

Not your home 80-year-old man told

Because of a computer error an 80-year-old Georgetown man was recently told that he no longer owned his home. Many discussions and legal complications later Tom Nelle has managed to prove that he, indeed, is the owner of his home on Ontario Street but it has cost him \$27 to convince the computer of that fact.

When he didn't receive a tax bill on his property earlier this year Mr. Nelle approached the municipality's taxation department here in Georgetown. According to the records there, he was told he was not listed as the owner of the property, therefore he did not own it.

He was given at that point no other choice to straighten out the mistake but to hire a lawyer. He did so and, after a considerable period of time and a \$27 legal fee, Mr. Nelle was notified that once again he was listed as the rightful owner and therefore would have

to pay taxes on the house and land. The mistake, he was told, occurred through an error in the records of the regional assessment office.

According to Halton Hills Councillor Ern Hyde the mistake was a serious one. "My concern is not totally the \$27," Councillor Hyde told a recent council meeting. "I would rather like to know the reason why he not have received the common courtesy to be told that someone would look into it for him, instead of having to do it himself through a lawyer."

"We are not that big a town that we can turn our backs on a simple request of a taxpayer. We are here to serve the people of this town. This whole thing in my opinion has been a damn shame."

Council agreed that the town should reimburse Mr. Nelle's legal fees of \$27 as well as send a letter of apology for the situation.



ALL WRAPPED UP for Christmas Christopher Marcin wants to be mailed to his friends Helen and Mary. Norm Ward weighs him in at 35 pounds. The Georgetown Post Office is a distributing facility for the Halton area handles

mail from Terra Cotta, Cheltenham, Bolton and Campbellville and many other small villages in the area. During December they processed more than one million pieces of mail not counting the 300 bags of parcels per day.

Good Neighbors helping out

Good neighbors are a blessing at any time of year, but at Christmas they are a God send, especially if you're a friend in need. At this festive time of the year it is a little less depressing for the sick and unemployed to know that someone cares and are doing something to help.

The Georgetown Good Neighbor Service has spent the last few weeks rounding up groceries, clothes, toys and a turkey to make sure that no area family will be without a Christmas dinner and presents under the tree. Headed by Chairman Roma Timpson of McIntyre Cres., all the Georgetown and district schools, churches, service clubs, the business and professional community, the town and individual donors provided goods and funds to make this annual worthwhile community project possible.

The canned and packaged goods were donated by the school children. Each school placed baskets under a Christmas tree in the lobby and children were invited to drop a grocery item in to help make someone else's Christmas more enjoyable. The clothing and toys come from various church and ladies' groups and the money is received from service clubs and generous citizens and the town gives a sizable donation.

The fresh fruit, vegetables and the turkeys are bought locally from Blue Valley Meat Market and the IGA store. An extra gift was provided for some families of older children by Gage Stationery. The company made up several "job lot boxes" consisting of writing paper, drawing pads, school exercise books, envelopes and odds and ends.

The police and service groups packed the goods in boxes and bushel baskets and volunteers delivered the surprises to the needy families Saturday morning, which proved to many less fortunate Georgetown youngsters and their parents that there really is a Santa Claus.

Roma Timpson, chairman, and welfare officer, Tut Harrison wish to thank all of Georgetown and district folks who made the project possible and hope that their Christmas will be a little merrier knowing that they have brought yuletide cheer to someone else.

Council wants only regional police in town

Halton Hills council here supported a resolution Tuesday to replace the existing OPP forces in town with regional police units.

regional police be implemented at the earliest possible date. Presently, the town is policed by three forces, the Halton Regional Police in Georgetown, Milton OPP in

Esqueusing and the Acton OPP in Acton.

The Acton OPP have been under contract with the former town for 25-30 years, and operate with seven officers, six

are constables and one corporal.

Prior to the OPP, Acton used its own police force.

