





## Farmers On Tour

Fifteen South Peace farmers and their wives have returned from United Grain Growers first annual flying farm tour, this year to Vancouver. Group included (left to right) Mr. and Mrs. Ed Tofer of Grande Prairie, Mr. and Mrs. Laverne Sheehan of Wembley, **Milfred Patterson** of Bezanson, Mrs. Bruce McDonald of Grande Prairie, Mr. McDonald, Mr.

and Mrs. Lyall Marcy of Grande Prairie and Mr. and Mrs. Allan Peterson of Grande Prairie. Missing from photo are Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Nordvie and Stan Horne, all of Codesa. Successful trip with 100 other UGG customers may mean direct flight from Peace Country next year.

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# Strike-bound CUPE workers hold meet

By BRUCE MASTERMAN  
of our staff

Members of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), who have twice called off scheduled strikes at the Grande Prairie Health Unit, will meet tomorrow with their union president.

Edith Patterson, president of the local CUPE branch, said today union members do not know the purpose of tomorrow's meeting with Fred Pyke, the provincial leader.

The meeting is set for 4:30 p.m. at the Grande Prairie Health Unit.

Strike notice was first served on the health unit board for a walk-out to begin at 1 p.m. last Wednesday. When that strike was cancelled, another was set for Monday at 1 p.m.

Mr. Pyke has said the decision not to strike Monday was a "strategy move."

Mrs. Patterson said new strike notice has not been served and there has been no attempt to reopen negotiations between the union and

management.

Thirteen employees, including health inspectors, dental hygienists, dental assistants, and stenographers at the city health unit and suboffices in Valleyview, Spirit River, and Beaverlodge, are involved.

The workers originally demanded a 46 per cent wage increase but agreed to accept a conciliation commissioner's recommendation for a 36 per cent hike. The board, which has maintained its offer of 21 per cent, rejected the conciliation report.

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# CUPE, Health Unit talks stalled

By BRUCE MASTERMAN  
of our staff

The Grande Prairie Health Unit board and the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) are at loggerheads in their current wage dispute.

Board chairman Flora Simmons said today the board met yesterday

to discuss the situation but she refused to release details of the meeting.

She had earlier said the board has not approached the union to reopen negotiations and she confirmed that stand today when she said, "We've done all we can with negotiations."

CUPE, which represents 13 health unit workers in Grande Prairie, Beaverlodge, Valleyview, and Spirit River, has also not altered its stand, local president Edith Patterson said today.

She said the union has done nothing since a meeting of members last Thursday and "no contact has been made with Fred Pyke (provincial union leader) or anybody else since that meeting."

She had earlier said the union's position was established at the meeting but had declined to elaborate.

The workers — health inspectors, dental hygienists, dental assistants, and stenographers — had demanded a 46 per cent wage increase but later agreed to accept a conciliation commissioner's recommendation for a 36 per cent hike. The board, which has been rigid in its offer of 21 per cent, rejected the conciliation report.

The union has twice served strike notice on the board but each time the walk-out was called off before it began. A new strike notice has not been served.

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## *Honored for service*

The Grande Prairie Public Health Unit gave long-service awards to three of its employees at the unit's annual Christmas party Friday. Cliff Turner (left) and Edith Patterson received awards for 15 years of service, while Dorothy Curray was presented with an award for 10 years service, by William Housman, vice-chairman of the board of health.

Staff Photo by Peter von Stackelberg

# Pair began at health unit 25 years ago

By DAVID HOWELL  
Herald-Tribune staff

Cliff Turner's expression said it all. The manager of the environmental health department at the South Peace Health Unit was casually opening an innocuous-looking present on the occasion of his 25th anniversary as an SPHU employee.

He soon discovered — as did senior stenographer/clerical supervisor Edith Patterson, also celebrating 25 years with the health unit — that inside the gift-wrapping was a \$1,000 bill, framed under glass.

The presents to Turner and Patterson were presented by health unit board chairman Adolph Schultz, who said "I'd just like to say they're not phony, they're real," as the surprised pair opened the gifts.

Patterson came to the health unit May 1, 1961, as a temporary stenographer hired for six weeks to help out with a change of filing systems.

The health unit was then located above Joe's Coffee Shop, where the downtown Toronto Dominion bank is now, at Richmond Ave. and Clairmont Rd.

"I've never been hired," says Patterson. "I just stayed on, and on, and on — I've never received any official notice of being hired."

Today, she supervises clerical staff in the Grande Prairie health unit office, and in district offices in Valleyview, Spirit River and Beaverlodge.

"It's been a real challenge and I've found it very, very rewarding . . . what I would really like to say is that I'm very grateful to all of the staff as well as the board. The opportunity to work with such great people

— I find it very touching today."

Incidentally, the day Patterson started work was her 15th wedding anniversary.

Last week, she and her husband Milfred celebrated their 40th with a party hosted by their children, in Edmonton.

Turner came to the health unit as a trainee health inspector in July, 1961.

He says he "would never have guessed" he and Patterson would both still be with the same employer 25 years down the road.

When he started, there were no full-time health inspectors on staff; now there are four.

Turner finds his a "challenging, sometimes rewarding and sometimes frustrating" profession, but enjoys it overall.

"I feel that it's a worthwhile endeavor, interesting and varied, and there isn't much to get bored with. Even in the routine things there is a variety."

Patterson, whose youngest son was one year old when she started work and now has a family of his own, plans to retire at the end of April, 1987.

Turner plans to stay at his current job until he retires, but hasn't set a date. When he does, he says, he would like to continue consulting on a part-time basis.

The noon-hour ceremony at the Grande Prairie health unit office last Friday included champagne, cake, a smorgasbord and some frivolity.

When board chairman Schultz presented Patterson with a plaque commemorating her service, he said: "You started here 25 years ago — how old were you when you started?"

"13," deadpanned Patterson in reply.

## Ceremony marks occasion



Edith Patterson and Cliff Turner show their surprise at the \$1,000-bill presentations.

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# **Milfred and Edith Patterson**

We the family of Milfred  
and Edith Patterson

invite you to attend a

## **50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration**

for our parents on May 19,  
1996. Open house 2-5 p.m.  
at Bezanson Seniors Center,  
Bezanson, Alberta. Friends  
and relatives please consider  
this your invitation.

***No Gifts Please.***

# **EDITH & MILFRED PATTERSON**

Thanks to our family, relatives & friends for the cards, flowers, phone calls & personal greetings for our 50th wedding celebration. A special thanks to our children, grand-children, and Bezanson Golden Age Centre for the wonderful afternoon May 19, 1996.

Edith and Milfred

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