

THE GEORGETOWN HERALD

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Mill Rate a Confusing Term

Discussion in council about dropping a 15 per cent "location obsolescence" which up to the present has been allowed the northern county towns, brings up the question of mill rate, which to our mind has always been a confusing term.

A mill is one-tenth of a cent. Georgetown's present mill rate of 49 therefore means that for every \$1,000 a property owner is assessed, he pays \$49 in taxes. The mill rate is struck in the spring, when the town's budget is drawn up. At that time, council figures out how much tax money must be contributed, and the complete assessment of the town divides into this to determine the mill rate.

The ten municipalities in the county are all assessed from a standard manual, and the county assessor makes tests from time to time, to assure that each town is being valued in the same manner. It would be too much to expect, of course, that ten individuals could come up with exactly the same answers, in such an indefinite thing as property values, but essentially it balances out that a house in Georgetown assessed at \$5,000 would be assessed at the same figure in any other Halton municipality.

Up to the present, however, a 15 per cent deduction has been made in Georgetown from the book figure, because it was originally determined that property values here were that much lower than in Oakville and Burlington. This gave the town a break in sharing county costs, although it had no bearing on local taxes.

There has been increasing demands from the low-

er end of the county to eliminate this differential, and the county assessor has, in fact, been adding back a large share of this 15 per cent before county taxes are determined.

Georgetown's assessment, then, has actually been lower, and the mill rate higher than it will be when the 15 per cent is dropped.

The town assessor figures that there will be some half million dollars in extra assessment next year. Each property owner will have his home valued 15 per cent higher. But, the mill rate will be correspondingly lower, so that in dollars and cents, the same money will be required to raise the same amount of taxes.

Now, if you're completely confused, here is how it works.

Georgetown's 1955 assessment is \$4,520,735. The town needs \$221,516 from taxpayers. Divide the assessment into this and you come up with 49 mills.

Now, supposing the assessment was increased to \$5,000,000. Divide this into tax money needed, and we would have a mill rate of roughly 44 mills.

A property assessed at \$1,000 on the 49 mill tax rate would pay \$49 in taxes. The same property assessed at \$1150 on the 44 mill rate would also pay \$49 in taxes (we have skipped fractions for simplicity.)

Which all means that the mill rate is a highly misleading term, and varies in direct proportion with the assessment, while having no bearing on the actual amount of tax money paid, which after all is what each taxpayer is interested in.

Thank You, Students

Bidding goodbye in this issue to High Tales for another season, a word of praise is certainly due to the high school students and to Miss Dorothy Parkinson of the staff, for providing good reading and bright news about school activities.

We have watched High Tales improve steadily since its inception as a Herald feature three years ago. And while it would be unfair to single out any of the contributors for special mention, it would be only right to commend editor Don Souther, who can take a large share of the credit for keeping reporters on the job and providing copy every other week during the school term.

The school paper was started with the eventual idea of putting out a year book of the type which was

so successful in the "thirties" when such stalwarts as Lefty Alcott, Jack Thompson and Jim Evans sparked a publication which was a real credit to the school. It is still hoped that in some future year a year book will be possible. As the school grows, it will become more a possibility, for as in most other collegiate activities, such things are easier to handle when there is a larger number of students to participate.

Meanwhile, we hope that High Tales will continue next year, and that with Miss Parkinson leaving, another staff member will devote the necessary time to directing the paper's affairs. We are certain that it has a noticeable improvement in standards of writing as benefitted those students who have taken part for three each year goes by.

Clean-up Week Again

We are always glad to cooperate with Fire Chief Bill Hyde and his men in publicizing the annual spring Clean-Up Week.

May is always a time of housecleaning, when the winter's accumulation of odds and ends is sorted out, when gardens are cleared and the garbage truck gets an odd assortment of items mixed in with the kitchen refuse.

Local firemen have always taken Clean-Up Week seriously, particularly in the business district. They make a check each spring, paying particular attention to the window wells below street level where trash is liable

to accumulate and where a carelessly tossed cigarette could cause major trouble.

They also check furnaces, remind people to have furnaces and chimneys cleaned, and point out hazards which a householder or merchant may have neglected or never noticed.

When firemen take extra time to aid fire prevention, it is up to us to cooperate by accepting suggestions, and to do some surveying ourselves for possible ways we can help. It would be wonderful if Georgetown could complete a whole year without any fire calls.

