

Storekeeper, postmaster 42 years Nassagaweya, Ebenezer Norm Marshall retires soon

When Norm Marshall, the spry, genial 71-year-old storekeeper and postmaster in Eden Mills retired at the end of March, it will be 42 years to the day since he bought the business.

During that time, which includes the great depression and the second world war, Norm has never lost his faith in human nature.

His experience has been in the past 42 years that nearly every person is honest with the odd exception, of course.

When the Free Press visited him Norm was out cleaning the sidewalk in front of his general store and post office. It is a stone building situated on the hill overlooking the saw mill and bridge which connect the main road in Eden Mills. He greeted villagers as they passed with a hearty word for everyone.

Inside his neat general store he swapped stories with Mr. and Mrs. Allan Ackerman before he continued with an interview and consented to let us take his picture.

"The nicest thing about country storekeeping, compared to a city store, is that you know everybody who comes in that door," he averred. "You know them, you know their families, their troubles, their friends and all the nice things about them."

"When I bought this business from William M. Milne — he's living in Rockwood now — Eden Mills had no street lights, no paved roads and was the centre of a large farming area. Nearly all the people in the village were retired. Now it's a commuter village, mostly all young people, going out to work in Guelph and Acton."

"There have been some unbelievable changes. Living conditions are so much better today than they were then. There's no such thing as the 'good old days' to me."

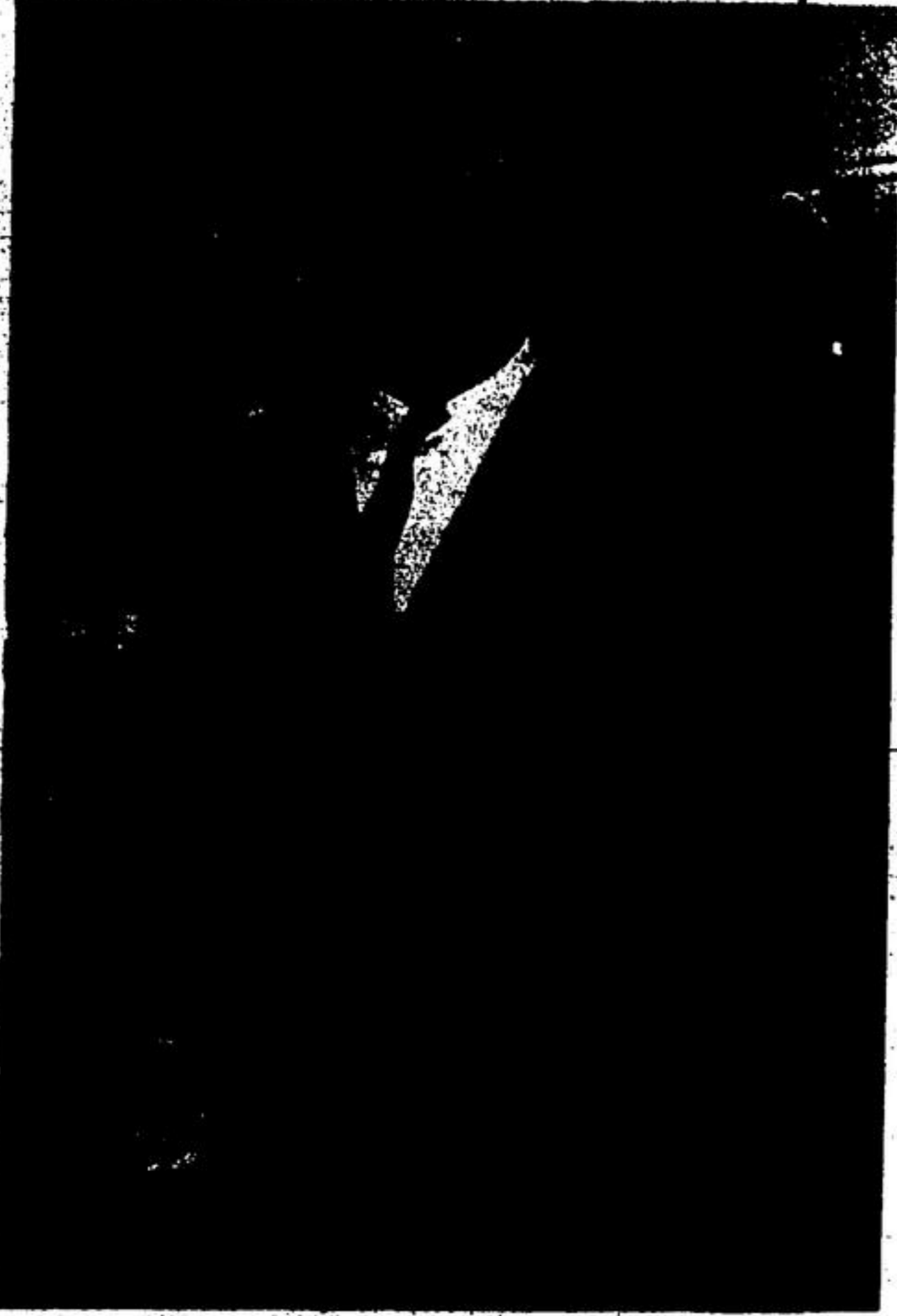
Almost an institution in Eden Mills where he sat on the board of trustees when the hamlet was first organized in 1929, Norm served 30 years as secretary for the village board. He's held every office in Eden Mills United Church but preacher, "and I've done some preaching, too, in my time," he remarks facetiously.

