

# News and views

By LORRAINE

This week Lorraine continues her account of concerns at home when son Kevin went travelling.

What a worry! We have a number of kids in our family and, if all of them decided to go on an excursion at one time I'm afraid we, at home, would never survive. For eight weeks we've worried, fretted, grieved our teeth, and considered the absolute worst things that could have happened. Husband Monty has probably developed a peptic ulcer and me, I've gained ten years and ten more unwanted pounds.

### Relies on parents

Meeting people who knew Kevin became a calamity. Who could explain where he was and how could we tell ourselves that everything was all right when, a boy who had been writing regularly had suddenly quit on us and we had no way of communicating to find out why. Especially when terrible tales were constantly related about overseas youngsters being beaten, rolled and stoned for money and passports, all by their own contemporaries who had learned the hard way to fend for themselves.

Again I say, "Know thy kids." Yesterday we had our letter. It was written two weeks ago by a boy who is now a young man. In his own words he really does care but time has passed too quickly for letters and he relies on his parents to trust his judgments. So what we know is that Kevin is in Tel-Aviv, Israel, employed in a short order restaurant of which he has been offered management. He writes: "It is strange to me, but now that I am here I have little desire to join a kibbutz to help this state, this people, and this society, especially after having been in the Arab countries."

He is finding for himself and setting his own values of what is good and right. He has learned to put a tremendous value on life and respects humanity and what it is all about. Most important to us, his family, is that he is safe and well—we know that, although young, he is capable of handling his own destiny. He talks of returning home in July for fall enrollment of University but he has had some challenging opportunities offered which make him vie for time.

Youth on move  
What makes Kevin's trip more worthwhile to write about than any other young person's? Nothing! All youth is on the

move today and, if they keep their heads it's the greatest experience of their lifetimes. Kevin is only one of the multitudes of youngsters who are reaching out for further horizons to attain goals which many parents, in their younger days, never did have the opportunity to enjoy.

What is important, though, is that parents and other young people can identify with Kevin. Travelling sons and daughters should understand the importance of regular home communication where even notes and postcards are acceptable open lines as far as most parents are concerned so that innocent concern will not develop into incongruous mental pictures of gloomy thought.

### Pile of letters

The liaison at the Canadian Embassy in Ottawa, in contacting us at a trying point of Kevin's travels said his desk was stacked high with letters from harassed parents from P.E.I. to Vancouver, British Columbia, whose sons or daughters had not written for weeks developing into months. "Don't worry," said the young official, "two months without writing does not represent reason for concern because there are many places to see and too much happening so that time, to them passes quickly."

Well, he's right, you know. How many times have our own parents worried about us and how many times are we too neglectful about the people who wait to hear from us? There's a good lesson to be learned here and one we should think about. Time does pass quickly if we're busy but it only takes a few minutes to write a line, or drop in for brief visits.

Life itself is too short not to take that time and make that effort.

When we finally received our letter I was torn between absolute elation and thankfulness. In reading it through I know now that he is in control. There will be times of concern again but, at least now, we have a point at which to write for the time being anyway. He is not working in the kibbutz but he at least arrived in the area to which he was headed and has been wise enough not to be intimidated to carry out earlier commitments against his better judgment.

No longer will it be parents worrying about a young boy but rather communications with a son who has a fair idea where he's going, and we're thankful!



ERAMOSIA RIVER flooding, estimated by experts to be the worst since Hurricane Hazel, has played havoc with the Millstone Restaurant on Rockwood's Main Street.

Every spring the park area suffers slightly from high rising river spread but this season's deluge is considered to be the worst in five years. (Photo by Lorraine)

## Spring Seeds sprout into music, fun Friday

There was a two-fold tribute paid last Friday evening when cast members and organizers of the Spring Seeds variety show expressed their pleasure at such a sensational audience.

The entire show was packed with originality, culture, and humor, and at the completion of each act the enthusiastic crowd responded with sincere applause.

The Rockwood School auditorium was three-quarters packed to enjoy the two hour show which started at exactly 8 p.m. and moved along with quick pace with a 15 minute intermission for coffee and refreshments.

### Local talent

Talent including such local well knowns as Rob and Alex Sinclair with their folk singing entertainment and T. D. McCutcheon singing his Scottish songs accompanied by Mrs. William Early were only some of the numbers which delighted the audience.

