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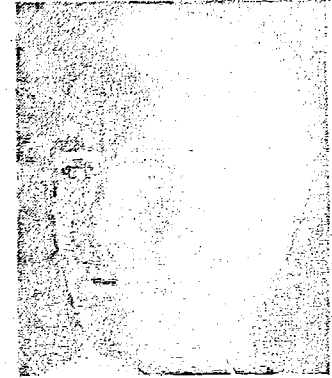
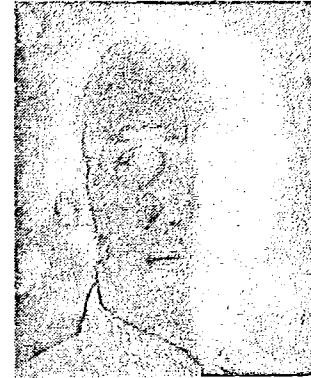
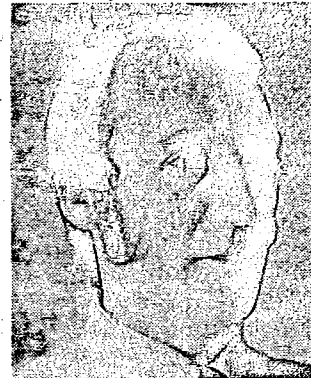
CORNER, BILL

a v.i.p. and me

(very interesting person)

By KATHLEEN A. HICKS

"... the biggest thing is seeing the number of boys that we have playing hockey in a good league with fine officials and excellent facilities. And the fact that we are accommodating so many of them and providing hockey for them."



BILL CORNER:

President-Mississauga Hockey League
Past President-Port Credit Hockey Association
Senior Partner-Allen, Miles, Fox and Johnston
Accountants

ME: You are the 1973-'74 president of the Mississauga Hockey League. What were your thoughts about this undertaking when you started your year in office?

MR. CORNER: I was a little apprehensive, I think. I hadn't been involved in a great number of committees before; the discipline committee last year was probably the most time consuming. That committee is a necessary one to sit on for future presidents of the league; it is a real eye opener to a lot of the directors who do serve on it. It is too bad really that a lot of area directors, managers and coaches don't sit on it. It certainly helped prepare me, because you really get to see what is happening out there in the arenas. As far as the current year is concerned, I naturally hope to have a successful year for the league to be successful.

ME: Is it a difficult task, or would you prefer to think of it as a challenge?

MR. CORNER: I've always thought of it as a bit of a challenge to see if you can make it to the top. I think you get a lot of personal satisfaction out of this achievement. It's not nearly as difficult as I thought it was going to be really, and I think the reason for this is that the Board of Directors this year has been excellent. They have all pretty well done the jobs they have been assigned, and we have had co-operation from the area presidents. And it is like everything else, if everybody does their job, it becomes easy.

ME: What were your hopes for this year and have you accomplished them?

MR. CORNER: I guess one of the biggest things that I was looking forward to was the introduction of the Hockey Canada program for coaches, which I think has been successful. We have run one level one, one level two, and we have just started on level three. We had about 45 M.H.L. coaches to our first level last October. It was the first time for our house league, the reps ran a course for their coaches last May. It's quite a lengthy course; it is eight nights, three hours a night, plus two on ice sessions. So it is a fairly comprehensive course. We have about 30 M.H.L. coaches this time, so that will give us 75 out of approximately 400 who will have level three qualifications. Hopefully, in the not too distant future all the coaches will be qualified. The course deals first of all, with the philosophy of coaching, which I feel is extremely important in a house league such as ours. Next is the age level consideration, the fact that you can't treat a novice player the same as a juvenile; equipment, injuries, and then the teaching of the basics of hockey, skating, shooting, passing, checking, offensive and defensive systems, penalty killing and power plays. It's an excellent course. It is a joint effort between Hockey Canada, and up to level three is run through the provinces, so the Ontario Hockey Association is involved in it as well.

