

J.J. Hill "empire builder"

Good wit and humor in an atmosphere of gracious hospitality was the mood for a solemn dedication service in Rockwood on Thursday when Professor Albro Martin, Professor of history at the University of Washington, unveiled a plaque in commemoration of James Jerome Hill, a Rockwood-born Canadian who later became known as the "empire builder" for his work in developing that area of the United States between the Great Lakes and the Pacific Northwest.



James J. Hill

For many years the plaque, which had been a gift to Rockwood from the Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada, had graced a corner place on the brick building on Guelph and Main Streets once owned by S.S. Royce who had taken office as township clerk and village secretary sometime around 1948. At that time there had been no formal ceremony attached to the placement of the plaque but it was placed in honor of one of Rockwood's most celebrated citizens.

Visit

Thursday's event was one of special acclaim to those who were present. Yosef Drenters had been previously contacted by Professor Martin who, in his letter, had explained that he was doing an intensive two year research towards writing a book on the life of J.J. Hill who had taken much of his education at the Rockwood Academy. Mr. Martin requested a visit with Yosef to see firsthand the place where young James had spent important years of his lifetime.

Previous to his visit it

seemed befitting to Yosef that the tablet commemorating the illustrious Canadian should be kept at the place where much of his greatest teachings had been derived. After contact with the donors of the historic plaque it was arranged and, at Thursday's gathering, was officially unveiled.

Excerpts and anecdotes and the life of J.J. Hill were brought into focus as those who gathered in the Academy living room were treated to humorous insights of the boy through letters and writings of the great teacher of the Rockwood Academy William Wetherald, as read and related by Yosef Drenters.

Descendants

What was great about the affair was the charm and relationship of both the host and the guests present. Besides Professor Martin, actual descendants of Mr. Hill were on hand to witness the ceremony as well as township and village dignitaries, a few guests who somehow related in spirit to the importance of historical restoration, and some others whose pioneer heritage dated back to the Hill era.

In an article prepared by George Day of Jackson Street composed of information contained in his father's book Here and There in Eramosa and a historical booklet entitled On the Great Northern Railway, he says of Mr. Hill:

"J.J. Hill was born about three miles from Rockwood, Ontario, in the Township of Eramosa on date of September 16, 1838. His father was James Hill who came to Eramosa in 1829 with his parents to later marry Anne Dunbar (J.J.'s mother) and they moved to 50 acres near Brotherstown (now Rockwood) where they had three children, Eliza, James J., and Alexander S.D.

"After his father's death in 1852 young J.J. left school to assist his mother and, for some time clerked for a time in Pasmore's Store on Rockwood's Main Street. He attended public school at the original Rockwood schoolhouse on Harris Street and for his secondary



PLAQUE HONORING one of Rockwood's most renowned citizens, James Jerome Hill, was officially unveiled last Thursday afternoon when Professor A. Martin of the University of Washington visited the Rockwood Academy as part of his two year intensive research towards a book he is writing based on the life of the famous man.

(Photo by Don Hills)

training, he attended the Academy reportedly as a keen scholar who absorbed all that Mr. Wetherald, the principal, could teach him. "From clerking in the Pasmore village store on to Guelph, and from there he set out for the great northwest where he laid the foundation of a great fortune. By working with his hands and his brain he transformed the transportation system of the Northwest United States and Canada and did much to develop the Country to become the greatest railroad builder of any age.

"James J. Hill founded the Great Northern Railway which comprised a system of 8,336 miles in length, carrying freight, passengers, mail and express in the area between the Great Lakes and the Pacific Ocean. The railway operates in Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, Montana, South Dakota, Iowa, Idaho, Washington, Oregon and California, and in the Canadian Provinces of Manitoba and British Columbia.

Adventure

"Mr. Hill's great adventure began in 1856. Then 18 years of age he left his birthplace, a farm near Rockwood, and, aspiring to be a sea captain in oriental commerce, he headed for the Atlantic seaboard but, not finding a seafaring job, started west to sign on a ship sailing to the orient. En route, he planned to visit a friend at Fort Garry, now Winnipeg, Manitoba.

"The last ox-cart caravan of the season had left for the north before he arrived in July 1856 at St. Paul, head of navigation on the Mississippi River. Mr. Hill had to find work for the winter and did, as shipping clerk in the office of a Mississippi River steamboat company, and thus began his career in transportation.

"Mr. Hill watched and learned as rail expansion progressed slowly and, in 1856 he entered the transportation

field on his own account to represent a steamboat line connecting the east-bound rails at lower Mississippi River points. A year later he was agent for the First Division of the St. Paul and Pacific and, by 1870 at the age of 32, he was in partnership doing general business in wood, coal and commissions, and in another partnership to operate a steamboat service on the Red River of the North.

"Name change
"In 1878 he, along with two other men, acquired the St. Paul and Pacific and the first Division, St. Paul and Pacific. In 1869 the properties were re-organized as the St. Paul and Minneapolis and Manitoba Railway Company. In 1889 the name of the old Minneapolis & St. Cloud Railroad Company was changed to Great Northern Railway Company.

