

# Beards confuse camp commandant

This is the sixth in a series of articles written by R. S. Stewart on his experiences as a prisoner of war in Germany. Lieut. Stewart was captured at Dieppe.

During Canada's centennial year, every man seems to be growing a beard. One sees them on our city fathers, im-

migration and customs officials, and even on ushers at the Sunday evening service.

How perplexing this must be to a certain group of the younger generation who, for several years, have considered long hair and beards distinguishing characteristics of their class!

This keen interest in resembling Sir John A. reminds me of an amusing beard growing contest carried on in one of our POW camps.

One day as we stood on par-

Fortunately the water was left on, so we were able to douse ourselves and rub our teeth with our fingers.

In about a week's time, stubble on our faces became noticeable and it was used as an obvious means of amusing ourselves and "confusing the enemy". So a full scale competition was organized. On every third day, we paraded in the yard and the S.B.O. with his retinue of "subordinates" inspected the faces of all of us.

A pair of calipers had been fashioned out of wood in order to measure the width and length of each beard. Notes were carefully made describing color, texture, degree of curliness, abundance and other significant features.

The guards watched these antics with increasing perplexity and soon the Commandant could not restrain himself from taking an interest but always attempting, unsuccessfully, to look merely amused with the silly British.

After six weeks had passed, we decided to pick the winners from the shaggiest, curliest, ugliest, prettiest, blackest, most reddish beards in the camp.

Again there was a full parade in the yard but this time we were all bare to the waist, to show off our beards to the best advantage. The Commandant could no longer resist and with some embarrassment walked up to the S.B.O. who with meticulous care, was busy judging a particularly shaggy looking growth.

The S.B.O. turned to the Commandant and said, "I am glad you have come. The British Government, you know, are particularly grateful for this opportunity which you have afforded us of growing beards under strain. Such conditions are unique and the information we are gathering may well be useful in assessing manifestations of strain under prisoner of war conditions."

"I am sure arrangements could be made to pass on the information to the German government if you thought this was desirable."

The Commandant was simply unable to judge whether the S.B.O. was serious or not. It should be remembered that we were all part of the hoax so that the atmosphere prevailing while the S.B.O. and his staff carefully and soberly examined each beard was of studied concentration.

The next day all of our washing materials were returned.



LIEUT. STEWART in Brussels shortly after his release from P.O.W. camp.

## News of the District

### FERGUS

In his Mostly Gossip column in the Fergus News Record, Hugh Templeton writes: For months I have been listening to my wife's complaints about the quality of Ontario potatoes. There are some good potatoes in Ontario. Hill Simpson raises many of them for the potato chip firms. But it's not so easy to get good table potatoes. I know she throws many of them away, which goes against her Scottish ancestry.

This week when the grocery delivery arrived, it contained a bag of new potatoes, graded and packed by Wm. C. Miles, Atlantic, Va. The 10 pound bag was unique. Set into the front of it is a piece of white netting, through which the potatoes can be plainly examined.

What's the matter with Ontario potato growers? They are always complaining about imported potatoes. Why can't they produce potatoes that are so carefully inspected that they have a bad one slip through. Holland does it with its tulip bulbs. You can believe the inspection guarantee.

Why can't Ontario do the same with its potatoes? Then we won't have to get them from Virginia or Prince Edward Island or New Brunswick. Some of the sloppy growers may get hurt, but what of it? We are entitled to good potatoes and the housewives are willing to pay for them, even if they are imported in fancy bags. Who's going to wake up the Ontario farmers?

### GEORGETOWN

Queen's Scout John Riley, 22 Moultrie Cres., is off to Expo. not just for fun, but to work. To work unpaid, as a "Service Scout". Under this scheme, a qualified Scout goes to Expo to perform all kinds of duties, ranging from wheeling the handicapped around the fair, running errands for diplomats, or being present at flag raising ceremonies. Not only is the job unpaid, but John is paying one-third of the cost himself. The 4th Georgetown Scout Group is paying one-third and the Georgetown District Council is paying one-third.

Mrs. M. Christie, Maple Ave. E., recently widowed mother of three, will have her fish and chip store, said council. With council wholeheartedly behind her efforts to be self-supporting, the letter from zoning administrator Walter Pacholik, stating she was in an M2 zone and right next door to Hunter's Inn, a grocery store, was received enthusiastically. Council agreed with Mr. Pacholik's conclusion that there is no reason to prevent her having her fish and chip store.

The Confederation Caravan is booked into Georgetown park for a three day stay starting August 3. It is one of the best features of Canada's centennial year, giving a panorama of Canadian history in pictorial form.

Clifford Hibbert, who resigned his position as Georgetown's assessment commissioner last month, has joined the assessment staff of Peel County as senior assessor. The Peel

### Local accountant wins C.G.A. degree

N. K. Livermore of Acton, who works as an accountant for H. K. Porter Company (Canada) Limited, has successfully completed the five-year Certified General Accountants course and is now entitled to the C.G.A. degree, the Certified General Accountants Association of Ontario has announced.

