

Free Press Rockwood

Eyewitness account of shooting told Free Press



EXAMINING a Zambian report of the killing of Marjan Drijber and Christine Sinclair at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Drijber, Rockwood, Mr. and Mrs. John Crothers, Troy, Ohio, termed the article "ridiculous" and "preposterous." John Crothers was wounded in the incident which claimed the lives of the two Canadian girls. —Photo by D. Pink

Guests of Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Drijber of Rockwood this week were John and Carol Crothers of Troy, Ohio, the couple in the company of Marjan Drijber and Chris Sinclair when Zambian troops opened fire and killed the two Canadian girls.

Mr. Crothers was wounded during the incident and related the eyewitness story to the Free Press.

Hiking plans
At 12:30 the day the shooting occurred the four tourists decided to take a hike along a well used path into the gorges of the Zambezi River. The path was only a short distance from the hotel at which they were staying and the group had plans of returning to the hotel pool later in the afternoon for some swimming.

Marjan had hiked into the gorge the previous day in sandals but wanted to return in proper hiking boots.

The four followed the path about 10 minutes and found themselves at the edge of the gorge overlooking the river. They sat close to ten minutes admiring the spectacle, then decided to push on upstream.

They reached the point where they could clearly see the Zambian power plant on the other side of the river and stopped to rest.

Considering whether to backtrack to the hotel or continue in the same direction, Chris mentioned there was another path a short distance ahead which would lead directly back to their hotel.

The group proceeded forward in clear sight of the power plant with Chris and Mr. Crothers leading and Marjan and Mrs. Crothers following behind.

Mrs. Crothers explained they could see men on the other side of the river and assumed they were workers at the power plant on coffee break. They waved to the men but the river was so wide and loud it was impossible to speak to them.

Fire without warning
Without warning the group was under fire. Chris was the first to react, jumping for cover behind a

pile of rocks. Bullets, coming off the rocks behind the group struck Mr. Crothers in the face.

Shots came intermittently, five to eight at a time. Crothers tried to scramble to safety with Marjan, but he said she was frozen to the spot. Now suffering from both facial wounds and a bullet in the hip, Crothers saw Marjan had also been wounded in the side.

He started to get out of the way of fire but slipped into the water. He and his wife were eventually able to make it to temporary safety around a hook in the gorge behind a jutting rock.

Looking back to see Marjan was still crouched against the face of the hill but Chris in vain reasonably safety behind some rocks.

The American couple was sure Chris was in no immediate danger but had no idea what was happening to Marjan.

They were still under fire as they moved up by stray bullets struck their legs. They had no time to think of the impossible river but kept under cover from the sporadic gunfire which kept up until about 5:30 that afternoon.

They stayed behind the rock waiting for rescue, but knowing the fate of either Chris or Marjan, until about 10:30 that evening.

They did not leave the scene of the rock because a full rescue would eliminate them as targets.

At 10:30, an African teacher and two national parks rangers, all wounded, arrived at the scene looking for the lost hikers.

Realizing they could still be upon, one member of the search party made his way back to the hotel for help.

About 1:00 a.m. Rhodesians began preparing a helicopter

landing when the medical planes took off.

About 2:00 a.m. a Rhodesian plane took off from the scene, but no one has been seen since.

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Former Rockwood resident

Promising young artist killed in highway crash

A promising young Canadian artist and print maker, who once resided in Rockwood, was killed on 401 Highway near Colborne on Friday, August 2.

Twenty-five-year-old Paul Keele, was returning from his job in Toronto when the collision occurred in which he was killed. He and his wife Jane resided in Rockwood for some time. Both attended the University of Guelph.

The young man was associated with Yosef Drenters in artistic ventures and had his first one man showing of his work at the Rockwood Academy, which Mr. Drenters is restoring. He was to

have a second showing in Georgetown at the House of Sol in September, a date which will be kept at the wish of his wife.

Yosef Drenters said Paul Keele's passing was a big loss to the Canadian art world. "He had all the promise one could wish for and his death is a loss to the culture of the nation," the well known Rockwood sculptor and artist said.

Paul's ambition was to set up an all-Canadian print shop to assist Canadian artists to have their works printed. He had already received a grant from the Canada Council to buy a press when the accident which snuffed

out his life occurred.

"He was a gentleman in the real sense of the word," Mr. Drenters said, "helpful and accommodating to anyone who asked for his help." He had been teaching in the Maritimes for a year and just recently returned to Ontario. Both he and his wife were well known in Rockwood and district.

Burial was in the Quinn family plot at Castleton where the family of his wife is well known. Mr. and Mrs. Bert Baum, Peter Leslie and Yosef Drenters, all of Rockwood, attended the funeral of their friend which was also attended by a host of friends from many places across Ontario.