"What does he consider as one of the most remarkable periods of his years in business? 'The depression', he says. "Nobody wanted anything, nobody had any money. Bankrupt? I was bankrupt 25 times over."

"I guess I was just too stubborn to quit!"

Shopping habits have changed since Norm first started in business. The Toronto Suburban Electric Railway ran through Eden Mills in those days and his general store served people all along the line.

"Farmers would come in in the old days and purchase 300 pounds of flour and 100 pounds of sugar. This would do them all winter. They



Norm Marshall behind the counter

grew everything else themselves."

Didn't you see them again until spring? "No, they'd come in weekly for their oatmeal. It was five cents a pound or six pounds for a quarter. Sometimes they'd buy some canned peas, corn, tomatoes or salmon."

"When I started here I never thought of selling canned soup. It was unheard of. Finally I loosened up, bought half a case — was I surprised when it sold!"

There are few farmers around the village now. Most of the people living on the farms are factory workers who keep a few cows and chickens and rent their land.

Norm Marshall was born on the west half of lot 26, 3rd concession, Nassagaweya. He farmed in his early years before he joined the 164th Halton, Peel and Dufferin regiment and was shipped overseas in 1918. He was in hospital in England when the armistice was signed.

Returning to Canada he farmed three more years just below the west half of lot 31 in the 3rd concession of Nassagaweya. He married Mrs. Marshall after buying the store in 1928. He has two boys — Norman, a high school teacher in Guelph and Donald who works at Sutherland Insurance

in Guelph — and nine grandchildren, seven boys and two girls.

What will you do when you have retired? "Well, I told the new owners, Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Turner, both old Eden Millsers, that they could expect me in here plenty after they take over."

"But they were one ahead of me. Of course, Norm, they said, we have it all figured out that you'll take over for us when we go away weekends and on holidays."

Residents of Eden Mills, accustomed to his pleasant disposition, will be glad to know Norm Marshall doesn't intend to sit back and fade away. They'll miss him in the store but you can depend on it he'll be back in his familiar post as often as he can.

Call Firefighters For TV blaze

Fire in a television set at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Reg. Hoare, 291 Arthur St., was doused before firefighters arrived last Wednesday night in pouring rain and sleet.

Fire chief Mick Holmes said smoke in the living room was so thick smoke ejectors were used to clear it out. The fire was confined to the TV set.

women hold service

On Friday, February 10, at 2 p.m., the women of Nassagaweya and Ebenezer churches joined in a service of prayer and commitment prepared by a South Pacific queen who died two years ago.

The service, prepared in a different country each year, was led by Mrs. Mullen, president of Nassagaweya W.M.S. and Mrs. Moffat, assisted by Mrs. McLean.

An organ prelude was played by Mrs. Oonna Manes, who also accompanied Mrs. Nicholson and Mrs. Mahon in a duet. Mrs. Hayward spoke on the world theme, "And of His Kingdom there shall be no end." She said that the Kingdom of God differs from other Kingdoms in that there must be an inner change. Mrs. Hayward said self-interest must be eliminated to

OSPRINGE

Two birthdays Valentine's Day 4-H project in week's events

Mrs. G. Sunter visited with her sister, Miss Emma Baldie, at the McPherson Nursing Home in Hillsburgh.

Mr. Stewart McDonald of Rochester, N.Y., was a weekend visitor with his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. David Stewart and family.