"Mr. Hill left the presidency of the railway in 1907 to become chairman of the board. He retired in 1912 from the chairmanship and active direction of the railroad system his genius had created.

"On May 29, 1916 Mr. Hill died in St. Paul, the headquarters city of the railway he had founded and developed. Thus ended the life span which began with his birth on September 16, 1838, in a log house on the Canadian frontier." Writer

Rockwood bowling

Bowling is fast moving into competition and last week's scores showed six teams trying for three positions as the Alley Cats moved to number one place. Gooyers 2, Trotters 3, Junior Farmers 4, Nortons and Ramblers trying for 5, Country Men and Rockets 6, Unruthfuls and Pacers 7, Guelphites 8, Four Corners 9, Neighbours 10, Carneys 11, and Barley Sandwiches fighting for cellar position with the Optimists, no. 11.

The Ramblers lost to the Alley Cats 2 to 5 with victor cat Ken Lush being in a triple 631 score with 204, 237 and 190; Elmer Allan bowled in a cool 617 and Mary Lush a 599. For the Ramblers George Smith made a 632 triple with 238, 170, 244 scores and Frank Hindley made a 574 triple.

It was Neighbours all the way against the Guelphites with a 5 to 2 final score as Neighbour Doug Buttenham made a 699 triple with 215, 225, and 259, Dunc McPhedran a 187, 180, 209 to triple 558 and, for the Guelphites, Bill Scott bowled 608 triple and Ross Gordon a 636.

An outstanding financier, a great philanthropist, builder and operator of railroads, James Jerome Hill is also recognized as having been a fluent speaker and writer with his best-known work Highways of Progress (1919).

In introducing Thursday's guest, Professor Martin, Yosef Drenters touched on some of the elements which had contributed to the greatness of Mr. Hill. He referred to his friendship with William Wetherald, founder of the Rockwood Academy who had been both friend and teacher to the young James inspiring him with the spirit of adventure and learning. We honor both J. J. Hill and the founder of this building, he said, and pointed out that the academy will never be an old building as long as it was built here with youth. Yosef managed to summon the vision of the young James Hill as he participated in the life of the academy and perhaps assisted in carrying some of the stones or planting some of the big trees which still grace the front lawns and are very much alive.

Greatness
Yosef spoke on the incredulity that such a man should spring forth from a small community the size of Rockwood but said that the size of anything was not important as greatness can be produced wherever there are teachers who can instill such backbone in young people. He commended the genius and master brain of Mr. Hill who had had the vision to foresee that 100 years hence Canada would have a population of two to three million people and said that Rockwood residents should be proud that a man of local birth had made such a contribution to Canadian history.

Professor Martin expressed his special pleasure at the privilege of unveiling the commemorating plaque and reflected

Pacers tops

Pacers were the tops against the Four Corners as Pacer's Ron Van Wyck made a 638 triple with 205, 198 and 115 and Paul Waddell brought in a 598 score. For the Corners Nellie Stokman made a 598 triple and Tony Stokman a 556.

Four to 3 was the Optimist vs. Rocket score with the Optimists in the lead as Gerry Birkois made a 499 triple and Gerda Birkois a 601 triple. Harry Jettin was the Rocket with the 656 triple from 210, 223, and 223 as Edna Davis bowled in a straight 627 triple with scores of 175, 210 and 242.

Gooyers beat out the Carney's team 5 to 2 and bowling for the victors Clarence Hillon made a 189, 206, 215 score triple out to 610; Adrian Gooyers bowled in a 524 triple and Don Hills a 558. Nancy Gordon for the Carney team brought down a 645 score with 249, 208, and 187 and John Gordon bowled in a 544 triple score.

Country Men were taken by the Nortons team with a 3 over count as the Nortons made a 5 to 2 score.

Relatives

Included in the gathering were three grandnieces of the Hill clan, Mrs. Josephine Campbell of Fergus, Mrs.

Gladys Bailey, Guelph, and Miss Leslie Hill of White Plains, New York. Also present was William Black of K. R. 4, Rockwood whose grandfather was a neighbor of J. J. Hill. The Black farm, now owned by William's son Keith once housed the log cabin from which the Hill family sprung and the first schoolhouse the famous man attended was on Harris Street now the present home of the George Ingle family.

On behalf of those present, George Day thanked Yosef for the tremendous tribute he had prepared and said that he felt that it was right that the plaque should be kept on the Academy walls. He commended the Academy custodian for his tremendous fortitude and tenacity in restoring the Academy as one of Canada's most historical buildings.

CHRISTIANS!

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Norton's Fred Nightingale tripled in with 638 triple, Vivian Nightingale a 573 and Ivy Ritchie a 548 triple score. For the country men Peter Boschman made a 440 triple and Helen Klaver a 485.

Trotters vs Barley Sandwiches saw the Trotters eating up the Sandwiches with a 5 to 2 winning score as Jim Thatcher tripled in a 636 and Dick Dupuis a 658 for the Barley team. Wall Jeffries bowled 602 and Norm Beattie a 579.