### Certify 12 guards at jail

Twelve guards at the Halton County Jail in Milton have been certified as a bargaining unit by the Ontario Labor Relations Board, following a hearing in Milton Wednesday of last week. Representatives for the guards are expected to meet soon with members of the Halton County Council personnel committee and personnel officer John Watson.

county assessment staff totals 40 employees, county assessment commissioner Carl Madgett, Mr. Hibbert describes his situation as "a great opportunity to learn the county system, which is the coming thing".

### MILTON

Premier John Robarts told Milton Council again that he was too busy to see them and had referred their problem on annexation to Hon. J. W. Spooner. "I have for acknowledgement your letter of June 21, which I have forwarded to the Honorable J. W. Spooner, Minister of Municipal Affairs, as my schedule during the next few months is a very tight one. You will, no doubt, be hearing from the Hon. Mr. Spooner shortly," the premier wrote. The mayor was authorized to advise the premier the town had already dealt with Mr. Spooner and suggest some dates on which they would like to meet the premier or any other dates he found suitable.

The oiling program on Milton streets this year ran into difficulty when an unexpected, pelting rain fell at 6 p.m. Monday afternoon of last week. The newly oiled streets had not sufficiently dried when the rains came, and the deluge turned the roads into a quagmire of dirty oil despite the sand covering. Then cars and sticky feet began spreading the fresh oil throughout the town. The paved Main St. was worst hit and soon it took on all the aspects of a disaster area as the sticky oil found its way along the street, onto cars and feet, and even inside homes and stores. Workmen had to cover it over with sand to prevent it from spreading further, and later used 40,000 gallons of water to wash the oily sand off the main thoroughfare. Works superintendent McKerr said the town office was deluged with complaints. "I hope I never have to go through another day like last Tuesday," he said.

### BRAMPTON

A Toronto firm has been awarded a \$3,385,900 contract to build the new Vanier Institution for Women at Brampton, the Ontario works department announced. The correctional institute, scheduled for completion in 1968, will replace the 87-year-old Mercer reformatory in Toronto's west end. The new reformatory will be built on a 30 acre site adjacent to the reform institutions department's Ingleside Centre for girls. The Vanier Institution, designed by public works department architects in association with Toronto architect Harry Kohl, will include 10 one storey wings, some of them detached and others connected by corridors.

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## EDEN MILLS

# Session takes service wedding, W.I. in news

By Mrs. R. Wright  
The Eden Mills Women's Institute monthly meeting was held Wednesday afternoon with Mrs. Sada Gilbertson as hostess. After the Institute Ode and Mary-Stewart Collect Mrs. Irma Drisdale, presiding for the president, who is ill, welcomed all members.

Roll-call was answered with something to sell for the flower fund and a good sum was realized. One visitor was present. It being a social meeting, the program was in charge of Mrs. Sada Gilbertson.

Several readings were given by Mrs. Fleming, Mrs. Drysdale, Mrs. Wright, Mrs. W. Wilson, Mrs. H. McPherson, Mrs. H. Gilbertson and Mrs. Sada

## CHURCHILL

### Summertime sees many holidayers

By Mrs. R. F. McArthur  
Mrs. Moore Hart of Orillia, Mr. and Mrs. Dick West, Ricky and Laurie Ann, Hannon, Alberta, also Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Reid of Guelph visited with Mr. and Mrs. Harold Griffin during the week.

Friends of Churchill community extend their sympathy to the Watson family in the death of a dear father, Mr. Shirley Watson.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Binnie have returned home after spending two and a half weeks visiting relatives and friends in Saskatchewan and Alberta. They travelled by Air Canada. Mr. and Mrs. Binnie visited Mrs. Binnie's brother, Mr. Alex Jackson, reeve of Erin Township in Guelph General Hospital, who met with an accident. His right hand was injured in a bale elevator. He is now convalescing at his home.

Miss Nancy Knox of Hampton is visiting with her sister and brother-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Kerr.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Kerr attended the Moore-Doig wedding in Seaford Saturday.

Mr. and Mrs. Barton McLean of Napanee spent Saturday evening and Sunday with Pat and Bob Kerr.

Dr. Welthy Fisher of New York, president of World's Education, and her companion Miss Sally Swanson visited Mr. and Mrs. Bob Kerr Friday. Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Leitch and Beverly, also Mr. and Mrs. Ron Saunders, Norma and Stephen, spent Sunday at Niagara Falls and stayed to see the illumination.

# Snow family reunion held at Hornby home

On Sunday, July 16, the fifth annual Snow reunion was held at Pineland Farms, Hornby, the home of James W. Snow, with 78 members present. After a buffet dinner and business meeting, prizes were presented as follows:

Youngest child present, Robert Condotta; from farthest away, J. Poetker and family of Winnipeg; couple married the longest, Mr. and Mrs. Ed Snow; door prize, Wayne Gates; oldest gentleman present, Ed Snow; oldest ladies present, Mrs. Wreatha Huggins and Mrs. Belle MacDowell. Mrs. Emma Barry was unable to be present.

