

Disappointing group at Father, Son banquet

There was a noticeable sadness about last Wednesday night's Cub-Scout, Father and Son banquet held at the Rockwood Town Hall. Despite the promotion of the executive and the Cub and Scout Mothers' Association, only a minimal number of young boys and their fathers were present to participate in the festivities and consume the delicious banquet fare which had been arranged.

Raisin, apple, and cherry pies, dripping, home-made and delectable, all stood uncut after the dinner hour. Quantities of food had been prepared by the mothers to accommodate the large number of guests invited.

"Nobody let us know they weren't coming," said one of the disillusioned ladies responsible for the wonderful meal and empty seats compounded her remark.

Village apathy
The executive of the local group is concerned about the village apathy toward the Cub and Scout Association and there is a growing fear that, if more parents don't get behind this great organization, there just won't be one in the next few years.

Scout leader, John DeBank, the chairman for the evening, closed the dinner with congratulations to the Cub Mothers for the tasty meal and also for their continuous assistance behind the scenes in the work of the Association.

He asked Akela, May Swackhammer, to say a few words and she mimed the concern of the leaders. The Akela said "I wish that more parents would get behind us but, for those of you who are coming out," she looked at the cubs present — "I hope you'll continue to attend and keep the group alive for the future."

Head table
The chairman then introduced the head table guests as: the Akela, May Swackhammer; Lou DeBank; Mark Hamilton; Don Dennis, the Scout Executive for Wellington and South Waterloo districts; Mr. Gostonyi, the supply minister of the Rockwood United Church representing the village ministry; and little Timmy Jameson, a Rockwood cub.

Mr. Gostonyi, in speaking briefly, compared the sporadic interest of the Rockwood cub parents to little crabs who were being taught by some of the larger underwater animals to move forward instead of sideways. The tiny shellfish were able to master the task during the lesson period however, as soon as they reached home they once again fell back into the ways of their families and would walk sideways.

Instill pride
"How can we expect the children to be any different than their parents?" said the wise probation officer of the Wellington Centre of the Juvenile Court. "There are few organizations left today which are attempting to instill certain pride in our nation," he observed, "and the ones in existence deserve our support."
Mr. Gostonyi felt that if the fathers showed interest the children would, too. He had said earlier that he had prepared a list of things he wanted to talk about at the banquet but, when such a small group had congregated, he had decided to change his tack and shorten his speech.

Obvious problems
Don Rennie then spoke and, referring to the obvious problems that the Cubs and Scouts Association were having in the village he said that "If you don't give a damn what happens to your sons and if you don't want to play ball with the organization, well then, the Boy Scouts of Canada don't want to play ball with you."
Mr. Rennie felt that too many people were sitting back waiting for "George to do it" and,

referring to smaller communities than Rockwood, he said that they don't want outsiders to help — they'd rather run their own community activities.
"The Boy Scouts of Canada offer you their know-how and the programs but it is up to your leaders to follow them through." He continued "Scouting provides the program for the community which helps the boy to develop mentally, socially and spiritually. The community is free to accept the program and use it but the Boy Scouts of Canada Association does not carry it out the community does."

Pet rabbits
Mr. Rennie, the guest speaker for the evening, then changed his talk to a lighter vein when he produced two beautiful gray chinchilla rabbits, neatly packaged in spottless cages. After giving a rundown on the care and maintenance of the adorable animals, he allowed the youngsters to hold and pet them.



SCOUT EXECUTIVE Don Rennie of Guelph, talked to 22 cubs and their fathers present at the Cub and Scout banquet, on the care of his favourite hobby, Chinchillas. The boys were breathlessly intrigued and flooded Mr. Rennie with questions and, after his talk, he allowed them to carefully pet the tiny creatures.—(Photo by Lorraine)

Cam Lush seeks Liberal candidacy

The son of one of the district's staunchest century farm families will be vying for his place as candidate for M.P.P. of the Wellington-Dufferin riding next Wednesday, April 7, when the Wellington-Dufferin Liberal Association Convention will be



CAM LUSH

held at the Arthur District High School auditorium.
Cam Lush, the former reeve of Eramosa, feels that he has a responsibility as well as a contribution to make towards provincial politics and hopes that many of the citizens who have supported him in the past will be on hand to show their confidence on the important April date.

