



MRS. A. NEUMAN AND SON ELLIOTT IN THE "STORE"

### 25th anniversary party for Bill and Ivy Ritchie

The St. John's Church Parish Hall was jumping last Saturday evening, January 24, when Bill and Ivy Ritchie were feted by their daughter and friends to a 25th wedding anniversary party. After their 1945 marriage in the St. George's Church in Guelph, at a ceremony at which the Rev. S. Brownlee officiated, the couple who had lived most of their lives in this area, with Bill living at R. R. 4, Acton, and Ivy Adams, the daughter of an R. R. 2, Guelph, dairy farmer, left after the ceremony on their 1000 mile honeymoon between Toronto, Buffalo, Ottawa and London. On their return they took up residence in Rockwood just across the highway from where they presently live. "And the winter then was just as cold and snowy as it is this year" said Ivy.

The Saturday evening affair was a tribute to the great affection which this couple have stimulated in the area. Approximately 150 friends came from Acton, Guelph, Moffat, Rockwood, and other surrounding farms to enjoy an evening of celebrating. Gifts, flowers, and many cards were presented to the happy couple and a small orchestra knocked off the music that allowed friends to square or straight dance. Everyone had fun and the delicious three tier cake, beautifully decorated, was a combined effort of neighbors, Mrs. Thomson and Mrs. Mitchell. Today's family picture of the William Ritchie's would show their eldest daughter Alice, now Mrs. Peter Johnson, Peter, their son-in-law, Ronnie Ritchie their young son, Shirley their youngest daughter, and little Robin Johnson, the celebrated couple's grandson.

## Rockwood News

MORE ROCKWOOD NEWS - PAGE B6



Mr. and Mrs. Bill Ritchie

### Comin's and Goin's

It will be with absolute sad reflections that the citizens of Rockwood will remember the second and third weeks of January, 1970, when three of its most outstanding and delightful citizens passed away unexpectedly. Mr. Charles Harris, Mr. Harry Edwards, and Mr. Bob Darou. All three gentlemen had contributed to this community in various ways and already their presence is missed in the village and everyone extends their sympathy to the families concerned.

Set aside Sunday, February 8, for another Hillsburg Arena Skating party when everyone is invited to participate in an afternoon of fun and pleasure. Once again the bus will leave the St. John's Anglican Parish Hall at 1:30 p.m. to return again at 4:00 p.m. for hot dogs and hot chocolate. So tuck \$1.00 in your mitten to cover expenses, grab your skates, and let's see you at the rink.

Children are reminded to attend the Christian Education Sunday School Class at the Rockwood Centennial School next Saturday morning at 9:30 a.m.

The regular euchre at the St. John's Church Parish Hall will be a special one with more door prizes and fun for everyone this Wednesday, February 4th at 8:00 p.m. The 75 cent fee will entitle you to participate in the last euchre evening of this season so plan on attending the St. John's Pre-Lenten affair and everyone is welcome.

Many young men find that their best vocational aptitudes lie in companies where their fathers hold influential positions.

## News and views

By LORRAINE

I dropped around last week to re-acquaint myself with two rather delightful people whom I had had reason to meet up with a month or so ago.

It was at the time of the Village R.A.P.E. endeavour, the Rockwood Swing-A-Ding when, at the last minute we had called up the proprietors of the Eramosa Flower Mart to see if they would like to be represented and lend a flower display.

Now let's face it. Everyone on that whole committee was special including particularly the contributors but somehow, there are always those particular special people who go just a little overboard in their assistance and Trudy and Alfred Neuman did just that. Not only did they bring with them a gorgeous array of flowers and arrangements but, all during the event and especially at the end of the evening, they had managed to give away just about everything they had brought with them to guests and patrons.

Just good business, some of you could say, but consider if you will the number of times proprietors have the opportunity to promote just such goodwill but won't do it because they think it will create just such a humbug attitude. Oh no, I was impressed and so thought I'd like to see just how this ingenious couple could operate with such generosity.

A trip out to the nursery-florist shop of the Neumans was equally as much fun as having met them before. Trudy Waltraud Neuman is a German-born Canadian girl who met and married her Rumanian husband Alfred Neuman some 16 years ago, and took up residence in Toronto.

Contrary to the business impulses which most of us follow, the Neumans have their own special philosophy for business requirements and during the years of their nuptial partnership have owned and successfully operated a garage in Toronto, a chicken-laying farm called Hillside just outside of Acton, and now, as their newest endeavour, they are trying their hand in the flower growing field, with an eye on the retail and wholesale end of the business.

Fred carries on his parttime job as real estate agent while Trudy manages and operates the three greenhouses, two smaller combined ones and another gigantic one which they have recently had remodelled with several modern innovations.

