

Arts & Ideas

Young soldier can't shake Georgetown roots

Editor's Note: This is the third in a series about Georgetown resident Jack Ballantine and his wife Annie who corresponded during World War I.

If Jack Ballantine had hoped to put some distance between himself and his hometown Georgetown by joining the army and being taken to England, he was mistaken. Even his older brother came with him, if not in body than in spirit, as is documented by this telling anecdote which he reports to his wife Annie in one of his many letters:

"A little thing happened today. Last week a Major Dunham sent his shoes in to be repaired and I told his batman I hadn't time for them, so the Major went to the Quartermaster and, of course, I was on the carpet. I told him we didn't have to do officers work unless we felt like it, and besides we were too busy, but the Quartermaster said the Major was going to take the matter up with the Colonel. Today the Major met me in the Quartermasters office and he says you are a brother of Colonel Ballantine? I said yes. He says I just found that out yesterday, I know your brother well and I am so pleased to meet you. So I thanked him and that's all there was to it."

What totally enchants him is the beauty of England and many letters are filled with reports about little outings of his to nearby towns and historical sights. He sends a long and almost scholarly letter to Mr. Moore, the editor of "The Herald", in which he gives him a history of Surrey and a

description of the towns in that part of England. He is proud of his literary talents and wonders, in a letter to Annie, what the people of Georgetown will think when they read this long article. But the war itself disillusioned him. On December 13, 1917 he writes this letter to his wife:

"My dearest Annie: My position depends on this election. If the government wins, we go to France as a unit and if it loses we go as drafts. You talk about being near the danger. I tell you dear where is it safe nowadays? Look at the accident in your own town, look at the disaster in Halifax. It's really hard to know where to go to be safe. There will sure be a lot of sad homes this Christmas and if you were over here dear, you would see some very sad sights. There are three large hospitals at Guildford. I was talking to a boy last night from Vancouver. He has been up the line four times and every time he was wounded. Now he's crippled for life. Is it fair a man should have to stick it 'til he's done for? Now they are sending him back to Canada. He is a first contingent boy and has been in the firing two years steady in all, while officers, if they cut their finger, get back to Canada. They get the praise and the men that do the fighting get the dirt. Always remember, kid, it's the man behind the gun that does all the work and they deserve all the credit. There is a boy now in our battalion that was blown in the air I forgot how many feet, also shell-shocked, and he is a nervous wreck. But still, he is in training again for



Ideas and The Arts
by John Sommer

France. Why can't he get back home? Because he is a private. I see by the papers that many of the boys are trying for exemption

but I suppose if they have the money they will get it alright."

At Christmas 1917 Jack Ballantine writes these moving lines to his wife of 17 years:

"You were asking me if I ever woke up in the night and felt as though I would like to have a wee chat with someone. Well, I should say so, it's when I am alone and thinking that I miss you most, but, of course, when a person is out trying to enjoy life it's only natural that they feel contented for the time being, but when it's all over, I seem to miss you all the more. I have often been riding along in the train through this

beautiful country and how often I have wished you were by my side, but what's the use, I know I was foolish to leave you."

I asked Mrs. Marshall about her father's sentence "Look at the accident in your own town, look at the disaster in Halifax." The disaster in Halifax in the fall of 1917 we all know about. It has made the history books and is the subject of Hugh MacLennan's novel "Barometer Rising". But an accident here in Georgetown?

In answer to my question Mrs. Marshall told me a hair raising story which I will write down in my next column.

"Natural Forms" features Halton-area artists

"Natural Forms" are the common theme for the featured work of three Halton area artists at a show opening Friday, June 21. The three artists, each working in a different medium, have been brought together by Wyget Woods Art Gallery, which is located between Campbellville and Rockwood.

Milton's Penny Maloney Ridley, painting with oils or watercolours, provides a sense of solitude and social comment in her art which often reflects her values of family and the land.

Chalk pastels have enabled German-born Ursula Reese to

blend the softness found in the ever-changing Ontario landscape into her paintings, scenes near her Campbellville home and her favourite rugged Algonquin Park terrain.

Burlington watercolourist J. Elizabeth Pudsey shows her affinity for floral and landscape scenery in her art which is always appealing, colourful and sometimes softly abstract.

The "Natural Forms" art show is the first time these three artists have shown together although each is highly accredited with solo and juried show displays throughout On-

tario. "Natural Forms" opens Friday, June 21 and runs through Sunday, July 7 at Wyget Woods. Gallery hours are Wednesday to Sunday from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. or by appointment.

