



TEMPORARY CHRISTMAS staff, numbering about 70, worked day and night on staggered hours to get the mail through on time for Christmas. Charlotte Corcoran operates the cancelling machine which has

stamped Georgetown on outgoing mail about a million times in the past month. The peak was December 12 when 47,050 letters went through their hands.

# One million letters later

Through hail and sleet and Christmas rush the mail must go through. And to be sure the million or more letters that have passed through the Georgetown Post Office this month got through on time for Christmas, 70 temporary employees were added to the staff.

There has been an additional load placed on local facilities this year. Besides the town mail, the postal distributing centre on Maple Ave. handles mail from 18 offices throughout the Halton and Peel regions. Working around the clock, seven days a week, employees

have handled an average of 38,000 letters and 300 bags of parcels a day during the week of December 9 to 14 reaching a peak of 47,000 pieces of mail on Thursday, of that week. "By the 15th we had it all cleared up, but after the weekend it all piled up again," said assistant postmaster, Jim Collier. "But with the additional facilities, extra trucks and 16 temporary mail carriers added to speed the Christmas mail, service is actually much quicker than usual. "Neither hail, nor sleet, or whatever that saying is," he added, "we don't say that anymore. We just get it done."



A WEEK AGO Christmas parcels were stacked higher than the windows, but, with all the extra staff the post office had, it was all cleared up by the weekend. Mike Reynolds, a student at Waterloo University spent part of his holidays sorting out the 300 bags per day of parcels.

## The cupboards may be bare

"Sooner or later the governments must take a stand. They can't sit on the fence too much longer," said Frank Wall, first vice-president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) last Tuesday in Milton. Mr. Wall was speaking to 77 members of the Halton Federation of Agriculture while presenting the OFA's land-use policies on agricultural land. "By 2010, we'll have to feed twice the amount of people we are now," he said. "In the long run, it won't be whether you have a rug or a color TV, but whether you'll have food on the table. The purpose of the land-use

policy, Mr. Wall explained, is to ensure that an adequate amount of land is kept for agricultural purposes only, by zoning farm land agricultural land permanently. Halton federation members voted 41-36 against accepting the policies. The federation has a total membership of 259. Some of the farmers felt the land-use policies were "blackmail" and would freeze their land so they could not receive a fair return when selling. "There's no way the Ontario federation can say this is what you must do," Mr. Wall said. "It's impossible to please everyone when developing a

land-use policy." The OFA policy will be presented to each agricultural federation in Ontario for a vote. Mr. Wall warned farmers that only 12.3 million acres of farmland are left in Ontario and every hour 26 acres go out of production for a total of 625 acres per day. "Let's wake up before we're in the position many other countries find themselves—without adequate food production," he said. "As Canadians, we've never realized that the lack of food can be a major problem because we've never had cupboards that are bare."



CHRISTMAS lineups at the Post Office put everybody in a holiday mood.

## United breeders hold meeting

By Henry J. Stanley  
The Halton Branch of United Breeders met Friday evening, December 6 at Ligny Hall under the chairmanship of Ken Murray, RR1 Acton, Director from Halton. Following lunch, Cliff McNeill of Goderich, President of United Breeders, brought greetings and stated that United Breeders have 150 bulls for use by their members. Data processing has been implemented in United Breeders with all bills now sent out by this method. At present there are 1.5 million doses of semen in storage at United. In the past year, United had 183,000 first services, down 1,200 from the previous year.

The Simmental breed was up some 3,000 whereas Hereford were down 3,400. Paul Mills, reporting on Halton, stated that inseminations in Halton were up 1,500 from the previous year. He reminded everyone to call the Georgetown office of United Breeders by 9:30 every morning for service. A total of \$8 million worth of private bull semen is stored at United Breeders. The new insurance rate on this is to be six cents per month per \$100.00 of semen. Delegates from Halton to the United Breeders January Meeting in Guelph on January 22nd are Jeff Nurse, Lorne Ella, H. C. Reid, Frank Opsteen, Russell Hurren, Claude Pickett, Sandy Buchanan, Clarence Ford Jr., Reford Gardhouse. Alternates are Ken Murray and Colin Marshall.

