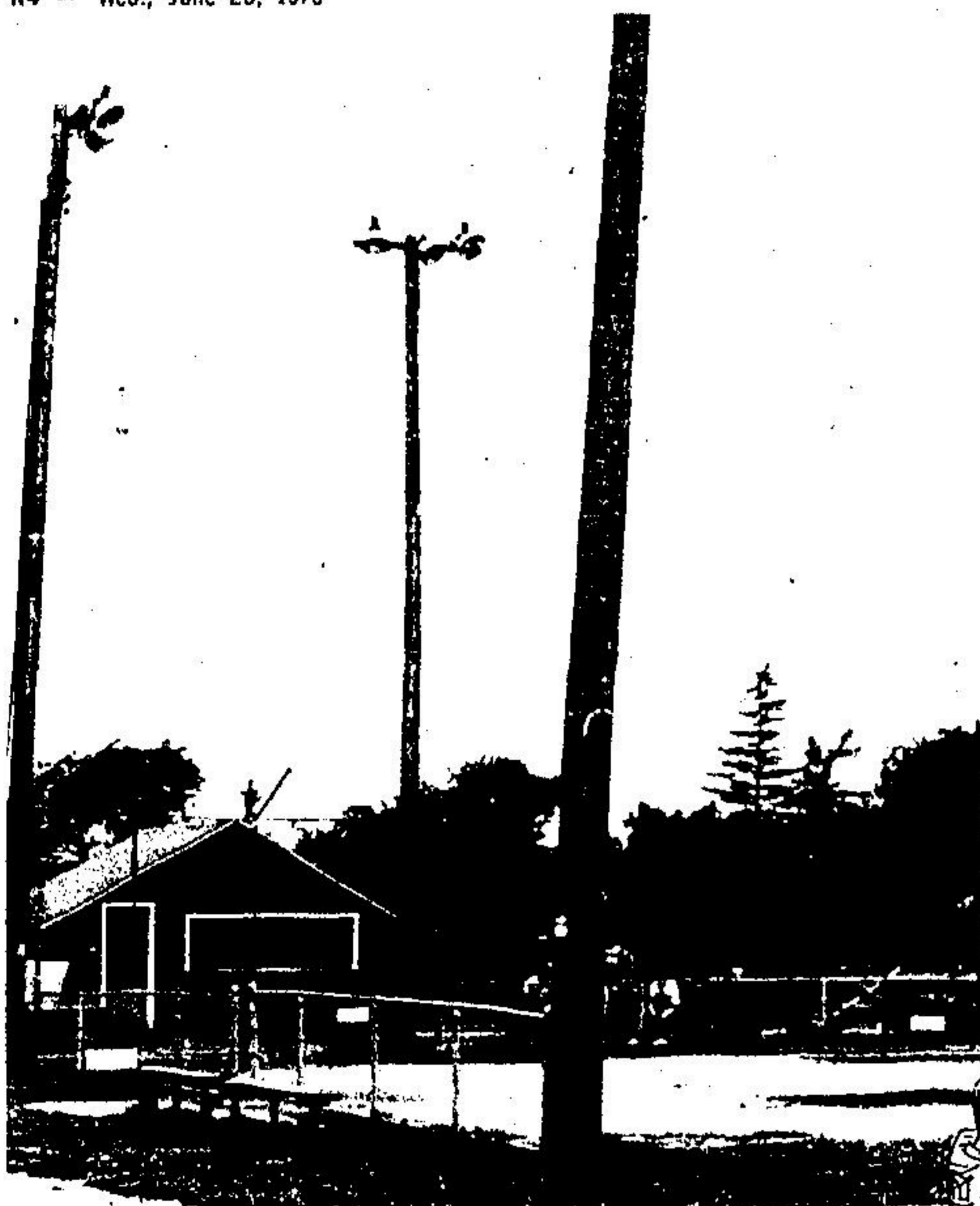


# A look at Halton's rural ballparks

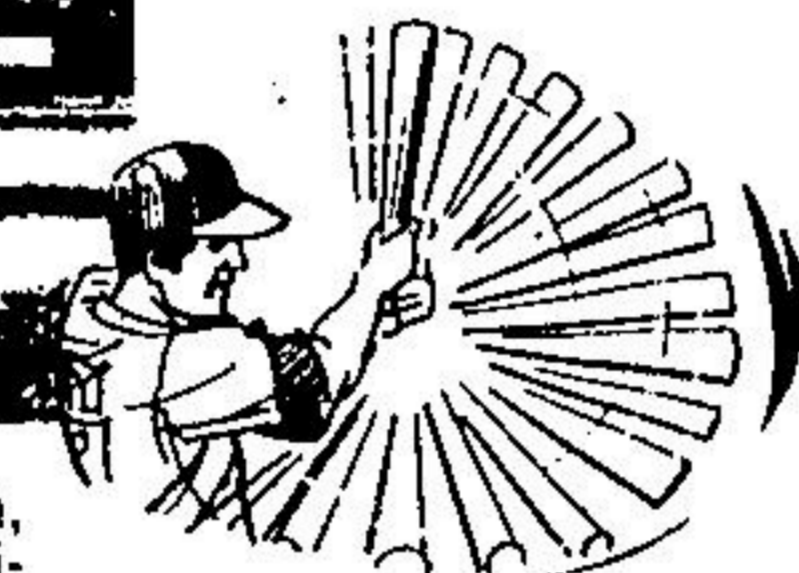


TALL LIGHT standards tower over the tiny ball diamond at Omagh, which in spite of the size of the community, annually produces competitive minor softball teams.

