

# NEWS of the district

## A store for gossip

**TERRA COTTA**—Time does strange things to buildings. Usually, after they have loyally served their occupants for many years, the latter betray them and leave them to the mercy of the wrecker.

Sometimes and this happens rarely, a building outlives its time, to become a monument, and a landmark of that community's past. The Terra Cotta General Store is one of those rare buildings. Built around the turn of the century by two sisters, the store continues to go strong. Again, in its eventful history, the store has changed hands on May 1 to Walter (Red) Asseltine of Georgetown. Since being built, the store has changed hands so many times that people have stopped counting. Between 1900 and 1969, it was operated by at least 10 different people.

It was built by Barbara and Janet Smith, and was sold to Kate Ican in 1921. Leslie Ican inherited it in 1947. From '52 to '54, the Puckering operated it; from '54 to '56, the Camps; '56 to '58, Hearst Sr., occupied it, and from '58 to '60, Hearst Jr.

George Rayner bought the store in 1960, and sold it to Bob Footitt in 1966; who sold the Terra Cotta shop to Mr. Asseltine last month.

The Terra Cotta General Store has been more than just a store. For many years it was the community centre, "the gossip centre" if you will, where everyone met to exchange news tid bits, and organize community projects. Some old timers remember there was a bench in the store for people who wanted to rest their feet.

Now 69 years young, the store is strong structurally, and with a bit of luck could well make the century mark.

## Retirement party

**MILTON**—A retirement party was held on May 9 in Milton honoring George Homeewood, after 45 years of service with the Canadian Pacific Railway.

The Brotherhood of Railway Signalmen presented George with a Union ring and a replica of a signal made by a fellow signalman Mac Campbell of London who also presented a Canada Savings Bond to George and a Belgian glass ornament to Winnie. A wallet and key case were presented by Ted Tyler of Acton on behalf of George's brothers and sisters.

About 150 friends, relatives and railroaders enjoyed an evening of meeting old friends and reminiscing and dancing. Guests attended from London, Grand Bend, Peterborough, Hamilton, Toronto, Grimsby, Orangeville, Guelph, Komoka, Galt, Acton, Barrie, Oakville, Campbellville and other places on the London-Trenton division.

## Those licence plates

**GUELPH**—Drivers of motor vehicles in Guelph and elsewhere throughout Ontario have been required to display licence plates on their vehicles for more than 65 years.

The collection contributed by Harry Worton, MPP, Wellington South to Guelph Civic Museum, includes plates for each year starting from the war year of 1916 through 1934. The shape and size seems to indicate that the early plates were actually made to fit the licence number. This was changed some years ago when the markers were produced in the same size and car manufacturers arranged uniform attachment space.

Early plates were quite plain, bearing only the name of the province, the year and the number of the licence, either in numerals or with a couple of letters preceding the number.

From about 1940 with the exception of two years, 1951-52, the crown was used at some location on the number and is still displayed.

In 1903 leather plates were issued, huge things, measuring 6½ inches wide and five inches high, with white metal numbers and letters. In that year there were not many motor vehicles in the province and the few numerals used were easily read, especially at the low rate of speed then permitted or attainable.

The plates were strapped onto the axles of the high cars. Cost of those original markers was \$4 with an annual \$2 charge for renewal. However, drivers' licences were unheard of at that time.

The leather plates were issued until 1905. From then to 1910 black rubber plates were in use with white rubber numbers set into them. They had to be handmade and cost the government \$2.40 more than the car owner paid for them. Markers were not changed each year because of the limited number of vehicles.

In 1903 there were only 220 cars in the whole of Canada. By 1904 this increased to 535, in 1905 it was 565 and by 1910 Canada boasted a total of 9,103 cars. It was also in that year that motorcycles came into use with a total of 55 in the entire country. Registration of motor trucks began in 1914 with 384 in Canada, along with 69,093 automobiles and 4,769 motorcycles.

The million mark in automobiles was not reached until 1929 with registration showing 1,021,814 along with 155,639 trucks and 8,857 motorcycles.

Up to about 1960, the licence plates for Ontario were manufactured at the Guelph reformatory where the work provided employment for many prisoners. About 700 tons of steel was used each year, with each pair of markers weighing about one pound. In recent years they have been made at the maximum security reformatory at Millbrook.



