

Suspicious of poison

Mystery of blue heron puzzles park director

The majestic blue heron which was spotted on the shores of the Eramosa River just outside Rockwood last week is, according to Bill Carrick, managing director of the Kortwright Water Fowl Park in Guelph, only one of several which have been seen in the area recently.

"Of the four which have been brought here to the park" said Mr. Carrick, "they have all died either of infection or from some minor injury."

Very suspicious

Mr. Carrick, an avid member of the Guelph Naturalist Club, shares a well founded concern of many of its members. He said

that, although no chemical tests have been made of the stomach content of the dead birds positively proving pesticide consumption through fish and other creatures, he is highly suspicious that some form of insecticide has played its role in the change of migratory habits of many of these birds.

All the herons taken to the sanctuary had received treatment but could not have been saved. Later they had been carefully examined to ascertain the cause of death but, to make a complete chemical analysis test it would cost from \$50 to \$100 per bird.

decreasing bird populations has not been completely proven as far as the blue heron is concerned, it has however, been proven in its affect on the diminishing brown pelican. The state bird of Louisiana no longer is to be found in its natural habitat; the end of a long food chain in which insects and fish, etc. have finally consumed insecticides have shown its results so that no longer can the brown pelican progeny in Louisiana - the shells of its eggs are not strong enough to carry its offspring.

Villains in cupboards

Close range viewing of the graceful blue heron at any time of the year, sounds exciting and curious but, according to many naturalists and ecologists, unless we are more careful, seeing herons and other migrating birds in the wintertime, could eventually become a matter of common expectancy rather than a rare occurrence.

Plastic bags, D.D.T., insecticides, and other such pest controllers are fast becoming a way of life and the utility cupboards of almost every housewife in the continent such as usurpers of our environment and, in so doing, each individual is playing his own small part in the drama of world contamination.

Comin's and Goin's

Friends of little Kevin McRae will be relieved and happy to know that he is on the mend again. Kevin was hospitalized in Guelph for the group and, although he won't be home immediately reports are that he is now doing nicely and will be well soon.

Hazardous weather conditions put a damper on local affairs last week and several cancellations were a must to many village meetings.

Village folks are delighted that Mrs. Arthur Ewers of Main Street is getting along nicely after her mishap last month. A cracked wrist and slight back injury followed by a two day hospitalization period and a week with her son Jack in Guelph have finally resulted in recuperation. Mrs. Ewers had slipped on the ice outside of her home and her friends will be pleased to know that yesterday her wrist cradle was removed and she is feeling better again.

