

Congregation serenades 89-year-old soloist

The Rockwood United Church resounded with musical innovations last Sunday morning when, for the first time in ecclesiastical history, protocol was waived aside and, after the service, choir and congregation joined together to sing the strains of "Happy Birthday" to celebrate the 89th year of one of its grandest gentlemen.

A. K. Thomas of Guelph Street has been a regular member of the Rockwood United congregation for many years. A native of Lindsay, Ontario, he is a natural singer who can remember attending church in nearby Eden when a small child and, coming home in the buggy with his uncle, singing all the way home. With a Welsh grandfather singing background he has been the mainstay in many choirs and duet groups throughout his life time and, for the last three years has been the lone male member in the local United church choir.

Understand why his fellow church members should honor him. But Sunday's gesture was only a small token of the high regard in which he is held in the village. Also at the service were his daughter Margaret and her husband Fred Day of Hamilton and their children Mary and Christopher both in residence at

the University of Toronto as well as Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Thomas of Guelph. A special lunch and family dinner were held at his home later in the day where presents and many cards were in proud array from numerous other friends who had also remembered.



A.K. Thomas

**District president
Rockalong guest**

Surprise gift
Last Sunday Mr. Thomas gave a solo rendition of "I am Thine O Lord" and, after the service with the choir still seated in the congregational pews the organist struck up the birthday theme after which followed the surprise presentation of a decorated basket of fruit.

Born in 1884 Mr. Thomas came to Rockwood in 1908. Although he has been the backbone of many community endeavours he classifies himself as "an ordinary jigger" and cannot

Nurses move

The schools of nursing at Guelph General Hospital and St. Joseph's hospital, Guelph, will become part of Conestoga College of Applied Arts and Technology on Sept. 1. About 170 students and 26 staff members are affected by the change. Other district hospitals will also be transferring their nurses' training to Conestoga.

Inclement weather and country snow drifts pulled the January meeting of the Rockalong Institute to the Rockwood Centennial School library and good attendance was on hand to participate in the first session of '73. Mrs. Sheldon Trousdale, president, was in the chair and, for roll call a "slick trick" drew many shortcuts in household chores as it was well responded to.

Thank you notes were then read for gifts and cards sent out by the Institute ladies at Christmas time and, to head up the new 4-H class The Third Meal the leaders' names were announced as Mrs. Robert Johnston of R.R. 4, Rockwood and Mrs. Lois Eason of R.R. 1, Rockwood.

President guest
After the business Mrs. Will Black led the ladies in a sing song of old favorite tunes at which point the Institute district president, Mrs. L. A. Jefferson of R.R. 2, Guelph, was introduced. She gave an inspirational talk on the importance of having an institute organized and operating in a community and advised the Rockalong group to reach out for more members. She also wished them a Happy New Year and one in which they will grow with membership and play even a bigger role in the Rockwood district.

A program followed, planned by the executive and including several Rockalong ladies. Mrs. Lloyd Dyer gave a reading entitled "efficient house-keeping"; Miss Helen Bayne read from the Ontario Women's institute story, and from Here and There in Eramosa Mrs. Edna Guild added to the entertainment by a reading plus presenting an old-fashioned spelling lesson. Culminating the evening a tasty lunch was presented by Mrs. Dyer and Mrs. Harvey Bayne where fruit loaf, cookies, and Christmas cake was set off by tangy cheeses and hot, delicious tea.



STANDING IN FRONT of the village light tractor Wayne Nightingale of Alma Street is pleased about his new position as Rockwood foreman, starting his new job this week. A Rockwood boy, the 26-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Len Nightingale, of Alma Street attended S.S. 9 public school previously on Guelph Street, and also John F. Ross Collegiate in Guelph. He is the father of 5-year-old Colette and looks forward to his new public duties with enthusiasm. (Photo by Lorraine)

We could all have a better life if we could just learn to make the most of the best and the least of the worst.

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Comin's and Goin's

Winter Carnival outings for Guelph Centennial Collegiate students have ranged from a trip to the Blue Mountain Ski Resort in Caledon last Saturday to a marvellous toboggan and ski outing at the Corwin hills last Monday. Wholesome, healthy, and clean outdoor fun is what it's all about and two busses and carloads of kids proved that that's what they wanted. Arrival time was around 7 p.m. and the fun was concluded around 10:30. The entire Corwin establishment was taken over by Centennial and it's great to know these activities are so easily available and what better education for our youngsters.

