

Mr. and Mrs. Weir (34/35)

TAPE GUIDE

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Subject: Mr. and Mrs. Weir (Mrs. (I) (Mr. (V)
Case Number: 34/35
Code:
Date: June 11, 1975
Interviewer: Nancy Foster (F)

F: We'll start with you Mrs. Wier, whereabouts in the county did you come from?

I: I came from Sidney township.

F: And were your parents farmers?

I: Yes they were.

F: What sort of crops did they raise?

I: It was mixed farming mostly grain crops, dairy farming.

F: Where did you go to school?

I: Public school! I went to public school RR #5 Hydens (?) in Hastings Sidney township, and I went to highschool in Belleville.

F: Were you bused into the school?

I: Oh, no, we boarded in the city.

F: Who did you board with?

I: I boarded with relatives.

F: Was this a common practice for country pupils?

I: It was at that time. It was before they had buses for school children.

F: Who were the teachers out at your primary school?

I: There was a Miss Simmons, Miss Thompson, and Miss Bradley. They were my three public school teachers.

F: What was the school house like?

I: It was a one room, brick school house.

F: Can you describe what it looked like inside?

I: It just had one room and four rows of seats, and big stove at

the back which we could light. Blackboards around the side and across the front, a cloak room at the entrance and a library in the one corner.

F: How many pupils would you have in attendance? Say in the winter?

I: There wouldn't be any more than in any other city, I think there would be about twenty-five, twenty-six pupils.

F: Occasionally you do find the winters do vary because the older people are out on the farm in the spring and fall. So winter is usually the maximum. Mr. Wier where were you brought up?

V: Well, after we came back to Canada when I was age six, in Wallbridge that's about seven or eight miles from Belleville. After three or four years we went down on a farm in the fourth of Sidney and I was there until I was about fifteen. We then moved to Belleville where I have lived ever since.

F: Was your father a farmer also?

V: No, he was a bread maker by trade and then when we came back to Canada he was a storekeeper in Wallbridge. He farmed after that for a number of years before we moved to Belleville.

F: Can you tell me a little about your father's store?

V: Father's what?

F: General store in Wallbridge.

V: Well, there is no store there now in Wallbridge but it had a post office, it was a post office and several other things from soup to nuts. In those days it was just horse and buggy so people didn't come to Belleville like they do now, they came to the general store to buy all their goods. Which we handled everything that would be handy around the home or the farm.

F: Were there any other stores or services in the area around the store?

V: Well, there was a blacksmith shop and a creamery and a church, two churches and a school house and that was just about the extent of it, the village at Wallbridge.

F: Did you go to school in the village school?

V: Yes, I went to public school there, while I was there.

F: Do you remember any of the teachers at the public school?

V: No, not in Wallbridge I don't remember any there.

F: Did your parents live in the village or were you on a farm outside?

V: No, right in the centre of the village, where the store was.

F: Approximately how many people lived in the village at the time?

V: Oh! Around fifty I would say. I don't think there was any more than that.

F: What did your father do for an occupation when he came to Belleville?

V: Well, he was a gardener, he worked as a gardener for a number of years.

F: Do you remember any of the families he might have worked for?

V: Yes, Mr. Fred Moss, out on north Sidney street now. He used to have a big garden and everything went on the market for many many years.

F: This is the Belleville market?

V: That's right the Belleville market.

F: What would he sell at the market?

V: Well, I guess he would sell pretty well what the market did sell, all kinds of vegetables and principle vegetables that you sell on the market.

F: Now did either of you... you mentioned going to B.C.I. was it B.C.I. in Belleville you went to?

I: Well, it was the old highschool in Belleville it wasn't B.C.I. until they built this new one. This one the present one.

F: Ch! Thats right. So did you go the school before the present one was built.

I: OH, yes.

F: How did the older school differ from the new one?

I: Well, it was much smaller and it didn't have a gymnasium.

