

Chatting ...

with M. H. B.



I PROMISED LAST WEEK I'd tell you about the "legend" surrounding the picturesque limestone gorge and caverns on Joe Prucyk's Waterfalls Playground property. So I got in touch with Mr. K. C. Lindsay, who is descended from one of the pioneer families in the district. Mr. Lindsay told me a story which seems to prove once again that truth can be stranger than fiction. Because it is no legend, but a true story concerning what went on there some 80 years ago.

IN THOSE DAYS, the property was owned and used as their headquarters, by the "Jones gang," a notorious group of horse thieves. The father and his several sons conducted their nefarious activities with a grist mill as their "front." They had a large pond covering seven or eight acres, and a dam, beside which they built their mill. The mill was located just below where the Beene house stands today.

I had imagined they used the gorge and caverns to hide their stolen horses in, but they had a much better idea than that. They built a water-proof stable under the pond, with the entrance door just under the tail race of the mill. In case you are wondering, as I did, what the tail race is — it is where the water runs away after it goes over the water wheel. When anyone approached the property, the gang opened the dam enough to let a good flow of water go over the wheel.

In this way they completely concealed the door of the underground stable. Some of the roof timber are still visible where Mr. Prucyk has rebuilt the dam. The original dam has been gone for over sixty years now, and the stable long since caved in.

THE JONES GANG were known and feared all over the province. They were no small time operators. When they took the stolen horses to their concealed stable, they kept them there until they had changed their appearance by clipping and dyeing, and then took them to the Niagara district, as a rule, to sell. And the amazing thing is that they were never caught or prosecuted.

Their neighbours were aware of what was going on, but as Mr. Lindsay succinctly put it, they all had buildings that would burn.

After a number of years, the gang broke up, no one really knew why. The supposition was that things were getting a bit too hot for them, and they had started disagreeing among themselves. A couple of them bought property in this district however. One bought a farm near Limehouse, and another owned a "clubhouse," right next to where the present Stewart town hall is located. The building was moved or demolished, I'm not quite sure which, to make room for the parking lot next to the township hall.

I WONDERED IF the Jones broke up, but Mr. Lindsay said no, that he wouldn't exactly call them model citizens.

Mr. Lindsay's father, the late James R. Lindsay remembered the Jones Gang quite well, and so does Dr. H. A. McCulloch. Mr. Lindsay's grandfather owned the property just below that belonging to the Jones gang, where the Grants and Glynns now have their homes. In fact, when the Jones first arrived here from Wales, it is believed, the late Mr. Lindsay sold them four acres of his property.

METHINKS IT TOOK a bit of doing to "keep up with the Joneses" in those days.

MRS. HOUCK DELEGATE TO UNITED NATIONS

Announcement was made this week by the department of external affairs of the appointment of Mrs. J. E. Houck, Liberal candidate for Peel county in the last provincial election, as a member of a Canadian delegation headed by Hon. Paul Martin, minister of health, to the U.N. Other delegates will be Hon. R. Pickard, secretary of state; Dr. R. A. McKay, permanent delegate, and Senator J. G. Turgeon of Vancouver, B.C.

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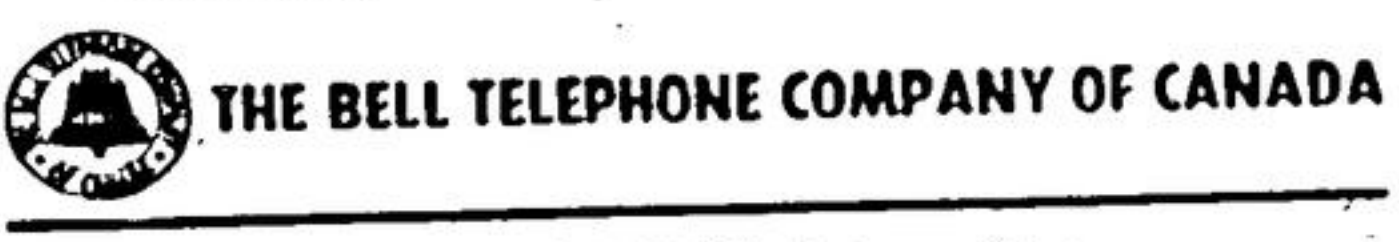
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Stapleton and Engleby Are Field Day Winners

Field day at Wigglesworth School last Wednesday saw senior students competing in various events at the park, while the junior grades held their field day on the school grounds.