The Rockwood Philharmonic Society comprised of David Brown at the piano, Blair Sinclair, bass clarinet, both of Guelph, and, from Rockwood, James Gordon on the trumpet and Peter Boarder with the bassoon. Comical and clever, the lads produced musical humor which everyone enjoyed and loudly applauded.

Songs by Emily Chillingarian, a Guelph Centennial High School student were also well received and the audience was enchanted with Prabha Patil's interpretation of songs from her native India. Dances by the University of Guelph Philippine Islanders conveyed the charm and graceful femininity of the island girls and, after listening to the folk singing of the mixed group of boys and girls the Rockwood audience was again intrigued and applauded warmly.

Express thanks  
At the completion of the

program M. C. Burt Baum who had also made guitar selection contributions to its success, expressed his pleasure at the entire program and gave special commendation to the two coordinators, Betty Lou Clark and Don Gordon who assisted back during the program. Ray Death was praised for his work as prop man and Ian Gordon who also worked in the background. Joy Lord and Jackie Rowe were in charge of refreshments and, the Swamp Witch, a high school student group, composed of Richard and Eugene Szponarski, John Clark Jr. and Al Hosack, entertained the younger fry for a one hour rock concert after the show.

Included in the evening's

entertainment was an original one act play "Democracy in Action" which received special ovation. The satire depicted the situation of an ultra modern model post office being wished on a little unknown village called Rockwoods, situated supposedly, somewhere in the same province as the Capital City. At the play's finale, thespians John Clark and Monty Root, as Ministers of all the Public Works and General of all the Post Offices, presented their ultra special modern model to the audience and, with a pull of the curtains, produced a genuine wooden outdoor shanty in which Postmaster George Day was seated reading a copy of one of the Wellington County Board of Education school books.



COMICAL AND CLEVER the Rockwood Philharmonic Society lived up to its reputation last Friday night capturing the audience at the Centennial School auditorium to view the variety show, Spring Seeds. Pictured are pianist David Brown, Blair Sinclair who plays the bass clarinet, Peter Boarder the bassoonist, and seated, James

Gordon who plays the trumpet and provides vocals for the group. The society which has been playing together for four years entertained with original song hits but announced that they will soon have to split as Peter Boarder, now in Grade 13, will be graduating and moving on, to another facet of his career. (Photo by Lorraine)

## Comin's and Goin's

What do you know! Tuesday morning's spring weather saw Jean Meadows venturing out on the village streets driving a car for the first time since her accident. An absolute miracle and her many friends are very happy at her recuperation and courage. Nice going, Jean, we'll all look forward to seeing you around.

Mrs. Harry Bailey is feeling better now that her toe operation is healing. Her local friends are pleased she is getting well and the Bailey home on Main Street is a delightful place to drop into for a visit with two very nice people. And Mr. Bailey makes the best cup of tea since Mother Parker.

Come on, now. Don't forget the rummage sale at the Rockwood Centennial School this Saturday, April 22 beginning at 1 p.m. until 5. There'll be white elephants, boys, books, home baked goodies, and you name it all up for grabs when the Cubs, Scouts, Guides, and Brownies committee will sponsor the village's biggest little sale to raise money for special projects. Donators and buyers be on hand to witness and partake of the fun event of next Saturday.

Also keep in mind the Fashion de la local ladies when the Rockwood Home and School Association presents its annual Fashion Highlights at the Centennial School auditorium on Wednesday, April 26 at 8 p.m. It'll be entertainment and lunch for mere shekels and the Rockwood Philharmonics will also be on hand to spoof up the evening with chuckles and talent.

It was Husband Nite for the Presbyterian ladies Twilight Auxiliary last Friday night and nine husbands and wives gathered for fun and games at the church hall. Prizes and lunch highlighted the evening which began at 7.30 p.m. and lasted until approximately 12; it had been a great evening for everyone.

Ray and Betty Death were guests at the 25th wedding anniversary of Toronto friends last Saturday evening when Emily and Charles Leavens were feted to a celebration at the

Queensway Lions Club. It was a terrific affair, well attended by many outside Toronto guests as well as those from the big city.

It's been flood-time this week for Eramosa River dwellers and the John Clark family at "Bend in the River" extended sincere praise to the staff of the Rockwood Conservation Park for their assistance in re routing the overflow with the usage of sand bags and elbow grease. Jimmie Milne played his role in the vital but with nature by supplying necessary grain bags for sand fillage which was the only defense river residents could utilize to hold back the torrentious waters. According to Jim Muir such flooding is pretty well an every five year occurrence but this year's ice breaks have come up quickly producing an unusually high water rise. Ah well, soon the summer sun, and extended energies will be restored, then who will remember the hazards of spring tide.

