

## Centuries of tradition position of county sheriff

The last man to hang in Halton County dropped to oblivion in 1876.

Hopefully there won't be another hanging in the County—for if there is it will mean a policeman or prison guard has been slain—but in the event of an execution, Halton County Sheriff Andrew Frank is ready.

It's the sheriff's job to set up the execution.

The sheriff gets in touch with a certain official in Toronto who gets in touch with the hangman and a date is set.

It's the sheriff's job to measure the man who waits in the death cell and then specify the dimensions of the scaffold. The scaffold is erected outside the cell.

And it's the sheriff who arranges for a doctor and a minister to be present and then, afterwards, sees that the man at the end of the rope is buried.

## 17 REAL ESTATE

### Urgently Wanted Country Property

10 to 15 acres, repairable brick or stone house, barn not necessary. Within short driving distance to Acton.

75 to 100 workable acres of light level soil, preferably with creek or spring pond. Buildings not necessary.

50 to 75 acres with good pasture land.

### TOWN PROPERTY

3-bedroom older style 2-story brick home, in repairable condition.  
3-bedroom brick bungalow, 10 to 15 years old.  
Large town lot to build on.

### JACK HOLMES

REAL ESTATE BROKER  
14 Church Street East  
ACTON — 853-1650  
(located beside phone building)

Not a pleasant task, but clearly one of the duties of that ancient office. Frank the county's ninth sheriff said he's glad he has never in his eleven years of office had to assist in a hanging, but, he added, in the event he would not flinch at the duty.

Apparently not all sheriffs have the necessary emotional fibre for the task. After one execution around 1850, the sheriff of the time is said to have quit his job, said Mr. Frank.

Sheriff Frank could add little to the identity of the official Ontario hangman.

"Only one man in Ontario knows who the provincial hangman is," he said, "and I don't know who that one man is."

"All the sheriff knows is that in the event of a conviction and death sentence he would contact an official in Toronto who in turn would probably contact another official before the hangman is reached.

This mysterious figure who places the noose around the neck of the condemned man and releases the trapdoor has been reported elsewhere as being a professional man. Not even his wife is believed to know her husband's sideline.

If there were to be another hanging in Halton County, said Sheriff Frank, the scaffold would go up in an enclosure outside the county courthouse.

Nearby are the graves of two murderers executed in the 1850's.

Mr. Frank, of Milton, formerly of Nassagaweya township in North Halton, was a real estate broker and in the building trade before being appointed by the Lieutenant Governor to the full-time sheriff's job in 1958.

A golfer at Halton Heights and elder of St. Paul's United Church in Milton, Sheriff and Mrs. Frank have three married daughters and a son who attends York University.

He is assisted in his duties in the county building by Deputy Sheriff R. M. (Mac) Sprowl of Acton who has held that position for the past five years.

Mr. Sprowl, married with two daughters, was a farmer before moving to the county building full time. He was one of two

Canadians one year who received a Nuffield scholarship in agriculture and studied at Cambridge University in England. Mr. Sprowl is an elder at Knox Presbyterian Church in Acton.

Both sheriff and deputy are Canadians from way back, they noted with pride. Frank's ancestors came to Halton County in 1837 and the Sprowls arrived in the county in 1829.

Both men enjoy their work, the duties, the responsibilities and the very fact of the antiquity of the sheriff's office.

It dates back five centuries before 1066, noted Sheriff Frank. Early Saxon writings refer to the sheriff as the chief magistrate of the shire.

The law in use in Canada today, he said, the duties of the sheriff and the jury system are almost identical with that which the Normans brought with them to England about 900 years ago.

Practically the only change, the sheriff said, is that now seven men are required on a Grand Jury instead of the previous 13.

It is the sheriff's job to select Grand and Petit Juries.

The Grand Jury is that body that goes through the evidence surrounding a police charge to determine if the case warrants a trial in the high court. If it does, the Grand Jury returns what is known as a True Bill, otherwise it's a No Bill.

There are four county court sittings a year, the sheriff explained, two general sessions of the peace heard before juries, generally beginning the first week in December and again in June, and two non-jury sittings held at intervals between the jury trials.

The accused person coming up for trial elects at the magistrate's hearing whether they want a judge and jury or just a judge to hear the case.

Halton County Court is currently presided over by Judge Alan B. Sprague of Oakville.

The sheriff is responsible for guarding feeding and (if convicted) transportation to prison of all accused persons on trial in the county courthouse.

And they get a 'rough bunch' of humanity in that county building noted Deputy-Sheriff Sprowl.

Murderers, thieves, thugs, hoodlums have all passed through the Halton County Court and the sheriff, his deputy and constables have been there to guard them, feed them, and if necessary arrange for their transportation to federal penitentiary in Kingston.

"We must look after the juries, too," added Sheriff Frank.

Last year, he recalled, during two separate capital murder trials the juries had to be "detained" in a motel every minute they were not in court until the completion of the trial.