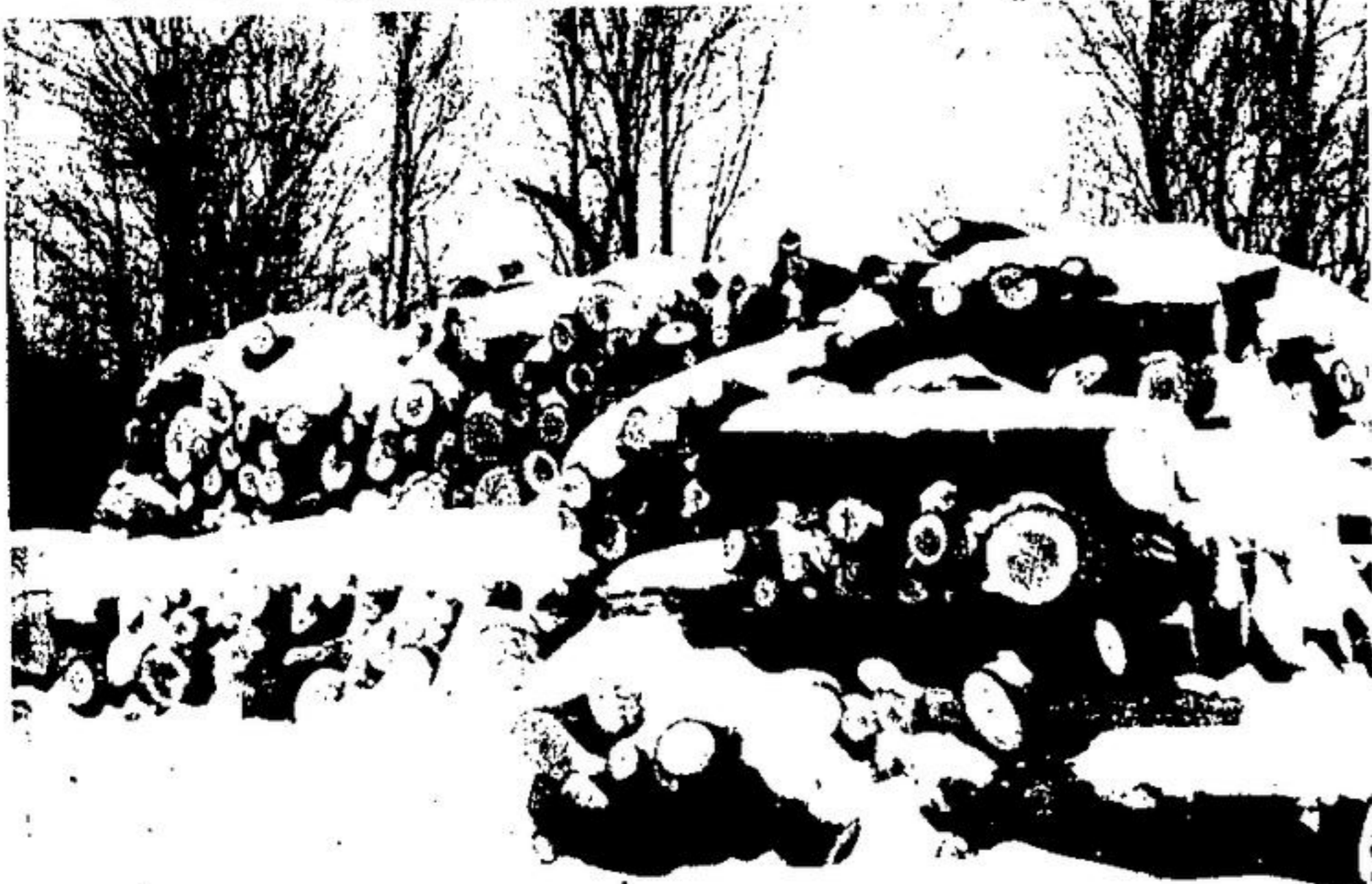
This year's March of Dimes went over the top for Rockwood this time and convener Mrs. Julie Brace had words of praise and esteem for her ardent canvassers. Many of them put aside their school exams to contribute to the worthy cause.

The two day conference in Hamilton saw the Reeve and Deputy Reeve of Eramosa attending the Ontario Association of Rural Municipalities meeting with councillor Bill Adsett and Clerk Lloyd Hindley, last Monday and Tuesday.

Eight little furry and cuddly creatures are being housed in a reverent splendour at the conservation park garage and the proud mother, owned by Jim Gellatly, is the german shepherd part colie who is proud of her splendid offspring. The babies are exceptionally strong and healthy and their father, a Labrador retriever is doing well.

Jimmie Milne surprised his family today when he walked into the house after his recent stay in the Westminister Veterans hospital in London. Reportedly Jimmie was doing well and would be home soon but after his leg operation he just picked up and drove himself home.

Nice going, Jimmie, we're glad you're back in town.



Timber! for elms

Over 300 elm trees in the Rockwood Conservation Park are slated for extraction some time this year, according to supervisor Jim Muir.

Already 80 of the giant trees have been pulled out with the top limbs being used for camping firewood and the lower logs sent to the Shand Dam for grading. Depending on the quality of the tree and the length of time it has been standing, the logs will be used either for furniture factory purposes or as skids.

The Conservation Park crew had hoped to complete the dead elm clearing by the end of the winter season however, the new forestry operation at the Shand Dam of clearing out the old wood in that vicinity has set the project back a short period.

CLOSE INVESTIGATION of a mountainous snow bank situated near the garage of the Rockwood Conservation Park reveals that under all the white sparkle are almost 40 cords of wood which have been brought down for summer campers from the Belwood lake area. New growth of young trees necessitates

the cleaning out of all old growth and the forester crews at Belwood lake's Shand Dam are removing trees and, in the same process, cutting up the hardwood and storing it in one big stockpile in the local park. —(Photo by Lorraine)

Last strength

It is the assumption of many naturalists that contaminated fish and water creatures consumed by the herons are responsible for creating a weakness in their flying abilities and consequently they are not strong enough to make the long autumn haul from Canada to the warmer climates.

According to Mr. Carrick on the migratory habits of the blue heron, they leave their Canadian habitat sometime in late September and early October not to return until late April.

