

Hobby cures his hang-up

Shoulder flash collection on display in Police Week

By Roy Downs
What started out as a "cure for a hang-up" has turned into a rewarding hobby for Larry Kneale of Milton OPP.

About two years ago Cpl. Kneale decided to force himself to overcome one of his own little hang-ups - he HATED having to write letters - so he started collecting police shoulder flashes from all over the world. He couldn't go everywhere collecting these pieces of police regalia, he had to sit down and write letters in order to build up the collection.

Today, he's not only profoundly cured of his "hang-up", he actually ENJOYS writing letters. And he has a fabulous collection of between 600 and 700 police shoulder flashes as well as a couple of hundred hat badges and other items of police regalia from around the world.

Some in store
Most of Cpl. Kneale's collection is on display this week at the Milton OPP headquarters on Steeles Ave. in Milton as part of Police Week celebrations. Some of his more interesting flashes, half a dozen unique police hats and some unusual foreign police regalia are on display in the window of Bus Knight's Men's Wear on Main St.

His dislike for writing letters is long forgotten now, claims Cpl.

Kneale. He especially enjoys corresponding with policemen around the continent and around the world because most of them have been so co-operative and friendly.

"Whenever I have half an hour, I type out a few letters," he explains. "Sometimes I get a bit behind with my correspondence and have to set aside half a day to get caught up." He has a fairly standard letter he sends out, asking the recipient to send him a shoulder flash. He offers to reciprocate, either with another shoulder flash or sufficient funds to cover the cost. Most either send one free or ask for an OPP flash in return - few want the cash.

He has received some unusual requests from his new-found friends around the world, such as a pair of tickets to the Calgary Stampede. Some promise to visit him if they ever come to this area. Some of his correspondents are fellow collectors who swap duplicates for some of Cpl. Kneale's duplicates.

Courtesy pays off
To date Cpl. Kneale figures he has written an average of four or five letters a day since he started his collection. He answers each reply, even if it's a negative reply - and there's a little story there too. One chief constable from the City of London police force wrote

in answer to his request for a shoulder flash, that it was impossible to send one. It was a nice letter so Cpl. Kneale wrote an extra nice note back, thanking the chief for taking the time and trouble to answer his request even though he was unable to help. A few weeks later a plate from a City of London Police constable's helmet arrived in the mail, with a letter explaining the London chief was so impressed at his polite reply he decided he could spare the helmet plate as a gift!

The collecting corporal has a complete collection of the police shoulder flashes currently in use in Ontario, all 160 of them, plus many which are no longer in use. He also has one from each of the United States' state police forces and these, along with an OPP and RCMP flash are mounted on a map of North America. Flashes from Mexico and the Canal Zone are shown on the same display.

His collection includes OPP regalia back to the 1920's, and includes one of the first cap badges the provincial police force ever issued.

On-the-spot-service
Whenever he travels, Cpl. Kneale usually comes home with some new regalia to add to his collection. He once met a sheriff in a Florida city who wasted no time answering his request for a

memento - the sheriff gave him the badge off his shirt and the cap off his head, right there on the spot.

Friends who travel are always bringing home souvenirs to add to the collection, too. Cpl. Kneale makes sure the donor gets a thank-you letter.

His helmet collection includes several from Great Britain, one from West Germany, a Bavarian cap, a white pith helmet from the Bahamas and a motorcycle patrolman's helmet from California.

The shoulder flashes, mounted on half a dozen large display boards in patterns or groupings, include items from Japan, Vietnam, Thailand, India, Pakistan, Great Britain, Scandinavia, Africa, Israel, Palestine, Italy and USSR. He has several from South American countries and most areas of Europe are covered in the colorful collection of shoulder patches.

From Russia
One of the more rare pieces is a flash from the KGB, the Russian security police.

Cpl. Kneale says the variety of shoulder flashes now in use in Ontario will some day disappear, to be blended into one common style that would be standard across the province. When that happens, his complete collection of Ontario flashes will be more valuable to him.

