



NOTHING MADDER than a wet hen—unless it's a wet rooster! These prize winning Silkies are shampooed and blow-dried by Erica and Patrick before a recent poultry show.

Ask council to assume maintenance

The future of Providence Cemetery now lies in the hands of the Erin Township Council.

The board of trustees for the burial grounds have decided to ask the council to assume the care and maintenance of the site as the specially formed committee has almost run out of funds and has no way of raising more.

The decision was made Monday evening after the trustees called a general meeting for all those interested in the future of the cemetery. Seven people showed up, five of whom were board members or trustees.

Mrs. Jesse McEnery, secretary-treasurer, suggested turning over any remaining funds to the council if they decide to assume the care of the site. She seemed optimistic the township would maintain the cemetery as, she said, they are taking care of several others in the township without any special requests.

Back to 1813

The cemetery, located on Ballinad Road and the Ninth Line corner of Erin Township, was part of a farm owned by Patrick McEnery who was originally from Ireland. Mr. McEnery gave one half of an acre of his land to be used as a cemetery.

A chapel was built on the site and it became known as Providence Cemetery and chapel. A fence was erected and an iron gate, still in existence, was purchased from Ballinad blacksmith Dan Reid at a cost of \$9.

The earliest date recorded on a tombstone is 1813, a Mrs. Lynden, and the last burial was that of Kate McKay in June of 1962.

Others buried there were from the Binnie, Sinclair, Near, McEnery, Anthony and McLean families.

A cemetery book was started in 1887 by Robert McEnery who was secretary-treasurer of the board of trustees at the time.

The book has the complete records of financial payments and receipts throughout several years and a hand-drawn map of the cemetery.

Monday evening, the trustees were interested in the wages paid out to men who would care for the cemetery and how the price went up with each entry.

This book has been under the care of Norma Sinclair, a present trustee, for 50 years. With the dissolution of the board he would like to see the ledger placed in the hands of the Women's Institute for their Tweedsmuir history.

With the last burial in 1962, the cemetery was completely neglected until 1967 when the present board of trustees, through memorial services and donations, raised enough money to fix the place up.

Gravesites had caved in, tombstones were knocked over and undergrowth was so thick cars could not be taken onto the grounds. After a lot of money and hard work the cemetery was restored to its present condition, which the trustees hope will be maintained.

Records

The board of trustees at the time.

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PROVIDENCE CHAPEL Burying Grounds board of trustees has run out of funds to care for and maintain the cemetery. At a meeting Monday night they voted to ask Erin township council to assume responsibilities of the site.

Pour liquid insulation

Workmen took advantage of the fact that the Presbyterian Church is closed for July to insulate the attic.

A team of men from Rockwood came on July 20 with special equipment to pour the

liquid insulation into the attic.

A huge hose wound its way from a machine in the truck, through the church doors, up the stairs, down the hall, into

the attic.

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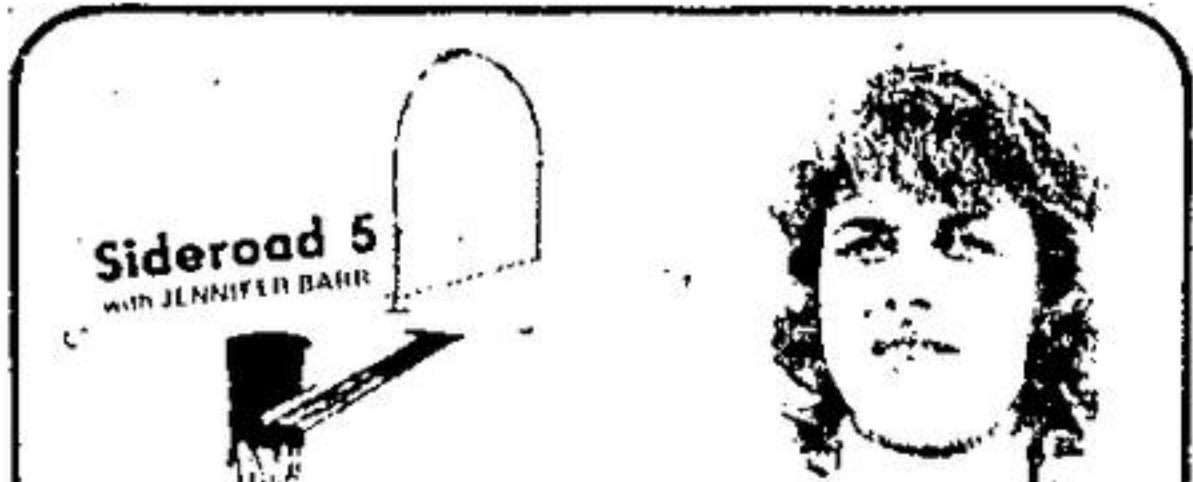
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Sideroad 5 with Jennifer Baird

You've never lived until you've bathed a chicken! Believe me, it's an enlightening experience. And the dear little creatures get more glamorous treatment than any woman in a beauty parlor.

Silkies in the barn

Several weeks ago, number one girl child was presented with a pair of Oriental Silkie fowl. These gorgeous birds are strictly for show and look like a cross between a poodle and a Persian cat.

They have an abundance of fluffy silky white feathers trailing down their legs and crowning their topknots. Their faces are bright blue and the male has a purple-blue rose comb on the top of his beak.

Nobody was as proud as Erica of these birds. She groomed them, cuddled them and had the darn things following her around like puppies.

Inevitably they had to be shown so they were entered in the Guelph Poultry Association Annual Show held at Eden Mills recently.

Somewhere I had read that chickens had to be washed before showing so we prepared ourselves for the bath. I have shown cattle and horses, and my parents used to show dogs, so I knew it was imperative to shampoo at the last minute to insure cleanliness. We shampooed the chickens on the morning of the show.

Chickens don't dry

Too late, I found out chickens DON'T DRY and have to be washed two to three days before a show. We were stuck with two dripping chickens, having been shampooed thoroughly in Revlon shampoo and rinsed with almond and honey hair rinse.

There they sat, huddled in watery misery in the bathroom, unable to move under the weight of their soaking feathers. Poor little fellows.

We bundled them in towels and fluffed them vigorously. Erica handled the hair dryer and blew their feathers about. Patrick put on the furnace and sat them over a heat duct, then he ran them around the bathroom trying to get them to shake themselves.

All in vain. An hour later they were wetter than ever and we were due to take them to the show in two more hours.

It was then the belated phone call was made to a local chicken fancier and we found out what we did wrong.

Erica was so disappointed, I hadn't the heart to tell her we couldn't take the birds. So, we spent the next two hours sitting on the bathroom floor with the hairdryer and a hairbrush fluffing and blowing, fluffing and blowing. Fortunately the birds were the epitome of model behaviour and hardly even had to use the toilet.

Eventually, they were sort of dry and we bundled them into our unprofessional cardboard box and took off for Eden Mills.

First prize

What a marvellous time we had. Poultry shows are such noisy, busy events and you meet the nicest people. Erica was treated like an adult and received a wealth of good advice and information.

The junior entries were light and she had the pleasure of seeing her birds win a first and second place— even if they were still a little damp around the gills.

Now she's hooked and Mack has orders to build professional pens for all the new show birds she's going to buy herself out of her egg money. What monster hath we wrought?

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