

Last Public Execution Gave Billy Hampshire "An Awful Feeling"

A man who witnessed an Indian burial rite in Esquimes, school at the fabulous sum of \$15 a year. For this sum he was a sheriff of Halton for 11 years, a reeve, surrogate court clerk and a county registrar, cut the ribbon to open the new Township Hall in Esquimes.

(Bill) J. L. Hampshire, a 91-year-old youngster, with a bright eye and a prodigious memory, recalled how he worked a 16-hour day on his 250-acre farm in addition to his municipal duties.



BILLY HAMPSHIRE

Mr. Hampshire was born in Fergus in 1872 and at the age of 7 months moved to an Esquimes farm about three miles south of Acton. The farm was owned by his grandfather.

His grandfather died shortly after and his estate was administered among members of the family. His father then took a 200-acre farm further down Hwy. 25, a cart track in those days and set to clearing the land of timber.

A sawmill was built near the holding which his father operated in addition to running the farm. Though little more than a child at the time, he still remembers helping to pull stumps.

"They were men in those days. My father could handle seven acres by himself in a day," he said.

He remembers as a young lad standing in a small Esquimes school yard one morning at 8 o'clock and looking over the hills towards Milton where the last public execution was being carried out before crowds of Milton townsfolk.

"It gave me an awful feeling to know that a man was saying his last words on the scaffold before the executioner's lever. It's something I've never forgotten," he said.

He later worked as a caretaker for an Esquimes public school at the fabulous sum of \$15 a year. For this sum he was a sheriff of Halton for 11 years, a reeve, surrogate court clerk and a county registrar, cut the ribbon to open the new Township Hall in Esquimes.

Five Miles on Hoof

He was made Reeve of Esquimes 43 years ago. To get to the council chambers he walked five miles there and a weary five miles back at night again. He took the shortest route to the Township Hall — along the railway tracks.

It was an understanding that as Reeve he would resign after four years — to give the other fellows a chance.

"Being reeve must be in my blood," he said. His maternal grandfather, John McNaughton was the first reeve of Esquimes in 1850. In addition, his grandfather was the second warden of Halton County. His grandfather's brother was reeve of Milton.

Mr. Hampshire's father was 92 when he died. He said, "on his mother's side of the family all had been long living people."

"Most of the McNaughtons lived over 90 years," he says. He attributes his longevity to the fact he is of a happy disposition. "I don't let things get me down."

"Of course the fact that I'm a bachelor has helped a lot."

Married men don't live longer — it only seems that way," he quipped.

He has smoked since he was 12. Although he does not recommend he has found his pipe helps him keep an even temper. Most of the women smoked pipes in his younger days. "I never women spent long hours in utter loneliness and it was one way they had of keeping their sanity," he said.

He later became sheriff of Halton County a position he held for 11 years.

He recalls that while he was sheriff, there were about three jail breaks. "One the first day I took office — I soon put a stop to that."

He then worked for a spell as clerk of the surrogate court and later as county registrar in Milton.

Mr. Hampshire has attended Boston Presbyterian Church for 80 years. "Ever since I was two years old," he said.

He has perfect hearing and can read a newspaper without the aid of glasses. "I would say my memory is fair," he added.

In his youth he said he read all the political books he could lay his hands on. "I've read Pitt, Burke, Fox in addition to reading most of the classics — Waverley novels and Dickens."

"I didn't have much education in my young days and I tried to make up for it later," said Mr. Hampshire.

Ending the interview he said — "In spite of the fact that we used to make only about 50c a day in the old days — I don't think today's people are any happier than we were."

MUNICIPALITY OF ESQUIMES

Nomination Meeting

A meeting of the Municipal Electors of the Township of Esquimes will be held in

ESQUIMES COMMUNITY HALL, STEWARTTOWN

ON

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 25th

1963, at 7:30 o'clock in the evening for the purpose of nominating candidates for the offices of REEVE, DEPUTY REEVE and COUNCILLORS for the year 1964, and three members of the School Board of Township School Area No. 1 for the year 1964-1965.

K. C. LINDSAY, Returning Officer

LET'S PLAY BRIDGE

by Bill Coats

Each week this column will bring to readers in the Georgetown district one of the hands played at the Acton Bridge Club the previous week. The hand will be discussed from the point of view of bidding, play and results.

Although the club is called the Acton Bridge Club, over 75 per cent of its members come from Georgetown. The club was formed over a year ago to promote better bridge in the area. After a most successful first season, the Acton Bridge Club became affiliated with the American Contract Bridge League. We can now issue master points to our winners and high finishers. These master points are the same as the ones won in tournaments by bridge players anywhere in North America.

Already, two of our members from Georgetown, Mike Lorusso and Earl Emmond, have won over one master point and are considered to be Junior Masters by the ACBL. The desire of every duplicate player is to accumulate 300 master points and become a Life Master.

Seven Babies Baptized Norval United Service

Norval United Church had a full church on Sunday, Nov. 17th for the baptism service of seven babies. Grandparents, aunts, uncles and other relatives were present for the service conducted by the minister, Rev. Lloyd Friel.

