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J. C. Horvat, B.A., O.D. years. By the time he was 30 there wasn't much he didn't know about shoes, in fact people who

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NORM EVANS

ther Bill, killed in World War II,

was also a cutter and so was his

third brother, Clayton. "Kitchen-

er, where we hail from, boasted

of many shoe plants, and I sup-

pose it was natural for us to turn to the same type of work," he

Norm was 13 when he started

trade with a well-known shoe

pany where he remained four

years before going to an Ameri-

can plant at Akron, Ohio, for two

know say he had forgotten more

than most so-called shoemakers

Work conditions and wage

scales have changed considerab-

ly, Norm said, recalling that in

the old days he assembled 40

pairs of one-strap canvas shoes

per day, for which he was paid

days and two evenings each week,

ever since his advent to 'The

Hill' and in this time estimates

he has repaired 60,000 pairs of

made one concession; during July

p.m. on Thursday and Friday and

When World War II broke out,

Norm figured he would take a

rest from his bench and joined

the Air Force. Six months later

he had himself transferred to the army. "The services needed shoes

and I had a hankering to be back in the one business I knew

from top to bottom," he said. For three-and-a-half years he was

with the army shoe depot, spend-

ing most of that period at the

Aurora Return Stores Depot, first

as a benchman, then, as a ser-

geant in charge of a department

dressed army boots," he said.

"I've seen as many as 2,000 boots

repaired in eight hours when a

depot also repaired hundreds of

Norm and his wife, the former

Myrta Hoffman of Kitchener, and

family came to Richmond Hill a

few weeks after he received his

army discharge in 1946. On March

26 of that year he opened his first

place of business on Lorne Ave-

nue in the venerable Trench Car-

riage Works building and stayed

there five years. The next five years were spent in a shop where

the United Church addition on

Yonge Street now stands and,

oddly enough, five years ago, the

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Family Trade

explained.

knew.

9c A Pair

Started At 13

## Repairing Of 250,000 Pairs Of Shoes Dr. John B. Wynne Has Been 40-year Job For Norm Evans By Axel Sjoberg

If Norm Evans decided to put Street North. the boot to his shoe repair busi- Mr. and Mrs. Evans said that person could afford." ness he could do so with a "Well before the local population mush- The Evans have three children done!" attitude but the fact is, roomed they could identify by and two grandchildren. Son Tom after some 40 years in the shoe- their footwear practically every lives in Toronto, Catherine (Mrs. making-repair trade during which person who walked by their shop. Morty Charles) lives in Richmond

he has not lost interest in his chap brought in a \$50 pair of is enough to tell you where they job. Every repair job continues hand-made golf shoes for a 35 go. to be a challenge and he figures cent tongue-sewing job, and never If Norm isn't on hand when that when leather ceases to spark returned," he told us. "We're you call, his wife will be. Mrs.

a name as familiar as their fav- that the 'iny quarter-inch-diam- away from our shop." ourite breakfast cereal. He has sharpened at least 25,000 pairs of The tiny top fits on the end of skates in the last 15 years, now about 150 pairs per week during to three and three-quarters of an the winter season. The youngsters inch long which requires a specwhose blades he began sharpen- ial machine to draw it out from ing some 15 years ago when he the heel piece. At the same time, cheap imports have drastically cut his

trade in children's shoes. It's his opinion that somewhat more expensive Canadian-made children's shoes, made with better lasts, would be cheaper in the long run. "They are longer lasting, more comfortable and need less repairing," he said. Health Tip Health-wise, he has one piece of advice. If your soles wear out

from the inside you should see a doctor because there could be something the matter. of material and equipment has doubled in recent years, he has his long hours, to which he does

same holds true for shoes, of course. His first Richmond Hill he said that today a shoemaker client, Mrs. R. Cuttance, of Rose- would have to charge exorbitant view Avenue is still with him prices to make up shoes which and one of his strongest boosters. would compare with a good factory made footwear to show a The shoe leather cutting, assem- reasonable profit. He said that bling and repair trade is synony- some years ago he made up sevn ous with the Evans family. His oldest brother Oscar spent more than 40 years in the leather-cutting business. His youngest bro
"I just couldn't afford to keep it

| final move was made to 29 Yonge | up," he said, "while sticking to a reasonable price the average

time he has been personally responsible for at least 250,000 pairs

Norm said people are funny.

Hill and Carol (Mrs. Dan Geary) resides in Oak Ridges. And when they need a repair job one guess of shoes of all makes and sizes, For example, some time ago a they need a repair job one guess

enthusiasm in him it will be time still waiting for him to collect Evans is at the counter six days a week and doesn't consider it The high heel fad has tripled work. "It's a pleasure meeting addicts, Norm's Repair Shop is his repair trade, he said, adding people," she said. "I'd be lonely



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#### Despite the fact that the cost RADIO, TV & AERIALS kept his prices at rock bottom. This, incidentally, partly explains if you want it wired up connected - call us not object. He also pointed out of OIL BURNER SERVICE that from an economy point of view, Goodyear welt makes for the best shoes because such welt & REPAIRS & SERVICE not only has a long life but can first came to 'The Hill' now send be repaired satisfactorily.

their own youngsters to him. The Hand-made Shoes ☆ REFRIGERATION REPAIRS