When it comes to collecting old documents, the differences between men and

women stand out. So says Hugh MacMillan, Ontario's only full time collector of old documents for the Archives of Ontario.

MacMillan, who has had · the job for 14 years, told about 25 members of the Esquesing Historical Society Monday that women, especially the "tidy type", are more likely . to throw valuable stuff out. "Men on the other hand are more prone to collect," he

Even so, the difference persists, he sald, because women "can give you information off the top of their heads and don't rationalize as men do or think about the logic of what they tell you."

Historical societies, such as the Esquesing Historical Society, have a good role in society, MacMillan said. "Artifacts are great but in

order to do research on facts you need documents and a place to store and study

He said he came upon his unique job while he was collecting artifacts hands were not necessarily in office. good shape.

there was no one full time collecting documents for the archives in Ottawa or Toronto In the late 50s and early 60s," he said. "But the Civil Service Commission weren't about to be pioneers. . . " In creating such a post and he landed an experimental job for a year with the Archives of Ontario to look after the

newspaper collection. In his years as a document collector, MacMillan has developed two theories of manuscript collecting.

The first is that a percentage of the population had documents worth preserving and it was reasonable to assume there were thousands of others who also had documents, he said. He was a "low key mission" to make people aware their was some value in their old papers.

The second theory is that if you go about the collection of manuscripts consistently right, "the law of averages will pay off."

Both theories, however, are "untried," he said.

To assist the law of averages, MacMillan has compiled a book of names and museums and found that a lot contacts, all cross indexed, of documents in private that he calls "my portable

"I have wound up as an

"I felt it was unfortunate information broker", he said. collecting are old posters, Among the Items that he broadsides, catalogues, sheet considers valuable and worth music, newspapers and in-



structions. One item he' showed the audience was instructions for operating a Stanley Steamer, a list of 44 questions and answers.

Should documents be purchased.

\$100 a three month diary of motorcycle trip across Ontario in 1920. A collection of

material will be mixed in with most people are not prepared to sort it out when the load is destined for the trash bin.

valuable, not only from a

Documents offered by the public to the archives are not necessarily kept there forever. In some cases, a collection of letters, for instance, may be filed chronologically and bound before being returned to the owner while the archives keeps a

desired by the archives, which has "millions of documents. . . on 20 miles of shelving," a tax receipt is given or the documents are Recently, he purchased for

51 letters by John Graves Simcoe was bought for \$5,000. "Oftentimes, this sort of junk," he said, adding that

papers that you think may be Park, Ontario, M7A 2R9. The monetary point of view but 4039.



MARGUERITE MARSHALL of Sugar and Spice in Hamilton was at the Acton Public Library on Thursday demonstrating different ways and molds for chocolate Christmas goodies. Here, Marguerite paints chocolate into a Santa Claus

He can be reached at the Archives of Ontario, (77 If you've got some old Grenville Street) Queen's phone number is (416) 965-

appreciate hearing from you. township of Nassagaweya, store on Mill Street.

Pay theft

Halton Regional Police continue an investigation into the theft last week of six pay also in helping to fill the gaps Mr. MacMillan lives in a envelopes containing \$290 in history, MacMillan would log home in the former from the Home Hardware

<u>Obituary</u>

Bob Stewart Dieppe veteran Funeral service was held

Tuesday, November 21 at the Skinner and Middlebrook funeral home in Mississauga for Robert Shaw Stewart, who died in Mississauga hospital on Saturday, November 18. Mr. Stewart was born in Acton in 1906, son of principal W. H. Stewart and Mrs. Stewart. The family moved to Milton when he was 11 years of age. After graduation from Toronto Normal School, he became a teacher in 1925 with the Toronto Board of Education and his entire teaching career was in Toronto. He was vice principal at Leslie and Long Branch schools, and

He served as a Lieutenant with the Royal Regiment of Canada during World War II. He was wounded at Dieppe, his bravery cited in later accounts of the battle. He was captured and spent the following three years in a prisoner of war camp in Germany. After the war, he was presented with the French Croix de Guerre with

silver star.

principal at Queen Victoria,

Several years ago Mr. Stewart wrote a series of articles on his experiences as a prisoner-of-war, especially for the Free Press. An uncle of Kay and Dave Dills, he was a frequent visitor to town.

A cheery and enthusiastic person, he particularly enjoyed curling, lawn bowling, baseball and travelling. Mr. and Mrs. Stewart returned to Dieppe several times and made friends there. He took part in the official ceremonies there marking the 25th anniversary of the raid. He was a member of First United church Port Credit, and the Royal Military Insti-

Bruce and General Mercer schools. He retired 10 years He is survived by sister Marguerite (Mrs. Roy Brown) of Toronto and brother George of Weston, and many nleces and nephews, grand-nieces and grand-nephews. He was predeceased by his wife the former Ruth French, sisters Elsie K. and Mary Louise (Mrs. W. Sinclair) and brother William R.

> Interment was Wednesday Riverside cemetery,

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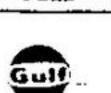
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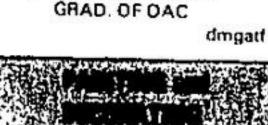
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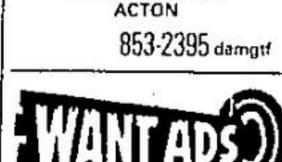
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