

Free Press **Rockwood**



DISPLAYING A PICTURE of the past, Yosef unlike those of today. The children were pointed out the differences of dress today and yesterday. He said that with bell bottom trousers and long hair the young gentlemen of the late 1800's and early 1900's were not too

Academy owner shares its past with students

Fashions of the past, recreation at the period of its beginning, home decor of other centuries, and dedication of our forefathers was all part of the learning session of 28 enthusiastic grade 5 to 8 students of Rockwood Centennial Public School who arrived at 10 a.m. last Monday morning at the Rockwood Academy to meet up with Yosef Drenters in an attempt to soak up at least some of his great knowledge and insight into village history.

It was an hour and a half of avid learning where one of Rockwood's most dedicated and reliable teachers was able to expound with reverence on the fortitude and perseverance of our pioneers, somehow managing to bring to youngsters ranging in age from 11 to 16, the importance of relating the past to the now for the future. Regarding education Yosef told his young audience that education is a wonderful vehicle with which they must reach and strive to accomplish everything they can attain. "Some people think that they have completed their education," he said, "but they have not, they must continue to build and do what is necessary at all times doing their very best in all things." "I would ask you," he said gently, "to carry with you from this place, a sense of reverence of your heritage and a history of your country."

Questions and answers
The children, addressed by Yosef as "young ladies and gentlemen" had handed to him a list of some of the things they would like him to speak about. He talked about recreation and said that although cricket was one of the sports at the Academy in the late 1800's walking was also a form of recreation. He drew the mental picture of the academy pupils walking with their headmaster from Rockwood to Guelph to attend meetings or church sometimes not arriving back until dark and having to avoid the night travel of horses and buggy. Enlisting his interest in kids and his ability to relate, Yosef incited their imaginations and explained that they must imagine what it must have been like at that time if, on their journey home it had been pouring rain and they had had to walk all the way home to the academy and dry out their clothing by the fire.

Changing styles
He discussed clothing and, via pictures pointed out that young men of that age related to those of today. "Striped bell bottom trousers and long hair," he grinned facetiously, and pointed to the high buttoned shoes of the young ladies and their long skirts. Empire and Early Victorian furniture of the 1790 and 1800's was also a topic, and Yosef patiently explained the designs of the different eras of furniture.

Barns for cattle, hen houses, buggy travel, home smoked meat and the Academy proprietor conveyed to his captive group the industry and ingenuity of their predecessors. Humour was a learning aid when he enquired as to why people in a picture were looking downward? "A flash bulb?" he chuckled. "A flash bulb" had not been invented in those days," said Yosef and used the query to explain that the bright sunlight was shining in the subjects' faces and they could not look into the face of the old type cameras.

Precious relics
"When you're writing your history," said the lecturer, "get your mind working about it—don't be lazy. Remember, we do not live for now, alone, we live for the future but require the past as a link." He then directed the students to the old Academy gymnasium where precious relics related his constant search for all things relative.

Ingenious wheelbarrow wheels, a hand made cake stand with small nails still revealing where a loving hand had placed a gingham ruffle. Steel forks, a boot jack, primitive wagon breaks, a scythe, a hand made drill, an ice pick, all implements of man's meticulous abilities before the days of machines and production lines.

"Only great love was exercised at the Academy" said the teacher

"and for discipline the only whip was that of the headmaster's tongue." He had explained to the students that woodwork coloring decor had been inspired to a great extent from the colorings of English Wedgewood china with olive greens and beautiful blues the favorite color scheme of the day.

He gave vocal laurels to the Gordons, the past owners of the Rockwood Academy who had used great discretion in their preservation of the building before his own ownership and, before dismissing his charges, stressed again the importance of construction as opposed to destruction, and correlated reverence for the past and future with the necessity of understanding today what is important. "One must live a long time to recognize what is old and cultural" said the teacher and the children hung on to ask more questions.

It had been a marvellous time of learning, research and understanding. The academy rooms were in slight confusion of restoration but Yosef had taken the time to apply himself to the task of "doing now what has to be done" and he taught the students about phases of village history in the manner of one who had lived in Rockwood for his entire life span rather than as one who had come from Europe only a few short years ago.

U.C.W. Skit on India given

The biblical parable of the rich man and the leper came under scrutiny at the last meeting of the Rockwood United Church, Unit One ladies and, after an opening poem, read by President Mrs. Ralph Williams, Mrs. George Lawrence gave the bible reading which Mrs. William Hanna used as a basis for her devotional study relating the state of today's affluent nations to the rich man, and the developing countries to that of the poor man.

It was informative and thought provoking meeting. After the study Mrs. Frank Ostrander read a poem of modern vintage entitled Listen Christian and, following the dedication of the offering, Mrs. Williams led the group in the new theme song "They'll know we are Christians by our Love."

Roll call pre-empted the

business session followed up by the reading of minutes and financial report. It was decided that the ladies would assist the Unit Two members with the July birthday party for Eden House residents and, during prayers, special remembrance was given to the Duncan McPhedran family and their recent tragedy.

Present skit
A skit was then presented on the agricultural picture of today in India with Edna Hosking, Verna Root, and Lois Tush taking part. They gave an interpretation of the Green Revolution and later Mrs. Hosking explained the Bhoodan movement which is causing great changes in land distribution.

President Mrs. Williams closed the meeting with prayer after which she served her guests afternoon tea.

