

Old Radial line will run again official opening on June 25

After 18 years of preparation by members of the Ontario Electric Railway Historical Association, the first section of the Halton County Radial Railway will be open and running for the public by the beginning of July this year.

Official opening ceremonies are planned for Sunday, June 25 on the Association's property in the northern end of Nassagaweya township between the Fourth and Third Lines.

The Nassagaweya property was chosen as the site for the Association's railway "museum" because a half-mile strip of the old Toronto Suburban Railway ran through it. The old radial line fanned out from Toronto, passing through Streetsville, George-

town, Acton, Eden Mills and wound up in Guelph.

The Association now has 16 acres of land on which to build an actual railway using old street cars and other relics of the electrical railway era. Track will extend from the Third to the Fourth Line. The unused Rockwood CN station was purchased last year to lie in the operation with an actual station.

The Association aim is preserving something of the transportation history of Eastern Canada and members are held together by that common bond.

Government help
Help also came along this year from both the federal and provincial government in the form of grants and publicity

assistance. A group of Junior members of the OERHA applied for a federal Opportunities for Youth grant and were granted approximately \$12,750 for tasks such as track building, ballasting, brush-clearing, property improvements, and car maintenance.

So Junior members of the Association plus some other young people from the Nassagaweya area will be working full time for 12 weeks at tasks to get the unique railway enterprise going.

The Ontario Government has agreed to print and distribute an advertising "flyer" for the Association through tourist information channels. A display is also planned in Travel-in-

Ontario exhibit in downtown Toronto this summer.

Work started at the site on April 9 this year despite almost a foot of snow on the main line. Most of the snow had gone within two weeks and track work began on April 16 with ballasting of additional main line.

Car restoration and construction have kept members of the Association busy over the past 18 years. Now it looks like the project is nearing completion, excitement is increasing. All labor on the project has been done by the members themselves—working mostly on Sundays.

Important date
So June 25, 1972, will be an important date in the history of the Halton county Radial Railway—exactly 18 years since the arrival of the first rolling stock on the property in 1954.

In the news bulletin "Radial Report" published by the OERHA, editor John Mills writes: "Effective with the following weekend, the railway's operating methods will be changed. We will be officially in operation, not merely handling passengers on training and shakedown runs as was the case last year. We will be committed to operation each Sunday afternoon, and hopefully Saturdays as well. . . . The voluntary contribution system will be replaced by a prepaid ticket system and operations will be conducted from the Third Line end of the property rather than the carhouse (near the Fourth Line)."

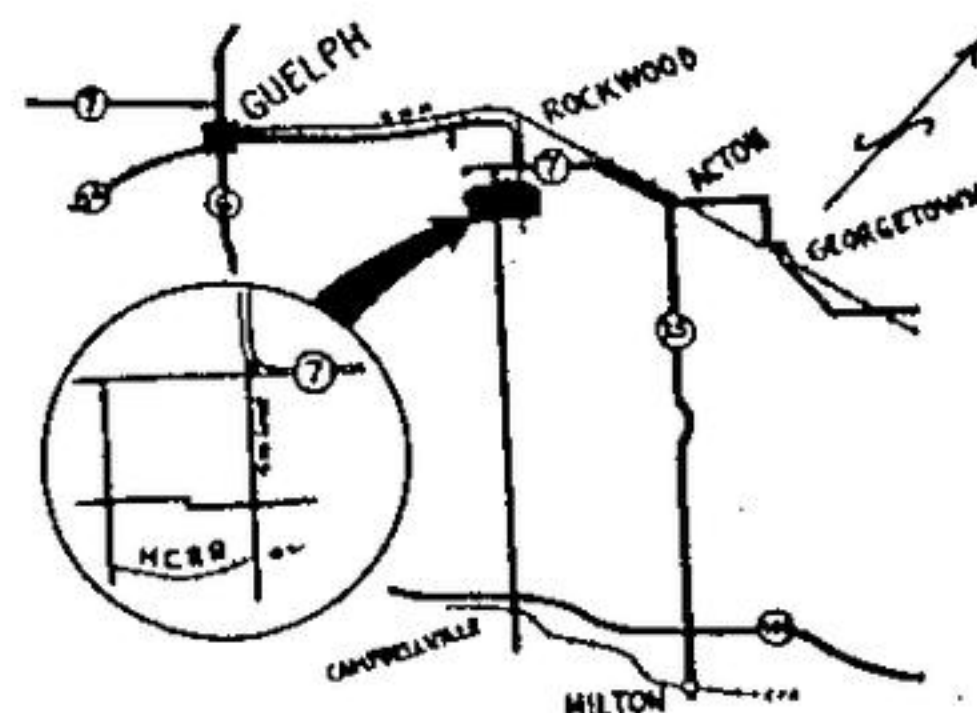
"Tickets, to be purchased before boarding cars, will be sold at 50 cents for adults, 10 cents for children, entitling the holder to a round trip from station to carhouse and return. All day passes will also be sold."

