

# Highlights of George Musselle's life citation at Citizen of Year banquet

High school principal Ted Hansen wrote and delivered the citation to Acton's Centennial Citizen of the Year at last Saturday's dinner and dance at the music centre.

I deeply appreciate the honor that was afforded me when I was asked to prepare and deliver the citation for our Centennial Citizen of the Year, George Musselle. George and I have been associated in many ventures over the years and I set great store by his friendship. As I sat down to put my thoughts together, the words and melody of that old song "Sussex by the Sea" kept running through my mind. It is a piece that I always associate with George since I have heard him sing it on many occasions. I believe it is one of his favorites since it reminds him of his boyhood home which was at Seaford in Sussex.

Music, especially singing, has played a great part and runs like a continuous thread throughout his life and I know he has enjoyed every minute of it. I recall once being told by Scotty Burton, whom some of you will remember, that he, Scotty, would rather sing than eat. I have never asked George what his choice would be in such a case, but I feel that it would be a close decision. George was born to a musical family. His brother Len played the banjo; his brother Albert, a professional golfer, played the mandolin; his mother was a singer and George and his three brothers sang in the choir of St. Leonard's Anglican Church in Seaford. His brother-in-law, also a musician, lived in the family home and was George's teacher in school. Since there were no pianos, the pitch for songs was obtained from the tuning fork and tonic-solfa was the order of the day. When the school program called for a new song, George was drilled on the tonic-solfa the previous night so that he could better assist the class the next day. This early training accounts for the fact that he is one of the best music sight-readers that I know.

During World War I George joined the Army Service Corps, Mechanical Transport, and saw active service in Egypt and Palestine. He was hospitalized in Kantara, Egypt and then sent to a rest camp at Montazah. It was there that he took part in organizing a concert at which he sang a song that he

had never heard before and has never heard since — "Who Put the Bones in the Kipper".

After the war George returned to England for a time and then decided in 1922 to come to Canada. He arrived in Toronto where his brother Len was steward of the Royal Canadian Military Institute on University Avenue, of which Gordon Beardmore was a member. An interview was arranged and, as a result, George came to Acton two weeks later

to work for the Acton Tanning Company, as it was then called. It was while he was there that he had the misfortune to lose his left forearm.

In 1927 George married Bessie Woodhall. They have raised a fine family of three — George, Olive and John, and are justly proud of their seven grandchildren.

Working with his father-in-law, in 1931 George began building Lakeview Greenhouses. Since that time he and Bessie have helped to beautify the homes

and gardens of Acton and vicinity by providing flowers, plants and bedding stock second to none.

George has been a tower of strength to the Acton Branch of the Royal Canadian Legion, of which he has been a member for thirty-five years. He has served on all committees and was President from 1940 to 1943 and Secretary from 1947 to 1954. From 1958 to the present he has been Service Officer. During all of that time he maintained a high standard of service and won acclaim by being in the forefront of every activity of local interest.

It will be remembered that Acton Branch No. 19 introduced and sponsored the Acton and Vicinity War Service League which accomplished so much with the united aid of the community ranging from Ballinafad to Brookville. George always played an important part in making it a success.

About the same time Beardmore and Company required the old Legion Hall to accommodate employees recruited in the Hudson Bay area to fill the manpower shortage. The Company paid the Legion to vacate the old hall for that purpose.

President George worked tirelessly to procure Legion quarters and he was directly responsible for the purchase of the Lantz property which has been converted into the present excellent accommodation. Without his determination and zeal, the transaction would never have been realized. Many hands made the necessary changes, but George was the driving force behind them.

In 1943 George joined the Masonic Lodge and attained the third degree in August 1944. He acted as Secretary for seven years, from 1947 to 1954 and has been Chaplain since 1962. He is a member of the Royal City Lodge of Perfection and the Guelph Chapter of the Rose Croix.

Also in 1943 George became a member of Knox Church Choir and took an active part in all choir affairs — spec-

ial music, concerts, male quartette and male octette singing, garden parties, etc. In spite of all his other commitments, he was always ready, willing and able to help wherever he was needed.

