

'Oldtimer' Recalls Exciting Days Of Rural County Softball League

Halt County Rural Softball has been around for about 25 years, but the oldtimers will tell you that it's not just as good today as it was in the beginning.

"We had some real ball games in those days. It was a tighter calibre of ball and the players were more dedicated," stated veteran Graham Gillies.

Although Gillies doesn't feel he is really one of the oldtimers he played in the Halt County Rural loop from 1949 until 1967, putting in all those years except 3 with Omagh.

From 1962 to 1964 he was a member of the Hornby ball club, helping the team to its all-Ontario Championship in 1964.

"The pitching was the big thing in those days, and we had some really top notch men."

George Coulson of Lowville was one of the better underhand pitchers," Gillies said.

When Gillies began playing in 1949, the loop included clubs from Milton Heights, Zimmerman, Lowville, Tansley, Palermo, Hornby, Omagh and All Hall's Trafalgar Chicks.

"The league stayed the same for about ten years and we had mostly the same players in the circuit each year. There were some really good whip pitchers such as Johnny Willmott and Harry Zalba. I think Zalba was probably the best around," Gillies commented.

The origins of the Halt County Rural Softball League are vague. Most of the oldtimers feel it started somewhere shortly after or during World War II. It was going strong well before the 1950s they all agreed.

Omagh's Bob Ford is another man who has been kicking around Halt County Rural Softball for quite a few years. One of the founding fathers of the league along with Walter "Cam" Eves and Hornby's Alf Bridgen — he helped to form the league president.

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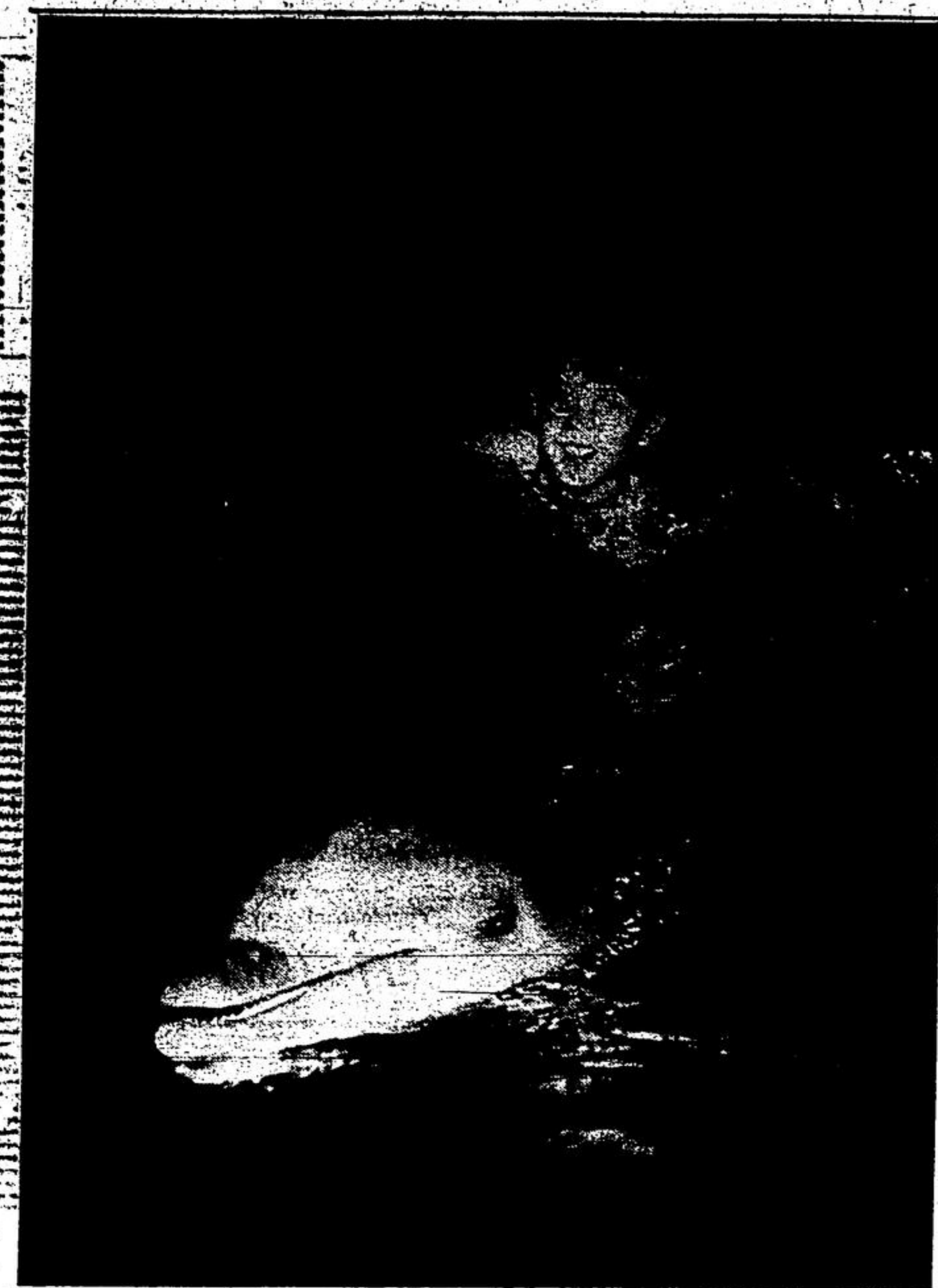
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Twelve-year old Jamie Virgin of Georgetown gets a ride from his friend Pixie, a 350-pound Atlantic Bottle-Nose Dolphin at Marineland and Game Farm, Niagara Falls, Canada. The two friends star in Marineland's popular aquatic show.