Those of the species who are not able to make the trip south are forced to fend for survival in the Canadian frost with little protection, plus the added difficulties of frozen waters from which to catch the fish, frogs, and small reptiles, their natural food.

Pesticide poisons

Although the possibility of insecticides, D.D.T. and other contaminate pollutants as being directly responsible for the

precious nests

In Ontario, numerous blue heron nests are to be seen plunked in humorous fashion on bushes and tree tops - gigantic crude masses of loose sticks and, although naturalists have spotted a few nests around Fergus, other colonies are located in such districts as the Luther Marsh and various other wooded sections of the province.

When they leave Canada in early fall, the heron usually heads for the Gulf of Mexico or the southern half of the U.S.A. It is easily discernible in flight although often such birds are confusedly identified as cranes. The sharply pointed bills with narrow heads suspended on long slender necks with bare stork-like legs gives them the appearance strongly resembling the crane, however, unlike the crane who flies with his neck straight out like a stork, the magnificent blue heron holds his head between his shoulders and trails his legs straight out behind silhouetting a large "S" across the skyline.

Reports of local visiting tells the winter story of too cold outside, delightful fire place warm-ups inside and no one seems to be going anywhere.

Rockwood friends send their notes of sympathy to Jean Gray on the recent bereavement of her mother Mrs. Gladys Lorena Kirby who passed away at the St. Joseph's Extended Care Wing, Guelph, on January 31, and was buried on Tuesday afternoon at the Bellside Cemetery, Fergus.

It's a heigh ho birthday greeting to one of Rockwood's cutest little guys. Robbie Meadows, the young son of the local Fire Chief Carl and his wife Susie, was six years old on Monday, February 1. Congratulations, Robbie and Happy Birthday.

Little Beth Clark of R.R. 5 Rockwood, celebrated her 7th birthday last Wednesday Feb. 3rd and on Saturday she had a pool party at the Y.M.C.A. in Guelph followed with a food fest and games at home. Happy Birthday, Beth!

It's hope for good weather without snow for the Nightingales and Nobles. Art and Moira Nightingale and Bob Noble left by automobile for the trip to Florida early this week and Vivienne will be off by plane to meet them on Friday for a 3 week visit in the sunny south. Happy holidaying, folks; we'll be watching for that brown all over look come the 22nd.

A few carloads of children who had participated as school crossing guards during the past year were feted to a bowling party at the Sportsman's bow last Wednesday night. Two games and potato chips and cokes were on the evening's agenda and the kids had a marvelous time.

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News and views

By LORRAINE

It was birthday time a few weeks ago. Youngest son Peter had hit the tremendous age of six years old and, at our house, that's party age. With the help of his ideal mother, his school teacher, who excels every other female in beauty, talent, and brilliant abilities, he managed to get his invitations into the hands of the children he wanted to invite, with special limitations on the quantity; if he'd had his way the entire school would have been participants in the celebrating affair.

With strong vocal manipulation we managed to curb the numbers to ten; five girls and five boys, while an inquisitive family wait at home speculating just who Peter would invite to his very first party.

falls wearing velvet pant suits, sharp tiny brunettes with fascinating personalities, and one cute little blond with a dutch boy cut who kept repeating over and over again "no way".

The boys were also something special, from their high necked "poor boy" turtle-necks to their jackets and suit coats. Definitely a party of high fashion avec les fry petits.

Fun intended

We were to begin the party by playing through a list of games which I had carefully scheduled allowing so much time for each so that this was going to be one night when the kids would roll into bed saying things like "Wow, did we ever play a lot of games at Peter's house and we've never have fun!"

and she'd rather play London Bridges anyway.

Little dutch-boy haircut just stood there in the circle shaking her head over and over again saying, in clever reiteration, "No Way!"

Heads fall

So we played London Bridges and everything was great until young glamour puss wearied of always catching people and chopping off their heads and discovered that some of the little boys had marvellous knee caps which were more fun to kick at anyway. Pit, pit, there I was trying to outwit a brilliant six year old with the mind of a tack who almost had everyone eating from her hand. Her fascinating personality regressed somewhat however, with the discovery that Peter's older brother who was assisting in the success of this amazing party, was also good knee cap-kicking material but he wasn't having any part of it; gradually she became so engrossed in the game of blindman's buff that her football antics were put aside until her next debut.

