

THE GEORGETOWN HERALD

Georgetown, Ontario, Wednesday, February 8th, 1956

SECOND SECTION

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Chatting . . .

with M. H. B.

● **LAST WEEK** I promised to tell you about our neighbouring village of Stewarttown as it was in the year 1877, the year the Historical Atlas of Halton was published. I thought you might be interested as a follow-up from the original township minutes we talked about in last week's Chatting.

Before beginning, might I say that every time we go thru' the village, be it spring, summer, winter or fall, I wish that I were an artist. With its houses clustered in the valley and on the sides of the steep hills by which you enter and leave the village the mill pond overflowing into the waterfall, and the swift running stream which cuts across the heart of the village — it shatters not by which route you approach the village, it has a picturesque beauty. The same can be said of our other neighbours as well — Glen Williams and Limehouse:

● **HOWEVER TO GO BACK** to the Halton Atlas, it tells us that "Stewarttown is the oldest village in the county and before the building of the Grand Trunk Railway, did a very considerable trade. The construction of the railway was the chief cause of its decline, in the year 1877, together with the fact that a former owner of the mills here was a non-resident. This and other untoward circumstances was the cause of the removal of the trade to Georgetown . . .

There are, however, strong indications of returning prosperity, and the village is likely again to become one of the most flourishing in the township. The population is over 200, and increasing. The mills have become the property of Messrs. Lawson Bros. They have recently erected a steam saw mill and intend putting up a steam shingle mill immediately. The flour mill is situated on the west branch of the river Credit. (Steam is also to be added here at once.) It is estimated that two million feet of lumber will be manufactured here this season, besides a large quantity of shingles. Number of hands employed by them, about 20 . . .

Captain Johnson has also a saw and shingle mill constantly running, and employs 10 hands. David Cross, Esq. has an extensive tannery, which turns out annually a large and superior quality of leather, which, together with his hop farm, gives employment to a considerable number . . . "Edward Nixon, saddle and harness maker, is doing a lucrative business, and is largely patronized. Henry Tost, builder, has quite a reputation in his line. Thomas Bell, blacksmith, is also doing a good business. This village is the capital of the township, and it has been the seat of the local legislative body, viz., the township council, since 1850 . . .

● **IT CONTAINS A** large two-story brick schoolhouse, with two departments, two churches, namely, Church of England and Wesleyan Methodist, the most commodious public hall in the township, a drill shed, and is the headquarters of No. 2 Company, under command of Captain Appelbe . . . Here also are situated a Grangers' Lodge, and Orange Lodge also a lodge of Good Templars. The post office, is called Esquesing and was the first established in the township" . . .

● **JUST INCIDENTAL** to delving into some of these old records of our countryside, it struck me that I had never realized before what pretty names the early settlers had chosen for many of their settlements, or landmarks. The larger communities have of course, more staid sounding names, but I like the sound of names like Silvercreek, Dolly Varden, Belfountain, Blue Mountain, Silverwood, Limehouse, Ashgrove, Hungry Hollow, and Hickory Falls, to name but a few that come easily to mind . . . The sound of addresses in the British Isles had always intrigued me, but until I saw the names of places in our own neighbourhood out of the news contexts in which we are accustomed to seeing them, I hadn't realized we have some that are just as pretty . . .

● **PERHAPS OUR NEW** Canadians from so many distant lands experience a similar feeling when they're transplanted to a new country. Suddenly they find their homeland customs are thrown into relief, thus gaining a deeper significance for them. And quite frequently the new Canadians can enrich the lives of those they come in contact with by passing bits of their customs and culture along to us . . .

● **AN EXAMPLE** of this took place at the banquet held by the Business and Professional Women's Club to mark their "International Night" a couple of weeks ago. Held in the Royal York in Toronto, one of the members from Georgetown who attended told me each guest at the head table received a wooden dessert spoon, beautifully hand-painted. They were made for the banquet by 2 members of the club whose homeland was Hungary . . .

The idea of giving painted wooden spoons originated in their native land where it is customary for the farm family to take their produce to market. Remaining away for the whole day, someone had to stay home to look after the farm, so the family usually brought a gift home to the member who had kept the home fires burning. Most of the farm folk did not have much money to spend on gifts, so a prettily painted wooden spoon was most frequently chosen as the gift. Thus the Hungarian members thought the painted wooden spoons would be a nice souvenir for the guests to take back to a member of their family whom they left at home in order to be present at the banquet.

● **PERHAPS THE MOST** impressive part of International Night was the candle-lighting ceremony, when each country in which there is a Professional and Businesswomen's Club, is represented by a candle. There were twenty-one candles, and they were all lit except three — those representing Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia. In these countries behind the Iron Curtain there is a death penalty for women who belong to such an organization. . . . Guest speaker for the occasion was an Englishwoman, Mary Kathleen Graham, MBE, who is deputy consul for New York. Other distinguished guests included the American consul and his wife the English trade commissioner and his wife, as well as a representative of the provincial government and the city of Toronto . . .

● **INTERNATIONAL THINGS** like club and sports all help to bind countries closer together, and that is all to the good. Just recently, the main international interest, outside of politics of course, is the progress of our Dutchmen hockey team in the Olympics in Europe. In view of the fact that several team members have also played hockey locally, we were even more intensely interested. . . . Pursuing the subject a little bit farther, a couple of weeks ago I read

in the Fergus News-Record that they considered the best story of the week as coming from another paper, the Kitchener-Waterloo Record. It concerned Don Rope, a member of the Dutchmen hockey team. . . . The team left Kitchener on Sunday morning to go by bus to Malton and fly from there to Scotland. Don lives in Galt. He was missing when the bus was ready to leave. It seems he set the alarm clock so that he would be up early on that important day, but he slept so soundly he never

heard the alarm. A neighbour woman saw his car still in front of his house after he was supposed to be away, so she went to the house and awakened him. He caught the bus at Breslau . . . I agree with editor Hugh Templin who says he can't understand how anybody could oversleep on the morning he was to fly to Europe. One of the News-Record office staff offered an explanation — the excitement may have kept him awake all the early part of the night and he was just catching up after he got to sleep.

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ONTARIO FUEL BOARD

IN THE MATTER OF the Municipal Franchises Act, Chapter 249, R.S.O. 1950, Section 8, as amended, and

IN THE MATTER OF applications by The United Suburban Gas Company Limited for certificates of public convenience and necessity to construct works and to supply natural gas to the inhabitants of the undermentioned municipalities.

Corporation of the Town of Acton.
Corporation of the Town of Milton.
Corporation of the Town of Georgetown.

NOTICE OF HEARING

Ontario Fuel Board hereby appoints Monday, the 20th day of February, 1956 at 10 o'clock in the forenoon at the Municipal Hall, Acton, Ontario, for the hearing of the above applications and all persons interested therein.

Copies of the respective applications may be inspected and further particulars obtained at the office of the Clerks of each of the above municipalities, the Applicant, the Solicitors for the Applicant, Messrs. Walsh, Evans and Philip, 42 James St. South, Hamilton, Ontario, or at the office of the Ontario Fuel Board, 600 University Avenue, Toronto, Ontario.

DATED at Toronto this 31st day of January, 1956.

ONTARIO FUEL BOARD

A. R. Crozier, Chairman
W. R. Howard, Commissioner. 2-8

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