The juries were transported to and from court every day and kept "under guard" at all times. This was to deny them any communication with the outside world until a verdict had been given.

Another time, recalled the sheriff, on the very last day of a

three-week civil case a jurymen broke out in red measles. To have sent the man home would have meant dismissing the entire jury, calling another and beginning the trial over again, the sheriff said.

That struck Sheriff Frank as a horrible fate for all concerned so "I doped him up with aspirin and asked him to hang on."

The day and the trial came to a close, and then, only then, did the jurymen go home!

Senior court constable William Randall, and his 14 men plus one woman constable, Mrs. Clifford Houston, take no chances in handling the many criminal types who come into the building, says the sheriff.

"We have always used great precaution and maximum security," he said, "that is why we have had no incidents of violence while these people have been in our custody."

He added: "We take pride in never having a display of violence or an escape in the courtroom area. We have always had adequate constables."

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### Col. C. plans annual meeting

New officers for 1969 will be elected at the annual meeting of the Chamber of Commerce in the Dominion Hotel next Wednesday, February 19. Mayor Dudy and other members of the council are expected to attend.

A nominating committee has a new slate of officers prepared and nomination from the floor will be accepted.

## OBITUARY

### Mrs. E. Braida

Theresa Braida, 284 Queen St., passed away in Guelph General hospital on January 29. She had been ill for the past seven years. Rev. V. J. Morgan said the funeral Mass in St. Joseph's church on January 31, and interment was in St. Joseph's cemetery.

Her survivors were all nephews, Aldo and Rino Braida and William Hietala, Acton; Armand Braida, Kingston; Lino Braida, Oakville and Attilio Grosso, Huntsville.

She is survived by her husband Eugene; sons Norman and Nino, daughters Elma and Rena (Mrs. Ray Arbie), and grandchildren Linda, Paul, Anita and Gene Braida; Peter, Christine, Marie and Andrea Arbie.

Mrs. Braida was born in Italy on July 28, 1885, and came to Canada in 1905. Mr. and Mrs. Braida were married September 12, 1912, in Italy, and celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in 1962.

Mrs. Braida's main interests were her home and family. She was a member of the Altar Society of the church.



DISTRICT GOVERNOR ALLEN SMITH was guest of honor at Monday night's Lions Club dinner meeting for the induction of two new members. Beside him is Lion Chief Ray Eustan. Behind is Art Gordon, sponsor for Ivan Kilby, and Art Jones with his sponsor John Trotter.

## At the Legion hall

### Activities at Branch 197

By Charlie Thomson

Results of last Thursday night's cribbage action: Reliable Taxi 129, Beavers 115, 230 Club 114, Firemen 110, Legion C 108, Legion B 107, Civiero 105, Legion A 93, Goy Cartage 85, Dominion Hotel 83.

Mrs. Grace Agnew received the Cribbage Trophy this week. Last year it was won by Elsie Halliday.

In euchre last Friday night Frank Smith topped with 57, Bill Davidson 56, W. Britton 55, Harvey Lambert, bologna. There were seven tables.

Results of the Mixed euchre: Men—John Higgins 60, Chuck Schultis 59, Henry Wedge, hidden score 35.  
Women—Betty Louth 64, Kay James 63, Mabel Vostry, hidden score 34.

HINT: There isn't much doing in February. How about a Candle Light Service?

### Cruiser in accident

A car, a truck and an O.P.P. cruiser were involved in an accident Friday night, February 7 at 11:30 p.m.

Albert Oakley was driving his truck south on Wylaw, and had turned right on Mill when he scraped the side of a parked car. He put the truck into reverse and struck a North Halton O.P.P. cruiser which was travelling behind him.

The cruiser received an estimated \$200 damage. The truck received a minor scrape.

The car, parked in front of the Bank of Montreal, was owned by Art Gordon.

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## Coming on strong but Heller's edged

They're coming on strong! Doormats of the Industrial League, Heller's extended the league leading Blow Press team before bowing 8-7 in the second game of Sunday's twin bill. Lakeview Discount was never in much difficulty subduing Nielsen Clothing 8-4 in the opener.

The discounters took a 2-1 lead in the first period, made it 5-1 by the end of the second and bagged three more in the third while the lumberdshery replied with three.

Dan Arbic and Gary Masales potted two goals apiece for the Lakeview squad with Dan collecting three assists in a five point night.

Don Perry drilled one and assisted on another to help his own cause. Jim Carrs rifled one and helped on two and Harold Townsend cuffed in and was helprate on another. Dave Papillon also scored one and Ken Baker and John McNabb earned an assist each.

Tom Sinclair was half the Nielsen power scoring two goals and collecting assists on the other two which Wayne Wheeler and John Goy directed into the net. Bill Cook and Ray Stull earned an assist each.

Trailing 3-0 at the end of the first and 6-2 by the end of the second period, Heller's put on a strong effort in the third chapter which netted them five goals and left them short by one of deadlocking the score.

