

CARLETON CARTER 1911-1992
PETOSKEY, EMMET COUNTY, MICHIGAN

Even In Retirement WELL-TRAVELED SALESMAN TO KEEP RIGHT ON MOVING

By Paula Holmes

Carleton Carter likes to travel. And it's a good thing, too, because as a salesman for the Craw-Van Eerden Co., Inc., of Petoskey, he has traveled more than 1.76 million miles.

Carter, who will retire Wednesday, has worked for the company for 44 years and averaged about 40,000 miles on the road each year.

His sales route for the fresh produce and canned goods company took him from Petoskey to Mackinaw City, Wolverine, Vanderbilt, Grayling and Elmira at least once a week, Carter said.

He also visited customers in the Petoskey and Harbor Springs area at least two times a week.

In fact, the salesman was so punctual about his visits, that his customers often set their watches on the day he called.

"I always tried to be at the same place at the same time each week," the Petoskey native explained. It's good to have people expect you.

"And some people did set their watches by me," he smiled.

His customers also recognized him by his hat, which he hardly ever is without, and his coat. Carter said that many people wouldn't recognize him if he didn't have his hat on and he even posed for his picture with the hat on so people would be sure to know who he was.

The salesman said a lot of things have changed since he first joined the company in 1932 as a delivery man.

For one thing, 44 years ago, the company was known as Vinkemulder's and it was located in the News-Review parking lot.

Carter was hired by the manager, George Craw, who then bought out the company and renamed it Craw Company. Craw later sold the company and it was renamed Craw-Van Eerden Co., Inc.

Carter said the packaging of the produce was also changed since he started in the business.

"Everything is individually wrapped now," Carter explained.

Bananas used to come on a big stalk and we split them up," he said.

"Now they come packed in boxes," he commented. "Everything is being packaged at the plantation.

Carter said things are packaged in small units now, too.

"Potatoes used to come only in 100 pound bags," he noted. "Now they come in 10 and 50 pound bags.

"And carrots used to come in bunches," he said. "They come in one-pound bags now."

Carter said most items are packaged in cardboard boxes now, instead of wooden crates.

But it was the changes that made his job interesting, Carter said.

"It seemed like there was something different every day," he said. "It's an interesting racket."

The salesman said he has some regrets about his retirement.

"But you have to make way for younger people," he said.

He and his wife Mildred plan to go to Florida for a few months. And then Carter would like to begin doing things he hasn't had time for in the past 44 years.

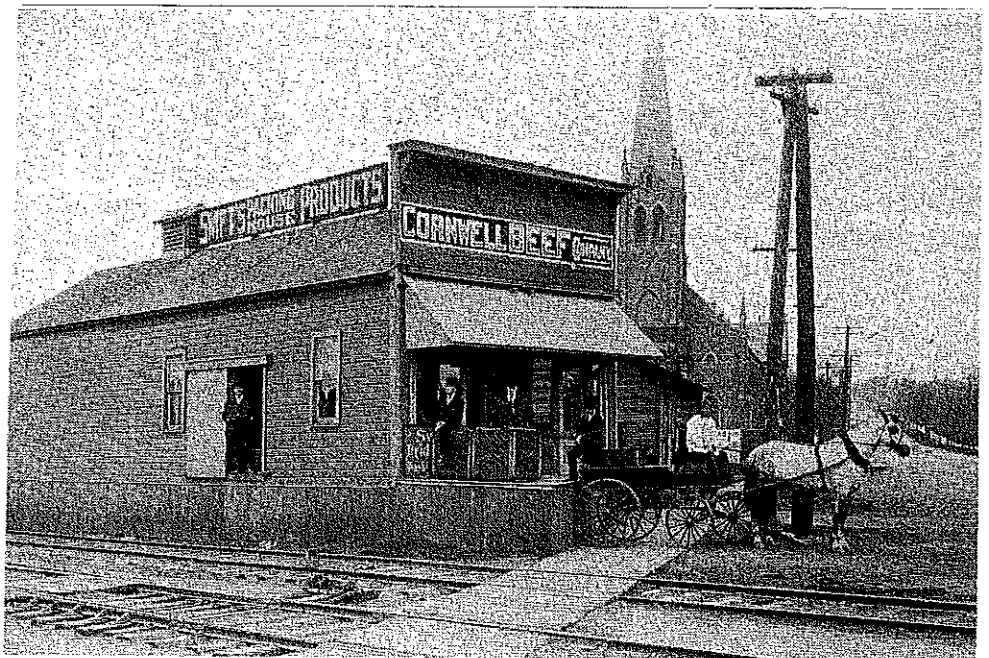


Carleton Carter

He plans to do more bowling and boating and to spent time with his daughter Mrs. Richard {Peggy} Washburn.

"And I'd like to do some traveling," he said.

Extracted from Petoskey News-Review Monday, March 1, 1974, page 6.



CARLETON Carter started his life as a salesman working out of this building on State-st., now the site of the Petoskey News-Review parking lot. In the background is St. Francis Church, a landmark even in horse-and-buggy days.

OBITUARIES

Carleton T. Carter, 81

Mildred G. Carter, 75

CARLETON THOMAS CARTER, 81

Carleton T. Carter, 81, of Petoskey, died Sept. 16, 1992, at Michigan Veterans Facility in Grand Rapids.

