

THE GEORGETOWN HERALD

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Famed Indian Runner Did Early Training Here

The death of Tom Longboat, famed Indian runner, recalls the days in his youth when he was a resident of Stewarttown and worked as a hop-picker on the farm of the late John Smith Bessey on the 7th Line. Stewarttown residents recall that he lived in the hotel operated by Mr. Brewer in the building which is now occupied by J. Sanford and Son. Much of his training was done here and it was always a matter of pride that in the days of his fame, Stewarttown could claim some share in his success.

The following item in Monday's Globe and Mail, written by Hal Walker, is reproduced and will be of interest to older residents who recall him.

Tom Longboat, peerless Indian marathon runner who once blushed to the most boisterous welcome Toronto ever accorded an athlete, died Sunday night in the quiet remoteness of the Oshwekan reservation at Brantford that he loved so well. He was 62 years old. Only tangible reminder of the fame that was his at the turn of the century was the home in which the tall, straight-backed Onondaga Indian died. It was the sturdy, cement-block house presented by the Irish Canadian Athletic Club of Toronto which sponsored the drive for nickels, dimes and quarters from Tom's admirers.

Longboat's graceful, loping strides and amazing durability brought this tall, shy man fame such as he never dreamed of when he was an 18-year-old farmer on the Six Nations Reserve. He amassed \$17,000 as a professional runner, accumulated more medals than he could keep track of. He had a cigar named after him, he had a fan made of a Clark Gable. He was to Canadians of the early 1900's what Babe Ruth was to become to Americans in the golden era of the 20's.

They're going to bury the mortal remains of Tom Longboat this afternoon after a service in the Onondaga tribal long house, but the memory of his exploits will live long with another generation.

Tom Longboat had little but his memories as the twilight of life approached. But there was no bitterness. "I've had my day, no regrets," he once told a newspaper reporter who found the former sports idol sweeping a street in the service of the Toronto street-cleaning Department. At his death Tom had a shock of grey hair and wrinkled countenance. But the wrinkles were from his love of laughter, not worry.

Longboat refused to take life seriously. He was a great natural runner, a rawboned, headstrong Indian lad who loved to run and hated taking orders. He served in both world wars. He was a brigade runner with the 107th Battalion, served two years in France, narrowly escaping death on several occasions. In the last war he was a member of the Veterans' Guard, stationed at a military camp near Brantford.

In the first great conflict he joined Col. Dick Greer's Sportsmen's Battalion and among those in the same platoon were Tim Daly, Maple Leaf hockey trainer, and Reg Noble, a hockey great of yesterday.

Once when the 180th (Sportsmen's) were assigned to hold a crowd back and allow the 75th Battalion to entrain from the Union Station, Longboat was missing when his platoon was drawn up again.

So well loved was he by the boys of the 75th they "kidnapped" him and it wasn't until three days later he was discovered to be in Halifax. Tom Longboat came from the obscurity of a farm at the Six Nations reserve to overnight fame. That was back in 1906 when as a 100 to 1 shot he won the famous Around-the-Bay race at Hamilton. From then on he was constantly in the headlines.

Thousands craned for a view of the great Indian marathoner at the city hall. Tom made a very brief and modest reply to the speeches.

Longboat ran for Canada in the 1908 Olympics and lost when he suffered a sunstroke after holding a large lead. According to Tom Flanagan, who managed Longboat when he turned professional, Tom never lost after the Olympics until he quit running seriously around 1910 or 1911.

"Big Chief," as he was known, once ran in an unique contest in which he outdistanced a horse and buggy from Hagersville to Caledonia. It was 12 miles and horse and buggy got away from him the first couple of miles, but Tom caught up and finished in front by about a mile.

At one time such was Longboat's popularity that the police commissioner from Toronto stopped Tireless Tom from exhibition races which finished in Toronto because the traffic blocked the main arteries, Flanagan recalled. Largest crowd ever to see the great Indian in action was when he won the Montreal Star marathon. Estimated crowd — 100,000.

The races most remembered were the ones in which the "Wonderful Redskin," another nickname which added to the colour and fame of Longboat, raced against the little Englishman, Alfie Shrubbs. Nobody seems to have an accurate record of how many times they met, but it is generally agreed Longboat won most often. They raced before capacity crowds at Hanlan's Point and in Madison Square Garden.