**KINGS FOR A DAY** at the Carol Wharton dance recital were Yvette Hogan, Cathy Ann Brown, Teresa Luty, Nancy Frank, Juanita Andrews, Don Woodward and Kim Barber. They were part of Friday's performance. (Staff Photo)

## Tri-County girls' softball

(Continued from Page B7)

Thurs. May 29, Moffat at Limehouse  
Fri. May 30, Belwood at Glen Williams  
Sun. June 1, Belwood at Rockwood  
Tues. June 3, Glen Williams at Ponsonby  
Thurs. June 5, Limehouse at Moffat  
Fri. June 6, Hillsburg at Glen Williams  
Fri. June 6, Rockwood at Morriston  
Sat. June 7, Morriston at Hillsburg  
Tues. June 10, Moffat at Ponsonby  
Wed. June 11, Morriston at Hillsburg  
Thurs. June 12, Ponsonby at Limehouse  
Thurs. June 12, Hillsburg at Moffat  
Fri. June 13, Morriston at Glen Williams  
Sat. June 14, Limehouse at Hillsburg  
Sun. June 15, Glen Williams at Rockwood  
Tues. June 17, Rockwood at Ponsonby  
Wed. June 18, Hillsburg at Belwood  
Thurs. June 19, Glen Williams at Limehouse  
Fri. June 20, Ponsonby at Morriston  
Fri. June 20, Rockwood at Glen Williams  
Sat. June 21, Belwood at Hillsburg  
Sun. June 22, Moffat at Rockwood  
Wed. June 25, Limehouse at Belwood  
Thurs. June 26, Morriston at Limehouse  
Thurs. June 26, Belwood at Moffat  
Fri. June 27, Moffat at Glen Williams  
Fri. June 27, Hillsburg at Morriston

Sat. June 28, Ponsonby at Hillsburg  
Sun. June 29, Limehouse at Rockwood  
Wed. July 2, Rockwood at Belwood  
Thurs. July 3, Morriston at Moffat  
Fri. July 4, Limehouse at Glen Williams  
Fri. July 4, Belwood at Morriston  
Sun. July 6, Ponsonby at Rockwood  
Tues. July 8, Limehouse at Ponsonby  
Wed. July 9, Moffat at Belwood  
Thurs. July 10, Glen Williams at Moffat  
Fri. July 11, Limehouse at Morriston  
Fri. July 11, Ponsonby at Glen Williams  
Sat. July 12, Rockwood at Hillsburg  
Tues. July 15, Belwood at Ponsonby  
Wed. July 16, Glen Williams at Belwood  
Thurs. July 17, Hillsburg at Limehouse  
Thurs. July 17, Rockwood at Moffat  
Fri. July 18, Moffat at Morriston  
Sat. July 19, Glen Williams at Hillsburg  
Sun. July 20, Morriston at Rockwood  
Tues. July 22, Hillsburg at Ponsonby  
Wed. July 23, Ponsonby at Belwood  
Thurs. July 24, Belwood at Limehouse  
Fri. July 25, Glen Williams at Morriston  
Sat. July 26, Moffat at Hillsburg  
Sun. July 27, Hillsburg at Rockwood  
Tues. July 29, Morriston at Ponsonby  
Thurs. July 31, Ponsonby at Moffat  
Thurs. July 31, Rockwood at Limehouse



**SUSAN MCGILLOWAY**, Mary Jane Lambert, Marnee Masales and Margot Matheson, replete with typical German costumes, performed at Friday night's dance recital by the Carol Wharton dancers at Guelph's Rosa hall. (Staff Photo)

## BALLINAFAD

# Wright barns razed by fire

by Mrs. R. Shortill  
The large barns belonging to Mr. Grenville Wright, 9th Line, were completely destroyed by fire on Friday about 6 o'clock. Nineteen cows and other cattle as well as pigs were in the barn and burned.

