

FROM 10 YEARS AGO

Little NHL — past and future as seen by Gordon Alcott

I well remember, on a cool afternoon in September, in the upstairs of the Old Town Hall, speaking to some 90 young boys, of a hockey league that I intended to organize

for the Georgetown boys. That was in 1936.

I do not need to recount the enthusiastic reception of the first Little N.H.L. by the Georgetown district hockey fans. Indeed I might say we attracted thousands of people to the Georgetown Arena who up to that time were not in the least interested in hockey. We filled the Arena every Tuesday and Thursday nights and on Main Street, the whole topic of conversation was Little N.H.L. hockey.

In fact, whereever groups of people met, you could be sure the games of the night before were being discussed and in many cases with much heat!

The object of the Little N.H.L. is to provide organized hockey for Canadian boys and to teach good sportsmanship off and on the ice.

In order to encourage the boys in their general good deportment and in their school work, a "Good Behaviour" Contract was signed by the School Teacher, the Parent and by the player.

Every boy was taken to the Maple Leaf Gardens to see an N.H.L. game during the season. Some teams were taken into the dressing rooms to meet the N.H.L. players before a game.

I think one of the highlights, was a game played at Maple Leaf Gardens, prior to an N.H.L. game, between the Toronto Maple Leafs and the New York Americans. This is the only time in the history of the Maple Leaf Gardens that such a game has been played before the "big" game.

The two teams from the Georgetown Little N.H.L. were the Maple Leafs, sponsored by the Lions Club and the New York Americans of Glen Williams.

The final series of a most successful season was played between the Maple Leafs (Lions Club) and the Montreal Canadiens (Georgetown Legion).

The best of five series went six games with Bud James scoring the only goal of the game to win the Championship for the Maple Leafs.

Little N.H.L. then was organized in Copper Cliff and it soon spread rapidly throughout Northern Ontario.

Conn Smythe thought so highly of Little N.H.L. that he told me that I could have the Maple Leaf Gardens once a year from 12 noon to 12 midnight for Minor Hockey Tournaments.

Thus was born the Minor Tournaments that are so popular today. Indeed Georgetown is famous for its weeklong tournament at Easter. Little N.H.L. is the grandaddy of all tournaments and are held at Easter in centres throughout Ontario.

In Copper Cliff the Farm Team System was started to include Junior A, (ages 8 and 9) American League (10 and 11), N.H.L. (12 and 13 years) and Little N.H.L. carried its organization into hamiets of 500 to 1,000 to cities of 500,000 to a million. There are now an estimated 50,000 boys playing Little N.H.L. hockey-far cry from the original 90 boys in Georgetown, 30 years ago!

Little N.H.L. has provided untold enjoyment for thousands of young hockey players down through those 30

years.

We are proud of the boys who have graduated from our Little N.H.L. to become stars in the N.H.L. such as Bob Goldham, Jos. Schertzel, Tod Sloan, George Armstrong, Tim Horton, Jerry Toppazzini, Sambo Bettlo, Ken Hodge, Bob Pulford, Jack Stanfield, Fred Stanfield, John Brennenman, Vic Hadfield, Bryan Watson, Jim Roberts, Jerry Cheevers.

We are also proud of the thousands of young men who have played Little N.H.L. and have now become successful

in the professional and business world.

I would like to pay tribute to the men who have acted on the Little N.H.L. executive for the past 30 years and to the coaches for their many hours of teaching young hockey

May Little N.H.L., the "Builders of Little Champions", continue to build on this firm foundation.

What the past decade has brought and what lies ahead

By Rev. Len Self

that it appeared that he and life has real purpose. ienly in Erin Ontario. In ef- he walked among us;lect, in death he gave his life for those even as he had given it to his fellow man throughout nia life.

Before his death Gordon Alcott had planned this fortleth anniversary. He had had meetings and formed his committees. These committees are the organization in charge of this anniversary.

