One-room school was hub of rural, community life

More money and bigger schools do not necessarily improve the quality of education, said Mrs. Donalda Switzer, who is retiring after 31 years of teaching. The old one room schoolhouse fulfilled a function and need in society that cannot be replaced. "The school was the centre of community life in many ways", she said.

Mrs. Switzer, the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Mc-Phail of Acton, started her career in a one-room schoolhouse in Nassagaweya, near Campbellville, And next Tuesday, June 28, after 18 years with Erin Public School, she'll dismiss her class for the last time.

Mrs. Switzer taught in Nassagaweya for two years, the Lorn School at Acton for two years, and spent six years at Acton Public School. After her sons, Craig and Keith were born, she served as supply teacher in various Erin Twp. schools including SSt4. She was also principal's supply for Lorn Brown, and in 1962 went back to regular classroom teaching at Erin Public School. To upgrade herself for the special education class she now

Sideroad 5

the sun comes out again.

in kindergarten.

their mouths.

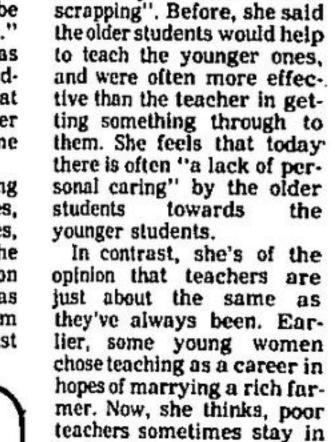
to eat it.

teaches, Mrs. Switzer took summer university courses. She has taught every grade, including high school.

For her first assignment, she taught 23 students, from grades 1-8, in a building heated by a wood stove in winter. Two of the older students were the school's

school from neighboring farms, often after morning chores. Mrs. Switzer said her students then considered education to be very important. They were "reliable and responsible" and few would risk not doing their homework. "They didn't dare be kept in after school," she said. "In the fall, they'd be

Parental discipline too was stronger. Very often a student who was punished at school would receive further punishment for the same



"However, most teachers teach for the love of teaching" she said.

it for the money. "They haven't got the gumption to

find anything else to do" she

didn't expect anything but

the child's best work or

she was "a tough teacher".

she said she has always beli-

eved in firmness and fair-

There is a great difference

in teaching today, Mrs. Swit-

zer noted. "Kids nowadays

will scrap for the sake of

behavior," she said.

While discussing the greater number of men now teaching, Mrs. Switzer said she thinks they are most effective in high school. Children up to grade 6 respond best to a "mother lmage", she said. Many of the younger children often call her 'mom'.

She hopes retirement will give her some time for her own interests. "I'm going to do a lot of the things I've always wanted to do," she said. She plans to take organ lessons, travel, garden. She is involved in WI work, and she and her husband, Howard, belong to a dance club. "I'm glad to be going back to my own little farm" she said. The 150 acre farm is located

"The village of Erin has been a good place to teach", she said. Parents here have always been "Co-operative and appreciative" towards her efforts.

on 22 Sideroad at the 4th

"But I'll miss the children...I hope the students will remember the worthwhile things I have tried to teach them, and maybe forget the times I blew my cool.'

-by Nina Aprile Erin Advocate

the two feet to the ground. Mama pops out first along with a couple of the braver chicks. The rest start cheeping and line Tape deck up on the take-off ramp. Two or three will balance on the edge testing their wings like beginner swimmers getting up nerve for the plunge. The others will start flapping their stolen

A Pioneer tapedeck with built in FM radio and two Jensen speakers were reported stolen to Halton Regional Police by a Gould Cres. resident.

Once on the barn floor they have a wonderful time seeking The articles were taken treasures, scratching little holes and scoffing bits of grit. One from the complainant's little rooster has an obsession for a small packing label that's vehicle which had been left on been floating around for a while. He picks it up and has a private property on the Little run with it every morning. Mama and Papa call them to townline south of 15 sideroad, order and off they go to explore the other end-as happy as after it had broken down, police report.

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Have suspect in shooting

only a bunch of chicks can be.

Halton Regional Police have a suspect in a June 16 shooting incident.

An Acton man reported to police that as he was leaving Acton Auto Body, he saw a woman pointing a rifle at him, from a car parked on Agnes St. One shot was fired in his direction.

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caretakers.

She stressed the importance of communication in the classroom. Often a problem student would improve his behavior, after being spoken to. Sometimes firmer methods would be called for. "I never punished a student The students walked to without their knowing the reason why", said Mrs. Switzer. And though she thought

walking home in the dark." offence from the parents.

