

Look Ma! No blood...



— Staff photo by Philip Walker

Help! (how did I get into this anyway?) 1979

When 10-year-old Pat Meave, of Norwich Ave. decided to attend the Magic Show at the boys' and girls' library recently, he had no idea his life was practically at

stake. Here he gets a sword shoved through his neck by magician Al Munro of Norwich commonly known as the Jolly Jeweller.

Friends react with shock to death of Merrifield

May 1979

By TERRY CRAIG
Sentinel-Review staff writer
The death of Woodstock bookstore owner and Little Theatre worker George Merrifield was greeted with shock by friends and acquaintances Wednesday.

Merrifield, 56, died in his sleep Wednesday morning at his Drew Street home.

Funeral services will be held Friday at 2 p.m. at the Rowell Funeral Home.

Merrifield was well-known for his work with the Woodstock Little Theatre and his Dundas street bookstore, Merrifield Book Shop.

In an interview, Little Theatre president Bonnie Coulter described Merrifield as a superb comedian and a great fan of vaudeville.

He was a particular fan of playwright Neil Simon and had directed Simon's Last of the Red Hot Lovers and Plaza Suite for the Little Theatre. He was scheduled to direct the theatre's premiere production of the 1979-80 season, Come Blow Your Horn.

"He was such a vital personality," Mrs. Coulter said. "He was always a lot of fun and such a witty man."

Elaine Calder of the Little Theatre said Merrifield's death is a tremendous loss not only to the Little Theatre but to the entire community.

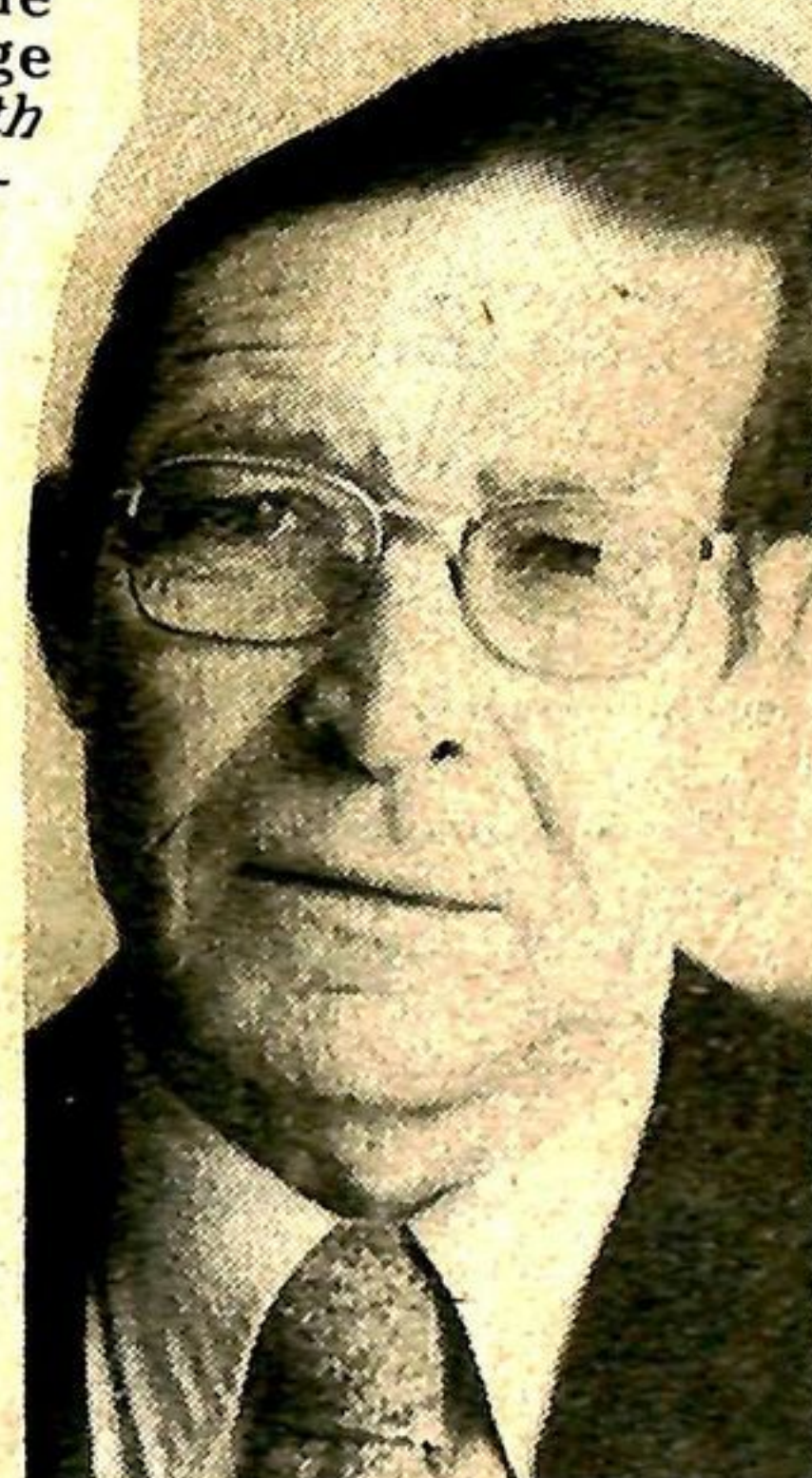
"He was such a lovely guy," she said. "News of his death is such a shock."

