

'Mac' types a final '30' to life at the Herald



Editor's Note: On December 6, 1975 our plant superintendent Garfield McGilvray, completed 49 years of continuous service with the Georgetown Herald. He has opted to retire at the end of January and has consented to put down a few interesting facets of newspaper work — the business he never tired of — and a few delights of the town he calls home. He writes as follows:

It's just another anniversary in the printing and publishing business. Not that we want to talk about ourselves, but after 49 years there have been many changes, both in the Herald and the town in general since we started our newspaper career in 1926.

We were a family who came to Georgetown in 1912. It was the year that Georgetown obtained its own hydro plant. My father worked for the late W. C. Anthony Hardware business and Georgetown still had some board walks (of course this is only hearsay).

We attended Chapel Street School and later Georgetown High School. It was the old structure, not the pretentious building we have today. We left our trademark on the desks and walls of a beloved old building — an average student although I sometimes wonder if our business teacher would have agreed with that.

Finishing the business course we went to the insurance office of the late Elmer C. Thompson where we also did division court work as Mr. Thompson was clerk. Barber and Henley acquired Mr. Thompson's business.

Insurance was to be our bag in the big city (it was Elmer's ambition too) but we were always fascinated with the Herald's coming off the press on Wednesday evenings as we peered through the windows.

Then one day an ad appeared. "Smart young boy wanted to learn the printing trade." We were torn between being an "insurance executive" or a "printer in Toronto" where the big money was supposed to be.

We went to see the editor, the late Joseph Moore. He was a well-respected weekly editor and a man whom we later found to be a congenial employer for whom we worked for fifteen years.

To get into the printing business in those days entailed a lot of questions and answers. They didn't want any fly-by-night apprentices, you had to be sure you would stick to the course.

We ran home and told the folks we had the job and they said "Are you sure you can stick it?"

The wages were terrific. \$5.00 a week to start, a dollar extra the next year and so on. Fortunately, we beat the scale by perseverance and a knack for something we loved from the start.

But money wasn't the only criteria in those days. We were able to support and entertain ourselves, of course we didn't pay board. We played baseball in the summer at the old reservoir park (now Churchill Crescent) and "shinney" in the winter on Burt's pond or Lawson's dam.

Sundays were always reserved for hikes,

or playing rummy in the back of Wraggette's drug store. Of course our parents weren't aware of this, but we still had fun when we rolled nickles against the wall to see who would buy the chocolate bars.

Of course we started at the bottom. Monday morning we reported for duty at 7:30. We shook down the old pot-bellied stove, took out and sifted the ashes and got the fire going to warm the place before the rest of the staff arrived. We swept the floor, something we had probably never done before. Mother wasn't so keen when we came home with our "white" shirt all covered in grease from washing down the presses with coal oil, one of our first jobs. They almost sickened me the first day.

The other boys weren't altogether kind to us the first few days. They had to show us the "type lice" which consisted of putting water in a tray, then pulling the type together as you peered to see the lice...and getting it in the face. Or going down the street to borrow the "left-handed" monkey wrench or a pair of steam to beat the static in the paper.

But we survived with the help of a fine foreman in the late C. D. Cole. He gave us the breaks and offered the encouragement to go on. He himself later went to "the big city" as did other members of the staff.

In 1926 every letter of type was set by hand individually. The linotype machine didn't arrive at the Herald until 1928. What an invention it was! Imagine setting a line of metal type at one time.

But we have lived to see the linotype machine become almost obsolete, as far as newspaper work is concerned at any rate. It has been replaced by the computer and the filming of type on photographic paper instead of metal. We are happy that we were able to have a part of this latest invention and wonder what the next 50 years will bring.

The Herald office was a small building at that time, where Henry's Clothing now stands, with the Misses Claridge Millinery Shop on the second floor.

The printing shop was on the ground floor because a fire in 1918 destroyed the plant on the second floor and the presses fell to the basement. It was rebuilt on the main floor. The Herald never missed an issue as a temporary location was set up across the street.

