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GEORGETOWN

Railwayman Forty Years With CNR

Edward Roy Wheeler, 61, a native of Limehouse and for forty years employed with the Canadian National Railways was buried in Greenwood cemetery here on Thursday, following funeral service at the Harold C. McClure Funeral Home.

He died at his home, 52 Kipling Rd., Hamilton on Tuesday following a three-month illness.

Mr. Wheeler was the son of the late Robert and Emma Hill Wheeler. He attended public school in Limehouse, Georgetown High School and then joined the CNR at Limehouse where the late Mr. G. T. Coo was station agent. He trained as an operator then as a switch tender, and worked in Georgetown for a number of years, then in Palmerston and for fifteen years in Hamilton.

In October, 1940 he married Hazel Marshall of Georgetown, who survives, with a sister Miss Bella Wheeler, also of Hamilton.

Friends from Hamilton, Dundas and Toronto joined local friends in paying their respects at the funeral service which was conducted by Rev. Alex Calder. Pallbearers were Angus Lawson, Harry Bailey and Andrew Mino, Georgetown; William Anderson, Guelph; Britten Currie, Dundas; and William Ballard, Hamilton.

Chatting...

with M. H. B.

● I CAN FIND ONLY one good thing to say about the May snowfall we're enduring today... its whiteness makes a nice contrast with the greening grass, and the new leaves of the spring flowers look positively brilliant against it...

● THIS IS THE KIND of day when a few cheering thoughts, if you can manage them, help a lot... I happened to be chatting with a member of Verdun Rebekah Lodge this morning, and she mentioned what a lot of pleasure the members derive from their "Unknown Friends" custom... Each member has an "unknown friend" who sends remembrance cards on special occasions, and sometimes just a "thinking of you" card at various times... They send gifts on birthdays and anniversaries, and also remember you when you are ill. The custom gives a two-fold pleasure. The recipient is always pleasantly surprised and has a lot of fun wondering who her kind friend can be, and the sender of the cards and gifts derives her enjoyment from giving without acknowledgment. Without immediate acknowledgment, at any rate...

● MEMBERS HAVE to wait a year before they discover the identity of their "unknown friend". To celebrate this occasion, the lodge holds an "Unknown Friend Banquet". The unknown friends give their final remembrances for that particular year and there is plenty of excitement as the ladies see the gift parcels at their places, knowing they contain the name of their unknown friend for the year, and yet not being able to open them until the end of the banquet... All during the year they have speculated as to who the kind donor of cards and gifts could be. Many times they are sure they have guessed the identity. But 99 times out of a hundred they are wrong...

That is because the element of surprise and secrecy is carefully preserved all thru the year. An "unknown friend" has to find devious ways to get the parcels delivered, and if she suspects that her handwriting might be recognized, she takes care to disguise it on the cards she sends. The Unknown Friend custom makes for friendlier relations all the way around... if you already know your partner, your kindness during the year helps cement

Instal Mrs. Rawson Institute President

Mrs. V. Rawson and other new officers of Georgetown Women's Institute were installed in a ceremony conducted by Mrs. Wm. T. Sinclair last Wednesday at the home of Mrs. Wm. G. Bell, 68 Main St. S.

Mrs. Rawson succeeds Mrs. Frank Petch, who was named honorary president. Other W.I. officers include: Mrs. Ernie Pearce, 1st vice-president; Miss Jean Adams, 2nd vice-president; Miss Luena Campbell, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Harold Cleave, assistant secretary-treasurer; Mrs. R. T. Paul, pianist; Mrs. Ern Thompson, assistant pianist; Mrs. Albert Livingstone, publicity; Mrs. Frank Petch, district director; Mrs. Norman Snyder, sick and shut-in convener; Mrs. Wm. T. Sinclair, Co-op insurance; Mrs. Frank Robinson, Mrs. Cecil Davidson, auditors.

Bruce Harding, local music teacher whose hobby is photography, contributed to the program, showing beautiful coloured slides he had taken around the district and in the state of Maine last summer.

Members paid their respects to Mrs. John O'Neill by observing a minute's silence for a member whose death occurred since the last meeting.

Five delegates were appointed to attend the district annual in Bethel Church on May 24th. Roll call was answered by paying fees. Mrs. Seward Wilson extended a vote of thanks to Mr. Harding for his contribution to the program and the meeting concluded with serving of lunch.

that friendship even more soundly... and if you don't know your partner very well the thoughtful remembrances during the year are never forgotten and you gain a new friend.

● THE LADIES HAVE a lot of fun with the custom throughout the year. For instance during the summer you may receive postcards from various points in the county signed "Your Unknown Friend". Then curiosity prompts you to try to find out "who went where" on their vacation... The gifts themselves range from the elaborate to quite simple ones. Thoughtfulness is the keynote of the whole idea, rather than expensiveness. There is always a great deal of excitement at the banquet as you can well imagine, with surprised laughter, and thank-you's echoing all over the hall. One little touch this year which caused some amusement was the member who received the biggest parcel of all last year, receiving the tiniest parcel of all this year...

