

Optimists hold bike rodeo

June 1/88

The annual bike rodeo sponsored by the Thamesford Optimist Club was found to be ineffective in attracting large groups of area youngsters, out to take part in the various tests, despite excellent prizes such as new 10 speed bikes. So, a new approach was tried with the co-operation of the administration and staff of Thamesford Public School and the local Block Parents Association.

The tests of bicycle skills for various age groups were held during a normal school day on Tuesday, May 24 with over 180 boys and girls ranging from Kindergarten to Grade 8 taking part.

The top winners (boy and girl) go on to the Optimist Zone final to be held in Embro on June 25.

Tom Boaz was the Thamesford P.S. teacher co-ordinating the rodeo.

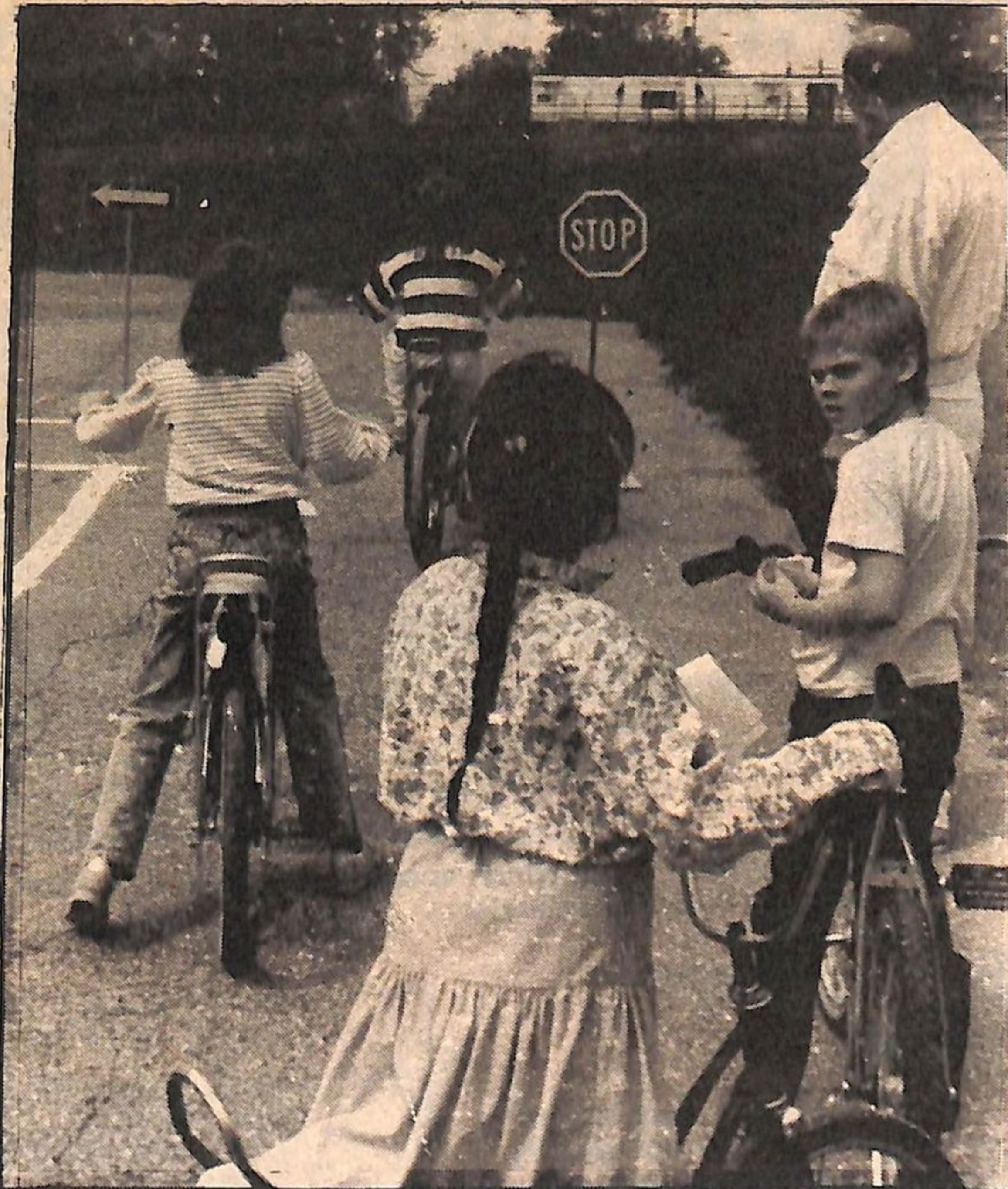
The Thamesford Optimist Club and the Block Parents would like to thank Woodstock O.P.P. Constable Barry McKenzie for his assistance during the rodeo.

Jill Ehgoetz of the Block Parents was responsible for originating the idea of holding the rodeo on a school day to allow a larger number of participants.

Involved in the rodeo were; Optimist President Doug Hallard, Scott Henderson, Gerry Zvonkin, Greg Vicars and Optimist Lieutenant Governor Bob Berge from Embro. Block Parents - Jill Ehgoetz, Liz Cannell, Sharyn Fisher, Kathy McKinnon, Heather Forbes, Debbie Hogg, Sandra Burdick, and Jan Vicars.