Officials admit there is still lots to be done. Tracks must be extended to a point in front of the station, four cars must be prepared for service, overhead

must be erected, the station must be cleaned and made ready and a million other small details looked after.

But when it is all finished this area will have a unique tourist attraction bound to attract railway buffs from all over the continent as well as curious sightseers.

It will be almost as if the old Toronto Suburban Railway had come to life again on its own roadbed.



TRACKS OF THE UNIQUE electrical township. Volunteers such as the above men railway museum on wheels will extend from have been working on the project since 1953. the Third to the Fourth Line, Nassagaweya (Staff Photo)



ONE OF THE EARLIEST — No. 327 — and a later model No. 4000 are among the rolling stock stored in the car-barn at the Halton County Radial Railway in Nassagaweya. They'll be on view this summer and some will be carrying passengers. (Staff Photo)

Trustees tour

Chairman Don Hiltz and village trustees Stan Harris and Bert Smith were among 117 Hydro commissioners and councillors who went to Goderich for a meeting.

The group toured the Douglas Point plant and returned for a smorgasbord dinner at Goderich.

Joe Benham resigns post

Eramosa building inspector Joe Benham turned in his resignation Friday. In the aftermath of a disagreement with members of the township council. He has filled the post for three years.

Mr. Benham and council thrashed out their differences at the regular May meeting a week ago Monday. It appeared then he would remain as building inspector despite his announced intention to resign. A special committee of council composed of Dick Strong and Ken Fair, set up to review building permits, was dissolved to give the building inspector more authority.

However, after further thought Mr. Benham turned in his resignation. The township is now looking for a new building inspector.

PETER J. Durksen is to be the new principal of Erin high school beginning Sept. 1. He is now vice-principal of Dunville high school. He succeeds W. N. Finnie who is retiring.

Comin's and Goin's

It was a sad occurrence in the family of the Lawrence Kingwells when, within a week's time two loving fathers passed away. Mr. Gordon Kingwell from Owen Sound, Ontario, died in the hospital on Wednesday, April 26, and Arlene's dad, Mr. Nelson Dipple died suddenly at home last Tuesday evening. Rockwood villagers and friends extend their words of sincere sympathy to both Arlene and Lawrence and also to their mothers and families.

Warm and delightful, Sydney Strong's short address to Jackie and David Rowe drew rounds of applause when approximately 75 friends gathered at the home of John and Jessie Lawrence to wish the couple and their children well on their return home to England. "We'll expect you back" was the sincere wish of everyone present and, as a small token of their great esteem for a young couple who have fitted in beautifully to Rockwood living, they were presented with the book "Canada - The Year of the Land". A marvellous party for a sad event and friends had poured in from Kitchener, Galt, Guelph, London, Acton, Eden Mills and

Toronto. Everyone is hoping the David Rowes will be back again soon, only then it will be to make Rockwood their permanent home.

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Their first big bang-up the Rockwood and district Lions Club are taking over from the Rockwood Trailriders and will run the annual fireworks display this year. The date? Dusk time on Monday, May 22 of course, with safety precautions at full tilt. So make it the greatest day of them all and meet up with your friends at the ball park.