Active
Born in the township of Eramosa, Mr. Lush has spent the

The banquet, the speakers, and the furry guests culminated a meritorious evening and, as some of the executive members reiterated, "Maybe some of the fathers will pick up the torch and help us carry on".

Group of seven
It was a "group of seven" ladies who put so much effort into the success of the banquet dinner: president Audrey Bilton, Lois Tosh, Hazel Hamilton, Alice Nichol, Molly Webster, Winna Hartman, and Sylvia Jameson, ably assisted with a very young lady, Susan Tosh. Connie Spence from Everton also helped out during the early afternoon's preparation arrangements.

At present there is only the one boys' group operating in the village. The boy scouts and the venturers have disbanded, and, for the girls, only the Brownies and the St. John's Church J.A. are functioning in Rockwood where, just a few years ago, was a flourishing community of youngster activities.



AKELA MAY SWACKHAMMER was especially honored at last Wednesday's banquet when her young charges presented a cake honoring her birthday on the same day.

The Cub and Scout Mothers' Auxiliary sang "Happy Birthday" and all present lined up for a piece of cake.—(Photo by Lorraine)

Free Press Rockwood

Village tax rate remains same

Constant usage of Balacava Street by the school buses has made the rebuilding of that roadway a matter of urgency that was given earnest consideration at the recent budget meeting of the village trustee board.
A hard top on Mary Street from Guelph to Passmore and on

Passmore from Balacava to Clara Street in front of the Rockwood Centennial Public School were also part of the plans discussed for present village roadways with future ones set for developing new roads and further maintenance of others.

Tax rate
At the last village trustee meeting held in the Rockwood Town hall trustee members decided that the tax rate would remain the same as that set for the period of 1969 and it will remain at 21 mills with 5 mills allotted for garbage, 5 mills for street lighting and 11 mills set for roads and their general maintenance.

A small delegation consisting of Buzz Ellis of Jackson Street and Dave Rowe, presented to the trustee board, the proposal that the specified rental of the Rockwood Town Hall at a recent teenage dance be used as a donation towards the Christmas tree lighting project slated for next December.

Mr. Ellis was informed, however, by chairman Don Hiltz that the town hall could only be allowed as rent-free to those events which have been pre-qualified as money-raising ones for

the specific Christmas tree lighting project involved.

A letter from Rev. Don Sinclair requesting information as to the possibility of a holiday close off of Guelph Street for the purpose of a children's egg rolling contest to be sponsored by the combined Christian Churches Organization on date of April 12 was read and Mr. O'Brien was requested to answer the letter and to refer the writer, Mr. Sinclair, to the Ontario Provincial Police who have the jurisdiction over village roadways.

After all business had been completed the meeting was adjourned until date of Tuesday, April 27.

Don't use matches to check your car battery! Putting a flame or spark near a battery can cause it to explode, says the Ontario Safety League. A battery while charging generates hydrogen gas that can build up near the opening at the top of the battery.

greater part of his life in the district.

Ravenous rascals rebuked

Rampant dogs running unchecked and causing havoc in the Village have necessitated a request to the Eramosa Township Council that a deputy or assistant dog catcher be appointed.

Recognizing the fact that the officer in charge of the Eramosa canine population has too great an area to cover without concerning himself with the doggie problems in Rockwood, the Village Trustees at their last meeting, decided to appeal to the Council for consideration.

"Garbage days are dreadful" say the villagers and many of them cannot put their refuse out for collection until only short periods before the truck arrives without fear of ravaged refuse by ravenous rascals who are not kept under proper control.

