

coached the bantam team. Jimmy Newman, Gordon Harris, Charlie Copeland, Carson Cruthers, Jimmy Kingsbury, Albert Belford and others and myself formed what we called the Cooksville Sports Club. We handled softball and hockey, and the Cooksville Brick and Tile team was the top dog in those days in everthing. Joe Holmes was president of it, and his wife, Grace, was a competent ball player in the Sunnyside league. Her brother, Norm Lawson, who was active in Lakeview and had coached girls' softball teams, got together the first girls' hockey league in Toronto Township. So we set up a girls' series. They talk about girls' hockey being new — it's no such thing, it just died out for awhile, that's all.

**ME:** Back in 1950, you were on the Toronto Township Centennial Committee. What preparation were you involved in for this event?

**MR. B:** I was on the committee in a sports capacity and

arranged for hockey teams to be dressed up to go in the parade. All our sports teams were represented and the parade route was from Cooksville to Port Credit. I received a nice letter from the Reeve, Doug Dunton, thanking me for my efforts.

**ME:** You were with the Board of Education as a master electrician up until '67 when you left for health reasons. What jobs does an electrician handle in this capacity?

**MR. B:** I was with the Board of Education for 15 years. It's taking care of the electrical maintenance, and the installation left by construction, repairs and breakdowns and so on. We only had about 40 schools when I left; now there are 150. I trained four or five apprentices into their licences while I was there.

**ME:** In 1969 to '71, you were superintendent of an apartment building. How enormous is the responsibility of this type of occupation?

**MR. B:** I'd rather forget about that — it was the worse thing I ever got myself mixed up in. It was the first 14-storey all-electric building here and they didn't know what to do with it; the heating system wasn't right and they wanted me to take care of it electrically. And I got stuck with the superintendent end of it, which I hated! We went and lived there for two years; that's why I said I'd like to forget it, because I never got any sleep the two years I was there.

**ME:** Now you work part time as a master electrician for Leaver's Mushrooms. How enjoyable has this two-year relationship been?

**MR. B:** They are an old family firm and just tremendous to get along with. I couldn't say one bad word against them. They are wonderful people, and they are one of the backbones of the municipality. There is a good story behind that company. Mildred's dad and her uncle George Belford used to rent land over where Applewood Plaza sits now, and they used to sell produce to Grandfather Leaver: he had a store in downtown Toronto. He used to come out on his day off dressed up in his suit of clothes and he would roll up his pant cuffs and shirt sleeves and help hoe all day just for exercise and recreation. He got to like the neighborhood so well, he came out and bought land and there is the beginning of Leaver's Mushrooms.

**ME:** Your wife, Mildred, has been extremely occupied with the Cooksville School Centennial Celebration, which takes place this coming weekend (June 23). What part of the plans has she been handling?

**MR. B:** Mildred is handling the pictures. She has quite a few of her own, and pictures have been coming in from all over. They put announcements in the papers and on radio stations across Canada and down in the States, and the response has been tremendous.

**ME:** How have things been materializing for this outstanding event?

**MR. B:** Very well — everyone has been working to do the job he was assigned. They now have over 1,600 people on their mailing list. Mildred's Aunt Hannah lives in Cereal, Alberta, and she is coming. She will probably be one of the oldest people there; she taught at Cooksville School in 1910. There are about 30 people on the committee, headed by the chairman, Jack Price. They have been having regular meetings every two weeks since September 1972, and they are going to continue as a committee ever after the Centennial, so that they can put together a book on old Cooksville. They have had many donations, which has helped considerably — everything takes money. It couldn't really be a success without the help of the people who have sent pictures and information, and the contributors and the dedication of the Centennial committee.

**ME:** Having participated in a Centennial yourself, what are your feelings about your wife's co-operative efforts with the Cooksville School project?

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