ME: What satisfaction have you felt from your association with the M.H.L.?

MR. CORNER: I think just the working in the M.H.L., and the biggest thing is seeing the number of boys that we have playing hockey in a good league with fine officials and excellent facilities. And the fact that we are accommodating so many of them and providing hockey for them.

ME: What is your background in the league?

MR. CORNER: We moved to the Applewood area in 1963,

after five years in Montreal. I had an uncle on the board in Port Credit and I told him I was interested in coaching a team. So I started there in the '63-'64 season, and we won what was then the Bantam A championship. I coached for three years there, and the second year I went on the Board of Directors and became treasurer and worked my way through to president. I then became an area rep the first year I was president, 1966-'67, and I was an area rep for two years. Then I became treasurer of the M.H.L. for the next three years, followed by second vice in '71-'72, and first vice to Warren Marshall during the '72-'73 season.

ME: What responsibility is put on you in a league that controls the sports life of over 6,000 boys?

MR. CORNER: It is a big responsibility, but there are other members on the board that you can deal with, and if you don't know the answers yourself, you can always consult with others, especially past presidents. Anything that isn't covered particularly you have to rule on it as fairly as you can, as equitably as you can, keeping in mind that the objective is to let the boys play hockey. Probably the biggest problem for the president and the largest area he is responsible for is to make sure everyone is doing what they are supposed to be doing, and co-ordinating the whole organization. We get a lot of support from the Recreation and Parks department people like Bill Kriesel, John Young and Ian Scott. They are all willing to dig in and help. It makes our work that much easier. This year I think I took perhaps a little different approach in dealing with area presidents to a greater extent than through the board of directors on such matters as triple "A" teams and ice allocation.

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Reps better off with local boys

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ME: There has been talk about the Mississauga Rep Association going outside of Mississauga for players. Do you have a comment to make about this?

MR. CORNER: I would be unhappy to see that happen. I would like to see the old concept adhered to whereby they are providing hockey for Mississauga boys. To me it doesn't really matter whether you win championships as long as you are competitive, and if you can be competitive using Mississauga boys then that is the route to go — that's my personal feeling. They are reasonably up in the standings anyway, so they aren't suffering too much.

ME: You still play industrial hockey twice a week. Have you always played hockey?

MR. CORNER: I started playing in elementary school. I played M.T.H.L., I guess I was peewee age. We didn't have a sponsor; it was just kids from two arch rival schools who combined to make a team and put an entry into the M.T.H.L. With the exception of one year, I have always played. I played M.T.H.L. right through to intermediate hockey. I played in a couple of Saturday afternoon leagues out in East York and Keele, which was intermediate. I played in a transport league up in Nobleton for a couple of years on Sundays. Then when we were in Montreal, I played on a chartered accountants league, which was a pretty big league. I was also on a young men's league from the church in Nobleton, that was where Ken Cox was refereeing. When I returned from Montreal they were still playing, so I went back with them. I guess I've been playing hockey with this particular team since 1957.

ME: What is the most comical thing you can remember happening during a hockey game?

MR. CORNER: About the only comical thing that I can think of was when I played hockey for the high school, and I had no shin pads. I picked up the name spider, because of the skinny legs.

ME: What do you find the most enjoyable about your hockey participation, either playing or as a volunteer for minor hockey?

MR. CORNER: So far as playing, I still get a bit of a kick as soon as I step on the ice even if it's our Monday night shinny game. There is something about skating itself which is different to me — there is no other feeling like it. I just enjoy the physical activity and the competition. I like the game because you are doing a lot of things different than you would naturally do.

ME: What principals have you abided by where your life is concerned?

MR. CORNER: It may sound corny, but I believe in living by the golden rule, really. I feel if you respect other people and their things and try to be fair all the way down the line, if everybody was that way, I think it would be a better place to live in. Just play the game according to the rules.