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Chatting...

with M. H. B.

IN EVERY BIG community project there are a lot of behind-the-scenes workers who, more often than not, never get any public recognition for their help. Chatting with John Ord who is helping spearhead the drive for a hospital in Georgetown, he mentioned how hard the committee in charge of distributing tickets for the lucky draw on the new house, is working these days. The ladies who are more than filling their spare time with this work for the building of a hospital include Mrs. Bill Hamilton, Mrs. Joe Emmerman, Mrs. Bob Barber, Mrs. George Hewson, Mrs. Muriel Adams, Mrs. Win Wallace, Marion Robinson, and Mrs. Art Scott... Various organizations are taking an interest in distributing the tickets as well, such as the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Boy Scouts, the ladies of Holy Cross Church, Rebekah Lodge, the Local Council of Women, the Business and Professional Women's Club, and the Countess of Strathmore Chapter, I.O. D.E. The teenagers are solidly behind the hospital campaign too, thru their Club Midtown organization. Donna Bennett represents the young people who are playing a big part in the May 21st celebration. They are planning a fashion show with teenagers from the local and out-of-town high schools participating, as well as a square dancing contest. They will have a quartette, too, which will lead the community singing in the evening's program.

THE HOSPITAL Campaign Committee are full of enthusiasm and optimism for their project. With the cooperation of everyone, they are confident that Georgetown can fulfill its long felt need of a hospital of our own. They have been given a grand start with the donation of a house by Rex Heslop, on which to sell lucky draw tickets. And they received another big boost the other day, when Rex Heslop donated 10 acres on the 8th Line as the site for the hospital. The location was approved by architects and hospital consultants. This will enable the committee to have tentative blueprints drawn up which will give everyone a better idea of the goal they are striving for. It's a really worthwhile community effort in which everyone can play a part.

STILL KEEPING our chat in the field of medicine, so to speak, I was amused to read in the Orangeville Banner, that Caledon East, after being without a doctor for twenty-five years, solved the problem by making a community effort which has resulted in acquiring the services of a young Toronto doctor... Their method was unique. They organized a Chamber of Commerce which issued \$25 bonds to the residents (total population 505). This enabled them to build a house for their doctor, with office included, modern in design and worth \$30,000 in Toronto. At the end of his first year in practice the doctor will buy the house at what it cost his patients to build it. The Banner says he has a flourishing practice. Before his arrival in Caledon East, the nearest doctor had to be called from Orangeville or Bolton, both nine miles away.

NOBODY WILL DENY what busy men doctors are, but that very fact often indicates that a hobby of some kind is necessary to provide a change-of-pace. I think everyone in town knows of Dr. R. T. Paul's enthusiasm for the growing and breeding of gladioli. When they are in bloom, his gladioli garden on Main Street south is a veritable sea of beautiful blooms.

Dr. Paul also has another hobby. He collects antique guns. By antique I mean a gun must be at least a 100 years old before the Dr. is interested in acquiring it. He started his collection when he was a boy, and now has a most interesting collection of between 50 and 60 guns.

AS YOU MIGHT expect in such a collection, each item has a bit of interesting history to go with it. The oldest gun is a tiny little cannon-barrel flint-lock pistol, dating back to the early 1700's. It was found by the early settlers on the shore of Lake Simcoe. In all probability it was used by the French explorers.



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CIVIC Affairs Subject For Speech by Mayor

Monday evening, April 23rd, the friendship Circle, under the convener-ship of Mrs. Al Zeravlev, catered to the Georgetown Business and Professional Women for the monthly dinner meeting in St. John's United Church.

Mayor Jack Armstrong was the guest speaker for the evening and spoke on Civic Affairs. He explained the duties of the members of council both in county and municipal affairs, where he stated democracy has its beginning. He acknowledged the value of women in public affairs and stated that the Business and Professional Women's Club could be of great value to the municipality in several ways. The Mayor was introduced by Mrs. Mary Patterson and thanked for his very excellent speech by Mrs. Winn Wallace.

During the business portion of the meeting various reports were read. The report of the games night showed it to have been a wonderful success and it was moved that this be the large event for fund raising annually.

It was voted that \$100 be donated to the Community Swimming Pool, plus a collection of \$11.55 previously made at a meeting, and that \$25 be sent to further the work of the Elizabeth Fry society who are striving for more adequate living conditions for various types of women who are now in prison and who should actually be in hospitals for treatment. These donations were from the proceeds of the raffle at the games night.

The president, Joyce Nevitt is heart of the hospital committee and it was suggested that all members sell tickets as a group, the object to receive one of the prizes and thus have a basis to start some worthwhile project.

Mrs. Maude Bayley, 1st vice-president of the National Federation will be the speaker at the May meeting in Knox Hall on May 28th.

Joyce Nevitt, closed the meeting with the Club's Women's creed and benediction.

ANOTHER INTERESTING collection piece is a sawed-off musket. Dr. Paul dates this one at around 1746. It was one of those used in the now-famed Indian raid on Fort Michilimackinac in that year. Do you remember, in your Canadian history, the raid when the Indians were playing a seemingly innocent game of lacrosse outside the fort, with the squaws as onlookers, when one of the braves threw the ball over the walls of the fort. Rushing in to retrieve it, they ran past their squaws who handed them the guns they had been hiding under their shawls. These guns had been sawed-off so they would escape detection. The armed warriors were thus enabled to take and capture the fort.

In contrast to the musket with the end saw-off, is the old Hudson's Bay trade gun with a particularly long barrel. The reason for the length of the barrel is obvious when you realize that these guns were stood upright to measure quantity of furs-skins necessary before the Indians could barter or trade.

Another gun in the collection which has historical appeal is an old musket which was used in the Fenian Raids. It belonged to Dr. Paul's grandfather. It is the bayonet-type. Still another recalling events in Canadian history is a Mark I Enfield, used in the North-West Rebellion.

OTHER PRIZED items in the collection are an Indian trade axe—which incidentally was found in a local garden—and an Indian hammer. Dr. Paul also has a perfect flint Indian arrowhead. It is perfectly notched—an art which we cannot master today.

Another lost art is the plating of gold on steel. This work could be seen on an old Macedonian knife which Dr. Paul obtained when he was Medical Officer with the Lothian and Border Horse Regiment, on the plains of Langaza... He has several other interesting pieces collected while he was serving in the East, in addition to a Cuban machete, and a kris from Malay.

I ASKED HIM what one odd-looking specimen was, and he explained it was a German bomb from the 1st World War called a "potato masher". And it did look for all the world like one. Another quite different-looking gun was called a "pepper-pot" because the whole barrel revolves—just like you grind pepper in a pepper-grinder.

Among the collection of early rifles are two old Kentucky Squirrel Rifles which were converted from flintlocks to hammer. Dr. Paul also has quite a number of old "Muzzle-loaders" dating from 60 to 100 years ago. There were none made after the year 1900. Also dating well back is his collection of powder and shotgun horn pouches.

Quite a unique item in the collection is a wolf trap of the type used by trappers in the early 1800's. It is made of iron to hang from the branch of a tree. According to an article in a recent magazine, there are only one or two of these left in existence.

As with all true collectors, Dr. Paul is still interested in acquiring new items—or I should say "old" items for his collection. Searching for them need not take him too far from home, the area around Georgetown has yielded up many ancient Indian and early settlers' weapons and household effects. In all probability there are still many historical treasures still to be found.

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