Consider asphalt for tennis court

Rockwood athletes who think the name of the game is "tennis" could be in for a delightful surprise this summer if the most recent investigation of the Eramosa Recreation Committee is accepted.

Plans for tennis playing facilities in the Rockwood village have long been on the agenda slate of the committee and, after their last meeting in March, all indications point to the possibility that laying asphalt on the ball park skating rink could become a reality very shortly.

The surface would be a double duty outlay set up for tennis playing in the summer and ice skating in the wintertime. Cost of the surface has been estimated at approximately \$1,500 with a committee to be appointed to look into further expenditures of tennis screens and net facilities.

Last spring a concerted effort was made by village and township residents to plan ways and means of court construction costs and a survey was taken to find what interest would be given

to the proposed tennis court facilities. It was learned that many senior members of the community were interested but, except for those young people who had availability of tennis courts at Guelph High schools, few others knew anything at all about what is considered becoming, the top individual recreational sport on the continent.

Last year's meetings of potential tennis players in the district revealed that they would prefer a club operating with annual fees which would cover upkeep and management of facilities.

NDP meet

John Harney, NDP M.P. from Scarborough West, will be the feature speaker at the spring membership meeting of the Halton West NDP Association at Lawrie Smith public school, Burlington, this Friday.



CUB SALUTE, dedication, and the presentation of tea by Bahgeera Mavis Johnson and another investment was completed last Monday night when Patrick Barr of R.R. 2, Acton, and Jimmy Hennessy became bona fide, full fledged members of the Rockwood and District Boy Scout Association, Cub division. (Photo by Lorraine)

File, parking, nursery school new plant on trustee agenda

At the March meeting of the village trustees the following motions were passed:

THAT tenders be called for the supply of oil for the village in the fall;

THAT the secretary contact township clerk Lloyd Hindley regarding a suggestion of G.

Bateman that the O.Y. program be used for organization of a cross reference file of township and village by-laws as the township by-laws were only indexed up to 1965;

THAT action should be taken regarding the No Parking by-law No. 25 dated 1966 and it was

agreed that the road superintendent would be contacted for erection of signs at designated intervals along the south side of Harris Street with signs incorrectly placed on north

Angle or no parking at P.O.

Resident complaints and confusion in the vicinity of the Rockwood post office on Guelph Street are responsible for a recent decision of the Rockwood trustee board to arrange for placement of No Parking signs.

The signs will be placed between Richardson and Inkerman Streets on the South side and, in front of the post office, angle parking signs will also be erected.

As it stands postal customers have been pulling in straight along the post office curb area and, as it is of minimal length with the gully on either side, it curtails quantity parking resulting in drivers parking on the south side of the road and blocking residential driveways.

side to be removed.

Nursery school
THAT the secretary write to the president of the Rockwood and District Nursery School requesting her attendance at the next meeting of the Board of Trustees with a financial report available for the possibility of making some type of financial contribution for the use of the hall and also, to discuss the possibility of a five-day a week morning nursery school plan in the town hall.

THAT the secretary write to the Bona and Bemis Textile Company regarding their enquiries to the village for an acreage of land required on which they could build their new

plant;

THAT the secretary write immediately to the township stating that the board of trustees agreed in principle with the proposal regarding centralized insurance and fleet insurance for vehicles for the whole of Eramosa township including Rockwood and Eden Mills but that they would require a schedule of coverage and premium rates before passing a motion of formal agreement;

THAT the village foreman, Wayne Nightingale obtain estimates in lieu of trading in the present mower on a new, floating cutter housing-type machine in order to improve the cemetery and municipal grass cutting.

Comin's and Goin's

(Continued from Page B3)

Ball Association will not only entitle you to a chance in every last of the month Sunday draws throughout the entire season but also it's a free pass to every ball game excepting the play offs. Think of it, juvenile, junior, and senior games all for free with a possibility of winning sums of cold cash up to \$1,500. Contact George Smith of R.R. Rockwood or any ball coach and he'll sell you an investment.

It's last call for all Atoms, Squirts, Poewees, Bantam, and Midgets aspirants and for girls, 10 and under, 13 and under, 16 and under, 19 and under, and T. ball players. Tired of being bored all summer? Get with it and play ball. \$3 is the enrollment fee and George Smith is the fellow to call so dial today and make sure that you're on a team with first games to start up, around April 29.

Some people have all the luck and on Saturday it was Luella Wickham at the Rockwood Nursery School bazaar, who won the beautiful hand-made quilt created by Mrs. Cleghorn of Guelph and, for those who like candles, the Tomlinsons of Eden Mills were the tops for takes

when Kathy won the giant egg filled with chocolates and Lorna the chocolate bunny. The two girls arrived late, jostled the ticket container up and about and over and under and, when the 4 p.m. draw was made, were announced the lucky winners. Nice going, kids, with that kind of luck who needs an Easter bunny?

Come on how! Remove the finger ties and get ready to attend the "Project Overhaul" bazaar being held this Saturday in Eden Mills at the Presbyterian Church Sunday School room. With goodies for eating, buying, and taking home; a fish pond for the little guys, white elephant sales for the gamblers and fun and fun, all for the asking. Remember the hour "2 to 4"; April 14's the date, and all the committee requests is that you attend. Hey, don't forget your purse, you may need your car keys.

It must be said that last week's fire at the farm of Duncan McPhedran and his family was a regrettable shock for their district friends who can only convey their concern by the hope that some things can be salvaged and the prayer of thankfulness that no one was injured. Everyone is genuinely sorry.

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