V: The back of the school.

I: The back of the school was the domestic science room and the art room. It use to be years ago the old grammer school.

F: What subjects did you take in highschool?

I: I took junior matriculetions.

F: Do you remember any of your teachers?

I: Oh, yes theres Miss Hitchon, Miss Young, Mr. Melborne, Mr. Wilson, Mr. Thrasher, Mr. Irwin, Mr. Ackvite and Miss Merry who is still living.

F: Yes, we did a tape with her.

I: Oh, did you. Mr. McLaren was the principal, Percy McLaren was the principal all the time I went to highschool.

F: What was your favourite subject?

I: History..

F: And who taught you history?

I: Mr. Wilson taught history, and Miss Hitchon, Clare Hitchon.

F: Mr. Wier did you also go to the Belleville highschool?

V: Yes, I did, the new collegiate wasn't built yet, not the time I started school.

F: Did you go there the same time as your wife?

V: A little earlier than her.

I: You were there at the same time.

V: I was there at the same time but I was a couple of forms ahead of you, I think.

F: Do you remember approximately how many classes there were in the school?

V: Well, I really couldn't say because every teacher had a class room. I really can't tell you, I don't know how many class-rooms there were.

F: How many children would you have in a class?

V: Oh, say around thirty or forty, I think. Do you think....

I: Usually forty.

V: Yea, I guess around forty.

F: So that would be a bit larger than they are now.

V: Yes, they were.

F: Mrs. Wier you said you were a teacher, where did you go to teachers college?

I: Peterborough...

F: How many years after highschool did you have to go to become a teacher? How many years in Peterborough?

I: Just one.

F: Just one year...

F: What did allow you to do, could you teach highschool or public school?

I: Just public school.

F: Did you teach here in Belleville?

I: Yes I did, at King George school.

F: What grade?

I: Oh, I taught grade four, five, six, four five and six.

F: Was this all one classroom?

I: Oh, no I didn't teach all those grades in the same year. I also taught in Point Anne in the country as well as King George school.

F: How did the a rural school like Point Anne differ from a city school like King George?

I: That was a grade school in Point Anne.

F: Was there any difference between teaching in the country and in the city?

I: Not really, in Point Anne there might have been a few more advantages than in teaching in the city. We had the school nurse in the city which we didn't have in Point Anne but it was a very good school. There use to be a car come around with an inspector, we had an inspector then.

F: What was the inspectors duty?

I: Well, he came around twice a year visit all the classes in all the schools just to view the teachers and the subjects being taught. Just an inspector to inspect the teachers really and what they were teaching.

F: How would the students react to a visit from the inspector?

I: Oh, they always enjoyed that.

F: Did they put on there best behavior for the teacher?

I: Well, most times, Mr. Carne usually had some little story to tell them. Or had them up to read, he always had the pupils participating in the classroom work.

F: Do you remember any of the stories that he use to tell the people?

I: Oh, I couldn't tell you that. Reading and literature were his favourite subjects and he always had the pupils read. He would read a piece for them.

F: How many years did you teach at each of the schools?

I: I was five years in Point Anne, five years in King George and one year in Thurlow, number four. It was a rural school too, which I taught all the grades in one year. One pupil in the enterence class which is now grade eight.

F: Which did you prefer the single grade or all the grades together?

I: Well, I prefer the single grades but I really enjoyed teaching in the country. I went out to a country school myself. It wasn't to different for me.

F: How would your approach differ to single grades and multiple grades?

I: Well, of course in a single grade, you just had the grade five you just had those subjects to deal with there alot more pupils to handle but you just have to concentrate more on the separate teaching.

F: What sort of thing would you have at Christmas, do you have any type of pageant or that sort of thing?

I: Well, there was a school concert at Christmas and the parents came, friends and neighbours.

F: What kind of thing would you do at Christmas concert?

I: Well, I would have the smaller children have recitations and drills and songs, dialogues and concerto, not concerto on a small scale.

