

That's My Line



Stella Gianetto Geneologist

by Murray Moore

Are patrons of the Pen Theatre in Penetanguishene sitting on top of old bones moldering in the ground?

What did the husband of a woman buried in Midland's Lakeview Cemetery mean by the epitaph on his wife's tombstone, "She was good with the needle?"

How many people researching their family history find that a particular ancestor is not someone necessarily to be trotted out for public admiration?

All these questions are raised after a conversation with Stella Gianetto of Sunnyside, the author of two books of local geneological history, records of the people buried in St. Ann's Roman Catholic Cemetery in Penetanguishene, and of the people buried in Midland's cemeteries.

Gianetto comes to her hobby honestly. For 34 years she worked in Ottawa for the then-Dominion Bureau of Statistics, which is now known as Statistics Canada. Now age 70, she retired and returned to Sunnyside in 1955.

Her latest project is the transcription of the census reports of 1861, 1871, and 1881 for the Townships of Tiny and Tay. The resulting list, of families by their head, should help people who want to trace their family tree, she thinks.

The official census contains a lot of errors, she cautions. The enumerators of the day had problems with the spelling of the French names, if they were English, and vice versa.

She has traced her own family in an unbroken line for more than 100 years to Italy to a small village in northern Italy near Turin.

Her family has been in this area for five generations, since 1902. She is one of only two family members who are Italian on both sides of the family.

"I want to leave them (the family) with a record of their Italian connection," she says. "Most of them are interested."

Gianetto thinks that the groundswell of interest in geneology in this country was sparked by the centennial celebrations in 1967. And in times that are less prosperous than in past years, geneology is a cheap hobby.

Six hundred and fifty people attended a spring seminar of the Ontario Geneological Society, which has 22 branches, all south of Barrie. She attends her first meeting of the society as its treasurer tomorrow.

Answers to two of the questions asked at the beginning.

The Pen Theatre and the Penetanguishene municipal offices sit on land that was used as a cemetery until 1833. Scuttlebutt has it, Gianetto says, that some of the dead who are buried here who married Indians may not have been moved with the rest.

Someone from Waubaushene who had an ancestor at the Historic Naval and Military Establishments found on an Ancestor's Day there that his ancestor was a deserter. "He just about bolted out the door. It adds a bit of spice to your family history if it's far enough removed, she said.

JUNE 9 CLINIC

Need for blood doesn't take a holiday

by Doug Reed
There's a shortage of Type "O" Positive blood in the province. If you or someone you know ever needed blood, any type, then you are aware of how important it is to be a blood donor.

This summer the Canadian Red Cross Society will collect over 85,000 units of blood from Ontario blood donors.

It is hoped at least 375 pints of blood will be collected next Wednesday at the Red Cross Blood Donors' Clinic at Penetanguishene Legion from 1:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

That's this year's target. Pat Sherk, who is chairing the clinic reports. The clinic is to be held in Penetanguishene as part of the town's centennial celebrations. And what a gift to give at this time of the year... the gift of life.

As you know blood can't be manufactured nor is any of it bought. Every drop and that means EVERY drop will have to be donated through a Red Cross clinic such as the one slated for Penetanguishene Legion next Wednesday. It should be pointed out that the demand for blood doesn't take a holiday. Long weekends are typically times of tragic traffic accidents and other calamities that require blood.

The treatment of leukemia patients and others needing blood transfusions for their medical problems doesn't stop during the long, hot summer months either. Remember this when you roll up your sleeves at next week's Red Cross Blood Donors' Clinic in Penetanguishene.

PMCL will be offering free bus rides to the clinic next Wednesday from Midland at 12:45 p.m., 1:20 p.m., 2 p.m., 2:30 p.m. and 3:40 p.m.

The clinic is to be hosted by the Huronia Branch of The Red Cross.

Amateur night in Lafontaine

One of the seven entrants in this evening's amateur night in the Lafontaine Parish Hall will be part of the Festival des Quesnoilles' annual big show, on June 26, at the Penetanguishene Curling Club.

Competing tonight are Nicole Marchand, Andre Boileau, Basile Lafrenniere, Yves Marchand, Andre Forget, Elaine Paulin, and Michel Payment.

Put your dancing shoes on

Midland and District Singles Club dance will be held at the Wyebridge Community Hall, Saturday, June 12. Dancing 9 p.m. to 1 a.m. D. J., Jim Armstrong.



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