

# Changing times for ex-publisher

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meeting because of the paper, then someone would ask if I could take the minutes and that's how I would get involved."

Both he and his father were members of the Lions Club, his father being a charter member from the club's inception in 1938.

He was also very much involved in various publishers' associations, participating in both the provincial and national organizations for weekly newspapers.

"I was president of the provincial association around 1953 and a director of the National Association; I was also president of the Canadian association in 1962." Through these newspaper groups, he travelled extensively and met publishers across the country.

As a member of the Athletic Club, one of Mr. Nolan's pet projects was the erection of the old arena on Park Drive. Fed up with the prospect of local hockey teams having to travel to Oshawa whenever the weather was too mild, the committee decided to sell shares in the building to raise the money needed. The finished arena cost \$80,000 and Mr. Nolan estimates \$68,000 worth of shares were sold.

He remembers too, how

Stouffville acquired its trademark clocktower. "Really the Tribune was responsible," he recalls. "When we came to Stouffville there was a wooden tower with a bell in it and someone would ring it at certain hours of the day."

Mr. Nolan Senior wrote an editorial in the local items column pointing out that the town had no clock. The piece caught the attention of Elizabeth Percy, a former Stouffville resident living in the States, who had kept up her subscription to The Tribune.

When she visited town, she said she would pay for the clock on one condition. "She said she wasn't going to house her expensive block in the old wooden tower," laughs Mr. Nolan; so he agreed to launch a fund raising campaign to build more suitable surroundings for the elegant timepiece.

The clock was dedicated to Elizabeth Percy's parents; her father William had been pastor of four local churches over a period of 30 years.

He remembers The Tribune office as a gathering place, "Some of the older fellows would come into the office in the evening and sit down and chew the fat."

His father would quietly note down some of what he heard and keep the notes in a file. He



Former Tribune Publisher Charles Nolan presided over the newspaper during a time of rapid change.

He took over the newspaper from his father in the late 1940s and retired in 1980.

told his son that eventually one of the old men would be gone and he would have some fascinating insights that no one else would know about. Charles Nolan kept the file for many years after his father died in 1950.

The Tribune fought hard for a high school in town. The Department of Education planned to build a big one in Markham, but Mr. Nolan was determined that Stouffville should have its own.

"His dad said we wouldn't get it," Mrs. Nolan recalls. "It made me mad," her husband acknowledged. "If we didn't get it then, we were never

going to get it."

At that time, the public school was situated at Summitview, with the Continuation School on the second floor. From there local students who wanted to complete their senior high school would have to travel to Markham. After heated debate the Board agreed to build a school, and Stouffville Dist. Secondary School opened its doors in 1954.

Mr. Nolan still recalls the heated debate in 1966 over the question of allowing a liquor store in town. "For three or four weeks before, we had letters coming in, all against the idea; and I published every

one. The week before the vote, I wrote an editorial in support; by that time it was too late for anyone to react in print," he smiles. He was still surprised when the town voted to go 'wet'.

Looking back over the years, Mr. Nolan remembers the lighter side of the newspaper. There was the time his father wrote an obituary for someone's wife.

The next week the fellow came in and asked who wrote it. He said it was the nicest thing anybody had ever said about her and he wondered if we would run it again in the following issue."

## Keirstead family — artists all

Well, not all. Only six out of the eight Keirstead brothers and sisters are full-time professional artists.

If you haven't visited The Menger Gallery in Gormley you're missing a delightful experience as well as the largest collection of original artwork by the talented and renowned Keirstead family.

Those of you who've travelled the Stouffville Rd. over the years will recall the old Gormley Post Office and General Store at the corner of Union St. (old Woodbine Ave.) and the Stouffville Side Rd.

Six years ago the Mengers bought this old landmark and began to refurbish it. What has emerged is a charming art gallery with a warm and welcoming atmosphere that encourages people to return again and again.

Pie Menger (nee Keirstead) is the owner of the gallery and most days you'll find her working on a watercolor in her studio.

"Owning my own art gallery is almost as exciting and challenging as painting in watercolors," said Pie. "Both are enjoyable, but unpredictable. It is very satisfying to know that something you've created is also bringing pleasure to others."

"I'm also very proud of my family and all their accomplishments," she said.

Pie's watercolors are full of life, yet serene. The transparent delicacy of her flowers and landscapes is "a delight to the eye and a feast for the soul" as one gentleman wrote in her gallery guest book.

"To many people the signature and name 'Keirstead' means James. I find they are pleasantly surprised to discover that there are six of us painting, but only one using the family name," Pie said.

Although James Keirstead is best known for his boldly textured paintings of rustic mills, television specials on CBC, CTV and PBS have focused on his versatility and technical skill in producing art in many forms.

Today his sculptures, woodcuts, acrylics, watercolors and oils are visual testimony to this fact. Original oils, watercolors and the ever popular Keirstead decorator prints and plates are available at The Menger Gallery.

Mitch is probably best described as a 'lifepainter'. Painting in watercolor or oil, his work is usually based on the landscape, but with a dramatic interplay of light and shadow.

Most often the focus is on the vitality of people at work or at play. Over 25 of his original oil paintings have been reproduced in limited editions of 300 and many are sold out.

Rugged landscapes and wildlife spring to life in oil paintings by Colebrook in a unique combination of palette knife and brushwork.

Art lovers have come to recognize his ability to capture a rising mist, shimmering reflections and fleeting moments in nature. His limited edition reproductions are quickly snapped up by collectors.

In her oil paintings, 'Anneka' seeks to capture the beauty of Canadian landscape. Northern lakes and streams, waterfalls and picturesque snow-covered valleys overshadowed by evergreens and birch are some of her favorite subjects.

Shon, the eldest of the Keirsteads, began painting full time one year ago. She is currently on a sketching and photography trip in western Canada. Her oil paintings from this trip will be on display later this year.

If you wish to visit The Menger Gallery, either to browse or purchase the artwork of the



Pie Menger stands outside The Menger Gallery displaying one of her watercolors, Ruffles and Lace, which features blue iris.

Keirstead family, you'll find the gallery is open year round, Tuesday to Friday, 1-9 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday 1-5 p.m. The gallery is located on the

Stouffville Rd. between Hwy. 404 and Woodbine Ave., Gormley. Call 887-5795 for more information and news on the upcoming series of shows.