

Claremont resident and former fire chief Jack Ward has sold the building that housed his business of 40 years, Ward Machine and Welding. He plans to

continue living in his Wixson St. house with his wife

## Welder douses torch after 40-year career

BRUCE STAPLEY Correspondent

Jack Ward is hanging up his welding torch.

The Claremont resident and former fire chief has sold the building that housed his business of 40 years, Ward Machine and Welding. He plans to continue living in his Wixson St. house with his wife Bernice.

A mechanic in the Canadian air force during the Second World War, Ward worked for Barkey Machine and Tool) before setting up shop in his father's double garage in Claremont, where he was born and raised.

A self-taught machinist and welder, he built the first half of his own shop in 1950, then completed it in 1960.

¿Initially he was kept busy looking after the equipment and machinery of area farmers and gravel truck operators. He never wanted for business.

days; a) weeki at, times, he, located in Scarborough recalls. "If I didn't have the jobdone by the end of the week and most times, although of late he was pleased with my decision."

they needed it Monday, then I'd be in there Saturday and Sunday."

spend the greater part of his time after it all on my own." building special equipment for machinery for them. They'd with something."

Ward claims to have watched a variety of changes through the Brothers (now Stouffville years in Claremont and feels that things were a lot busier in the

> "Claremont was more industrious 40 years ago when I started in business. Charlie Cooper ran a big hardware, farm implement and car sales operation north of where the Bank of Commerce is. He sold farm equipment all over Canada."

> Ward remembers doing work for Cooper on a regular basis, as well as for Sarco of Canada, a

had been alone in the shop.

"I've had some pretty good people. But towards the end I In later days, Ward would slowed down a bit and looked

While Ward closed the shop Dominion Mushroom of door March 30, he's still busy Brougham. "I did a lot of custom cleaning out the building for the new owner, who takes possession come to me with their ideas, I'd May 15. A recent auction sale tell them mine, and we'd come up helped him dispose of some of his equipment.

As for the future, Ward says he'll take it a day at a time. "I don't know exactly what I'll do. But there seems to be a lot to keep me busy."

He has an interest in woodworking and makes clocks and furniture out of cherry and oak. The Wards also enjoy travelling out of Canada and sometimes go to Milwaukee to visit their daughter.

But for the most part, Jack Ward will simply do the things he hasn't had time to do in the past 40 years, which will include spending more time with his wife.

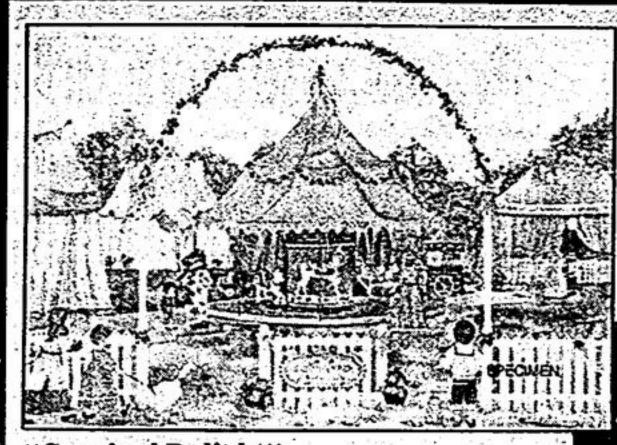
"I didn't feel like working any He maintained a staff of two. more," he says. "I think Bernice.

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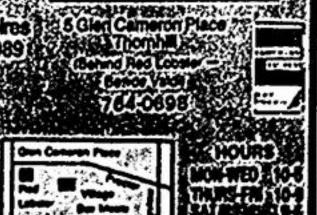
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