It was a great experience working in a small newspaper office in those days. You got to know nearly everyone in town, and the businessmen along Main Street were your friends as you helped them compose their weekly advertising...After fifty years there are not many of those businessmen left, although family names have been kept alive by their sons in some instances.

That Hyman Silver brought his family to Georgetown and opened his first store, Mr. Silver was a fine gentleman and had it not been my love for printing and newspaper trade, I might have ended up working for him at Silver's Dept. Store. His son, Sid, still carries on the business.

Sam Mackenzie of Mackenzie Lumber started in the family business about the same time we started at the Herald and over these

long years Sam has gone down one side of Main Street every morning and I the other. Sorry to break the record Sam.

We have many fond memories of our years at the Herald. The many fine people who have worked at the Herald, some for short periods during the war years, and others for many years.

I am thinking now of Walter Blehn who was owner and, later, manager, for 33 years. We worked together as a team and our disagreements could be listed on the fingers of one hand. His wife Mary was also a big help at the office when Walter was on leave during the war years.

We can recall other names of employees who served the Herald well—Reg and Art Hazelwood; Russ Wheeler and my brother Walter in the early years; the late Leslie Clark was a 35-year employee and Reg Broomhead also served a number of years.

Herb Lanan was a one-time employee as was Bruce Collins.

We remember during the war years a Mrs. McDonald who operated the linotype. She had come down from eastern Ontario and it was nice a few years ago to meet her son Jim who now resides in town.

Some old timers at the Legion will remember Joe Boley who wrote the Legion columns in those days. Another chap was Mike Gilmore who now resides in Oshawa.

Mike was deaf but could lip-read nearly everyone but me, so naturally I used up a lot of paper and pencils. We still keep in touch.

There were a number of others, but few considering the time involved. In the recent twenty years the Herald was fortunate in having employees like Dave Hastings, Myles Gilson and John McKenatas.

We haven't mentioned the office staff, but long-time employees including Mrs. Aileen Bradley, Terry Harley, Rhoda Geggie, Irene Williams, Eleanor Gunning, Marjorie Gilmer and Valerie Caruso.

Many changes have been wrought in the Herald in the last few years. New managers, editors, reporters, office staff, girls running the computers in the back shop, but the Herald continues to be a viable newspaper force in the community and we hope some of the present employees will write as I have done when their fifty years are over.

We've had the opportunity to do all phases of newspaper work, editing, writing, covering sports, composition, etc. It's been a great experience. I would not have wanted to miss it.

Editor's Note: Those of us who share Mac's love for this town and this newspaper sometimes get that strange, haunted feeling that we are not offering our efforts and our talent to an inanimate 24 pages of pictures, headlines, advertisements and news but instead we're working for a demanding boss, who once a week, 52 times a year asks "Make me the best." Her demands are great and her praise is rare.

If the Herald does indeed, hold that bit of life we often feel she has, we know that she's saying "thanks" to Mac for 49 years of faithful and fine service.

Reports from the treasurer, the Sunday School and the Guild all indicated a successful year financially and in activities.

Members elected to the Parish council were Ormie Carter, Rector's warden; George Phillips, People's warden; Fred Dobbins, Treasurer; Marie Fendley, Secretary; Barrie Cannon, delegate to the Senate; Jim Draycott, alternate delegate. Other members appointed were Mrs. Eva Burton, Charlie Coomber and Ron Sparkes.

Lunch and a fellowship hour followed the business meeting.

Bad news for Norval water

About 90 people attended the annual meeting of the Norval Community Association held in the Norval School Community Centre on Tuesday evening, January 20, with Hugh McFarlane chairman. He welcomed those present and introduced the executive.

Bob Crawford, chairman of the beautification committee, had the pleasant task of presenting the awards to the winners of the children's garden contest for growing petunias and tomatoes. A plaque and a book were presented for first place and a book for second place.

First place for growing petunias was won by Julie Cunningham, and there was a tie for second place to Diane and Lori Smith. The Moffatt family walked off with all the awards for growing tomatoes. Daryl winning first and his sisters tying for second, Terri Jane and Mary Anne.

Mr. Crawford commented on the planters of petunias placed throughout the village last summer and stated they hoped to have more of them this summer.

