

**Dr. Buckner's birth** in Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1901 was apparently just too much for Queen Victoria. She died two weeks later, while Robert Daisiel Buckner grew and flourished.

He received his medical education in Edinburgh, Scotland, and was a general practitioner at Newport, Monmouth, England, for about 15 years. He was a major in the famous "Home Guard" during World War II. It was after the war that he began to take his special interest in psychiatry. He received his Diploma of Psychological Medicine from the University of Northern Ireland and became an assistant at the Glasgow Royal Mental Hospital.

When the National Health Service came in, the Buckners left for the States, where he became Senior Psychiatrist at North Carolina State Hospital.

A promotion enabled his becoming an American citizen, so the Buckners left for Canada.

Here, instead of a happy ending, they found plenty of troubles. Located in a poorer area of Nova Scotia, the doctor found patients for his consulting practice - but ignorance and poverty made this new endeavor very difficult.

Tragedy struck the family when their home burned down, and in the ashes were the notes for a book the doctor was writing on asthma. Maybe he'll finally get that book written in Jamaica.

They came to Toronto, where he was assigned a post at a hospital he knew only as a point on the map. It was the Ontario Hospital at Port Arthur, where the thermometer nudges 40 below in the winters. Here, he was remembered for what the workers there called his "total push" - going completely through the caseload of chronic mental patients.

It was while he was at Port Arthur that he took on a "total push" for himself, too. For six weeks he shut himself up, lay on his bed and crammed at Canadian medical books. And with success - for in Winnipeg he passed his Canadian Medical Council examination.

Dr. and Mrs. Buckner and their family moved to Acton in July, 1955.

## Citation reviews Dr. R. D. Buckner's wide-ranging career

For two and a half years Dr. Buckner was associated with the Neuropsychiatric Centre at Guelph Reformatory. He was asked to go to the maximum security prison at Millbrook - but this kind of work was not the way he would choose to help the prisoners.

Far more to his liking is the House of Concord, which had just started up under the Salvation Army with government assistance. Dr. Buckner came in as consulting psychiatrist and set this department going. The superintendent, Major MacCorquodale, says the House of Concord would never have survived all its initial difficulties without him.

Boys are sent by magistrates to the House of Concord instead of to jail, and magistrates say they would fill dozens more of these rehabilitating homes - but they are too expensive. There's only one other in Canada, in British Columbia.

The boys learn motor mechanics, food services, farming, carpentry, horticulture, etc. Psychiatrists have found that lads who have taken drugs find special therapy in growing things.

Dr. Buckner is on the board and now just goes over about once a week.

Last April Dr. Buckner was singularly honored at the ninth annual meeting of the House of Concord, when he received the Distinguished Auxiliary Service Scroll, and the Distinguished Service Cross which is the insignia of the order, from International Headquarters of the Salvation Army in London, England. This is the 10th award of its kind in the world - and the second time it came to Canada.

With his busy practice in Acton, the doctor has coupled the post of coroner for North Halton.

He also has extended service to the St. John Ambulance consisting of the testing of members to qualify for degrees in administering first aid.

While here among us for the past 13 years, both Dr. Buckner and his charming wife have entered into the life of our community and both of them will be missed.

They organized the Scottish Dance Club which lasted, despite the small size of our

town, for eight years. From it grew both the Guelph and Kitchener clubs. There were dances, parties, Burns nights and classes for the children whenever the clans met.

Their hospitable home, always a bustling centre for company and family, (not to mention a waiting room full of patients) was also a depot for clothing for the Unitarian Services Committee, a favorite project of Mrs. Buckner. From here, daughter Jean taught the first oral French classes in Acton, and next term these classes will be incorporated into the public school system.

Work with retarded children also challenged vivacious Mrs. Buckner. She set up the first program of rhythmic exercises for the mentally retarded children which are still being kept up at the Sandridge School. At Homewood Sanitarium for several years she operated her programs of "keep fit" and social dancing which benefited many patients.

She was interested in Home and School too and helped to promote new and novel ideas, such as a fun fair.

An L.O.D.E. garden party was one more challenge that Mrs. Buckner accepted with enthusiasm.

The family has grown and hundreds of miles separate some of them. A daughter Helen in England has two sons; former airline stewardess Janet, in New York, has a baby girl. Son Robbie is going to University in Guelph. Daughter Jean, vacationing in Maine, is expected to go into children's work.

In their trips to conventions and travels throughout the world, the Buckners changed their ideas, considerably, about retirement.

They used to dream about retiring to Scotland. Now they dream of sunshine instead. They're going to Kingston, Jamaica.

But they're going by the long route. First to New York, then to Great Britain to tour Scotland, England and Wales and see their many relatives and friends. Then they become two of 12 passengers on a banana boat cruise to the West Indies.

Here, the doctor who has been so busy here won't just retire to sit in the sun. He has already been in contact with a hospital,



DR. AND MRS. ROBERT BUCKNER, who are retiring to Jamaica, were honored at a dinner in the Music Centre Wednesday of last week. St. John Ambulance Brigade Corps Staff Officer

Bob Hart (second from left) presented a plaque to the doctor and Jack McGoachle (far right) read the citation on behalf of friends and patients. (Staff Photo)

and expects to do part-time work in - would you believe? - psychiatry.

When they visited Jamaica they fell in love with the mountains, the sea, the care-free, slower-paced life and - always a lure to snowtopped Canadians - the weather.

They have acquaintances there already and they've found there's even a St. Andrews Society there!

We'll think of them in the Jamaican sun - but we can't say we'll think of them with unselfish pleasure in their happiness. No, we'll miss our doctor and his wife and the

reason we are here tonight is to give them an idea of how much we will miss them.