Hard work and faithful practice paid off in 1957 when "The Five Straws", a male quartette directed by George, won 1st honors in the Adult Class of the Amateur Contest held in connection with Millon Centennial Celebration. We also recall the very successful Minstrel Shows that George directed several years ago in Acton and Rockwood.

In 1963 George was a charter member of the Georgetown Chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barbershop Quartette Singing in America. About a year later he was asked to direct the Georgetown Legion Choir which had lost its leader. It was his plan to have a joint Legion choir involving both Acton and Georgetown branches, but as time went on it became a purely local group which was the forerunner of the "Choralliers". At present there are 31 members who are putting our town on the map by carrying their music far beyond its limits. Those who have heard them recognize that they are catching their leader's enthusiasm and love for singing. We are all very proud of the fact that they have been chosen to sing at Expo on July 2 and 3. We know that they will give a good account of themselves and further boost the sock of Acton.

The Chamber of Commerce is to be commended again this year on its choice of a Citizen of the Year. George's friendly manner, his wise and generous use of his time and talents and his devotion to any job that he has been asked to do have made Acton a better community for all of us. He richly deserves to be placed in our "Hall of Fame".

It is my pleasure and privilege at this time, George, to present to you a plaque as a reminder of the esteem in which you are held by your fellow townsmen. May you long continue in your good works.



Mr. and Mrs. George Musselle

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manner, and to maintain close liaison between the trustee board and the resident rate-payers, all public elementary and secondary schools in Halton County should be under the jurisdiction of one Board of Education.

The report details the steps to be followed in setting up the single Board and suggests if existing legislation is not available, a private bill be presented to the legislature.

In the rationale of the report it was pointed out no single municipality in the county at the present time is administering its own educational affairs without some form of liaison with another municipality. Financially, the mill rates throughout the County were strikingly similar during 1966, and the grant structure would not be jeopardized.

W. B. Easley, chairman of the secondary school committee, suggested a county board of education would be in a strong position to select good ideas from bad and obtain the best value for the educational dollar. He called for action now on the proposal, observing there was real danger in any postponement.

In discussion of the report between members of the committee and county councillors, it was indicated present education debentures could be pooled under the amalgamated board by the county and costs assessed on the equalized assessment. It was noted representation, as proposed, could not be accomplished under existing legislation.

Members of county council questioned whether to accept the report in principle for study by local boards and municipalities, or to just receive it. It was finally agreed to accept the report, referring it to local boards and councils with the indication it would be considered further at the County Council meeting of May 23. Reports or comments were expected to be received from the local municipalities by that time.

Members of the Public School Consultative Committee were E. Gudgeon, Burlington; L. E. Andrews, Nassagaweya; J. H. Creighton, Acton; O. R. Morgenstern, Georgetown; J. E. Peat, Oakville; and secretary W. L. McNeil. Members of the Secondary School Consultative Committee were W. B. Easley, Esqueping; C. Cook, Acton; C. A. Martin, Milton; W. L. McNeil and I. C. Harris, inspectors.

## Board to consider changes ...

(Continued from Page One)

Members agreed they would study the report more fully. Each received a folder of facts and recommendations. (County council will consider the report May 23 and the affected school boards could submit a reply.)

Principal Ted Hansen reported he and guidance teacher Mrs. Laszlo attended a meeting Monday afternoon of principals and guidance personnel in Cooksville. J. M. Porter, president of Sheridan College of Applied Arts and Technology (the local community college) which will open in temporary quarters in the old Brampton high school in the fall, outlined progress. A survey is to be made of all students in Halton and Peel counties who might possibly attend. "We have brochures and maybe some of the answers for our students," Mr. Hansen said. He was glad to learn students would be accepted after grade 12. Transportation is an individual responsibility. Mr. Stone of Lakeshore Teachers' College interviewed sev-

en grade 13 students who are planning to take teacher training next year, and the district inspector, Mr. Harris, was at the school April 28. Mr. Hansen reported. Dry chemical fire extinguishers were recommended for the shop by fire chief Mick Holmes. The board agreed to accept his recommendations, order the extinguishers at once and ask to have firefighters instruct the students in their use.

