

CLUB MIDTOWN

by Georgell
And a good time was had by all; school That was the general verdict at the end of the tobogganing party last Sunday afternoon. No fatalities, no serious accidents and lots of fun made the afternoon very successful, even if many of the participants will have colds and minor bruises to nurse for a while.

What other sport can compare with the thrilling descent on a long smooth hill, with the wind in your face and the snow spraying on either side? Nothing, perhaps, but the same rapid descent on a rough hill with snow spraying directly in your face, climaxed with the exhilarating ascent up the same hill after the wreck at the bottom. Funny, how the hill seems so much longer from bottom to top than vice versa. It seems to us that the Indian description of skiing applies also to tobogganning i.e., "whoosh! then walk a mile."

We commend Al Darby on his exhibition of 'how to fly without wings,' using a ten foot cliff for his launching site. Cheer up Al; remember they laughed at the Wright Bros.

There will be no dance this Friday night because of a previous engagement of the Rose Room, so all you good members can rest up for the formal on the 17th. Reg Ryal's orchestra, a well-known and popular local group, will supply music from 9 to 1 for the occasion. More news will appear next week when we can report on the executive meeting.
See you at the Formal.

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Shelburne Publisher Honoured
T. F. E. Claridge Hornby-Born

by James Senter
In the Globe and Mail

Walk down the street in Shelburne today, say "Nice Day," to the first person you meet, and he will consider you an impostor.

Ask for the Chief, and everyone will know who you mean. Mention T. F. E., J. Ollier or Ern, and nearly every man, woman and child in this district of 150 persons some 70 miles northwest of Toronto can join in the conversation.

In fact, 80-year-old T. F. E. (Ernest) Claridge, publisher, editor, newspaper columnist, bandsman and municipal official, practically qualifies for the title of Mr. Shelburne.

For 65 years, 53 of which he was publisher of the local newspaper, Shelburne has known the gentle car and occasional bitter lashing of his journalistic pen. During those same long years he served as a member of the Shelburne Citizens' Band, the last 54 years as bandmaster.

Twenty-three years have been spent as a member of the public library board and for 15 of these he served as secretary. He was a choirmaster for 15 years.

A good Mason, he has been a member of Lorne Lodge, No. 377, AF & AM, for 48 years, serving as treasurer for 41 years.

In recognition of such an outstanding record of service, Reeve John Rose and members of the village council planned, a T. F. E. Night, in the Cedar Room of Community Centre Saturday, January 28th. Purpose of the gathering, at which many former members of the band were present, was to honour the man whose name is one with the history of the community in which he lives.

T. F. E. was born at Hornby in 1876 the son of the late Thomas Claridge and the former Elizabeth Macdonald. He was the youngest of a family of eight. His 90-year-old sister, Mrs. Agnes Tate, now lives at 83 Isabella St. in Toronto.

From Hornby, the family moved to Scotch Block, Halton County for 1 1/2 years, and in 1882, came to Shelburne, just 18 years after William Jelly, the father of Shelburne, settled here.

During the move, the young chief distinguished himself by settling down on a street corner for a good cry, repeating mournfully "I wish I had a home."

"People say a small town never changes," said the spry, softspoken old gentleman when visited in his office in the Shelburne Free Press and Economist the other day. "But they change — they change right along."

"Sometimes as I go through the files, I feel I must be getting old. Companies that were once well known are gone now. And I come across the names of people I can't remember."

Looking back over a lengthy lifetime in which he has seen Canada become a nation, Mr. Claridge admits that he has sometimes wished he had gone to the city to seek his fortune. "But," he adds, I suppose I have done just as well for myself here as I would have anywhere else."

As the editor and publisher of a country newspaper, there was little time to enjoy life, he said. "But there is a certain satisfaction to it. It's not like running a big daily. You remember that there are relatives involved in everything that happens and you try not to add insult to injury."

"When digging into the past, you never resurrect anything that is unpleasant. A newspaper editor is doing his best and is best known by trying to keep peace in the community."

"I'm not saying that I'm loved by everyone in the community. I'm not, but then, I don't love everyone either."

Mr. Claridge's started his career as a newspaperman as a printer's devil with the Shelburne Economist in January, 1891. He took over the paper from the late W. L. Smith, founder of the paper, in April 1903. In 1928 he purchased the Free Press from Mrs. R. L. Mortimer and combined the two papers.