Senior champion Errol Stapleton had one particularly outstanding win when he set a record of 16'2" in the running broad jump. Shirley Engleby was intermediate champion.

Harold Catling acted as starter and Miss Marijn Scarlett recorder, while judges were Principal William Kinrade, Mrs. John McClure, Miss Hazel Hall and Mr. Llewellyn.

Mrs. Frank Cleave took charge of the junior events, assisted by Misses Jean Ruddell, Ruth McBride, Edna Moffat, Lois Menary, Mrs. Ted Fenning and Mrs. James Hillsborough. The junior champion was Simon Llewellyn.

INTERMEDIATE AND SENIORS

50 yard Inter. Girls — Shirley Engleby, Judy Richardson, Catherine Smith.

75 yard Inter. Boys — Barry Harvey, Gerald DeRose, Jimmy McNiven.

75 yd. Sr. Girls — Carol Kovacs, Lynda Rayner, Brenda Dawson.

100 Yards Sr. Boys — Errol Stapleton, Max Harris, Clinton Handy.

3-legged Race Inter. Girls — Gayle Little, Andreanne Millar, Ineke Weststeyn, Marlene Ganton, Patricia Allen, Shirley Engleby.

3-legged Race Sr. Girls — Carol Kovacs, Barbara Adams, Karen Norton, Frances Ernewein, Ilona Kovacs, Nancy Jamieson.

Wheelbarrow Race, Inter. Boys — Hob Henderson, Bill Barber, Gerald DeRose, Billy Handy, Bob Harris, Murdoch McArthur.

Wheelbarrow Race, Sr. Boys — Errol Stapleton, Clinton Handy, Kent Ruddell, Douglas Davies, Glen Hillcock, Bert McMann.

Sack Race Inter. Girls — Margaret Tenhagen, Shirley Engleby, Joanne Duncan.

Sack Race Inter. Boys — Wayne Presswood, Jimmy McNiven, Mac Korzack.

Sack Race, Sr. Girls — Frances Ernewein, Barbara Adams, Karen Norton.

Sack Race Sr. Boys — Errol Stapleton, Glen Hillcock, Kent Ruddell.

Lobster Race Inter. Girls — Jean Kovacs, Judy Richardson, Shirley Engleby.

Lobster Race Inter. Boys — Keith Wood, Mac Korzack.

Lobster Race Sr. Girls — Carol Kovacs, Barbara Adams, Sharon Sayers.

Lobster Race Sr. Boys — Bob Henderson, Errol Stapleton, Max Harris.

Shoe Kicking Girls Open — Linda Rayner, Marilyn Sunnucks, Karen Norton.

Shoe Kicking Boys Open — Ron Ganton, Stewart Bottomley, Max Harris.

Shoe Race Girls Open — Marilyn Sunnucks, Carol Bradley, Donna Shankland.

Shoe Race Boys Open — Keith Wood, Errol Stapleton, Allen Hembruff.

Stand. Broad Jump Girls — Lynda Rayner, 6'4"; Barbara Adams, 6'3"; Lois Niven 6'0".

Stand. Broad Jump Boys — Errol Stapleton, 7'2"; Max Harris 7'0"; Bob Henderson 6'7".

Run. Broad Jump Inter. Girls — Shirley Engleby, 11'7"; Joanne Duncan, 9'6"; Judy Richardson 9'2".

Run. Broad Jump Inter. Boys — Peter Forgrave, 10'11"; Gerald De Rose, 10'10"; Keith Wood 10'3".

Run. Broad Jump Sr. Girls — Brenda Dawson, 11'6"; Jenny Tenhagen, 11'4"; Marie Sorenson 11'4".

Run. Broad Jump Sr. Boys — Errol Stapleton 16'2"; Kent Ruddell 12'5"; Paul Popiel, 12'4".

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Thanksgiving Day in Georgetown will be observed this year this coming Monday. As in other years, the business places in the community will close.