



AL DAYMOND, oldest school teacher at the Centennial Reunion shakes hands with his former student Irene (Black) McWilliams as her brother Bill Black and Aldon Patterson, also past pupils, look on. Lois Black stands beside Mr. Al Daymond as a former teacher of the school. (Photo by Lorraine)



YOUNGSTERS had a great time and were in their element in the school grounds. Enjoying the program are Bradley Kay of Guelph and Kirk, Jeff, and Michael McNabb of R.R. Rockwood and David Allan cousin of Olive Cernick who attended the No. 8 school. (Photo by Lorraine)



ALBERT SHULTIS, oldest gentleman at the No. 8 Centennial Reunion, is flanked by two of its youngest, Phyllis Bayne and Leslie Nelson at the reunion.



MRS. GEORGE BAYNE of Guelph Street, Rockwood, was the lady chosen to cut the centennial cake for No. 8 school in Eramosa as over 200 guests gathered to celebrate its 100 years from 1873 to 1973. The cake was baked and decorated by Mrs. John Thomson of R.R. 1, Rockwood.

Centennial reunion at S.S. 8 Sunday

"Hello there! Now don't tell me, I know the face but I can't quite place the name!" And that is how it went from 1:30 p.m. Sunday afternoon until approximately 4 1/2 hours later when over 200 former

students of the old SS No. 8 schoolhouse in Eramosa gathered to celebrate its 100th Centennial celebration. It was a great afternoon with old schoolmates clomping fellow classmates

on the back. The "what are you doing now, Charlie?" to the "I've been looking forward to this ever since I heard there was going to be a reunion" and, with some oldsters having to take close-

up scrutiny on cohorts they hadn't seen since their 1900 school days to sophisticated youngsters who had only recently hit grade 13 in a Guelph high school.

Rockwood Academy as a more advanced seat of learning, the local village school S.S. No. 9 and, in 1873, the S.S. No. 8, where many community gatherings, social teas, literary meetings, and singing classes, were held as well as presentations and other important functions. It was also a meeting place of the Women's Institute, and, since its closing to become a community-owned community centre it has been a home ground for the Rockalong Women's Institute meetings with regular euchre parties held there. During the World War it was, reportedly, a station for quilting bees and in the bounds of the little red school house No. 8, many quilts were hand produced and sent overseas.

Centennial Mrs. Bill Black headed up the group who went through the records of the school to send out invitations and contact former students. Mrs. Harvey Shultis and Mrs. George Mitchell worked along with Mrs. Black.

Printing up the invitations is credited to Mrs. Lloyd Dyer while, worthy of acclaim for a charming sketch of the old school which decorated each of the invitations is Mrs. Douglas McNabb whose unique artistry will be treasured by countless recipients of the invitations.

It was all there, the nostalgia, the hand shaking, and loud gusts of laughter as recall after recall revived relationships of the past. Guests attended from many parts of southern Ontario evidence that family scattering is not just a matter of today's time but has always been there. Ridgeway, Waterloo, Oshawa, Weston, Ancaster, Rexdale, Thornbury, Meaford, Palmerston, Arisa and Glen Williams, are names of districts and villages representative of only a few of the Sunday gatherers. One lady had come from Victoria, B.C. and was happy to have bridged the distance to meet up with old school chums.

The 100th centennial celebration of the school which was built in 1873 was conceived and conducted by the Rockalong Women's Institute and for months the ladies, with special committees had planned, pondered over school lists and attempted to contact any student who had attended from 1800 on and prior to its official closing in 1965 when consolidation reared its questionably ugly head and the local rural school houses were closed down.

