

Mrs. John Sprowl hasn't lost her divining powers

by Jennifer Barr

Rain drizzled on a grey-haired lady in gum boots, tramping around the field with a forked metal rod. Suddenly her arm started to flair wildly, as if on a string, and she stated calmly: "There are two crossed streams here. You'll find water 20-25 feet down but the rock is over 100 feet down. There's a small spring at 150 feet and two larger ones at 165 feet and 175 feet."

Mrs. John Sprowl of Acton, one of the few remaining water diviners, was at it again.

The occasion this time was erection of a new home on the Rockwood sideroad property of the Mac Barr's and the accompanying search for a well site.

Mrs. Sprowl is very well-known for her activity. She is responsible for more wells than she can count.

She first became aware of her

inherited power at the age of eight and has taken it for granted ever since. A well-driller husband and information from the University of Guelph have helped Mrs. Sprowl to learn much about land types and water tables, but most of her knowledge comes from experience.

However, there is no explanation for the uncanny antics of her right arm as she divines underwater streams or her ability to predict accurately depths at which water will be found.

"I just know" she says vaguely. "It comes through my feet, and I know."

Spectators, including this reporter, had a chance to touch Mrs. Sprowl's arm while she neared water and to hold one end of the stick while she held the other. The effect was of some unseen force pulling and throwing her arm around.

It was also discovered that

novice Mac Barr had a fledgling divining power, a fact which delighted him.

The forked metal stick is a bent piece of aluminum, "just something lying around the garage," and is used for defining the width of streams. But the actual power originates with Mrs. Sprowl, herself.

On request, she held both a nail and a pencil over the well site and they behaved in a most peculiar fashion.

Fatigue or ill-health affects Mrs. Sprowl's power adversely. If she does a lot of housework on a divining day, she feels tired and drained the next.

Fortunately, Mrs. Sprowl is in excellent health and looks it. Asked what would happen to a vanishing art if she ever retired, Mrs. Sprowl replied that she had been planning on retiring for quite a while but had not been allowed to do so.

There's too much demand for her kind of work.



MRS. SPROWL POINTS to the spot where diggers will find water. She can't explain her own powers. —Jennifer Barr Photo



SWIMMERS at the Rockwood conservation park formed a human drag machine Sunday, unharmed. Later the girl was found in the park when it was reported a little girl was missing. —Photo by D. Gibbons

OUR READERS WRITE:

Bouquet for outgoing Postmaster

Dear Sir:

Just a word of appreciation about our outgoing Rockwood Postmaster, George Day.

He has served us many a year most faithfully and his personal, polite service will be missed at our new and delightful post office.

We all liked to stand and talk to him at the wicket, because he was friendly and genuine.

Rockwood School, village, and vicinity, are proud of him, and wish him the very best of luck and happiness in his later years.

Yours truly,
Millicent Milroy
Rockwood, Ont.

\$45,000 grant Everton dam

The province has announced that a \$45,000 grant to the Grand River Conservation Authority is for the acquisition of lands in the area of the proposed Everton dam and reservoir. Lands in the area are being acquired as they become available on the market.

Another \$72,000 grant to the Authority is earmarked for the Luther Marsh Conservation Area. The Authority is proposing to acquire a further parcel of some 887.5 acres in West Luther township, adjoining property previously acquired by the Authority.

The grants were announced through M.P. John Root (Wellington-Dufferin).

TWELFTH ANNUAL
STEAM-ERA
MILTON, ONT. FAIR GROUNDS
LABOUR DAY WEEKEND
FRIDAY SEPT. 1 SATURDAY SEPT. 2 MONDAY SEPT. 4
LARGEST STEAM SHOW IN ONTARIO
Steam Traction Engines - Antique Gas Tractors
Antique Gas Engines - Threshing - Antique Autos
Full Size Saw Mill - Models - Antique Farm Machinery
PARADES - SOUVENIRS
CONTESTS OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
SHEAF TYING - LOG SAWING
Vince Mountford and the T Model Hillbillies
Entertaining Daily in front of the Grandstand
1700 Grandstand seats Free
ADULTS \$1 CHILDREN 50c PARKING 50c

"Buck" mows down Lowville aims aspirin at Aylmer

Rockwood Seniors doubled the score on Aylmer 6-3 behind the five hit hurling of Bob "Buck" Shaw in the first game of their second round OASA Intermediate "C" playoff series in Rockwood Monday night. Second game was played in Aylmer last night (Tuesday).

Mike Martin, Harry Barber and Chick Milne touched Aylmer starter Dennis LaGrandeur for

two hits each. Barber broke the ice with a booming triple to the right field fence in the first inning.