Fame, Tom found, was just as fleeting for him as it had been for others. His last attempt at a comeback, after two successful ones, came in 1924 when he asked the Amateur Athletic Union to reinstate him as an amateur so he could race against Panvo Nurmi, the fleet Finn. Nothing came of the request. Longboat said he "didn't think Nurmi could beat me."

Then he had two unsuccessful business ventures. Finally he took a job with the Toronto Street Cleaning Department. Proud of his bearing, Tom tried unavailingly to catch up with an imposter who represented himself as Longboat in order to cadge free drinks in hotels.

Jane Gray, who had a radio program in which she portrayed Princess Mus-Kee-Kee, recalled last night one of Tom Longboat's saddest days.

"I was interviewing Mr. Longboat on my program. Toward the end of it I asked him if he would like to say 'hello' to any one. He said he would like to speak to his daughter. I think she was about 18 years old.

"Apparently some playmates heard me say this, and rushed to call his daughter to the radio. She raced across the street into the path of a car and was instantly killed. You can imagine how terrible I felt about that."

That was the saddest day in the 62 years of gladness and sadness in the life of Tom Longboat. We may never see his like again.

MRS. E. J. GOODIER DIED SATURDAY

The death occurred on Saturday afternoon, January 8th, of Mrs. E. J. Goodier, who, with her husband had been a resident of Georgetown for the past fourteen years. Mrs. Goodier had been in poor health for a considerable time, and the end was not unexpected.

She was Annie Payne Smyth, a native of Abbeyloik, Queen's County, Ireland, the daughter of Thomas and Margaret Smyth, both of whom had been school teachers, and was one of thirteen children, eight of whom were trained as teachers. She had spent over four years in South Africa as governess in the household of Hon. Harry Hurton, Minister of Finance in the Government of South Africa, and had frequently met Jan Smuts there. She came to Ottawa in 1908, where she was governess to Seymour McDougall, grandson of the then Receiver-General.

She later married Edward John Goodier, the marriage being performed by the late Archdeacon Paterson-Smyth, Rector of St. George's Church, Montreal, who had been Mrs. Goodier's rector at Abbeyloik in Ireland. On Mr. Goodier's retirement from the CNR railroad as station master, they moved to Georgetown and purchased the house on Guelph Street, where she died.

Mr. and Mrs. Goodier had looked over many places before they made their choice of Georgetown, and have been valued citizens, living a quiet life, but taking a keen interest in the community. They have been particularly devoted members of St. George's Church, at whose services they were very regular up to the time when Mrs. Goodier was no longer able to attend.

The Office of Burial was conducted by Archdeacon W. G. O. Thompson in St. George's Church on Monday afternoon at 2.30 with choir in attendance and the old hymns "As pants the hart for cooling streams" and "Nearer My God, to Thee" sung.

The pall bearers were Messrs. Bert Fiddler, Gordon Sanderson, J. E. Clarke, Hugh Dickie, James Roe and James Godfrey. Flowers in loving remembrance with their symbolism of the Resurrection, beautified the casket, and were received from Mr. and Mrs. Sid MacKenzie, St. George's W.A., Daughters of the Church, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Eason, the Sanderson and Fiddler families and pieces from Mr. Goodier.

Celebrating her ninth birthday on Monday, Gloria Bain, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Bain entertained at a party in her home. Her guests included Patsy and Betsy Willson, Marna MacKenzie, Judy McCumber, Gloria Boyd, Gail McGilvray, Helen Muckart, Agnes Nelson, Barbara Alcott and Gail Thompson.

Minister of Education Speaks at Mayor's Inaugural Dinner

Mayor Joseph Gibbons' inaugural banquet, which has become almost an annual event during the Mayor's long term of office, was held on Monday night when Mr. and Mrs. Gibbons were host to a large gathering in the Legion Hall. Present for the occasion were members of the 1949 council, town and hydro employees, the five local clergy and representatives of the press, Hydro Commission, Board of Parks Management, Lions Club, Hockey Club, Fire Brigade, Board of Trade, Recreational Council, Legion and Legion W.A., together with the high and public school principals, the town solicitor, the Halton County Warden, Esqueving reeve and Stan Hall, Ontario M.P.

A short council meeting preceded the banquet, at which the 1949 council subscribed to the oath of office, which was administered by the town clerk, Charles Willson. Members of the new council are Mayor Gibbons, Reeve Jack Armstrong, Deputy-Reeve James Goodier and Councillors Arthur Herbert, Cecil Davidson, Vern McCumber, Norman Hill, William McNally, and Thos. L. Lyons. Following the oath of office, Archdeacon W. G. O. Thompson read a chapter from St. Paul's Epistle to the Romans and reminded council members of their duty in transacting town business efficiently and honestly.

