

Ku Klux Klan Here on Business

Visited Town Friday Night and Burned Fiery Cross.

Certainly this old town wakened up last Saturday morning when it became known that on the previous evening a squad of Ku Klux Klan had visited Oakville, and, for the first time in Canada, had exercised one of their chief objectives. That was to discourage and, if possible, prevent the marriage of a colored man and a white girl.

This action was taken as the result of an appeal made to the Klan by the girl's mother. It was really impressive how thoroughly and how systematically the Klan went about the task. According to an official statement, a watch had been kept on the couple's actions for three days and on Friday afternoon saw the couple go eastward to procure a marriage license. This move evidently proved the signal for action, for about ten-thirty that evening cars arrived bearing the Klan members. As the Klansmen left their cars they donned white robes and helmets and without the slightest demonstration, proceeded to interview the couple.

There should be no better description of their movements than to quote from their own official statement as published in the Toronto Globe of Monday:

Klansmen Had Been Watchful

"Klansmen have been watching this place for the past few days, and on Friday, Feb. 23, at about 3.15 p.m., these two people motored to New Toronto, where it is alleged they obtained a marriage license, and were supposed to have been married on Sunday, March 2. This the girl's mother absolutely forbade.

"At about 10.15 p.m. of the same evening a delegation of Klansmen, on entering Oakville, proceeded directly to the house where this white girl and colored man had been living, and were informed that he had taken this girl to his aunt's home. We then proceeded directly to this place, where we located them.

"Mr. Ira Johnson was requested to come out to interview a man regarding some work. At this instance, Mr. Johnson willingly, and of his own accord, came out of the house to an automobile where he was asked the question: "Have you a Miss Jones living in the house with you?" His reply was "Yes". He was then asked if he would have Miss Jones also come out to the car, which she did.

"At this juncture Miss Jones was requested to come with us as her mother wished to see her immediate-

ly. Mr. Johnson was assured that no harm would come to the girl, and that we would interview him within half an hour later.

Secured Promise From Girl

"We proceeded to take the girl to her mother, where she made a promise in the presence of Klansmen, that she would never again associate with a colored man. Both Mrs. Jones and her daughter were assured that at all times the Ku Klux Klan would render every possible assistance to them, and that it would be a pleasure to the Klan to act in a brotherly manner to them, and to any one in similar circumstances, regardless of color or creed.

"At this time Mrs. Jones stated that she was in service and that she would consider it a great favor if we would have her daughter cared for by the Salvation Army Home, which was our suggestion.

"On taking the girl to the Salvation Army, where she was received with open arms, the Klan was congratulated upon its worthy and excellent work, and it was stated by the Salvation Army Captain that they had been trying for some time past to take charge of this girl in an endeavor to uplift her in the channels of right living.

"The girl stated that, although she had stayed with the colored man for the past five nights, and yet that they were not married and lived there alone, she could see no wrong in this.

Fiery Cross Was Burned

"The Klansmen then proceeded to the home of Mr. Johnson's aunt, where he had been interviewed previously that evening. A fiery cross was lit and Mr. Johnson was called but it was stated by his father and mother that he was not at home.

"His parents are of sterling character and are highly spoken of in their community. The Ku Klux Klan extended to them sincere wishes that their son would mend his ways and that this demonstration would be a warning to him.

"This delegation of the Ku Klux Klan then interviewed Chief of Police Kerr, giving him full details of the case.

Not a Hand Laid on Anyone

"At no time during this movement was a hand laid upon the girl or the man; neither did a Klansman enter any of their homes, as these people acted in accordance with their own free will.

This, of course is the published statement of the Klan, not signed by an official, but sealed with the seal of the order. The wording on the seal was: "Invisible Empire, Knights of the Ku Klux Klan of Canada, Hamilton Clan No. 10, Hamilton, Ont."

Watched by Few Oakvillians

About a score of Oakville people had opportunity to watch the movements of the Klansmen and the burning of the fiery cross. They speak of the ceremony being carried out in an orderly manner and not a loud word being spoken by any of the visitors.

