

He was "Mr. Skuce" or "The Inspector" to Thousands in Georgetown

In all of Halton County there were just 120 teachers to serve the educational needs of 3,000 pupils.

Georgetown had 258 pupils in 8 classrooms.

The year was 1838. The depression held full sway and it seemed education had assumed a pattern never to be changed.

Not that the majority of people desired a change. Education had followed a trend set with the passing of a "School Improvement Act" in 1871. It had established a fragmentary pattern which by 1838 had resolved itself into a system which meant that in Halton alone there were 65 school boards.

New Face

It was at this period that a young school inspector headed down from the wilds of Northern Ontario to take up a position as county schools inspector.

A report on the educational system throughout the province had just been issued. It was written by Mr. V. K. Greer, Provincial Inspector, and suggested an overhaul was long overdue.

The report took the imagination of the new county schools inspector, and he had hardly entered office before he started to expound his theories.

His name was Lorne Skuce.

For the next ten years Mr. Skuce preached a gospel of equal educational opportunities for all. At public meetings he pointed out the inequalities of a system which crammed children of all ages into a single classroom for tuition under one hard-pressed teacher.

At meetings of the various boards within the county he pleaded with trustees to delegate their responsibilities to a single board, streamlining the administration.

Worked Hard

He continued to chip the walls of prejudice until chinks appeared. It was not easy to do in one month alone he voluntarily attended 23 meetings. This on top of his routine daily work of ensuring that the system — as it existed — ran smoothly.

There were breakthroughs — and there were moments of discouragement. Like the occasions when he was stopped in the street, grabbed by the arm and told "We don't want to hear you talk about central schools again."

Then there were moments of humour. When speaking at a public meeting, the county inspector referred to education in later life by the type of the north of the province and was heckled from the audience. "Maybe they're more progressive up there!" he chided.

Old System

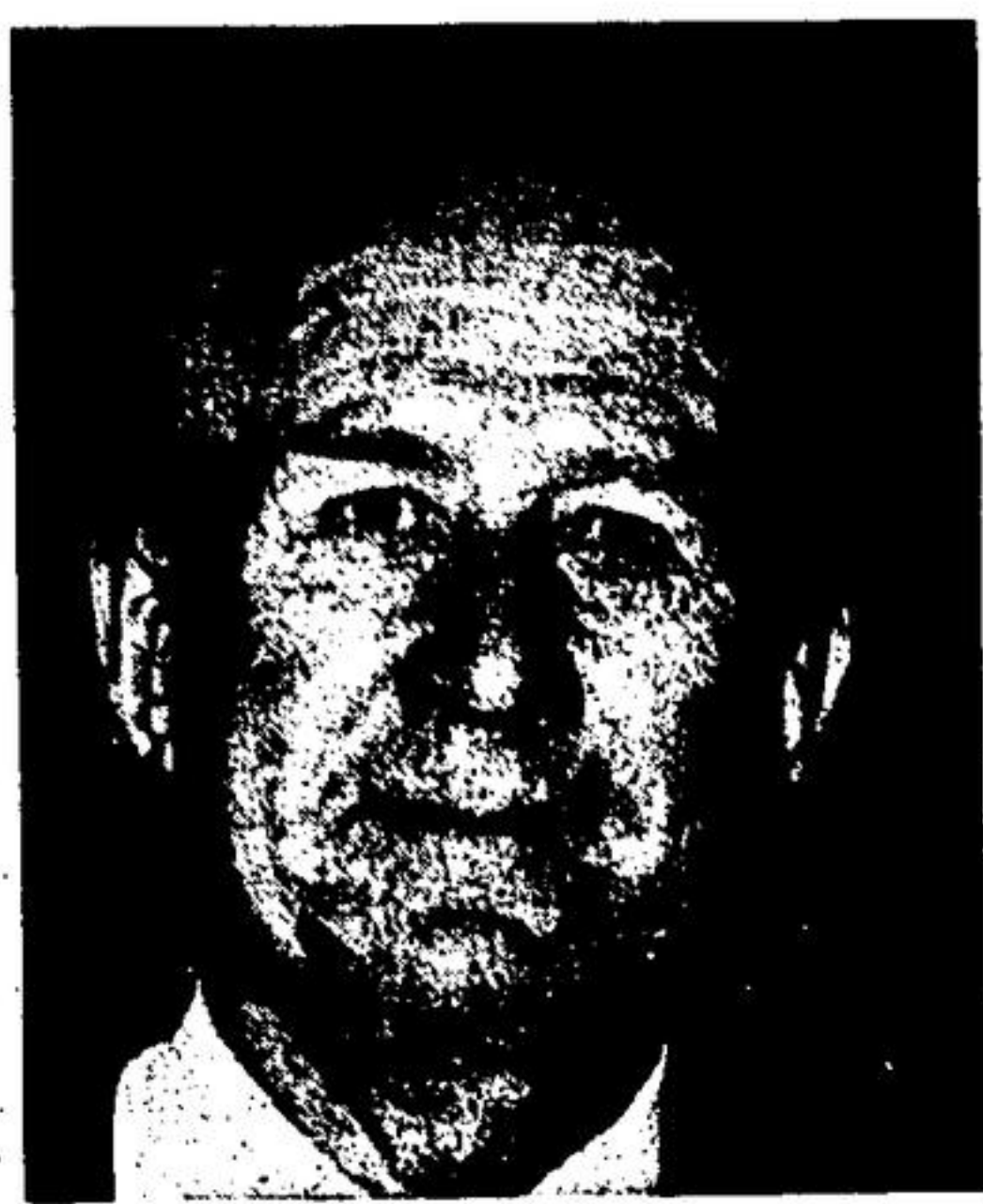
There was a personal motive of himself a product of the old system and because of it missed one year's schooling. It was perhaps this that gave him the drive to help force through the new legislation.