Mayor Gibbons said that he was dispensing with his usual inaugural address until the first business meeting which later was set for next Monday, and that he would appreciate it if members would refrain from introducing any controversial subjects until that time. He reminded council that meetings had and would start promptly

Three Men Escape Injury In Building Collapse

Three men, all Esqueving Township employees, had a miraculous escape from injury on Monday afternoon while working in the repair shop in the rear of the new township hall at Stewarttown. The men, Herbert Roehler, Ed. McLean and Sam Milham were working on some of the township road machinery when a sixteen foot brick pillar which supported three heavy steel girders in the roof collapsed, spilling the girders to the floor. Only minor damage was caused to machinery. The Township council was in session at the time, holding their first session of the new year. Luckily the roof of the building held firm and repair work is being completed this week to put the building back in its original shape.

Meeting Here Forms District Firefighters Group

A movement to form a district association of fire brigades was inaugurated in Georgetown on Monday when representatives of various brigades met in the Georgetown fire hall. The meeting was addressed by Mr. Carl Caskey, legal advisor to the Ontario Fire Marshal's office and other guests included Mr. Ed McNeely, of the Toronto Fire Department and Mr. Fred Mitchell of Inlington. Others present came from Milton, Brampton, Orangeville, Woodbridge, Inglewood and Erin.

The meeting elected Harry Savings, local fire chief as president, and David Bowman, secretary of the Georgetown brigade as secretary. A meeting is planned later at Woodbridge to choose a full slate. The new organization will be valuable in establishing cooperation between existing fire brigades which as a group will be able to take advantage of courses of instruction and exchange information about fire equipment.

Special Services for Week of Prayer

The Week of Prayer was observed last week in Georgetown with special services in all four Protestant churches. On Monday, Rev. C. R. Gower, Baptist minister, spoke at the United Church. Tuesday, United Church minister Rev. John M. Smith was in the pulpit of the Baptist Church. The next evening, Rev. Alex J. Calder, Presbyterian, spoke at St. George's Church of England and on Thursday, Archdeacon W. G. O. Thompson, Anglican rector, was at Knox Presbyterian Church. The prayer week concluded on Friday with a special service in the United Church at which a former Georgetown man, Rev. John McDermid of Brampton was guest speaker.

G.R.C. Public Meeting to Discuss Future

Mrs. James Lackey Thirty Years a Resident

A resident of Georgetown for thirty years, Mrs. James Lackey died in Brampton on December 22 and was buried in Greenwood Cemetery here on the day before Christmas. Formerly Elizabeth Williamson, she was born in Ireland 70 years ago. Before moving to Georgetown she had lived in Acton where her husband was employed with Beardmore's. They first lived in town in the house on McNabb Street now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. James Richardson and later on Main Street North.

Mrs. Lackey was a member of Knox Presbyterian Church. Predeceased by her husband in 1928, her closest surviving relative is a niece, Mrs. Murray McDonald of Acton.

Rev. Alex Calder conducted the funeral service and pallbearers were Joseph Gibbons, Alex Hume, Freeman Kersey, Fred Thompson, W. C. Reynolds and Cecil Davidson.

I.O.D.E. PLANS VALENTINE DANCE

Plans for a Valentine Dance in February were made at Monday's meeting of Countess of Strathmore Chapter, I.O.D.E. The Chapter will take over the spot vacated two years ago by the Bon Temps Club whose dance was always a highlight of the winter season. A dance committee was appointed, composed of Mrs. Lawrence McClintock, Miss Jean MacKenzie, Mrs. Walter Blehn, Mrs. Henry Rugg, Miss Ellen Weedmark, Mrs. Stan Grabb and Mrs. Riley Brethour.

Reports were given by Mrs. Ern Batkin on the sending of a Christmas box to the adopted northern school and by Mrs. A. Kershaw on the sale of Christmas cards by the members which had proven very successful.

It was nomination night and nominations for the new officers were made. The election of officers will be at the next meeting. The meeting was held at the home of Mrs. R. H. Ireland and hostesses with her were Mrs. Wallace Thompson, Mrs. W. C. Reynolds and Miss Ann Hickey.