The white robes gave a rather spooky appearance to the scene and the burning of the fiery cross added a realistic touch. This reminded on-lookers of the stories they had been told of Klan doings in the mountains

of the south. Ghost stories were also revived.

Only a small percentage of townspeople knew anything of the invasion until next day when in the morning papers they learned of the happening. Needless to say it formed the chief subject of conversation for a few days.

Newspapermen were here in flocks on Saturday and the attorney-general department is reported to have had representatives here making an official investigation. Their report will be awaited with interest.

COUPLE ARE NOW MARRIED

The newspapers on Monday announced the marriage on Saturday last of Ira Johnson and Miss Jones. The ceremony was performed by the white minister of an Indian church at New Credit, near Hagersville. The written consent of both parents was produced.

The young couple, it is reported, will live in Oakville and according to a published interview, the Ku Klux Klan is entirely through with the matter.

By a strange circumstance, Oakville became the first Canadian community to which the Ku Klux Klan came. The story was reported on the last page of the Star March 7, 1930 in great detail. When the couple finally married, despite the Klan's attempts to thwart the union, it was reported in fine print on the front page of the March 23, 1930 edition. There was no editorial comment about the incident.

Sailed His Last Voyage

Capt. Maurice Fitzgerald Died After Lengthy Illness

"May he encounter clear skies and a following wind."

This was the oft expressed wish of friends of Captain Maurice Fitzgerald, who "crossed the channel" on Saturday evening into the final port.

The captain's illness had been extended as it required months to wear down his iron constitution. Two months ago he was taking little or no nourishment, yet that robust constitution held. But there must come an end.

The captain was a well-known figure since boyhood. He was born here eighty-seven years ago, roamed about as a boy and at fifteen went sailing. His dip into sea life was natural as a duck and he was soon in command and a vessel owner.

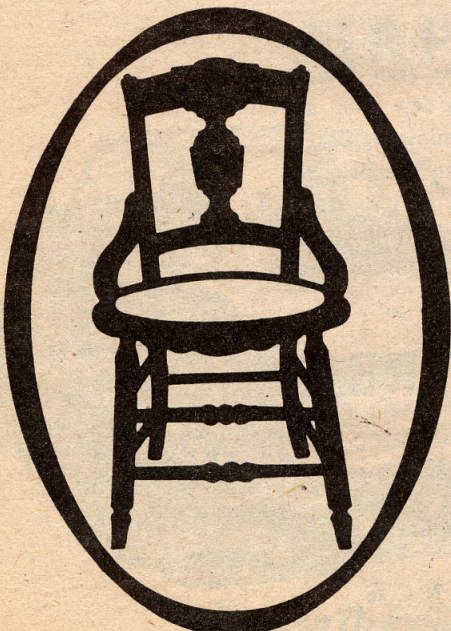
Then came retirement when he purchased the coal business of John Weir. There he anchored until he sold to Jas. A. Gledhill. From that on he leaned easily on life and beyond acting as assessor for several years led the quiet life. His figure was a well-known one.

The Star could write pages and repeat what has been published time and again. That would be repetition.

The people who knew him best will long remember Captain Maurice Fitzgerald



CAPT. MAURICE FITZGERALD
Among the Last of the Old Oakville
Sailors.



Howard's Second Generation Furniture Restoration

In 1951 Oakville born Charles Franklin Howard established a cabinetmaking and refinishing business on Pine Avenue called Howard's for Finer Woodworkers. Two years later he moved to newly built quarters on Shepherd Avenue in order to accommodate the ever growing clientele and demand for fine furniture refinishing.

In the tradition of his father Richard Howard re-established the family business in custom restoration and repair, under the name of Howard's Second Generation.

On September 2, 1975 Howard's Second Generation initiated its operations at 620 Fourth Line, Suite 7. A year later the No-Dip furniture stripping outlet was incorporated with the repair and restoration operation to offer a complete furniture service to the Oakville area.

The one-man operation in 1975 is now a five-man company serving both Oakville and Burlington with its newest location at 4104 Fairview Street, Suite 7, Burlington. The growth has been attributed to both a satisfied and referred clientele.

844-2584

620 4th Line Suite 7 Oakville
4104 Fairview Street, Suite 7 Burlington