...a tribute to "Mr. Education"

(Continued from page 1)

For the duties as principal at Bruce Street Public School, the town's only public school (which consisted of eight rooms housing 260 students) he was paid \$1,400 a year. He admits female teachers were making \$800 annually at the same time in 1933.

He retired from his final post as principal in 1971 from Oakwood Public School in Oakville and, although his 44 years as an educator caused him to witness many changes, he claims "kids are still kids."

Children may be basically the same but, over the years, discipline has taken a new course.

Mr. Foster recalls, "If a child got Ian, one of his three sons, is principal into trouble at school he was disciplined at home too and it didn't hurt his emotional development. In those days it was more of a deterrent."

Mr. Education had a decided advantage, even if corporal punishment was simply a threat, he says. He does not like to think his deep voice and large physical stature invoked fear in his students but, respect instead. In his early years with the Milton

home economics, agriculture and religious education were initiated at a time when such courses were found mainly in larger centres. In 1954 Mr. Foster was appointed supervising principal of Bruce Street and the newly opened J.M. Denyes Public School. While acting as secretary and business administrator and supervising principal for Milton Valley Association for Handicapped Public School Board from 1958 to 1969, Children for eight years and is an W.I. Dick Public School was added to

his supervisory duties. Since his retirement 11 years ago, Mr. Foster has not been out of touch with education, especially now that at Oakwood, the school Mr. Foster retired from.

With the combined duties of teacher and principal until 1954, followed by supervising the town's elementary educational institutions for many years it would appear Mr. Foster was a busy career man. His commitments did not deter community involvement which continues even today.

Board of Education, manual training.

A founding member of Halton Dis-

trict Health Council, he is active as treasurer and chairman of the finance committee, chairman of the nominating committee and a member of the mental health committee. Mr. Foster is past chairman of Milton Library Board and Milton District Hospital Board and a former member of Halton Children's Aid Society. He served on the board of directors of the Credit

honorary life member. Mr. Foster is a past master and life member of St. Clair Masonic Lodge and has received his 50-year jewel from the 32nd Scottish Rite Mason, Hamilton. He has been an elder at St. Paul's United Church for 25 years and is now an Honorary elder. He was formerly the superintendent and teacher of the Sunday School at St. Paul's.

In the past he was a member of Milton Boy Scout Association and president of North Halton Music Festival Association. He is currently secretary of the Milton Lawn Bowling Club and a member of the Halton

Seniors' Information Committee. For six years Mr. Foster headed W.I. Dick and J.M. Denyes. canvassing industries for the Milton branch of the Canadian Cancer Society and continues his involvement with that organization by providing transportation to Toronto and Hamilton for cancer patients.

While instructing and supervising elementary students locally, Mr. Foster continued his own education earning certificates in physical education, agricultural science and special education. He received a Bachelor of Arts Degree from McMaster University in 1961.

Ed Wiens, principal of E.W. Foster school will not be going home at lunch hour with soiled shirt cuffs after contending with a revamped central heating system as Mr. Foster did in his early days at Bruce Street. Mr. Weins is also not likely to have to deal with four floods over the course of two years like those which filled the first school to employ Mr. Foster, with water to the desk tops.

At 72, Mr. Foster said he is grateful to those who suggested his name to be used as the Coxe Blvd. school's banner and to the board committee which accepted the idea unanimously.

He admits numerous adjectives would describe his feelings, including honored and thrilled, while his attitude reflects the pride associated with having his name join the ranks of

The name, E.W. Foster Public School, will have a place to hang by the end of the year when the school is expected to open with facilities for grades 1 to 4—later to be expanded to include Kindergarten and Grade 5.



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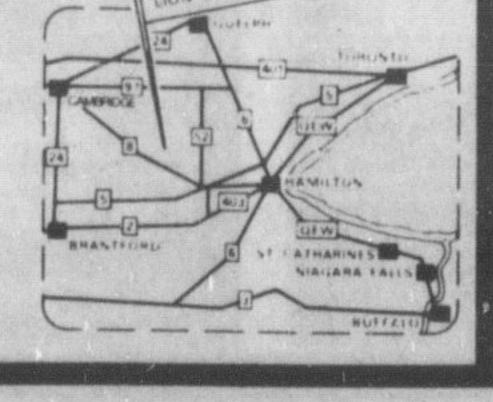
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