"Buck" hero Shaw was the hero of the deciding game of Rockwood's exciting first round series against Lowville. He held Lowville to just one hit, a seventh inning single by Stu Dolbel in a 2-0 Rockwood victory.

Rockwood scored both runs off loser Jacques Paquette in the fourth on a single by Dan Arbie, triple by Harry Barber and a two out double by Steve Redmond. Arbie and Barber each had two of the six Rockwood base hits. Return of catcher Arlon Popkey to the lineup gives the villagers' defence a big boost. Popkey just completed a summer course at university.

Salmon sets sights on second Juniors in third round

Rockwood Seniors' chances of overhauling Fergus Merchants and finishing second in the Intercounty Fastball league look slim, after the villagers suffered a 7-1 defeat at the hands of Glen Williams Sunday night. Rockwood trails Fergus by four points in the standings. Rockwood has six league games left to play and Fergus has four games remaining.

Glen righthander Dave Fareley set Rockwood down on five hits and struck out 15 batters.

Rockwood bombs Aylmer

Rockwood Seniors trounced Aylmer 11-2 last night (Tuesday) to advance to the third round of the OASA Intermediate "C" playoffs against either Sheraton or Delhi.

South paw Blake Hind went all the way to record the win for the villagers.

Dan Arbie, Mike Kelly and Mike Martin belted home runs to account for half of the Rockwood runs.

Dates for the next series have not yet been arranged.

OMB approves new building

The Ontario Municipal Board has given the official nod to construction of the Grand River Conservation Authority's \$309,499 administration building.

G. M. Coutts, Authority general manager, said Monday, "We received written approval today and construction will begin today."

The 32,000 square-foot building, to be located in the Shade's Mills Conservation area near Galt, is being built by Witmer-Lesby Ltd. of Kitchener.

in Sunday's game. Mike Kelly was the only Rockwood player to

Juniors in third round

Rockwood juniors have advanced to the third round of the ORSA Junior "A" playoffs against Fisherville.

First game of the best of three series was played in Rockwood last night (Tuesday), and the second is scheduled for Fisherville tomorrow (Thursday) night.

Rockwood eliminated New Dundee in three games in the opening round and Ayr in straight games in the second round.

hit safely more than once. He collected a single and a double.

Left fielder Bill Zilio cracked out three base hits for the Glen to lead a 12 hit assault on Rockwood pitchers John Thatcher and Blake Hind.

Salmon confident In spite of the loss, playing coach John Salmon is still confident his club can finish second.

"We hope to win at least three of our four league games this week and we still have three to play next week," he said.

Rockwood will play in Fergus tonight (Wednesday) at home against Belwood tomorrow (Thursday) night and in Glen Williams Friday night.

CHATELAINE LIGHTING

240 York Road — Guelph — 824-0401

Multi Bright Ideas for all your Lighting Needs

EXTENSIVE SELECTION OF HOUSE FIXTURES

- Table Lamps
- Door Chimes
- Swag Lamps
- Vanity Cabinets
- Electric Heat (Baseboard and Portable)
- Central Vacuum Cleaning Systems
- Wiring Devices, Fixture Parts, etc.
- Ventilation (Hoods, Fans, etc.)

FREE PARKING

Open Daily 8:30 - 5:30; Thurs. & Fri. 'Til 9 p.m. Sat. 'Til 1 p.m. (During August)

New DATSUN 1200 Fastback



It's not much money, but it's a whole lot of car!

- 93 MPH performance • up to 40 miles per gallon • disc brakes • flow through ventilation • whitewalls • 2-speed heater/defroster • reclining bucket seats • low maintenance costs.

!Rear Window defroster and automatic choke.

NORTH END BP
235 Steeles Ave. Milton
878-2471

OPPORTUNITIES for RETAILING

Root Home Centre will require capable people at varying levels of experience for full and part time employment. Jobs will be available at 666 Woolwich St., Guelph and to fill vacancies in Rockwood caused by transfer.

Experience in hardware retailing or other forms of retailing, home decorating, or appliance sales, the building trades, or check out could be useful.

For further information and job application forms, contact Mrs. Joan Leslie at the Rockwood store. Phone 856-9551.

DILLS STATIONERY STORE

56 Mill St. E. — Acton — 853-2030

Presents a distinctive line of Wedding Invitations

Let us assist you with your plans for that all important wedding day.

COME IN AND SEE OUR COMPLETE SELECTION OF

- INVITATIONS
- ANNOUNCEMENTS
- INFORMALS
- ACCESSORIES

Your choice of various paper stocks, type styles and sizes.

ask for...
Forever Yours
Into NATIONAL

Select your wedding invitations, announcements and accessories with complete confidence as to quality and correctness of form.

WE ALSO HAVE PERSONALIZED WEDDING NAPKINS, MATCHES AND CAKE BOXES

