



THESE LEADERS have diligently worked in the Rockwood Guiding movement and are now resigning from their posts. They are left to right Kathy Holman, Tawny Owl First Rockwood Brownie Pack; Janet Cunningham, Brown Owl Second Rockwood Brownie Pack; Ena Petty, Captain First Rockwood Guide Company and June Jansen, Lieutenant First Rockwood Guide Company.

Plans for creative playground discussed at Home and School

by Barb Wynneck
Rockwood and Eramosa Home and School Association executive held a meeting recently and plans for the years activities are being mapped out.

A general meeting will be held on June 6 at 8 p.m. at Eramosa School. Main discussion will be centred on the creative playground which will be getting underway immediately.

Grade eight banquet plans have been finalized. Parents can expect a notice from Banquet Chairman, Linda Duncan in the next week. The executive has been set up as follows: president, Jim Goring; 1st vice president, Betty Hones; program convener Maureen McLeod; recording secretary, Jane Hosdill; corresponding secretary, Ev McKay; treasurer, Mark Hayward; publicity Linda Duncan, Chris Bertelson; entertain-

ment, Diana Wallace and Mary Rowan.

At the general meeting the number of a post office box for the Home and School will be announced. This will be a central location where questions and problems can be directed.



SARAH HAYWARD in the photo's foreground is Eden Mill's second-ever Canada Cord Guide. Standing behind her are Betty Petrie, Deputy District Commissioner; Karen Billings, Division Commissioner, and Ann Chesworth, First Eden Mills Company Captain.

New faces for September packs

by Barbara Wynneck
The Rockwood Guides, Brownies, Cubs and Scouts held a joint Parent, Daughters and Sons Banquet at Rockmosa Community

Centre on May 18. This was the first year that the organization had a combined dinner and the evening was most enjoyable. There will be changes in

Brownies and Guide leadership next September. Ena Petty and June Jansen have resigned their posts as Capt. and Lieutenant. Three years ago the Guide Company had a membership of three girls. There are over 25 guides in the group now. Ellen Thompson is the new captain. She will be assisted by Shirley Facey and Sue Meadows.

Ellen Thompson will resign as Brown Owl and Kathy Holman as Tawny Owl from the First Rockwood pack. Ellen has a special interest in

the ten Brownies who will fly up to Guides next week. She initiated their Brownie program three years ago and will follow through with them into guiding. Sandra Wiseman will be the new Brown Owl.

Janet Cunningham, Brown Owl with the Second Rockwood Pack is also resigning. She started this group two years ago, when there were too many girls for just one Pack and it is on solid ground. Marjorie Griffenham and Kathy Jestin will be the new leaders.

Wentworth idea sparks opponents

Provincial Treasurer Darcy McKeough asked for responses by the end of the month to proposals which would create a "City of Wentworth" out of Hamilton and five area municipalities. The treasurer will get reaction long before the deadline.

Citizens and politicians are banding together to oppose the bid to form a one-tier government that is proposed by the Hamilton-Wentworth Review Commission.

Dundas town council is holding a public meeting to discuss the issue Thursday.

Premier William Davis, both opposition party members and local MPPs are invited.

Leo Club is planned for youth of village

by Barb Wynneck

teenage group.

A Leo Club is underway in Rockwood. This is the Youth Branch of the Lions Club open to males and females 13 to 18 years of age. The purpose of this service organization is to raise money to be spent on community betterment, especially facilities for the

The Rockwood Club is the 11th Leo Group to be formed in Ontario. Dougail Campbell, MDA Youth Activity Chairman, introduced the 13 members to the history of Leo Clubs at a recent meeting at Rockwood Centennial School. The club executive are:

president, Laura Milbourne; vice President, Butch Given; secretary, Sandy Kingsbury; treasurer, Judy Finlay.

The group hopes to expand to include a larger number of the local youth. Interested teenagers call Sandy Kingsbury at 856-4232. The group is just organizing their program.

