

Bobby Holmes

Robert M. Holmes, well known bellhop of the Grand Central Hotel will deliver his last tray and carry his last bag today and then settle down to a well earned rest as he retires for the second time in his life.

"Bobby" as he is affectionately known to most of the people in St. Thomas and to the many people who have stopped at the hotel during their travels, has been a bellhop at the hotel for the past four years, after retiring in 1956 as a caretaker at the Elgin County Courthouse, where he had served for 36 years.

"The last four years have been the liveliest and most pleasant four years I have ever spent," he remarked this morning in between carrying out his hotel duties. "There have been good people to work for, and there is always plenty of excitement and lots to do in the hotel."

DID WORK OF THREE

Although small in stature, he is only four feet, ten inches high, no job was too big for Mr. Holmes and he has always been known for his pleasant disposition and the way he went about his work.

"We are going to miss Bobby around here," was the way one hotel employee put it. "We are going to need three men to replace him."

Even at his present age, 74, Mr. Holmes will break into a sprint along the hotel corridors if the work piles up on him. On the odd occasion when he has nothing to do, he will be by the hotel elevator, with his famous pipe in his mouth, waiting to be of service directly the bell was rung.

Born in Islington, London, England, near the famous "Angel" Hotel, Mr. Holmes was a jeweller's messenger and pawnbroker before he left for Canada in 1909. He tried his hand at farming for a few months at Ridgetown, but later that year came to St. Thomas. For the next few years he worked as a bartender in several hotels in St. Thomas and Port Stanley, was a steward on the tug "Hercules" and the dredge "Industry" and then worked at the old Amasa Wood Hospital for five years, and later became steward at the Y. M. C. A.

In 1916 he joined the 216th Bantams of Toronto, going overseas to England and ended his service as an officer's batman. While in England he married his wife, the former Florence E. Norris of Wallington, Surrey, whom he had known for some time. On his return to Canada, following the war, he worked for a while at the Sutherland Press, and then became caretaker of the courthouse in 1920.

"When I went to the courthouse I had a son three months old," he recalled, "and when I came out, that boy was married and had three children of his own. The



BELLHOP RETIRES — Allen C. Quick, left, a resident of the Grand Central Hotel, says farewell to Robert (Bobby) Holmes, who is retiring today as a bellhop at the hotel after four years of service.—T.J. Photo.)

Police, Negroes Clash In N. Y.

NEW YORK (AP)—A boy was killed and two persons were injured early today when police clashed with an angry crowd in Brooklyn's Bedford - Stuyvesant section.

About 50 shouting Negroes gathered at Atlantic and Fulton Avenues when two white patrolmen

tried to arrest a narcotics suspect. Ten shots were fired during the fracas. Eleven patrol cars restored order.

Haywood Bovian, 19, pushed out of the crowd and grabbed Patrolman Francis Carillo's night stick, police said Carillo and Patrolman Paul McHugh fired a him. A bystander, Raymond Gannoway, a Negro, 17, was shot to death.

During the fracas the narcotics suspect escaped.

The International Phonetic alphabet is an almost perfect alphabet of 83 characters invented for the use of scientists.

One of Few to Retire Twice

courthouse was the only home my family had ever known and they often talk about it. When I went there I felt like a submarine that had submerged. I was so snowed under with work. There are a lot of corridors over there that need continual cleaning and polishing and other things to fix, that I was kept very busy."

INTERESTING WORK

It has been the hotel work that has been the most interesting for Mr. Holmes. Asked about the well-known people whom he had looked after while at the hotel, he recalled Lord Elgin, Premier Leslie Frost, Attorney General Kelso Roberts, Louis Armstrong, the band leader, Wrestler Whipper Billy Watson, Singer Juliette, Detroit Hockey Club Manager Jack Adams, The Cleveland Barons Hockey Team, The Canadian Players, several Supreme Court Judges and Broadcaster Kate Aitken.

He was once stuck in the elevator with five members of the Chicago Black Hawk hockey team,

whose combined weight proved too much for the elevator and caused a fuse to blow. The problem was solved in a few minutes.

Mr. Holmes lives with his wife at 68 Elysian street and they have three children. Robert Edward in London, Ruth, also in London and Daniel in Ottawa. He has been a member of First United Church since 1914. He has no plans for the future except to take life easy and enjoy a rest. He likes to read, especially biographies of famous people and has followed the stories of Winston Churchill, both in Churchill's own biography and in the book by Churchill's valet. He also likes to read books on the history of Germany and has made quite a study of the Krupp family of German industrialists. The knowledge he has gained from reading is apparent as he talks, and his memory is fantastic.

In honor of his retirement, the hotel staff held a dinner for him and Mrs. Holmes on Friday night and presented him with a wallet of money.