

Citizen of the Year

Sandy Booth remembered as unselfish, caring man

By **TED BROWN**
Staff writer

For the first time since its inception, the Georgetown Citizen of the Year Award was presented posthumously.

With the death of 1992 recipient Sandy Booth four days prior to the dinner, family members asked Georgetown Lions Club to carry on with the dinner as planned, and Sandy's wife Phyllis accepted the award on behalf of her late husband.

In his opening remarks, Lion president Dennis Borotsik extended his sympathy on behalf of all the Lions Club members to the Booth family, concluding his remarks with, "Tonight, let us honor the memory and achievements of a true Georgetown Citizen of the Year — Sandy Booth."

Citizen of the Year Committee chairman, Mark Rush, presented Booth's wife Phyllis with the plaque, as well as a bouquet of roses. Presentations followed with MPP Noel Duignan, Halton regional chairman Peter Pomeroy, Halton Hills mayor Russ Miller and Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce president Bob Malcolmson honoring Booth by making presentations for their respective governments and organizations. Bob Malcolmson also presented on behalf of MP Garth Turner, who was unable to be present.

In her acceptance speech, Phyllis Booth told the group Sandy was present at the dinner, if only in spirit.

"He's here with us tonight you know," said Phyllis. "And I'm sure he's as pleased as me at so many

people turning out tonight. Sandy was a great guy, and I loved him so much. This is such a wonderful honor and I'm so glad we came to Georgetown and met such great people; I just love you all!"

In attendance with Phyllis were two of their children, sons Craig and Neil, and Neil's wife Trudy. Sandy's daughter Sheila and sister Muriel were unable to be present.

Lions Club district governor Bob Emond of Mississauga offered a few words on behalf of all Lions. He commended Sandy on his life of volunteering, and recited a poem about volunteers holding a special place in heaven.

Nearing the conclusion of the formal part of the evening, Don Smith of the Optimist Club of Georgetown, expressed the feelings of most present as he told the group of Sandy's unselfish ways, and expected "even though there was only one Optimist Sandy, it would take four or five members to fill his shoes."

In a poignant and sometimes emotional speech, Smith acknowledged the group for selecting Booth as the 1992 recipient.

"I want to thank all the Georgetown Lions and everyone present here tonight who contributed to bestowing this honor on Optimist Sandy," he said, "Because by doing so, you made the last two weeks of his life the very best and the happiest. He was very proud and honored to be chosen (as Citizen of the Year), and I know he cherished it."

"There's an old saying, 'Heroes and good men never die,'" continued Smith, "And I'm sure of it tonight. Thank you all very much."

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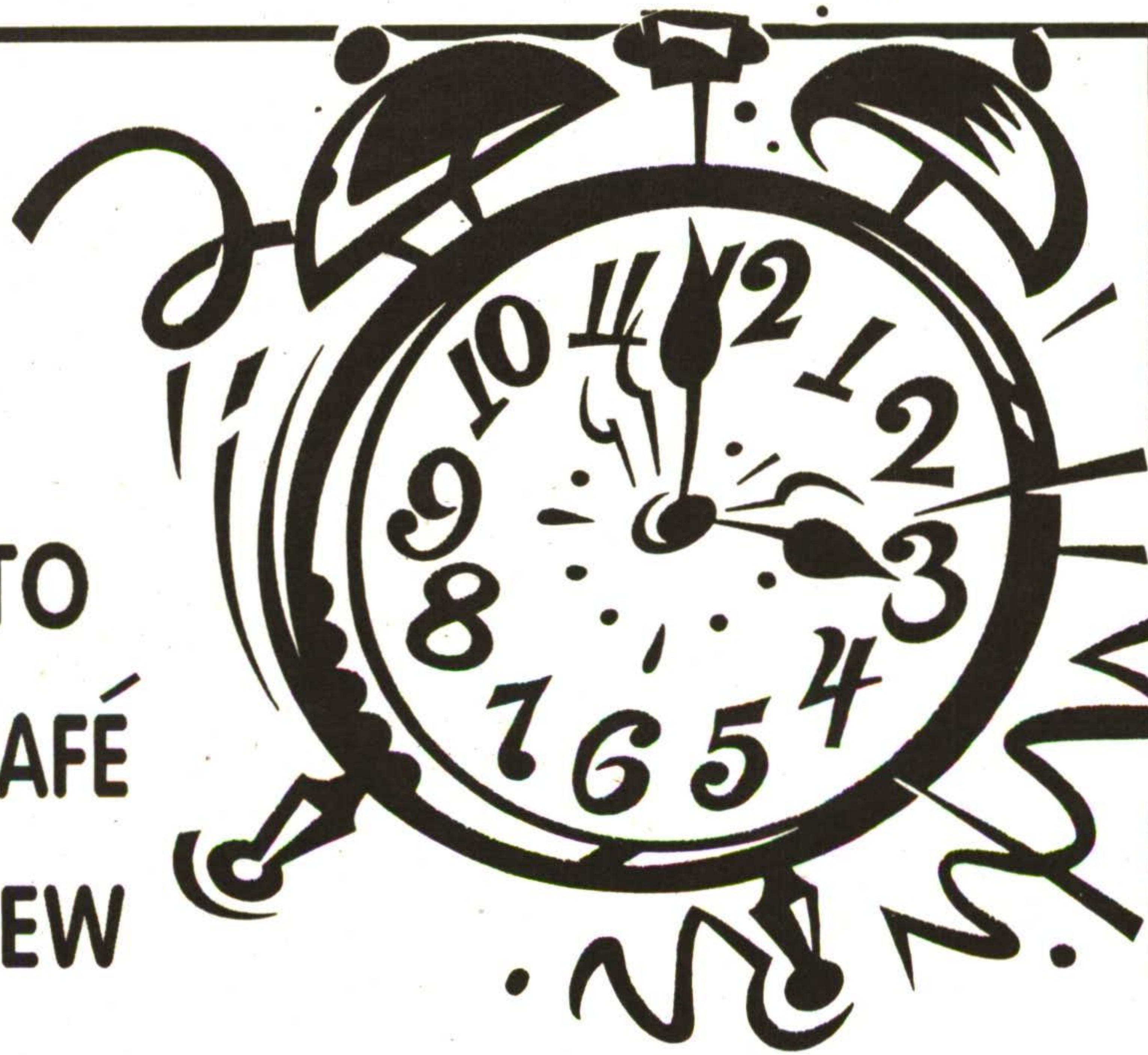
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