The exigencies of teaching students of different ages, grades and capabilities, demanded firm control of the class and plenty of common sense. But discipline has never been a great problem for Mrs. Switzer. "I just

Baby chicks are the funniest little people I know. If you're

Presently we have several batches of banty and Silkie

chicks in various stages of development. The banties look

like regular everyday conventional farm chickens, very

bright and pretty. The Silkies look like something you made

Poodles that lay eggs

Adult Silkies are weird enough. They have blue faces,

assorted blue rosettes about the beak, fluffy white feathers

featuring some odd topknot arrangements and silky trousers.

The babies come out of their shell looking like the epitome of

the Hallmark Easter card chick but when they start to grow

their white feathers they do it in bits. First comes some

wings, then comes a head pom-pom followed by an identical

tail pom-pom, so you can't tell one end of the chick from

'tother. When they grow their long pants but still have their

fluffy down bottoms they begin to look really hilarious. Dr.

Little chicks seem to be born with all the right instincts.

When you feed pieces of bread to adult hens they'll get

terribly excited and run round in circles grabbing each

others' crumb. Nobody actually eats, they just run with it in

Baby chicks are just the same. Give them some crumbs

and off they race. They haven't got a clue what they're

doing-just galloping around in a tizzy with a mouth full

One hen produced only one chick and he did exactly the

same thing. When given bread he ran off like a loon doing his

chicks to chase him and swipe his bit. I don't think he ever got

forty laps round the pen even though there were no other

Feathered paratroopers

Some of the older chaps play out in the barn during the day

now. Their door is opened in the morning and they can flutter

wings and making little test runs up and down the pen hop-

ping and tripping. The younger chicks in the next pen run-

about fluttering their tiny feathers for takeoff, too-only they

Finally someone gets impatient and pushes Charlie off the

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ramp and they all pile out pulling their rig cords and soaring

haven't got the foggiest notion why they're doing it.

gracefully down only to pile up beak first on landing.

Some restaurant this is

Suess couldn't have created anything better.

because some instinct dictates they should.

ever feeling at odds with the world take time to watch a batch

of two week old chicks dart about their business. Suddenly



George McPhail, brother Kerwin McPhail and sister Peggy Harmer gathered last Wednesday evening at Mrs. Switzer's retirement party held in Erin public school. She taught for 35 years.

Community honors Mrs. Switzer

At the Erin Public School last Wednesday evening, the staff, assisted by the Home and School Association. tendered a testimonial buffet dinner for Mrs. Donalda Switzer, who is retiring from teaching after 31 years. Her husband and family were in-

cluded among the guests. Principal Bruce Macpherson paid tribute to Mrs. Switzer and in his brief address passed on some of the highlights of her class-room adventures. There was the time, for example, when fire at an Acton school

necessitated her moving to another classroom, only to have to make another move when that room was flooded.

There was the time, for example, when fire at the Robert Little school in Acton forced her to find another makeshift classroom at the "Y" building. Some time later, flood made it

necessary to relocate in the Scout hall. Principal of Robert Little school in those days was Pat McKenzie, after whom the McKenzie-Smith school is named in part. He is well known in

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Halton regional government. He was among the guests last Wednesday.

school clock and - of all

things - a guinea hen. It had

leaked out that guinea fowl

The community through the Home and School association presented Mrs. Switzer with a replica of an old

were something she hadalways wanted on the farm. There were several other personal gifts.

Representing the Home and School Association were president Anlta Cunningham and past president Erna Durksen.

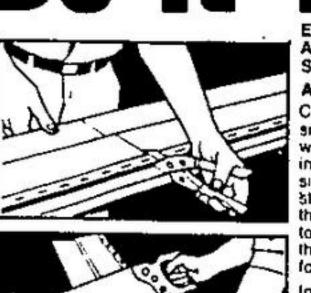


6:30 - The Bible's View 7:00 - The Rud Whiting Show "Season End Farewell Roast"

8:00 — The Questers

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merely line up the siding. mark the cutting point and saw. The use of any ordinary candle or a bar of soap on the blade will greatly reduce burning AND increase blade life.

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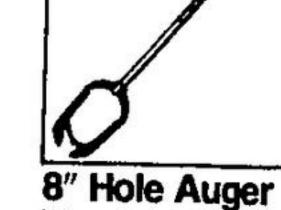
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