Friends of Ebba Allerelle will be happy to know that she is now recuperating from her recent operation at the St. Joseph's Hospital in Guelph. Another week to get better and maybe she'll be back in town again—meantime drop a note to Ebba and let her know that everyone's behind her and will be pleased to see her home again.

The establishment of Gord and Marg Cox and family was a buzzing place over Christmas when an Open House was proclaimed and over 50 relatives responded to the invitation to come and visit with Mrs. Alice Doby of Guelph Street and her sister Mrs. Lucy Lyon of Guelph. Sons, daughters, granddaughters, grandsons, and even the great greats, from as far north as Huntsville and North Bay were all on hand for the festive visit. It was a wonderful day and what better way to start off a new year than with an old fashioned family gettogether.

Aha, more belated Christmas news. Word is that the lucky winner of a Sony T.V. from the Zellers Store in the Willow West mall was none other than our good friend Alice Hills of Harris Street. Proves that the draws are legit all right and we're pleased that our rural Rockwood resident received recognition and rewards. Nice viewing, Alice, we're happy for you.

The Royal Bank staff chose last Saturday night to celebrate their Christmas party and 12 employees, husbands, wives and boyfriends zipped into Guelph for a Chinese dinner and then back to Paul and Betty Easons on the 5th line for a snowmobile trail ride. It was Easons again for a quick lunch and chat before the final snowmobile trek homeward bound.

Up, up, and away, and Bob Love's grade 8 science class trekked into the Rockwood Conservation Park on Tuesday to set off a rocket as part of their teaching of Newton's action and reaction principles. Working on smaller experiments the rocket was built by one of the grade 8 boys and, although the 1:45 p.m. blast off didn't land anyone on the moon it was fun experience and another step by the local school to bring Rockwood youngsters closer to on the spot visual learning by trial and error.

The urgent signs are out and all citizens are requested to

remember the public meeting to be held at the Rockwood Centennial School on Monday, January 22 at 8 p.m. Remember hearties, this is your township and your plan and only you can object if you don't like the proposals. Explanations of policies and provisions are on the agenda and everyone is invited to attend.

Snowmobilers ahoy. The Rockmosa Snowmobile Rally slated for January 28 is open for all outdoor enthusiasts and the "Rockmosa 100" is the name of the game to remember as you pick up your sponsor sheet at Foot Hardware in Rockwood and all other areas where posters indicate. Want a new community centre by '75? Get behind the combined groups of Eramosa Recreation Committee, the local Snowmobile and Lions' Club and let's see action next weekend with your name on the sponsor-sheet if you're not taking out a machine. Happy motoring, everyone!

Well now, congratulations are in order so here goes for Rockwood bowlers with the 200 average who are competing in the Carlings tournament. As it stands Glen Gray came in 7th and Vivian Nightingale 8th. From here they go into district roll off and if things go right may make it to Winnipeg for final roll off. Loads of luck, local aspirants, everyone's behind you all the way and it's been a great try if you don't make it to the top.

The number of unemployed persons registered with the Guelph Canada Manpower office totalled 1,967 at the end of December—an increase of 3.8 per cent in a month. Of the number 207 were men.



Brownie news

EDEN MILLS BROWNIES
Popsicle sticks, glue and candy are all you need for the craft we made on the 18th.
We made candy dishes for the girls' mothers and filled them with hard candy.
Some of the dishes kept falling apart but most of them stayed together.
This was our first meeting without our Brown Owl and it was very successful.
Trip to nursing home
On December 28 the 2nd Eden Mills Brownies went to the Eden House Nursing Home to entertain the residents. The girls put little skirts and plays on. They also sang songs for the people.
Patti Alexander and Kathy van Hljin earned their Jester Badge. (Continued on Page 11)

BIG DEAL and little Toth Hill is not sure whether the bargain proposed by Bradley and Trevor Bender is such a great bargain after all. The centennial school skate exchange was the activity. Piles of skates, bright and shiny and others slightly worn were exchanged at the Monday sale conducted by the students, for the students, with some mothers looking on and delivering. (Photo by Lorraine)

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