

Parents should prepare children for school Rockwood Home and School Ass'n told

The first meeting of the Rockwood Centennial Home and School Association for the '72 year was held at the school library last Wednesday evening. Approximately 20 parents and

C.W.L. plans Spring dance

A prayer by Father Elliott was the start off for the last meeting of the Rockwood and Oustic C.W.L. at the Rockwood rectory at which discussion covered many areas of business.

Mrs. Irene Hawkins, president, was in the chair, and, during the business it was decided to send one other delegate besides the president to the regional meeting to be held at Holy Rosary Church, Guelph, on April 11.

An invitation was considered from the C.W.L. at Acton where Father Gillen is attempting to revitalize the organization there. Several ladies from Rockwood will attend the social evening which is planned for March 21.

Dance success

The success of the last C.W.L. dance held at the Rockwood town hall stimulated interest and the planning of another one with accent on parishioners was discussed with an eye to keeping down ticket sales to avoid overcrowding. Mrs. Hawkins will be in charge of the dance with ticket sales at the dispensation of Mrs. Marjorie Saunders and Mrs. Bernice Bacon.

At the close of the meeting Father Elliott gave a special Lenten message in which he stressed the importance of abstinence. After this a delicious but light lunch was served by Mrs. Hawkins and Mrs. Nellie Stokman.

teachers were on hand to hear Dr. Norma Bowen, a professor of Child Psychology, at the University of Guelph, give pointers on the needs of the younger child stressing that the first five years were the most important in a child's life.

Giving landmarks in a youngster's development Dr. Bowen said that zero to two, two to four, four to seven, seven to 11, and 11 to 15, were the ages of noted changes and that, during the first two years especially, a child should be exposed to as much mental stimulation as possible.

"It is not the quantity of toys and books with which they play but rather the quality," said the attractive speaker. She stressed that a child does not come into the world with full bloom capacities and, regardless of his genetic predispositions, his abilities will not grow to his potential unless fostered in a stimulating atmosphere.

Prepare child

Regarding failure, the child-rearing expert said that learning has taken place long before he comes into the school and suggested that parents could do a great deal in preparing the young child for his school time encounters so that he can face the challenges confronting him there.

"If taught at home by posed problems requiring decisions he will understand the continuity of school problems" said Dr. Bowen, "but, if everything is done for him at home he finds, at kindergarten level that he does not know how to cope with decisions".

She said that, in this way the child falls back into a pattern of failure at his earliest school beginnings. "Failure at kindergarten level never really

gets made up" she said, and according to the psychologist, too often the child ends up in a special education class in grade

8, too late to pull him up, resulting in a hate for school and early acceptance of continued failure.



ENJOYING AN after-meeting coffee time, attractive Norma Bowen, was the Doctor of Psychology from the University of Guelph who spoke to parents and teachers at last Wednesday's Home and School meeting. A native of Trinidad, Dr. Bowen stressed praising the child for success at his level of learning not according to the needs of the parents or the standards of the teachers.— (Photo by Lorraine)

When queried about the ideal way of handling children with learning problems Dr. Bowen referred to the procedure utilized by the Rockwood Centennial School which is the only school in Wellington County using the integrated system, wherein children are given special attention for their particular difficulties, but kept in regular classrooms for other school work.

"It is important that children be kept with their peer groups for better learning," she said, "because a child learns more from his peers than from adults".

Dr. Bowen also pointed out that parents must understand that children vary with abilities and should not be compared with their siblings, as constant comparisons foster rivalry and destruction of the child's self image.

Pointing out from a recent survey that one out of 10, totalling approximately one million children across Canada have learning disabilities, Dr. Bowen said that one of the important functions of any school is to teach children to cope with the outside world.

"No one really falls as long as he is learning," she said, stressing the necessity of praising the child for success at his level noting it should not be based on the needs of the parents or the standards of the teachers. In the discussion that followed, it was pointed out by several parents that top level education was not always the answer and should not be the goal for all young people as, in today's society so many people from all walks of life are enjoying living to the fullest while holding jobs requiring little education.

Dr. Bowen agreed although insisting that early stimulation and exposure were the requirements to attain particular levels of capabilities for all young children.

During the break for coffee and discussion, Mr. David Hartman thanked Dr. Bowen for coming to the meeting and for her informative talk.

On the Home and School agenda for April is the Spring Fashion Show with Ann Benham in charge of organizing plans. Ladies, gentlemen and children of the Eramosa community will be the voguish models.

Group committee plans activities

The group committee composed of parents of Cubs, Scouts and Brownies met at the Rockwood Centennial School Monday night and, with a full executive on hand, decided to make 7 p.m. on the third Monday of every month the regular meeting time.

