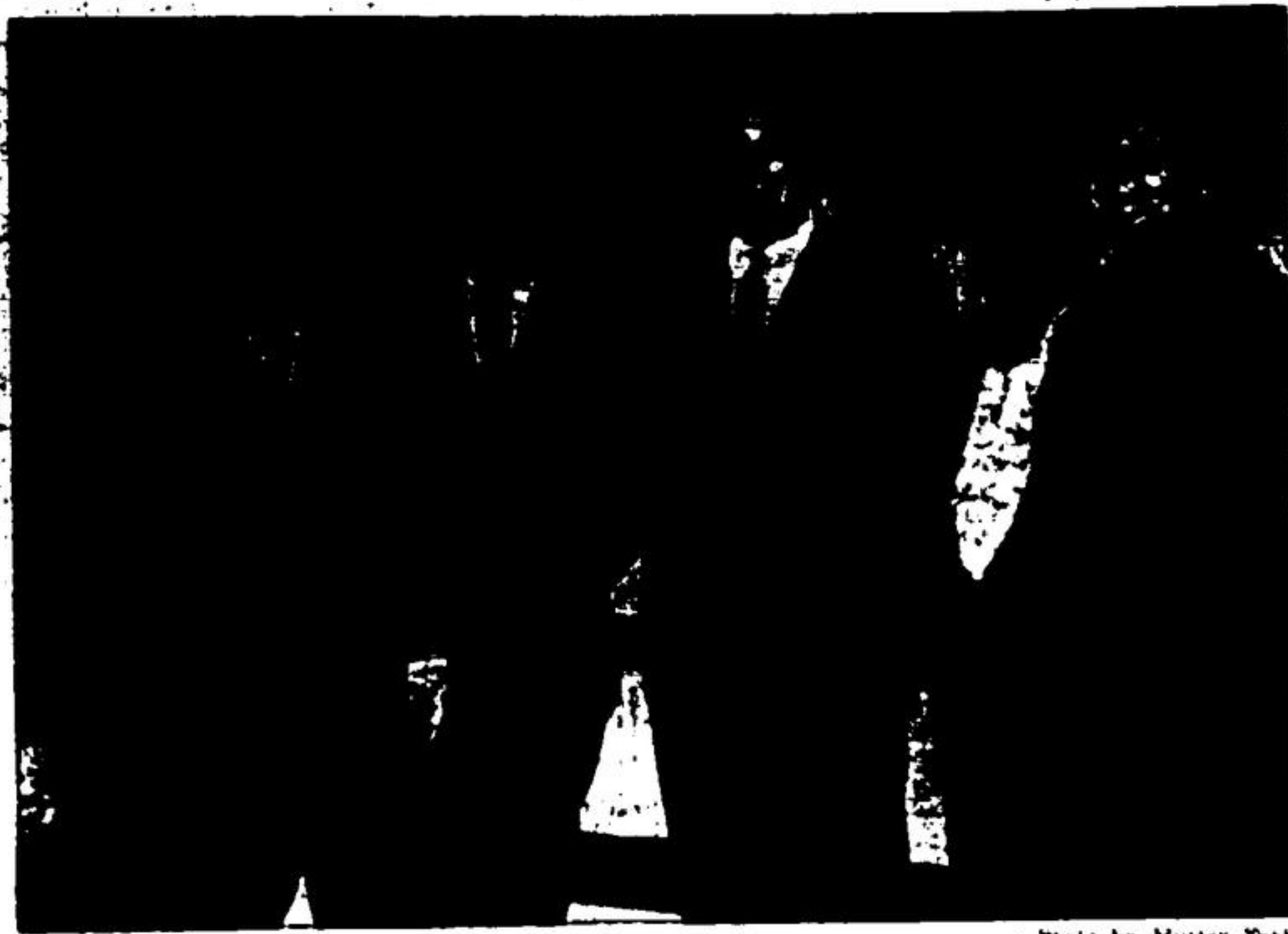


Rockwood and District News



SEEN AT ROCKWOOD Town Hall where an open meeting was held by the Home and School to help decide the possible future of the Rockwood Academy are, left to right Miss Dorothy Martin of the Teachers' Federation, Yosef Dreiters the present owner of Rockwood Academy, Grant McRae, principal of Rockwood School, Hugh Douglass of the Historical Society, Tom Gellatly Home and School member and former president and Miss Stubbley, also of the Federation.

