



## From small beginnings Tenth anniversary for social caterers

By ROBIN BAKEWELL  
Herald Staff

"If in doubt throw it out!" That is one of the philosophies of Kentners Social Catering. "We want everything to be the way you'd make it at home," explained Dave Kentner.

Kentners Social Catering, located on Mill Street in Georgetown, began ten years ago with an old bread van nicknamed "The Ritz". "You'd be out in the middle of a field five miles from home and people would ask for whipped cream or something exotic."

The usual reply was, "Where do you think you are, the Ritz?" The nickname stuck with the van and the business had begun.

During this period Mr. Kentner was experiencing, "a deep rooted sense of frustration," with the car industry in which he was involved.

Realizing that all business had certain constant factors, along with his wife Gerry's love of cooking, the couple formed Kentners Social Catering.

"I'm much happier now working with my sweetheart," Mr. Kentner said.

The business is a family run operation with a great deal of help

from their daughters Lori and Stephanie who have worked in the business from day one.

"The number one factor as to the success of the business has to be the help we've received through friends and family," Mr. Kentner said.

The Kentners will cater to almost any size group. They have catered to two people for a candlelight dinner with wine to a sit down meal with almost 500 present.

Gerry Kentner says, "word of mouth is probably the best way of advertising." "We look at a new booking as an opportunity for us to get new customers by putting our best foot forward. We look for the long term profits not the quick buck," Mr. Kentner said.

The Kentners now own a hall which can accommodate groups of people up to 700. "The catering business has grown every year and we are always buying new equipment," Mr. Kentner said.

The Kentners have a permanent staff of three but may have anywhere from 15 to 30 part-timers working for them at any given moment. Mr. Kentner takes care of all the paper work and has ten volumes of

binders dealing with past customers.

## Centre helps locate workers for all needs

Herald Special  
The North Halton Volunteer Centre is a community service funded by the Halton Social Planning Council, whose purpose is to

encourage citizens to take part in their community.  
The Volunteer Centre has information on the programs and needs of many community

organizations and agencies which require volunteer help.  
The phone number is 877-3219. The co-ordinator is Maureen McCallum.

1884:

## Bell Telephone opens in town

By WALTER LEWIS  
The opening of the Bell Telephone exchanges in Georgetown and Acton in November of 1884 was greeted almost casually. The Acton editor reported a satisfactory "social chat" with his Guelph counterpart and went on in the next issue to complain that nothing had been done to fix a street lamp broken sometime previous by Bell's careless employees.

"But why should anyone, at least in Acton, get excited about the arrival of the Bell monopoly, when just two years before this another telephone had been invented locally?"

Acton's Early Days attributes the invention to Cy Stafford and Bob Rae. While Rae was never mentioned in the contemporary accounts of the new wonder, shortly after it was patented, he did take six months leave of absence from his post as the Grand Trunk Railway station agent. Most of the credit, however, was heaped on Cyrus V. Stafford, a 23 year old teamster, who announced his patent in December 1882.

Other men mentioned in connection with the new enterprise included Henry F. Hill, who came home from Buffalo to manage the office, and A.H. Selwood and

James Matthews, who took up the rights to market the new product.

### ACOUSTIC TELEPHONE

"Stafford's Acoustic Telephone" was described as being "on an entirely new principle, being on a wire without battery or electricity in any form." It was, H.P. Moore claimed, "much clearer on short distances than the electric telephone" and thus was ideal for private lines, say from home to office or factory, or from hotel room to front desk. To demonstrate its value a line was installed between Moore's newspaper office and J.E. McGarvin's drug store, another line between Matthew's post office and Nicklin's bakery and a third demonstration line in London, Ontario.

All three attracted considerable attention and much "heloing" ensued. While the "Stafford Acoustic Telephone" ultimately failed to be competitive because it couldn't be integrated into the general telephone network, it certainly took the edge off the enthusiasm with which Bell was later greeted.

The new Bell agencies had been established in McGarvin's Drug Store in Acton and J.H. Jackson's station-

ery and furniture shop in Georgetown. Within a year these men had installed 14 phones in Acton and all of 20 in Georgetown and Glen Williams. The new service was principally a business tool, Acton having only two residential installations, at W.D. Beardmore's and H.P. Moore's and Georgetown three, John R. and Joseph Barber and G.S. Goodwillie.