On Sunday Mr. and Mrs. Ross Ferguson entertained at dinner to celebrate double birthdays. Mrs. Ferguson's mother, Mrs. Thos. Fines, was 81 on Valentine's day and their daughter Linda was 20 on the same date. Guests included Mrs. Thomas Fines and Doris, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Henderson, Bryon Redman of Fergus.

Mrs. T. Fines and Doris attended the funeral of the former's brother-in-law, Howard McArthur at Erin last week.

Rev. Russell Legge, minister of Everton Christian Church, visited with members of his congregation in the village on Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Sinclair of Kitchener spent Saturday with his mother, Mrs. A. Sinclair, and other members of the family.

Mr. and Mrs. Murd McCutcheon and Muriel of Acton visited with friends in the village. The first meeting of the 4-H

LIMEHOUSE

Two boys baptized at church on Sunday

We extend sympathy to Mrs. Gordon Thompson and daughters in the sudden death of her husband in an accident last week.

Rev. F. N. Young baptized Kevin Glen, son of Mr. and Mrs. Sorren Persson and Gerald Ross, son of Mr. and Mrs. George Herrington at the service at Limehouse Presbyterian Church on Sunday.

Congratulations to Mrs. D. Robertson who won an award as a weekly newspaper correspondent.

New citizens

Mr. and Mrs. Henry de Vries received their Canadian citizenship papers last week at a ceremony in Hamilton. Mr. de Vries is scoutmaster here.

enter this Kingdom. Man still battles the same problems over and over, but Jesus redeems human nature and human failure.

Mrs. Nicholson closed the service with a benediction and a social hour over lunch and tea followed.

Our Readers Write

NURSERY SCHOOL
Dear Editor:
A nursery school in this town is a good idea and a worthwhile project for the citizens of Acton to be behind. The working mothers and fathers of town should be interested in the best care that can be available for their children and support this chance for their children.

If this nursery is given a chance, it will prove itself in many ways. Mothers and fathers will leave their children in the care of a nursery of unquestionable character and standing. All nurseries must be inspected by the government; therefore are up-to-date in all ways.

No longer will children be placed in homes where they sometimes can't receive the special care, consideration, understanding and good surroundings every child deserves. Needless to say, a nursery would lessen the hardships of good-hearted mothers who take in these youngsters when

they have three or four of their own to care for.

A child who is left in the care of another family sometimes feels neglected and often jealous around children whose mothers don't work and are with them through the day.

A child who goes to a nursery school is surrounded by children whose mothers also work. So therefore, they feel more secure and will tend to adjust better to the surroundings.

The children will have youngsters their own age to play and learn with. It will be a place for a child to go where there is no prejudice and they will receive a good start in life. Acton would surely be a better place to raise our children.

Yours sincerely,
Mrs. Marg Louttel.

If I were running the world, I would have it rain only between 2 and 5 P.M. Anyone who was out then, ought to get wet.

Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association Announces

a centennial essay contest

for secondary school students

"MY RESPONSIBILITY AS A CANADIAN"

Attention Secondary School Students

YOU CAN WIN PRIZES — \$25 — \$15 and \$10

Every citizen of a nation bears a responsibility for the conduct and welfare of his country.

There is no more important group to whom the nation should listen than to its youth. It is her young people who will decide what kind of country this Canada of ours will be in the years to come.

As a prominent statesman told the people not long ago: "As citizens of this democracy, you are the rulers and the ruled, the law-givers and the law-abiding, the beginning and the end."

Because of your importance to the nation's future, we feel it is appropriate in this centennial year, that you have the opportunity to express your views on what you think your responsibilities are to your country.

And so, it is with pleasure we announce the

THE ACTON FREE PRESS

centennial essay contest

for secondary school students

So start today to write your essay on

"MY RESPONSIBILITY AS A CANADIAN"

The people who win will write because they have some ideas and want to express them. But for further motivation, there are prizes of \$25, \$15, and \$10 at the local level; more prizes if you win the Provincial competition and a trip to Ottawa plus more prizes for the National winner.

We'll print the best essays.

Judges' decisions are final.

Here are the Rules:

1. You must be attending a high school at the time the essay is submitted.
2. You may not be a member of the immediate family of an employee of your newspaper.
3. Your essay shouldn't be more than 750 words long. It would be helpful if it were typed or at least written legibly.
4. Essays must be received by The Acton Free Press not later than March 31, 1967.

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