F: And how would the older students participate?

I: Well, the older students would be able to take part in the concerto and the dialogues.

F: How did you discipline the children?

I: Well, discipline is a difficult thing but mainly through their work, their work was interesting. They had the timetable arranged so that you didn't have much trouble with discipline. there was always some children that liked to be mischievous but discipline really wasn't much of a problem.

F: Do you remember any outstanding people who have sort of gone on and become famous?

I: No, I really don't.

F: And would your pupils have gone on the city highschool, like the Belleville highschool?

I: Some of them did, well most of them went on to advanced education.

F: You only taught for a total of eleven years?

I: Yes..

F: Was there any particular reason you stopped teaching?

I: Well, I stopped when I got married.

F: Was this a common practice among teachers?

I: Quite, well yes it was then, I did some supply teaching after

that, but I didn't take any regular teaching jobs after I was married.

F: So were most of the teachers in the schools unmarried?

I: Oh, yes, yes.

F: The female teachers.

I: Yes.

F: Was this just custome or was it a school board ruling?

I: No, it was just custome that most lady teachers stopped teaching when they got married.

F: Mr. Wier, what was your occupation?

V: Well, after finishing highschool, I was interested in athletics. One of my favourites in school was athletics and baseball, hockey basketball and things like that. When I graduated from high-school I went to work for the Canadian National Railways. I was at the superintendent office at the north station for ten Years.

F: What type of work did you do there?

V: I was in the accounting department at the superintendents office.

F: What were the superintendents duties?

V: The superintendents duties?? Well, the superintendent of the railroad of the Belleville division he was in charge of everything that covers the Belleville division, the different houses and tracks, everything came under the superintendent, controll at that time.

F: You kept the books this?

V: Well, I looked after alot of files, that was one thing I did

Do you want to know what I did after that??? After ten years on the Rail Road, I went into the insurance business, as a life insurance agent with the London Life insurance company and then I retired.

F: What was the name of the life insurance company again?

V: London Life Insurance company. It was London Ontario.

F: You were an insurance agent?

V: Thats right, insurance agent.

F: So you would actually sell people the policies.

V: Yes thats right the main thing was selling people policies and the service in them.

F: Now you said the name was London Life Insurance, did you specialize in life insurance? Or did you have all kinds??

V: No, just life insurance, it wasn't general insurance, just life insurance.

F: Where was the office located in Belleville?

V: Our office was most of the time on the corner of front and Bridge street. On the south east corner the building has been torn down now. Thats when we had our office in the Victorian and Grey building on the fourth floor, thats for a number of years.

F: Who was incharge of the office?

V: Principleley during my stay it was Jim Atkins was the manager.

F: Were there many insurance agents within your company in Belleville?

V: Yes, in Belleville we had about eight or ten in our office.

F: Was there much competition between them?

V: No, that was surprising you'd think that but no everybody worked for there own responsibility. There was competition alright but I don't think there was any difficulty among the men.

F: Was there any sort of a bonus system over x-number of policies, Or anything?

V: Yes thats quite true there use to be thwo or three different competitions a year and you tried to sell the most. The one who could sell the most insurance there would be a prize, or a trip to some central place or an award to us so there was always this competition, this contest so we would sell more business.

F: Approximately, what would be the size of the average policy?

V: In those early days one thousand to five thousand and if you had a ten thousand that was a pretty big policy. Thats pretty small for what they have today the min. is about five thousand, so in those early ays there wasn't much money around and people weren't earning a quarter as much as they do today. If you had a five thousand dollars policy you thought you were doing a big job.

F: When did you start working for the insurance company?

V: 1932.

F: Did the depression have much effect on your business?

V: Well, that's quite a question because actually it did, business was hard to get people and nobody had much money and often through the existing policies we would give them loans and pay them over in some situations. We worked all through the depression and come through it and thankful for it. It wasn't easy.

