

THE DAY BILL MET DEATH

A "medical miracle" has saved the life of a transplanted 23rd Psalm. "Yes, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil; for Thou art with me . . ."

Whitney, 12 Tyers Ave., and the late Jack Whitney, survived a struggle with death recently, occupied an entire page of the St. Petersburg, Florida, Sunday Times. Bill moved to the Sunshine state with his wife Jean, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Jennings, 16 Back St., the day after they were married in 1957.

THE DAY BILL MET DEATH

by Lorna Carroll
St. Petersburg Times

He drove across the long, long causeway, a drowning man on the brink of death. His fluid-lugged lungs refused to give him breath. He clung to the wheel, hovering in the mystic space that separated him from eternity.

For Bill Whitney was dying. It had come upon him with a little warning, this massive heart failure. At this moment he could not have named what was strangling him, choking him with fluid and blood. He was to find that out later. But right now he knew he must reach medical help soon or the world would cease to be for him.

He thought of his wife and three little sons, seeing them three against the tilting horizon. "I cannot leave them. I must not leave them," he gasped.

Later he was to say with a gentle smile, "Did you ever hear anyone recite the 23rd Psalm on the Howard Frankland Bridge? Somebody did for all of a sudden a copilot was sitting beside me. I couldn't have made it without that copilot."

By the time he staggered into his doctor's office, he was blue. The nurse caught him as he fell.

This is the dramatic episode that led to Bill Whitney's remarkable open heart surgery. Two damaged valves in his heart, the mitral and aortic, were removed and replaced by artificial ones.

Bill tells the story: "I was born in Canada 30 years ago. When I was 19, I had a severe attack of rheumatic fever and I had come upon him with a little warning, this massive heart failure. At this moment he could not have named what was strangling him, choking him with fluid and blood. He was to find that out later. But right now he knew he must reach medical help soon or the world would cease to be for him.

"I went to work for the Pittsburgh Plate Glass Co. as an inside salesman. It was pleasant work. I made many friends. They gave me moral support all through my ordeal when I was so sick."

"I opened the car vents and let the air blow in my face. I remember nothing more except seeing Jean and the boys, saying the Psalm and feeling a presence beside me."

"Had Bill obeyed his impulse to lie down, he probably never would have awakened," his doctors say. "He was drowning in his own fluids. He crossed the causeway by sheer determination. He is an amazing person."

The feeling is mutual. Bill insists that without the swift, expert medical care received in his physician's office and at the hands of cardiologists and surgeons, he would not be alive today. "They were skillful, dedicated men," he says. "They kept a 24-hour watch on me. My own doctor even gave up a holiday weekend to be on hand if I needed him."

The picture of Bill's condition had changed with the massive heart failure. Something drastic had to be done for he faced certain death. After 18 days in a St. Petersburg hospital and six weeks rest at home his physician and cardiologist sent him back to Jackson Memorial for another examination and diagnosis. Among the cou-

It seemed to be getting along fine physically. Oh, I had had heart murmurs ever since the rheumatic fever, but periodic checkups didn't reveal anything to worry about. Last October I didn't feel well, and my doctor sent me for a thorough checkup to the heart clinic at Jackson Memorial Hospital in Miami. I was told there that my heart condition at that time didn't warrant drastic treatment such as surgery."

"Then came March 3, an ordinary working day. I didn't feel up to par — had no appetite for breakfast but blamed it on the heat. I had some things to do in Tampa so I drove over there, still not feeling too good."

"It wasn't until I started back to my car that the thing hit me. I became real short of breath and my legs started to give way."

"I thought, 'What is this? What is this?' I pulled myself into the car, obsessed with one thought: to get to my own doctor in St. Petersburg. I could have beeped my horn for help, but I didn't want anyone but him. I had an impulse to lie down on the seat, but I thought, 'No if I do that, I'll pass out. I must get over that bridge!'"

Today, with the insertion of the Teflon tubes, oxygenated blood is again circulating through his body, nourishing his heart and permitting him to breathe.

What does the future hold for him? His physicians say he may expect to live a normal, useful life for many years. He will not be a cardiac cripple. Death no longer hovers over him.

Bill, remembering his tortured ride across the long, long causeway, calls it a marvelous medical miracle.