MRS. ROBERT McCAULEY DIES IN BRAMPTON

A resident of Terra Cotta for most of her life Mrs. Robert McCauley died in Brampton on Thursday, January 8th. Born in Tullamore 83 years ago, she was formerly Christina McDonald. She was married fifty years ago to Mr. McCauley who predeceased her five years ago.

Surviving are two sons and two daughters, John of Terra Cotta, Donald of Denver, Colorado, Myrtle of Brampton and Mrs. Charles Dukette of North Hollywood, California.

Rev. Alex Calder conducted the funeral service on Saturday from the McClure Funeral Home in Georgetown. Pallbearers were Wesley Rutledge, Leslie Icam, William Hunter, Gordon Stringer, Charles McNally and Thomas Hopkins. Interment was made in Glen Williams Cemetery.

THE WEATHER

Mr. Editor: With a thermometer reading of 50, the song "June in January" is certainly applicable to the weather for this week-end. The whole week's weather might be well called an assorted mixture; we had fog, rain, hail, sleet, clouds, sunshine and plenty of wind. All it lacked was a burst of thunder and lightning.

Date	Max.	Min.	Hails
Jan. 3	26	14	
Jan. 4	33	7	
Jan. 5	40	16	
Jan. 6	28	24	38
Jan. 7	39	24	34
Jan. 8	41	31	
Jan. 9	50	28	
Average	36.71	20.87	36

One of the most important public meetings to be held in Georgetown for some time is that next Thursday, January 20th, called by Georgetown Recreational Council in the Old Town Hall. The meeting has been called in order to find out whether the public wishes a recreational group to continue to function, and the present executive are seriously considering, should interest not be forthcoming, in disbanding the organization. At the present time the GRC is without the services of a recreational director, due to the resignation of Hal Newman, which took effect the end of the year. Winter activities such as hockey have been suspended. The GRC first wants to ascertain whether there is enough public interest to continue, and if so requires new recruits on the executive as well as expressions of opinion on hiring a new full or part-time director, and whether some public finance will be made available for salary and other expenses.

Present at the meeting will be Don Garvie, who is employed by the government as district supervisor for community programs in Southern Ontario. He will bring along a few recreational movies and answer questions about the type of program which can be undertaken in towns.

Everyone, men and women, interested in recreation for the young people of town and district is asked and urged to attend.

Public Health Nurse Speaks to Institute

The regular monthly meeting of the Georgetown Women's Institute was held at the home of Mrs. Ray Kercher, Queen Street, on Wednesday evening, January 5th, with the president, Mrs. Harry Bailey, in the chair. The Roll Call "Some legislation I would like to see passed" was well responded to.

A New Year's letter of greeting was read from the Provincial president. It was decided to purchase a copy of the new Institute book "Fifty Years of achievement." If anyone wishes to purchase a copy the price is \$1.00.

Mrs. Dan Livingstone, convener of the Helping Hand Committee, reported packing and delivering eight Christmas hampers for the Peel and Halton Home in Brampton. A letter was read from the overseas family, recipient of the last parcel sent.

The special speaker for the evening, Miss Ellen Weedmark, Public Health nurse, explained the organization of the Halton Public Health Unit, which was interesting to all, and the Institute were indeed grateful for the information that would familiarize them with this important work. It was decided to hold a euchre in the Arena Rose Room later this month and members will sell tickets for this event.

Mrs. Wm. T. Sinclair gave a paper on January's motto—"Doorway to the future." Mrs. Walter Peck gave the current events and also ran a contest, Jumbled Words, which was won by Miss Weedmark. Delicious refreshments were served by the Committee for the month — Mrs. Dan Livingstone, Mrs. Frank Peck, Mrs. W. Peck, and Mrs. W. G. Marshall. A hearty vote of thanks was moved to all by Mrs. Harold Cleave.

50.50 CLUB WILL DECORATE SUNDAY SCHOOL ROOMS

On Wednesday, January 5th, the 50.50 Club of the United Church held their first meeting of the new year. The members attended the Week of Prayer service at St. George's Church and then met at the home of the new president, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Wrigglesworth with the secretary-treasurer Mr. and Mrs. Graham Farnell as joint conveners.

In his opening address, Mr. Wrigglesworth welcomed old and new members and expressed the hope for betterment of Christian relationship and fellowship throughout the church and community.

An outline of half of the year's work was adopted. Major projects to be undertaken are the decorating of two Sunday School classrooms and the presentation of a concert later in the year.

The next meeting will take the form of a skating party at the arena with the balance of the program at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Graham Farnell.