Speeches, short resumes, and sing songs, the afternoon program consisted of dignitaries of the Rockwood community making a few appropriate remarks to the prizes being presented to the

most ancient teachers. The oldest lady in attendance was given a chance to make her bow, pupils of No. 8 who had travelled the furthest, were also awarded along with the oldest present trustee and the family present with the largest enrollment. Tick, tick, the afternoon went fast. Keith Black was the chairman of the program as past No. 8 school teachers were given an opportunity to say "hi" to former students and revive friendships with later ones who followed. A sing song with O Canada and Auld Lang Syne took the gathering into the supper hour where more re-acquaintances and well wishing gradually brought the exuberant gathering to a triumphant close. Many of those in attendance had been local Rockwood district residents, many others will probably never be together at any other time; only the next 100 year celebration will tell how many.



PROUDLY DISPLAYING camp blankets on which colorful scout jamboree and reunion flashes from all over the world and Canada have been laboriously attached, are Cecil and Jessie Brothers of Kapuskasing, Ontario, who stopped in to visit relatives Mr. and Mrs. Len Nightingale of Alma Street on their way to the Gilwell Scouting jamboree held this weekend at Blue Springs.

Cecil Brothers, formerly of Guelph has been affiliated with scouting since 1930 and was a troop leader in that year when the 1st Rockwood went on its premier camping expedition. He can remember many of the local boys who attended at that time.

Now a district Commissioner and Rover Scout leader in the Northern Lights District of Cochrane to Hurst, Cecil and his wife Jessie received special honors on Saturday when, along with nine other scouting celebrities they were presented with the highest award in scouting the "Silver Acorn" medalion. The presentation was made at the Lieutenant Governor's suite at Queen's Park for "Their outstanding and meritorious contribution to scouting in Canada" and reportedly, the Brothers are the first husband-wife team to ever receive the honour at the same time.

An avid cub leader in their home town Jessie has also been affiliated with scouting for many years. The couple also sport vests decorated with Gilwell Reunion badges dating consecutively from '67 to '72 and, before their trip home to Kapuskasing were intending to get to the 1973 get together and meet up again with their local and distant scouting associates as well as procure another flash for their collection.

Grand rivers low this year

The Grand River Conservation Authority reports that river flows throughout the watershed are substantially lower than normal this year.

"If we didn't have the reservoirs to augment the natural flow, the Grand River would be little more than a mud flat in many areas," says Ilmar Kao, Authority assistant general manager.

In the Brantford area for instance, less than one third of the water in the river is natural. The rest comes from reservoirs which are being slowly let out of the reservoirs to keep the flow up to an acceptable level.

The shortage of natural water stems from below average rainfall this summer. In most parts of the watershed, precipitation has been as much as two inches below normal.

The Speed River, which runs through Guelph and meets the Grand at Cambridge (Preston), is at a very low level. When the Guelph

dam (on the Speed north of Guelph) is completed in 1978 the authority will be able to control similar situations in future dry years.

It is estimated the present flow in the Speed could be more than doubled if the Guelph dam were now in operation.

"It sometimes puzzles people that we let water out of the reservoirs during the summer," says Mr. Kao. "While we recognize the fact that people would rather go boating and swimming in full reservoirs we also have to remember that the main purpose of our dams are flood and pollution control and that recreation is an added bonus."

There is little danger of the reservoirs going dry. With about 40 per cent capacity left Mr. Kao estimates there is enough water to maintain the river at its present level for another 40 days.

In the meantime, Mr. Kao says "we need some rain."

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I can promise you that your tax dollar will be wisely and sensibly spent and that you will receive value for that dollar.

There are many areas encompassed by the new council that require immediate attention and there are a few practices we can well do without.

I do not profess to have all the answers with a be all that ends all attitude but believe in participation by all groups, be they service clubs, committees of council or private citizens.

WE DO NOT NEED

Dusty unpaved roads, closed meetings and lack of interest and support in recreation—this creates suspicion, mistrust and an apathetic attitude which contributes nothing to the community.

WE DO NEED

Wide open discussion with integrity and the knowledge of what is happening in the community through good press coverage. Pre-discussion can speed up administration with all members present, it also speeds up decisions and hasty decisions can take many deadly forms when all members do not participate.

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