Evidence of Interest Required For Rockwood Academy Purchase

The thrilling history of the Rockwood Academy unfolded before the eyes of those attending the Home and School meeting in Rockwood Town Hall on Monday evening. The Ontario Teachers Federation are considering the Academy as a possible Centennial Project to restore and re-instate as a historical museum and library.

This magnificent old structure was, before all present, given a heart and personality and the past brought out in a living picture by the present owner, Yosef Dreiters. A noted sculptor and lover of fine art, Mr. Dreiters was introduced to the group by Grant McRae, the program chairman.

Describe History
Mr. Dreiters gave a moving description of life as it was at the Academy, authenticated by pictures, letters and personal contact with descendants of Academy teachers and students. William Wetherald was the first principal of the Academy and many letters written by this remarkable man were read by Mr. Dreiters.

Pictures and writings of the other two principals, Donald McCaig and Alexander McMillan, were also shown. The speaker remarked that sincere thanks were due the Gordon family, former owners of the Academy from 1898 until 1960, for the preservation of this structure when so many had been allowed to go to ruin.

Show Pride
This Academy is more than just a building to Yosef Dreiters and his appreciation of its history was fully shown. He appealed to the people of the district to show their pride in this Academy and stated "If these in the past did so much for the community and the world, why don't we do something to keep their memory alive?"

Mrs. F. Taylor thanked Mr. Dreiters and said she was sure everyone was happy that this historical building was owned by one who appreciated its past, present and future.

Want Evidence
Miss Dorothy Martin, Chairman of the Centennial Committee for the Teachers Federation, was present and spoke briefly. She stated that the Committee had been planning a project since 1962 and thanked those who had written to the Federation stating their interest. "We will need many more such letters," she said, "because the 40 directors on this

board want concrete evidence of your interest." Miss Martin said she realized what a terrific development it could be, especially when we want to preserve the past for the children of the future.

Hugh Douglass of Guelph who has worked with Mr. Dreiters in uncovering much past history of the Academy, spoke, asking everyone to give any old books or any information they might have to make the records more complete.

Letter Signed
C. O'Brien, secretary of the village, had received instructions from the Village Trustees to write a letter to the Federation stating the interest of the community. This was signed by all present and given to Miss Martin for her records. A motion was passed to approach the Trustees, suggesting the Rockwood Academy as a Centennial Project and recommending several names to be used as a committee for said project. Mr. McRae thanked the speakers for their interest and help.

Mrs. O. Dribber, president of Home and School who had opened the meeting with a welcome to all present, asked everyone to rise and close the meeting with the Odeon.
Coffee and cookies were served by the lunch committee and a very enjoyable and informative social time followed.

Special Appeal
A special appeal is being made to all interested in having the Rockwood Academy restored by the Teachers Federation; both

personal and group letters are needed.

Please write to Miss Dorothy Martin, Ontario Teachers Federation, 1260 Bay St. Toronto 5, Ontario. Do it now! The directors' decision must be made by January 1, 1965.

Former Lieutenant Honored by Guides

Rockwood's recently formed Edon Mills, Bromie and Spirit Valley Guide Local Association honored a former Lieutenant, Mrs. Irene LaVoie recently. The group gathered at the home of Mrs. R. Ellis and held a card party and fellowship evening. At the close Mrs. LaVoie, who is presently leading a group in Guelph, was presented with a Guide cup and saucer. Refreshments were served and good wishes for future successful leadership expressed to the guest of honor.

New Position

Announced in Marketing, Canada's weekly newspaper for advertising, sales and marketing executives, is the appointment of Roy Kirkness of Acton as sales representative of Somerville Plastics Limited, Brampton. He is responsible for selling the company's wide variety of custom molded products in injection molded, vacuum formed and blow molded plastics. He has had experience in sales with Micro Plastics.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH

By the Ontario Teachers' Federation
Buy Canada Choice Canned Fruit

CLOVED PEARS

Add Spice to Holiday Ham and Turkey

15 oz. can Canada Choice Ontario Grown Pears
1/2 cup vinegar
1 stick cinnamon
8 whole cloves
12 whole allspice

Drain pears. Reserve juice and combine with cinnamon, cloves, allspice and vinegar. Marinate pears in spiced juice in refrigerator 24 hours. Drain and place cut side up on platter. Garnish by studding around the indentation in each pear half with whole cloves.

Teachers' Project?

Academy Only School in District For Higher Education Century Ago

A public meeting was held this week in Rockwood to discuss the possible purchase of Rockwood Academy by the Ontario Teachers' Federation. Here's a brief history of the school, most of the information taken from a leaflet written by Hugh Douglass of Guelph.

