

**MR. AND MRS. PETER FENDER
CELEBRATE THEIR FIFTIETH
ANNIVERSARY**

Lake Odessa, Feb. 27.—Over on the extreme south side of Ionia county about four miles east of this place a highly respected couple, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Fender, Saturday were preparing for a quiet golden wedding anniversary celebration Sunday.

These folk have lived about this neighborhood and nearby since the close of the Civil war. It was in 1882 that Peter Fender married Libbie Peaster at the home of the bride's parents about four miles north of Nashville. Early in 1865 Peter moved with his parents to Woodland township, just south of this place. Mr. and Mrs. Fender lived in Sunfield township, Eaton county, just a few miles southeast of their present home, for 40 years and they have lived in their present home about 9 years. They have owned many farms in this time.

In her girlhood days Mrs. Fender taught many of the rural schools about this community. He is 78 and she 73. Both are in good health and look many years younger than their age. Both attribute their good health and long life to hard work and Christian temperate living.

While they never have had children of their own, this couple has given homes for seven children who have learned to love them and know them as parents. Their many acts of helpfulness to their friends and neighbors have won for them a host of friends.

MAYNARD RAY GUTCHESS

Little Maynard Ray the four and one-half months old son of Mr. and Mrs. V. S. Gutches passed away December 18 at the Sanitarium hospital in Battle Creek, his trouble being an enlarged gland in the chest.

He was brought here to the home of his grandparents, Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Loveland, where the funeral was held Sunday. Burial was made in the Woodlawn cemetery.

The eighth annual reunion of the Wells School was held Tuesday, August 26, 1930, at the school house with about eighty in attendance. After a social hour of reminiscences of childhood days, the tables were arranged and a well-filled cafeteria was conducted there, including quantities of foods as well as pupils and teachers. Following the banquet, a picture was taken of the group and program rendered which was enjoyed by all present, showing clever talent and good work of the committee. It opened by all joining in the hymn, "Blest be the tie that binds." A letter from Henry Morey of Hot Springs, So. Dakota was read by the Secretary, Mrs. Lola Strait. Mr. Morey attended school here with Mrs. Strait's father, the late J. W. French and other scholars of Civil War years. A book of Mr. Morey's poems was passed thru the company with interest.

A monologue, "Jonah and the Whale", was given by Mrs. Iva Hill, followed by two duets by Miss Granger and Betty Gehman. Reva Wells recited and Mrs. Emma Powers gave two readings on the theme of the mother's worries of today. Two selections on the harmonica by John Strait enlivened things, and Marjorie Granger gave a fine reading by our own poet, Edgar A. Guest.

A former teacher, Alice M. McKinnis, wrote a fine letter, descriptive of Northern Italy, where she is now teaching. Irvin Powers contributed well to our program in both readings and music. "Memories", subject of a fine paper written by Stella French Fifield will be printed in this issue. Five former teachers were present: Mrs. Perry B. Wells with 6 of her own pupils, Mrs. Clark Wells with seven, Mrs. Irvin Powers three, Mrs. Eli Strait seven and Mrs. Harold King seven.

A vote was taken on the location of the reunion next year, and Jacob Faust's woods won by a good majority.

Election of officers followed:
President, Lola Strait
Vice President, Jake Faust
Secretary, Iva Hill
Treasurer, Meredith Miles

A treat of ice cream and cake was served after the program, and later sports were indulged in thru the good work of the Sports Committee. "Auld Lang Syne" was sung in closing—"Till we meet again" another year.

"The years of youth we never prize
Until those years are flown;
Then we gaze back with wistful
eyes,
To scenes that we have known.

The old man sighs for the swimming
pool,
And the matron her first beau;
And the man of cares his days in
school
(Those days he hated so!)

It seems we never prize the rose
Until we find the thorn;
Our summer days are best when
snows

Make us wish for the snows

It was a severe shock to Vermontville on learning Sunday morning that Keith Barber had passed away at Battle Creek hospital, 8:30. Keith had had the flu, was better, and out driving Thursday. As he had a great many business interests it was desirous that he be around to look after them. The over-exertion of tending to the things that he had in hand proved to be too much for his constitution, and he was stricken with a relapse on Thursday night from which he grew steadily worse until being removed to Battle Creek on Saturday afternoon in order that experts might be in attendance on him.

Keith was one of the absolute pioneers products of Vermontville, and had lived here all his life in business, except such time as he was in Florida and in the West. He had been in business, together with his brother Vance, on Main street for a great many years and had endeared himself to all who knew him by his courteous ways and pleasing personality.

He was a friend of every man, and his popularity is better evinced by the attendance at his funeral and the floral offerings than anything that can be written.

He was always progressive and a great worker for the interests of the community and will be greatly missed by everyone. He had served a great many years in different public offices with great credit to himself and to the community, and was responsible for many of the improvements that we now enjoy. There is no business man on Main street who was better liked, and there are none that will be missed more than he. The writer in closing will say that he was and always has been his true friend.

O. E. McLaughlin

Keith Lawrence Barber was born February 22, 1889, in Vermontville, where he has spent his entire life. He was the second son of Mr. and Mrs. E. D. Barber.

On October 26, 1910 he was united in marriage to Miss Eula Scott of Lawton, and to this union two sons, Edward and Homer, were born.

He was associated with his brother Vance in the Barber Brothers Dry Goods and Ford Sales and Service.

He passed away Sunday, August 2nd, after a short illness. Funeral services were held at his home Tuesday at 2:00 p. m. with interment at Woodlawn cemetery.

He leaves to mourn his wife, two sons, father, mother, and two brothers Vance of this place and Phil of Battle Creek, also a host of friends.