

- HOOPER, Lawrence J.

## Hooper's Pharmacy Served P.C. Area For Forty Years

Hooper's Drug Store on the Lakeshore Road in Port Credit, has been a familiar sight to the people of the town for the past 40 years or so. It was back in 1923, when Lawrence J. Hooper, the owner of the drug store until a year ago, graduated from the Ontario College of Pharmacy and started to look around for a place to start up in business of his own. He finally found a for rent sign in the window of a little grocery store, Fletchers, in the Spriggings Building - where Parsons, Taylor and Nigh are now located, just west of the present Hooper's Pharmacy. After looking over the site and making a few discreet inquiries as to the possible business opportunities in a village where there already was one druggist in business, the deal was made. Hooper's Pharmacy was born.

Mr. Hooper was born in St. Marys, Ontario, and received his early schooling there and as a lad worked evenings and Saturdays in his local drug store. It was here he became interested in the profession and in due course, after the then, requisite four year apprenticeship at Ontario College of Pharmacy, he graduated in 1923.

Hooper's has always been a Rexall pharmacy since its inception. Mr. Hooper served his apprenticeship in one of the original 25 Rexall drug stores in Canada. Mr. Hooper is a past director of the Rexal Drug Company of Canada as well as past president of the International Association of Rexall Clubs.

In 1927 Hooper's Pharmacy was appointed its first rural agent by Gray Coach Lines, when the firm initiated its first run outside of the city, from Toronto to Hamilton. In recognition of this fact, the bus line presented Mr. Hooper with a gold-plated ticket punch for his own personal use.

A little over a decade later, in 1939, Mr. Hooper bought the property next door to his original site and built the present L. J. Hooper's Pharmacy on it. Since that time the store has been renovated and modernized many times in keeping with the times. It was incorporated as a limited company in 1960.

It was just after the move into the new premises, that Ron Burns appeared on the scene. Born in Peterborough he graduated in pharmacy from the University of Toronto in 1940, and came to Hooper's the same year. In 1942 he joined the army and was overseas, returning to civilian life - and Hooper's - in 1946. He has been there ever since and in February of 1964 bought the business from Mr. Hooper.

Although the change of ownership made Mr. Burns president of the company, the close association these two men have had throughout the years, the high ethical standards for which the firm has been noted, have continued to be maintained. The familiar face of Lawrence Hooper is still seen in the store, for he has remained as director and pharmacists' consultant. The present owner has maintained the same business standard and to-customer service which has given Hooper's Pharmacy such a good standing in the community.

1964?