

FAMOUS DEADPAN actor Ned Sparks (above) was brought to life in Rockwood last Sunday when a young man from Dundas who is doing a three year study on the deceased actor visited at the home of Ray and Betty Death to view the 1934 Lincoln owned by the once famous comedian. Ray Death of Rockwood (left) is the proud owner of the vintage vehicle which creates tremendous interest and acclaim at annual historic car rallies and tours throughout southern Ontario.



TWO HAND-MADE QUILTS and items galore will be the attractions at next Saturday's December 1 bazaar to be held at the Eden Mills United Church. Mrs. D. Beattie displays one of the attractive quilts plus aprons and decorated children's toys, part of the selling fare along with the tea and bake table at the 2 to 4 p.m. sale at the little white church down past the Eden Place Craft Shop.

Notes from Centennial school

The Cortinas (Team D) won the finals for the girls' games but, as yet, for the boys, a win has not yet been reached. A sudden death game this week though should decide who will be the school champs.

School volleyball and basketball teams will soon be getting organized but right now exams are still going strong with Wednesday set for science exams.

Exciting will be the trip to Guelph this Friday when the grade eights will be visiting Centennial C.V.I. in Guelph.

Little kitchen helpers can find an abundance of stocking gift ideas for Mom in housewares and notions department. Pot holders, measuring spoons, measuring cups, thermometers, knives, serving utensils and hot plates make fine gifts.

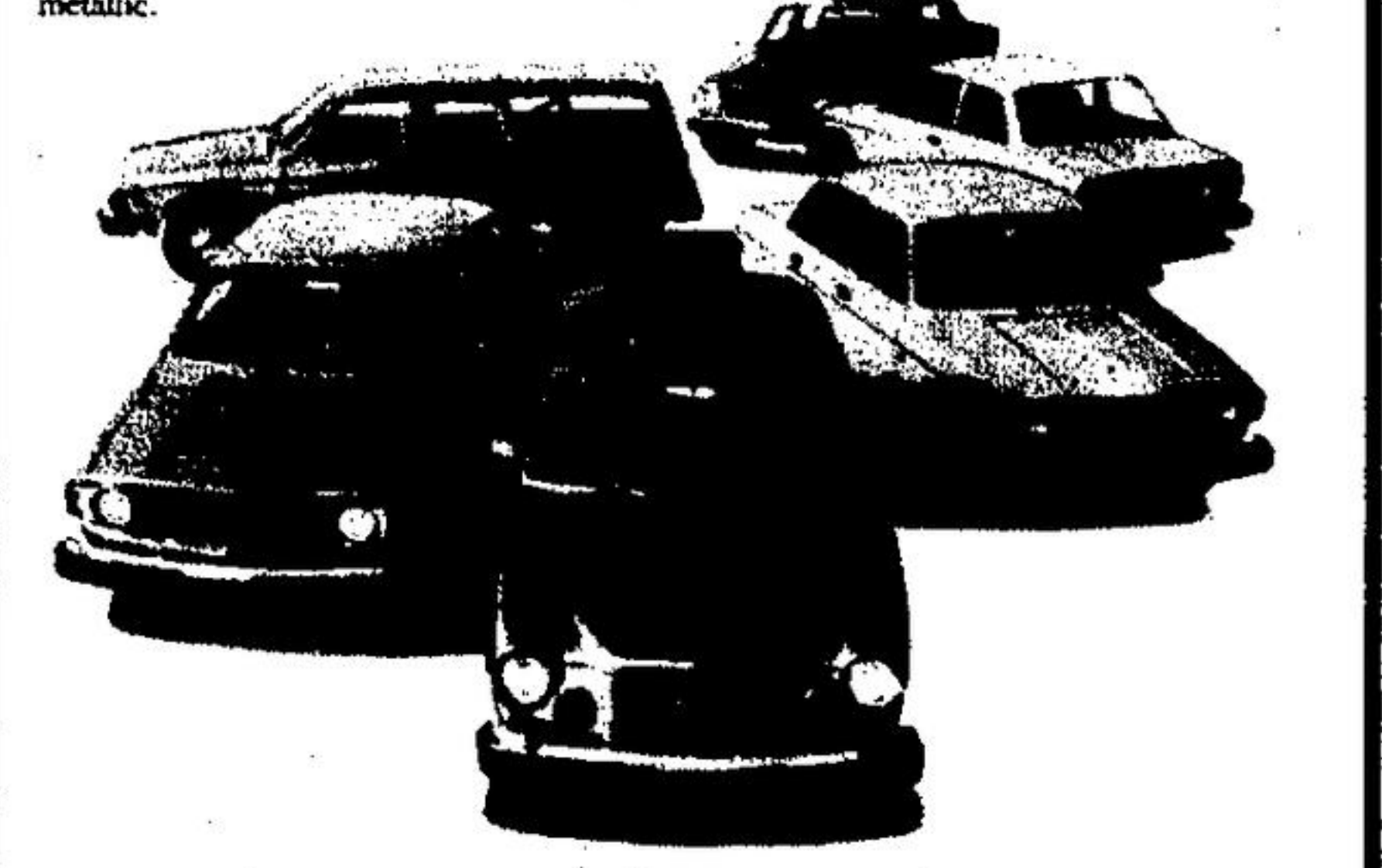
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Ned Sparks' biographer finds star's 1934 car here

If John Sterling of Dundas, Ontario, accomplishes his greatest ambition, one of Hollywood's funniest men will be immortalized.