Mrs. Pearl Guthrie explained the advantages of incorporating the association and it was unanimously decided to incorporate the group.

Pat Patterson reported on the successful dance held in November which was well supported by the community and was enjoyed by all. It was unanimously decided to hold another dance in the spring. Mr. Patterson announced that he was so sure that this would be the decision that he had already booked the former Riviera for a spring dance on April 9, so mark your calendars now for that date.

Next on the agenda was Mrs. Marie Carney, chairman of the water committee. She introduced several guests who were present to report on the progress of water for the village. They were Bill Marshall, project manager for the ministry of the environment; Ray Cripps, manager of planning and development for Halton region; Gordon Proctor, partner in the Proctor and Redfern Engineering firm, the consulting engineers who drew up the plans for the project; Dick Howitt, Halton Hills councillor who is also on the Works Committee of the Halton region and two health inspectors from the Halton Medical Health Centre, Milton, Mr. Jim Powell and Mr. Pattullo. Also present at the meeting were Halton Hills councillors Russell Miller and George Malby.

It became apparent as the men gave their reports that water for Norval is bogged down somewhere among all the red tape that is necessary before it can become a reality. Norval Community Association had previously been assured by the ministry of the environment that the village qualified for a subsidy from the Ontario government that would pay 75 percent of the project and that it was included in the '76 budget.

surprise of the association, it was learned that it is not included in the 76-77 budget of the ministry of the environment. The residents were assured that the project is high on the priority list of Halton Council but as the '76 budget has not been set yet, other projects may be of more importance. There was no guarantee that it would be in the budget.

Mr. Marshall explained that a municipally financed plan with assistance from the provincial government had been chosen to be paid for over 30 or 40 years with the suggested charge of \$110 a year to each homeowner based on a 60- to 66-foot frontage lot. Questions could not be answered satisfactorily as no final plans have been made as yet so no definite figures could be quoted.

Mr. Proctor had a map of the plans which include an 8-inch main with smaller mains on the alleystreets and a holding tank at the top of the Georgetown hill. This will meet the fire insurance requirements and give adequate water to the village. With the installation of fire hydrants it will reduce the homeowners' fire insurance policies considerably.

All men agreed that the project was rated as a high priority but no one would go out on a limb to say anything definite. Each one was doing all he could to get the project underway as soon as possible and they agreed that several departments would have to meet together to finalize plans.

From Halton Hills council the petition went to Halton, and then to the ministry of the environment. It still has to go to the Ontario Municipal Board that rules on all municipal projects to be approved for subsidy. Norval residents would not possibly pay the whole cost of the project so much depends on the ruling from the OMB and also on the budgets.

One disillusioned ratepayer summed up the discussion by remarking "this is an exercise in futility". Another asked the question, "Is the health of the Norval people of less importance than a new building?"

Pollution of the Credit River was mentioned, some stating that they have seen the river running green quite frequently. Mr. J. Powell of the regional health dept. reported that they had conducted a survey in 1973. Of 74 wells tested, 66 percent showed pollution of varying degrees and 50 percent did not have enough water for their needs. They are willing to try to find the cause of any unusual pollution in wells if they are notified. The village people are aware that since the survey in 1973 many more wells have either gone dry or have not sufficient water.

optimistic. During a short intermission coffee was served and ratepayers had an opportunity to pay their membership fees. Tom Pettingill, chairman of the Norval School Community Centre committee, reported that his committee, with Mrs. Evelyn Hedley as secretary, were busy with plans for activities in the school and grounds. Work on an outdoor rink had already been started. Many plans have been suggested such as eueches, dances, crafts, ball games, volleyball, soccer, etc.

Mr. Pettingill explained that the school and grounds belonged to Halton Hills but

was appointed to act for two years. Mrs. Judy Pomeroy, Charlie Carney, Rev. R. Walter Ridley, and Mrs. Joan Carter. A second public meeting was set for Tuesday evening, February 17 in the Norval School Community Centre for the nominating committee to present their report and to elect the executive for 1976. This is another date to mark on your calendar now.

