

THE GEORGETOWN HERALD

Georgetown, Ont., Wednesday Evening, Sept. 14, 1955

SECOND SECTION

Grace Baptist CHURCH
meeting in Georgetown
Oddfellows Hall
Sunday School — 3 p.m.
Evening Service — 7 p.m.
"Holding forth the word of life"
in sermon and in song
BRUCE PENNY, Pastor

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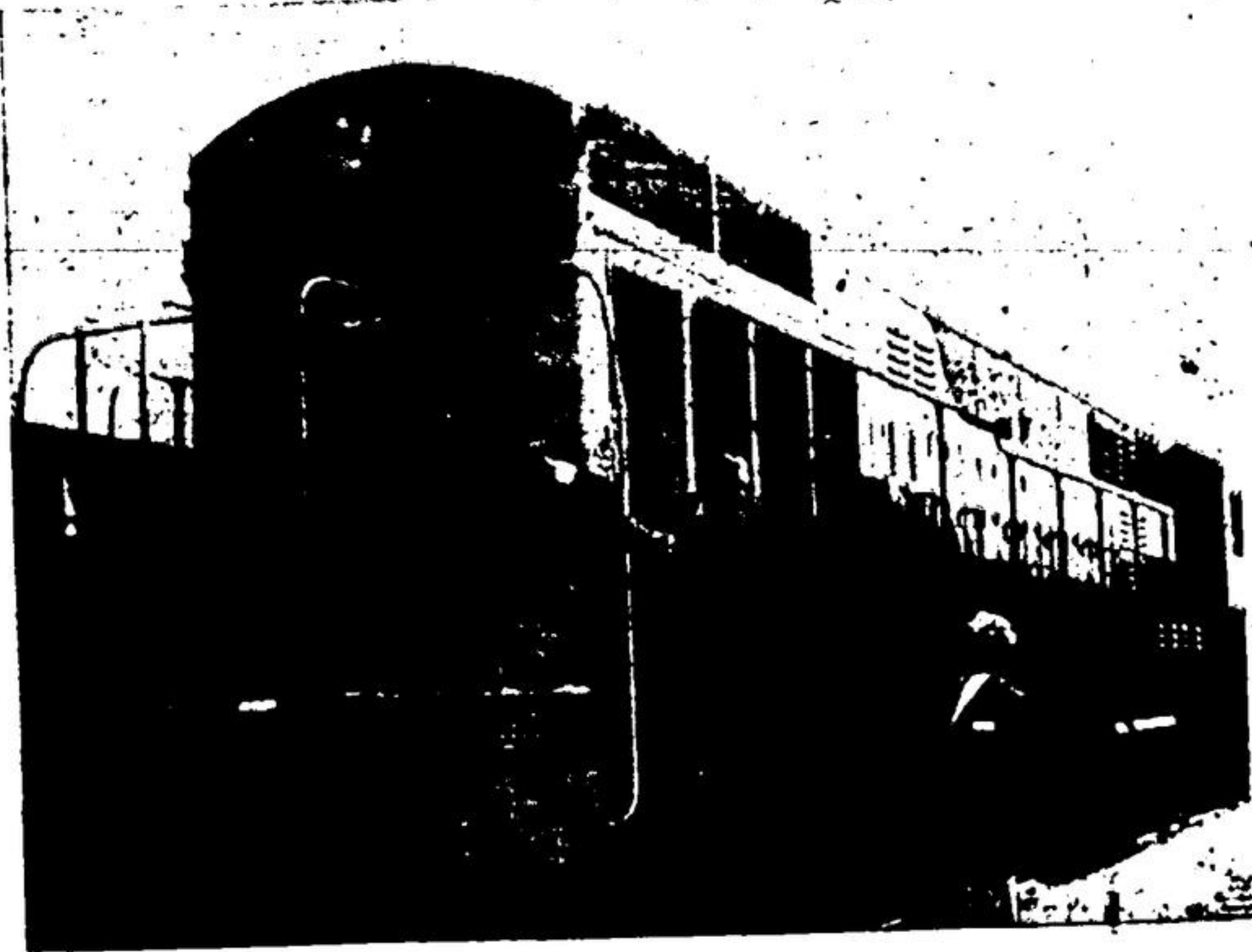
Chatting...

with M. H. B.

IF YOU'RE ANYTHING like I am, you don't really know very much about New Zealand. We studied it a bit in school, and that was the end of it. That's why I enjoyed talking to June Thompson so much the other day. June is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ross Thompson, Durham Street, and has just been home a few weeks after spending a year in New Zealand. Since starting out last June to motor to the west coast and thence by boat to New Zealand, June estimates she has travelled roughly 25,000 miles.

I wondered if her trip had taken a lot of planning and thought, but June says no, she decided more on the spur of the moment to go. Her friend Pat Donaldson (a recent bride and now Mrs. Wm. Heid Kent) decided to return to her home in New Zealand. She asked June how she would like to take the trip with her, find a job in New Zealand, and live there with the Donaldson family. Many Georgetowners will know Pat, who is Mrs. Jim Linton's sister. She worked in Robb's Drug Store for a few months before taking a job in Toronto. June also made the trip back to Canada with Pat, who returned to be married here a few weeks ago.