An elder of the Barrie Hill United Church of Canada, he has served for six years on the township and area school board after his 1950 election, spent a further five years on the district planning board, and, as elected reeve, he represented the citizens of Eramosa with zeal and precision for a period of seven years.

As a farmer he has seen the needs of his own community and fellow citizens and is conscientiously interested in the political scene and its requirements as it affects his own riding.

Mr. Lush expects that at least one or perhaps two aspiring candidates will be contending at the April nomination convention for this riding but to date none have declared their intention.

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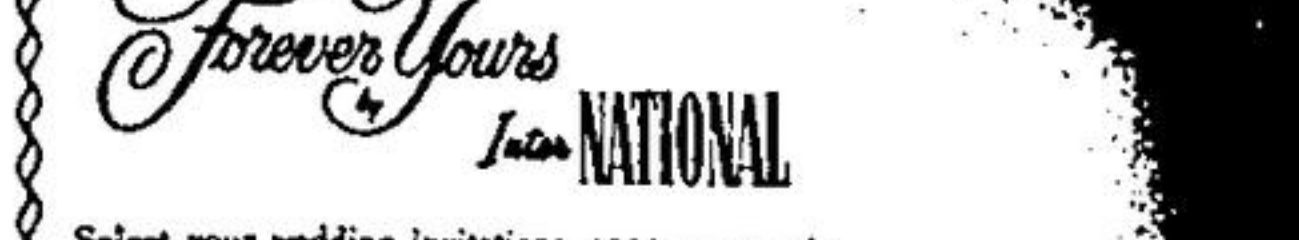
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Several laurels at drama festival

Drama, not comedy, said the adjudicator after his Saturday night's judgment on the Provincial Drama Festival of the Junior Farmers held at Ross Hall in Guelph, and James Edmund of the Theatre Toronto named the play "Sorry Wrong Number" as the winning one for the 1971 award.

Bruce Horsley, the past president of the Junior Farmers' Association was chairman for the night when five plays performed from individual groups throughout Ontario, drew their large audience from the counties of Middlesex, Stormont, Wellington, Waterloo, and Brant.

The moods of the presentations which ranged from light comedy to heavy drama were well accepted by the friendly audience and, when the Eramosa group presented their version of The Neglected Husbands' Sewing Club gales of laughter encouraged the local thespians to an even higher grade of performance than on previous occasions.

Top actress
"Sorry Wrong Number" was performed artfully by the county of Middlesex group and the leading lady, Sharon Nunn, won the top actress award for the provincial competitions.
June Thomson, of R.R. 4 Rockwood, was applauded as the runner up for the leading lady award, as she represented the Wellington County. The Best Supporting Actress was a tie award when another Rockwood girl, Yvonne Noble tied with Marg Miller of Brant County. Although the Eramosa performers who had won out in the finals for representation for the County of Wellington did not win the coveted top honors, they did, however, take several laurels for last Saturday's performance.

Best actor
Bruce Miller of Guelph was named the best actor for his portrayal in the Wellington Township play by the Eramosa group and the runner up to that merited award was Cligg Miller from Brant County. Wellington County again showed its ability when Harvey Allan tied as best supporting actor with Dave Knapp from Waterloo.

Adjudicator Edmond gave loud praise to the competitors but vocally showed a preference for drama rather than comedy and, after the performance indicated that he had read the Eramosa play and considered it just so much nothing. However, "The presentation and abilities of the local Junior Farmer's dramatic club," he said "was handled superbly and for that," continued Mr. Edmond, "the Wellington County group deserves special acclaim."

Final show
Four awards in a competition which absorbed all of Ontario was an ambitious accomplishment for the actors and actresses of the Rockwood district, and local citizens will have their opportunity to enjoy the final performance of "The Neglected Husbands' Sewing Club" when the Junior Farmers' present it once again at their annual Variety night to be held on the 16th of April in the Eramosa Public School Auditorium.

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