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Hey, See who's home again. Ozzie Meadows is back from the hospital feeling chipper and great. Just can't keep a good man down and who is gooder than Ozzie? Nobody, that's who!

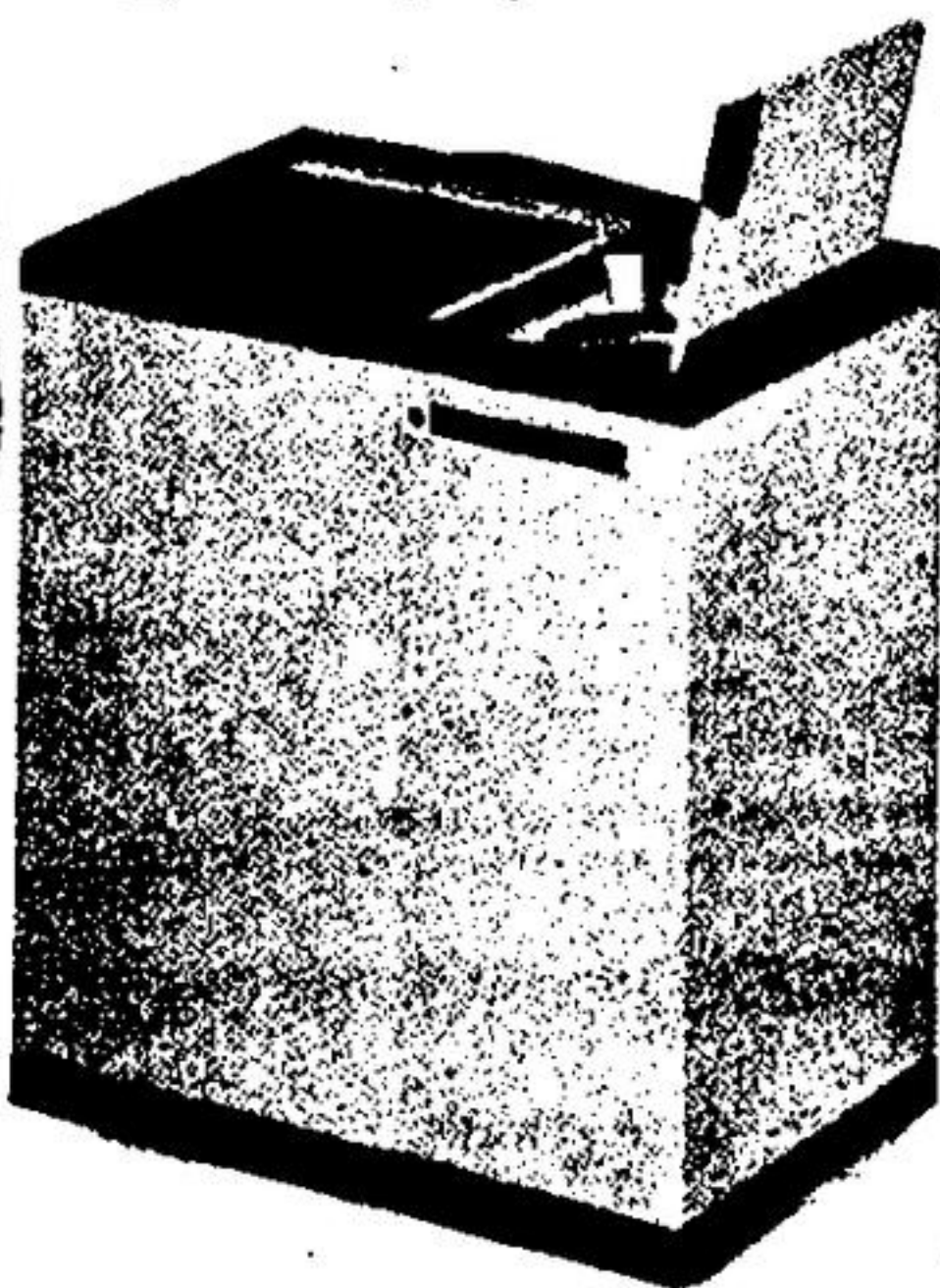
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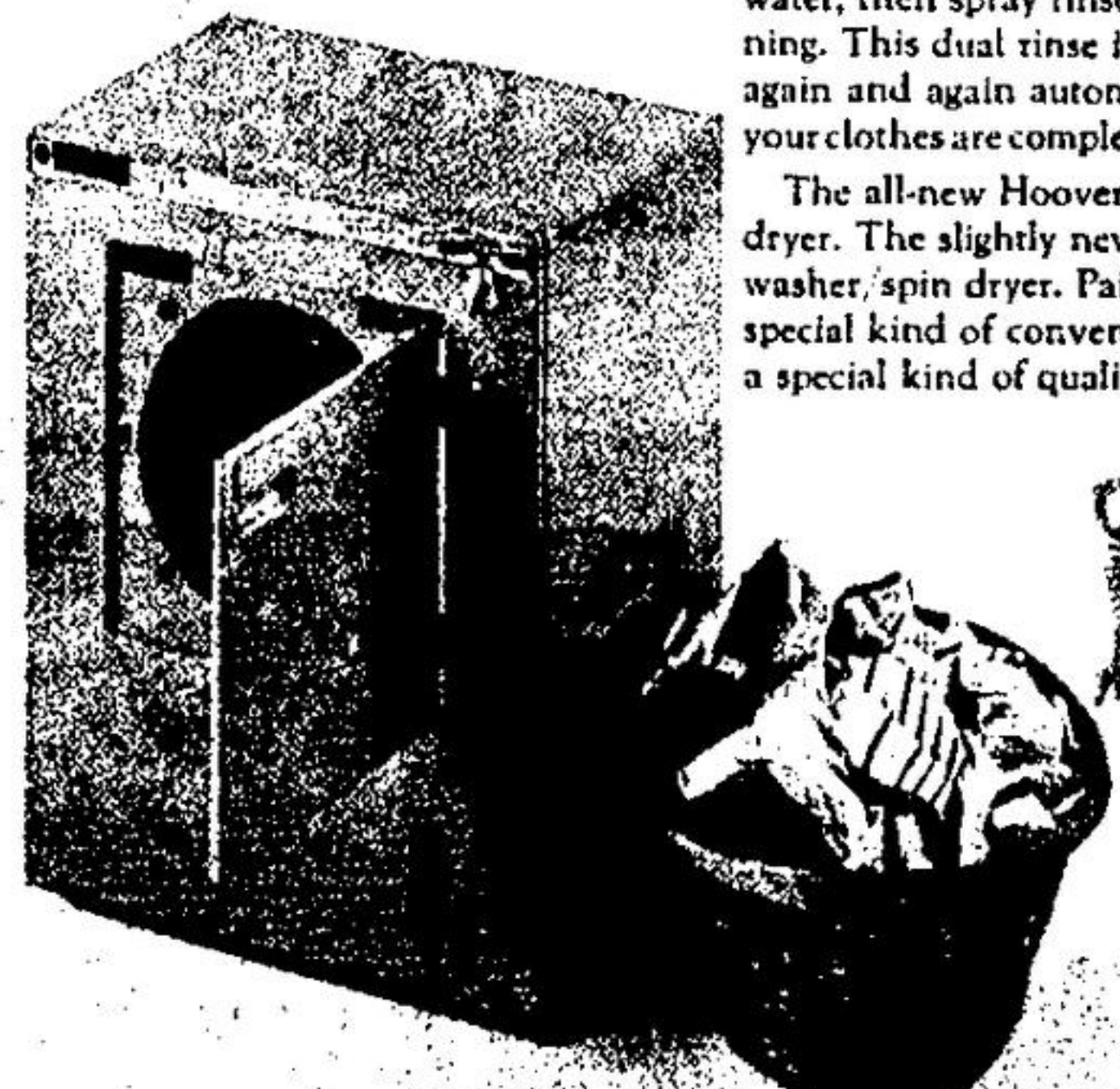
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