Asked to place a value on his collection, the corporal modestly replied he preferred not to figure it out. It would be hard to estimate the dollar value and he's not interested anyway, because the collection means a lot more to him than dollars and cents.

"This is not any marathon, just a leisure hobby, but it is certainly interesting," he said. "It sure helped me get over my hang-up about correspondence. And I found it to be most rewarding in the friendship you find between police officers in all parts of the world."



Ebenezer Baptisms on Mother's Day

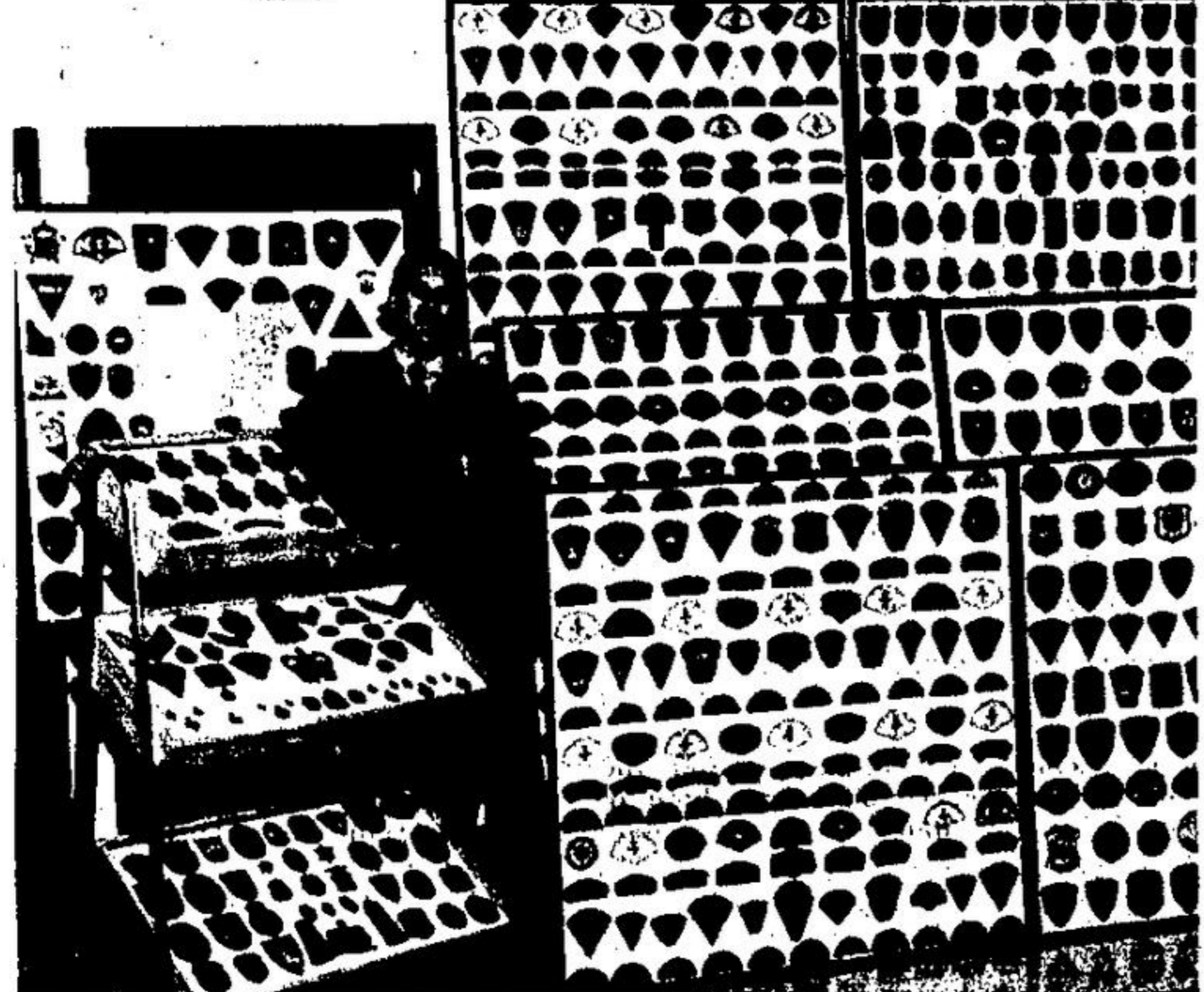
By Mrs. Ron McLean
Next Sunday, May 20, at 7:30, Betty Griffiths will be the speaker at a special anniversary service, commemorating 150 years since services were first held in the community. Mrs. Griffiths is the widow of the late Rev. Ken Griffiths, a former Ebenezer minister. She is to be ordained as a United Church minister on the following Sunday. A social time is planned after the service.