Winning students were; Kindergarten to Grade 1 - Becky Binning, Grades 2 & 3, Eric Madsen, Grades 4 and 5 - Ian Hunter, Grades 6, 7, and 8 - Jenni Locke.

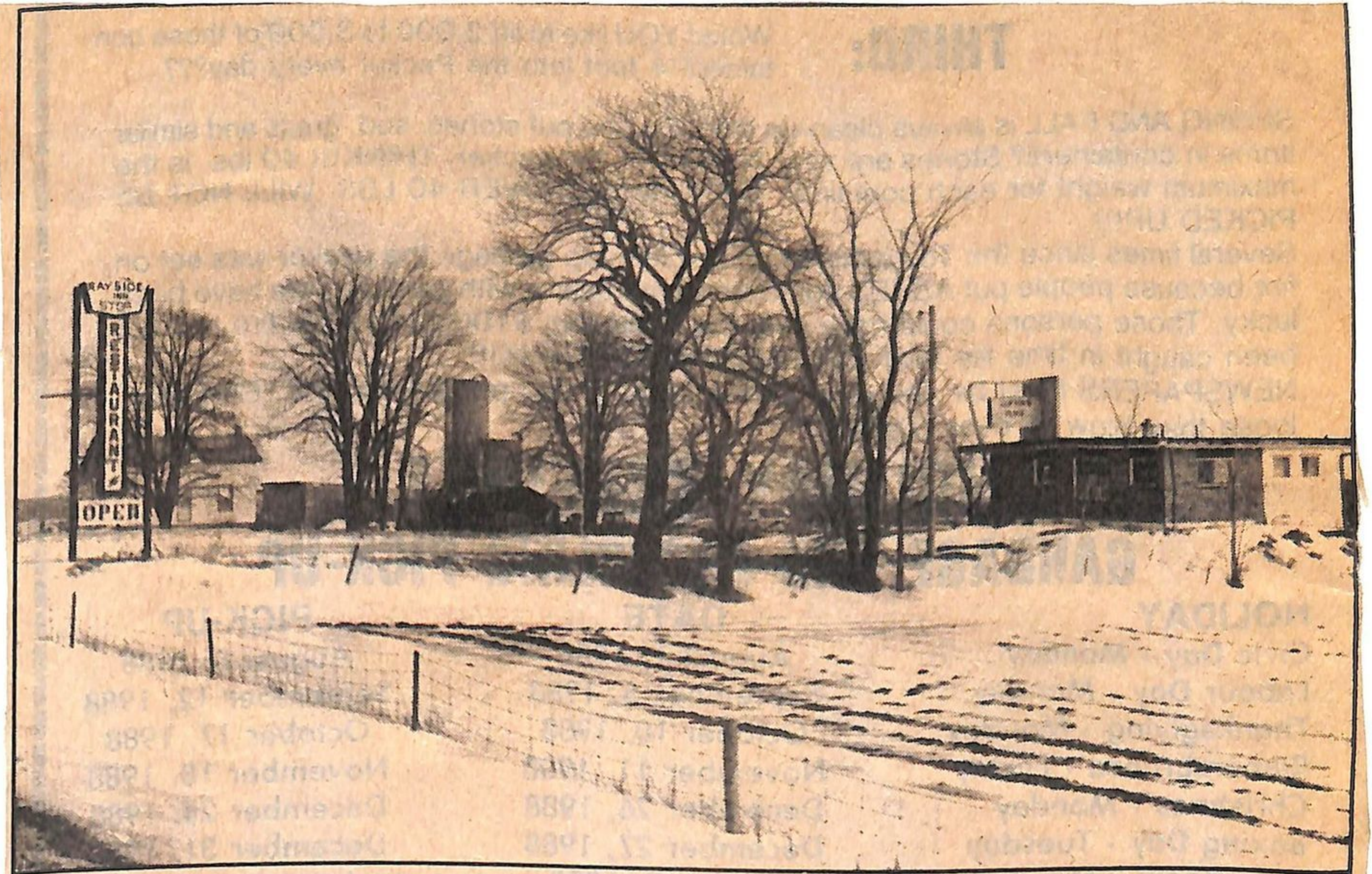
The testing involved diminishing clearance (riding a bike down a narrow lane), traversing a teeter-totter, figure eight, stop and left turn sign procedures.



Contestants doing the stop and left turn procedures at the Thamesford Bike Rodeo.



Traversing the teeter-totter at the Thamesford P.S. Bike Rodeo



OXFORD'S GHOST TOWNS

During recent months, as *Sentinel-Review* photographer Ted Town went about his regular assignments, he's been gathering photos of the vanished settlements that are the ghost towns of Oxford County. Another is Rayside located on the Governor's Road, the North Oxford-West Zorra Town Line, this place has known a variety of names. Settled in the 1830s, it was originally known as Dornoch. It was then referred to as McKay's Corners, then Campbell's Corners. It then took the name of

Rayside, possibly after James Rayside, member of the Ontario Legislature from 1882-1898. A post office was established here in 1897. In its heyday, Rayside also had a hotel, two stores and a blacksmith. Today, only a diner of the same name stands on the site.

W.J. Wintemberg, reprinted from the Ontario Historical Society's *Papers and Records*, Volume XXII, 1925.

Also from "South of Sodom," published by the South Norwich Historical Society, 1982

Sentinel-Review May 24/88