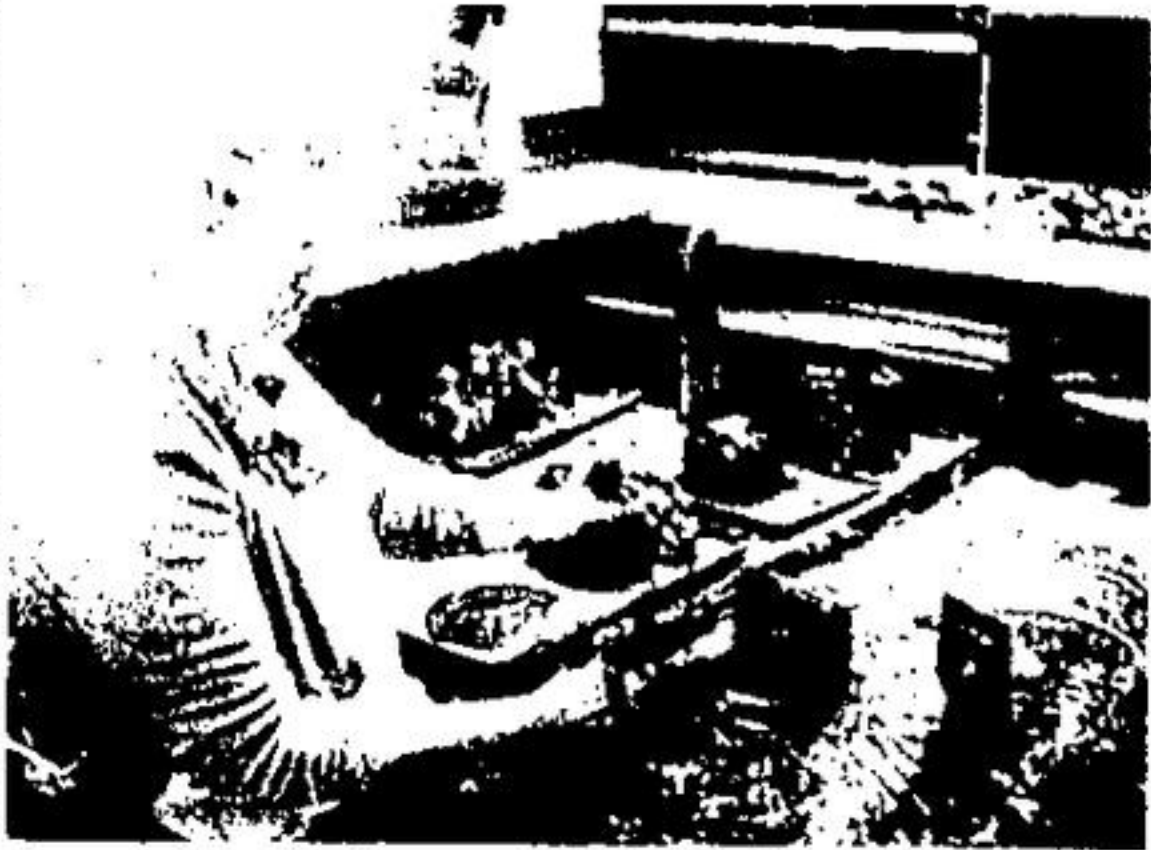


Schneider's to close

Candy making now a dying art

By Kerry Chalmers



DOROTHY FORREST fills moulds with pure chocolate melted down from 10 pound slabs. The chocolate must be at just the right temperature to adhere to the moulds and yet not too cool or it becomes difficult to work with. After the moulds are filled they are cooled in special window casements.



RABBITS ARE joined by other shiny brown creatures and many Easter novelties on Schneider's candy factory shelves. Making candy by hand is a dying art, and the factory is expected to close soon.

There is a poignancy to Easter in Rockwood this year.

Peter Rabbit and the many other delightful Easter characters will line the shelves of Schneider's candy factory for the last time.

As usual, scores of school children have filed through the factory this spring and thrilled at the handmade things, oblivious to the fact that they are witnessing a dying art. Schneider is one of the last old-fashioned, hand-dipped operations left in the area, or for that matter in Ontario.