With no previous knowledge about florist know-how this enterprising young lady visited seed houses, gobbled up catalogue information on flower growing, and then, satisfied that she had at least the general idea of transplanting, seeding, soil and heat requirements, she sent for numerous seed envelopes and literally launched her own career.

Azaleas, mums, cyclamen, strawberry, indoor and outdoor house plants are all growing healthily awaiting greenfingered mademoiselles to discover where they're at. 22 different varieties of petunias, marigolds, phlox, thousands of geraniums, have all been tackled by the industrious Trudy who believes that the old hospital adage of T.L.C. should also be applied to plants.

Cacti of many varieties are also on hand to tickle the Chinese garden enthusiast and pots and pots of beautifully displayed mums are on hand in every color.

Right now the Neumans are working hard on their present projects but they also have many plans for the future with their 28 acres. Two acres of shrubs and evergreens will be seen from the highway this summer and trout pond on the property adds to the scenic beauty.

A topnotch business man, Fred Neuman knows how to create public interest for his products and just recently conducted a Christmas contest draw through the Acton Free Press.

Because they believe that flowers represent the joy of living the proprietors of the Eramosa Flower Mart contribute flowers in quantities to many unsuspecting children and friends thus creating an attitude of warmth and friendship without reason to feel obligated.

The new building at the side of their premises spells a dealership in the Farm Equipment business and, sometime next spring it will house the matching ploughs, tractors, and garden equipment machinery, the exact replicas of which are being sold now, in the florist shop, as junior toys.

Enterprising? Yes, and charming. Make a point yourself of dropping in and visiting the Flower Mart, meet Fred and Trudy Neuman and their 7 year old son, Elliott Franz, and they will be only too pleased to take you around and show you how to grow luscious, green, velvety-leaved plants in your own living room.

### Public speaking finals for coveted Taylor trophy

The Eramosa Township Public Speaking finals will be held at the Centennial School auditorium next Monday

### U.C.W. plans music night

The Rockwood United Church ladies have combined their efforts to come up with an exciting program of barber shop musicals on Saturday evening, February 7th at 8:30 p.m.

The famous Guelph Barber Shoppers, better known locally as the Wellington Chorus, is combined of some 25 or 30 male performers many of whom are considered to have the best voices in the province.

With a smattering of local talent included on the program, the Rockwood Church ladies have gone way out to make this a fun evening for everyone at a lowly cost of \$1 for adults and 50 cents for students with free admission to all pre schoolers.

### Pretty Fair

The Free Press received a wire from Tampa, Florida, to-day from Pretty Fair who has been gallivanting down through the southern coast. She reports that she has been having a wonderful time and will be back again with her column, next week.

### Family Life program at H. and S.

Although there are no rumblings telling parents that there will be a January Home and School meeting there is, however, an eventful H. & S. meeting scheduled for Thursday, February 26, when the Centennial Public School staff will present a program dealing with Family Life Education to which all parents and interested villagers are invited.

### Naturalists on trail of otter on Valley Road

Curiosity left a Rockwood citizen baffled this week when, during a walk through the Valley Road she met up with two enthusiastic nature buffs who enquired as to whether she knew where the otters were in the area.

"Otters?" said the nonplussed resident, "You must mean beavers." At which point the avid gentlemen said that last year they had seen otter tracks in that particular spot on the bridge near the mill operated by Jimmie Milne. The informant kept on walking wondering what

sort of tracks an otter made anyway.

Further checking with Mr. Milne he reported that, although otters had never been seen in the area to his knowledge he did know that there were muskrats and certainly a pair of mink because he had seen them himself.

"Why we even have the female mink of the two come right in our front door at the mill and scurry up a rat to drag it home to its mate" said the self-taught zoologist who expects that maybe soon a whole batch of little ones will make their appearance. Jimmie has often watched the small animals dive into the water and drag out fish between their teeth and is convinced that the referred to "otter tracks" are really those of the cunning mink.

### Euchre, bake sale at Eramosa school

A large crowd was in attendance to enjoy the euchre and bake sale which was held recently at Eramosa Public School under the sponsorship of the grade eight students.

With Peggy Salmon, president of the Student's Council, at the helm, some 25 to 30 youngsters met at her home to prepare the sandwiches which were served with coffee as refreshments for the affair and the various parents of the students provided the bake sale items which included

everything from chocolate cake to date pecan pie.

The students have been carrying on various money making activities this past season in an endeavour to raise enough money to pay for the expenses of their Grade Eight graduation banquet to be held in June. The approximate monies taken in by this enterprising group of young students was \$74 which will go a long way towards their final goal.

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