



Counting his good health with a glass of wine is Asher West, of Surrey, still

hale and hearty at 97.

Surrey pioneer Asher West a pretty wonderful chap'

A glass of wine for good health and a home-cooked chicken dinner with all the trimmings was party fare for Asher West, 12532 - 56th Ave., Surrey, when he celebrated his 97th birthday last week.

Still exceptionally active, he takes a half-hour walk every day up the road and back, using two canes as a safety precaution because he suffers from arthritis.

Always jolly, and displaying a good sense of humor, he enjoys daily visits from neighbors, but leads a comparatively quiet life on his 2½-acre farm on Panorama Ridge.

A neighbor who had lived next door for 27 years, Miss Hilda Vale, does all his shopping for him, and goes across each evening to cook his supper. Mr. West makes his other meals himself and looks after his own needs.

And when it comes election time, Hilda and her brother takes a half-hour walk every day up the road and back, using two canes as a safety precaution because he suffers from arthritis.

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And when it comes election time, Hilda and her brother William take him with them down to Colebrook school to vote.

He has never smoked, but enjoys a glass of wine or stout. He has no hobbies except listening to the radio, since his poor eyesight prevents him from reading or watching television.

After arriving in Surrey with his wife in the early '20s from a farm in Ceylon, Sask., he cultivated a big garden and kept a flock of chickens, specializing in bantams as a hobby.

Long after most men retire, he worked as a mechanic at a Vancouver cannery.

The Wests had no children, and his wife died in 1938.

He thinks little of this himself, but to his neighbors who keep a watchful eye on him, Asher West is a "pretty wonderful chap" who has seen a lot of changes since he first made Surrey his home.

By WINNIFRED THORPE
Columbian Staff Reporter

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