

HALTON'S PEOPLE

Needy find a 'good neighbor' in Roma

By **MAGGIE HANNAH**
Herald staff writer

After seven years of organizing Santa's helpers for Georgetown's needy families, one might be expected to get a bit jaded.

Not so, says Roma Timpson, the woman in charge of the Georgetown Good Neighbor Service again this year.

"One of my former (she underlines that word with a grin) friends asked me if I'd pay the bills and order the food for the hampers," Mrs. Timpson told the Herald explaining her introduction to the annual service. "It didn't sound too bad, so I said yes."

The late Walter Gray coordinated the service for many years with help from various people, including Mrs. Timpson's friend, and when he gave it up because of health problems in 1971, Mrs. Timpson took over.

At that time, it was called Georgetown Christmas Welfare, and one of Mrs. Timpson's first changes was to give the program a new name.

Some of the people receiving Christmas hampers weren't on welfare, so she wanted to drop that connotation entirely and the project became known as the Good Neighbor Service.

Mrs. Timpson says when she first began looking after the project, she tried to organize meetings with all the clubs involved in it to get their ideas on what should be done. Half the people didn't show up, however, so she gave up and now runs things as she sees best. It is truly a community project, she stresses, since doctors, lawyers, church groups, all the service clubs and even the town pitch in either with financial contributions or with time and helping hands to see that hampers are available for the needy.

LIST OF NAMES

Mrs. Timpson gets a list of names from two different sources as well as picking up occasional names from ministers or others who know of a needy individual or family. Separate lists are kept for families and individuals and

small gifts are sent as well as a hamper of food when deliveries are made.

Hampers contain a turkey, potatoes, apples or other fresh fruit, vegetables, tea or coffee, stuffing, cereal, dessert and powdered milk Mrs. Timpson explains. Although she buys certain items at the last minute, a great deal of the canned items come in through white gift collections in the churches and schools.

Since the service doesn't usually get a home until the week before Christmas, much of what is collected winds up stored temporarily in church basements, or Mrs. Timpson's own basement. She looks for a vacant store or similar space within walking distance of her McIntyre Crescent home because she doesn't drive. So far, the project has had several homes but the company or individual owning the space has always loaned it to the service free as their contribution to the project.

Mrs. Timpson believes in shopping locally for the items

she must buy so that whatever money the service collects remains in town.

"I even have to buy the hamper the food is delivered in," she says. "When Smith and Stone had their plastic plant here, they used to donate laundry baskets. Of course, since that's gone, I have to buy them. I like to pack everything in a laundry basket. It gives the woman of the house something she can use after the contents are gone."

SCHOOLS HELP

Even the schools get into the act and the Halton Regional Police visit each school in the area just before Christmas to pick up items the children have collected for the needy. They pick up a good quantity of canned goods, soups, cake mixes, jelly powders, canned fish and all kinds of food, she says.

Toys and small gifts for the children on the list are donated by individuals and given any touch-ups necessary by the Kinettes club. McDonald's has a box in place from early in December where these items can be dropped off, but people continue to drop things off even after the deadline, so Mrs. Timpson finds herself storing a box for next year after each Christmas. She takes its contents to the Kinettes and they return the toys wrapped and labelled for delivery along with the food hampers. The Rotary club delivers the hampers for her annually.

Mrs. Timpson says that she has had offers of help to set up the hampers from various groups but she dislikes taking an evening to do it at such a busy season. She finds she can get personal friends who will help her through the day and she even has youngsters who help with the sorting. She is careful never to let the young people near the hampers once a name has been attached to them, however, because it might be someone the youngsters know.

NOT FAIR

"It might be going to a family whose child sits at the next desk in school," she says, "but no one knew they were in need of help. It isn't fair to expect a youngster to keep such a thing quiet. They don't understand it so I just make sure they aren't put in that position."

Mrs. Timpson is also the author of Legion Lines column carried weekly in the Herald. She jokes about how much she enjoys talking to people and says this makes writing very easy for her.

She joined the Canadian Women's Army Corps during World War II and wound up attached to Ordnance Corps in Aurora, putting heel and toe plates on boots. At the end of the war she considered starting up a shoe repair shop of her own, then decided against it and went back to her original job with Simpson's.

Mrs. Timpson and her husband, Jake, moved to Georgetown from Toronto 22 years ago and their three children, now aged 17 to 21, have grown up here. Mr. Timpson works for the ministry of health.

Mrs. Timpson joined the Royal Canadian Legion, Branch 120 Women's Auxiliary in 1964 because her husband is also a Legionnaire. Five years later, she joined the Legion herself and it was during her first term on the executive that she began writing the column.

"A lot of people call to tell me what all the different committees are doing," she says. "Without them, I couldn't do it. I try to make it as interesting as possible so that even those who aren't eligible to join the Legion wish they could belong. I thoroughly enjoy the Legion myself, otherwise I wouldn't give it so much time as a volunteer."

