

World could use more like Keith Clark

continued from page 1

"Keith always had the village at the forefront and he's one of the main reasons the village is so well off, now."

Mr. Black described how Mr. Clark was always reluctant to ask council to buy equipment for the works department to lighten their load, and his own. He said Mr. Clark would cheerfully attack any job with whatever tools were at hand.

And, he expressed the ultimate in personal affection and admiration for his former boss in saying: "If I could pick a father, he'd be the one I'd pick, that's for sure."

HARD WORKER FROM CHILDHOOD

Keith Clark was born at Castleton on Aug. 20, 1920. From his childhood on, he was well acquainted with hard work.

As a youngster he helped out on the family farm. In his teens he was a logger and in 1941 he joined the Royal Canadian Army Service Corps, fighting overseas during World War II, and returning in 1945 with the rank of corporal.

He was a member of the Royal Canadian Legion Br. 187, Colborne, since 1946.

He had a long and loving marriage to Helen Agnes Herron and the couple raised three children: Douglas, who now resides at Lakefield with his wife, Ursula; Donald and his wife Rosemary of

Colborne; and Brenda Collis of Lakeport.

For a time Mr. Clark ran a service station, located at the corner of Toronto and Church Streets, where Mr. Convenience is now, and he served on the Colborne Fire Dept. The Clarks also ran a greenhouse operation from their former home on Percy St.

LIFELONG LIBERAL

Former Northumberland Liberal MPP Joan Fawcett recalls that Mr. Clark was "a lifelong Liberal."

Mrs. Fawcett said Mr. Clark's death was "a great loss to the village" and to the many organizations, including the Liberal riding association, to which he gave so much.

"You knew you had a great ally when Keith was around," she remembered.

Mrs. Fawcett, also a former councillor and deputy reeve of the village, commented on Mr. Clark's attention to detail and willingness to go the extra mile in his job as works foreman.

"If you were up and out early enough, you might find Keith down by the town hall picking up litter."

She said he took a great pride in the appearance of the village and she pointed out that, for many years, Mr. Clark brought and planted petunias from his own greenhouses to grace the main street.

She recalls being present as MPP at the annual

Ontario Good Roads Convention at the Royal York Hotel in Toronto in 1989 when Mr. Clark was given a special award for years of exemplary service.

"I was so proud of Keith. It was a very prestigious thing."

CLARKS A GREAT TEAM

Mr. and Mrs. Clark served as caretakers of the Colborne town hall from 1967 to 1994 and village clerk Jean Kernaghan recalls they were a great team.

"It was like magic," she said. "You'd just mention that you'd like to see something, and it would be done."

Mrs. Kernaghan came to the clerk's office in 1976. In all the years they worked together on the village staff, she recalled, "You'd never hear Keith say, 'That's not my job.'"

"He was a sweetheart, a good guy, he was like family to me."

TYLER OF MASONIC LODGE

Mr. Clark joined the Colborne Masonic Lodge No. 91 in 1952. He held the post of "Tyler," or ceremonial guard of the door, for 12 years and was always volunteering to help out, taking care of the lodge premises, recalls fellow Mason Herald Matthews.

"He came to all the meetings; he hardly missed any. He's sadly missed by all of Colborne," Mr.

Matthews said.

PUC Chairman Walter Rutherford recalls, on a personal note, how Mr. Clark, busy as he was, always made time to visit anyone he knew who was sick in hospital or shut-in.

HELPING OTHERS

"He always said, if he couldn't be of help to somebody, why even be around," Mr. Rutherford said.

"But he didn't make a big production of it."

And, in his own illness, he wore a brave smile and was always delighted to receive visitors at his home.

Mr. Clark was also a devoted family man. His eldest granddaughter, Angela Chiddick, recalls how her grandfather always had time for his family, and loved children.

