



DR. DONALD MUNRO'S 85TH BIRTHDAY was celebrated Friday night when approximately 200 residents of Warsaw and the surrounding district gathered at the Warsaw town hall for a public birthday party. The doctor is a veteran of 47 years' service in the area.—(Examiner Staff Photo).

Healed Warsaw People 47 Years Dr. Munro Honored

The men, women and children of the village of Warsaw and surrounding district were out in mass Friday night to show their appreciation of Dr. Donald Munro on his 85th birthday.

The old doctor has spent 47 years of his life administering to the sick of that area and has become a man dearly loved by all. The celebration of the birthday was made a public event and the doctor was seated on the stage of the town hall where a program of music and speeches was presented.

Probably the highlight of the evening at least to Dr. Munro, were the Scotch lilt and laments played on the violin by his only son, Hector Munro, now living in Toronto. Coupled with the shrill of a bagpipe trio, and the singing of some highland songs, the evening was essentially a Scottish concert.

Dr. Munro was presented with a sum of money as a special birthday gift from the community and for a moment he was speechless.

He looked at the assembled group, many of whom he had brought into the world, and sighed. "What do you expect me to say?"

After a moment of silently thanking the people, the doctor recovered and addressed them. He stated that the general trend of the world today was towards selfishness and greed.

"Selfishness is the meanest trick in the human animal, and must be

conquered if that man is going to succeed. We are all placed in this world to do a service and if we do not fulfill that service we have failed."

He closed his talk with a quotation from Burns. "An honest man is the noblest work of God."

The birthday party closed with the serving of sandwiches and tea provided by the housewives of the village.

TWENTY YEARS AGO

Dr. Donald Munro, of Warsaw, had just completed 50 years of medical practice and was one of Canada's oldest practicing physicians at 84 years of age. Dr. Munro had educated himself through hard work to first become a school teacher and later a doctor.

Pictures illustrating Dr. Munro's story depicted not only a recent photo of the doctor but a horse drawn ambulance which was Peterborough's first such vehicle. Also, five of the nurses, graduates of 1900, were shown seated on the steps of Moira Hall, the predecessor to the old Nicholls' Hospital.

Warsaw Doctor 50 Years Dr. Donald Munro Dies

Dr. Donald Munro of Warsaw, one of the oldest physicians in Canada, died Wednesday at the Mary Hill Nursing Home, Lakefield, after an illness of more than a year. His age was 89.

A family doctor of the old school, Dr. Munro had practised his profession throughout East Peterborough from 1907 until his retirement in 1954, and was widely known throughout the county.

Born in Ross-shire, Scotland, he was only two years old when he came to Canada with his parents and three sisters. The family settled near the village of Ailsa Craig in Middlesex County, where his father continued his work as a stonemason, the trade he had learned in the north of Scotland.

BECAME TEACHER

Son of an industrious and thrifty family, Donald Munro manifested as a boy the qualities of self-reliance and ambition long associated with Scottish character. He received his education at the high school at St. Mary's, worked for farmers in his holidays and spare time, saving enough money to attend Normal School at Ottawa, and graduate as a teacher. He taught at several small rural schools, and finally was engaged at a salary of \$400 a year as teacher at Blytheswood in Essex County. That experience was only a stepping stone in his

career. Dr. Munro was not only dedicated to his profession, but that may also be said of him as a member of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church at Warsaw. He taught a Bible class, was superintendent of the Sunday School for 25 years, was an elder of the church, and at times of occasional ministerial absence he led in the service, a devoted layman. Mrs. Munro was organist for many years, and in their home life, music was a continuing enjoyment. Dr. Munro had somehow found time to learn to play the violin, and for some years conducted an orchestra that took part in many of the local concerts.

STRONG LIBERAL

In his political attachment, Dr. Munro was an ardent Liberal, president of the East Peterborough Liberal Association for 25 years or more, and also attended the conventions and other meetings of the west riding association. He had a fine gift of humor that made him cordially welcome in all his affairs, private and public, a man of strong and winning character, one of whose rewards of the 50 years he spent in this county was the deep respect of host of friends. The family doctor of Warsaw stood high in the regard of all who knew him in both east and west Peterborough.

He had read deeply of the poetry of Robert Burns, delighted to quote lines or verses apposite to incidents and references, and was happy in his own Scottish birthright.

Preceded in death by his wife in 1951, Dr. Munro leaves his son, Hector, in Toronto, and a daughter, Jean, of Warsaw. He was a member of Clement Lodge AF and AM, No. 313, Lakefield, and a life member of the Ontario Medical Association.

A Masonic service at the Hendren funeral home, Lakefield, will be Thursday at 7:30 p.m.

The funeral will be Friday at 1:30 p.m. from the Hendren funeral home to the United Cemetery, Apsley. The service will be conducted by the Rev. Horace Kaye of St. Andrew's Church, Warsaw, assisted by the Rev. W. F. Riches of Warsaw United Church.



DR. DONALD MUNRO

career.

By frugal living, and putting to use some of the agricultural knowledge he had acquired in his boyhood, Dr. Munro had sufficient means after nine years of teaching, and from returns in sharing in a tobacco farm, to attend the University of Toronto where he obtained his degree in medicine in 1902. With two years internship in Toronto, he returned to Blytheswood and began practice as a doctor in 1904. It was there he married Margaret Annice Selkirk who had been one of the senior pupils of his school.

CAME TO WARSAW

In 1907 Dr. Munro heard of a pending vacancy at Warsaw, and arranged to move into this district. He had become so enamored of rural life and communities that the practice in Dummer and the Stony Lake district strongly attracted him. Those were the horse and buggy days, when travel was slow, and a doctor's calls were night and day. In heavy snow, the country roads became mere trials when travel in cutters was forced to farm fields after letting down openings in fences.

The fine quality and fibre of character that brought the young Munro through a youth of hard work including such chores as pulling mustard weed at 25 cents a day, and having \$1.50 at the end of the week for his labor, served in manly stead when the demands on the physician's time and endurance took him to all sections of East Peterborough, and particularly throughout the Stony Lake area.

The extent of his service in that part of the county was indicated by his estimate of the delivery of 3,000 babies by the time of his retirement.