

Baseball fever rages as World Series nears

Blue Jay fever has spread in our house. There's anger and recrimination if they blow one in the late innings, shouting and joy when the Jays come from behind and pull one out of the fire.

When the Jays are on the tube no business is to be conducted by phone, Fax, door to door, no card games, no grocery shopping, absolutely no talking by me.

Only bathroom privileges are allowed and even then you have to hurry.

Sometimes I'm just itching to tell my family of World Series fever in the back room of Harold McClure's Furniture Store and Funeral Parlor right on old Main St.

Talk about excitement.

We would gather at game time and watch the World Series.

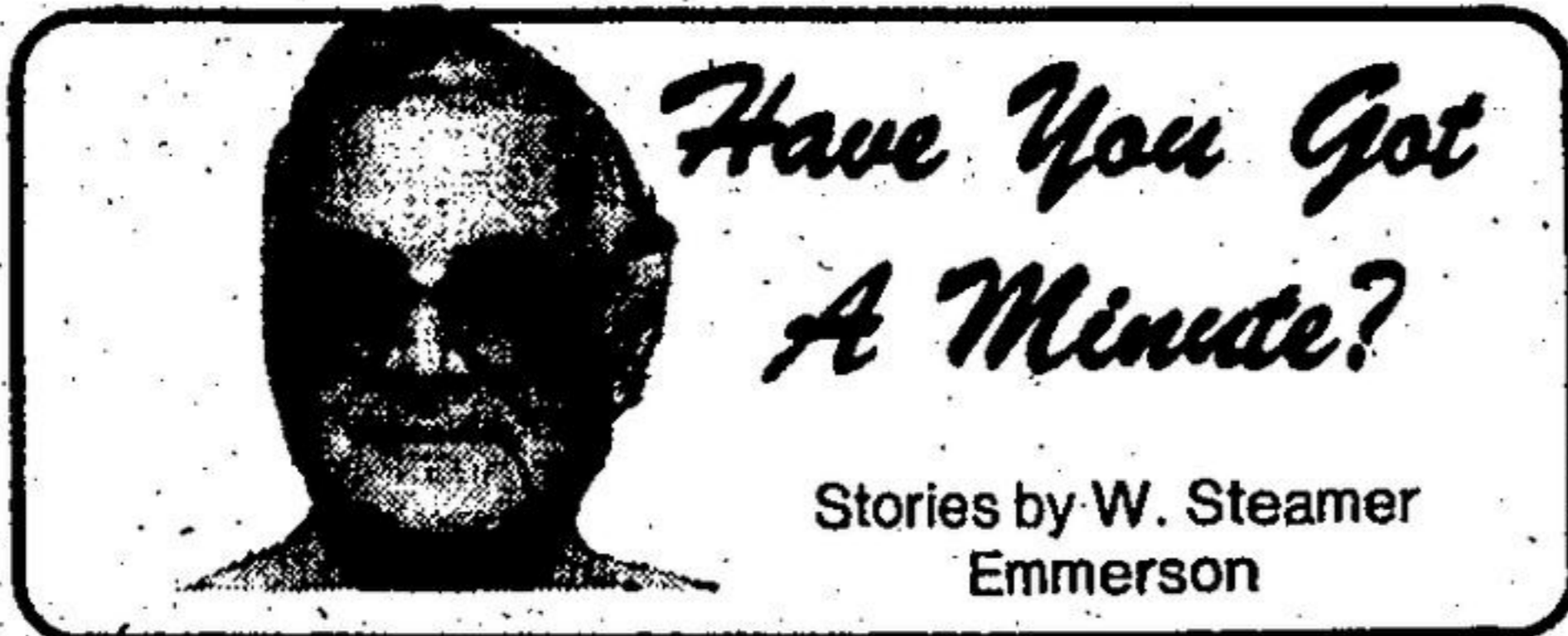
By George, this was bigger than the Glen and Georgetown playing off in the final series of the fastball league.

Why it was just today Jim Jones told me he remembered the little 12" screen, wooden box, black and white television just like yesterday.

Main St. would gather to watch the magnificent gazelles like Joltin' Joe Dimaggio, Phil Rizzuto, Iron Man Lou Gehrig and Bill Dickey prove year after year the mighty Yankees were indestructible.