128 students in SWEEP

The 128 high school and university students working for the Grand River Conservation Authority on project SWEEP (Students Working in an Environmental Enhancement Program) are learning about the hard work side of conservation this summer.

They are working throughout the watershed on all kinds of projects from maintenance of parks and buildings to major construction work such as stream bank improvement and landscaping.

Some of them are working for the authority's biological services division collecting water samples and making counts of fish species in area rivers and lakes.

Others are involved with head office clerical work and surveys of conservation area users.

The provincial government, which sponsors SWEEP, stipulates that the students be given some conservation education in conjunction with their summer work. The work programs are designed to teach the students basics of conservation and resource management.

SWEEP students work from 10 to 20 weeks depending on their age and position.

ENGLISH IS spoken for two weeks in Rockwood, then French for two weeks in Quebec, as these two girls benefit from the Ontario-Quebec exchange visits program.

Cheryl McMinn is hostess the first two weeks to Michele Auger of Charlesbourg, Que. Today (Wednesday) they switch provinces and languages as they travel to Quebec.

(Photo by Lorraine)

Exchange visitor from Quebec

Learning each other's language pleasantly are Cheryl McMinn of 171 Guelph St., Rockwood, and Michele Auger of Charlesbourg, Quebec. Michele has been in Rockwood for the past two weeks, and the two girls will return together Wednesday, August 15 (to-day) for a two week stay at Michele's home.

The purpose of the Ontario-Quebec exchange is for two match students to learn each other's language right at home, and meet many new friends as well.

Michele is 15 and attends St. Jean-Eudes school. Cheryl is 15, too, and goes to Guelph Central high school.

Four highlights
The beauty and facilities right

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at home were enjoyed by the two girls who enjoyed swimming, hiking and canoeing in the Rockwood Conservation area. They also visited Kortwright Water-fowl park, Niagara Falls, Marineland, the Science Centre, Ontario Place, Midland and the Canadian National Exhibition grounds.

Each girl speaks the language of her hostess's home during each two week stint. It's a happy way of immersion learning, as these two young girls are discovering.

Delay Rockwood sidewalks 'till construction complete

Sidewalks on the east side of Main St., Rockwood, from the town hall to Harris St. will likely be delayed until such time as 7 Highway from Guelph to Acton is reconstructed. Eramosa council was informed by the Department

of Transportation and Communications.

Village trustees requested the township council to write the Department with the request for permission to construct sidewalks at the July meeting.

Eramosa concerned about increase in warble flies

Eramosa council instructed clerk Lloyd Hindley to write the Wellington county agricultural representative regarding a solution to the increase in warble fly, following discussion of the cattle scourge at a meeting last week.

A letter from the Ontario Beef Improvement Association regarding control of the warble fly noted insecticides had been developed to control them which were effective but provincial subsidies had been dropped and this in turn had led to counties leaving control up to individual farmers. It was noted that tax levies had been used to bolster control programs in other municipalities with noticeable results.

Deputy Reeve Duncan McPhedran, agreed that warble flies had been under control but when subsidies had been cut off there had been an increase which was costing beef producers thou-

sands of dollars. He recalled the township used to pay for powder to assist control but more sophisticated chemicals have been developed since which was more effective.

Cost to the township for a program? "Likely less than \$500," reasoned clerk Hindley.

"Let's do something," urged Councillor Betty Lou Clark.

Councillor Bill Adsett suggested the clerk check with the county and ag. rep. to find out if any action was contemplated at the senior level before the township committed itself.

It was agreed that the ag. rep. could supply the number of cattle in the township and the most effective means of control.

A boss is someone who is early when you're late and late when you're early.

Squirts drop first game

Rockwood squirts dropped the first game of their second round Tri-county minor softball series to Ponsosby 8-7 at Rockwood park last night (Tuesday).

Larry Polo clouted a home run for Rockwood in the seventh inning and Keith Cummings connected for the circuit for

Ponsosby in the fourth.

Second game of the series is slated for Ponsosby tomorrow (Thursday) night at 7. Rockwood eliminated Ponsosby in the first round.

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SMOKERS' WITHDRAWAL CLINIC

The Halton County Tuberculosis and Respiratory Disease Association will be holding its first Smoking Withdrawal Clinic from the 10th to the 14th of September, 1973, at the Sheridan College Auditorium, Oakville, Ontario. The 5-day Clinic will be from 7:30 to 9:30 every evening. All persons desirous of "Kicking the Habit" are invited to fill in the Registration Form below and mail to Mrs. J. V. Armour, Program Co-Ordinator, 958 Unsworth Road, Burlington. This is a public service of our Christmas Seal Association.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE NUMBER _____

Please register me for the Smoking Withdrawal Clinic, Sept. 10-14th/73.

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