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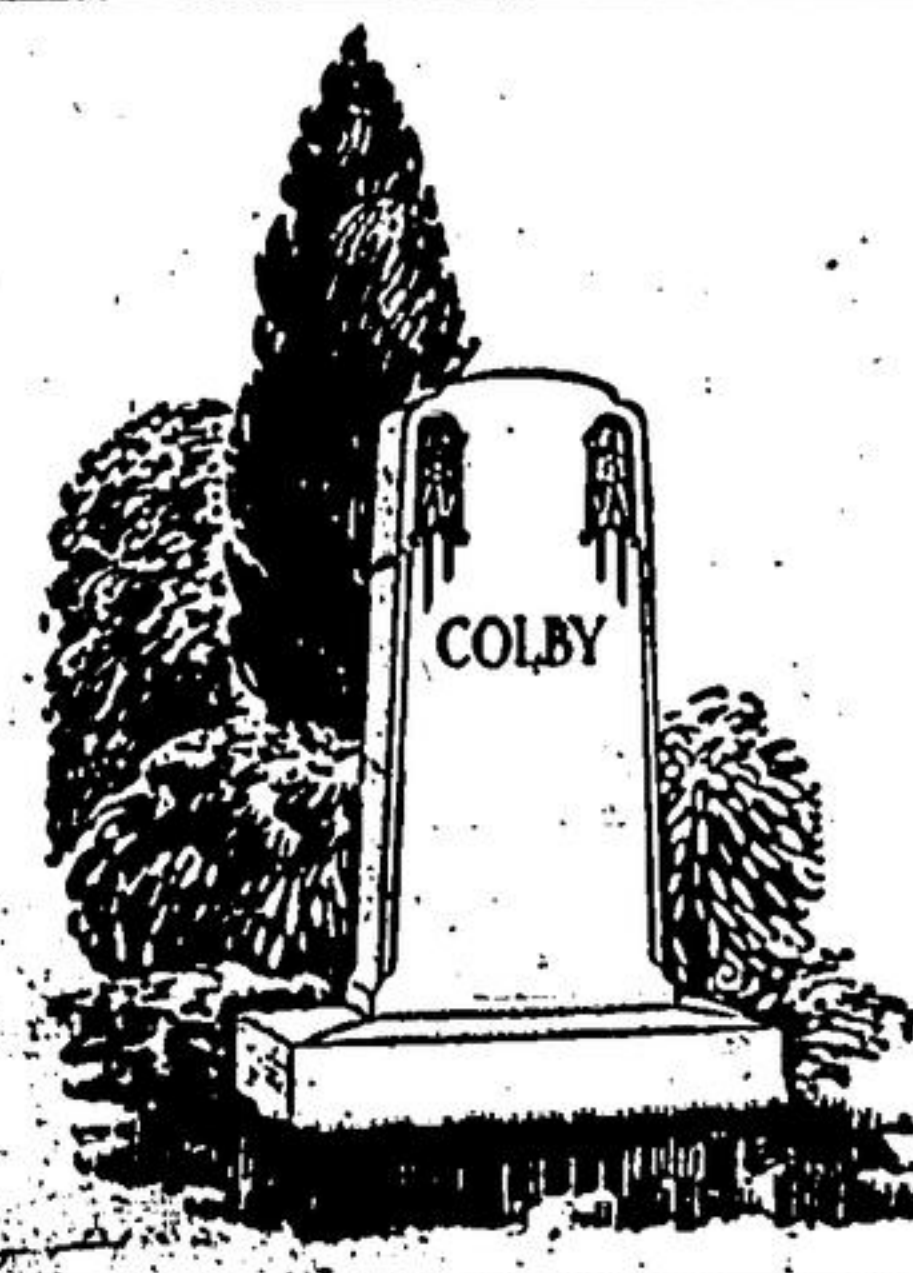
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O'Keefe's WEEKLY SPORTS CALENDAR

SATURDAY, MAY 14
 3.00 p.m.
 GEORGETOWN PARK
SOCCER
 GEORGETOWN vs. OAKVILLE

SUNDAY, MAY 15th
 A meeting in the Legion Hall at 2.30
 p.m. of all boys in Georgetown and
 vicinity, ages 8 to 20, to discuss
 plans and arrange for baseball
 teams for the coming season.

All interested in promoting
 baseball are invited.

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