It was visitors for the Allan Schinks when Mr. Freeman Barrett and his lady friend came from Montreal as guests of Donna and Allan for last weekend.

Mr. and Mrs. Phil Gossick of Oshawa spent the weekend as guests of Jean and Jim Milne and enjoyed participating at their 25th wedding anniversary celebrations.

Brown, relaxed and smiling broadly the Ray Ellis's are back home on Jackson Street after their three week visit to the land of the Mexicans. Pleased that they missed the worst part of the winter Babs and Ray left from Malton March 25 and arrived home last Friday just in time for spring sunshine and warmer weather.

It was an overnight stay in Mexico City followed by a 180 mile bus trip north to San Miguel, a beautiful old world metropolis of some 25,000 residents. Symphony concerts, band concerts, night clubs, exciting shopping sprees were part of the nighttime adventures of the foursome who were daytime

guests at "Centro De Equitacion" a San Miguel riding academy where students received specialized training in cross country and advanced riding from an ex-Mexican Cavalry Officer who gave terrific instruction. The foursome, Dr. Alex and Betty Mackenzie from Penetang and the Rockwood Ellis's then proceeded to Taxco, 60 miles south of Mexico City where there is an elevation of 9,000 ft. above sea level. The home of the silver mines was also an exciting place to visit where city stores resembled continual duplications of Birks stores with all their silver ware. After four days the travellers left Taxco for their overnight Mexico City stay-over before returning to Rockwood. A marvellous trip and Ray and Babs are home now safe, but sound as if they would still like to be enjoying the delights of Mexican hospitality.

Isn't it great? No longer will one member of the Lion's Club have a blank beside his name on the list of husbands and wives. The popular Freddie Nightingale will soon have his own Lionette when he hitchhikes up to Betty Lou Harnock of Guelph next Saturday, April 29. It was a bomber stag held for the young bachelor last Friday night at the Rockwood Town Hall when approximately 100 friends and relatives gathered for a night of cards and fun to celebrate and guests came from Brampton, Kitchener, Guelph, Toronto, Eden Mills and Rockwood with an extra large count in the collection purse. Brother-in-law Jack Griffenham of Main Street organized the party and after their marriage Freddie and Betty-Lou will live on Mackenzie Street in their own home. Welcome to Rockwood, Betty-Lou, we know you and Fred will be happy here.

## Obituary

### Mrs. Dodds came here in 1907

Another chapter of village history was closed last Saturday when Jean Nicol Dodds died in Toronto and was placed in her final resting place in the Rockwood Cemetery beside her husband, the late Rev. W. C. Dodds and one infant daughter. The lady who would have been 93 in June this year is remembered to the Rockwood and Eden Mills Presbyterian congregations as a ball of fire and an organizer who enjoyed people and fun. Mrs. Dodds, a well loved member of the community, reportedly kept the manse a continual open house, entertaining and showing hospitality as well as raising five children, one of which was born in the village.

### Came in 1907

Rev. Dodds and his wife had come to Rockwood in 1907 from Bridgeburg, Ontario, now called Fort Erie. As the pastor of the Rockwood and Eden Mills Presbyterian Churches before church union in 1922 they lived in the manse on what is called Vinegar Hill in a home originally built for the Harris family but purchased in approximately 1880 by the Presbyterian Church to accommodate Rev. John Strachan and his family. The house has been more recently occupied by the families of Dr. R. G. Hilton, Dick Strong, and is now owned by the Robert Murray family.

After her husband's death in 1918 Mrs. Dodds stayed on in Rockwood with her children for approximately five years until they had completed their public and continuation school education after which they moved on to Toronto.

In latter years Mrs. Dodds kept house for her son Murray in Toronto but, for some time because of ailing health had

taken residence in a nursing home. She is still remembered in the Rockwood community for her tremendous vitality and active enthusiasm in church affairs and is survived by three children, two sons and one daughter, James Murray Dodds, Calvin Hughes Dodds and Margaret (Mrs. W. A. Duncan) five grandchildren and great grandchildren. Officiating at the service at the cemetery was the Rev. Ralph Williams, the United Church minister affiliated with the Rev. Dodds' home church on Harris Street which, at that time, before union, was the Presbyterian Church.

SOME cellars were flooded during recent rains and thaw.

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