Councillor Les Dudy, former Mayor of Acton, said the council's decision Tuesday to support the resolution was based on a presentation by Halton Regional Police Chief Ken Skerrett Monday.

He said Chief Skerrett pointed out that Acton would

still have an office and a detachment of officers based in town, not in the former town of Georgetown.

"One of my greatest fears was that the police office would be closed and only a police car left in town to patrol the streets," said Councillor Dudy. "But we'll still have a police force of equal size operating in town."

Councillor Dudy added that

the regional police would have had to be phased into Acton during the next five years, under the Halton act, which governs the proceedings of the region.

"The OPP have operated with a great deal of satisfaction, and I've got no faults with them," he said. "As far as that goes, I could never see any problem with letting them stay for the next four years, but I can't see taking that time if we're not going to save any money."

The final decision to remove the OPP will be made by the Halton Regional Police Commission. The Acton OPP contract finishes on December 31, 1974.

Appointments made

Do it now, not in 1975. Halton Hills council decided they should strike while the iron was hot last Tuesday evening in naming members to four municipal committees. A suggestion that the selection of the members be held over until next year was over-ruled and council spent an hour behind closed doors deciding on their selections.

Two members will begin their three-year term on the Halton Hills Committee of Adjustment on January 1, 1975. Mrs. G. L. Douglas, 47 Fagan Dr. and Wilfred Leale, RRA Georgetown, have been named to serve on the committee.

Five members have been appointed to the recreation advisory committee for Wards three and four. Beginning their one year term on January 1 will be: Mrs. Mary McEwen, 15 Eden Place, Georgetown; Mrs. Carol McMurray, 55 Joycelyn Cres.; Mr. Brian Lewis, RR3 Georgetown; Mr. J. C. Wilder, 12 Moore Park Cres.; Mrs. Mary Simpson, 101 Rexway Drive.

Because there were no nominations received to the recreation advisory committee for Wards one and two, council decided to re-advertise.

Paul Neilson, 37 Mill St., Acton, has been nominated to a three-year term on the Halton Hills parking authority. Mrs. Evelyn Beattie, 15 Union St., Georgetown has been named to serve on the library board for three years.

"May the next year be better than this," On that optimistic note, expressed by one councillor, Halton Hills council concluded its first year of existence last Tuesday night.

Councillor Len Cox expressed the thanks of council to Mayor Tom Hill for his work during the first, hard year. Councillor Cox added, "I'm sure next year we will be able to show more support for you than we have this past year."

With that council adjourned until its first meeting of the new year on January 13, barring any special meetings to be called by Mayor Hill.

On the way to record

Twenty-six area boys have set out to make this Christmas season a bit happier for the local Cystic Fibrosis Association. The boys are engaged in a road hockey marathon which they hope will last for 96 hours and set a new world record.

The attempt on the record was started last Thursday at five o'clock on a frozen pond in front of the Richmond resident on the Eighth Line North.