On May 16, Bill Whitney underwent open heart surgery. The damaged mitral and aortic valves which supplies pure oxygenated blood to the body were removed and teflon valves substituted. This delicate operation in demanding highest skill, lasted 4½ hours.

All he remembers of that morning is coming out of the anesthesia and hearing his surgeon ask how he felt. "Is it this easy to breathe?" he answered in wonderment. "I had forgotten."

That evening Bill sat up in bed. Two days later he walked. The stitches were removed in a week. At the end of 12 days he was discharged from the hospital to convalesce at home.

A brief resume of Bill's ordeal shows it began when he had rheumatic fever which developed into rheumatic heart disease. As in many cases of this type, the mitral and aortic valves in the left side of the heart had become narrowed and prevented proper closing. Thus fluid and blood leaked from the heart into the lungs. Not only had Bill's heart muscle collapsed from its extra work load but he was suffering from acute pulmonary edema.

Thirty-nine GDHS students went to the O'Keefe Centre, Toronto, for a student performance of the opera Macbeth recently. The lead roles were sung by Louis Quilico and Margaret Tynes. Mr. Long and Mr. Redmond of the teaching staff accompanied the students.

The students enjoyed a musical portrayal of the Shakespearean play. Although performed in Italian, it follows the original story closely. Varied ideas of staging, sets, and dramatic effects were used that helped to add the visual as well as the oral concept and understanding of the opera.

GDHS Students Hear Opera At O'Keefe

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Jaycees Are Active Club Sign Eight New Members

The Georgetown Jaycees held a successful open night at the North Halton Golf & Country Club Tuesday, October 11th, at which a total of 35 persons attended.

The evening was started by the first guest speaker, D. Gosbee, who spoke of the history of the Jaycee Movement and the beginning of Jaycees in Canada and Ontario. The president of the Georgetown unit, Allan Teeter spoke on the District Jaycees and the Georgetown Unit Jaycees, with indication of what has been accomplished in the past, what is being done at present, and what is proposed for the forthcoming centennial year.

Other members of the Georgetown Unit executive present were Connell Smith, past president; Gerald Corbett, 1st vice president; D. Fishburn, 2nd vice president; J. Jed, secretary; and L. Murdock, Director.

After Mr. Teeter's talk, the meeting was adjourned for a short coffee period, in which new prospective members had an opportunity to meet the various commission chairmen, and mix with the old members to see how the unit functions.

This was followed by guest speaker, Arthur Turner from Burlington, president of the Ontario Jaycees, who spoke on the aims and purpose of Jaycees, in which he pointed out why the Jaycees existed as such, what their function was to the community and young men, and what one could expect from joining such a fast-growing worldwide organization.

The evening ended with a general question and discussion period, with a total of 8 new members being signed into the Georgetown Unit, now bringing active membership to 43 persons.

Tells UCW of Life as Missionary in Japan

Mrs. Margaret Ridley showed slides of Japan and spoke on her life as a missionary in the far east at the Thankoffering meeting of the St. John's UCW Wednesday, October 12.

She and her husband also a missionary, and their two small children have just returned there. Mrs. Earl Lince expressed the thanks of the members for her address.

The devotional part of the meeting was conducted by Unit C. Mrs. June Evans opened with prayer, and Mrs. Kenneth McCauley read the scripture, Matthew 25, verses 14 to 30. Mrs. Stan Wright gave a meditation on 'talents'.

A quartet, Mrs. Ruth Forgrave, Mrs. Marjory Bailey, Miss Ruth Evans sang "Thanks Be To God." Mrs. A. Crichton closed this portion of the meeting with prayer.

Mrs. Doug MacLaren reminded the members to have their goods ready for a bazaar planned for November, and also welcomed two new representatives from the Presbytery, Mrs. R. Coulter and Mrs. K. Foeter.