**FARM TAX**  
The Farm Tax Reduction Program, which allowed the owners of farm land a 50 per cent rebate on at least 50 per cent of the municipal taxes is being continued for the 1974 tax year. The program for 1974 was announced jointly by William A. Stewart, minister of agriculture and food, and John White, treasurer and minister of economics and inter-governmental affairs. First introduced in Ontario in 1970, the Tax Reduction Program is designed to remove some of the municipal tax pressures brought to bear on farms. Certain changes in the 1973 program will be continued for 1974. The rebate level will be maintained at 50 percent and only those owners who fill out an application form will receive the rebate. Mailing of application forms will begin the first week of December 1974. To qualify for the 1974 Farm Tax Rebate, the applicant must certify that at least 50 percent of the 1974 municipal taxes have been paid and that the current farm operation produces farm products valued at not less than \$2,000 in a normal productive year. Applications for grants may be made on or before December 31, 1975. If the assessment status of the property should change from a farm by reason of its development for residential, industrial or commercial purposes in or before 1984, the tax rebates are considered repayable by the owner at the time the property is reassessed with interest of eight percent per year. Questions on the Farm Tax Reduction Program should be directed to the subsidies branch, ministry of treasury, economics and inter-governmental affairs, 56 Wellesley Street West, Toronto.

## Halton farmers oppose OFA

Halton Federation of Agriculture President Bruce McClure says the group's executive will continue to work and support a land-use policy outlined by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA) even though the Halton membership voted against it. During a heated meeting, in Milton, last Tuesday which almost finished early when some members threatened to walk out, 41 voted to oppose the policy and 36 voted for it. The Halton federation has a total of 259 members. Mr. McClure said after the vote that he is very disappointed with the results but that the final decision on whether to adopt the policies depends on the Ontario-wide vote of farmers. "We'll (the Halton federation executive) stick with these outlines 100 per cent," he said. "We're representing the real farmers who want to make a living out of farming, not the speculators. He said certain members in the federation "want their cake and icing too." Mr. McClure added that it took at least 22 meetings before the executive was prepared to offer the

policies to the membership. "Anyone who's talking \$5,000 an acre selling price is a speculator," he said, referring to an outbreak early in the meeting when members shouted "blackmail and railroad" and indicated they felt the policies would not allow them to sell their land for a fair price. "When you go into farming, you realize you have to put up with some hardships too," he said. Mr. McClure said he felt the vote was swayed by a pressure group within the federation and the new policy was defeated because only a small segment of the membership was able to attend. **MEETING CALLED**  
The meeting was called by the Halton land-use committee to give Halton federation members a chance to vote on the land-use policies proposed by the OFA for agricultural land. Frank Wall, first vice-president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, presented the policies pointing out that with urban sprawl, "within 50 years, all the best farmland in

Ontario will be under concrete and paving." He said only 12.3 million acres of farmland exist in the province and every hour an average of 26 acres goes out of production. "An enormous rate of land is being gobbled up by people other than the farmer," he said. "There's a fierce competition for the land and it's time to take a look at the priorities and decide what we need the land for." Mr. Wall read the OFA policies outlining the six objectives which include preserving and encouraging a profitable and efficient agricultural industry; preserving high class agricultural land and allocating it for agricultural purposes; assuring an adequate supply of quality food; retaining sufficient forest cover; assuring agriculture is located on productive land; and protecting farmers from harassment. Mr. Wall said 11 recommendations have been prepared to help farmers remain in farming. He said class one and two land must be reserved for food production with special consideration given to special soils while class three land should be retained to supply the local markets. "A land-use plan isn't any good unless responsibilities are taken by the federal, provincial and area governments," he said. "Are we to provide food for exporting or just enough for ourselves? The federal government must tell the farmer its plans."

## Terra Cotta dance

On December 13, the Terra Cotta Villagers held their annual Christmas dance. As in the past the dance was a complete sellout. The ladies provided an elegant buffet and the decorating committee, headed by Mrs. Bruce Un-

derhay, outdid themselves providing some of the loveliest decorations ever. The trustees of the Terra Cotta community hall held their 50-50 draw. The first prize went to Mr. David Anderson of Terra Cotta; second prize to Mr. Larry Landborough of Terra Cotta; third to Mr. Ron Hill of Bramalea. The Villagers will hold a Valentine's Day Dance on February 14, at Creditview School.

## Obituary

### Annie Carter

A long-time Georgetown resident, Mrs. Bertha Annie Carter, died in Georgetown Memorial Hospital, December 12 at the age of 82. Born in Northampton, England, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Benjamin Timms, Mrs. Carter spent the last 61 years of her life in Georgetown. She married Joseph Herbert Carter in St. George's Anglican Church, May 7, 1914, where she was an active member. She is predeceased by her husband, Joseph, in May, 1961, and son Frank in May, 1962. Mrs. Carter is survived by three daughters, Elaine (Mrs. F. H. Esson), Campbellford; Rene (Mrs. Walter Tribble) and Pearl (Mrs. H. McCandless) Brampton; and a sister, Mrs. Charlie Blincoe, Northampton, England. She also leaves nine grandchildren and ten great grandchildren. Funeral services were held Saturday, December 14, at McClure-Jones Funeral Home, Georgetown. Interment was at Greenwood Cemetery.

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