

## Parents of slain girl express convictions

Not a dirge to the departed but rather a revelation that Christine Louise Sinclair had not died at Victoria Falls on May 15, 1973, but instead, as Christians in some parts of Africa say, "She has arrived."

This was the very deep feeling of a devout family toward their daughter and sister as revealed to the great numbers of people who attended her memorial service last Saturday morning at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Guelph.

The ceremony was conducted by Rev. R. Forbes Thomson during which a family friend, Rev. Jas. McLure of St. Andrew's Church, Whitby, read the funeral oration as expressed by Rev. Donald Sinclair and his wife Helen, Christine's parents, in which they conveyed their Christian convictions about the death of their eldest daughter.

**Christian convictions**

"For we are not as those who are without hope. We know that, in everything, God works for good with those who love Him. Faced with all this, what can we say? If God is for us who can be against us? He gave us His son—will He not also freely give us all things? Who, then, shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword or, for that matter, bullets in Rhodesia and Zambia? As it is written, 'For your sake we are in danger of death the whole day long.' No! In all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

For we, Donald and Helen Sinclair, are fully persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers, nor height, nor depth, nor anything else in all creation is able to separate us, nor our beloved daughter, from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord."

It was a simple but beautiful service and, for those who came to mourn there was an uplifting which, to many, was unbelievable. The family of the girl who had been taken had managed, with serene nobility, to make those who attended, feel composed and warm, and, to the friends, relatives, acquaintances, many of them members of the Sinclair congregation in Eden Mills and Rockwood, and many of them very young, Christine's memorial service was one of glorious thanksgiving and it was one without hate for her assassins.

Mrs. Betty Brooks of Toronto, another longtime friend of the Sinclair family, gave the personal rendition of family relationships as related through her brothers and friends. She was described as a trusting friend, a serious Christian continually seeking, a responsible person

with a strong desire to travel and learn, and yet with all the wonderful frailties that made her a human being.

Deeply loved

What it all meant was that Christine Louise Sinclair was deeply loved by her family, her many friends, and, with a tremendous life ahead had had it replaced by an even greater, more mysterious one. In the reflections as presented by Betty Brooks, Christine's letters home had told of cave explorations in Africa, visits to church in blue jeans, and deep conjectures about Canadian Easterns after winter symbolizing rebirth and Christ's return to life.

She talked about she and Marjan returning to the home of a friend and Marjan playing the organ while she made paper airplanes and tried speaking the native language to their two little daughters. "It's funny" she had written, "But after about an hour we were really understanding each other even though they didn't know any English."

**Favorite hymn**

During the service the congregation sang together one of Christine's favorite hymns and, for those present, it was as if the whole world resounded with the meaningful words "Spirit of God Descend upon My Heart". For many it was sung with heavy heart but, led along by the Sinclairs it was if she had not gone but, instead had just been born.

After the ceremony Christine was taken to Burns Church Cemetery for burial in Mono Centre, Ontario, near the family farm place. Her four brothers, Donald, Robert, Blair and Scott, were pallbearers together with cousins Alex Sinclair and Russell Church.

Besides her parents she is survived by one sister and five brothers, Ellen, Donald, Robert, Blair, Scott, and Peter.

Born at Exeter, Ontario, September 2, 1953, Christine's life had been one of zest, experiences, and getting involved. She had participated in Young People's activities in Rockwood Presbyterian Church and in the Presbytery of Guelph-Saugeen and, in the Inter-School Christian Fellowship in Guelph.

**Fruitful life**

She had been a counsellor at Glen Mhor Presbyterian Camp on Lake Simcoe and at Camp Iona near Balgownie, Ontario.

Her short life had been fruitful and important and, for those attending her Saturday service of memorial, her passing was meaningful in that it had brought people closer together to make them realize life's fragility and recognize the importance of living every day to its fullest. "Remember" had said Rev. Bob Rumball, "it is not the days in our lives, but rather the amount of life we put into those days."



PICTURED ABOVE is the junior section of the 130 voice Eramosa Choral Society as they participated in the Toronto Kiwanis Music Festival for which they received a cash award. The choir is under the direction of Mrs. Roberta Hoy of the Wellington County School Board.

—H. Coles Photo

## Spring is busy time for Eramosa choristers

The Eramosa Choral Society is fast becoming one of renown in the realm of district music. Last February the junior group received a cash award at the Toronto Kiwanis Music Festival and, during last weekend in March the senior group flew to New York and presented concerts there.