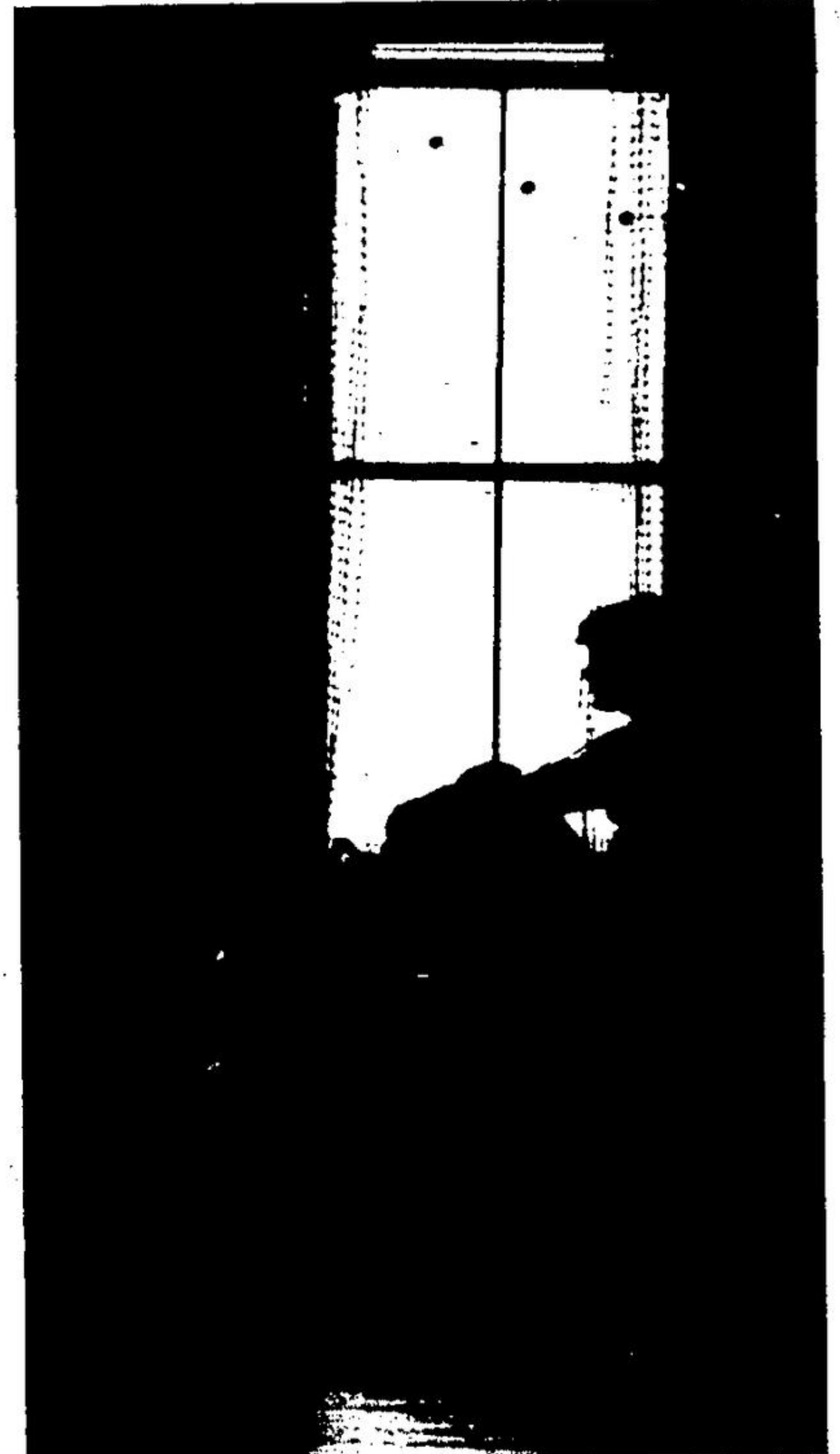
Those boys taking part include: Mike Richmond, Brad Miller, Andy Broadbent, Randy Bergeron, Tom Davies, Steve Crossman, Wayne Osborne, Paul Lehman, Bob McCandless.

Paul McCracken, Dave Patterson, Blake Emmerson, Glen Bodnar, Larry Burns, Russ Clark, Glen Tost, Doug Lamb, Tony Nightingale, Steve Waldrum, Mike Spitzer, Ron Osborne, Paul Sargent, Dan Fisher and Mike Ackroyd.

Scorers for the marathon are Rob Hatcher and Bob Hill.

The boys will be playing in six-hour shifts and the Richmond residence has been designated as official headquarters. At press time, the boys were still hard at their task.

Christmas 1974: a lonely time



CHRISTMAS IS A HAPPY TIME for some, a lonely time for others. While Georgetown families are getting together over the holiday season to renew old friendships, one young teenager will spend the day in a lonely hotel apartment; no cards, no presents, no Christmas cheer.