Mr. Sterling is a 26-year-old commercial artist who first learned about comedian Ned Sparks when he was ten years old while skirting through a weekend magazine. Living in Stratford, at the time, it was his mother who pointed out to him that Ned Sparks was one of the few Canadian-born movie stars and that he had been born in St. Thomas, Ontario.

It was not until John's father procured a job in St. Thomas and moved there with his family in 1957 however, that he really associated the name of the comedian with his birthplace. Seven years later he again was reminded of the actor when he met an 80-year-old man, Charlie Barnes, who said he had known Reuben Sparkman and that he and Reuben had worked together as messenger boys for the Michigan Central Railway.

Interest aroused

John's interest was really not completely aroused until 1970 when, as a budding commercial artist and art teacher building up a business, he was requested to evaluate art pieces belonging to the family of the late Reuben Sparkman whose wife had died in June. It was Ned's wife's paintings that John had been asked to identify and, in looking through documents of the deceased actor, a new curiosity was awakened.

Pictures of Sparks' early career on stage, shots with movie stars, and letters home to his family, brought into focus another being about whom John Sterling and many others of his generation knew little.

He made a deal with the man in charge of the actor's affairs that, instead of paying him cash for his assistance in evaluating art work, he would, instead, give him the data and pictures pertaining to Ned Sparks. Request granted, and, for the young artist, what had originated as a face in a weekend magazine began to materialize as a highly personable and responsive comedian who had made a career of making people happy.

What would spur a young man to conduct a three year study on a person whose name to many is unfamiliar? John Sterling says: "I am really enjoying the satisfaction of recreating a time and person practically unknown" and, in re-establishing the life of Reuben Sparkman, John has put aside his career as an artist. For the past 36 months he has been operating a rooming house in Dundas, dedicating his time and money to putting the actor's story down on paper documenting his life from his birth November 19, 1883, to his first stage appearance in 1903, and his death on April 7, 1957.

"One of the greats of his time" says avid researcher who lines Sparks up with others born in Canada, Mary Pickford of Toronto birth fame, Marie Dressler born in Cobourg, and Walter Houston, also born in Toronto. According to Mr. Sterling, Ned Sparks was known throughout the world as a character actor having played in over 80 movies. He has the distinguishing fame of having been one of the only stars allowed to write in his own lines. "Not an ad libber," said John "but actually writing down into the script what he wanted to say."

The artist has found the actor's life to be exciting and heart warming and, after months of putting together scattered information researched through countless documents and correspondence, he can now set a deadline for publishing of his book based on his findings. A three year accomplishment of one young man about an older one by whom he was predeceased some 16 years ago.

Two years ago he gleaned more information about the actor's life when a farmer from Dundas told him about a 1934 Lincoln owned by a man from the Rockwood area. Last August in an article published in an antique car magazine, he learned about Ray Death and his family and their excursions throughout Ontario in the '34 Lincoln which has drawn acclaim and interest at annual car tours as having claim to Ned Sparks' original ownership.

Local man recognized

Last Sunday was a big day for the young researcher. He came to the village to meet with the Deaths and, looking through brochures and scrap books composed by Ray and his wife Betty, he was updated on other details of the actor's life as well as able to enjoy the delightful experience of actually sitting in the car of the man whom he intends to immortalize.

Ray purchased the Lincoln in 1959 and figures that the 15,000 miles he has put on her is equivalent to those under the ownership of the famous

Ned Sparks. Original purchase of the vintage automobile was probably around \$15,000, said the learned Mr. Sterling with Ray's evaluation of the car in its present state set at a much higher figure.

"From honky tonk to soup and fish" the writer is not certain how his book will be entitled; he has learned that, at one time Ned Sparks had considered writing his own autobiography based on his early appearances in honky tonk saloons in the gold rush period in Skagway, Dawson City, to complete his career entertaining the elite. The Forgotten Deadpan is another possible for John Sterling's biography. "But," he said with humour "the best way to know what it will be called will be to watch for its publication a few months from now." Who knows,

made through the efforts of the Dundas man, the name Ned Sparks will become famous.

The actor's retiring years were, reportedly, spent in Apple Valley, California where he enjoyed the friendship of John Charles Thomas of musical fame who sang at his funeral in 1967. He was buried just outside of Apple Valley in Victorville, California.

Rockwood bowling

Off and away and the high flying Unruhphils steamed into the bowling match to complete the games with a 7 to zero score. John Thatcher for the victors was in top form resulting with 715 triple score with 287, 214, and 214 in games as co-partner Alex Duffield came through with a 225, 167 and 210, to triple 620. Guaphiles Ross Gordon bowled a 623 score with 184, 203, and 236, as teammate Harry Parks bowled 602 with 207, 111, and 284.

