

# Yosef Drenters' prize sculpture discovered in holding yard

By Lorraine Root  
Hues of indignancy were raised by art collectors after last Monday's late television newscast revealing that a piece of the ingenious works of one of Canada's finest artists was in jeopardy of complete annihilation unless procured immediately for restoration.

The particular work shown on the screen as a pile of rubble in what supposedly was a Toronto dump, was a 24 ft high masterpiece by Yosef Drenters of the Rockwood Academy, created especially to grace the vicinity of the Ontario Pavilion during Expo '67. It matched the structurally gothic lines of the building the artist had portraying a pioneer family.

The sculpture had stood as a symbol of the history and early ancestry of all Canadians plying daily the imagination of over 6,000 people visiting the World Fair.

Commenting on the newscast that the statue had been literally dumped with television portrayal of pieces lying in a pile of rubble, Yosef said that he had known that the sculpture, together with the entire Pavilion and its contents had been returned together with one other belonging to Michael Snow, another Canadian contributor.

Yosef said it had been cut apart with chain saws into a myriad of pieces and he had known of its whereabouts for some time. The sculpture had been set in the Toronto yard with plans for the future erection in some other centre. He said he is aware of the necessity of immediate restoration and he had been contacted early in the spring of this year as to how best to accomplish the feat.

Directors had, apparently, hoped to have the statue reassembled to stand in Ontario Place this year but Yosef himself, with several commissions already on his calendar feels that at the least it would be a major operation. He feels the pieces should be brought back to Rockwood where working conditions would be better adapted to his type of sculpting.

The 37 by 45 ft. sculpture, weighing a total of 28 tons, had required a huge tractor trailer to carry it to Montreal for its premier debut. It had taken four days in which he and four other men assembled it. The statue has been lying dormant for the past six years and it is feasible that much of the \$1,000 worth of copper and other major parts are missing.

At Ontario Place a special Provincial government film similar to "A Place to Stand" is being shown daily in which the Rockwood Academy plays a role. It is reasonable that the Drenter statue would be a highly acceptable complement to the movie.

The statue is one of the mother, father, and children in a pioneer family. The father figure holds in his hands a plough as the symbol of the pioneer provider, sustainer, and first industrial man. The woman figure holds a spinning wheel depicting the provider of clothing and home industry which later grew into large industry; the girl child, a doll, symbolic of future motherhood; and the boy, a toy horse on wheels representing the father of the future and his interest in traction and mobility.

At Expo '67 the four figures were seated on a longwing beam from a pioneer barn constructed to look like a Viking ship symbolizing the zeal of people towards migration with the ship masthead relating to the earliest known civilization.

"Canada has lost one of its greatest masterpieces if it is destroyed" is the vocal feeling of many of the sculpting's most renowned viewers. Yosef himself had hoped to see the work incorporated some day into a wall on one of Ontario's public buildings.

As it stands, the report on television screen has aroused the ire of many collectors and, as it lies, it represents a \$28,000 pile of rubble in a Toronto holding yard, the not to be forgotten relic of one of the world's greatest fairs, Expo '67.



MR. AND MRS. CHARLES PERRY of Acton admire the huge Drenters sculpture at Expo '67 in Montreal. The full sweep of the prized art piece cannot be seen here since it weighs tons and measures 37 by 45 feet. (Photo by H. Coles)

## Frank Moore dies in England at 93

A message recently received by village friends brings news of the death of Frank Moore, 93, at a hospital in London, England on date of May 30.  
Born in Sheffield on October 11, 1878, Mr. Moore came to Canada

at the age of 27. In 1914 he came to Rockwood from Grimsby and worked at his trade of shoemaker. In 1919 he married Mary Spokes of Northampton, England and the couple played a very active part in the life of the village.

Active in church  
Mr. Moore was church organist and choir leader in the Rockwood Presbyterian and later, United Church, he was also interested in Y.P.U. work, Bible Society,

Lepor Mission, and was a church elder.

Mrs. Moore passed away in 1949 and, a few years later, he returned to England where he later married Miss Dorothy Green of London who survives him.

Funeral service was held in Trinity Rd. chapel which they attended. In later years Mr. Moore's hobbies were gardening, organ playing and carrying on a large Canadian correspondence.