SO, NOT REALLY knowing definitely whether she would be going until the last minute, due to a threatened sailing cancellation, June set off on her big trip. On their way out to the coast thru the States they saw all the world famous sights, and once settled in Wanganui, New Zealand with the Donaldson family and a job with a chartered accountant, June took every opportunity to see all the sights that New Zealand offered.



MOST POWERFUL DIESEL IN CANADA — D. S. Thompson, vice president, Canadian Pacific Railway, and George A. Mueller, right, senior vice-president, Canadian Locomotive Company, exchange a few words during their inspection of the most powerful diesel locomotive in Canada. Handed over to the CPR at Kingston recently, the 2,400 horsepower unit boasts a top speed of 75 m.p.h. and more pulling power than any other locomotive on CPR lines. The power-packed unit, another Canadian Pacific first—is equally adept at hauling freight or passenger car. The new "Trainmaster" will undergo tests on the Montreal-Saint John, N.B. line, and later on the Kettle Valley Division.

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And they are many, believe me. I told June she could really write a book about it. It's only possible to just touch on some of them, but it will give you an idea of what New Zealand is like. Although its two main portions, the North Island and the South Island are together a little smaller than the state of California, their countryside is really dramatic. By that I mean it's small area contains an amazing number of nature's phenomena. It is a land of extremes. The climate seems to try to equalize things out a bit, however, by being one of the most moderate in the world. Their seasons are, of course, opposite to ours, but there is no really cold winter, and no uncomfortably warm summer. And it's mostly bright and sunny. That was one thing June missed — the changing seasons. She's looking forward to winter and the snow here at home this year.

TO GO BACK to the scenery of New Zealand for a moment. It is a little world in itself and a virtual paradise for vacationers. The country is one of extreme contrasts and beauty. They have everything — geysers, lakes, limestone caverns, volcanoes, glaciers, fiords and mountains.

June lived at Wanganui, which is a city about the size of Guelph, on the coast of the North Island. It is subtropical there, with palm trees and lush vegetation. It is very hilly, and the hills are completely covered with grass, even at the summits. This is accomplished with the aid of planes, which spray the hills with superphosphate, from the air, so that the grass will grow luxuriantly to provide good pasture for their main industry — sheep raising.

THEY HAVE SOME FORMS of vegetation or trees quite different from ours. For instance, the gum trees are native to New Zealand, and they never shed their thick waxy leaves. Another quite unusual sight is to see giant ferns growing from the top of a tree trunk. These are actually ferns that have grown up into trees. From the pictures, some of them looked as big as palm trees. Typical of New Zealand scenery in the densely forested parts, is to see huge kauri pines, which are giants of the forest world, and other large trees festooned with hanging moss. The "punga" or cabbage tree is another oddity. Instead of leaves growing in the usual way, they spike out from round green, cabbage-looking balls which grow on the branches. The leaves look a little like the leaves of the iris.

THE MAIN TOURIST attraction of New Zealand is in the Northern Island also. It is the world famous thermal region, which is a belt 150 miles long and twenty miles wide, where fields of mud bubble as if in a giant cauldron, where geysers play as regularly as an alarm clock, shooting streams of boiling water a hundred feet into the air, beside vivid blue green and turquoise lakes of boiling mineral water. There too, you can see active volcanoes, and many which are inactive. It is not at all unusual, in this region, to find rivers which are fed from boiling hot mineral springs on one bank only, making the water cold on one side and hot on the other. New Zealanders say that an angler may catch one of their 7-lb. rainbow trout, or a good sized salmon, on one side of the river — flip his lip over his shoulder, and boil it in the other side. This thermal district centres around city of Hot Springs. June had a good opportunity to

observe the wonders of the earth in seething action, because she spent a two week holiday there with Mr. and Mrs. Donaldson's daughter and son-in-law. Naturally a person could not venture into the thermal area alone. You are taken on tour by a guide, usually a native Maori.

THE CITY OF ROTORUA itself has some unusual aspects, to say the least. The first thing you notice on arrival, is the strong smell of sulphur fumes in the air. After a day or so, however, you don't notice it at all. But these sulphur fumes make it hard for the housewife to keep the silverware clean. The fumes turn it black, overnight.

Another thing which immediately strikes you is the steam which you can see rising from the ditches along the street. It is not uncommon for a lapse into the steamy mud below it. When this happens, a fence is simply erected, with a twofold purpose — to mark the property line and to keep people from falling into the hole. June had a good view of one of the largest geysers constantly in action. It was just at the end of their street.

WITH SUCH AN ABUNDANCE of hot steam and mineral water it is only natural that Rotorua should be world famous for its hot mineral baths. They abound in the city, and people come to them from all over the globe. The boiling mud is also used for medicinal purposes, when cooled of course. The people of Rotorua are beginning to make use of the steam which just underlies the whole city, for central heating. And as you may have gathered there is an abundance of it. June, like anyone else coming from a more sedately behaved landscape, kept asking her host and hostess if all the people living there, and at the base of inactive volcanoes, did not feel insecure, to put it mildly. But everyone seemed to take the surrounding phenomena for granted and never gave such unnerving fears a thought. Just as an added feature of excitement, earthquakes in this region are frequent and sometimes violent. There was a severe tremor in May when June visited there, but no damage was done. We'll tell you more about New Zealand next week.