F: What about the war, how did that effect business?

V: Well...

F: Would people buy life insurance if they were going to war?

V: There was alot sold during the war, just the same we sold some to the armed forces, we could put them on pay assignment and it would be deducted through their pay assignment through the government. During the war everybody was working pretty well, insurance was in quite demand then too.

F: Were the life insurance policies designed to cover the whole family or just the head of the family?

V: Well, theres different types of insurance , some for the man of the family some for the protection of the family often you found some policies on the children that was for educational purposes and the odd time you would sell some for the wife that was for funeral expences. When you sell insurance on the man of the home it was for family protection and retirement.

F: Now I understand you have been quite involved in the activities of St. Andrews church. In what way were you involved? What sort of activities did you participate in ?

V: Well, in connection with St. Andrews church, I went to Sunday school there, I was a teacher of teenage boys for a number of years. These boys were involved in different sports, cause I was interested in hockey and basketball. Thats how I interested these boys in the church it was helpfulto interest them through athletics.

F: Did your church sponsor teams?

V: That's right on those rainy days we had church meetings basketball all the churches at Bridge street, St. Andrews, Victorian Baptist

John Street, Holloway Street they all had basketball teams and we played our games at the YMCA. We also had hockey teams and we played at the old Turnable street arena.

F: Were you ever involved in the sort of executive running of the church?

V: Well, yes I was very interested in the church, I was on the session of St. Andrews church for forty years. I am interested in all things of the church and I was on the Board of Trustees of the church. I was in charge of the ushers for many years I was here.

F: How has the church changed in the years that you've been there?

V: How has it changed you say?? Well, everyday the church was a community centre pretty well. Meetings were called, often different organizations within the city would meet in the churches, they still do. It was a community centre and the church did a great deal for community work which today the UCS does that. Although the UCS does today, the UCS programs are carried out in the church.

F: Mrs. Wier were you involved in any womans groups?

I: Yes, I have been for many years, and I taught sunday school for a number of years in St. Andrews church. I was involved in the womans organizations and the choir.

F: Did they have quite a large choir?

I: They have a good choir now yes, the choir isn't as large in numbers as it was at one time.

F: Do you remember any choir masters?

I: Yes we had some very good choir leaders and organists, there

was Proffessor Wheatly, John Hodgins, Charles Kilgore, Mr. Sam Deacon, Mr. Edgarton Boyce and now Mr. Hydins, Ruddy, Rudolph Hydins is our director and organist now.

F: How is the choir set up, were there more adults do you have children or a senior choir?

I: We have a senior and a junior choir.

F: Were you attending the church at the time of a church union.

I: I was attending church then in Foxboro not in Belleville.

F: Were you at St. Andrews? (Mr. Wier)

V: Yes, I was at St. Andrews at the time of the union I remember it well.

F: Tell us about it?

V: Well, there is quite a difference of opinion of many people many people I know, my very best friend he went United and I stayed Presbyterian. And many other families from St. Andrews went to John Street which is burnt now. As many people who were Presbyterian that went over to John Street, came over to St. Andrews so I can't say there was as many bitter feelings in Belleville as there was in some places. There was very many difference of opinion, but we were very fortunate in Belleville we had St. Andrews that stayed Presbyterian and just what would have happened.

F: What caused the difference of opinion?

V: Pardon?? Well, many people thought of Presbyterians as they didn't like the idea of becoming United they wanted to stay Presbyterian, the old Scots background still wanted to be presbyterian. Essentially I guess it father and mother wanted

to stay Presbyterian, maybe that was the reason I wanted to stay, that was the reason I stayed too.

F: What about the people in Foxboro how did they feel about the change?

I: Well there was one family that left the church in Foxboro, the rest all remained Presbyterian, so there really wasn't any trouble there at all. You see the Presbyterian church is the most democratic church has the most democratic government of any church. The methodist and the congregational church, the bodies of the church went into one and the people had no voice in it, but the Presbyterian being democratic form of government they voted. They had a choice whether they'd go or not. The Methodist people didn't have any choice in the matter, because there whole church went as a Methodist church all of it went together.

