

"WHC WOULD'N'T BE NINETY-----"

-----that's what William Mark Leonard said in appreciation of the first birthday card he received five days before his 90th Birthday on the 23rd of October 1961.

In those five days he was even more pleased and amazed as the cards continued to arrive, four more, then eight, then twenty, fifteen, till finally on Sunday the 22nd when his son Wesley was holding open house for him, no less than 33 visitors came bearing gifts as well as cards and good wishes.

For the special Birthday Dinner, there were eleven people gathered on that day (the 22nd) including neighbours who had helped prepare the feast of turkey and all the trimmings. His son in law, Eric Henderson drove all the way from Ottawa, his Daughter Alice and her husband Bert Cowan and two of their children motored from Islington, to join in the celebrations.

The good folks of the Neal Memorial United Church, ^{Port Rowan} remembered with gifts of a lamp shade and a foot stool, flowers and cards. The Leonard family remembered with a gift of the New Testament in the new English Translation. An old friend from Delhi remembered with a book, by Jim Bishop, "The Day Christ Died", which is a notable literary work of recent publication. Of course there were cakes and sandwiches and cookies and candies, galore, to grace the delicious Birthday Cake with its, "Many happy Returns of the Day -- on your 90th Birthday, -- Father" nicely lettered in pink icing amid rosebuds and green leaves of the same material.

Notable in the afternoons programme was a solo by Mrs Mabel Gillard, at the request of Mr Leonard, of the sacred song, "Stranger of Galilee". She was accompanied at the piano by Mrs Alice Cowan, while the tape recorder that had recorded the dinner period itself took the music down also.

Notable among the visitors was the Member of Parliament for Norfolk, Mr J. Evans Knowles, while other old friends came from as far away as Fort Erie, Simcoe, Millsonburg, Delhi and Cultus.

On Monday the 23rd, the actual Birthday itself, the total of cards of good wishes increased to well over 60 in number, and the day was capped with a special gesture of good will in the form of a Long Distance phone call all the way from Edmonton Alberta. Mr Leonard's sister's son, Mr Frank Watt there 'phoned the good wishes of himself and all the other good friends and relatives still in the area where Mr Leonard first settled in Canada. Truly it had been a wonderful Birthday celebration, and those of us who were there, might well echo Mr Leonard's remark, "Who wouldn't be Ninety," to see there the generous good wishes of everyone.

R R 1 Port Rowan Ontario

31st October '61

Dear Friends; The above I cut on stencil a week ago just to accommodate the local newspaper reporter who wanted some account to put in the news. I wanted an

account to send to all you people to whom I sent my previous letter. So to save typing I started my letter that way.

I've been sending out duplicated letters and requests for years in connection with my self imposed mission to tell and promote knowledge of factual information about finance and politics in our country's economy, --- but never have I had the response to any such letters, though the subject was and is of vital life and death importance to the nation, as I did to the mere 43 letter announcing the fact that I wanted my Father to have a really truly birthday celebration. The flow of letters began as I've indicated in the first part of this letter, and continued on past the 60 cards and letters of that date to over 70 now. In this letter I wish to express my thanks to you all for thus making the day so nctable.

Father has been busy ever since methodically answering every letter individually, and the job will take some time yet, but I've not time to do it that way, so herewith one letter to you all in one fell swoop. So you'll all hear from Father in due course if not already, (for I'm not sure when this will get duplicated and sent off)

(One of the things I wanted to do before the Birthday celebration was to clear out the nearer of the two wells I have here, since this one has the better tasting water. I was forced to last week end when the "far" well went dry. Rather grimly I've taken 20 hours off my shop bldg programe, to uncover the "near" well and clear out the sand which the bull*dczer man pushed into it when he disregarded my orders to not cover the well excavation, but to merely bring the earth up to it for final filling in around the tottering stand pipe of ten inch tiles, by hand shovel. So now the job is done, and we have good tasting water and the earth levelling job about the house is a little more done. I have even got the last wall section raised into place on my shop end wall too, though there is several days work yet before I can begin covering with the sheet metal.

And now I must get at another of my unproductive (it seems) letter writing, in my capacity as Secretary of the Norfolk County Social Credit League, to tell everyone that there is a T V show to be seen and heard every 5.45 pm. on Mondays over C F P L London (Ontario)

Thanks again everybody, for making Father's birthday so memcrable, it may help him feel a little more at "Home" here with me, being now the ~~the~~ scene of happy memory.

Yours truly,

Wesley W Leonard