The annual meeting of Norval United Church was held on Sunday afternoon, January 25. Lunch followed the church worship service after which Rev. R. Walter Ridley

was chairman for the meeting and Mrs. Glenn Laidlaw was appointed secretary.

The various printed reports were given indicating an excellent year financially as well as in projects accomplished and the many activities of the groups. Reports from the executive, Elders, administration, and congregational life committees all indicated an outstanding year.

The barbecue held in June was the most successful one yet. The 50th Anniversary of the United Church in Canada celebrated in September was a high-light of the year, also the Sunday in October when about

100 members of St. Luke's United Church downtown Toronto visited here. The return visit is planned for Sunday, February 23. The Sunday School reported an excellent year both in attendance and activities enjoyed, mostly due to the enthusiasm of the teachers. The Choir report was also encouraging with new members in all three choirs and 32 members in the Junior choir.

Organist and leader of the Senior choir is Mrs. Elaine Crawford. Teen choir leaders are Terry Laidlaw and Bonnie Crawford, and leaders of the Junior choir are Mrs. Rosie Laidlaw and Mrs. Glenn Laidlaw. The U.C.W., the Couples Club and the Young Peoples all reported a busy year.

During the year the outside of the church was sandblasted, new side-walks were laid, and the driveway and parking area at the back of the church were gravelled. The results of voting for

three new Elders during January was announced; they are George Smith, Bill Laidlaw and Lloyd Laidlaw. They replace Lloyd Holloway who moved away and retiring Elders Mrs. Lawrence May and Garet Laidlaw. Mrs. Mary Crawford was re-appointed treasurer.

St. Paul's Anglican Church Guild held their annual meeting at the home of Mrs. Gordon Downey, Georgetown, on January 19. A very successful year was reported on parish events planned by the Guild, and proceeds from fund-raising projects were at an all-time high.

Plans were made for the lunch after Vestry on Sunday 25 January, for a parish ladies night to be held in the Rectory on the 5 of February, for a parish dance on the 20 of February, and for a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper. Seven boys from the 1st Norval Scout troop joined other troops from Halton Hills

on a camping weekend at Hockley Valley on Saturday and Sunday, January 24-25. Norval Scouts who braved the cold weather were Christopher and Robert Reed, David and Stephen Baillie, Bruce Youmans, Russell Hamilton, and Paul Smith, along with their leaders Brian Evans and Rob Aaron.

The boys report they had a good time pitching their tents, cooking their meals over bonfires, and even sleeping snuggled up in their sleeping bags. One Scout who experienced cold feet in his sleeping bag put on the liners

to his snow boots and then spent a comfortable night. A euchre party was held in the basement of Norval United Church on Friday evening, January 23, by the Couples Club. High score winners were Mrs. Ada Enman and Al Burke, and low prizes went to Mrs. Norine VanLeeuwen and Gordon Reid. Lunch and a social time ended the evening.

The annual Vestry meeting of St. Paul's Anglican Church, Norval, was held on Sunday evening, January 25 with Rev. R. Ruggle as chairman.

Norval News by Dorothy McLean

FINAL WEEK!

FLETCHER'S (Formerly Roos' Family Shoes)

Family Shoe Store
102 Main St. South GEORGETOWN

ALL LEATHER & VINYL
WINTER STOCK

1/3 OFF

ANNUAL GOING OUT FOR YOUR BUSINESS SALE

LUGGAGE 20% OFF & PURSES

Bonnie Stuart
Buster Brown \$10⁹⁸
Reg. to \$15 - NOW

All Regular Stock
Men's Ladies' Children's **20% OFF**

SLIPPERS 1/3 OFF

SELBY PUMPS Reg. \$32.95 Now \$20.

TUESDAY FAMILY SPECIAL

THRIFT BOX WITH FREE FIXIN'S

TUESDAY FEB. 10

When you buy a Thrift Box at the regular price of \$4.25 you get **FREE** 8 fl. oz. Salad French Fries for 3

TUESDAYS YOU SAVE \$1.15

Kentucky Fried Chicken

chicken Villa

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