Junior Farmers were 4 to 3 against the Unruthfuls as Glen Gray scored the alley with his 655 triple with 144, 204, and 307 single scores and Bruce Miller brought in a 484 triple. Unruthfully John Thatcher made a 634 triple and David Bruce a 215, 180, 196 set of singles to triple in with 588.

Top scores

Men over 60, D. Buttenham 699, Jim Thatcher 658, Dick Dupuis 656, Harry Jettin 658, Glen Gray 655, George Smith 652, Bob Van Wyck 638, Ross Gordon 615, John Thatcher 634, F. Nightingale 632.

Ken Lush 631, Elmer Auan 627, Dunc Kingsbury 615, Bert Archer 613, C. Hillon 610, Bill Scott 609, Walt Jeffries 602, Women Over 50, Nancy Gordon 645, Edna Davis 627, Mary Lush 599, Nellie Stokman 598, Vivian Nightingale 573, Millie Smith 561, Ivy Ritchie 548, Lois Jettin 545, Ellen Garner 512.

EMO fund

Halton County's Administration Committee will ask the provincial government for assurance that monies coming to the counties for Emergency Measures Organizations won't be reduced or cut off as a result of a decision by the federal government.

The federal government recently announced a 50 percent cut in the \$3,000,000 it has provided for EMO or civil emergency agencies. It has provided the money to the provinces which in turn allocate it to counties and regions. EMO director for Halton, Bill McCreary said the cuts would have serious effects on the programs offered.

Acton Community Credit Union

273 Queen St. E.—Acton

wishes to announce the following by-laws and amendments were approved at a special meeting held at Acton Music Centre Saturday, October 13

1. Appointed outside auditors
2. The raising of the loan limit to \$5,000 in excess of members' savings
3. Bond of association changed to cover the area of the town of Halton Hills
4. The name of Acton Credit Union changed to The Halton Hills Credit Union

We also wish to announce that full chequing service begins November 1 and is open to all members and those wishing to become members.



DIGGING THE FIRST SOD and Rockwood and District Lion's Club members, Bill Verhagen, Tom Gellatly, and Grant McRae watched last Saturday morning as the bulldozer broke its way through the rock in its initial effort at levelling the land at the proposed Rockmosa Park which will eventually house the mammoth athletic and community complex for Rockwood and district. (Photo by Lorraine)

India missions topic

Twenty-one members were present at the October meeting of the Rockwood and Oustic C.W.L. which was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Dica. Business was high on the agenda and, planned for October 13 is a Folk Mass at which the grade 8 graduates will be presented with rosaries.

Also on the October calendar will be a euchar at the parish house on October 17 and November 7. Mrs. Wakeford from Galt will be on hand to demonstrate Stanley Products and members were urged to bring their friends.

Business
Further business consisted of:

A letter of congratulations to be sent to Bishop Redding who will be installed as Bishop of the Hamilton Diocese on November 9.

A dance to be held in the town hall Nov. 17 sponsored by the C.W.L. with the Diplomats providing music.

Short week

Some O.P.P. detachments will be trying out a four-day, 40 hour week after the start of

Business completed Mrs. Diana Cartledge, social action convener, introduced Father George Leach as guest speaker for the evening. Father Leach, Director of the English speaking provinces Jesuits of Canada had just recently returned from missionary work in India. He showed slides to the ladies present, explaining about the people in the city of Siliquiri, Darjeeling, India.

He said that the hospital there was called Jesu Ashram, meaning Place of Rest and explained that diseases in the area are mostly T.B., pneumonia, malnutrition and leprosy, with poverty and hunger a great problem. Father Leach said that he would travel through the area supplying food and medicine, assisting in building houses for the homeless. Mode of living, foods, and their way of life, on which the C.W.L. ladies found Father Leach's talk informative.

Refreshments were a follow up to the interesting account and, during the coffee hour many of the ladies asked numerous questions based on the work the learned man was doing.

the new year. After a six month trial the results will be evaluated.

contest

The Credit Valley Conservation Authority is again this year sponsoring an amateur photographic contest.

A total of \$200 will be awarded for the best photos in black and white prints or colored slides in four categories: recreation and scenic areas; forest areas and wildlife; flood and pollution control; conservation education and historic sites.

All pictures must be taken in the Credit River Watershed and become the property of the Authority.

Final submission date is December 1, 1973. Judging will be done immediately and judges' decision will be final.

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Austral 14 oz. Tins (Save 28c)

BARTLETT PEARS 3 : 89¢

CANADIAN CHEESE Maple Leaf (Save 29c) 8 oz. Pkg. **SLICES** 2 : 85¢

Del Monte 14 oz. Tins (Save 18c)

Cut Wax Beans 4 : \$1

Salada Pkg. of 60 (Save 20c)

O.P. TEA BAGS 75¢

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Hershey's 2 lb. Tin (Save 30c)

Instant Chocolate 79¢

Rose 32 oz. Jars (Save 43c)

Polish Dill Pickles 2 : 79¢