As a tribute Gordon Alcott, the community of Halton Hills dedicated their new arena in the summer of 1975 to serve the During the years of the Georgetown area. It is called sixtles and seventies an the Gordon Alcott Memorial amazing thing has happened Arena.

be true.

thee on this day of dedication the Quebec Pee-Wee Winter of this beautiful centre, for the Carnival Tournament were the life and work of Gordon first to start. Today, tour-Wilmott Alcott. We thank thee naments are held in every age

Gordon Alcott died suddenly in Christian living and pur- However, there is one essential introduced shorter games and Little N.H.L. should always be program. in April, 1974 after returning poseful activity. He taught us difference in all these tour-rules to prevent, fighting, from a trip to Spain with his life is a game to be played. It naments from Little N.H.L. swearing and other ungenwife Jean. It was while in will have defeats, it will have Tournaments. I refer to the tlemanly acts of players and Madrid that he helped rescue victories. To really enjoy it we matter of team selection, coaches. Little N.H.L. has several people from a hotel must play the rules with its Every tournament, except always been noted for tourfire where he was staying. The disciplines and then our Little N.H.L. cater only to all-naments without rough play. tragedy of that happening was defeats also become victories star teams from communities.

gases, which affected his heart us today, for tomorrow's made all-stars. His purpose especially among rural so that shortly after his return living, the many virtues was to form recreation house villages and communities to Canada he died very sud- Gordon lived and taught while leagues in communities to because of its stand on hockey

> Dear Lord we give thee thanks today, for the youth of Halton Hills and all that will use this building for sport and recreation. Challenge them, we pray thee, with a vision of good citizenship, sportsmanship, education, and a real love for all fellow Canadians, so that they will become true leaders in our nation of tomorrow.

AMEN

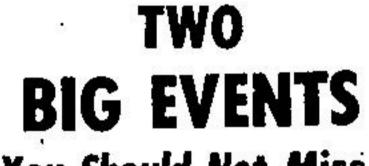
minor among The following prayer of associations. Spring tourdedication was given by Rev. naments have sprung up all Len Self. May its message ever over the country patterned after Gordon Alcott's concept. Oh Lord, our God, we thank Goderich Lions Pee-Wee and

case of small communities an Bobby Orr. all-star team of house league Years 1978 and fater. players travelled to the The future of Little N.H.L. is

It is interesting to note that Little N.H.L. was started by G. Little N.H.L. in the seventies inhaled a great deal of smoke Dear God, cultivate within Alcott for players who never has grown substantially keep all boys occupied in for recreational purposes. The planned recreation. The surprising fact is that Little tournament was to be an N.H.L. has given more fun and award to good players in house hockey to more boys and leagues. Either the winning produced its fair share of house league team or in the N.H.L. hockey greats such as

tournament. The emphasis in 1) Its good behaviour conwas not on winning but tracts, 2) its continuance with practice patron. Although house leagues and the ex-C.A.H.A. rules were basic to clusion of all-stars, 3) Rigid

for his leadership among youth group from ages 6 to 21, tournament play Little N.H.L. rules to control rough play, a "play a for fun" recreation



You Should Not Miss



LITTLE N.H.L.



CELEBRATION

Gordon Alcott Arena Sept. 24th To Oct. 1st.



AND

First Showing Of The New

1977 CHEVROLETS

AND

OLDSMOBILES

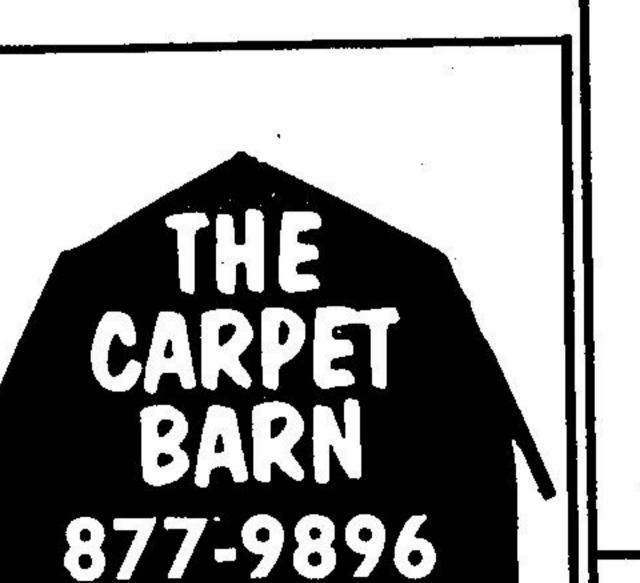
ON

Thursday, Sept. 30th.

Andrew Murray

Mountainview Rd. N.

877-6944



26 Guelph St. Georgetown

BEST WISHES N.H.L. ON YOUR 40th Anniversary