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SOUTHERN COMFORT

Over 10,000 (diplomas) served

Campus calligrapher carries on

By CATHY HONSL

In a sunny office at Winters College works an older gentleman whose name may mean nothing to most students.

Yet Georges Steffen, 76½ years old, is the man responsible for all the diplomas handed out by the university. In fact, he has single-handedly done the lettering on every diploma, citation and honorary doctor's degree bestowed on students and non-students alike since York's beginning.

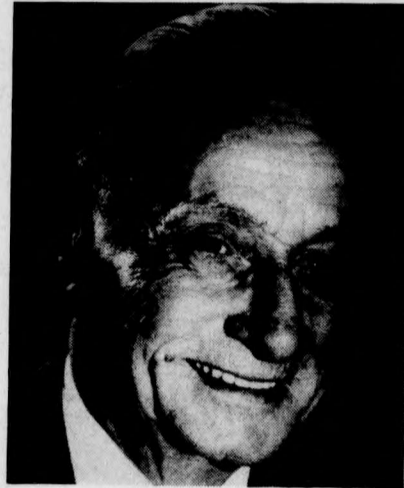
Georges ("all the people who know me call me Georges") came to Canada from Luxembourg in 1930. Back in his native land, as a top high-diver, he had been one of his country's finest athletes. In 1920, he was practically Luxembourg's one-man Olympic team to Antwerp, Belgium, where he won a bronze medal for swimming.

In Canada, he taught foreign languages at the university level until the outbreak of the Second World War, at which point he worked for the RAF, Intelligence Branch.

"I signed up with the Royal Canadian Air Force, but we were sent over to London and they transferred me over to the RAF. I was assigned to the Intelligence Branch because I was fluent in seven languages."

He received five military awards, but "I don't know where the awards are now. Maybe they're lost. I don't know."

When this reporter went to visit him, she found the walls of his office festooned with awards, including a citation from the Canadian Red Cross Society for 14 years of valuable volunteer work for the organization. There were sheafs of memorabilia



Georges Steffen

too — a newspaper clipping of himself receiving this citation from the hands of Governor-General Roland Michener; pictures of himself and various members of the royal family of Luxembourg; and more captioned newspaper pictures of himself with various Luxembourgian dignitaries and important

members of government.

"One of my greatest pleasures since I've come to Canada," he said, "is that I've been able to keep up my friendship with the royal family."

In 1969 he was awarded the Order of Merit from the Luxembourg government. He had won the Gold Medal and the Order of Merit of Sports before that.

He is a proficient oil-painter and the only honorary member of the York physical education and athletics department.

A friend of many top people on campus ("they know me very well on the ninth floor because I'm up there delivering diplomas all the time"), Dr. Steffen has the distinction of being the oldest university employee who has served with the university since it opened.

He says he was very happy that when his retirement year came up in 1968, then-president Murray Ross asked him to stay on. They set him up doing diplomas on a full-time basis, instead of part-time, and he's been doing just that ever since.

Calumet on trail of a new master

It's hard to find the right man for the right job.

Calumet College has been searching since last March for a new master to replace Ian Sowton, whose term ends on July 1, 1975.

A short list of candidates for the job was presented by the two-member search committee to the college council on November 1. Since one of the candidates was not a tenured professor and since the council considered a short list comprised of only one name to be a trifle too short, both names were rejected.

Norman Feltes, chairman of the search committee, and Noel El-Negouny, a member, both resigned as a result of the council's decision. Feltes commented that "he had run out of ideas".

A new search committee, chaired by John Mays, was formed.

Last week, Mays began anew the hunt for a master. Nine and a half months gone; six and a half to go.

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