

Surprise party honors Rachlins' anniversaries



PARTY PLOTTER George Robertson hands anniversary plaque to Mr. and Mrs. Ben Rachlin at their surprise party Saturday. On the left is daughter Elaine, Mrs. Clarence Katz of Burlington, and on the right son Ted, a Toronto lawyer.—(Staff Photo)

Carrying a gift for a nonexistent party, Mr. and Mrs. Ben Rachlin were taken completely by surprise last Saturday evening. As they came into the curling club, friends, family and fellow merchants surrounded them to announce the surprise party in honor of their 40 years in business in Acton and 40th wedding anniversary.

They had been told by plotter Paul Nielsen it was his anniversary party, and they had a gift for him and his wife. It sat almost forgotten in the fireplace as the Rachlins were guests of honor for the evening.

Comical comments
Mrs. Rachlin was still wiping tears from her eyes as they were led to the head table for dinner to begin. Dancing, visiting and a sing-song with musicians Mrs. Frank Oakes and the mayor followed.

Mayor Doby was chairman and warden Dr. Oakes read a delightfully amusing citation which reviewed the Rachlin career in Acton, and Ethel Starkman's career before that. Her father, Jimmy Starkman ran a store where "an enterprising Dane" is now.

Plaque presented
The "victims of a plot", Ben and Ethel accepted an engraved plaque which saluted their 40th wedding anniversary and honored them for civic and business contributions.

Mrs. Rachlin went to school

here, worked in the hydro office and was secretary to lawyer Harold Farmer. Mr. and Mrs. Rachlin jointly ran clothing stores but now Ben has tightened the business up into a Mill St. jewellery store.

Amazed and amused
He is a former mayor of the town.

"I was never so fuddle duddled in my whole life," exclaimed Mr. Rachlin. "You could live in Toronto a hundred years and this would never happen."

Obituary

Edna MacArthur

After a long illness at home and as a patient in Wellesley hospital and moved to Queen Elizabeth hospital, Toronto, Miss Edna MacArthur passed away on May 18.

Born in Esqueping township on August 16, 1889, she was a daughter of the late Duncan MacArthur and Hannah E. Dron. She is survived by her sisters Mrs. Edward Green (May), Toronto, with whom she made her home, Mrs. Vernon Archer (Seena) Streetsville; brothers Clarence D. MacArthur, Welland and Fred R. MacArthur, Acton. She was predeceased by sisters and brother Mrs. Arthur Bolton (Jean) and Christina, Helen and Jack.

He thanked his wife for persuading him to settle in Acton, and went on with comical reminiscences that had the group roaring with laughter.

George Robertson, his "sheep farmer" business partner, added to the fun. Others who rose to speak, recalling happy times, particular incidents and helpfulness, were H. H. Hinton, Harry Norton, Roy Goodwin, Paul Nielsen, Joe Hurst, Jack McGeachle, Charles Leatherland, Gordon Rogvaldson and Ted Tyler Sr.

The party was arranged by friends and over 70 attended. Son Ted Rachlin, a lawyer, and his wife from Toronto, daughter Elaine and her husband Clarence

Katz of Burlington attended. (The Rachlins have three grandchildren.) Mr. and Mrs. Jack McGeachle came back from Milton for the happy event.

A letter was read from Miss M. Z. Bennett

regretting she was unable to attend.

The gift for Paul and Ella Nielsen? The Rachlins insisted the plotters keep it. And it had been the Niensens' 21st wedding anniversary May 5.

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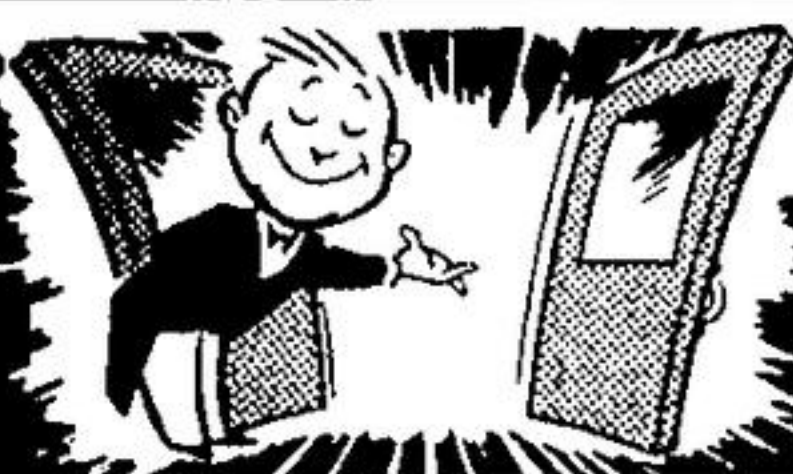
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