

From a walk-on role to set design, David Clifton's learning the GLT ropes

He's part inventor, part plumber

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design - and a very complicated one it is - it fell to Mr. Clifton and his small crew (consisting mostly of GLT veteran Ron Hunt) to make it all come to life in a limited period of time. He readily admits to having help working the bugs out of the original design, but

patrons are about to find out just how many bugs Ayckbourn's three-act play contained.

It's the kind of set that gives backstageers migraines: three different kitchens, one for each act. Bad enough that each kitchen's faucets and fridges have to really work, and what disting-



A six-year resident of Georgetown, David Clifton signed on with the Georgetown Little Theatre after friends talked he and his wife into doing walk-on parts in last season's "Our Town". Calmly taking a seat in a church's prop pew and then acting as a pallbearer in the play's funeral scene was enough onstage experience for him, though. "The Importance of Being Earnest" found

him backstage helping the crew, and it's there he feels more comfortable. So comfortable, in fact, that he's the set designer for GLT's first play of the new season, "Absurd Person Singular", which opens tonight at the John Elliott Theatre. Tickets are available at the door for all six performances this weekend and next.

(Herald photo by Paul Dorsey)

ishes one kitchen from another has more to do with class distinctions than props and decorations.

"Absurd Person Singular" takes place over three consecutive Christmas Eves, each new year offering different instances of progress in the lives of its six characters. One couple is of a lower working class, one a middle class and the third a rather well-to-do pair. A great deal of thought had to go into the appearance of each set, Mr. Clifton said, so that the audiences can readily appreciate their differences.

Mr. Clifton's crew has modified the set flats used in last season's "The Importance of Being Earnest", which at the time delighted audiences. A window shortened here, some hinges moved there, and three quite professional looking sets are ready for the Elliott stage.

With three acts, there'll be two intermissions: one ten minutes long and the other 20, time to make some rapid alterations behind the curtain. The play itself notwithstanding, GLT audiences will have plenty to marvel at when the curtain goes up tonight. In just a few short months, David Clifton has found out how that magic is done.

Burger King helps boost permit sales

A building permit has been issued for the construction of a \$221,000 Burger King outlet in Georgetown.

The permit for the building, which will be located in the Halton Hills Shopping Plaza on Guelph Street, helped push values for new commercial construction this year to \$870,700, more than twice as much recorded over the same period last year.

Constructions starts in general are down in Halton Hills this year. Be-

tween January and September, 1981, over \$9 million worth of new construction started in town. Figures this year are about half that amount.

While fewer people are buying and building new homes in town, residents are still interested in making home alterations. Twenty-six permits were issued by the town's building department last month for home additions and alterations, two to build new swimming pools and six to build carports and garages.

Region defers policy decision

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by the MNR, regional planners recently presented a map outlining 14,000 acres in Halton which they propose to protect for future aggregate (sand, gravel and crushed stone) extraction. At public meetings, residents complained that living on or near land protected for the aggregate industry would force property values down.

Councillors questioned whether the MNR and the aggregate industry actually need that amount of protected land.

FREE USE

"Protective" policies, councillors have maintained, while ensuring ample supplies of gravel decades into the future, inhibit free use of land by property owners.

Coun. Russ Miller said he was "ecstatic" with council's policy change delay and credits large turn-outs of people at Acton and Georgetown public meetings for convincing regional staff that further policy discussions are needed, especially with the MNR.

Coun. Miller added that much of the confusion residents shared about the region's involvement in the issue could have been avoided if planning staff clearly explained they were being pressured by the ministry.

The region's policy amendments were to have been discussed by Halton's planning and public works committee next Wednes-

day. Coun. Miller, noting that many rural residents planned to attend that meeting, said the delay Wednesday may have saved them a trip, at least for the time being.

"The ministry may still say 'no bloody way' to the deferral when the delegation goes for discussions," Coun. Miller told The Herald. "And then we'll be back right where we started. But I still feel that we won something today—we had lots of support from the Burlington and Oakville councillors and I think that the residents at those meetings really had an impact".

Coun. Mike Armstrong said the message to the province is clear: "We're just not happy (with the aggregate mapping)—in fact, we're God damn mad."

Ontario Municipal Board (OMB) hearings scheduled in January, partly to address challenges to the region's aggregate policies, will continue, Coun. Armstrong said. He added he hopes the discussions between provincial and regional officials will come up with new policies agreeable to the province, aggregate producers, Halton region and rural residents.

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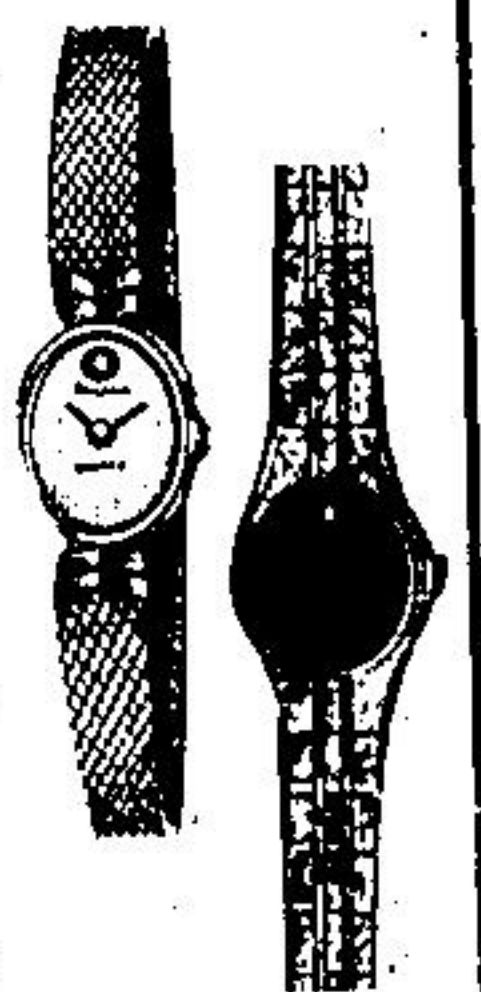
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