Stu McDonald, elder half of the McDonald duet, went on a

personal vendetta rattling in five goals and assisting on another for the top banana pressman.

Larry McAfee drilled two into the net for Heller's and assisted on another. Ricky Henderson got two goals and two assists. Ron Mellon a goal and an assist, Allan Hall and B. Egoetz one goal apiece. The old lampighter "Septy" McCristal, out of retirement, managed to get an assist as did Gary Taillefer.

Jim McDonald assisted brother Stu's five goal effort for Blow's with a pair of assists while Gary Ritchie turned in a two goal, one assist performance. Ed Hiller also bagged one. Single brackets went to Ron Malcolm, Larry Porte and Bill Coon.

Seven of the 11 penalties went to the losers. Three of the sentences were majors resulting from a bout of flat swinging twist Chick Milne and B. Egoetz. Gary Taillefer was given 10 for stepping in.

In the first game Nielsen's served three of the four penalties.

Your car mirror, windshield and dashboard knobs are potential eye booby-traps, warns The Canadian National Institute for the Blind. Doctors treat many persons whose eyes have been cut or bruised by them.

Whether you're driving as only a passenger, please fasten your seat belt to make sure you remain in your seat when the car stops suddenly.

### New or Rebuilt PIANOS and ELECTROME ORGANS Available Now

Corner Wyndham and Macdonnell  
ESTABLISHED 1877

### ANNOUNCEMENT

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is pleased to announce that

### MRS. CATHARINE MATHEWS

of R. R. 1, Georgetown

has joined our Sales Staff. Mrs. Mathews has been serving your area with courtesy and efficiency for the past several years, and is well known in the community.

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### 18 TENDERS 18 TENDERS

## DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS, ONTARIO

NOTICE TO SUPPLIERS OF GASOLINE and DIESEL FUEL

Supply Contract No. SA-68-3397

DISTRICT — HAMILTON

Sealed Tenders on forms supplied by the Department for the above contract will be received by the District Engineer, Department of Highways, Box 279, 1182 North Shore Blvd., Burlington, Ontario, until:

12 o'clock noon, Local Time

Tuesday, February 25, 1969

Specifications; Information to Bidders, Tender Forms and envelopes may be obtained by calling at or by mail addressed to the District Engineer at the above mentioned address.

The lowest or any Tender not necessarily accepted.

Department of Highways, Ontario

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## VALUE CHECK'D MEATS make the meal better!

### RED & WHITE FOOD STORES

Specialty Selected - Value Check'd - Branded

## STEAKS 89¢

Full Cut ROUND ROASTS

SIRLOIN, T-BONE or WING STEAKS 99¢

COIL POLISH SAUSAGE \$ 69¢

Roasts - Ground Meats - Steaks GENUINE BRANDED

## BEEF CHUCKS 55¢

(Cut and Wrapped) LB.

For Special Cuts For Special Occasions See Our Butcher

SAVE 11¢! — DEEP BROWNS — WITH PORK

## LIBBY'S BEANS 4:89¢

BEST BUY! — Save 20¢!

14-Oz. Tin

## MARGARINE Blue Bonnet 89¢

3-Lb. Economy Pack

BEST BUY! HOCKEY COME IN SHIRRIF JELLY DESSERTS 11¢

3-Oz. Pkg.

BEST BUY! — TOMATO OR VEGETABLE

## AYLMER SOUPS 4:45¢

10-Oz. Tins

BEST BUY! — NEW!

## DRIVE "The Hungry Detergent" 99¢

Giant Package

FEATURE! — NATURE'S BEST

## WAX BEANS 4:49¢

14-Oz. Tins

SAVE 15¢! — CAT FOOD ...

## PUSS 'N' BOOTS 4:69¢

15-Oz. Tins

BEST BUY! — Same 4¢! — CHICK, E.S. — INSTANT, 72-OZ.

## ROBIN HOOD OATS 77¢

SAVE 4¢! — PE FILMOS AND

## JELL-O PUDDINGS 2:29¢

BEST BUY! — Same 16¢! — HOCKEY

## POTATO CHIPS 59¢

11-Oz. Full Size

BEST BUY! — Same 14¢! — WHITE SWAN

## FACIAL TISSUES 2:55¢

300 to Pkg.

BEST BUY!

## BALLET TISSUE 4:55¢

BUY-OF-THE-WEEK

## DANISH KITCHEN LUNCHEON MEAT 3 \$1

12-Oz. Tin

SAVE 4¢!

## Orbit's Honey Graham Wafers 39¢

SAVE 4¢!

## Red Broom — Red Coho Salmon 43¢

1/2 lb Tin

PRODUCE OF U.S.A. — No. 1

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## LETTUCE 19¢

## SPINACH 2:39¢

PRODUCE OF U.S.A. — No. 1

## CELERY 29¢

## ANGLO PEARLS 29¢