Wait for Christmas

About 25 Georgetown families will have to wait for Santa Claus this Christmas until Kodak Canada Limited and striking union workers iron out the differences in the seven-week strike at plants in Brampton and Toronto. The \$30 a week strike pay allotted to members of International Chemical Workers Union Local 159, is not enough to pay the rent and buy the groceries, let alone provide Christmas presents, a spokesman said. To help out union officials have distributed \$10 vouchers to shop at Dominion Stores.

The annual children's party for Kodak employees was cancelled because of the strike. Employees were told to pick up the children's gifts between the 8th and 13th. A

Kodak worker who lives in Georgetown said, "Nobody will cross the picket line and, as far as we're concerned, they can give them to the Salvation Army."

He added that a certain amount is taken from each pay to support the recreational activities of the company and so a certain amount of their own money is invested in the party and the gift, but a party would have meant crossing the picket line.

Another spokesman for the union explained they had considered holding the party elsewhere but members felt they couldn't accept it at this time.

In the meantime talks are going on in Toronto between the company and the union in an attempt to get the people back to work.



WARMING THEIR SPINITS by a roaring fire, striking Kodak members of International Chemical Workers Union, Local 159 look forward to a bleak Christmas for their families, on just \$30. a week strike pay.

Kodak cancelled the children's Christmas party and gave the employees five days to pick up the presents, but strikers passed up the presents so as not to cross the picket line.

Christmas is a time for kids. A time for giving and sharing. While many Georgetown youths will be busy this Christmas unwrapping presents, singing carols or gathering around the family table for the annual yuletide feast, one unhappy Georgetown teenager will spend the day alone, rejected in a barren hotel room. No gifts, no cards, no family Christmas cheer. Sue has presents to give and no one to give them to.

Sue would love to spend the festive season with her mom and dad and four sisters in their Georgetown home but the family have made it clear she is not welcome.

Sue left home the day after her sixteenth birthday in May, because she could no longer cope with family problems. She had hoped that by getting away on her own for awhile she and her parents and four sisters would be able to look at the situation objectively and develop a greater understanding and need for one another. As Christmas time drew near the little spark of hope grew to expectations. Sue took \$30.00 out of her meager salary she earned while working at Deltacrafts Ltd. and bought Christmas presents for mom, dad and the girls. Excitedly she called and asked when can she bring them over.

Now if this was a normal happy Christmas story the family would have received her with open arms, joyous that the miracle of Christmas had brought them all together again and they all would live happily ever after.

But this is Georgetown: Turkeytown, 1974, where miracles are scarce, if not unheard of. And when Sue asked when can I bring the presents over?

"Never. We don't want your presents."

"I ran to my hotel room and cried myself to sleep," Sue confided. "I have been going from place to place looking for someone to care for me."

Sue read the articles in the Herald about "Nobody cares in Georgetown."

She explained that she found out there were many other kids like herself who have been abandoned and will have to spend this supposedly "joyous season" in quiet sorrow.

"You were right about Mom Renahan," Sue said. "Sure all the kids go to Park's and tell her their problems. We respect her and she respects us. Most people would say, 'Scram kid, I got my own problems.' So I try not to bother her too much."

Another great place to go for comfort, says Sue is the pool hall. Most people think its rough and don't let their kids go there, but the ones who do think Rosey Routhier, the owner is the greatest guy. "He talks to the kids and even shoots pool with them sometimes just before closing time. Once you get to know the people, and the rules and the games, you have a great time. I'd rather spend my money there than on booze or dope."

Sue has been laid off from her job at Deltacrafts Furniture. Welfare is paying her rent. Christmas and the future hold no special meaning. She has expressed a desire to go back to school. "But I don't know where to start and nobody cares enough to help me figure it out. There's no point in going back to Georgetown High. Nothing would change. I would like to find a special course in something that would prepare me for a job."

But how does one go about finding the right person and the right school? Sue says, "If only parents would get a little involved, and sit down with their kids now and then it might help. I really don't know."