

GOSSIP OF THE WEEK

Six sisters meet after 52 years

Miss May Christmas left home to marry Canadian soldier Jack Barrett. Within four years, two of her sisters, Millie and Dolly, also left home — to marry two of Jack's brothers, Joe and Tom.

They left behind them three other sisters, the Misses Lily, Rose, and Nellie Christmas. Since then, the six have never been all together — until now.

Fifty-two years after leaving East Meon to marry in Canada, Mrs. May Barrett, now of Camas, Washington State, America, met her sisters Lily, Rose, and Nellie for the first time on Sunday.

And it was quite a re-union — the village being left in no doubt about what was happening. A huge banner surrounded by bunting was draped over the front of Nellie's house, proclaiming the welcome.

Millie and Dolly have been home once since they left for Canada in 1920 and 1922 respectively. They also live in Camas, near sister May.

All three flew over to make the re-union of the Christmas sisters complete. Needless to say, all are married and none of them have the Christmas surname. Millie and Dolly married a second time after being widowed.

"WUNNERFUL"

May's re-action to seeing her three sisters after 52 years was typically American: "It's wunnerful, just fantastic," she drawled. All the sisters echoed her words, with slightly varying accents.

Said Nellie, now Mrs. Goddard, of High Street, East Meon: "We never thought we would see May again. It's been such a long time since we saw her last. We are a bit overwhelmed."

Each of the East Meon sisters is housing one of the "American" sisters who are staying in the country for a month. During that time they hope to get around as much as possible and cram in as much celebrating as they can.

They are trying to round up as many surviving school friends as they can and have a giant re-union party with them before they leave.



Soviet interest in the movements of Intrepid and Newport News stems no doubt from their roles as

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Christmas comes but once in 52 years

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Pictured from left to right are: Mrs. Nellie Goddard (62); Mrs. May Barrett (73); Mrs. Dolly Wilson (69); Mrs. Millie Attebery (76); Mrs. Lily Nicholson (67), of Hill View, East Meon; and Mrs. Rose Mauback (65), of Templers Brow, East Meon.

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