Mrs. Lesley Ferguson, the newly appointed president, was in the chair assisted by secretary Audrey Bilton and treasurer Nancy Carter. During the planning session it was decided to send out leads to fathers in particular, to attend the meetings and assist in summertime plans for outdoor activities for the youngsters such as camping, fishing and hiking treks.

Other items under discussion included a mammoth rummage and bake sale with pick-up provided and with, hopefully, only saleable items donated.

Bring your parents

A "Bring your parents nite" slated for Tuesday evening, May 9 was also decided on, when Brownies, Cubs, and Scouts will banquet together with Moms and Dad.

Mrs. Leona Kingsbury, leader of the local Brownies, volunteered to organize as a finale to the year's activities, a village clean-up day to be held at the end of May after which a wiener roast and refreshments will feed the hungry youngsters from the three groups.

Visitor at the meeting was Harry Bonner, president of the Rockwood and District Lions Club, who conveyed to the committee the well wishes of his club members.

Student captures winter stillness

Students at Rockwood Centennial School recently wrote compositions about a tramp through the Rockwood conservation area. Teacher Bob Love thought grade eight student Phoebe Kingscote's description, published below, was especially good.

By Phoebe Kingscote

All that could be heard was the crunching of many feet breaking through the thin crust under the newly fallen snow, and excited voices echoing through the woods.

The snow had fallen on the previous night, so, was still clean and white. Most people were more interested in getting to the hill than looking through the trees where the rays of the sun were breaking through the clouds. A chill would sweep through you as the shadows of drifting clouds passed over the ground, and then, the warmth of the sun was upon you once more.

The soft, white blanket that covered the ground had threads

of green and blue woven into it. Sparkling jewels were carefully stitched along the edges of the small folds. They twinkled and flashed as the light hit them from different angles.

The excited voices had grown fainter now and I stopped to look back down the road. A small rabbit was silently making its way across the clearing. Quietly, it disappeared into the woods.

Everything was still and I could have stayed there all day. It was as though I was in a big, clear bubble that nothing could break. Soon I would rise, and float into the sky, over the tree tops with their lacy veils pulled down over their heads and the river that wound aimlessly through the rocks in the sunlight.

The noise of a car on the highway brought me down, and I moved on toward the hill.

A consistent cheat in keeping a golf score is one who after scoring a hole-in-one can't resist marking "zero" on his golf card.



WHEN VILLAGE CITIZENS walked past and saw the door of the St. John Church sagging and fall off from last weeks wind they shook their heads and said "too bad" but when Len Hawkey called upon Yosef Drenters to help him to repair it Yosef was more than willing. He removed the old hinges, repaired any damage, and looked at the doors with

reverence "Solid pine" he said "They're over a hundred years old those doors and if you take care of them they'll be good for another hundred." The doors are back in shape again, hinges and locks all oiled, but it takes a special person to show us the worth of beautiful relics.—(Photo by Lorraine)

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Rockalong Institute hears talk on wool

Mrs. Norman Harris presided at the last regular meeting of the Rockalong Institute in the absence of president Miss Helen Bayne. Roll call was answered by ten members of the Institute and eleven visitors.

During the business an invitation was read from the Riverside Institute for the Rockalong ladies to attend their dessert party on March 28 at 12:30 at the Recreation Centre, Delhi Street, Guelph.

An advanced prize list received from the Acton Fall Fair Board was also up for discussion as it informed the local group that "leisure hours" is the theme for the Institute display.

Also learned was the fact that the book "The Ontario Women's Institute Story" is now available to the members of the Institute.

1972 catalogue

At the completion of the business Mrs. K. Spence spoke briefly on current events and showed a 1972 Eaton's mail order catalogue after which a brand name contest was conducted by Mrs. J. Glendenning. Mrs. E. Johnston then gave a reading entitled "That thing they call middle age."

Mrs. Glendenning, convener for Canadian Industries, presented her program and

introduced Mr. W Soblach from the Artex wolen mills in Hespler who gave an interesting talk on the processing of wool from the raw wool stage to the finished product. He used samples as visual aids. A draw was conducted in which three pieces of materials were won by Mrs. G Mitchell, Mrs. G Wallace, and Mrs. L. Reid, of Greenock Institute.

A social time was then enjoyed and, during a session of delicious tea and fruit bread with cheese, Mrs. G. Wallace from Greenock Institute thanked the Rockalong ladies for their invitation to attend the meeting and Mrs. H. Bayne thanked Mr. Soblach for his informative lecture.

The next meeting will be held as usual at the No. 8 community centre with Mrs. S. Trousdale hostess, assisted by Mrs. H. Bayne and Mrs. G. Mitchell as lunch conveners. Members were requested to bring handbooks to this meeting and conveners, their reports.

The patient, undergoing a physical, held out his hands that shook like leaves in a windstorm. "Do you drink much?" asked the doctor.

"Not much," the man answered. "I spill most of it."

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