Learning level

The real fun of a little kids' party is just being there. Talking to them, laughing with them, and sharing their activities. It's good to get down to a child's level because it's amazing what we can learn. They're really nothing but small replicas of their adult elders; shy, not sure of themselves and somewhat insecure, until a friendly gesture puts them at ease, a familiar game puts them in the running, and a winning score makes them the life of the party, and, for the rest of the evening the tear stained little damsel who didn't want to come to the party in the first place was having the best time of anyone else there.

Karate expert

One little boy was a Karate expert and he could slink alyly into a room behind the others and give them the old chop, chop, Saturday morning Y.M.C.A. style. This kid was no slunk and, by the end of the evening those unfortunate who didn't know that proper party procedure was to stand with backs against walls, stood the chance of a 6 year-level Karate chop, square on the back of the neck - a true test of stolid masculinity.

According to son Peter, afterwards, pure kindergarten technique practiced by all the boys during recess.

Want more

Finally it was over time. Everyone had been wonderful and had revelled in Peter's birthday present opening celebrations. The birthday cake candles had been blown in jerky fashion and balloons were popped in satisfying succession. The party was a proven success because all the kids were asking for another one next week. Mothers were arriving to pick up their charges and still others were to be transported home.

Last car gone, no more noises, no more hollering, just old Peter rattling around in the paper party remains, examining all of his presents.

Prayer of thanks

When I tucked him into bed that night he gave a special thank you prayer for his party and another special, special, thank you prayer for his wonderful teacher who had planned it all for him, listed all the great games and chosen the beautiful birthday cake with all the candles. He told God that he was sorry she hadn't been able to get to his party but that maybe next year she'd have more time.

Peter really is only six years old, and I chuckled.

Keen eye

Our initial realization was that either our little son had a keen eye for pretty chicks or else little girls were getting cuter every year. We had in our house for one entire evening a collection of the most adorable pint sized femmes fatales anyone could imagine. Bobby soxers with home-grown

Well, first off I found myself confronted by a glamorous small blond organizer who thought my games were all wet and no one had ever heard of such stupid words as "Hi ho the dairee-o" because at the school everyone knows that it's "Hi ho the merry-

Four \$50 awards for student project

The Grand River Conservation Authority is encouraging secondary school students in its area to compete for a new conservation award established by the Canadian National Sportsmen's Show.

A \$50 Sportsmen's Show Award will be given a student, class or group, in each conservation authority area of the province for the best student environmental management project in that area.

Four awards

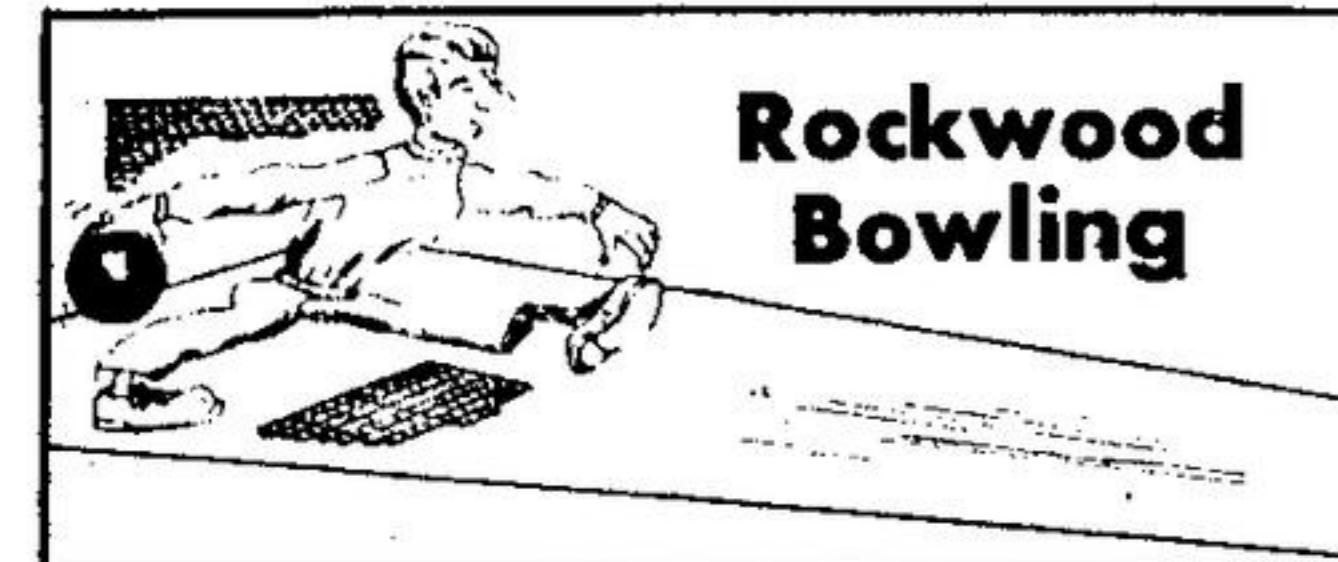
Because of the large number of secondary schools in the Grand River Conservation Authority area, four \$50 awards will be given.