Mrs. Timpson is one of those people who finds plenty of ways to fill her spare hours.



Roma Timpson (right) and Betty Sandifer are shown here sorting out some of the food collected by students in Georgetown area schools for the Good Neighbor Service, which distributes the donated items to the needy for Christmas. Mrs. Timpson has been running the organization since 1971.



Students from Georgetown District High School assisted Halton Regional Police Safety Officer Raj Swaminathan and Constable Bill Phillips with the collection of items gathered by Georgetown area schools for the annual Good Neighbor drive. Shown here hoisting boxes of items collected by the students at the high school are Andrew Shenton, Matt Flumeau, Glenn Schweyer, Eric Elson, Rob Horning, Dave Griffiths and David Eddy. Constable Swaminathan expressed his appreciation to Milton's Gallinger Motors, which supplied the van used for the pick-ups.

BUSSY TIME

"I could do with 14 nights and seven days to every week," she says. "Maybe then I could get around to do all the things I'd like to do."

She plays darts and bowls with the Legion Ladies' Auxiliary. She looks crocheting and quilting courses through night classes. She also enjoys knitting, latchet rug hooking, playing the piano for her own entertainment, swimming and reading.

She has also been babysitting for mothers who curl at the North Halton Golf and Country Club for about 12 years. She has from one to eight children for half a day and the club pays her salary.

Although she is earning a bit of money babysitting, Mrs. Timpson has no great desire to go to work full-time.

"When my oldest son was little, he told me he didn't want me to go to work," she says. "He said he wanted me to be here when he came home. I sort of regret it now, but I told Tim I'd quit looking for a job when I was 60. That gives me a few years yet to look."

Mrs. Timpson says she walks about three miles a day. She usually goes alone because she hasn't the wind to walk and talk too, she jokes.

The Way We Were, part 4

'Teacher' Moore doubled as town's treasurer



By **RICHARD E. RUGGLE**

PART FOUR: Coming into the new century.

As we noted last week, R.D. Warren went from Georgetown to Toronto, around the first decade of this century, to manage the Standard publishing company there. For some time after his move, he employed Joseph Matheson Moore (1872-1939), until Moore eventually was able to buy the

business.

Like Warren, Moore was a native of Acton, though his father, Thomas T. Moore, had been born in County Tyrone, Ireland. Thomas was known as "Teacher Moore" and, for over 25 years, was principal of the Acton Public School.

In the home he built there at the corner of Mill and Young Streets, the conversation must often have turned to local politics, for Teacher Moore

was also municipal clerk and treasurer for many years. The interest his son imbibed in the subject would not just be that of an on-looker reporter, for J.M. Moore himself would later serve as reeve of Georgetown.

Parents usually try to impress on their children the need for education, and when young Joe left school at about age 12, it was much against

Teacher Moore's wishes. Joseph became a printer's devil, serving his apprenticeship under H.P. Moore (no relation), who was editor and publisher of the Acton Free Press, 1878-1927.

