



Major John Prestige (left) and Col. and Mrs. E. W. Macdonald in the Queen's Own Buffs' Regimental Association tent.

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The bravest man in Bridge

On Tuesday Mr. Fred Carey, of 11 Brewery Lane, reached his 88th birthday. Nothing unusual in that you might say, but for Mr. Carey it was distinctly different from all his other birthdays.

For he celebrated the occasion by entertaining his fellow members of the Senior Citizens' Club to a special birthday tea in the village hall. And since he is the only man in the club it was something much more than a gesture.

As one club member remarked: "He must be the bravest man in Bridge to face all those women alone."

Yet the action is typical of Fred Carey, an agricultural worker all his life, who spent 30 years as farm manager at Cobham Court, Bekesbourne, under the late Miss Hordern, and a further five years there after Mr. Walter Whigham took over.

Before that, at the age of 13, Fred began work for 5/- a week as house boy and garden boy at Harewell House, Faversham, moving later to Gushmere Farm, Selling, where he eventually became a wagoner's mate at a wage of £10 a year.

Active interest

But apart from his love of horses and the ploughing matches he enjoyed, he has also taken an active interest in church affairs and read a lesson in St. Peter's Church, Bridge, only on Sunday.

For many years he was sexton and captain of the bellringers at Bekesbourne Church and his two sons were in the choir. He was also a special constable in both world wars.

Mr. Carey's first wife, whom he married in 1912, died in 1950 and in 1962 he married again, only to lose his second wife in May, 1970.

Now he lives alone, surrounded by family and friends and sustained by his memories of a long and active life.

His greatest thrill, he says, was the day in 1965 when he received from the Queen in person a gift of Maundy Money at Canterbury Cathedral.

A small, dapper man who looks 20 years younger than his age, Mr. Carey enjoys good health and does all his own cooking and cleaning.

But should he ever need feminine assistance it is always readily given because he is a favourite with the ladies.

The explanation for this is simple. When asked if he minds being the only male member of the Senior Citizens' Club he answers with a



Mr. Fred Carey and the Rector of Bridge, Canon Colin Perry, with senior citizens at Mr. Carey's 88th birthday party.