Babies baptized were Julie Anne, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Carney, Cheltenham; Janice Erwin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Stephen Erwin, Brampton; Mrs. Stephen Erwin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Glen Clayton, son of Mr. and Mrs. Allen Castle of RR 2, Norval; Diane Lynn, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ken Reid, RR 2, Norval; Betty Louise, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Reid, Jean Alexander of RR 2, Norval; James Kevin, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Linton (Bonnie June McMerkin) of Brampton; Gustave Erick, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Lagerquist of RR 2, Norval.

RECEIVES PIN, ROSE BOWL 35 YEARS WITH BREWERS

Charles Cocklin, Manager of the Georgetown Brewers' Retail Store, attended the Company's Quarter Century Club dinner at the Sheraton King Edward Hotel in Toronto on Monday, November 18th. Mr. Cocklin was one of 15 persons to receive his 35 year pin. He also received a sterling silver rose bowl.

He entered in the 1964 Ontario Fire Chiefs' Association province-wide poster competition early next year. The two winners of the Ontario contest will each receive a \$100 bond. One of last year's Halton contest winners, Martha Morgan of Burlington received an Honorable Mention award in the Ontario contest last year.

"The Bureau was very pleased with the entries in this year's contest," said Deputy Chief Ernie Lewis of the Georgetown Fire Department the 1963 chairman of the County Bureau. He explained the contest was conducted in all 15 town schools during the October Fire Prevention Week to help emphasize the dangers of fire to children.

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NEW BOOKS

JUNIOR BOOKS

Mystery of the Hidden Hand. Whitney. The Fish Bruna. Rise of Great Britain, 1688-1837. Unstead. Century of Change, 1937-Today. Unstead. The Circus. Bruna. A Rostet for Royal Leech; The Boy Who Listened to Everyone. Watts. Your Family. Tree. Komaiko. Hoppy Long Legs. Carter. Spricket, a Little Robot Key. The Big Game. Bishop. Circus Catch Caral. Headline. Hockey. Offiren. The Frightened Whisper. Givan. The Beaver wins. Tompkins. The Penguin Twins. Tompkins. Straps the Cat. Lewis. The Loneliest Kitten. Byrd. The Very Little Dog. Skaar. Handcar. Joe. Voss. Corky. Learns a Lesson. Ludrick. Little Elephant's Christmas. Washburne. Dumb Juan and the Bandits. Brenner. Jerry. Jake. Carrots. On Justice. Sleeping Beauty. Disney. Lassie and the Darling Rescue. Verrall. Four Little Kittens. Daly. Little Golden Book of ABC. DeWitt. Playland Pony. Weeks. The Great Big Noise. Weir. Runaway Lamb at the Country Fair. Disney. Elihu. The Musical Gnu. Simons. Hans and the Golden Flute. Hamil. Poodey. Frisky & Evans. The Forgotten Secret. Mackenzie. Heidi Spyri. The Adventures of Pinocchio. Carlin. The Gleanie Bird. Thomas. Private Pepper. Cavanah. Guther. Dearborn. Peter Pumpkin. Ott. Mr. Ferguson of the Fire Dept. MacGregor. The Runaway Angel. Welcher. Little Red Riding Hood. Jones. Smoky & His Animal Friends. Chalmers. Boat Finds a House. Verrall.

Fire Poster Prizes to South County Students

An Oakville boy and a Burlington girl have been judged winners in the 1963 Fire Prevention Poster Contest sponsored by the Halton County Fire Prevention Bureau.

Brenda Mitchell, 11, of Burlington was top girl in the contest. She entered by hand-delivered her poster to the bureau as they meet more members to carry on the work of the group.

The leaders of the boys' group of their time and talents. They take special training courses to learn how to do a better job in teaching. However, they can't carry on alone; they need the support of the parents and the support of the fire departments. It is hoped that more will attend the next Group Committee.

New officers elected for the year are President Tom Pettigall, Norval; Secretary, John McDonald, Delroy; Treasurer, Hugh Powell, Delroy.

Norval Cubs enjoyed an all-day hike and took out near Belfountain on Saturday, Nov. 16th. They were accompanied by Mr. W. Anthony, Scout leader, in place of Mrs. Anthony. The fire prevention bureau has invited representatives of all county fire departments, the Ontario Fire Marshal's office, Members of Parliament, and the contest judges from the Hamilton Fire Prevention Bureau to attend the dinner.

Mr. and Mrs. Bert Carney entertained at a family dinner at their home following the baptism of their granddaughter, Julie Anne, daughter of Mr. Carney.



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\$200	\$20.00	\$13.33	\$10.00	\$8.00	\$6.67
\$300	\$30.00	\$20.00	\$15.00	\$12.00	\$10.00
\$400	\$40.00	\$26.67	\$20.00	\$16.00	\$13.33
\$500	\$50.00	\$33.33	\$25.00	\$20.00	\$16.67

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