It is not surprising that the Barber brothers so readily took the telephone into their homes. Apart from their pioneering work with electrification, just before the Acton version of the telephone was announced, they had petitioned Bell to establish a local agency.

In both places medical men were early subscribers, as were the railway companies, manufacturers and newspaper offices. Thus it is not surprising that the major advantage was seen to be the direct communication with Guelph, Hamilton, Toronto and other communities.

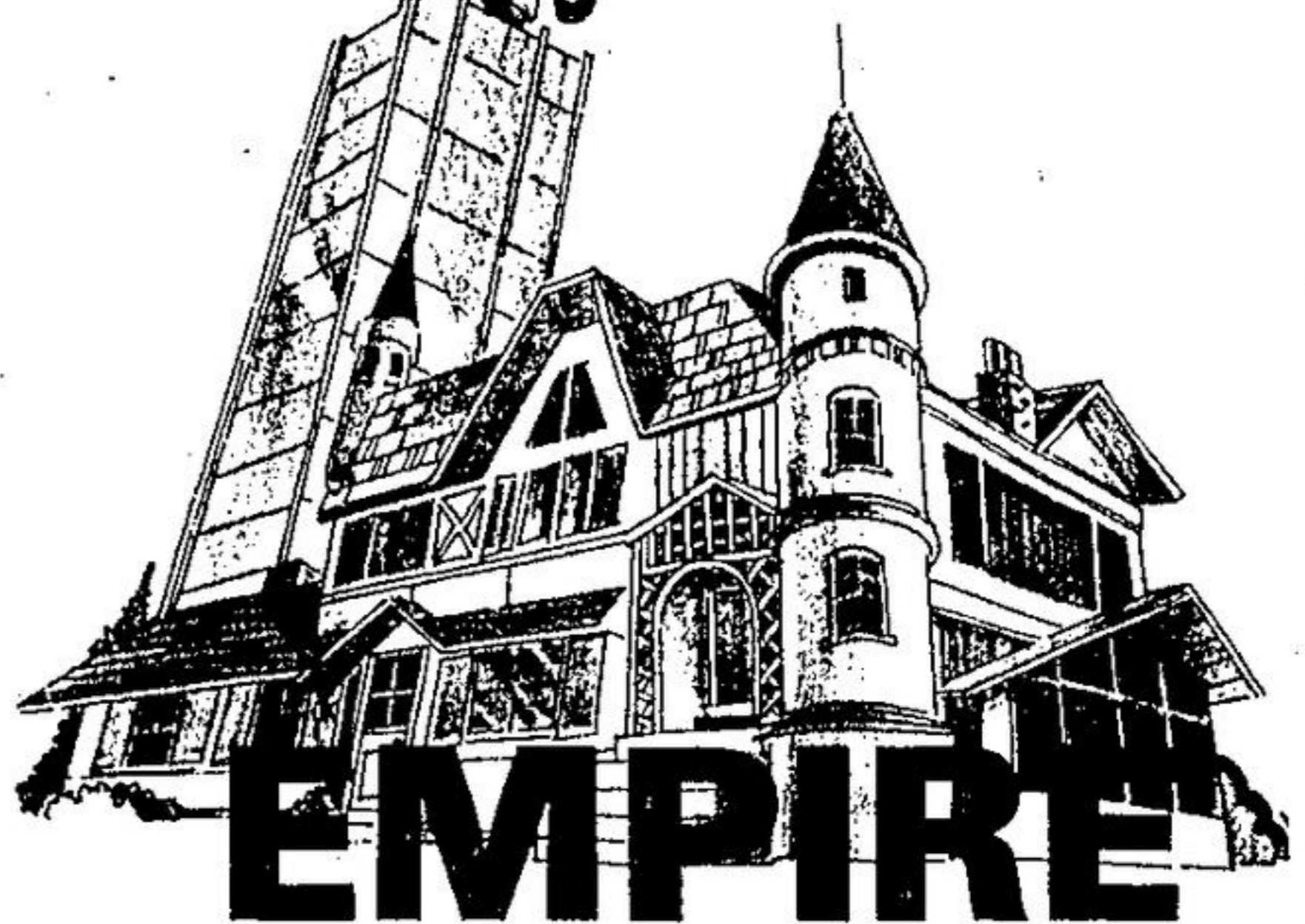
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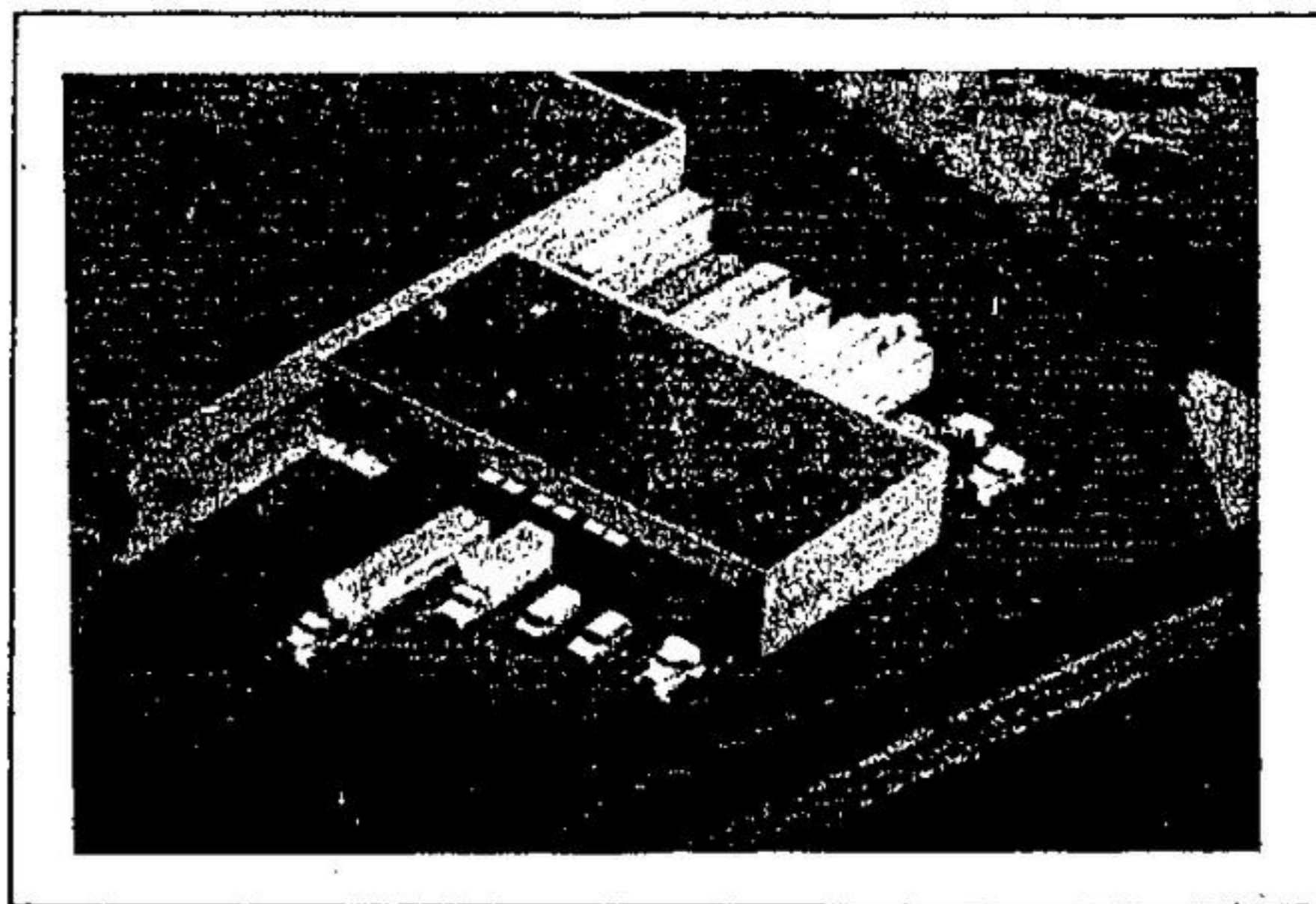
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