Swims, Performs with Dolphin In Marineland Summer Show

To twelve year old James Virgin of 54 Market Street, summer '69 will be a season never to be forgotten.

He watched man land on the moon — and he found his first summer job.

And it's a job that's really different. Jamie swims and performs with the trained dolphins at Marineland and Game Farm, Niagara Falls, Canada. He's Canada's "boy on a dolphin."

Jamie's special aquatic friend is 'Pixie,' a large, 350 pound Atlantic Bottlenosed Dolphin from the warm waters of the Gulf Stream. Pixie is one of six dolphins who live and perform in Marineland's huge 200,000 gallon salt water show tank. He also stars in the popular 'Flipper' TV series.

It's a highlight of each show when Jamie dives into the dolphin tank and swims to the centre where Pixie meets him. Jamie grasps his dolphin friend by his dorsal fin, being very careful not to scratch the dolphin's tender skin — and it's away for an exciting ride around the tank.

In addition to his in-water acts, Jamie is learning a number of new ones from Marineland's senior trainers. Each one, of course, with the help of a dolphin or a sea lion.

In summing up his unique summer job Jamie simply says "It's keen."

Farmers' Relay Team First Place Winners

At the Zone Junior Farmer shot putt, and Karen Campbell second in the girls high jump. In the team events, the boys softball team lost to Wellington (the eventual winners) 2-0 in the best game of the day. Wellington girls team also beat Halt County in the first game.

DID YOU KNOW?
In other events Larry Campbell, Copenhagen, Denmark's capital, was first known as a fish-dash. Jeff Nurse second in the village called Havn.

Three Dead Animals Glen Man's Puzzle

George Wolfe, 14 Mountain Street, Glen Williams, has a puzzle on his hands. He would like to know what killed a rabbit, a woodpecker and a wood duck he found on his lawn.

The rabbit was found first, dead, with no marks, no bullet holes, and no evidence of disease. A few days later the woodpecker fell right out of the sky, also with no marks of violence or sickness, then a few days later the duck.

He wonders if poisoning is the answer, perhaps by someone spraying with insecticide. Or could it be pollution in the Credit, he wonders.

Whatever the reason he feels anyone finding animals or birds dead, with no marks on them should contact the Department of Lands and Forests, and let them know.

"Many more could be lying dead in the bush," says Mr. Wolfe, "and who knows how many more will die from this unknown cause?" he asked.

114 Pass Red Cross July Swimming Tests

A hundred and fourteen of the 253 swimmers enrolled passed the Canadian Red Cross Society test the end of the July classes at the Georgetown Community Swimming Pool.

During the three and a half weeks of instruction the pupils received 15 lessons from teaching staff members, Chris (Sargent) Briggs, chief instructor, Sue MacDonald, Marilyn Emerson, Ian Gosling, Linda Clipham, Pat Howell and Brenda Elliott.

The classes included 174 Beginners, 89 Juniors, 49 Intermediates 25 seniors and 18 in Royal Life Saving.

The following were successful:

Bronze Medallion — Barb Carr, Shawn Fisher, Janice Golden, Martha Hogan, Ian Long, Janice Martin, Janice Pentland, Peter Wolfe. Bronze Cross — Jane Girvan, Jody Law, Paul Savoie and Mike MacDonald.

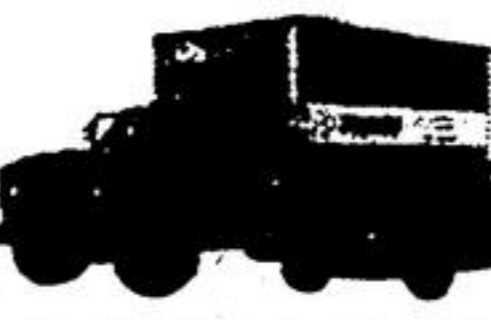
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- CHAMPIONSHIP BOXING — AUGUST 15th — 8.30 P.M.
- HORSE SHOW — 12 CLASSES — ALL DAY AUGUST 16th
- GREASY POLE CONTEST — AUGUST 16th, 3.00 p.m.
- DONKEY BASEBALL — AUGUST 17th — 3.00 p.m. Guelph City Council . . . vs. . . . Wellington County Council

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