

Wherever He Appears Mountford Means Mirth



VINCE, DURING ONE OF HIS most enjoyable evenings, playing the fiddle to the accompaniment of 102 year old Joe Martin of Georgetown, Mrs. Hazel Glassford of Georgetown on the piano, and Fred Martin of Maple.

by Paddy Thomas
in the Brampton Times

Vince Mountford, the durable emcee-comic, as well known in Georgetown, as he is his home town of Brampton should have a slogan Mountford Manufactures Mountains of Mirth because that is the kind of con- alliteration he appreciates.

An irrepressible humorist, who couldn't resist slipping in the odd jokes during a more or less serious interview, Mr. Mountford's favourite occupation is making people laugh.

Welsh Father

His ability to entertain was discovered a long time ago. Born in England, a Shropshire lad, he came to Canada with his family when he was a lad of two.

The Mountfords settled in the Shelburne area, and being a family of 11 with a Welsh father who loved to sing — they made their own fun, and the funniest of them all was young Vince.

In both the Shelburne Public School and the Orangeville High School, Vince Mountford's ability to amuse was fully exposed in school concerts and field days — and often, when humor wasn't expected — in the classroom.

He married his most zealous critic, an Arthur girl named Ethel in 1925. "She doesn't help me with my acts, but she does keep my shirts clean," quipped Mr. Mountford, "and she certainly lets me know if I am not up to scratch — she also reports on audience reaction — and it isn't always flattering," he added with customary honesty.

No Monotony

When the Mountfords moved to Brampton, Vince used to sing with the once very well known Ed Capps Ionic Masonic Choir, and to relieve the monotony of continuous choral singing, Mr. Capps requested Mr. Mountford to perform a routine or produce a skit — and from then on — the Mountford name seemed to appear whenever there was a fall fair, ladies night, a banquet, service club "do" or benefit performance.

Mr. Mountford's talents have not been seen in the Brampton area alone — he has travelled all over Ontario, into Quebec and in the most glamorous show-biz town of all — Hollywood.

While on holiday in California with his wife and youngest son Charlie, the 2 male Mountfords decided to compete in a Hollywood Opportunity Night. They not only appeared on a televised program from the Paramount studios, they also carried away first prize — a set of the Encyclopedia Britannica each — and a gold wrist watch suitably engraved with the honor they had won.

Two Sons

The Mountfords have two sons, Al, the eldest, who is a CBC cameraman and Charlie, a professional pianist who has played with such "greats" as Oscar Peterson and Jimmie Gimmby.

Charlie is one of those remarkable musicians who play with astounding facility, the classical works of Chopin and Beethoven, through popular ballads and songs to real red hot jazz.

Charlie isn't the only musician in the family. Pop Mountford swings it on the fiddle, ukulele, banjo, piano and mouth organ and when it comes to the drums — well Ringo Starr has nothing on Vince Mountford. His favorite comic is Bob Hope and his favorite joke — Vince Mountford. He said: "You know, sometimes I only have to stand up with my silly expression on and people burst out laughing — very gratifying."

Routines

He has numerous routines, and just as many costumes to give them authenticity. He performs Irish and Scottish numbers, the blar-blah Englishman or the cockney, the Welsh Dab-bach or the man on the street who may have imbibed a little too rashly.

He has appeared with a formidable list of professional performers including Juliette, Tommy Hunter and goodness knows who else, and this year, will repeat his performance with the Tommy Hunter show during Mr. Hunter's season at the Academy Theatre, Lindsay. He will share the comic spot alternately with Gordie Tapp and Alexander Raptine Reed.

Fiddlers

Back in 1950, when Shelburne held its 114th old Tyme Fiddlers Contest, Mr. Mountford was one of the fiddlers — but for the past 16 contests, he has acted as Master of Ceremonies for this event, and this August, will mark up his 17th performance at the town now known as Fiddleville.

No matter where you go, you meet up with Mountford — he is the Steam Era Reunion at Milton the Sunnybrook Veterans Hospital, where he has appeared in many musician sponsored benefits, Lions Clubs, the Calgary Stampede, the CNE — you name it, — you will find him there, but of all the events he has appeared in, and all those to come — the one giving him the most pleasure was here in Brampton, just over a week ago, when he chaired the special night in honor of one of the town's local doctors, and a very close friend of Mr. Mountford — Dr. W. W. Bartlett.

Former M.P. Harley Now Insurance Doctor

Retired from politics after successfully winning three federal elections and spending nearly six years in Ottawa as Halton County M.P., Dr. Harry Harley of Oakville is settling down to 'civilian' life once more.

Since the end of June he has been commuting to Toronto, 5 days a week to his new job as medical officer, assessing the health of insurance prospects for the Crown Life Insurance Company. Dr. Harley describes his work as "reading cardiographs and chest x-rays" of applicants seeking life insurance. He is one of three medical officers the firm employs.

Dr. Harley admits he will miss the excitement of politics, but enjoys his new work. He announced his retirement in April after the June 25th federal election was called, leaving the door open for Liberal candidate Bud Whiting to run (and win) the seat as his successor.

For part of his three terms in parliament, the former general practitioner worked as chairman of the Commons' health and welfare committee, conducted a study on drug safety and drug prices, and studied abortion and birth control legislation. He also served as chairman of the standing committee on veterans' affairs.

Rural Hydro Rates to Be Upped in October

Ontario Hydro has announced an increase in rates to its 500,000 rural customers — the first general increase in 15 years. The new rates will be reflected in bills mailed on and after October 1, 1968.

The increase will vary from customer to customer according to classification and the amount of energy used. The average will be 9½ per cent.

A detailed explanation of the changes is being mailed to all rural customers.

As summer cottage customers are billed only twice a year the new rates will not come into effect for these consumers until after the bill for meter readings taken at the end of the 1968 season. A fixed amount is charged in the spring, and the fall bill is based on a meter reading taken late each summer.

From time to time during the 15-year period since 1953, relatively minor rate adjustments have been made to meet the changing conditions on the system. The last one was in '66

when 173,000 customers received decreases and 165,000 small increases.

Chairman George Gathercole said the increases reflect the inflationary pressure of higher costs on the Commission for equipment, supplies, property, salaries, wages and borrowing.

Mr. Gathercole said that a variety of cost-saving procedures, including automatic techniques, consolidation of work areas and promotional load building, adopted by the Commission had enabled Hydro to hold the line on rates.

"However," he said, "our rural system operated at a deficit last year, and an upward adjustment of rates is now essential."

He estimated the increases would barely meet rising costs — but should carry us through the next two years without further adjustment.

Earlier this year Ontario Hydro increased its rates to municipal electrical utilities across the province for power supplied. Urban dwellers receive power

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from the electrical utility in their community, while rural customers are served directly by Ontario Hydro.

ROSS LETTER

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operation from these officials, depicts a rather callous and sadistic approach to their duties. Therefore, I would ask you: was this closure justified?

Before concluding my report, let me just add a note of comment. All is not gloom and doom at Ross Lake. This whole complex has been a dream come true. Few of us have built castles in Spain without them come tumbling down. For the most part, my castles still remain. As I travel on the journey road of life, part of it is on the slopes of adversity, part of the

journey is on the sands of victory. Along the way we meet up with challenges, frustrations, and achievements. On this same journey, we are bound to encounter defeat. Adversity builds character. I hope I have inherited a portion of the courage of my ancestors, who were early settlers on Ross Lake farm, who must have endured many hardships along their journey of life, which would make my problem appear infinitesimal.

—Captain J. Ross

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