

THE GEORGETOWN HERALD

serving the communities of
**GEORGETOWN, GLEN WILLIAMS, NORVAL, LIMEHOUSE,
 HORNBY, STEWARTTOWN, ASHGROVE, BALLINAFAD,
 TERRA COTTA**
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The Editor's Corner

APPRENTICE PRODUCTIONS PRESENT
 'HIT PLAY'

By a happy coincidence, Apprentice Productions' next play, slated for the Old Town Hall next Wednesday and Thursday, has been timed to coincide with the presentation of the British screen version at two Toronto first-run theatres and this extra advertising should put seating at a premium for the third production of this talented Georgetown dramatic group. It is the first time that an acknowledged stage play, which was a hit both in London and New York, has been chosen, and the extra investment necessary in royalties should be repaid many times over in quality of performance and, it is to be hoped, in full houses for both nights of the show. The play was chosen on the personal endorsements of director Hal Newman, who saw it in New York and Neil McLennan, who plays a leading role, who saw it in London while he was overseas with the Medical Corps.

The British movie, which stars Ronald Howard, son of the late Leslie Howard (Neil McLennan plays the part here), rated four stars in Roly Young's Globe and Mail column last week. In reviewing it Mr. Young says in part: "In the late war years, one of London's more popular comedy hits was 'While the Sun Shines'. It is easy to account for its popularity because while it is profoundly unimportant and trivial, it is also perfectly swiftest escapism entertainment. The plot is typically farcical, dealing with an impecunious and irresponsible duke whose daughter is scheduled to marry a wealthy earl. The earl is a sailor in the navy, and the night before his wedding picks up an American USO acrobat and puts him up. The girl, a WAC, gets mistaken for a date the earl has set up for the American and falls for him, and I won't attempt to tell you the complications that develop from then on."

Local people who enjoyed the previous plays presented by the Apprentice group, both of which were standard amateur theatrical fare, will be looking forward to seeing what results when these talented actors have the advantage of an acknowledged successful play. Extra advantages of better stage lighting and a hall heated by an oil furnace are available since last spring and we anticipate something extra-fine in entertainment next week.

BETTER PHONE SERVICE SOUGHT

Georgetown Council is to be commended on action taken at their last meeting to seek better telephone service in town. The decision was made in answer to a letter written last December by Rev. C. C. Cochrane, which appeared in the Herald, and suggested that the Council, Board of Trade or some other public body should take up the question of the obsolete equipment used by the Bell Telephone Company to serve one of Ontario's most progressive towns. Earlier this column had dealt with the problem in a more general way, pointing out that towns much smaller and less heavily industrialized had had service improvements—Orangeville and Chesley, to name but two which now have a common battery system rather than the hand cranks still in vogue here.

The Council's motion to contact the Bell Telephone Company regarding the deplorable condition of equipment in use here and asking company representatives to meet with Council to discuss the situation is the first step in what is to be hoped will be a solution. Council stressed the fact that complaints are not levelled at the efficiency of the local staff but are directed at the type of equipment in use. It was pointed out in the discussion that applications last year for new telephone service here were reportedly higher per capita than in any other municipality in the whole Bell system, and this in itself is a strong argument for improving the Georgetown service.

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IN THE MAIL BAG

Jan. 26th, 1948

The Editor:
 Dear Sir:
 Referring to your column in last week's Herald, regarding the discussion in Council about the Girls' Pipe Band, we would like to explain our views on this subject, for the benefit of both the Council and the public.

As to the grant considered for the Lorne Scots Brass Band, we decline to make comment, as this is the taxpayers' own money and therefore it is their right to vote as they see fit.

However, it is our right to see that our own band is presented to you in its true light and not through the eyes of those who are ignorant of our circumstances.

At this point we would state that we have not asked for a grant, and have no intentions of doing so. We have always been self-supporting, never having asked for charity, and after 6 1/2 years of assuming this responsibility, we do not intend to lower ourselves now.

For the benefit of those who are not familiar with the actual expense connected with our band, we would enlighten them with the following information:

Pipes—\$98.00 plus \$6.00 for a case in which to carry them
 Snare Drum—\$39.50
 Bass Drums—\$76.00
 Tenor Drums—\$49.50
 Baton for Drum Major—\$35.00
 Rhythy for Drum Major—\$75.00
 Practice Chanter—\$7.50
 Uniform for each—\$80.00

Each member of the pipe section and snare drum section has purchased her own pipes and drums respectively, which meant much work and economy on the part of some.

The uniforms, etc., are owned by the band and in order to purchase these we have held a fund raising affair each year in the way of dances, bingo, street carnival, publishing a book on the history of the band, etc. Anyone who has had experience with such affairs, will realize the time and work connected with this. However, we found the incentive great enough and our interest in the band was keen enough to warrant this extra responsibility.

We have always given full value for any money raised in this manner. If such a feat can be accomplished by a few girls, we wonder what a group of men, twice as great in number, is not capable of making an attempt to do so.

As has been brought to your attention in the column referred to above, our final goal is to purchase a bus of our own. It is rather difficult, at times to find cars available for transportation (even though we pay all expenses)—particularly in the summer months when we have to fulfill so many engagements. However, we do have some reliable drivers and we sincerely thank them. Our band is growing, which means more cars will be needed next year for transportation, and if we had a bus it would simplify matters both for transportation and the problem of everyone being together. We find that the goal is still far away, but if we work hard this summer, perhaps it will not be too distant.

