding was apparently installed at that time. De-

Gagetown orders new water meters

The Gagetown village council Monday evening ordered 60 new remote control water meters, that can be read from outside the home.

Council members also decided to order five baskets of flowers, which will hang from the lamp posts at the main street corners downtown.

Letters will be sent to owners of vacant lots in need of weed cutting, etc., telling them to have the work done.

Novesta has routine session

The Novesta Township Board meeting Monday evening was described as routine by Supervisor Bill O'Dell, with the main item of business being paying of bills.

A couple of minor complaints involving zoning were dealt with.

dication of the renovated structure was conducted Sept. 1, 1910.

Robert J. Hagen, the son of the first ruling elder of the church, Robert Hagen, served as an elder for 50 years. His son, Murray Hagen, was elder and clerk for 40 years.

Present elders of the church are its pastor, Rev. Robert R. von Oeyen, moderator; Bonnetta Wright, clerk; Mary Hagen, treasurer; and Jerry Holmes, Fred Hagen, Gordon Bensing, Bettie Hagen, Larry Schrader, Vera Bensing, Duane Jurgas and Harry Swartzentruber.

FARM AUCTION

Due to the death of my husband, I will sell the following personal property at public auction located 4 miles north of Cass City on Cemetery Road, 3 miles east on Bay City-Forestville Road, 1/2 mile North on Grassmere Road or 13 miles South of Bad Axe on M-53, 1 mile West on Bay City-Forestville Road, 1/2 mile north:

FRIDAY, JULY 11
1 o'clock

IHC 706 DIESEL TRACTOR - with cab and duals - wide front - 16-9-38 tires - 2104 hours, serial no. 453375-Y

IHC 544 GAS TRACTOR - 3 point - wide front - power steering - 2391 hours, serial no. 10580S

MACHINERY

John Deere baler #336 with bale thrower - like new
IHC #133 4 row 3 point cultivator
IHC 12 ft. wheel disc
Oliver 10 ft. wheel disc
New Holland #345 tank manure spreader

New Holland Super 717 chopper with 1 row corn head & hay head
Gehl Hi Throw blower
40 ft. 9" blower pipe
New Holland #512 manure spreader - like new
New Holland 40 ft. hay & grain elevator
Little Giant 36 ft. hay & grain elevator - like new
Mayrath sprayer with 200 gallon fiberglass tank
Papec self-unloading forage box with wagon
Badger self-unloading forage box with wagon

2 wagons with bale throw racks
9 ft. cultipacker
New Holland #461 haybine
New Holland #33 flail chopper
IHC 16 hoe grain drill
IHC 16 ft. harrow with leveling tines

IHC 12 ft. field cultivator
John Deere 494A 4 row planter
Massey-Ferguson side rake #36
10 ft. Swedish harrow 3 point
Massey-Ferguson 4 row rear mount, 3 point cultivator

3 point V ditcher
3 8 ft. bale carrier sections
Van Dale 12 ft. silo unloader with controls
Clay 12 ft. silo unloader with controls

16 ft. aluminum grain elevator with motor
2 electric cattle waterers
250 gallon gas tank
15-5-38 duals T rails
Snack rack - Water tank
Windpower alternator 25/15 PTO on wheels - used once - like new
Quantity of electric steel fence posts

Barbed wire - 50 gallon water heater
Stainless steel double wash vats
IHC cream separator - Milk cans
3 Surge buckets - Copper boiler
Chicken feeders & waterers
Chicken Wire
Small Jewelry Wagon

Mrs. Dellit Auvil, Owner
517-872-2420

CLERK - Hillaker Auction Service
Terms - Cash. Everything settled for day of sale. Not responsible for accidents.
Auctioneers - Lorn Hillaker & Clarke Hillaker
517-872-3019 Cass City

TN

Thumb National Bank & Trust

Pigeon
453-3113

MEMBER FDIC

Cass City
872-4311

LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION

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SCHOOL ELECTION

NOTICE OF LAST DAY OF REGISTRATION OF THE ELECTORS OF
CASS CITY PUBLIC SCHOOLS
TUSCOLA, HURON AND SANILAC COUNTIES, MICHIGAN

TO THE ELECTORS OF THE SCHOOL DISTRICT:

Please Take Notice that the Board of Education of Cass City Public Schools, Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac Counties, Michigan, has called a special election to be held in the School District on Monday, August 18, 1980.

TAKE NOTICE that the following proposition will be submitted to the electors at the special election on Monday, August 18, 1980:

TAX RATE LIMITATION INCREASE PROPOSITION FOR OPERATING PURPOSES

Shall the limitation on the amount of taxes which may be assessed against all property in Cass City Public Schools, Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac Counties, Michigan, be increased by 1 mill (\$1.00 on each \$1,000.00) on state equalized valuation for the year 1980, for the purpose of providing additional funds for operating purposes?

THE LAST DAY ON WHICH PERSONS MAY REGISTER WITH THE APPROPRIATE CITY OR TOWNSHIP CLERKS, IN ORDER TO BE ELIGIBLE TO VOTE AT THE SPECIAL ELECTION CALLED TO BE HELD ON MONDAY, AUGUST 18, 1980, IS MONDAY, JULY 21, 1980. PERSONS REGISTERING AFTER 5:00 O'CLOCK, P.M. ON MONDAY, JULY 21, 1980, ARE NOT ELIGIBLE TO VOTE AT THE SPECIAL SCHOOL ELECTION.

Persons planning to register with the respective city or township clerks must ascertain the days and hours on which the clerk's offices are open for registration.

This Notice is given by order of the Board of Education of Cass City Public Schools, Tuscola, Huron and Sanilac Counties, Michigan.

E. Paul Lockwood
Secretary, Board of Education