● THE FINALE OF THE banquet is the drawing of names for next year's Unknown Friends. Again secrecy is observed because of course the whole idea is spoiled if you happen to find out who your Unknown Friend is. On the slip with the name of your partner, is her birthdate and anniversary, and this is the only definite guide you have to your giving. The rest is entirely up to the individual. Participating in the "Unknown Friend" custom is not compulsory at all for lodge members. But the majority do enter into the game with enthusiasm and pleasure. Just thinking about the happiness the unexpected remembrances and cards can bring to their recipient throughout the year strikes a cheerful note on a gray day. There, I feel better already - and what do you know - the snow has stopped and I think the sun is going to shine...

● AS EVERY GOOD housewife knows springtime is cleaning time. And many and varied are the treasures which come to light which have been set aside as worth keeping. One good housekeeper I know was sorting thru some old papers, magazines, school reports, and so on, when she came across an old MacLean's magazine. Thinking I might find it of interest she passed it along to me...

I did find it interesting too. I can't believe all those years have passed. It was the issue of October 15, 1941, when we were all involved in the war effort. Raymond Arthur Davies had written a feature article on Georgetown as performing a typical community war effort. There is a double page spread of pictures, including a shot of Main Street. There's a picture of Mrs. Harold McClure and Mrs. Wallace Thompson busily knitting for the Red Cross... One of the boys helping Lions Club President Dick Licata sort salvage after a big drive... LeRoy Dale, Q.C. and the late W. V. Grant pictured discussing the Victory Loan... a family bidding farewell to their soldier at the station... and the late Mrs. Barbara Francis reading a letter from her son Eddie serving overseas. There is also a picture of Joseph Gibbons, Mayor of Georgetown at that time. Under this picture is the caption "The war has brought prosperity, but there are no new millionaires"...

● WHEN I READ that I couldn't help but think that the magazine article is a real keepsake. Actually, Georgetown changed very little during the war. It has been the post-war period that has brought the biggest changes to our town. In fact it is changing so fast right now it is hard to keep up with it. If you have the Globe & Mail of a week ago Saturday, I'd suggest you tuck it away in a safe place. It too will become a valuable documentary on Georgetown's progress with its pictures and articles telling of our town's latest expansion in the Delrex area. Practically the whole inside section of the paper was devoted to the feature.

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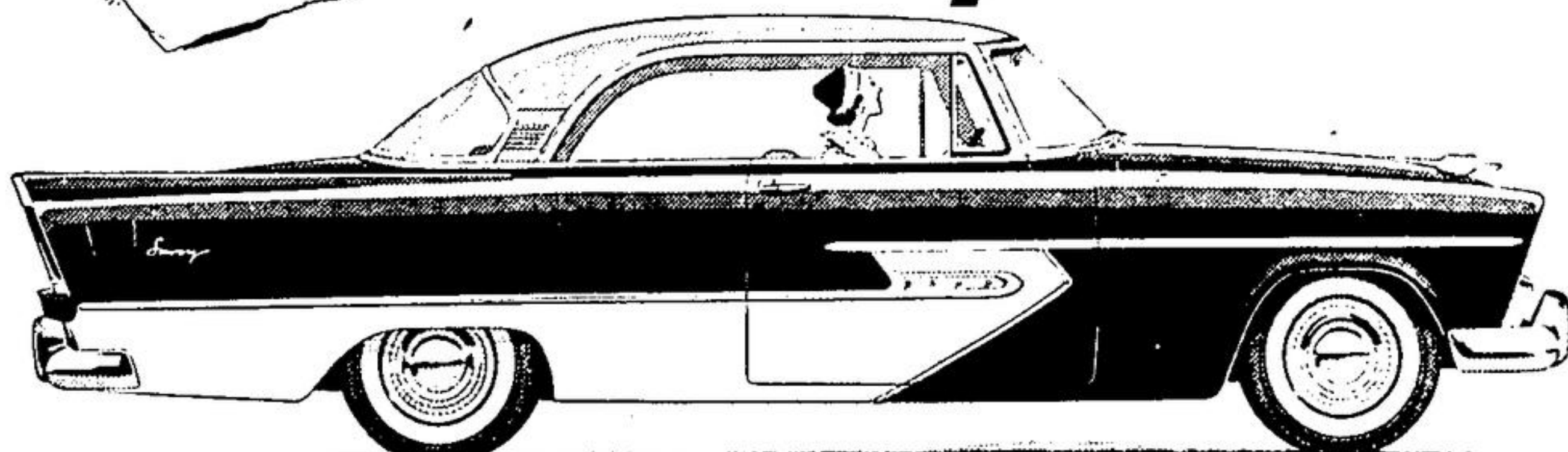
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