

First GDHS vice-principal dies

By TOM RAMAUTARSINGH
Special to The Independent/Free Press

Georgetown District High School's first vice principal, Alexander McLaren Baxter, died at the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital Longterm Care Section on February 25, 1994 in his 87th year.

He was a graduate of the University of Manitoba, earning a B.Sc degree. He followed in the footsteps of his parents by joining the teaching profession. He taught in Fort Garry High School and other schools in Manitoba for eleven years before taking up a teaching appointment in Alton, Ontario. After spending two years in Alton, he came to Georgetown High School in 1948.

He taught Science and later became department head. In 1957 he was appointed as the first vice principal of the high school, under the principalship of Mr. Leonard Lambert.

Mr. Baxter had an excellent rapport with the teachers, students, parents and the community-at-large. Teachers remember him as a valued colleague and referred to him as "Mac", while the students fondly remember him as a friend, even if they had to come in at 8:00 a.m. for detentions.

The 1967 school yearbook called "The Challenge", was dedicated to Mr. Baxter. Principal Donald F. Turner wrote, "The selection of Mr. Baxter as the person to whom you have dedicated this year's yearbook,

is your expression of your appreciation to a member of the staff who had dedicated many years of service to the students of this school."

He is survived by his two sons and their spouses, (Blake and Marilyn of Georgetown and Duncan and Jacqueline of Kitchener), grandchildren Larry (Kitchener) and Lorene (B.C.) and great grandfather of Michael (B.C.) and his two sisters, Odell Elliott of Minden and Verna and her husband Joseph Hyde of Toronto.

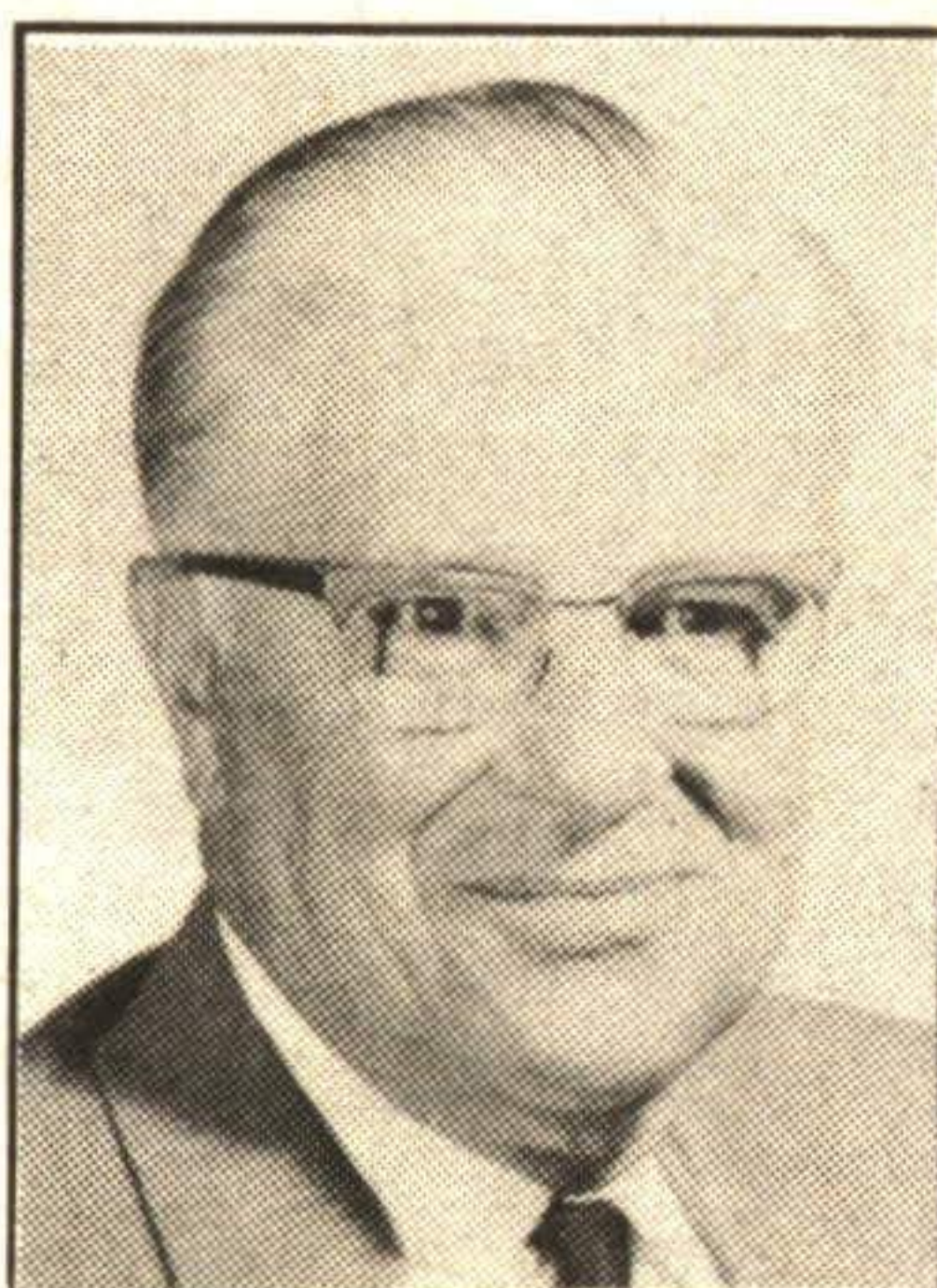
Mr. Baxter, along with Mr. Oscar Robb and Mrs. Jessie Glynn, retired on June 30, 1970.

When the retired Georgetown District High School teachers met for the first time in December, 1989, they reminisced over a meal at LeChateau Restaurant about "the good old days" and to catch up on the news, particularly those who no longer live in the community.

Due to ill health, Mr. Baxter could not attend the historic gathering, but a few of us joined him at this home on King Street. Fond memories of a bygone era were relived with amazing clarity and vividness, especially between Mac (Baxter) and Oscar (Robb), that sent us rolling in laughter.

Mr. Baxter was a genial, affable and effervescent gentleman who never neglected to share wise counsel, a smile, a grin or laughter, even under trying times. His life was one of dedication and service.

He certainly made an immense contribution in the field of education.



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