Mother's Day
14 year old Sandra Early presided at the organ on Mother's Day. Jocelyn MacMillan and Sandra Ashton sang Happiness is.

Corrie-Lynn Susan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Murray Fatt, and John Douglas, son of Mr. and Mrs. John McLean were baptized.

Mr. Finley's topic was Home Again. He stressed that it is impossible for adults to go home, as, when one is grown, childhood things take on a different aspect.

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SHOULDER FLASHES from police forces around the world make an interesting and rewarding hobby for Cpl. Larry Kneale of Milton OPP. His collection of between 600 and 700 shoulder flashes, about 200 cap badges and miscellaneous other police regalia is on display this week at the Milton OPP detachment headquarters in Milton, as part of Police Week celebrations. (Photo by R. Downs)

GUNSMITH Harley Lampman of Caistor Centre checks out a Savage 250 rifle, part of the collection of antique arms belonging to Graham Johnson of Stoney Creek. The Johnson family including wife Judy and son John attended Sunday's Halton Antique Arms Association show in the community centre.

(D. Gibbons photo)

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WHO's name executive

First executive was elected at the meeting of the Georgetown Y's Adult Handicapped and Friends club May 3 at Harrison school. Jim Murphy was elected Boss No. 1, Eric Balkind Boss No. 2, Sandy Symmes and Jack Wilde secretary-treasurer. The group also underwent a change of name. They are now the WHO's - a short form for the phrase We Help Ourselves.

A rousing card-playing tournament and refreshments followed the business session.

The WHO's hope to provide their members with varied social activities combined with outlets for community service projects. The next meeting is May 17 at Harrison school. Information may be obtained from Peggy Balkind, 23 Charles St., Georgetown.

OUR READERS WRITE:

Chairman clarifies ball park remarks

Eden Mills, Ont.

To The Editor:
I wish to correct the report given in this week's Free Press on the proceedings of the Eramosa Recreation Committee.

A motion was put that the committee recommend to the township council that the four lots adjacent to the Rockwood ball park be purchased for \$15,000. I did not support the motion because I felt the money would be better spent on another ball park to replace the one lost with the sale of the Four Corners school.

I did not suggest that the money be spent on the Eden Mills park, which is quite adequate in size, and was not cleared up by the SWEEP program last year. I did, however, point out that there is park land available within Eden Mills which has river frontage that could possibly be bought for a lot less than \$15,000, and if such funds were available to the township, then such alternatives should be considered.

Yours faithfully,
Rodney Bell,
Chmn. Eramosa Recreation Comm.

Show prizes to Halton

Holsteins owned by M. D. Wingrove of Campbellville and Jeffrey Nurse of Georgetown were in the prize money at the Ontario Holstein Spring Show at Stratford recently.

Some 272 animals were paraded by 78 exhibitors before a capacity crowd of close to 1,500 people, many from foreign countries.

A Wingrove entry won the bull calf class while Nurse's entries took third in senior get-of-sire and four-year-old heifer in milk classes.

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