Next to his newspaper, the Shelburne Citizens Band is probably his biggest love. Finding it difficult to

blow a trombone while wearing false teeth, he still leads the 26-piece band on parade and likes nothing better than to strut down the street at its head.

My wife thinks I'm crazy because I didn't drop it years ago," he said. "But there's something about being part of a band. Once you've played in one, you never forget it."

Mr. Claridge long ago lost track of the number of boys that have passed through his organization, but it must run into hundreds. And: "it's something to keep kids interested. It teaches them something and while they are at practice, they're not getting into some other mischief."

And the kids love the grand old man of Shelburne. During practice he's Chief to them. They never call him anything else. The title was bestowed on him by Dr. O. A. Kilpatrick who played trombone in the band many years ago and is now head of New York State Hospital at Poughkeepsie.

The name, Nice Day, has nothing to do with the band. "I have a dreadful memory for names and faces," he said. "Whenever I see someone I think I should know, I say, nice day. It got so that people try to bet me to it and say nice day before I do."

Looking back, T. F. E., Nice Day, Ern Claridge finds many wonderful people to remember. There were Dr. Oscar G. (Kitty) Skelton, a former deputy minister of external affairs, and a man who wrote a biography of Sir Wilfrid Laurier; and the late Rev. Dr. John R. Watt's, former professor at Queen's University.

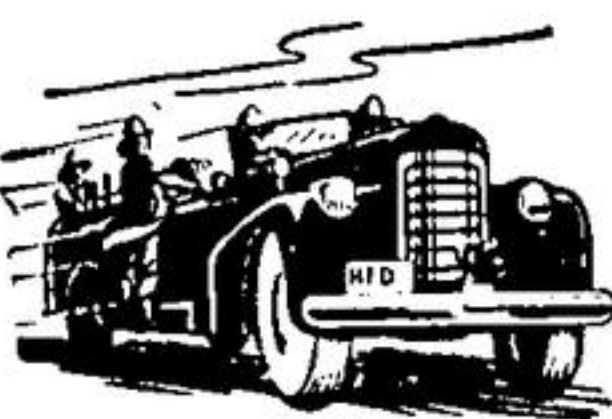
Three Arts, Crafters
Win Weaving Awards

Three district ladies were prominent exhibitors in the 4th annual exhibition sponsored by London District Weavers.

Competing with entrants from different sections of Canada, their work was honoured when awards were announced at the opening of the exhibition Friday.

Guest of honour at the opening in the London Art Museum, was Miss M. E. Muff, Ontario crafts specialists who has conducted courses in Georgetown for the local Arts and Crafts organization.

Mrs. R. R. Corbett won first prize for a bath towel and honorable mention for a stole. Mrs. Ern Batkin received honorable mention for a work bag and Mrs. William Carney, honorable mention for ecclesiastical weaving. All are members of the Arts and Crafts of Georgetown.



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FARM NEWS

Halton and Carlton Will
Debate Provincial Honours

J. E. W.
Halton Junior Farmers' Debaters advanced to the final round in the inter-county debating series by reason of their win over Lambton County debaters on Wednesday evening of last week. The subject under debate was "Resolved that more power should be granted to school boards over the affairs of elementary and secondary education in Ontario. Halton's affirmative team of Mac Sprowl and George Greenlees met the Lambton negative team in Watford. At the same time the Lambton affirmative

team of Ross Smith and Carl Whiting met Halton's negative team of Roy Ford and Lloyd Vivian at Trafalgar.

At both points the negative team won the judges' awards by split decisions. In such cases, the winner is selected on the basis of the total of the judges' scores at both centres. The judges at Trafalgar were Everett Biggs, dairy commissioner for Ontario; Clayton Frey of Sarnia; and Edwin Harrop of Milton. At Watford the members of the judges' panel were Dr. Chapwin of Petrolia Reeve Dick of Wyoming and George E. Elliott, Q.C., of Milton.