F: You said the Presbyterian church is more democratic, how is it set up?

I: Well, the individual people had the vote, they don't go as a whole body.

F: Is this on all the affairs of the church or just major things like that?

I: Right... (to church)

F: What sort of social events did the church put on?

I: Well, the young peoples leagues, and we always had social events, get togetheres and suppers and dinner meetings and then the children in the Sunday school had sleigh drives, picnics and parties during the year Hallowe'en parties.

F: Could you tell us about the church picnics?

F: They seem to have died out now.

I: Yes they do.

V: The church picnics, I worked with the church picnics all my life after the union in 1925 was a large church picnic that St. Andrews had we went to Massasauga which most of the new people ~~did~~ would remember. We hired a big boat, and go down the bay and made a number of trips to Massasauga. Year after year we would hire a boat and sometimes we would go to Massasauga and sometimes we'd go to twelve o'clock point on the steamer. One of the big events every year was the church picnic.

F: Where would the boat leave from?

V: The Belleville dock down on front street. Then after the boats quit running, for many years we went up to Tweed, Tweed park, and had the annual picnic.

I: On a bus.

V: We had to take buses then, in the good old days when we use to go over by big boat.

F: Do you remember the name of the steamship company?

I: What was the name of the boat do you remember?

V: I don't know it was a big boat privately owned, and I just don't remember the name of it.

I: They use to have a moon light excersion too, Didn't they.

V: yes...

I: The night of the picnic they had a moon light excersion. It was for the whole congregation not just for the Sunday school.

V: Yes, the whole congregation, everybody went in those days.

F: What did you do at the picnics?

V: Well, we usually had a big dinner, everybody sat down at the tables and had a big dinner, then they would have all kinds of sports in the afternoon, races. They would usually go for about an hour and a half and after that they would have a ballgame. The board of managers playing the session, they would choose up sides and have a ball game. I can remember this was a long while ago, Chief Kid was the Chief of Police of Belleville, he belonged to St. Andrews, Alex Kid. He was a big man when he, playing ball he took a very serious tumble. I guess he wasn't used to running so fast, I don't know why that was. I'll always remember that.

F: How were the dinners set up, were they pot luck or individual families.

I: Well they'd put, everybody would bring their basket you see with their food and dishes on it and then they'd set, they had long tables, on all these picnic grounds and you just put your table cloth on a table and put all your food and dishes out and everybody would sit down and pass the food. Oh, no they ate all together.

F: Sort of a pot luck affair.

I: Yes. And they always had treats of icecream and drinks for the children and chocolate milk, candies and peanuts, have a peanut scramble.

V: Yes we always had a peanut scramble.

F: What about Christmas, was there any sort of special pagent of this sort of thing, parties at Christmas.

- I: Yes they would always have a sacred pageant at Christmas time. Quite often that was the, put on in the church.
- F: By the Sunday school?
- I: By the Sunday school and the choir, augmented by the choir.
- F: Who were some of the more memorable ministers of the church?
- I: Well, the time of union was the Rev. A.S. Kerr who went to John Street church after union as he went with the ones who voted union. And there was Rev. Stewart.
- V: He came here from Edmonton.
- I: Came from Edmonton. And we had Dr. Semore who came here from Australia, and the Rev. W.J. Walker, and the Rev. Jonathan-gothorn Hornsby and..
- V: ..the Rev. R.D. McLean.
- I: R.D. McLean who is now in Halifax and our present minister is Mr. Laurie Sutherland who came from Chipawa in 1963.
- F: Who was your favorite minister?
- I: Oh, I couldn't say that.
- V: Yes, we liked them all.
- F: Now I know there's three or four churches all along the same street, did you...
- V: That was why it was called Church Street.
- F: Were you quite co-operative with each other or was there any sort of friction because of different religions and that sort of thing?
- V: No, I don't think so. There's all types of religion on that street, there's St. Micheal's and Tabernacle and St. Andrews, Bridge Street and St. Thomas are all on Church Street. But they're all co-operative, they have been way back there and