Junior Farmers took the lead over the Optimists to a 3 to 2 tune with Brian Garner netting a 330 triple with 188, 152, and 188, Bruce Millar bowled a 153, 204, and 180 to triple 545, and that outstanding, amazing strike Glen Gray whopped up a 645 score with 173, 222, and 250 single scores. Optimist Sam Nyholt bowled a 610 triple with 235, 225 and 210 and Gerda Birkholz bowled a 560 triple with angles of 228, 138, and 198.

It was Carney's 3 to 2 against the Rockets as Carney's Bob Lilley blasted in a 642 triple with single scores of 230, 179, and 233. Nancy Gordon bowled in a 620 triple with 200, 200, and 170, and May Swackhammer made a 567, with 212, 177, and 208. For the Rockets, Hunc Kingsbury bowled a 642 triple with 238, 224, and 182 single scores as Edna Davis made a 198, 185, and 222, triple in a 628.

The Neighbors were the cats meowing as they took the lead in their games against the Alley Cats with a 7 to 0 score. Neighbor Bill Garner made a 235, 231, and 269 with a final triple of 738 as Doug Buteham brought in a 296, 213, and 213, to triple in with 725. For the Cats, Elmer Allan took a 594 triple with 231, 187, and 156. Mary Lush bowled in a 563 triple with 131, 223, and 211 scores as Ken Lush tripled in a 563 score with 158, 194 and 211 singles.

The Barley Sandwiches took the win over the Nortons with a 3 to 2 score as Mike Kelly bowled in a 697 triple, with singles 208, 245, and 236 as Mike Martin bowled 638 with singles 234, 215, and 187. Walt Jeffries, also a Barley Sandwich made a 629 triple with scores, 207, 280, and 182. Norton's Fred Nightingale bowled a great

game with 644 triple score and 215, 208, 200 angles, as Vivian Nightingale bowled in a 562 score with 194, 196, and 200 singles.

Neighbors bowled down to the Trotters as they were outplayed 5 to 2 as Trotter Ted Jestin made a 688 triple with 178, 269, and 240. Doug Cross a 661 triple, with 280, 203, and 168, and Sandy McPhedran made a 211, 203, and 220, triple in a 634. For the Ramblers George Smith was the top scorer with a 372 triple with angles 193, 292, and 175 as Millie Smith bowled in a 558, with 163, 189, and 206, to triple 558.

Four to 3 was the Pacer's score against Goeyers with the Pacer's Alice Johnson bringing in a 621 triple, with singles, 214, 230, and 180, and Bob Van Wyck bowled a 586 triple with 227, 170, and 184, singles. Clarence Hilton was high man of the evening for the Goeyers team as he bowled a 753 triple with angles 209, 234, and 290 and Adrian Goeyers bowled a 623 triple with 131, 170, and 318 single scores.

Country Men versus Four Corners saw the Country Men bringing in a 3 to 2 score as Peter Bosch bowled a 632 triple with 258, 204, and 230 singles and Ted Kiever bowled a 314 with 174, 174,

and 168. For the Four Corners team McKersie bowled 610 with 238, 171 and 201 single scores and Tony Blokman made a 561 triple with 228, 183, and 203 singles.

TEAM STANDING

Neighbors 30, Goeyers 47, Blockets 46, Barley Sandwiches 42, Guaphiles 40, Nortons 30, Unruhphils 40, Jr. Farmers 30, Trotters 38, Country Men 30, Pacers 38, Ramblers 35, Alley Cats 35, Carneys 34, Four Corners 31, Optimists 30.

Men over 50—Clarence Hilton 753, Bill Garner 738, Doug Buteham 725, John Thatcher 715, Peter Bosch 692, Ted Jestin 688, Mike Kelly 687, Fred Nightingale 664, Sam Nyholt 670, Doug Cross 661, Glen Gray 645, Bob Lilley 642, June Kingsbury 642, Mike Martin 638, Sandy McPhedran 634, Walt Jeffries 629, Adrian Goeyers 623, Alex Duffield 620, Don McKersie 610, Harry Jestin 607, Ross Gordon 605, Garry Park 602, Edna Davis 628, Alice Johnson 624, Nancy Gordon 620, Lois Jestin 609, May Swackhammer 587, Viv Nightingale 587, Mary Lush 565, Gerda Birkholz 560, Millie Smith 558, Irene Lovell 535, Betty Burnell 542, Ruth Kingsbury 518.

Board urges takeover of health care

Hilton Board of Education feels school health attendants should be a function of the Regional Board of Health. The board approved a motion at its meeting Thursday that will see the Medical Officer of Health and the County Board of Health assume full responsibility for the program Jan. 1.

The Board of Health isn't as eager to assume control, however. At its last meeting that body passed a motion asking the Board of Education to continue with the program until June 1974 and by that time have a joint agreement for takeover worked out.

Smooth transition

Traditionally the public health nurses have worked in public elementary schools and health attendants hired by the board of education have worked in the high schools.

Educators no longer see health care as a legitimate education cost. The two boards will be working together in an attempt to make a smooth transition if and when the change takes place.

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