



BOYS AND GIRLS SWAPPING COURSES ? ? ?

Girls in the woodworking shop? Boys in the kitchen? The switcheroo puzzled Stewarttown Senior School teachers when they walked into their classrooms recently. To be precise, it was April 1.

CHATTING By Mary Biehn
One Good Reminiscence ... Leads to Another

● **WAS DELIGHTED** with reader reaction to the column about Mrs. F. R. Watson's memories of her grandfather, Mr. Search — from which I'd judge there is much interest in the early history of Georgetown.

● **ONE GOOD** thing sometimes leads to another and in this case, the column led Col. John R. Barber, of Barber and Henley Travel Agency, to do some reminiscing.

The mention of Berwick Hall on Main Street South, especially, triggered his interest. Col. Barber's father, who was also "John R.", built the mansion around the year 1880, to the specifications of the architect who designed Toronto's old City Hall.

● **COL. BARBER**, now living at 44 Market Street, not far from Berwick Hall, was born in the big house and lived there until he was eleven. One of the most vivid recollections of his boyhood is Christmas in Berwick Hall, and the towering twenty-five foot Christmas tree in the entrance hall, alight with candles. In retrospect he says, "It was a beautiful sight, but it's a wonder the place didn't burn down!"

John R. Barber Sr. was only twenty-one when he took over the management of the William Barber Brothers Paper Mill on the Credit River. Six years later he owned it. The mill was sold in 1911. Purchased by Abibi Provincial Paper Ltd., the building was sold by them when they phased out their raw-stock paper-making operations here, and the firm of Delta Craft is now operating in what was the original Barber mill.

● **RECALLING** many things he remembers and has heard about the Georgetown of

the 1914 era. Col. Barber looked across from his office on Main St. N., to where the municipal office and the Sid-Mac building now stand. He remembers when that whole area was covered with a spring-fed pond. The water was channelled under Main Street, and emerged in a flume which provided power for Clark's grist mill, located between what is now Canadian Tire and the former Beaver Lumber Co. property. The water was then discharged from the grist mill to Wilbur Park Pond in the valley below.

● **AT THAT** time, the Canadian Tire building housed one of the town's main industries, Arnold's "Glove" Factory. On the property occupied by Kentner's Lumber Company, and later by the Beaver Lumber, H. P. Lawson had built a saw mill. The Lawson mill got its power from the pond in the valley below it, which was dammed up opposite where the Water Street apartments are now located. This was the pond which was used as the town skating rink in winter. Keenly contested hockey games took place there. Spectators had to be avid fans to endure standing around outside on the ice for the duration. Only shelter was a men's dressing room on one side of the rink, and a ladies' on the other.

Another grist mill Col. Barber recalls, was at the foot of Factory Street. It was later taken down, and there are no traces of it today.

● **MR. H. P. Lawson** owned most of the valley behind his mill, which extended back to the John Street CNR culvert. When the Toronto Suburban Railroad decided to put a track through town, Wilbur Pond was drained, to allow them to construct the bridge which span-

ned Mill Street. It was at this juncture that the pond on Main Street was also drained, so that the railroad could lay their tracks. As you can imagine, the spongy spring-fed land was far from ideal for such a purpose. The tracks of ten heaved, with one side up and the other down, so that it was not too uncommon for a train engine to topple over.

● **BEFORE ANY** grist mills were built in Georgetown the local farmers had to take all their grain to Oakville. Col. Barber remembers Major Grant, a longtime resident of town and its Notary Public — grandfather of Mrs. J. Arnett Early who until this winter lived at 59 Market Street, tell of the convey they made to take their grain down the 7th Line, over the corduroy road to the mill at Oakville. In those days, it was jokingly remarked "mileage was 21 miles to the gallon."

● **ANOTHER** anecdote Col. Barber attributes to Major Grant concerns Thomas Speight, father of deputy reeve Arthur Speight. Mr. Speight ran a machine shop in Georgetown, and later established our first garage. He was a clever mechanic, who, after seeing an illustration of a bicycle in a Boston-published magazine, proceeded to build one for himself, with only the drawing as a guide. It was the model with a huge wheel in front. This was probably the first bicycle in Canada — and later when Mr. Speight added a motor to it, the bicycle became Canada's first "motor-cycle."

● **THE GEORGETOWNERS** of the 1890 era were a vital lot — it was around that time that we produced the champion lacrosse team of Canada. Team members included Dr. Frank Watson, Charles Erwin, Frank Sutton, Arthur Bradley, C. H. Barber, Charles Watson, and Robert Erwin, who was the outstanding star of the team. Undoubtedly Mr. Erwin's athletic abilities were passed along in large measure to his grandson, former N.H.L. star Bob Goldham, son of Mrs. Goldham and the late Harry Goldham of town.