April was also a busy month for the local choristers when the combined choir presented a concert with the Kitchener-Waterloo senior symphony in the Ross Hall in Guelph. On schedule for May the Quebec Canadian Music Competitions held in Toronto saw the senior choir members competing to win the Ontario division with marks of 87, 88, 89, 90 and 90.

More concerts

May 13 was another date for the active choir when, combined, they presented a concert with the

friendly four quartet at the Christian Disciple Church in Hillsburgh. War Memorial Hall was the place for the concert with the Choral Society and the Guelph Academy of strings on May 18.

Active, happy, and enjoying their musical participation, the group flourishes under the experienced hand of Roberta Hoy of the Wellington District School system. The Eramosa Choral Society will conclude this season with a concert at Ontario Place in June and recently, Mrs. Hoy's diligence in working with the choir has been commended both

by the local school staffs and parents of the children who have been well encouraged to participate.

Well organized, keenly interested, with the ability to recognize the need for music in a child's school years, Mrs. Hoy's efforts are becoming established throughout the county with many children's interest graduating from public school choral music into high school musical instrument interest and, with chaperoned trips to various centres, the choir students are also learning presentation, poise, and how to meet people in other communities.

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## Sunshine club plans

Victoria Day, the 24th of May, was one of fun for the Rockwood and district Sunshine Club when, after a sing-song with all members heartily participating, a poem entitled The Hardwood Churn was read by Mrs. Edna Guild which brought recall of childhood for many of those present with a mixture of chuckles and nostalgia.

Mrs. Max Milne gave a report on the previous Friday's euehre in conjunction with the Lions Club activities and also the tea and concert on Saturday. The Sunshiners said they would like to thank all community people who had assisted in their endeavor.

**Bus trip**

Decisions on the June 8 bus trip were made with the hour of 9:30 a.m. set as town hall leaving time for the Goderich trip. Money and names were stipulated required by June 1 with \$2. the set cost for members but, for non-members, \$4.50 which will include a dinner at noon upon arrival at Goderich. Mrs. Leachman, 128 Jackson Street, will be the contact for those wishing to phone and give their names.

On completion of business there was a follow-up euehre session and winning the high score were J. Milne and Mrs. W. Early.

Lone hand winnings went to Mrs. G. Wright and Mr. C. McDougall, and crokinole

champs for the day were Mr. Hayden and Mrs. F. Trousdale. To complete the afternoon a delicious lunch was served by Mrs. E. Craig and Mrs. W. Farr. Members were reminded of the June 8 bus trip with the next meeting of the Sunshine Club scheduled for June 14.

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BEAMING WITH DELIGHT 10 year old Steven Hepburn of Division Street, Rockwood, exhibits this 14½" speckled trout which he caught on the Rockwood bridge last Thursday evening around 8:15 p.m. The 24-ounce catch represented a two meal fest for Aunt Jean Meadows. Steven hurries back to the bridge every evening to try to catch its mate.

—Photo by Lorraine

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## Busy Beavers planning summer

Eramosa district parents will know where their children are this summer when the Rockwood Busy Beavers get their recreational program started in which school age youngsters from 4 to 12 will be able to participate.

Six ambitious district girls will be involved in the program which will include crafts, sports, music, play acting, and various other activities which should give the youngsters a well-balanced round of holiday industry.

Sponsored mainly by the Government's Youth in Action

the girls have received grants and monies to assist them in the summertime endeavor with \$2,000 from the Youth in Action, \$200 from Eramosa Township Council and \$300 from the local trustee board plus a required minimal amount to be collected from each participating family to assist in wages, and cost of equipment to make the program work.

**Participation**

All of the girls working on the project are well known for their special participation in community projects, some members of the district musical groups, others in sports, and others working in Sunday School, church, and youth endeavours. Heading up the local group is Pat Ellis and, working along with her, are Brenda Smith, Donna Millson, Lois Hamilton, Helen Craigie and Cindy Swanston, all R.R. Rockwood girls.

They expect to take a pre-training course on leadership programming sponsored by the Youth in Action sometime in mid June and, acting as non-participating supervisor in an advisory capacity will be Councillor Betty Lou Clark, well known in the district for her work in the field of youth organization.

Questionnaires are being sent home this week through the Rockwood and Eramosa public schools requesting parents to fill in such data as to how many children in each family will participate, their special interests, etc. and, if difficulties should present themselves, parents are asked to contact Pat Ellis at 856-9714.

The program will be conducted on the grounds and in the school of Rockwood Centennial for a period of five weeks the exact days of which have not, as yet, been established but, after a meeting this week, notification will be sent out to all interested families.

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