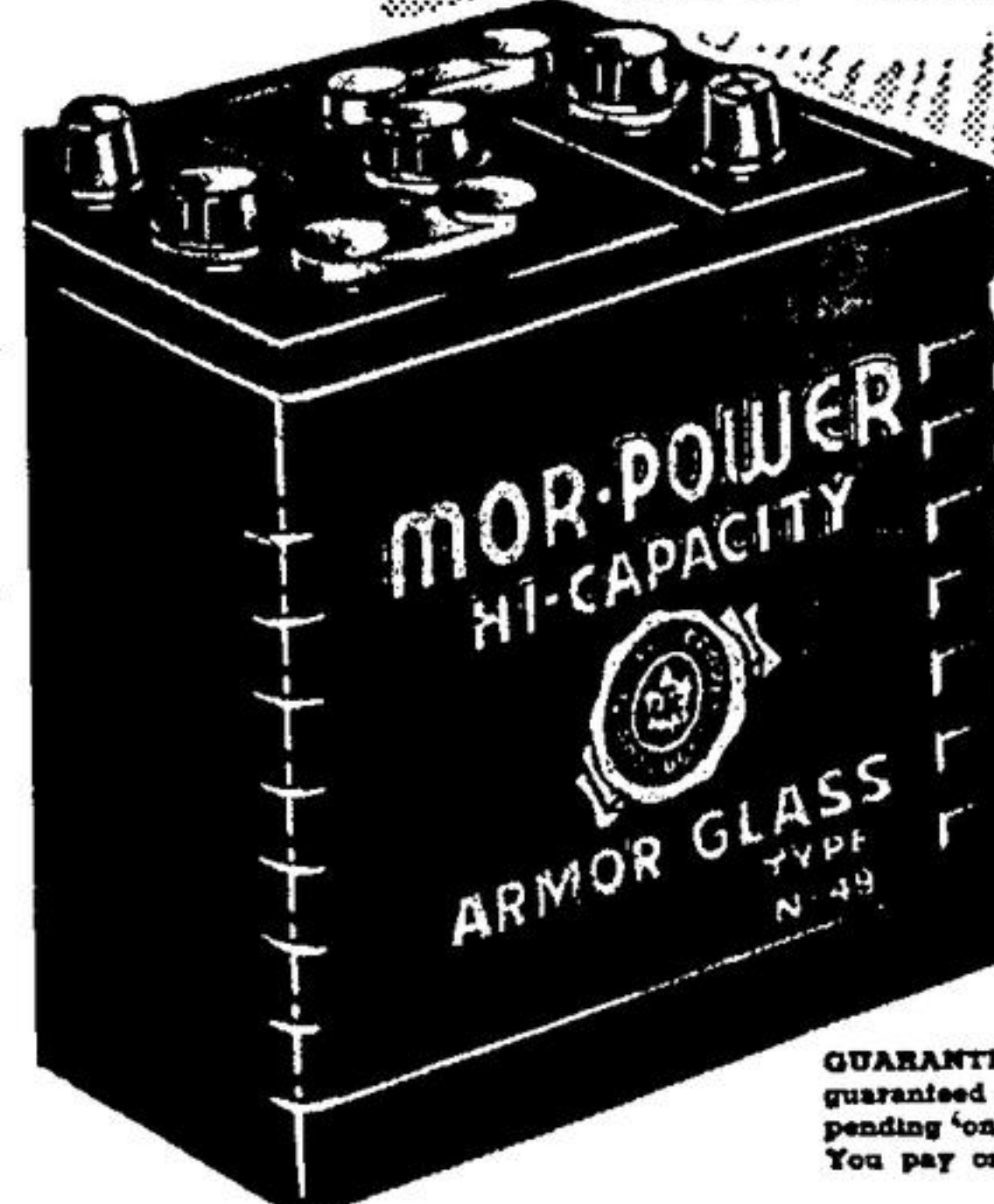
In the finals which will be held at the Ontario Agricultural College on Friday, March 16th, Halton debaters will be pitted against Carleton County. The subject on this occasion will

be "Resolved that the problem of low incomes in agriculture can be met by government research and extension aimed at lowering costs of production than by a policy of price support."

When the debating series commenced last fall sixteen counties with a total of sixty-four rural young people participating, were in action. In advancing to the final round, Halton's debating quartette has won over Waterloo, Lincoln and Lambton. The big battle is still ahead and the Carleton teams have won quite a reputation for themselves by the ease with which they have won over their opponents to date. However Halton's quartette of Roy Ford, George Greenlees, Mac Sprowl and Lloyd Vivian will take a lot of beating, and win or lose Halton may well be proud of these young men.

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