Special features of the day were a reading by Mrs. Archie Gates wearing a centennial costume, and the presentation of a handmade centennial quilt to Miss Lydia Snow by her mother, Mrs. Jack Snow, in honor of her daughter's birthday.

President Ellwood Snow turned the meeting over to Lloyd Marshall, and Miss Stella Snow who presided over a program of games, foot races, swimming races and treasure hunt.

Guests were present from Winnipeg, Ottawa, London, Williamsburg, Markdale, Mount Forest, Toronto, Oakville, Acton, Georgetown, Burlington, Milton and Hillsburgh.

## Disturbances

Police were called to investigate three disturbances over the past week including fights at the Station Hotel parking lot, at Acton plaza and another at the corner of Main and River Streets.

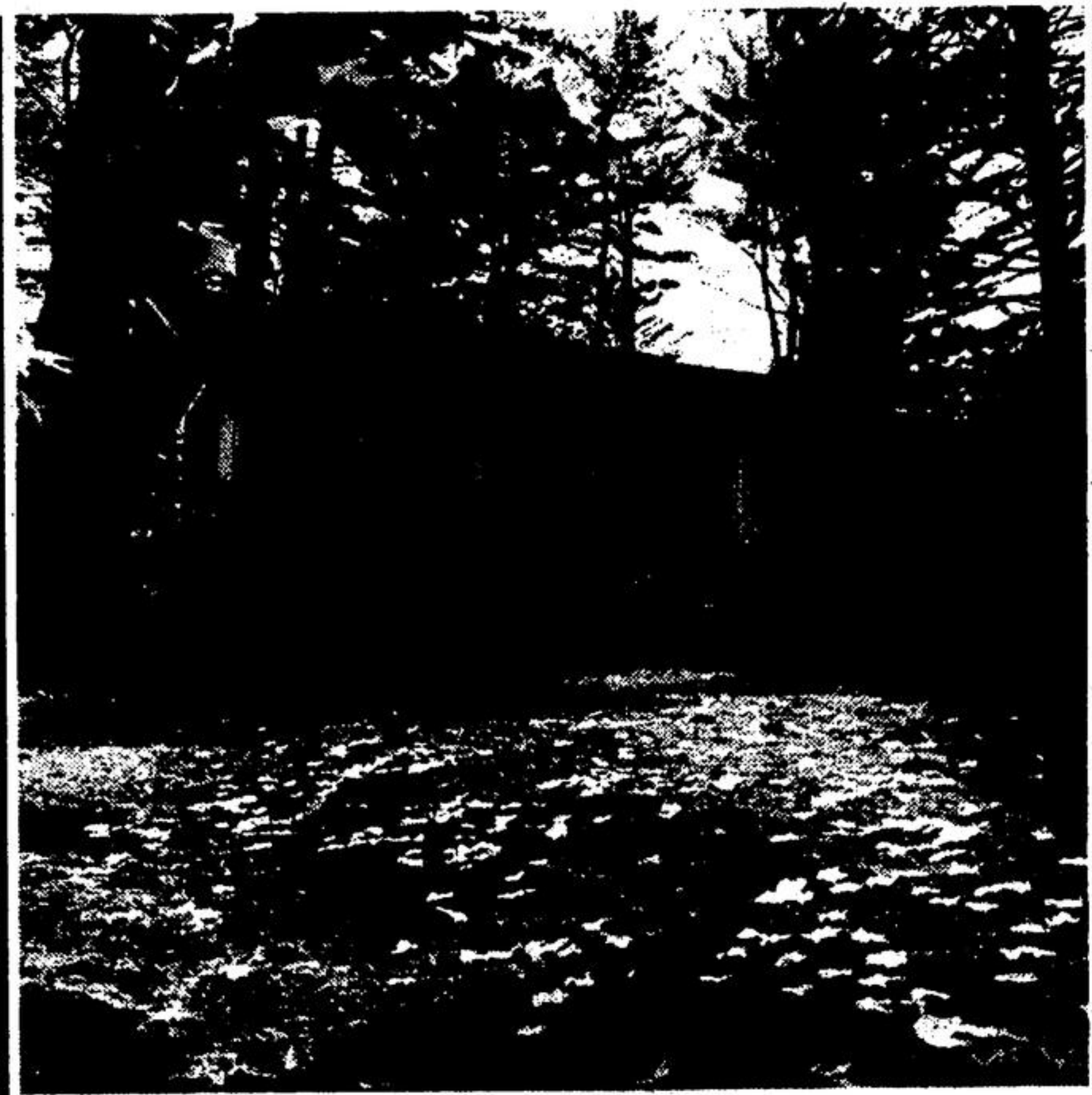
Constable Peter Campbell investigated.

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