

120th anniversary for post office here

Important Rockwood history was innocently slanted aside recently when the anniversary of one of the village's greatest services was forgotten in the rush of seasonal confusion.

Rockwood's earliest postal date reads, "December 1854," and, according to Canadian postal statistics, the first village post office started off in a modest log building at the corner of Harris and Main Streets with, as its postmaster, Robert Pasmore, who ducted his mail service in conjunction with that of a general grocery business.

Mr. Pasmore had the distinction of being a class leader in the Wesleyan Methodist church in Rockwood and was a great grandfather of Q.C.E.B. Joffile, a former leader of the Conservatives in provincial politics, and a member of one of the village's most distinguished families.

Pasmore as the general store and village post office. Upon his death the former postmaster was replaced by Hugh Black, a Disciple local preacher who rented a building also on Rockwood's Main street now owned by Clayton McLaren. That particular building served as the Rockwood post office for several years until, approximately two years ago, the federal government replaced it with a newer one on Guelph Street.

From the 1909 death of Mr. Black who was succeeded by Col. John Nutrie in his position as postmaster, the Rockwood postal emporium has seen three changes. Frank Day who served from 1921 was succeeded by his son George until 1972 when he was succeeded by Marg Cox who, with her successorship inherited a sparkling new Post office building as it presently stands on Guelph Street's federal grounds.

Former masters

From its December, 1853 inception to that of December, 1973, the 120 year old service has known many masters. Robert Pasmore

had served for 44 years from 1854 to 1897; Hugh Black 12 years from 1897 to 1909; John Nutrie, 10, from 1909 to 1920; Frank Day, 17, from 1920 to 1945; George Day, 27 from 1945 to 1972, and Marg Cox from 1972 to December, 1973, a total in all of 120 years of loyal, dedicated service.

Records show that rural routes have seen constant changes since the original 1910 first delivery service with H.R. 1 records showing George Oakes as its premier rural route delivery man. Jns. Meadows took over in 1914, and, in 1923, and serving faithfully ever since. Oude Meadows has been the mail man on his route.

R.R. 2 shows a greater series of changes with a Mr. Large the first man to take the mail to people on that route followed by O. Donnell, Fred Hamilton, Roy Young, James Watson and, in 1922, Cliff Meadows took over the route, replaced by his wife Jean on his death, replaced again by Ron Williamson, and the service more by the present carrier, Alice Johnson, who has been consistent since 1960.

Rural route no. 3 was started off by John Richardson, Frank Farries was the second mail man, Roy Young next, then Arthur Ewers, with present day Len Nightingale continuing the job since 1937 until the present.

December, 2073

There have been numerous changes in the village since its early beginnings and only recorded history can

enlighten today's residents. It is inevitable that, as time progresses, it will make more recordings of past proceedings with many of the present villagers' names on the list as contributors to tomorrow's statistics.

From the log cabin building on Main St. to the one on Guelph St. today, that much of Rockwood's postal history is indelibly inscribed on more recent residents' minds.

It would be interesting to query what names there will even be in a Rockwood post office in the hundred years hence of December, 2073. Will the name Rockwood be only an area represented by a zip code number in a larger municipality?

December's date should have been a 120 year anniversary celebration but, through the excitement of Christmas, it was temporarily forgotten.

Benjamin Franklin

It is of interesting note that, according to a brochure issued by the Hon. Ernest Bertrand, K.C., M.P., postmaster general, our present postal system in Canada is based on that of Great Britain from 1760 to 1851, when the service was finally taken over by Canadian authorities, the post offices in Canada were under the control of the British Postmaster General administered

Signs

Jackson Street in Rockwood will soon be a through street once stop signs are erected on both sides of MacKenzie St. in the village.

A letter to the trustees from a concerned villager explained that increased traffic on MacKenzie St. is a hazard to children and, at the Mon. Jan. 28 meeting, the trustees moved to erect signs immediately.

by deputies of his own choosing.

Benjamin Franklin was in charge of the postal system in the British Colonies in North America. As soon as Canada came under British rule, he left his headquarters in Philadelphia and opened up a post office at Quebec with subordinate offices at Montreal and Three Rivers.

These offices were placed in charge of Hugh Finlay, who thus became Canada's first resident Deputy Postmaster General under British rule. Owing to Franklin's prompt action, the postal service was the first government institution to be placed on a settled basis after Canada became a British province. All this, two years prior to the December, 1851, establishment of the Rockwood post office.

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SATURDAY'S INTERVIEWS at Eramosa township council chambers were a continuous round of personal discussions with district residents requiring information and relating concerns to Alf Hales, M.P. for Wellington county. Chatting informally with Mr. Hales before an interview are Bob Logan of Rockwood, councillor Betty Lou Clark and Mr. and Mrs. Cliff McDougall of Rockwood.

Free Press Rockwood

M.P. Hales meets his constituents Sat.

"Not even a break for coffee" was the way Alf Hales, M.P., laughingly described it when questioned about his afternoon of interviews held last Saturday at the Eramosa township council chambers.

Personal invitations had been extended via mail to all district residents for any person wishing to discuss problems or seeking information on federal government matters. Hours for the interviews had been set for from 1:30 p.m. until 5 and according to the Wellington county representative it was a continual session of people of all ages lining up to talk.