End of line Unfortunately what began as a family business over 63 years ago by J. H. Schneider has reached the end of the line—none of his grandchildren have become candy-makers but instead have pursued other careers.

Mr. Schneider learned his candymaking trade at McCormack's in London, in the early 1900's where he also met his wife. He gained much skill and experience working for other companies, including Laura Secord before setting up his own business in 1923. The business, begun in Brampton, was moved to Guelph by the senior Schneider in 1931 and flourished for the next 14 years with the help of his whole family.

Frank was candymaker.

Len worked in the office and Clarence was sales manager. The boys' sister Shirley Shultz helped out in all capacities and has continued to do so for the last 30 years. She has even been known to drive the delivery truck! The firm moved to Rockwood in 1945.

Method Ten pound slabs of pure Neilson chocolate is melted down and poured into dozens of moulds and then set to cool. The moulds after cooling become the chocolate speed boats, clowns, dogs, ducks, rabbits and cars that are distributed to the stores. Some of the candy shapes are hand decorated as well as the chocolate eggs. The process is a slow one because everything is skillfully done by hand and with precision.

Everyone takes pride in their work and the atmosphere in the factory is friendly and relaxed. There are five women employees in the winter time but during the slack summer season, only three are required.

It would be impossible to describe the making of the other specialties. A tour of the factory illustrates how humbugs, fruit balls, candy canes and countless other goodies come to be. Many of these recipes Frank Schneider makes from memory, including old-fashioned molasses sponge toffee and turkish delight. Another taste treat are the chocolate covered

seconds.

Everyone in the plant has his own special job but is capable of taking on a variety of jobs if need be. People passing by can stop in and purchase goodies at any time. At Easter, seconds are available in the Easter section. A second may be a rabbit that had a chipped nose and had to be mended.

If you like black jelly beans Schneiders is the place to go. You can buy a bag of all black! The factory distributes its wares to Hamilton, Brantford, Paris, Galt and as far north as Harriston, Ontario.

End soon

Each season for the last five years the family has said it would be the last and yet production continued. This year they left their definitely had to draw the line and this summer will mark the end of an era. The building has been sold but not the actual business. There have been a

number of inquiries from people who say they are interested in learning the operation and the art of candymaking but no one has followed up on this to date.

Frank Schneider feels the educational system is lacking in that it seems to discourage young people from learning a family trade and staying with the family business. Although he thinks all the children are in interesting and productive careers he feels it is important to learn the skills handed down by past generations.

He commented that many of the courses offered at a college level really don't prepare a person for anything or leave them with any particular trade or skill. Both Mr. Schneider and his sister Shirley feel that by the time many of the young people of today reach an age when they will want to learn the skills of their forefathers there will be no one left to teach them.

Candy-making will go on forever, but the handmade candy, the true craft is a far cry from the mass produced candy needing only machinery and the odd assembly worker to assure its success.



ROWS AND ROWS of rabbits, and rabbits, and rabbits, and rabbits.



AN EXAMPLE of the beautiful handcrafted Easter characters done at Schneiders. Shirley Foltz decorates a real Peter Rabbit! People are welcome to come in and buy the Easter novelties but are asked to do so afternoons or Saturdays until Easter.

Rockwood roundup

by Kerry Chalmers

The Presbyterian Young People's Group are holding their annual Good Friday Breakfast in the basement of the Presbyterian Church. The public are invited to come and enjoy this meal commencing at 9 a.m. Everyone is welcome.

The Rockwood Firemen are holding their annual banquet and dance this Saturday night at the Town Hall. The Twilight Auxiliary of the Presbyterian Church are catering for this event. The firemen and their wives are looking forward to their night out.

Allan and Donna Schinck and son have returned from their two-week motor trip to Florida. They enjoyed their holiday and while in Florida visited Disneyland with Trevor.

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Craig of Toronto visited with Walter's mother, Mrs. Ethel Craig of Balacava St. on Sunday.

The Sunshine Club meets

this Thursday, April 8 at the Town Hall. The meeting had been postponed due to the construction that has since moved up the hill.

Mrs. Vera Black recently returned from a European trip where she toured Rome, Florence, Milan and Venice. Mrs. Black thoroughly enjoyed her holiday and says it was everything she had hoped for.

