

Auction disposes of life-long collection

Photos and Story
By Lorraine

It was all there. The exciting tempo of a country auction that beat to the tune of the witty huckster auctioneer. Young, old, simple, and elegant; farmers, villagers and urbanites, crowded together last Saturday morning to ponder, investigate, and invest in the nostalgic remains of a wonderful man's 43 year collection of odds, ends, and keepsakes.

Motors of every variety, power driven, ancient, obsolete, operating, non-operating, many antique-worthy and many more not so old, had been accumulated by a simple desire to collect mechanical objects and put them into running condition.

"You young folks go to the movies and enjoy yourself and I'll be busy around here. What I get my biggest kicks out of is getting old pieces of furniture and getting them back into shape". A hankering for motors all of his life, Harry Edwards, late of Rockwood, had a mania for engines and he had a compulsion to get everything running.

Garden tractors (1918), cultivators, an old hand-made snowmobile with a model T engine, probably dating back to the early 1920's; an aged horse-drawn crop sprayer, sleigh bells, Pennsylvania Dutch wooden bowls and matching spoons were all part of the conglomeration of items once the belongings of one man but, after last weekend's outdoor sale, scattered to the four winds.

Usually much of the excitement of such sales is generated by the auctioneer with his continual chanting and a running account of the current bid plus a request for a higher one.

"Here it is folks, just what you've always wanted. Who'll give me four, give me four, you'll give me four, four it is, \$4.50 over here, 4.75, 4.90 and on it went. Candle holders, knick knacks, everything was considered by a spectrum of people from various parts of the countryside. Toronto buyers, Oakville, Hamilton antique dealers, and many local villagers anxious to purchase little mementos from the life of Harry Edwards; still others were

there out of curiosity.

There's a certain nostalgia about auction sales, especially if you know the person who originally owned the items to be sold. Almost everyone in Rockwood knew Harry Edwards, he was revered by the kids, loved by his family, and will always be remembered by many villagers. Born in Nova Scotia, William Henry George Edwards was the eldest of a family of 12 children, six brothers and five sisters. He served in the First World War with the Engineers in France and, a loom fixer by trade, he moved to Brantford where he repaired looms at the Slingsby

Spinning and Weaving Company. He married in that city and just before the depression hit in Ontario, around the mid 1920's he and his family moved to a farm outside Brantford. After the war he changed his occupation to that of land grading.

About 1929 the Edwards family then moved to Rockwood where Harry's mother and dad were residing. Until 1948 he lived on Carol Street until the death of his mother at which time he and his family moved in with his dad to the Main Street home where he lived until his death in February of this year.

The village constable for 22 years, Harry Edwards had originally acted in that capacity voluntarily without remuneration until the Trustees of Rockwood and the Township recognized his worth and then made his position a permanent one. He held the affection and high regard of school children for over 47 years and he was a friend and neighbor to many willing to go the extra mile to bring parents and wayward kids together. He worked on the Ontario Department of Highways on the maintenance crew for many years as well as occupying his post as constable.

Known by most residents as "Harry", Mr. Edwards is survived by ten of his 12 children who had come in from Toronto, Guelph, Simcoe, Islington, Rockwood and Elliott Lake to watch the auctioning of his worldly goods. His one son, Johnny, stationed in the Air Force at Vancouver, was not able to be present at the sale but his youngest brother Louis from

Guelph was there, his sister Mrs. Adelaide Stumpf of Guelph, and another sister Mrs. Dolly (Edwards) Hunter Kitchener, who could recall her brothers and sisters going together and collecting \$1. a week to buy the well-conditioned old hand crank gramophone from Kelly's music store in Guelph 53 years ago.

It's all over now. Most of the items were sold, some will have to be scrapped because they were too obsolete.

One of his sons purchased the house so there will be a continuance of the Edwards' line in the village. But Harry himself will never be forgotten. He was too much a part of Rockwood and, even though many of his young miscreants have moved away there will always be records and memories of a delightful personage who spent many hours keeping the Village in check — not because of lucrative gains or public esteem, but more than that, because Harry Edwards was a very important cog in the wheels of Rockwood's past.

COMIN'S AND GOIN'S

Mrs. Lorne Guild (Edna) and her daughter and son-in-law Mr. and Mrs. Douglas (Anne) Calder, of Toronto and their family spent the June 26 weekend at the Rockwood Conservation Park and

during their camping spree took time off to visit old village friends and also Mrs. W. Guild on Mary Street.