they are still. Now St. Thomas burned a few weeks ago, our church was one of the first to offer our church for different activities of St. Thomas. In fact last Sunday we had Albert College baccalaureate in our church which was supposed to be held in St. Thomas church but we held it last week.

F: Were you involved in the war at all?

V: In a war? No in the first war I was a little young for it but I did go to Barryfield Camp in Kingston and work in the Y.M.C.A. canteen during the summer. Well in the second war I was a little too old to join then. Do you want to mention anything about athletics?

F: O.K.

V: I guess, I don't know what you want to know about it but anyway I'm always interested and played a lot in sports. First you might want to mention baseball. Back in 1919 the Belleville Grand Trunks won the Ontario Championship, Senior Hardball Championship of Ontario,

F: Were you on the team?

V: Yes, I was, that's why I mentioned it yes.

F: What position did you play?

V: I played short-stop. The final game was against Gault and Guelph. In those early times they used to close the town up for the baseball, ever played baseball, everything closed down street, stores and everything else to go to the ball game. That was in 1919 and between 19.. we won the Ontario Championship again in 1928 when we, the Senior Ontario Baseball Championship when we beat out Walkerville 6 in the finals.

F: Have there been any players go on to the major leagues, from Belleville?

V: Yes, our pitcher Johnny Williams, was an Indian, we discovered him and he went with, to play with Rochester. I had ambitions to go to the big leagues but after watching the big leaguers play I decided I wasn't good enough. Hockey also, back in the twenties, the Belleville Redmen had, we went through the Senior finals in hockey when Mr. Ed Thomas was the manager of the team for many years at that time, we played off with Collingwood Orleas of Toronto they, many of those players play in a National Hockey League.

F: How were these teams organized?

V: Pardon..... Well, Well, they organized in baseball because we had the central Ontario baseball league, at that time it was formed in 1919. There was Kingston, Oshawa, Belleville, Port Hope, Cobourg, Lindsay, we formed a league.

I: Peterborough...

V: I thought I mentioned Peterborough, maybe I didn't.

F: Were there any leagues within the city?

V: After the Ontario Baseball League was formed, there weren't any outstanding leagues within the city. Although they did play some and they played fast ball and after that there wasn't much hard ball. The Ontario league operated about 1932 and since that time different other leagues have formed too.

F: Were there any leagues for the children?

V: Well, the teams down town played quite a bit.

Nothing outstanding I don't think. These players usually developed into the higher leagues, the same as hockey and baseball, they played with the Belleville team. It was all local boys in those days, no imports like there are today in sports.

I: And you didn't get paid for it either.

V: No, everybody just played for the fun of it. It was strickly amateur.

F: Who managed the team and won the champonship in 1919?

V: In 1919 Mr. Thomas Fegg, he managed the team. In 1928 Walter Gereux managed the team. In 1919 came there was only two of us alive, Wicky Ross and myself.

F: Where would you play the games?

V: Well, at the old fair grounds in 1919 thats where, its up on Sidney and West Bridge. Where the

I: American Optical is now.

V: Yes where the American Optical is now. Between 1919 and 1928 they built the new fair grounds where it is now, and they use to play there where the grandstand is now.