Mr. and Mrs. Willard Sanderson and boys have moved to their farm, the Hills place. Mr. and Mrs. Richard Shortill and Miss Lillian Shortill attended the wedding on Friday evening in Union Church of Miss Margaret Wegg and Mr. Dennis Kite. Mr. and Mrs. Hajar have moved up to their motel at Wasaga Beach. Many from here went to Belwood for the water sports

Saturday and Sunday. Some of the farmer have been concerned lately about dogs running at large while there are young calves and sheep in the fields. They would like to ask, in a friendly way, if the owners would keep their dogs tied.

There are still 15 million new cases of tuberculosis developing in the world as a whole. The incidence of TB is 100 times greater in the developing countries than in countries such as Canada where \$5.00 per capita is spent yearly on tuberculosis control. In the developing countries they can afford only about five cents per person.

# The smart cookies at McCormick's use Natural Gas.

We're not going to say natural gas should take all the credit for the delicious cookies, biscuits and wafers baked on McCormick's London-Ontario premises.

Producing millions of pounds of product annually takes more successful business ingredients than we can probably imagine.

But natural gas does play an important role at McCormick's.

Natural gas provides a better working climate for over 1,000 employees. It's the energy source that heats over 600,000 square feet of plant space in the winter, and air conditions part of the same area in the summer.

Because natural gas is versatile, it helps McCormick's bake a better biscuit. Natural gas heats the peanut roaster, the chocolate tanks, the cookie and cracker ovens, the shortening and rotating cookie oil tank, the wafer oven and the candy drum.

The process of cooking biscuits and wafers requires exact temperature control and McCormick's find natural gas just what's needed to do the job.

Natural gas heats all the general purpose hot water that flows through the McCormick's plant, too.

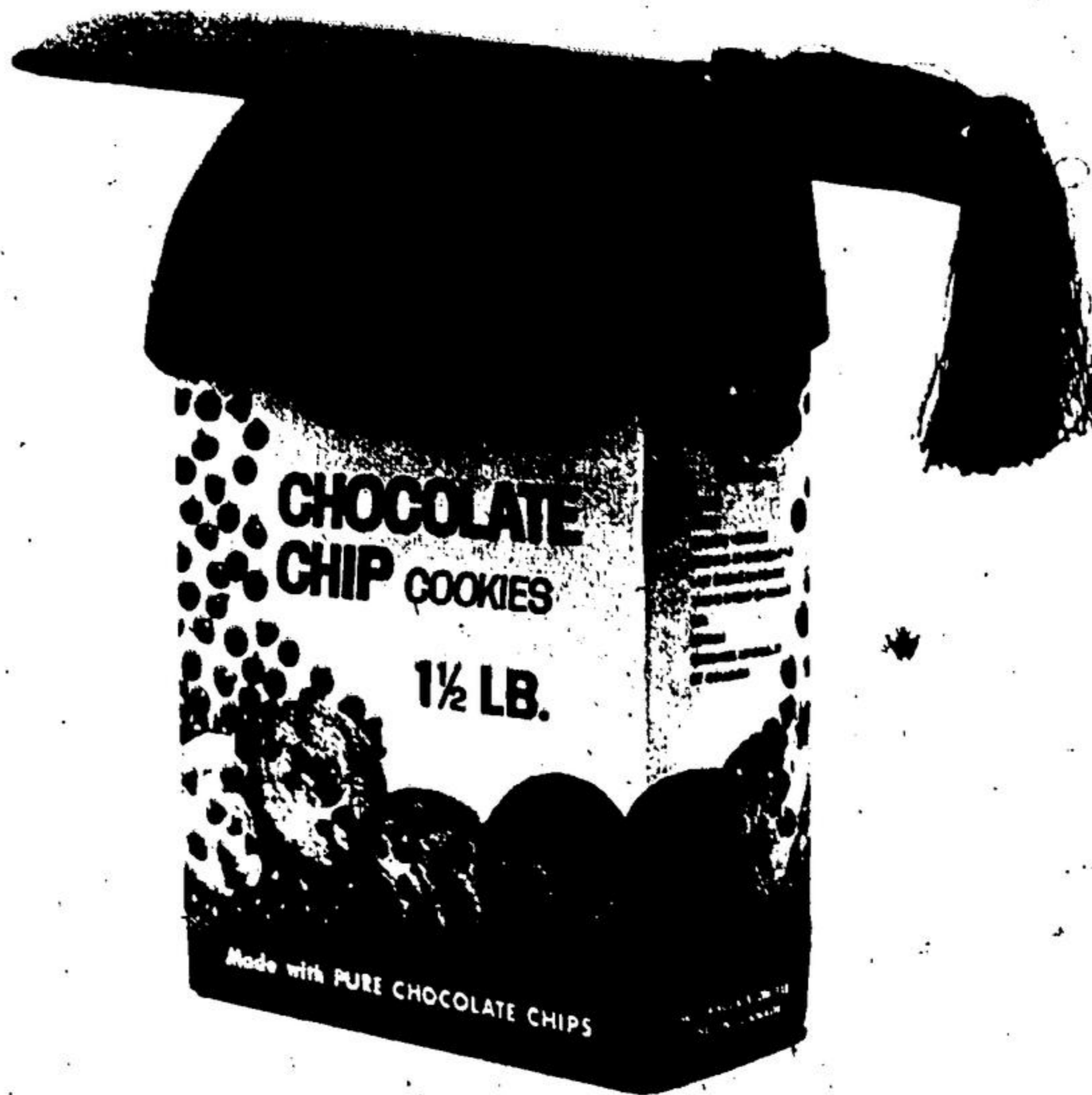
Why tell you all this when your office or store or factory or home heating needs probably aren't nearly as immense as McCormick's?