Amidst boxes of uncrated furniture, embalming fluid and unopened caskets, we assembled in anticipation and excitement.

Harold had some ground rules that had to be obeyed out of courtesy to those grieving souls that popped in to buy a casket during a day game.



Stories by W. Steamer Emmerson

The casket room was located where the little submarine shop is today.

The volume on the TV had to be turned down and there wasn't supposed to be angry expletives uttered when an error was committed during the delicate and sympathetic negotiations of the casket sale.

McClures was located where the Regional Health Unit is today on Main St. Starting from the corner going south there was Brill's Clothing, Mac McLaughlin's barber shop, Red Bradley's butcher shop, then McClures, Ready's 5 and 10 cent store, Cec MacNamara Jeweller, and finally Harry Chu's restaurant.

Across the street going south was the Bank of Commerce, on the corner, McBeans and John Peter Reids hardware store. John would be in the back playing checkers with a crony, and if a customer came in he'd say "Let's just wait a bit, he'll probably go away." John liked his checkers.

Then next to him was Goodlet's Groceteria, Smith Shoes, Richardson's hardware store and last but not least was Farnell's

grocery store.

Today the term undertaker is socially unacceptable but in our day that was the job description.

Harold was perfect for the job.

He looked the part, could be extremely sympathetic, and gave a pallid picture of the perfect undertaker.

A casting director's quest for the perfect person to play "the undertaker" in a movie would end when he spotted Harold. Harold was the epitome of his profession.

Today, more professional descriptions of the trade apply and the undertaker has almost vanished.

Oldtimers tell me his understanding and sympathy were greatly appreciated by grieving families and that for an extra \$10 he'd cry.

If by chance a call came in during a game from some grieving soul, there were times they must have been taken back to hear background cries of "Kill the umpire!"

The only place to be in the 40's at World Series time was McClure's back room, dead or alive.

Harold even had a side business.

He acquired the dealership for Evinrude boat motors and sold the odd one to his cronies from his Port Sidney cottage.

However, the real fun was watching in the back room and listening to the booming play by play of Mel Allen, famous Yankee broadcaster.

His persuasive coaxing to "look sharp, be sharp, buy Gillette," forced poor old Mac McLaughlin to give up shaving in his barber shop. Everyone was buying

Gillette blades.

In the excitement of a big game, Mel Allen coined the phrase "going, going, gone," when a tremendous home run was whacked out of the ball park.

It was customary in the old days to drive the funeral procession along Main St. It's rumored the odd faithful Yankee corpse, just as the procession passed McClure's on a World Series day, sat up with delight when he heard Mel Allen shouting "Going, going, gone!"

That's what I call baseball fever.

Business courses offered

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<p>WITH THIS COUPON & \$10.00 MINIMUM ORDER EXCLUDING THIS ITEM</p> <p>REGULAR OR DIET (Unit cost 7.0¢ per 100 mL)</p> <p>Coca-Cola or Canada Dry</p> <p>case of 24 - 355 mL tins</p> <p>5.99</p> <p>LIMIT: 1 case per coupon. LIMIT: 2 coupons per customer. Offer valid Sept. 9 - Sept. 14, 1991. (Feature price without coupon 7.99) G/P S.C. #654</p>	<p>LOOK! SPEND LESS</p> <p>Shopsy's Deli Fresh or All Beef Wieners</p> <p>450 g PACKAGE</p> <p>1.69</p>	<p>LOOK! SPEND LESS</p> <p>REGULAR, FINE OR EXTRA FINE GRIND</p> <p>Maxwell House Coffee</p> <p>300 g VAC PAC</p> <p>3/4.99</p> <p>WITH COUPON BELOW</p>	<p>WITH THIS COUPON</p> <p>MACARONI & CHEESE</p> <p>Kraft Dinner</p> <p>case of 16 - 225 g packages</p> <p>4.99</p> <p>LIMIT: 1 case per coupon. LIMIT: 2 coupons per customer. Offer valid Sept. 9 - Sept. 14, 1991. (Feature price without coupon 7.99) V.C. #</p>
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