

# Old politicians don't just die, they just can't get nominated

Frankly, I'm disappointed. The political race is heating up and I haven't thrown my hat in the ring.

Eager candidates are starting to announce their platforms, and I'm unable to do a darn thing.

In front of me is the Candidate's Guide, Municipal Elections '91, put out by the Ministry of Municipal Affairs.

I'm just cracking for a good tough political fight. The gloves are off, but I'm having trouble getting started.

Usually, I just get up and go hell-bent for leather but this time I can't get the starting gate opened.

In the Candidate's Guide under Qualifications, I qualify to a "T".

Even the Disqualifications:

- an employee of the municipality;
- a judge of any court;
- a member of the Ontario Legislature, a senator, or a member of the House of Commons;
- a provincial employee, as excluded by the Public Service Act;
- an undischarged bankrupt or insolvent as defined by any legislative authority;
- an inmate of a penal or correctional institution under sentence of imprisonment; allowed me to squeak by.

However, I'm running into other roadblocks in this guide. It is hurting my campaign.

The term of office bothers me a tad. I'd rather have it a week instead of three years.

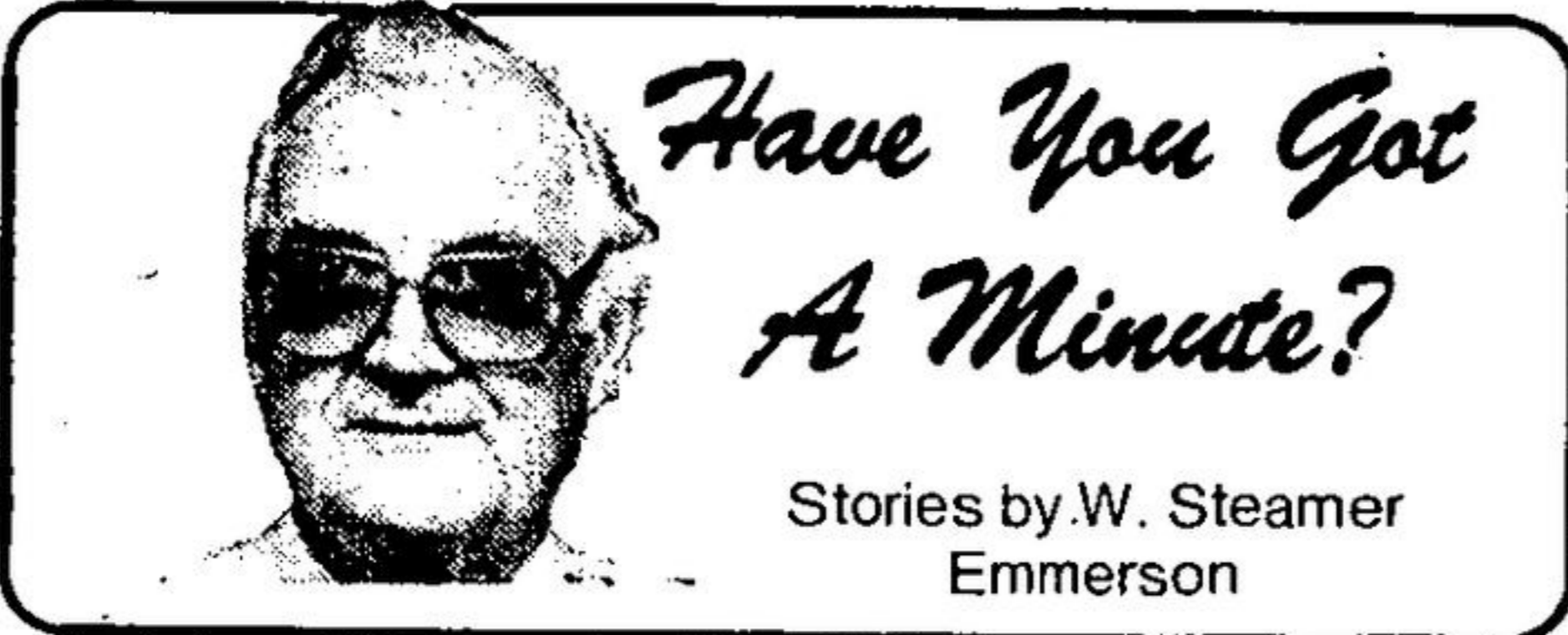
One wrong vote and out you go, P.D.Q., no fooling around. Get lost.

Why history tells us in the old, old days, a mover of a motion would have a noose placed around his neck and if his motion passed, they untied the noose. I like the idea.

It eliminated a lot of silly resolutions at meetings. The noose was the forerunner of the Mayors Chair of Office today.

So I'm saying in my campaign "a week".

Registration doesn't bother me but the next section, nomination



is my albatross.

It says I have to appoint a (C.F.O.) chief financial officer. Try and find one. I've asked dozens of friends, even strangers. Some have deferred with dignity and grace while others have just told me to go to "H", in a hurry.

My campaign won't get off the ground without a C.E.O.

I'm discouraged. Why I've got my campaign all thought out.

Naturally I'm going for the top spot, chain and all.

Here's my platform: I'll cut no more ribbons. Ribbons are out. I will refuse to attend any dinners or luncheons that serve chicken.

I went to a dinner in Acton one night, unknown to me, they served chicken. Then Bert Heaton got up and gave Georgetown a scathing. It was a scorcher. On an empty stomach, I fought back. Told the Acton audience of the number of wonderful Acton people who Georgetown respected and vice versa.