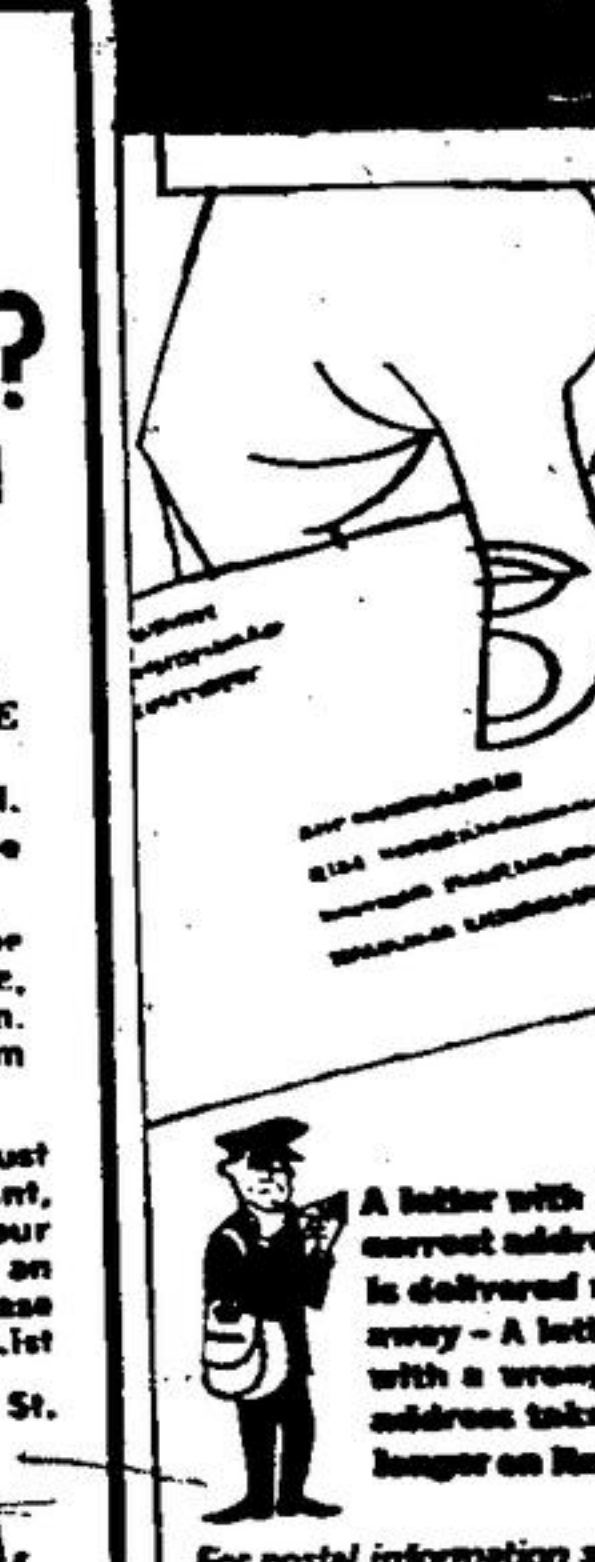
Following the benediction, lunch was served by Unit F. Mrs. Bernice Nichols expressed the appreciation of the members to the unit.

DIDN'T SHOW

TV panel moderator John Daly never at a loss for words, once had the task of explaining to a large banquet audience that a slight hitch had developed in the proceedings. "Ladies and gentlemen," intoned Daly, "the guest of honour this evening needs no introduction — he didn't show up."

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TOWN OF GEORGETOWN

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NOVEMBER 7th, 1966

TO DETERMINE IF YOUR NAME IS ON THE 1966 VOTERS' LIST, CHECK THE LISTS POSTED AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS:

CLERK'S OFFICE: Municipal Building, 34 Main St. N.
POST OFFICE, corner Guelph St. and Maple Avenue
DELREX SMOKE SHOP, Delrex Market Centre

In case of omission or corrections, enquiries may be made by telephoning or attending the Clerk's Office, 34 Main St. North, 877-0961 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Thursday and 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fridays, from October 24th, 1966, to November 7th, 1966.

To be qualified to vote at Municipal Elections, you must be 21 years of age; a British subject; an Owner or Tenant, or Wife or Husband of an Owner or Tenant, and your name must be on the Voters' List or added thereto by an appeal made within the time above mentioned. Please check now to ascertain if your name is on the Voters' List. Appeals must be filed at the Clerk's Office, 34 Main St. North, ON OR BEFORE NOVEMBER 7th, 1966.

C. G. BENHAM,
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