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Friday, Sept. 25, at Zion Lutheran Church in Petoskey. The Rev. Walter Teske will officiate.

Mr. Carter was born in 1911 in Petoskey, the son of Charles and Agnus {Miller} Carter. He attended Petoskey schools and graduated from Petoskey High School.

He served in the U.S. Army during World War II in France. Mr. Carter was employed by the Craw-Van Eerden Produce Co. in Petoskey for 44 years, retiring in 1996.

He was a member of Zion Lutheran Church, the American Legion post in Petoskey and was a life member of the Elks Lodge in Petoskey.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 49 years, Mildred Carter, in 1989.

Survivors include one daughter and son-in-law, Peggy and Dick Washburn of Jenison; two grandchildren, Elizabeth Ann Washburn and Richard Washburn, both of Jenison; three sisters-in-law, Dorothy Carter, Loretta Carter and Fran Reusch, all of Petoskey; and a brother-in-law and sister-in-law, William and Fran Grauel of East Jordan.

The family suggests memorial contributions be made to Zion Lutheran Church or to the Camp Daggett Scholarship Fund.

Arrangements were handled by DeVries-Kuiper-DeGraaf-Maithysse Funeral Directors Inc. in Grandville.

Extracted from Petoskey News-Review dated September 17, 1992.

MILDRED G. CARTER, 75

Mildred G. Carter, 75, of Petoskey, died Jan. 8, 1989, at Little Traverse Division, Northern Michigan Hospitals.

Funeral will be 2 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 11, at the Stone Funeral Home, Petoskey. Pastor Kenneth Bernthal will officiate and burial will be in Greenwood Cemetery, Petoskey.

The former Mildred G. Grauel was born March 16, 1913, in Kitchener, Ontario, Canada, the daughter of Allen and Emma {Brauer} Grauel. She attended school in Kitchener and graduated from the Kitchener and Waterloo Collegiate High School.

She then attended Guelph General Hospital School of Nursing in Guelph, Ontario and graduated as a registered nurse in 1934.

On Oct. 28, 1939, she married Carlton Carter in Petoskey. The couple made their home in Petoskey.

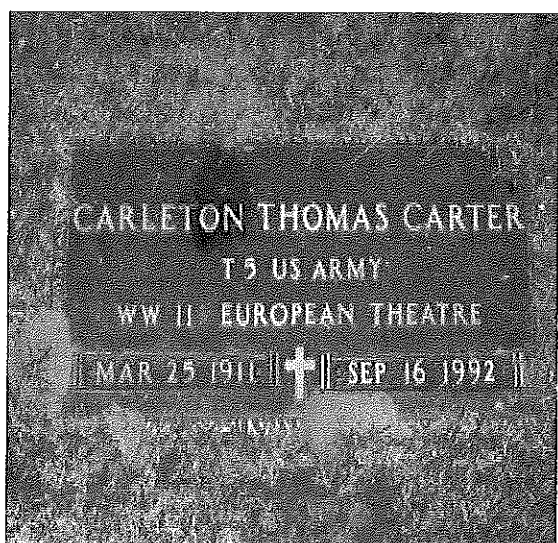
Mrs. Carter had worked as a registered nurse and nursing supervisor at Lockwood General Hospital and Lockwood-MacDonald Hospital in Petoskey for 28 years, retiring in 1975.

She was a member of the Zion Lutheran Church in Petoskey; a member of the Ontario College of Nurses and a member of the Guelph General Hospital Alumni Association.

She is survived by her husband; one daughter, Mrs. Richard {Peggy} Washburn of Jenison; two grandchildren; one brother, William H. Grauel of East Jordan; one sister, Mrs. Lillian Winter of Kitchener, Ontario.

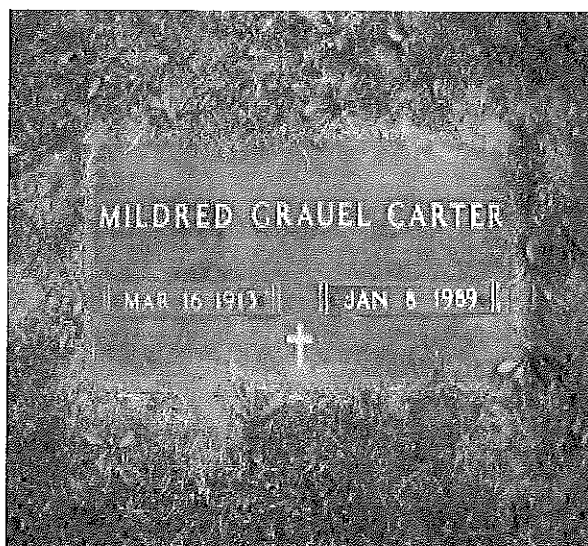
The family suggests memorials to the Zion Lutheran Church Memorial Fund or the Emmet County Unit of the American Cancer Society. Envelopes for those purposes are at the Stone Funeral Home where the family will receive friends 7-9 p.m. Tuesday.

Extracted from Petoskey News-Review dated January 9, 1989.



Burial Greenwood Cemetery, Petoskey, Michigan
Section J, Block 151, Lot 20.

Extracted Find-A-Grave



Burial Greenwood Cemetery, Petoskey, Michigan
Section J, Block 151, Lot 20.

Extracted Find-A-Grave