One of the Quaker families that settled in the area near Brotherton was that of the Wetheralds. John Wetherald, a butcher, his wife Isabel, and their 10 sons and daughters came from Yorkshire, England, about 1835. Their eighth son was named William, and he was 15 when he came to Canada, settling with his family on a farm in Pushtich Township. He could not read and his education because he was needed homesteading.

He at last hit upon an idea. He made three wax handles and brought them into Guelph where he exchanged them for a Bible, a quire of paper, a steel pen and a little bottle of ink. Night after night for seven long years he labored at his work. He also secured books on mathematics and history, which he patiently mastered by the flickering light of a tallow candle.

Lifelong Teacher

He said that for a period of seven years, he did not get an average of over four hours of sleep each night. At the age of 21, he secured his first school in Pushtich Township and soon proved himself to be a particularly gifted teacher.

When he was 26 he married Jeannette Harris Ball, a descendant of one of the earliest pioneer families of the district. He was 26, she 17. Their first eight children were born at Rockwood, one in Pennsylvania and the last two at the farm he owned the latter part of his life in Fenwick in Welland county.

No Other Schools

Mr. Wetherald must have observed that there were practically no schools for higher education nearer than Hamilton. Accordingly, he advertised in 1850 for additional pupils to whose domestic comfort and literary progress the closest attention will be given. The course of instruction embraces English Grammar, Writing, Arithmetic, Bookkeeping, History, Geography, Latin, Geometry, the Theory of Land Surveying and Algebra.

Encouraged by support, he advertised in 1855 he had "built a commodious house capable of accommodating from 50 to 60 boys." Board, washing and tuition cost \$12 per month.

Quaker Style

The building — the one in

question for the Ontario Teachers' Federation — was not elaborate, but suited an establishment run by a Quaker. It was built in the simplified Georgian style, with a centre hall plan.

Many parents of the area took advantage of the proximity of a school of such superior standing. There were many day students as well. Some of them came from families still in the district as far back as 1850.

14 Years

Mr. Wetherald taught at the Academy for 14 years, and must have taught between 800 to 1000 young men. Requirements of admission were not high — he once wrote that knowledge of the English alphabet was the only requirement! But the pupils were well taught when they got to school.

Present Academy owner, Yosef Dreiters has a copy book dating back to 1860. He has much information he has accumulated during his years there.

When he rented the school to Donald McCaig and Alexander McMillan and purchased a farm on the Quaker settlement of Pelham, he planted there a row of evergreens, just as he did at Rockwood.

The men who took over the Academy kept up its high stan-

dards. When Mr. McCaig's young daughter, living in Edmonton, heard Mr. Dreiters was beginning to restore the building, she came to visit him at the building where her father had taught a century before.

Two factors went against the Academy. Rockwood did not grow, and free and compulsory education were made law in the province.

Knotted goods took over in the fine old building. Lately, it had been made into apartments.

Yosef Dreiters bought the building and land in 1960, not realizing its historical significance. A sculptor, he sought a place to work.

Restoration was a difficult task for one man, unassisted, although he attempted to arouse interest from others.

Now the purchase of the property by the Ontario Teachers' Federation would see Mr. Dreiters' dream come true, and the Academy alive with students again.

MIX-UP

Son: Say, Father, how is the new office box doing?

Father: Oh fine. He's got everything so mixed up now that I couldn't possibly get along with out him.

WEAR BELTS RIGHT
Like any other safety device, automobile seat belts must be used properly if they are to do their job. There have been cases of people suffering serious internal injuries from wearing the seat belt in an incorrect position. Wear the seat belt over the bony structure of your hip and pelvis, not across the abdomen. Fasten it snugly with the buckle in the centre if possible.

CYRIL BISHOP

RESPECTFULLY SOLICITS YOUR

VOTE

for

Trustee Acton Public School Board

ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1964

VOTE

Gordon E. Agnew

FOR

Nassagaweya Council

"LET DEMOCRACY RULE"

VOTE GORD BEATTY

FOR

Hydro Commissioner

- For Lower Hydro Rates
- For the Operation of Your Hydro as an Aggressive Business, Which Deserves Your Support — Not as a Monopoly Which You Must Support.
- For Service Without Remuneration

GORD BEATTY | X



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YOUR VOTE

and influence are respectfully solicited to

RE-ELECT

Dr. B. D. Young
DEPUTY-REEVE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 7, 1964

I WILL CONTINUE TO WORK IN THE BEST INTERESTS OF THE TOWNSHIP.

B. D. YOUNG



DR. B. D. YOUNG