Projects can be related to such things as land use, soil conservation, fisheries, game, birdwatching, biological studies or weather records. The only restriction is that they must fall within the overall heading of environmental management.

TURN OVER

Proud mother: "But even if Willie did misbehave, I can't spank him on a full stomach."

Neighbor: "No, of course not, but you can always turn him over."



Rockwood Bowling

Rockwood bowlers were back on the track last Tuesday night after a week's lay-off due to blizzard road conditions.

By the end of the evening team standings were giving better indications of what's to come and the 1st place shows the clippers with 83 points; 2. Pacers - 81; 3. Strattons - 78; 4. Neighbours - 76; 5. Guelphites - 73; 6. Nortons Bluebirds - 65; 7. Four Corners - 62; 8. Whitewashers - 60; 9. Carney's - 57; 10. Gooyer Bros. - 28; and, coming up from the bottom the Osprings Slow Pokes with 27 points for 12th place.

Almost split

Nortons Bluebirds almost split the score with the Clippers when the Clippers gave them an upset to make the score 4 to 3 for the Clippers. Bert Archer for the winning team made 621 triple, T. D. McCutcheon a 227 single and Harv Jestin rang up a 274, 213, 277, 784 triple score and Ted Jestin a 257, 257, 314 - 788 triple.

The Norton's team boasted Fred Nightingale with his 721 triple and Mary Stahlbaum's 684.

Flae fettle

The Neighbours were in a fine fettle after the week countdown and they took a 5 to 2 point lead over the Carney's team. Ellen Garner showed a 191 single, Sandy McPhedran a 192, Bill Garner a 176 and Lois Jestin a 201, all single scores. John Carney for the plumbing and heating team ran up a 212 single, May Swackhammer a 186, Bob Lilley a 211 and Betty Bennett a 168 single score.

The Four Corners team were the contenders for their game against the Alley Cats as Tony Stokman made a 241, 239 single tally rate a 621 triple score. Ralph Wright made a 199 single and Jack Parkinson a 196. Elmer's boys showed Elmer Allan running up a 211 single, Helen Elliott a 198 and Gloria Alton a 173 single score.

Strattons showed Sam Nyholt with 261 single, Ruth Kingsbury 212, and Dunc Kingsbury made a 631 triple score to put their team top dog over the Osprings Slow Pokes with a score of 5 to 2. Rass Ferguson for the defeatees bowled scores, 221, 222, 176 to triple 619, Orma Ferguson made a 159 single and Harold Theaker a 138 single score.

Heavy winners

The Guelphites were the only heavy winners of the night's bowling games and Don Archibald's 645 triple, Freeman Wilson's 200 single, and Ross Gordon's 220 single put the team over the top to win against Gooyer Bros to the tune of 7 to 0. Winnie Hills made a 190 single showing and Jo-Ann Gooyers a 188 single.

The Whitewashers were down 3 points as they were bowled out by the Pacers who won with a 5 to 2 score. Doug Cross of the Pacers made a 626 triple, Mike Martin a 202 single, Doug Hilton 246 and Bob Van Wyck a 205 single score. Brian Robertson for the Whitewashers showed a 209, 228, 191 set of single scores which tripled 628. Clarence Hilton rolled up 2 single scores of 209 and 225, Marina Mulder a 194 single and Art Nightingale a 180 single score.

Women over 500

Mary Stahlbaum 684, Ivy Ritchie 608, Vivian Nightingale 598, Lois Jestin 560, Nellie Stokman 558, Alice Johnson 548, Doris Jestin 530, Ann McCormach 528, Marina Mulder 524, Irene LaVoie 523.

Men over 600

Ted Jestin 788, Harv Jestin 764, Fred Nightingale 721, Don Archibald 645, Dunc Kingsbury 631, Brian Robertson 628, Doug Cross 626, Sam Nyholt 623, Tony Stokman 621, Bert Archer 621, Rass Ferguson 619.

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