Mrs. Calder said Merrifield's ambition in the theatre was to act in the award-winning Neil Simon play, The Sunshine Boys.

"When I heard of his death, all I could think of was George's desire to play the George Burns character in the Sunshine Boys."

Besides his work with the theatre group, Merrifield was well known to Canadian publishers and was responsible for bringing Canadian humorists Ben Wicks and Don

Harron to the bookstore for autograph sessions. and Brock at home. Friends will be received at the Rowell Funeral Home today from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m.



George Merrifield ...dead at 56

Gage publishing representative Alex Kuskiz said Merrifield was well liked and respected in Toronto publishing circles.

"We had a lot of dealings with George and his store was one of the best in southwestern Ontario," Kuskiz said.

For years Merrifield worked in the administration of various construction companies before retiring to establish the bookstore.

But he still retained his construction expertise and was a full-time teaching master at London's Fanshawe College where he conducted classes in the construction program.

Tom Wakfer, who shared an office with Merrifield at Fanshawe said: "George was well liked by both students and teachers. He will be greatly missed."

He is survived by his wife, the former Doreen Heenan and three sons; Scott in London, Paul at Niagara-on-the-Lake

Summary day for quilts 1979

The quilting that has been done by members of "Quilts" course sponsored by the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food will be on display at the Oxford Auditorium, Woodstock Fairgrounds, on Monday, March 26, from 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

The 30 Women's Institute, church and Y groups that took the course will each have a display of quilted articles including full size and crib quilts, cushions, wall hanging, totebags, novelty articles.

Mrs. Kenneth Pust, a member of the London branch of the Canadian Embroiderer's Guild, will be the guest speaker. Mrs. Pust is from St. Marys, Ontario.

Everyone is welcome to attend the Summary Day afternoon program. There is no admission charge.

TREASURY OF THOUGHTS

Prayer is a lamp to light the road,
A power to break the world's duress,
A wing that soars above the flood,
A door that opens wide to bless.
Come then with each unspoken plea,
To Him whose grace meets every need;
Of all His gifts, it seems to me,
Prayer is the gift of Love indeed.

Sentinel-Review

May 11 - 1979 Recognition received...

At a recent meeting the Woodstock Heart Foundation recognized five Caressant Care Nursing Home nurses for their high marks in the cardio-pulmonary resuscitation program sponsored by the heart foundation. The program was designed to upgrade nurses to Basic Rescuer. Pictured here from left are Kathy Ryksen, Judy Ditchfield, Corrie Jansen, Judi Pringle and Marilyn Simard.

Geurts' daughter