● **GEORGETOWN** had electricity in the 1914 years. Its source was the H. P. Lawson power plant in Glen Williams. But the power wasn't too reliable in winter, when the generator was subject to icing over. In these frequent emergencies, they had to use big steam hoses to get the plant operating again. It was easy to tell when there was ice trouble, because the lights all over town would slowly dim as the ice coating grew thicker and thicker — and gradually brighten again as the steam hoses melted it. It was a big day in town when the power system was hooked up to the Hydro Electric.

● **AN INCIDENT** Colonel Barber mentioned concerning his grandfather, James Barber, illustrates for me, one of the reasons the young Barber brothers who emigrated with their parents from Ireland in 1822, were so successful in the "new world" . . . They had ingenuity and enterprise.

Because James Barber had built his large brick home on Mountainview Road immediately south of the railway

tracks, he became very concerned about the number of bad accidents which occurred when train men were trapped on top of freight cars as they went under the 8th Line bridge. There was not enough clearance and they were felled before they had time to realize what could happen. So James Barber contrived a safety device, which consisted of a stout rope extended from the tops of both banks on the approach to the bridge. From the rope dangled many lengths of heavily knotted cords, forming a fringe which, harmlessly striking an unwary train man, warned him of the low bridge ahead. This device was later universally adopted by the railways.

● **CHATTING WITH** another kindred spirit re Georgetown's early days, brought forth the comment that while pursuing an old document, he had noticed that this April, Buck's Fine Food store, on Mill Street, celebrated its nineteenth birthday. Established in

April, 1881, by J. M. Buck, the publication went on to compliment Mr. Buck on the high quality of his meat market, and also his civic-mindedness. As many of you know, the Buck family home is now the Sacre Coeur Rectory, high up on the hill at the corner of John and Guelph Streets.

● **READING OVER** these little sidelights on earlier days in Georgetown, it occurs to me that knowing more about the town's history lends another dimension to living here. It's a pity that we don't have more authenticated records to draw from — but that lack makes the "living memories" of our present townspeople all the more to be treasured.

University Women's Club Staging Spring Musicale

The Milton and District University Women's Club, which includes eleven members from the Georgetown area will present its third Spring Musicale in May in the main auditorium of the Ontario School for the Deaf in Milton.

The Milton Chansonettes choral group, under the direction of Mrs. Judy Hunter will be the main attraction, and a varied program is planned including everything from Bath to Britten, and folk songs to modern show tunes. For a change of pace Miss Becky Wicks will present classical piano selections, and the Wicks jazz quartet will perform.

Town Bridgers Fare Well at Royal York

Three members of Georgetown duplicate bridge club made a credible showing in competition at the big Toronto bridge tournament at the Royal York Hotel.

Wellington (Duke) Wilson, founder and director of the local club was there for the whole four days, and afternoon and evening sessions each day. Teaming with Mike Lorusso, they placed fourth and second in two of the competitions they entered.

On Sunday, Mr. Wilson, with Bill Wandel of Acton, another member of the Georgetown club, Bob Densby, of Toronto and Jim Hardy, Guelph, entered the Swiss team competition. In the afternoon session they qualified for the evening finals and were successful that night in winning four of their matches and tying two.

Last week Mr. Wilson, with Dr. Arthur Kwel of Guelph was in Toledo, Ohio, for a competition there.

BRIDGE CLUB

Fourteen tables of players competed at Georgetown duplicate bridge club last week.

There is a competition at present, with a winner to be chosen who has played with several different partners over a period of weeks, and this resulted in many new combinations that evening.

WINNERS
North-South winners — 1st, Joe Maurer and Fred Allen; 2nd Jim Koill and Bill Hamilton; 3rd Mr. and Mrs. Bob Williams; 4th Mrs. Ron Gibson and Mrs. Ron Dawson; 5th Bill Wandel and Mrs. Vi Naylor.
East-West — 1st Cam Sin-

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DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Pursuant to a resolution passed by the Municipal Council

Daylight Saving Time

will be observed in Georgetown, beginning at 2.00 a.m.

Sunday, April 25th, 1971

and ending at 2.00 a.m.

Sunday, October 31st, 1971

(12536)

Kindergarten Registrations

IN

Halton County Separate Schools

FOR SEPTEMBER, 1971

will take place according to the following schedule:

THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 1971
(Surnames A to I)

FRIDAY, APRIL 23, 1971
(Surnames M to Z)

9.30 a.m. to 11.30 a.m.
1.30 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.

Children who will be 5 years of age on, or before, the last day of February, 1972, are eligible.

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Commission on Post-Secondary Education in Ontario

PUBLIC HEARING

The Commission on Post-Secondary Education in Ontario, is holding a public hearing in

Guelph on Tuesday, April 27th, 1971

The hearing will be held at the Guelph Public Library, Meeting Room A, 100 Norfolk Street, Guelph, with sessions beginning at 2.00 p.m. and 7.30 p.m. Briefs will be presented and concerned members of the community are invited to attend to discuss, with Commissioners, the future direction of post-secondary education.

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