"One of the things I have tried to do is to see that young men's lives were not affected in later life by the type of education that happened to me," he said.

The Skuce story in local education is drawing to a close. But there are probably none in Ontario who have such a rich history to tell.

There were the 16 years he spent as teacher and inspector in the snowbound wilderness of deadwood accumulated in seven Northern Ontario where roads were almost unknown, and railroads were the threads that held outposts to civilization.

His was the task of seeing



LORNE SKUCE

Long Term

Behind him stretches a career that spans 47 years and takes in experiences which few teachers or administrators have had or can emulate.

But of all his achievements his major accomplishment is that he is apt to be modest about the efforts put into this work.

When your eye is in the office it is a time for retrospect. The system as it was then lacked uniformity, but was firmly entrenched. Under it, we could never have handled subsequent expansion when it arrived.

The measure of his success lies in cold facts. The 65 school boards have been whittled down to a sensible half-dozen. At the end of last month there were 2,666 pupils in 6 graded schools in the Georgetown municipality alone.

And all with the equal opportunity for which he fought so hard.

Used Skis

Usually he travelled to the nearest point by rail and made the final stretch on foot. In winter he pushed his way on skis over snowdrifts. Once, he recalls, he made his way triumphantly to one school by thumbing a lift on a dog team.

Not only did he inspect the schools — he helped to build them.

Mrs. William Gezzie was presented with a unique trophy and an appropriate address by Terry Harley.

The window, which has drawn much interest, uses the theme "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" and includes a Christmas tree on which each member of the staff is depicted singing the well-known carol.

A turkey buffet was served to end the evening of good fellowship. Garfield McGilguy thanked the host and hostess on behalf of the staff.

Holiday Visitors

Each year the Herald makes an intensive effort to include as many as possible holiday visitors in the annual children's Christmas tree. If you have out of town guests, specifically slanted towards newspaper people, the holiday with friends in her efforts in designing the other communities, please Herald's Christmas window — phone your news to TR 7 2201

The rail-school system, he called, "was the brainchild of Harry Payne, a CNR executive. During the depression days, hard-hit residents of the industrial south were encouraged by the government to go North where land and opportunity awaited them.

The trek North brought problems, and it was Payne who conceived the idea of "trucking" education. The beat allotted Lorne Skuce as inspector, therefore took in Parry Sound, White River and further — much further — afield.

In one tiny community the need for education inspired him to embark on a do-it-yourself program. It ended with all ten trucks completed at a total cost of \$500. That was all the cash

Hornby

Family Surprise Party For 25th Anniversary

A well known couple to all in this community were invited to a surprise party by their family at the Boyne Community Centre, in honor of their twenty-fifth wedding anniversary. Mr. and Mrs. Medford's presence were the honored guests, as well as quite surprised. The hall was beautifully decorated with pink and white streamers and wedding bells.

The eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Medford, Kathleen, made the three tiered wedding cake, which was beautifully decorated and was on a table in one corner of the hall with candles and flowers tinted with silver. There were eighty guests present, who came from Mount Hope, Campbellville, Woodstock, Georgetown, Carlisle, Ormaiz, Huron and surrounding district. Two important guests attending were Mrs. Wynne McEadden, who was the Sunday School teacher, when Mrs. Medford started her first Sunday school class, and Mrs. Myrtle Smith. The evening was spent talking over old times and dancing to the music of the Joyce's orchestra.

They were assisted in an evening their many lovely gifts by their family, after which they expressed their sincere thanks to all. A delicious lunch was served by the family including the passing of wedding cake by Hattie and Mel. A toast was made to the bride and groom by Ari Pearce, a brother of the bride and every one expressed the best of wishes for their future.

Birthday greetings to Axel Peterson on Dec. 16, to Stuart McMillan on Dec. 17, to Mrs. John Russell and Kevin Johnson celebrating on Dec. 15.

Wedding anniversary greetings to Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Howden, who are celebrating their special day on Dec. 19.

Many children from the Hornby district attended the annual Santa Claus parade on Saturday in Milton. Hornby was represented by a 1924 fire engine which was entered by Gar

Season's High Singles

Bob Russ	328
Len Ward	220
Red Roshier	212
Doug Burnell	189

Averages

Phyl Ward	605
Barb Keyce	588
Barb Keyce	270
Verna Hopkinson	260

Season's High Triples

Jean Roshier	750
Phyl Ward	633

Season's High Singles

Jean Roshier	283
Phyl Ward	289

Averages

Jean Roshier	198
Phyl Ward	173
Verna Hopkinson	168

WOOA Intermediate Standing

(as of Dec. 7th)

TEAM	P	W	L	T	Pts
Milton	7	4	2	1	9
Orangeville	5	3	1	1	7
Fergus	4	3	0	1	7
Georgetown	5	2	3	0	4
Acton	5	2	3	0	4
Cheltenham	5	1	3	1	3
Elora	3	0	3	0	0

Last Weeks Scores

Milton 8	Georgetown 5
Orangeville 7	Acton 1
Milton 7	Acton 4
Georgetown 10	Milton 5
Georgetown 4	Cheltenham 1

Hospital Bowling

Dec 9th, 1963

Team Standing

Len's Girls	65
Craig 7's	58
Shamrocks	45
Flowers	40
Bottoms Up	34
Sharpes & Flats	31

MEN

Weekly High Triples	765
Russ Stephens	719
Doug Burnell	719
Weekly High Singles	328
Russ Stephens	254
Doug Burnell	254
Season's High Triples	765
Russ Stephens	748
Len Ward	748

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GEORGETOWN * STATIONERY

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STATIONERY OFFICE SUPPLIES

Holiday Decorating Ideas Shown by Mrs. E. Pearce

The Georgetown Women's Institute met in Knox Hall on the evening of December 4th for their regular meeting, with 21 ladies present.

The president, Mrs. A. Matthews had charge of the meeting, with Mrs. Fred Armstrong as secretary in the absence of Mrs. Shields. Following the usual opening exercises the correspondence was read and dealt with.

This was the Christmas meeting, and the ladies enjoyed singing carols with Mrs. A. Newhouse accompanying on the piano.

For the program, which was "Christmas Decorations" Mrs. E. Pearce of Rosedale Floral demonstrated some novel and very lovely decorating ideas.

The ladies were given numbers, and Mrs. Kelly was the lucky winner of a lovely table centre arrangement which contained red carnations.

Thanks were expressed to all who had helped for the event. The meeting was closed and a lunch of sandwiches and Christmas cake was enjoyed.

The next regular meeting will be held on Thursday evening, January 2nd, 1964.

They were 14 ladies of euhre at the party which the institute held at Stewarttown on November 23rd. Miss Campbell and Miss Ethel Brownridge held high scores for the ladies and Mr. Cam Sinclair and Mr. Dan Livingstone had high scores for the gentlemen. Mr. and Mrs. Reg Williams won the carrying prizes and Mr. Clare Wilson was the winner of the box of

For Herald Staff Christmas Party

Members of the Herald staff held their Christmas party on Saturday at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Boehm, 26 Queen St.

The games committee, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Hastings, had planned some interesting contests, specifically slanted towards newspaper people. And the holiday with friends in her efforts in designing the other communities, please Herald's Christmas window — phone your news to TR 7 2201

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