Patients who have put their trust in their doctor don't want to change to another. We know his faithfulness, devotion and willingness in any number of cases. In emergencies, we could depend on him. We received good advice and comfort along with our pills or splints.

In closing we would like to wish both Dr. and Mrs. Buckner many happy and contented years of life in their new country and would hope they may have an opportunity to return and visit us in Acton in the near future.

## Plaque, best wishes for retiring doctor

Not all those who wished to join in honoring Dr. R. D. Buckner and his wife were able to obtain tickets for the testimonial dinner last Wednesday evening. About 120 filled the Music Centre for the dinner, presentation, program and dancing which had been speedily planned after friends and patients learned they are leaving Acton.

After 13 years here, Dr. and Mrs. Buckner will enjoy semi-retirement in Jamaica.

An attractive brass and wood plaque was presented to the doctor during a standing ovation. Mrs. Buckner received a bouquet of roses from Mrs. T. Slaven.

Town clerk-administrator Jack McGoachle, a long-time family friend, read the citation which is published elsewhere.

Paul Nielsen acted as master of ceremonies and invited the guests to the buffet chicken dinner.

Opening the brief program he said "We suspect Dr. Buckner expected to leave Acton unobtrusively in his own manner - but we just couldn't let this happen. . . The children whose so fond of him ought to be here tonight, but the hall wouldn't be big enough to hold them all." (His own son, Mr. Nielsen revealed, had asked how he could have all his illnesses at once - right away - before the doctor left.)

everyone - those present, those unable to purchase tickets due to lack of space, and those away on holidays - who are sorry to lose a good, loved man and doctor. "He has worked hard for us all and deserves his retirement."

Corps Staff Officer of the St. John Ambulance brigade, Bob Hart presented the plaque.

Dr. Buckner's reply was typical of his droll sense of humor, and his jokes about doctors' experiences had the audience roaring with therapeutic laughter.

He explained when he said "we appreciate your great kind-

ness" he really meant "we", since Mrs. Buckner too has also taken a great interest in the people of Acton.

"We feel unless we go now, we shall be too old to enjoy our retirement," he explained, concluding "Thank you for your many kindnesses and God bless you all!"

A program of Scottish dancing included demonstration country dances by members of the Mianissauga club, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Leath, Mr. and Mrs. Len Houston, Mr. and Mrs. Eryle Hoese, Mr. and Mrs. Bill MacIvalin and Mrs. Marj. Coulter.

Margaret Slaven danced two solo numbers. She has won many medals for Scottish dancing.

Of the Buckner family, only son Robbie was able to be present. At the big table in the centre of the room with Dr. and Mrs. Buckner and Robbie were Mr. and Mrs. Jack McGoachle and John, Rev. and Mrs. Stanley Gammon, Mr. and Mrs. T. Slaven, Mr. and Mrs. R. Drinkwater, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Nielsen.

The Nielsens and Drinkwaters "set the ball rolling" for the organization of the dinner and were overwhelmed by the immediate response.

The citation is printed elsewhere.

## Large crowd attends auction

Valued old household articles changed hands Saturday afternoon during the auction sale at the home of Sandy McLean, Bower Ave. There were antique dealers as well as many Acton friends bidding for articles ranging from dishes through furniture, up to the fine old piano.

Max Storey was auctioneer. Mr. McLean, a barber here for many years, is giving up his home and it has been purchased by Mr. and Mrs. Bill Spiekvogel. Mr. McLean will be living just outside Acton with Mr. and Mrs. W. McDonald.

## Girls show Miniature Schnauzers during trailer holiday in Maritimes

Diane Swackhamer and Dorothy Griggs are spending a trailer holiday in the Maritimes Provinces.

They are taking "East Wight Sea Voyager," a black and silver uncracked import from the Isle of Wight and "Sylvia Sprite Happy Times," two male Miniature Schnauzers owned by Sylvia Sprito Kennels, Guelph, to be shown at six shows, three in Fredericton, and three in Moncton, New Brunswick.

The girls will be away about

17 days and aside from grooming and showing "Puck" and "Happy" at the six shows, expect to have a lot of time for sight seeing in the Eastern Provinces of Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

"Silver Sprite Benjamin," the black and silver male Miniature Schnauzer owned by Chris Swackhamer has completed his Canadian Championship. He also has the distinction of being the only Canadian-bred Miniature Schnauzer to win an American spec-

ially. He was a four point major winner the only time he was shown in the U.S.A.

The Swackhamer's also own the salt and pepper female Miniature Schnauzer "Windy Hill

Brown Eyed Susan" which they imported from San Francisco, California, earlier this year. "Sadie" has been practicing but no plans have been made to show her as yet.

## Falls under truck wheels nursery worker is killed

A Portuguese immigrant from Toronto died Friday in an unusual accident at an Esqueping Township nursery farm. Stepping off the running board of a moving stake truck, the man fell beneath the truck's rear wheels and was killed.

Dead is 19-year-old J. L. M. Couto of 461 Bath St., Toronto, Milton O.P.P., who investigated

the incident, said he had apparently arrived in Canada just a few months ago from Portugal.

The accident happened at the Lot 22, Con. 10 Esqueping farm of Sheridan Nurseries, near Georgetown. Jose C. Melo of Brampton was the driver of the three ton stake truck. Const. R. Haines of Milton O.P.P. investigated the accident.

## GARBAGE COLLECTION

Due to the Holiday MONDAY, AUGUST 5, there will be NO GARBAGE COLLECTION That Day

INSTEAD, GARBAGE PICKUP WILL BE A DAY LATER

Normal Monday Pickup Will Be Made Tuesday, August 6  
Normal Garbage Pickup Thursday, August 8

THIS CHANGE APPLIES FOR NEXT WEEK ONLY

JACK MCGEACHIE, Clerk-Administrator

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