As for advertising Georgetown, we resent the remark made by one of the councillors that there is no comparison between the Lorne Scots Band and the Pipe Band. We realize the Lorne Scots band is a first class band when it comes to competing at Waterloo and the Exhibition, and draws the attention of music lovers at these events towards Georgetown.

We wonder if said Councillor considers Rockton Fair, with an attendance of 27,000 last fall, as being one of the small fairs which he imagines we attend.

We also wonder if the Lions International Convention, held in Philadelphia, at which we were present, and at which every country on the North American continent was represented, also comes within this scope in his imagination. There are many others we could mention, but we believe the general public is aware of our activities.

The fact that GEORGETOWN is printed in large letters on our bass drum also tends to advertise our town.

Another item which we would bring to the attention of all is the fact that Mr. E. R. Magloughlin, our Pipe Major, receives no remuneration whatsoever for his services in teaching the pipers and the management in general of our band.

He has always had the senior group and junior group of pipers, necessitating at least two nights for practice, and quite often Sunday afternoon. When we go out on engagements, Mr. Magloughlin receives the same payment as we do. We have our set-rates which apply in all cases (except charity work), and everyone's pay is the same. No discrimination is made in the case of our Pipe Major.

We believe this may clarify the functioning of our band, and give everyone a general idea of how we finance ourselves.

The purpose of this letter, is solely to bring to your attention the fact that our Girls' Pipe Band is entirely independent and has every

intention of remaining so. Therefore, the Council may rest at ease in its decision not to give us a grant, as we would not accept it under any consideration. However, we do thank the few who showed an interest in us.

Thanking you for your attention,
 Yours sincerely,
 Georgetown Girls Pipe Band,
 Per: Sgt. Mary Patterson
 Cpl. Lol Reid

January 21, 1948

The Editor,
 The Georgetown Herald;

Sir:
 In view of the importance of the coming vote on the "Band Act" to each property owner, may I be allowed to state a few facts, perhaps not generally known, on the case.

The Band is in a precarious financial position at the present time. The public have voted their unanimous approval of the grant. The Band started the year with high hopes of a great year of music. The Recreational Council made plans for starting a Boys' Band.

It has recently been discovered that only property owners had the right to vote on the question and that another vote must be taken. It is now up to the property owners to decide the future of their band.

As the grant will be used entirely to pay the bandmaster's salary it is important to know something about the bandmaster. As a bandman I freely state in all sincerity that bandmaster Perrot is of the highest calibre as a bandmaster. He is quite capable of taking this band to hitherto unknown musical heights. He is admired and respected by his own bandman and by bandmen and bandmasters of other centres. To really know him you would have to sit in at a rehearsal and feel how he lifts the band to the spot where they make the supreme effort to "play it as it is written". You would have to see now he makes every member of the band feel that he is very important to the band's success (even the horns). But to really see the quality of the man you would have to walk up the steps of the contest stand with your knees shaking, your fingers turning to thumb and you having a hard time to get your breath. You finally get on a chair, get your music ready and then you take a look at the Bandmaster. There he is with a rather boyish smile, full of confidence and encouragement. Your nerves settle down, your knees relax and from then on it's just as if you were at a final rehearsal. Then comes the result and once in every few years the Adjudicator sees fit to put the band in second place. When this comes as it did last year by one half point Mr. Perrot does not spend time and effort complaining about a raw deal, etc. Instead he uses this to induce the band to do more rehearsals and to do more rehearsing at home. These are only a few of the qualities of our Bandmaster and it may give you an idea of the necessity of making sure he stays in Georgetown.

To most boys a Band is a very wonderful thing. Which indeed it is. The hours a boy spends in band work pay dividends in contentment, self-discipline, appreciation of music, public service and above all plenty of good clean fun. To have a boys' band we must have a competent instructor. Mr. Perrot has already offered his services. Members of the senior band will gladly assist in any way. What an opportunity for your boy or for your neighbour's boy!

If you still insist on thinking of Dollars and Cents instead of building character and education may I beg you to consider this angle. The increase in taxes is already here whether the band gets its grant or not. Is it worth approximately one dollar a year to you to ensure the future of a high class senior band plus a top-rate instructor for a boys' band?

Some people feel that the band should not wear the Lorne Scots uniform if the Municipality is paying the Bandmasters' salary. The answer is quite simple. To outfit forty men with instruments and uniforms would cost from six to ten thousand dollars at today's prices.

The property owners in Acton voted on this matter at their election in December, 1947. The grant carried with only a very few negative votes.

The Town of Brampton has paid the Bandmaster's salary for years. When the opportunity to vote on this question is presented to you in the near future I suggest that you give the above facts due consideration before you vote.

Remember the band is not asking for charity. We merely wish to serve this community.

Respectfully,
 Ernest Forgrave

Blending ignorance of the law might spare a motorist a ticket for a minor traffic violation the first time. But, warns the Ontario Department of Highways, the plea "I didn't know" won't repair either driver or car after an accident. It is up to every driver to know and obey all traffic laws. Don't learn them by accident!

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