

A naturalist and a historian

Harold "Kip" Reeves, a well-known and respected historian and naturalist in the Hope township area passed away at his Lakeshore Road home early Wednesday morning.

Mr. Reeves was the man who compiled the "History of Hope," township with all its fascinating details about life in Hope and Port Hope over the past centuries. He was also one of the founding members of the Willow Beach Field Naturalists.

Born on the Lakeshore Road farm owned by his parents, he acquired the name "Kip" early in life.

In an article in the Young Willow Beach Field Naturalists magazine "The Curlew", he explained that he had an older brother, Clifford, who died; a little neighbour boy called the younger Harold "Little Clifford" or "Kip", and the name stuck with him throughout the years.

Kip's interest in nature was stimulated many years ago by an invention with Hoyes Lloyd, at that time Enforcement Officer with the Migratory Birds Convention Act. It was very unusual to be a naturalist at that time and in Mr. Reeves own words-

"If I was strolling along the road with field glasses, and a car came into sight, I used to put the glasses inside my shirt and look innocent. I believe that I would have been looked upon as a fit candidate for the 'loony bin'. "Later public opinion began to change and "a few friends from Toronto and Port Hope walking along the fence rows and peering with glasses gradually made this 'waste of time' respectable - so that today a person can proudly wear field glasses without the stigma of being considered 'not quite all there.' "

For Harold Reeve nature study became an absorbing hobby. He ceased full-time farming in the 1950's and through the years he developed wider and wider interests. His interests ranged from birds, trees, wildflowers and grasses to local history. History was his latest topic of intensive research and in 1967 at the request of the township council, he completed the "History of Hope Township" - a centennial project. He had continued compiling research on local history which it is hoped will be used for a future history on the town of Port Hope.

In the 1950's Mr Reeve and his wife Florence, who shared his interest in nature, owned land in the Willow Beach area. Their property, with its wide marshes, meadows and

continued on page 4



Harold Reeves

continued from page one

Harold Reeves obituary

woodlands, became a haunt for naturalists. Here Kip made most of his studies and was regarded as an authority on the flora and fauna of the area. For years, groups of interested people from the Federation of Ontario Naturalists and the Toronto-Field Naturalists would converge on "Willow Beach Lodge" for their weekend outings and they looked to Kip Reeve for guidance and identification of species on those field trips. In fact, he and his Willow Beach contributed so much that he was made a life member of the FON.

Collecting specimens of plants, and wild flowers, listing birds and wild animals in Hope township, Kip Reeves contributed much to natural history studies in Canada, not just Ontario.

He will be sadly missed by Mrs. Reeves, his daughter Mrs. Jane McColl, and all the people of Hope township and Port Hope.

Funeral services for Mr. Reeves were held this afternoon from the D.E. Allison funeral home.