Benny Rachlin led in a "S.O." I felt good even though my plate was untouched.

So chicken dinners are out for me.

Another campaign promise, I won't ride in a limo in any parades.

Heavens, once I was whisked over to the Tenth Line bridge in the Glen to be the official starter of the Crazy Boat Race.

The limo left. I had to hitch hike home. So no more limos.

In my campaign literature I'll tell you I'll personally go over the

accounts before passage to make sure no member of council or staff have had a beer on the taxpayers while attending conventions.

Rooms at the Royal York and the King Edward will be out.

Only Days Inn or Journeys End, no frills hotels, will be sanctioned.

My campaign literature will be a photo of me at my desk with jacket off, a determined look, pen in hand to slash, cut, red-pencil, eliminate. I'll appear ruthless.

I won't be taking orders from the staff when I fill the big chair. I'll be giving them like, "Wake up, get going, let's get this show on the road."

If you read on in my material you will find council declaring no more special days or weeks or whatever.

Heavens, I went to one of those special week "do's" and was asked to say a few words. I'd signed so many proclamations I couldn't remember which one I was at so they are out.

There will be no more ceremonial pitches at the opening of baseball tournaments. One time the M.C. gave such an eloquent introduction I walked to the mound only to discover they were introducing someone else. I was embarrassed. I threw their new ball away to the kids.

I could go on and on but what's the use.

My wife refused to sign my nomination papers. She thinks I'm an old fool.

I've thrown the Candidate's Guide in the garbage.

## Seniors

# Reaching out a good place to start

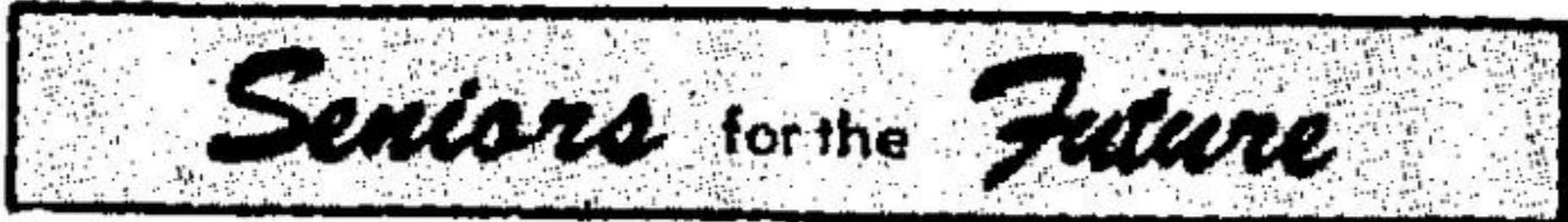
By FLORENCE WILKINSON  
Herald Special

Today, I went with two others from Halton Seniors TV Productions to do some taping of the Country Quilt Fest '91. Just a plug for our seniors group - you get to do quite a few interesting things when you are working with the camera crew!

When I came home from this event I decided it was time to read my August/September issue of Especially For Seniors, and found an article there which tied in with some of the information which we had been given at the Quilt Fest.

An article in the magazine told about a university professor who was lecturing about intergenerational conflicts, and how he did not agree that seniors were a drain on society. However, the lecturer suggested that social programs which included people of all ages should be started if age-discrimination was to be wiped out.

The quilters guilds are already doing this. This afternoon, when we stopped to talk to the two guilds that were doing quilting demonstrations at the Country Quilt Fest '91, we learned that the guilds have quilters of a big age spread, and men as well as women. As many as a third of the membership might be seniors. I was surprised to find that there was well over one hundred members in each of the guilds (Mississauga and Brampton)



demonstrating there. One of the guilds had a quilt ready for quilting that was the quilt of a 19-year-old boy who is a member. The demonstrators at that table were quite proud to be able to give us that kind of information.

I know that there are other groups which are made up of people of all ages. The Fall Fair prize lists include work from all age levels, and will be a good place to see the work of all age groups on display. There is also a group which I attend regularly which includes babies to the oldest member, and we work together very well as we worship each week.

However, it is true that, in the general development of recreational pastimes or of work patterns, the mixing of the ages is not common, and that bringing all ages together might have a healthy effect upon the community. It is recognized that young people bring a real lift to the seniors in any of the homes or hospitals where they visit, but that idea of doing things for others is quite different from the idea of doing things together.

If it is true, as the professor says, that youth are blaming seniors for the drain on society, then it really is time that every family takes seriously the idea of doing things together - including

grandparents and great-grandparents in events that are regular and common, not only special events. Taking into consideration that this is a column for seniors I suppose that I should turn that sentence around, and say that seniors should include all ages in their events, and be the ones to initiate such activities.

Since I have been a proponent of this theory for over 30 years I guess I should say that I am in favor of the idea.

However, the older I become the more I realize that each age group needs its own peers to relate to, at least part of the time, and that working and playing together is only part of the answer to a healthy society. Perhaps the only solution is for each person to put a human face on each other person, and each one to care about and respect each other one.

It is so easy for all, young and old, to dehumanize each situation; to be very ready to do things for others as long as there is no real personal touch included, or to refuse to become involved because there is so much expectation from the "structures" of society. Intergenerational groups are a good idea.

Reaching out to be human with each other is a good place to start.

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