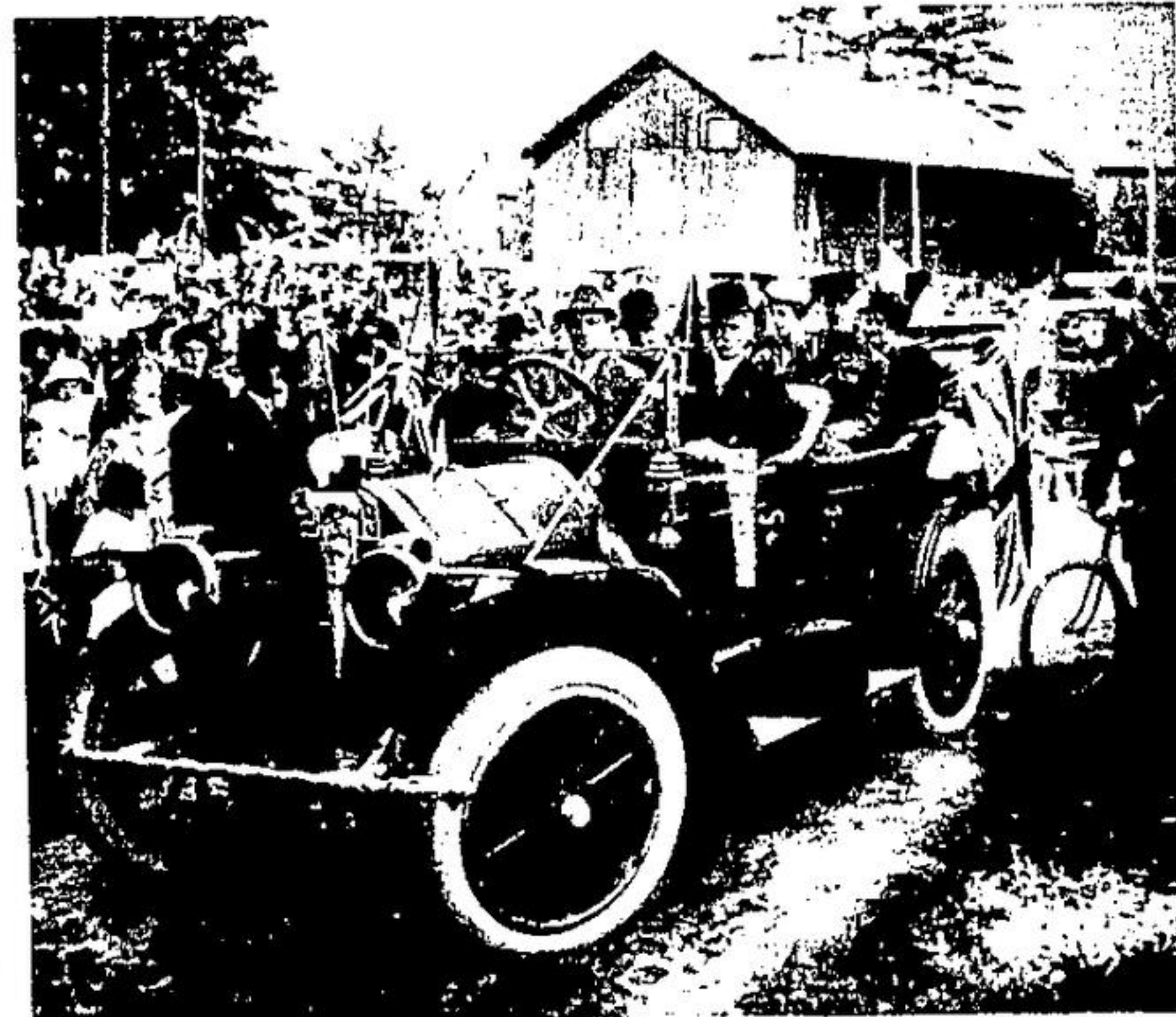
Then he worked for papers in Bolton, Hanover and Guelph, before coming in 1891 to Georgetown, to work for Warren at the Herald. At first, he was foreman in the shop; he would always remain primarily a printer, even after he purchased the paper.

Moore rarely editorialized, though he would occasionally suggest what he thought should be done. In 1917, he commented that the holes on the Norval road needed gravel, "before someone breaks a spring, an axle, or the Seventh Commandment."



Georgetown hosted the annual drummers' snack festivities for a number of years in the early part of the century.

A history of the Herald



Col. Hallentine's car at the Georgetown fairgrounds after World War I during J.M. Moore's tenure as Herald owner.

MINOR CHANGES

There were some minor changes in advertising policy; in 1917 the same year that Warren became publication manager for the paper representing the temperance interest in the country (the Pioneer), the Herald was carrying an advertisement for "Delicious! Appetizing! Invigorating! White Label Ale."

The editor avoided bringing embarrassment on people, and if someone in the village was in trouble, they were not mentioned by name; and suicides were reported simply as deaths.

The newspaper office was upstairs in the Herald building, with a big press at the back (type was set by hand), and a cutting machine used for tickets and sales ads. Around the time of the first world war, fire gutted the building, plunging the press right through to the basement.

When the building was repaired, the heavy machinery was no longer kept upstairs,

and a barber shop on the main floor was converted into the Herald office. On the night of the fire, Moore had been visiting in Acton, and when he returned in his Overland touring car, his daughter remembers, he drove by the office, and thought that things looked all right.

By morning, the damage was done. Back files of the newspaper were consumed by the fire.

The first of the series of surviving copies, from 1917 and 1918, show how very involved in the Great War this tiny Ontario community was. Reports told of soldiers from

the area convalescing in hospital, or more tragically, of their being killed in action. Instructions were given about how to send Christmas parcels to prisoners of war.

INDUSTRIES BUSY

For those who did not feel they should go overseas, the fairness of Exemption Tribunals was advertised. The home industries were kept busy supplying the needs of the front, and the Glen woolen mills were working overtime producing blankets for the American army. Even livestock was liable to be called up, and the British Commission was touring the country, seeking to buy

horses (15 to 16 hands, of any "color" except light gray, white or light buckskin) to serve in the Horse Artillery.

In the midst of such global aspects, there were some local characteristics which remained constant. Taxpayers are always suspicious of the grandiose schemes of their elected representatives, and it was noted that the previous year, they had opposed plans to lay pavement on Main Street.

References:
John McDonald, Halton Sketches, Conversation with Mrs. Douglas
The Herald, 1917-1918.