Wyget Woods is an easily accessible drive through the country. Take Highway 401 to the Guelph Line exit (Campbellville). Drive north 8 km through Brookville, then right on 20th Sideroad for 2 km. The gallery sits on 10 acres of forest and summer flowers for visitors to enjoy.

Prices effective thru Sunday* June 23, 1991
(*Where applicable)
We reserve the right to limit quantities to normal family requirements.
Coupon items limited to two.



PLAY BASEBALLMAGIC AND WIN
SEE DETAILS AT STORES

Look Spend Less during our... COUPON BONANZA

REGULAR OR DIET
Pepsi-Cola or 7UP
cases of 12 - 355 mL tins (Unit cost 70¢ per 100 mL) **2.99**
750 mL bottle (Unit cost 92¢ per 100 mL) **.69**
WITH COUPON BELOW PLUS 40¢ PER BTL DEPOSIT

BEATRICE, FROZEN, ASSORTED VARIETIES, REGULAR OR LITE
Classic Ice Cream
2 LITRE CONTAINER
2.99
WITH COUPON BELOW

SELECTED VARIETIES, THINS, LITE
Black Diamond Cheese Slices
500 g PACKAGE
2.49
WITH COUPON BELOW

SPLIT OR WHOLE
Fresh Chicken Breast
4.17/kg
1.89
lb

REGULAR, FINE OR EXTRA FINE GRIND
Maxwell House Coffee
300 g VAC PAC
1.49
WITH COUPON

WITH THIS COUPON **SAVE \$1.00**
BEATRICE, FROZEN, ASSORTED FLAVOURS, REGULAR OR LITE
Classic Ice Cream
2 litre container **2.99**
LIMIT: 1 container per coupon. LIMIT: 2 coupons per customer. Offer valid June 17 - June 23, 1991. (Feature price without coupon 3.99) S.C. #631

WITH THIS COUPON **SAVE \$1.00**
SELECTED VARIETIES, THINS, LITES
Black Diamond Cheese Slices
500 g package **2.49**
LIMIT: 1 package per coupon. LIMIT: 2 coupons per customer. Offer valid June 17 - June 23, 1991. (Feature price without coupon 3.49) S.C. #632

Great Savings on...
TOWELS
CHAMPION® by STEVENS
EXTRA LARGE
Bath Towels 4.99
30" x 54"
WITH ONE FILLED STAMP SAVER BOOK. SEE DETAILS AT STORES.

WITH THIS COUPON **SAVE \$1.00**
REGULAR, FINE OR EXTRA FINE
Maxwell House Coffee
300 g vac pac **1.49**
LIMIT: 1 package per coupon. LIMIT: 2 coupons per customer. Offer valid June 17 - June 23, 1991. (Feature price without coupon 2.49) S.C. #633

WITH THIS COUPON **SAVE 50¢**
1% 2%
Nordica Cottage Cheese
500 g container **1.49**
LIMIT: 1 container per coupon. LIMIT: 2 coupons per customer. Offer valid June 17 - June 23, 1991. (Feature price without coupon 1.99) S.C. #635

WITH THIS COUPON **SAVE \$1.00**
REGULAR OR DIET (Unit cost 70¢ per 100 mL)
CASE OF 12 - 355 mL TINS
Pepsi-Cola or 7UP 2.99
LIMIT: 1 case per coupon. LIMIT: 2 coupons per customer. Offer valid June 17 - June 23, 1991. (Feature price without coupon 3.99) G/P S.C. #638

WITH THIS COUPON **SAVE \$2.00**
DISPOSABLE FOR HER OR HIM
PACKAGE OF 26 - 54
Huggies Diapers 8.99
LIMIT: 2 package per coupon. LIMIT: 2 coupons per customer. Offer valid June 17 - June 23, 1991. (Feature price without coupon 10.99) G/ S.C. #637

WITH THIS COUPON **SAVE \$1.00**
WHITE OR FLORAL
CASE OF 9 BOXES OF 150 SHEETS
Kleenex Facial Tissue 5.99
LIMIT: 1 case per coupon. LIMIT: 2 coupons per customer. Offer valid June 17 - June 23, 1991. (Feature price without coupon 6.99) G/P S.C. #636

WITH THIS COUPON **SAVE \$1.00**
PRODUCT OF CALIFORNIA, NO. 1
10 LB BAG
New White Potatoes 3.99
LIMIT: 1 bag per coupon. LIMIT: 2 coupons per customer. Offer valid June 17 - June 23, 1991. (Feature price without coupon 4.99) S.C. #634