## Local participants at leadership conference

Over 90 4-H members from all parts of Ontario will be participating in the Provincial 4-H Leadership Conference held at the University of Guelph during the week of June 24 to 30 at which several members from Eramosa Township will be attending.

The objective of 4-H is the personal development of young people and this particular conference is designed to help delegates develop their leadership potential through participation in leadership seminars, social recreation and program planning workshops, and daily program committees for the duration of the week.

It will be a week of learning, fun, and fellowship through many rewarding experiences. Delegates to the conference will

be expected to put these acquired skills into practice on return to their home communities.

## Rain hits

Fourteen pupils from the Sunshine School at Hornby competed with other related children from Bruce Lyn School in Oakville and Mayfield School in Burlington at their annual field day last week. The 36 event field day was divided by age in competitions for boys and girls and held at Lowville Park.

Teacher Mrs. Jean Mitchell said the Sunshine pupils did quite well and brought home a number of first place ribbons. Before the rain which cut the day short, they were treated to ice cream and pop.



TWENTY-FIVE YEARS LATER Elgin and Flossie McMinn celebrate their 1948 wedding anniversary as they flank one of Rockwood's favourite oldsters, A.K. Thomas of Guelph Street. The celebration was held Saturday evening at St. John's Anglican parish hall in the village.

## Buggy ride on 25th anniversary

Rockwood citizens were delighted last Saturday night to see a happily grinning couple being transported via horse and buggy to the St. John's Anglican parish hall on Main Street, Rockwood on the occasion of the 25th wedding anniversary of Elgin and Flossie McMinn.

With Flossie in the driver's seat the decorated buggy made its way to the hall where 50 guests, relatives and friends, awaited their arrival for a delicious sit-down dinner.

Bridesmaids attend Mildred Houchin of Shelburne, and Jessie Mills of Barrie, the two bridesmaids of the 1948 wedding were present along with an usher and, hosting for the Saturday evening anniversary was Mrs. Florence Barber of Toronto.

On hand to assist at the celebration were daughter Cherry, the couple's nieces, and their son Neil who took charge of the guest book.  
After dinner, other friends arrived for a program of dancing and, at 12 p.m. lunch was served

for the happy party. Gifts, cards, and a terrific cake were all part of the celebration fare and with Harry Gooyer of Rockwood the neighbor and friend who presented the 1973 toast to the radiant bride.

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## Tours in district for 30 Thunder Bay farmers

Bonholm Dairy Farm played host to approximately 30 farmers from the Thunder Bay District recently when, last Wednesday, June 13 the Rockwood homelead was the second stop of the North-western Ontario Farmers' tour of Wellington County.

Harold Clapp was the dairy cattle specialist who provided much information as the tour was conducted about the farm where Ernest and John Bonham operate on 180 acres of land with 60 head of high production Holstein cattle.

First stop as arranged in co-operation with A. G. Grubbe, Agricultural representative of Wellington County and Mel Chamberlain, Agricultural representative of Thunder Bay District (formerly assistant Agricultural representative in Wellington) had been the IRMA milk testing laboratory in Guelph and, after the Rockwood dairy farm the group moved on to the United Breeders' Inc. at R.R. 5, Guelph where they toured the various units and, afterwards it was Kentucky fried chicken for lunch at U.B.I., arranged for by beef cattle specialist, Ralph Macartney.

Tours taken

The first part of the afternoon had been spent at the Elora Research station where informative tours were conducted through the Dairy Centre by Dr. Don Grievie, Dept. of Animal and Poultry Science University of Guelph; and the Crop tour was with Dr. E. Hatley, Dept. of Crop Science, University of Guelph and Dr. Tom Lane, Dept. of Land Resource of the same University.

Gorge Acres Farm at Elora was next on the agenda and, after an evening meal at the University of Guelph, Dr. Stan Young, co-ordinator of agricultural extension, at the University of Guelph, was in charge of a campus bus tour. A "bull session" including by Dr. Young and other O.A.C. faculty, was then held culminating the fourth annual tour enjoyed by the Thunder Bay group.



CENTENNIAL TRACK STARS at the Wellington County Track meet were: Alan Batchelor, 14, 220 yard dash, Wendy Henry, 14, 440, and Susan McQuinn 60, 14 years.

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