The Dominion Day weekend was visiting time for Dr. Gerald Bell of Harris Street when his daughter Jean and her family spent some time with him in Rockwood.

Visiting with his mother in Guelph recently was Dr. Gordon Carter, formerly of Rockwood. A past member of the Guelph University faculty, Dr. Carter with his wife and family left there to spend a few years in Burma. On his return, however, he moved to the States and is presently on the staff of the Michigan State University in Lansing, Michigan. He had been invited to Guelph specially to assist in examining papers written by a student from Zambia on his specialist subject of "pathology" at which time he stayed with his mother, Mrs. Irene Carter, Guelph.

Holding the fort at the St. John's Church, Rockwood, and All Saints in Erin, are Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Mowat. Rev. Ken and Sally Cardwell are presently vacationing in the Bracebridge district with Ken and Judy Galbraith.

A belated welcome mat is out to the Dr. and Mrs. Graham Belle family who moved to the village a few months ago. They have lived in Canada for only two years. Dr. Belle is on the faculty of the Guelph University in the Biology Department and if you happen to notice a very pretty little cherub being babysat by Barbara McLaren these days, it is the little Belle daughter, Andrea, six months old.



SHAWN MURPHY and Nancy Coulson were impressed by the horse-drawn barrel-spraying wagon, one of the old replicas of the pre-motorized farm years.



MRS. DOLLY (EDWARDS) Hunter recalls how she and her sister and brothers pooled together some 53 years ago to pay \$1.00 a week to Kelly's Music Store in Guelph for the purchase of this old gramophone.

B6 The Acton Free Press, Wednesday, July 8, 1970



Earwig invasion now horrible but harmless

The Earwigs are back. Rockwood's been invaded again by thousands of the gruesome but harmless creatures which are found in Grey, Bruce, Huron, Perth and Waterloo counties as well as Wellington.

Experts say Earwigs are active only at night when they crawl in every direction looking for food. They climb fences, trees, walls and find their way into houses. By daybreak the loathsome lookers have crawled back into cracks or crevices until

another night rolls around.

They are more of a nuisance than a menace.

Earwigs lay eggs in groups of about 60 in a nest in the top two inches of soil; the mother tends the young for the first two weeks and the young and adults become noticeable by late June or July. The actual damage incurred by these creatures is caused when they feed on seedling carrots, beans, beets, and many flowers. They may be found under the husks of sweet corn at picking time or in flowers and it is at this time that the house invasion takes place.

The time to attack these pesky invaders is when they are small, early in July, as treatment in August after they are in homes is less effective. A poison-bait is preferred as a way of discouraging earwigs because it

does not contaminate the garden as much as DDT and chlordane. However, a regular household type of bug killer can be quite effective for plant and furniture spraying with the usual precautions taken as shown on the labels of the various products.

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No deer hunt in Wellington

There will be no open deer hunting season in Wellington County this year.

County council turned down a request by the Department of Lands and Forests to have an open deer season in Wellington from Nov. 2-4.

The department requested the season — its first since 1967 — because it feels there are too many deer in the animal population, and a limited hunting season would help reduce that population.

J. J. Armstrong, the district biologist of the department, appeared at the meeting to defend the deer hunt.

Clarence Smith, the reeve of Clifford, said that hunting often did more harm than good since most hunters were amateurs who use improper shells that wound the animals but not kill them.

Lloyd Lang of Erin Township said hunters often cause too much damage to farmers' fields, running over their crops and scaring their cattle.

"The last time there was a hunt

on I had my cattle so frightened that I had to gather them up in three different concessions," he said.

Several counties in the province are being asked to ratify deer hunts — either by shot gun or by archery — during early November.

IMPORTANT NOTICE SUBDIVISION OF LAND

All persons considering the sale or purchase of land in Ontario are urged to acquaint themselves with The Planning Amendment Act 1970 which became effective June 27th.

A major feature of the Amendment extends subdivision control and part-lot control over all lands in Ontario.

This measure is designed to encourage the orderly use of lands and to help our communities meet land-use requirements for education, housing, pollution and other purposes.

Copies of The Planning Amendment Act 1970 are available on request from

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