Simply because natural gas is

the cleanest, most dependable, most modern energy source, no matter what your dimensions.

Talk to your gas company representative, architect or heating

contractor soon. He'll give you all the facts on how easy it is to install and maintain natural gas. You don't have to make cookies to be a smart one.



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TOTAL ENERGY FOR TOTAL COMFORT

**Don't waste money on insurance**

It's a fact: some businesses are over-insured... with overlapping insurance policies. Others are dangerously under-insured.

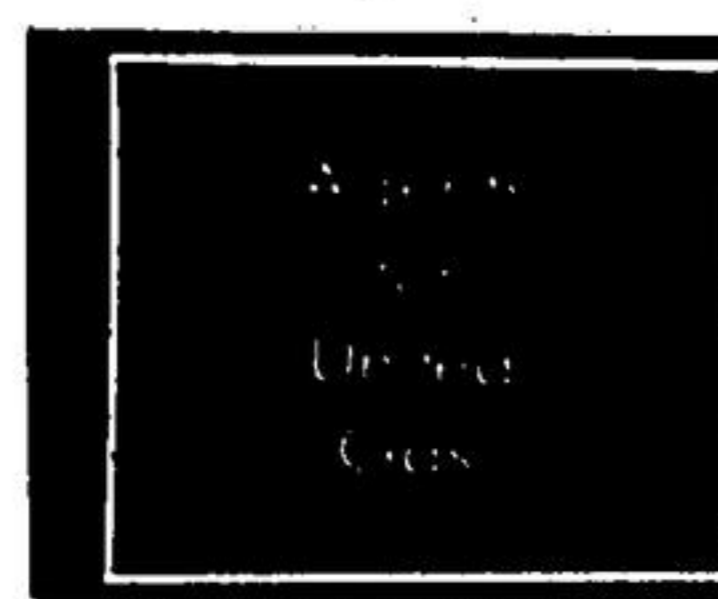
Because your business involves customers and suppliers, inventory and equipment, bad debts, liability, taxes, employees, etc., etc., you need a business insurance expert.

We know how to plan your business coverage so you have just the insurance you need and no more.

**DENNY'S INSURANCE AGENCY**  
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Phone 833-0150

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Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
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**HINTON'S**  
5¢ TO \$1 STORE

**ATTENTION home owners**

If you are located on the same side of the street as a gas line which was installed prior to April 1, 1968 and you change to a natural gas central heating system from another fuel between now and September 30, 1969

**You may qualify for a \$50 ALLOWANCE OR...**

**A completely installed chammglow GAS LAMP.**

And if you install a new automatic gas water heater at the same time as you convert to your natural gas central heating system as stated above in lieu of the foregoing offer

**You may receive an ALLOWANCE of \$50 plus a 2 YEAR'S FREE RENTAL on the Gas Water Heater OR...**

**A \$100 ALLOWANCE**

See your heating contractor, department store or call United Gas Limited.