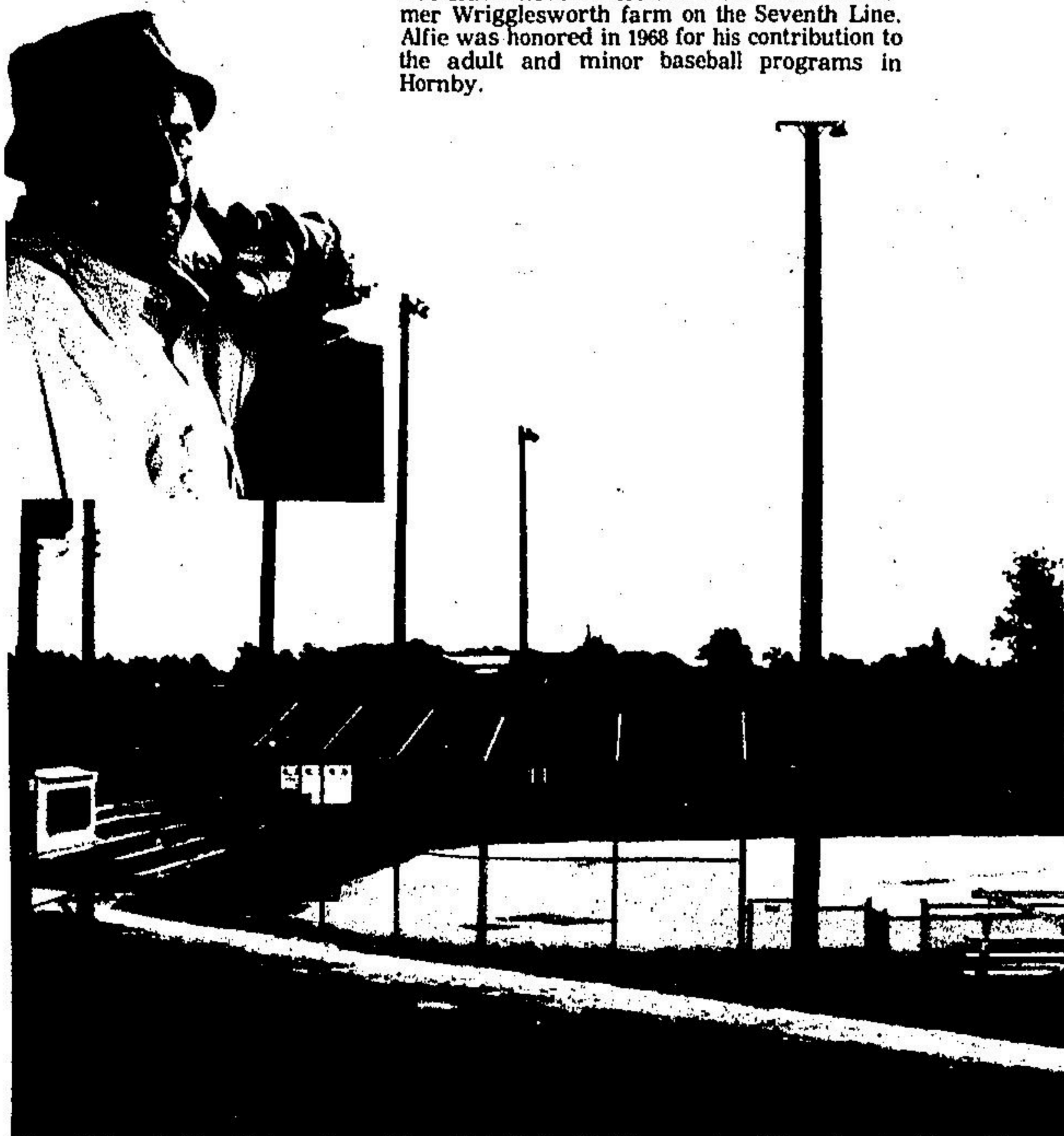


WORN WOODEN BLEACHERS on the first base side contrast with the sturdy block third base bleachers at the Campbellville ballpark, where village faithfuls watched sluggers like Earl Cairns, Ken Moore, Stan Henderson and Elmer Dredge tear the

cover off a lot of horsehide during the 50's and 60's. The baseball capital of Halton now has younger blood on its diamond aiming at the Ontario championships Len Andrews' famous teams won during those two decades.



"MR. HORNBY PARK", Alfie Bridgen has been keeping three diamonds in topnotch shape, since ball clubs moved there in the 50's from the former Wrigglesworth farm on the Seventh Line. Alfie was honored in 1968 for his contribution to the adult and minor baseball programs in Hornby.



THE POPULAR Hornby Garden Party, held in July and men's fastball tournament in early August make the neat and tidy Hornby ballpark a beehive of sports activity during the summer months.



LOWVILLE BALLPARK is set in a vale, which allows spectators an excellent view of games from the side of the hill in the foreground. The

park is used every night during the summer for minor softball and men's and ladies' fastball games.

## Photos by Denis Gibbons

They've been the subject of city jokes, dreamed up by envious visitors and sometimes cursed by losers, who missed their championship because of ball bad-hopping off a stone or an out-field rut, which wasn't supposed to be there, but the rural ballparks of Halton are dear to the baseball and softball fans, who fill them every summer.

Drop into Campbellville on a Sunday afternoon and someone will show you exactly where Earl Cairns cleared the trees with a blast beyond the right field fence or tell you how many times Stan Henderson rapped drives off the side of his own house beyond the left field fence.

In the Glen you can wonder at the topnotch condition of a park, which the pride of residents there has rescued many times from Credit River spring floods. Second base at the Glen was once the middle of a swamp.

Some of the province's best fastball pitchers have blazed 'em by batters in Hornby at the annual Hornby fastball tournament in August.

The parks are more than just places to play ball. They're a social gathering place for rural residents to gain a respite from the day's chores and chat about days goneby.

VOICE OF the Glen ballpark, Cuthbert, who works the P.A. at the Glen minor and tournament games, keeps fans in the game with his scores.



CONSTRUCTED ON land K Davidson, the Glen Williams ballpark survived spring floods and winter Credit River to maintain its re