DEATHS

WEIR: Vernon of 331 Albert St., Belleville at his residence on Thursday August 18th, 1983 in his 84th year. Beloved husband of Irene Russell. Son of the late Mr. and Mrs. James R. Weir. Dear brother of Alex Weir of Niagara Falls and Jean (Mrs. H.G. Hayden) of Baltimore, Ont. Also survived by two nieces and one nephew. Mr. Weir is resting at the Pinkston and Luscombe Funeral Home, 60 Victoria Ave. at Church St. Friends may call Friday afternoon and evening from 2 - 4 and 7 - 9. Funeral service will be held in St. Andrews Presbyterian Church on Saturday, August 20th at 2:00 p.m. Rev. Malcolm Muth officiating. Interment Belleville Cemetery. If desired donations to St. Andrews Church Memorial Fund or the Gideons would be appreciated.

The Intelligencer Aug. 19, 1983, p. 2

Saturday funeral for ardent sportsman

Funeral service for Vernon Weir, one-time ardent Belleville sportsman, will be held Saturday.

Mr. Weir, 83, died Thursday, at his home, 331 Albert Street.

Born in Leroy, N.Y., son of Mr. and Mrs. James R. Weir, he came to Belleville with his family when a child about 1908.

As an athlete he played hockey and basketball with city teams. He was a long-time ball player with the top hometown club of its day—the Belleville Grand Trunks team, winner of Ontario championships in 1919, 1924 and championship runnerup in 1928.

He worked in the Canadian National superintendent's office in Belleville until 1932, when he joined London Life Insurance company, from which he retired in 1960.

Mr. Weir was a leading member of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, serving 47 years on the church board of sessions, teaching Sunday School and acting on its board of trustees.

He was a member of the Y's Men's Club and the Masonic Eureka Lodge 213.

He leaves his wife, Irene; a brother, Alex, Niagara Falls, Ont.; and a sister, Mrs. H.G. (Jean) Hayden, Baltimore, Ont.

Resting at Pinkston and Luscombe Funeral Home. Service at St. Andrew's Church Saturday at 2 p.m.

The Intelligencer Aug. 19, 1983, p. 2

VERNON WEIR
Belleville

The funeral for Vernon Weir, 331 Albert St., Belleville, was held Aug. 20 from St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, the Pinkston and Luscombe Funeral Home in charge of arrangements. Mr. Weir, 83, who lived more than 75 years in Belleville, died at his residence Aug. 18.

Born at Leroy, N.Y., a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. James R. Weir, he is survived by his wife, the former Irene Russell, one brother, Alex, Niagara Falls; one sister, Mrs. H.G. (Jean) Hayden, Baltimore, Ont.; two nieces and one nephew.

For some years, Mr. Weir worked in the superintendent's office with the CNR, joining London Life Insurance Company in 1932 and retiring in 1960.

He was a member of St. Andrew's Church, a member of the session for 47 years, a member of the board of trustees and a Sunday School teacher. He was also a member of The Gldeons, serving as treasurer for 28 years, a member of the Y's Men's Club and of Eureka Lodge 283.

Rev. Malcolm Muth officiated for the service which included a solo sung by Rita Hough, How Great Thou Art.

Bearers were John Craig, Cecil Hluser, Alex Brownlie, Terry McCabe, Bernard Redner and Stan Hagerman. Elders of the church formed an honor guard. Burial was in Belleville Cemetery.

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Spring interment. Donations appreciated to Sleeping Children Around the World or United Church Mission and Service Fund.

WEIR, JESSIE IRENE (Lifetime member of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church) formerly of the Bridge Street Retirement Residence, at the Kentwood Park Nursing Home, Picton in her 95th year. Beloved wife of the late George Vernon Weir. Beloved daughter of the late David and Emma Russell. Lovingly remembered by her several nieces, nephews and cousins. Friends are invited to call at the **BURKE FUNERAL HOME (868-8868)**, 150 Church Street, Belleville on Thursday from 7-9 p.m. and at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church on Friday from 12:00-2:00 p.m. Funeral service will be held in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church on Friday, March 12, 1999 at 2:00 p.m. Rev. Craig Cribier officiating. Interment Belleville Cemetery. Donations to St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church would be appreciated by the family.

Where Customer

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