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## Fire Brigade Memories Recall Early Georgetown

Charlotte, North Carolina,

Dear Mr. Editor:

Dr. Watson sent me the Herald, issue of February 9th, which told of the death of Bob Erwin.

Bob was a very good friend of mine, since way back in the days when the Aetna lacrosse team won the intermediste championship of Ontario. I was sorry to learn of his death.

It was stated that he was the oldest living member of Georgetown Fire Brigade. I think I can now lay claim to that distinction, since I are nearing my 85th birthday - June 27. to be exact. I served under the first chief, who was Harry Speirs. Her kept a small hotel and bar, opposite to where Arnold's Glove Works was later built. (The building at the Water-St Highway corner recently vacated by Ken McMillan's implement agency

I was also a member of the brigade under Mark Maw, after Chief Spens died I think Mr Maw worked for Creelman Bros, who manufactured,

knitting machines The equipment of the old fire company consisted of a hook and ladder wagon, a hose reel and a hand pumping engine. That engine was about 12 feet long, with a handrail on each side, which was manned by 15 to 29 men. When one side was up the other side was down. If anyone got fired, there was always someone to take his place. That old engine could

sure pump water For tree along the business part of Main Street the engine was backed up to what was later known as Lawson's Pond (where Mayeal Motor Saice) now stands on Main St Late, the suction hose was dropped in, and it was ready to go to work

For other parts of town, there were large sunken tanks or cisterns, kept · full with rain water off nearby build-

Some of the big fires I remember while an active member of the brigade were the Clark's Hotel which stood where the McGibbon House is now - also the Presbyterian Church where the fire started in the basement and burned up and through the room, deartoying a fine pipe organ. Then there was, Rose's Flour Mill which was located where a lumber yard was later (I think it was Macken-

I am wondering if anyone remembers the conduit which carried water from Lawson's Fond under Main St. and on through backyards flown to the flour mill. It was carried on trestles and where it crossed the road before entering the mill, it was high enough for a good sized load of hay to pass under it. .

Two of the longest runs we had were one to the papermill which burned through three storeys of the wood pulp mill, the other to Glen Williams where the Barraclough Knitting Mills was gutted a (Fire completed destruction of this building last summer, which housed a feather converting firm, and only the runs of the building now stand . Ed)

On these long runs the first man with a team of horses and wagon to eatch up with our equipment was paid the sum of 810

In conclusion let me say that I first brom, ht brokey to Georgetown, dur ing the time that I was managing the old Stating rink for several years But that is another story, which would be relad to give if you thought it whild interest your readers

Frank Barber, 1300 Scott Ave Charlotte, NY

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#### Missionary Tells of Formosa Church Work

On Sunday, the Norval and Union Presbyterian Young People's Society conducted an interesting service in the Norval Church. At their invitation the Rev. E. H. Johnson, MA, B.Th., secretary of Overseas Missions of the Presbyterian Church visited Norval and gave an interesting address on his recent visit to the Far East.



REV. E. H. JOHNSON

There was an encouraging attendance of Young People from Bolton, Brampton, Streetsville, Nashville, Boston, Omach, Georgetowh Acton and Campbellville. The retyree was connected by Bob Crawford, Wor ship Convener of the Norval Society. Mrs. Betty McClure assisted at the In his speech of welcome, Mr. Ro-

val pointed out that Mr. Johnson had rendered outstanding service to his church in Manchuria and the States Defore assuming the responsibility of his present post. In his address Mr. John on chose as his theme "Preaching the good news of the "kingdom" and the appropriate scripture reading was from Matthew, Chapters 9 and 10 He indicated the importance of the mission field in Formosa and hinted at the grave problem of population by pointing out that in a country the size of Vancouver Island there was a population two thirds the size of Canada's There was also a glimpse of the nature of the country, of its rugged mountain beauty and of the flooded rice fields in the plains. He told of his experiences in the various congregations he visited, of the sensation of unity given by Christian behef among a people of primitive customs, far different from ours, of the difficulties of language in the ordinary church service, requiring at times as many as 3 interpreters. He underlined the gratitude of the people for the work done by the Presbyterian Missions and spoke in particular of an interview with Madame Chiang Kai Shek who was especially grateful for the services rendered by the Missions The Presbyterian Church in Canada has been active in Formosa for the past 83 years and has done outstanding work in the Leprosy Colony, in the schools and in the Bible Schools as well as among the people of, the

mountain villages. Mr Johnson was in Formosa, during the recent evacuation, a time of great tension for all concerned, for, as he said, Formosa is the largest question mark in the world today. He pointed out that the next two weeks would indeed be critical as the Communists might risk a display of their strength in order to impress the Indonesian Meeting of African and Asian Peoples, which is to meet soon. At the same time, Mr. Johnson emphasized the optimism apparent everywhere in Hong Kong where ambitious programmes of expansion were being

enthusiastically received. At the end of Mr. Johnson's address, there was a question period and among the topics discussed were the competition caused by the invasion of other missions, particularly from China, the increasing danger from the Catholic Missions which seemed particularly well endowed with funds. The work done among the soldiers of the Nationalist army, and, inevitably, the possibility of a world war beginning in this most critical spot of the Far East.

On this last point Mr. Johnson had some acute observations to make, viz. that the Nationalist Army in Formosa had been idle too long and had ambitions, with regard to attacking the Chinese mainland, that Formosa was in the front line of American defence tactics, but of course as Mr. Johnson concluded neither he nor anyone else was in a position to say yes, or no to the certainty of war. On the whole, Mr. Johnson gave his audience plenty to think about and Norval and Union Young People's Society are to be congratulated on a highly successful evening.

#### Anglers, Hunters Have **Annual Spring Social**

About a hundred sportsmen attended the annual spring social Friday of the Georgetown Anglers and Hunters Association which was held at

the clubhouse at Hickory Falls. A lucky draw on which tickets and -- been sold for several weeks realised a substantial sum for club funds. The prizewinners were: Jim Cleave, electric food mixer; Bob Lockhurst, hollow glass spinning rod; George Tixzard, portable ice box; Bill Hamilton, Milton, table lamp; Dave Bryden, hun-ter's lamp. Consolation prises wentto Fred Anthony, Pat Chamberlain and Lorne Draper.

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