Teacher C. L. Rognvaldson submitted a report on the two student driver education classes and one adult class at the high school the past year. In the first adult class 24 students enrolled, 19 completed the course and 15 received driving licenses. In the second class 13 enrolled, 12 finished and eight received licenses. In the adult class, 15 enrolled, 14 completed the course and eight received licenses. From his observations, Mr. Rognvaldson made several observations and recommendations to the school board. He pointed out Acton's course compared favorably with that in other schools, but the in-car training and classroom training being conducted by different instructors posed a difficulty.

Correspondence included letters concerning the Micro course given in the school; the chalkboards which are now improved; and the trouble-

some boiler and heating problems. Several requests from teachers were also dealt with. Salary negotiations with teachers are not complete.

A special meeting will be held in May with the inspector for his full report. A workshop is slated for Orangeville on administration. Continuing work on scholarships was reported.

On recommendations of Mr. Anderson, the wording of the board's borrowing resolution was changed.

Present for the meeting were chairman Tom Watson, Ray Arbic, Chester Anderson, Kerwin McPhail, secretary Billy Middleton, principal Hansen and vice-principal Joe Bray.

### TAMES MIGHTY MOUSE

Experiments at the University of Utah College of Medicine with the tiny grasshopper mouse — an aggressive animal that can kill other animals ten times its size — have shown that even the most aggressive animals can be taught not to fight. The northern grasshopper mouse or onychomys leucogaster, will run up behind its prey, grab it with its legs, and gnaw into the brain stem at the base of the skull. It can kill in 10 seconds. Using "novice" grasshopper mice with no fighting experience, the researchers found that when a strange mouse of another species was put into the cage, a grasshopper mouse would sniff the stranger, then stage only a mock attack.

## Go fly your kite ...

# But observe safety tips

Kite flying is a great sport for youngsters, but sometimes it can result in tragic consequences if certain safety procedures are not learned and followed. Since telephone and power lines seem to have an almost magnetic attraction for kites, it is suggested you instruct

your youngsters in the following safety procedures:  
• Fly kites in a level, open space, away from power lines, airports, trees and street traffic.  
• If the kite should become entangled in power lines, leave it. It is better to lose a kite than to risk your life.

- Kites should be flown only in dry weather. A wet string may conduct electricity down to the flyer.
- Kite strings should not contain any metallic fibres, tinsel or wire. They conduct electricity and should the kite become entangled in a power line, it could result in death or serious injury.
- Kites should not be flown over radio and television aerials.
- Don't fly your kite if the wind is freakish or changeable.

The United States' top magnolia tree at Waynesboro, Miss., believed to be more than 400 years old and accepted by the American Forestry Association as champion among its species, has been felled by dry rot and decay. The stately southern magnolia grandiflora which stood in the south-west corner of Wayne County, was 116 feet tall with a crown diameter of 56 feet. The entire top of the dead tree has fallen to the ground and all that remains is a naked stem 60 feet high.

## OBITUARY

### William Thompson dies at 70

A member of Georgetown council in the forties, William Poynter Thompson, 70, died suddenly at his home in Georgetown on April 12.

Mr. Thompson was a Doctor of Chiropractic, a graduate of the Palmer School in Davenport, Iowa. Born in Massey, he was the son of William Welsh Thompson and Agnes Lee Scott.

He lived in Etihad River as a boy, later moving with his family to Guelph, Toronto and to Norval, where he farmed. He served overseas with the Canadian army in World War I, became a chiropractor after the war and practiced in northern Ontario for four years.

In 1927 he joined his father and brother Ernest in the Maple Leaf Dairy. They started the first pasteurization plant in Georgetown and the business was operated by the family until sold to Fred Steen several years ago.

He leaves his wife, Marie Whaley, whom he married in Toronto in 1929, five children, William of Barrihead, Alberta, Keith of Georgetown, Dean of Ballinafad, Mrs. H. Graham (Donna) of Hillsburg and Mrs. R. Pearce (Barbara) of Edmonton, Alta., and ten grandchildren.

Rev. L. E. Wilton conducted the funeral service on Saturday at the Harold C. McClure Funeral Home, Georgetown, and interment was in Hillcrest Cemetery, Norval. The pallbearers were Douglas Cole, Douglas Hartley, Watson Winfield, Henry Suenko, Sid Silver and Gerald Corbett, D.C.

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Harold Townsley, Property Chairman**

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