

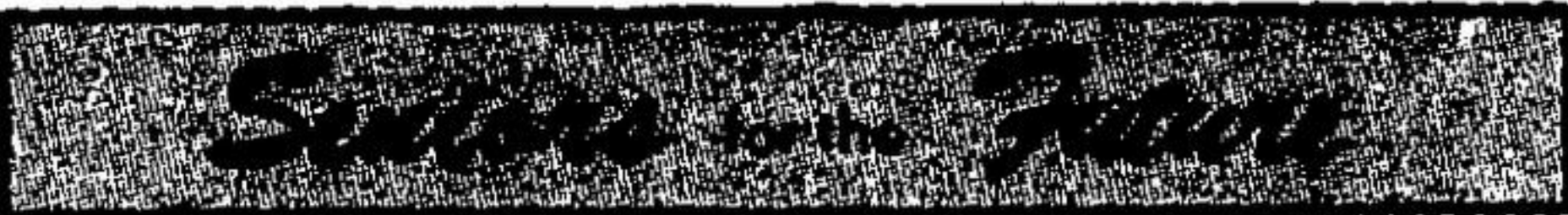
Seniors Little things mean a lot

By FLORENCE WILKINSON
After finishing making my Christmas cake, I realized why my mother never put on weight. She had all those children and grandchildren waiting around to lick the spoon or clean out the bowl for her.

You may recall, if you were ever privileged to lick the whip cream off the egg beater, clean out the candy pot or the cake bowl, just what a joy it was. You may have been in the position that you had to share with one or two others, so the joy was doubled or tripled. Whichever way it was, that kind of cleaning up was a joy and a privilege.

I went on to think of all the ways that I, and you, are served by those who clean up after us: the garbage collector, janitor, store staff, to name only a few. These may be thought of as only jobs - and not very joyous jobs at that - but where would we all be without those who do those last little jobs which save time and effort on our behalf?

Contrary to a young person's belief, those little clean up jobs;



those thoughtful kindnesses; become much more necessary and much more appreciated as one grows older. As one's energy wanes it is so nice to have someone fold the clothes, or move the heavy things, or sweep the floor after a busy day. As one needs these things done for himself or herself he or she realizes why parents taught us to be thoughtful of others, and had us do those things for grandpa or grandma when we would much rather have been someone else.

Contrary to an older person's pride, it seems to me that there is nothing wrong about having to have some of those chores done for us. Even the very small may learn the meaning of community if and when that child is given the opportunity to share the load and be a part of someone else's life.

I cannot think what it would have been like if I had had to pay for the privilege of licking the

spoon. Just as I was given that joy, I was expected to share in some of the other 'not so joyous' odds and ends that knit a community together. In our present world of affluence - and I still say affluence in spite of the recession - much emphasis is put upon getting a monetary return for helping others get rid of the little leftovers of life. Children and youth are robbed of one of the best life-builders if they have none of these little things to do.

During Christmas celebrating we are all reminded that the celebration is centred around one who found even the most demeaning task a joy to do. That someone is also quite willing to allow others to share in the "bowl cleaning" or "whipped cream slurping" so that our world may be a cleaner, more fulfilled place in which to live, and the work can be halved or quartered.

Community

Optimist Club music competition

The Optimist Club of Oakville advises that all plans are well underway for their Annual Young Artists Music Competition.

The competition is organized by the Optimists in conjunction with the Oakville Symphony Orchestra. Open to young people interested in music as a career who live, study or have family residence in Halton Region the contest offers cash prizes of \$400, \$700 and \$1,400 respectively to three age groups (under 14, from 14 to 17 and from 18 to 24). Winners may also be asked to perform by the Oakville Symphony Orchestra.

Conductor David Miller of the Oakville Symphony Orchestra wishes to encourage all young aspiring musicians to take advantage of this opportunity. Even those who do not become this year's prize winners, will benefit by participation. If you never make an attempt to prove yourself you will never succeed at anything in life. Therefore, when the opportunity presents itself, it is important to be one of those who tries, not one of those looking on from the sidelines.

Eligibility: Music students living anywhere in Halton Region who have not attained their 25th birthday by March 17, 1991.

Music/Tape Specifications: Either cassette or reel-to-reel format is acceptable. Three selections to a maximum of 30 minutes must have one movement or work from three of Baroque, Classical, Romantic or Contemporary periods. All selections which require accompaniment must have accompaniment on the tape.

When: Tapes must be submitted by 6:00 p.m. March 1, 1991, to Optimist Club of Oakville, c/o Don G. MacDonald, 1305 Rebecca Street, Oakville, Ontario L6L 1Z3. Judging will take place March 3, 1991, and all entrants will be notified by March 5, 1991.

Finalists: To perform for a jury, March 17, 1991 from 7:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. at the Oakville Centre. Finalists to provide own accompanists as needed.

The Optimists who work extensively with youth are pleased to join with the Oakville Symphony Orchestra in this initiative. It is hoped that this competition will

assist those aspiring to a musical career, as well as develop a pool of talent with links to the Oakville Symphony Orchestra. For further information about this music competition or about other Optimist Youth activities, please call Don MacDonald at 827-3763.

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GEORGETOWN LIONS ARE SEEKING THE CITIZEN of the YEAR

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The Georgetown Lions Club is again looking for the "Citizen of the Year"; someone who has given unselfishly to the Community.

★★★★★

The Lions Club want help from you in picking our most deserving citizen or group for 1990. Nominations are now being received for Georgetown's Citizen of the Year.

Please mail nominations with supporting resume, post-marked not later than January 31, 1991, to: Georgetown Lions Club, Citizen of the Year, P.O. Box 73, Georgetown, Ontario L7G 4T1.

The winner(s) of the award will be made known in March at a dinner to be held in the Lions Club hall, on March 5th. The public is invited to attend this special evening. Tickets are available from Lions Club members.