Church People, Friends Fete Hornby Bride-Elect

On August 30th, the congregation of St. Stephen's Anglican Church, at Hornby held a shower for a September bride, Verna Merle Price, who was married September 3 to Herbert Cecil Wilson. Church people and immediate neighbours presented the couple with a television chair and two wall pictures. The congregation also gave them a bible engraved with their names and a suitable inscription.

Earlier in the month, a personal shower was given for the new Mrs. Wilson by Mrs. Leonard Raynsford and girl friends in Hamilton. The bride had been on the staff of Household Finance Co. of Hamilton and Burlington up to the time of her marriage.

A miscellaneous shower on August 30th was given by Mrs. Floyd Bridgen Hornby and girl friends of the bride when many beautiful and useful gifts were received.

Another fund raising event for the swimming pool, Country Music Night in the arena, September 22nd, sponsored by Georgetown Lions Club.

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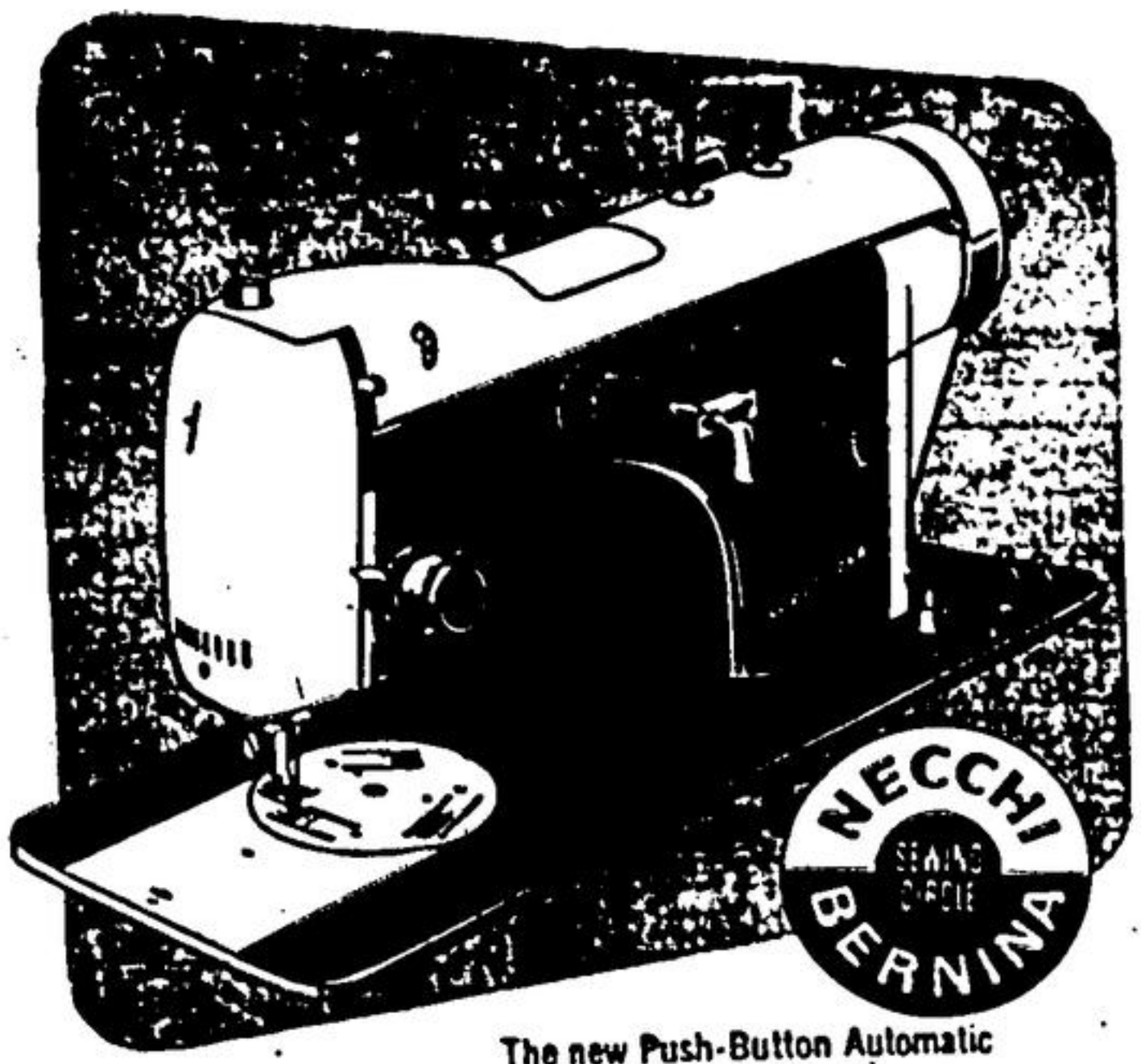
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