"Many of the questions were beyond federal jurisdiction," said Mr. Hales who reports that there were always three or four people waiting in the hall while he interviewed each one personally.

"Hydro was not one of the issues," said the relieved M.P. who listed unemployment sources of loans and grants available for small business projects, passports, questions on old age pension and compensation problems as some

of the most frequent concerns.

Banquet speaker

"One of the most interesting matters I was asked about" he said "was in a discussion I had with a high school teacher, the type I like to find, who is really interested in his students and their careers." Mr. Hales the teacher described two of his students who were above average in the fields of art and music who wanted to take time off after their graduation from grade 13 to accomplish two things. "One boy wants to teach art and the other music in the schools of the Canadian north country," said Mr. Hales. "According to the teacher they have all the required ability and want to apply it as a challenge while at the same time learn all they can about Canada's north."

Mr. Hales said the teacher wondered if permission could be given for the boys to teach in the northern schools as a way of broadening their outlook and sense of achievement before settling down to university studies.

The M.P. praised the diligence of the boys and the

Cancer drive

Rockwood's Cancer society representative, Sitska Drijber recently returned from a weekend in Toronto where, at the Inn on the Park, along with 500 other captains she learned the importance of early detection. "Look ahead and check now," says the local organizer who adds that Rockwood's drive for funds will begin soon. With a special plea for volunteer assistance Sitska leaves her Rockwood phone number with an invitation to call 856-9906 to assist or for assistance.

Ward system is proposed

A ward system for Eramosa township came under discussion at Monday's Rockwood trustee meeting. The trustees agreed to send a letter to the township council requesting a three-way meeting to be held with the boards of both Rockwood and Eden Mills and the township council, to discuss the proposal.

The secretary was instructed to contact the Eden Mills chairman and secretary to discuss views on the subject.

The object of the proposal is for the villages to obtain more direct representation on a board which will include one Eden Mills representative, two from Rockwood, and three for the remainder of the township, thus providing an upgraded township council with six members plus a reeve and deputy reeve, as opposed to one of five people.

The secretary will write to the township council requesting discussion on the ward system proposal as an alternative to incorporation.

Rockwood bowling

Last Tuesday's games showed three teams tying for first place with two others moving in fast. First position has Neighbors, Gooyers and Rockets with 15 pins each. Jr. Farmers 69, 5 Farmers 68, 8 Carneys 66, 7 Country Men 64, 8 Guelphites and Barley Sandwiches doubling with 63, 10 Norwins 62, 11 in the spot Trotters and Four Corners 59, 13 Ramblers 57, 14 Optimists 55, 15 Unruhoffs 51, 18 Alley Cats 47.

Men over 600 show: Jim Thatcher 772, Clarence Hilton 706, Sam Nyholt 691, Art Davis 691, Bob Van Wyck 680, Walt Jefferies 668, Dunc Kingsbury 648, Mike Martin 647, Glen Gray 644, Adrian Gooyers 637, Paul Waddell 633, Peter Bosch 632, Doug Cross 623, Garfield Tarwell 611.

Women over 500 show: Nancy Gordon 757, Nellie Stokman 696, Edna Davis 656, Ruth Kingsbury 610, Millie Smith 603, Kathy Parks 583, Ellen Garner 553, Betty Brydges 543, Lois Jestin 541, Ivy Ritchie 532, Mary Lush 528, Gerda Birchofs 527, Winnie Hills 526, Viv Nightingale 524, Nancy Ferguson 503.

It was the Pacers vs Ramblers with a final tally of 700 to a 680 triple with 238, 232 and 210 singles. Paul Waddell bowled 213, 196, 223 with a 633 triple and George Usarouki made a 585 triple with a 190, 203 and 202 set of singles. Millie Smith was the Rambler who bowled in a 603 triple with 185, 183 and 223. George Smith bowled 507 triple.

Carneys beat out the Neighbors with a 5 to 2 score as Nancy Gordon bowled in a 737 triple with singles 239, 208, 230, Bob Lilley made a 374 with singles 159, 171 and 184 and John Carney bowled 539. Dunc McPhedran was the neighbor with the most as he bowled 563 triple score with 206, 195 and 190 and Ellen Garner made a 533 triple.

Five over two was the Four Corners win over the Barley Sandwiches as Nellie Stokman in great form bowled in a 606 triple with 231, 225 and 220 and Tony

Two injured in collision

A two car collision on highway 24 in Eramosa township on Jan. 26 resulted in the drivers of two cars being taken by ambulance to the Guelph General hospital for treatment of injuries.

Wellington county by the O.P.P. Their report reads: two break and enters and four thefts with three violations of liquor laws.

"No charges were laid on complaints of two snowmobiles trespassing on private property in the Erin area."

The accident occurred at approximately 3:40 a.m. at the intersection of Wellington Rd. 29 and highway 24 when William Rowley of R.R. 3, Rockwood was proceeding northbound on 24 and collided with George Crabtree of Guelph, southbound.

Damage to the Rowley vehicle was estimated at \$1,800 and the Crabtree automobile received damages to the extent of \$2,500.

During the period between Jan. 20 to 26, 74 occurrences of a general nature were reported and investigated in

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