Village residents and friends send get well wishes to Mrs. Charlie Green of Pine St., Rockwood. Mrs. Green was taken to Guelph General Hospital last week.

Robena Peacock of Harris St. returned last Wednesday evening from a six week holiday in Britain. She reports that the weather for the most part was sunny and warm and that flowers were blooming along the walls with the bright yellow Gorse adding to the beauty of the hedges and the moors. Mrs. Peacock also mentioned that the sheep were lambing and although

some of the days were bitterly cold the weather is more summer-like than here. She spent the majority of the trip in New Castle on the Tyne nursing an aunt and says she enjoyed the holiday so much because she spent the time in one place instead of being on the move all the time.

The Rockwood Co-operative nursery school four-year-olds held a special Fathers' Day party last Saturday. The kids loved bringing dad. They painted and had a sing-song.

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Dance-a-thon response good

Time is running out! The Dance-a-thon for the March of Dimes is drawing near and Julie Brace, campaign manager, reminds the participants or would-be participants that pledge forms must be in no later than this weekend.

The forms may be handed in to Sherry Brace Gr. 7, or to Alison Brace Gr. 8 at the school by this Friday, April 9. If this is not convenient people are asked to drop them off at the Brace residence this weekend at 191 Guelph St. directly across from the post office.

Julie reports that there seems to be a good response to the contest but until all forms are in she is unable to further her plans for prizes, food and the number of chaperones required.

If you are a Gr. 7, 8 or 9 student and would like to enter the contest for this worthy cause there are still forms available at Root Hardware or at the R. & M. Shopette. The dance will be

held at the town hall on April 23 and run from seven Friday night to 10 a.m. Saturday morning. All students must have a sponsor (entered on the pledge forms) to attend the dance. People are asked

to pledge whatever sum they wish but are asked to support this cause. If anyone wishes further information on this they are invited to call Julie Brace at her residence after 5:30 p.m.

Winner

Winner of the 50-50 draw at Sacred Heart church, Rockwood, and St. Peter's, Oustre, is R. O. Masales, Queen St., Acton

Easter weekend is April 16-19

Rockwood bowling

Standings: Unpredictables 113, Jr. Farmers 111, Carneys 111, Countrymen 110, Raggedy Pans 106, Nortons 105, Pin Pals 99, Kays Feeds 96, Optimists 95, Four Corners 94, Mustangs 89, Guelphites 87.
Men Over 600: Ted Jestin 704, Sam Nyholt 650, John Gordon 624, Jerry Hirkholz 609, Ted Klaver 603.
Women Over 500: Viv Nightingale 601, Denise Bilion 591, Eva Bosch 587, Marg McKeerie 545, Hannah Cleland 544, Gerda Bakker 533, Nancy Gordon 532, Ann Parkinson 525, Nelle Stokman 518, Betty Hamilton 509, Mary Nightingale 506.
Mustangs 7, Dave Cleland 209, 203 (572), Hannah Cleland 181, 180, (541), Four Corners 9, Jack Parkinson 226, 188 (570), Don McKeerie 209, 188 (560).

Optimists 4: Ted Jestin 280, 248 (504), Sam Nyholt 277, 204 (650), Pin Pals 3, Denise Bilion 182, 273 (591), Paul Holman 183, 221 (581), Carneys 5: John Carney 302, 141 (581), Bob Lilley 196, 225 (581), Unpredictables 2: Gerda Bakker 192, 183, (533), Eugene Ferguson 170, 174 (509), Raggedy Pans 7: Clarence Hillon 204, 218 (599), Grace Britney 194, 184 (499), Kays Feeds 0: Mary Lush 205, 151, (486), Elmer Allan 160, 165 (481), Countrymen 5: Ted Klaver 240, 205 (603), Jan Loof 194, 213 (590), Guelphites 2: Sam Lawler 203, 185 (570), Lloyd Marsden 208, 204 (574), Nortons 4: John Gordon 190, 228 (624), Viv Nightingale 197, 210 (641), Jr. Farmers 3: Glen Gray 195, 213 (595), Larry Pines 216, 157 (528).

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CAUGHT IN the act of snitching bird feed was this black squirrel.