

Marjorie Nazer dies after stroke



FIND THAT 'MAGIC, JOHNSON'!

Testing their skills against the hoop Saturday morning at Holy Cross school were entrants in the Knights of Columbus' annual "Free Throw" basketball test. The Knights supervised the shooting for boys and girls ages 11 to 14 years. The winners (See Sportsweek, Page B2) will go on to compete in the District Free Throw championships in Brampton this Saturday.

(Herald photo by Harald Branch)

A Georgetown woman who became acquainted with several generations of visitors to the community's public library, which she supervised for years, died Sunday night. Marjorie Nazer was 76.

Well-respected as an artist even before she moved to Georgetown in 1929, Miss Nazer had renewed her devotion to painting, stained glass and embroidery after her retirement as chief librarian in 1975.

Miss Nazer died at St. Michael's Hospital in Toronto, where she was taken Jan. 31 after suffering a stroke.

It was at that same hospital where Miss Nazer's beloved aunt died in the early 1960s. The two had shared the Market Street home, which they bought from builder William McNally, for years after Miss Nazer's uncle, knighted for his contributions to the British Empire, died.

Miss Nazer's emigration to Canada in 1929 was intended only as a visit to her aunt and uncle's Toronto home. Here, however, she found fertile ground for the artistic interests sown by her family in England, most members of which were similarly inclined.

She taught spinning and the fine art of making stained glass at a farm settlement school near King City operated by Roman Catholics, to whose religion she had converted. Miss Nazer remained in recent years a devout member of Georgetown's Holy Cross parish, whose church features some of her wrought iron work around its baptismal, and was just leaving the church after mass Jan. 31 when her stroke occurred.

After becoming part of Toronto's burgeoning art scene during the 1930s and 1940s, enjoying the companionship of such artists as the Group of Seven's Arthur Lismer, Miss Nazer moved to Georgetown with her aunt. Her love of art soon made her new friends here.



MARJORIE NAZER

In 1962, when John and Gisela Sommer moved to Charles Street and established Gallery House Sol, local artists like Frank Black and Miss Nazer were among their first contacts. At that time, Miss Nazer was plying her crafts at the original Kirk-Kraft shop on the old Highway 7 route between Norval and Brampton. Her hand-woven placemats and other articles were already building her reputation for creating colorful, delicate works of art.

Soon after, the Georgetown library sought her services on a temporary basis, but her

contributions to life at the old church earned her an offer of permanent placement. She stayed on as chief librarian until the regionalization of Halton County in 1974 necessitated an amalgamation of the Acton and Georgetown libraries.

Current Halton Hills Library Board chairman Dick Howitt told The Herald Monday that the board will discuss a tribute to Miss Nazer at its March 10 meeting. He and current chief librarian Betsy Cornwell had already considered several methods by which the board could make a permanent

contribution to the library in Miss Nazer's memory.

Throughout her tenure as librarian, Miss Nazer never stopped painting and designing. House Sol has featured nine separate solo exhibitions of her work and Toronto's prestigious Sister Gallery showed an early Nazer collection.

While acknowledging that Miss Nazer was always less than comfortable with figurative drawing, Mr. Sommer said he always found a unique charm in her floral paintings that set her apart from other artists.

"She was never blasé," he commented this week. "That was probably her secret: she always had the enthusiasm of a child which her work reflected. Her paintings as well as her own personal presence always had a cheering effect."

Mr. Sommer is not the only Nazer acquaintance who'll remember her best for her generosity and hospitality. Literally thousands of visitors to the library, for one example, found they could rely on her to meet their needs, large or small. There too, many will affectionately recall, she seemed inseparable from one, two or even three pet dachshunds that wove themselves in

and out between her feet as she tended her work.

Although the last of her miniature dachshunds died about a year ago, Mr. Sommer said, Miss Nazer remained a dog lover until the end. Rufus, a crossbred terrier, will be finding a new owner.

Mr. Sommer said another Nazer art exhibition is in order, although the proposed tribute at House Sol will likely take a year or two to mount. Mr. Sommer said he'd like to gather many of her works now

in local private collections for a full retrospective.

Miss Nazer's painting and embroidery show which opened the Halton Hills Library-Cultural Centre gallery last October was so well-received that she had planned a summer in Bermuda this year. Her second visit there was again to have been spent painting the floral subjects she loved most.

Miss Nazer is survived by a brother in England and a nephew in London, Ontario.

Funeral services

With a Georgetown memorial service still being considered by local friends and admirers of Miss Nazer's, some residents may wish to attend funeral services this afternoon (Wednesday) at 2 p.m. at Toronto's Holy Rosary Roman Catholic Church on St. Clair Avenue. Interment follows at the Mount Hope Cemetery.

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C-MC19822

Home insulation okayed for dumping

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer

If a joint recommendation from the region's public works director and medical officer of health (MOH) is endorsed by Halton council today (Wednesday), Halton homeowners who are stripping the insides of their homes to remove urea formaldehyde foam insulation (UFFI) will be able to dump their debris at the regional landfill sites in Oakville and Burlington free of charge.

Jerry Sullivan, Halton's senior public health inspector, told the region's finance and administration committee last week that the provincial environment ministry has already stated that the foam insulation, believed to produce toxic gases in the confined space of a home, can be safely buried. UFFI has been blamed for producing nausea and symp-

toms resembling allergic reactions.

Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett failed to have the MOE's assurance covered by a "safe, harmless" clause to protect the region from legal action if the dumped foam does prove hazardous to public health. Chief administrative officer Dennis Perlin said Halton would not likely get the protective clause, although there is already a letter from the ministry determining that burial is the safest manner of disposal.

As many as a thousand homes in Halton may be affected by the UFFI problem, the public works department estimates, and there could be as much as ten tons per home of insulation debris when the UFFI is removed. Tipping fees, charged to trucks dumping at the landfill sites, are \$13.50 per ton of waste. Over a

two or three-year period, the region could lose as much as \$135,000 in revenue by waiving the charges homeowners might have to pay to get rid of the insulation and other debris.

In an earlier motion, Halton council asked the federal government to expand its assistance program available to homeowners suffering from the effects of UFFI. A home which is tested and found to have serious levels of the noxious urea formaldehyde gas can be eligible for up to \$8,000 in grants to have the insulation removed.

To qualify for the grants, homeowners must prove that the gas is causing health problems, establish that gas levels in the home are greater than 0.1 parts per million and have the work done by a company certified by the government to carry out the removal of the insulation.



THEY TALKED THEIR WAY TO PRIZES

TV game shows and soccer were the topics prepared by the two young men who won the public speaking contest at Stewarttown Senior Public School Friday. Jimmy Clark (left) was the Grade 7 winner of the annual contest as well as the overall winner. He'll represent his school at the North Halton public speaking contest March 4 at Speyside Public School. Kelly Fogg spoke about TV game shows and was selected the Grade 8 winner. Both boys have won public speaking contests before.

(Herald photo)

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