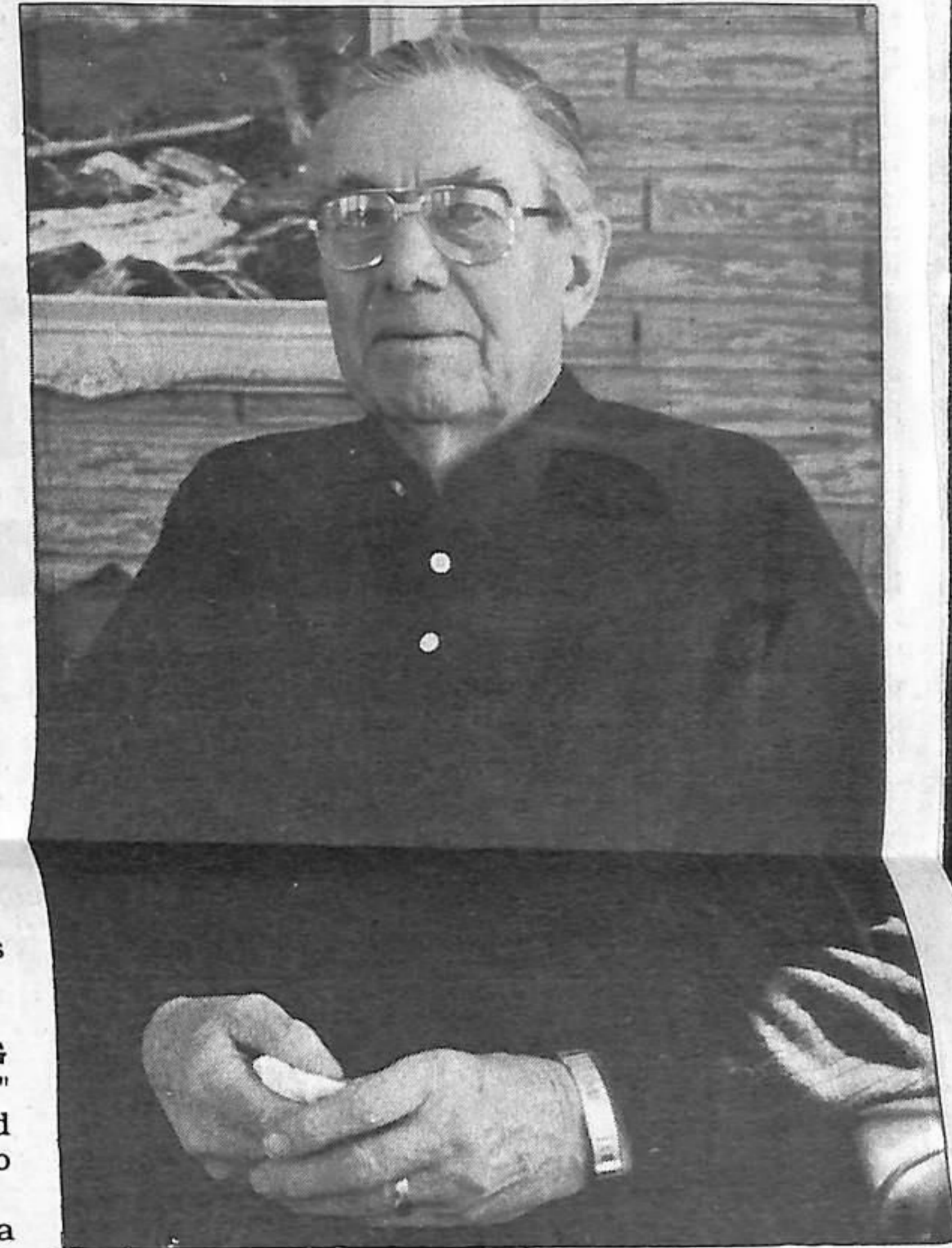
LOVED MUSIC, DANCING

"He wasn't always quiet," she pointed out. "He loved music and he loved to dance."

She recalled many a happy evening spent with her grandparents, listening to their favourite music and dancing around the living room with them.

Mr. Clark leaves, in addition to his wife and grown children, seven grandchildren including Mrs. Chiddick, Kelly and Shannon Clark, Rachel and Brandon Clark and Jessica and Shawn Collis.

As well, he is survived by his brothers Fred of Port



Keith Leslie Clark, 1920-1997

Hope, Elmer of Brighton, held at Trinity Anglican Church, Colborne, last Friday at 2 p.m., with a reception following at the Colborne Legion.

A special Masonic service was held at 7 p.m. last Thursday at the MacCoubrey Funeral Home, Colborne, followed by a Legion service at 7:30.

Funeral services were

The family has requested that memorial donations, if desired, be made to the Canadian Cancer Society or to the Trinity Church Restoration Fund.