Rural Wellington's women study topic

"Rural Women of Wellington County—An Historical Perspective" will be the subject of a slide-tape presentation to be produced this summer under the sponsorship of G-OPIRG, Guelph Ontario Public Interest Research Group. Three University of Guelph students Donna Eves, Vanessa Hyland and Katie Hayhurst, have been hired to carry out the project which is being funded by the Department of Immigration and Employment under a Young Canada Works Program.

Donna Eves is a second year student in "Sociology and Human Geography" who comes from a dairy farm on an island in Frontenac County near Kingston. Miss Eves was District Junior Director for the National Farmers' Union (NFU), 1976-78.

Vanessa Hyland is a second year student in "Agricultural Economics and Rural Development". She has lived in rural areas of northern Saskatchewan, southern Ontario and south-western Quebec, and studied Human

Affairs at Concordia University in Montreal prior to her studies at Guelph.

Katie Hayhurst is undertaking studies in "Resources Management" at O.A.C. and is interested in the politics of agriculture. She was born and raised on a farm near Brantford and now lives with her husband on a farm in West Garafraxa near Arthur. Mrs. Hayhurst was a social worker in Toronto prior to returning to studies, and served four years as an alderman on Toronto's Borough of North York Council.

The early part of the fifteen week project will be spent researching the history of rural women of Wellington County including searching through written material at the Wellington County Museum Archives, the county's public libraries, from the Guelph and Wellington County Historical Societies, and interviewing local citizens to collect oral histories and old photos.

This material will be compiled into a slide-tape show and given to the Wellington County Museum and Library to be made available to rural women's groups such as the Women's Institute. The students intend that the slide show will present an historical perspective on the problems which rural women presently confront. They will be attempting to analyze how changes in agricultural production and the impact of urbanization have caused changes in the role of women, and how rural women feel about their present-day roles.

Murderer faces gallows

Account of early hanging in Milton's county jail

The recent announcement that the century-old county jail in Milton is to be closed this year, brings back memories of the public hangings which took place there in the 1800s.

It was a barbaric practice, but officials of the day felt it necessary to conduct public hangings, as a deterrent to crime.

A yellowed old newspaper clipping dated Nov. 30, 1858 tells in vivid detail of the execution of a Nelson man who was hung in the Milton jail for the crime of murder. He shall be known only as "Mr. X" to spare any embarrassment to his descendants.

Here is the story, as written 120 years ago:

Every means has been used to procure a reprieve for the unhappy man, Mr. X, of Nelson now in goal here. Petitions have been disregarded and soon the man's body will be dead, and his soul gone to answer for a horrible crime.

Mr. X's History—He was one of the first settlers here, having lived in the country for upwards of thirty years. He was at the taking of Detroit, in the American war, was also at the battles of Queenston Heights and Lundy's Lane. He was also out in the rebellion of 1837, on the side of law and order.

He is now 63 years of age and his few remaining hairs are gray. He is a man of good education; can read and write well. But for the last 35 years he has lived on whiskey.

Some 16 or 18 years ago he was shot by his brother Richard; Richard was sent to the penitentiary and died there, but before his death this man Thomas also became an inmate of that prison for shoot-

ing his daughter. He was there for five years but then he threw himself headlong into a fresh career of dissipation until on November 3, 1857, he committed the murder of which he is convicted.

He is said to have married, yes married, no less than seven women, and to have lived with five or six others. Some of these were decent women and he has children who are, it is said, an honor to the community. But the greater part of the females were of the worst character.

One of the two women he was living with at the time of the crime called herself his wife and the other was his niece. In a drunken quarrel he killed them both.

MILTON, 10 a.m. November 30, 1858.

Everyone in the county who could come seems to be here. Before daybreak this morning sleighs and wagons were coming into town. The women appear to outnumber the men. Yet there seems very little seriousness in the crowd; they laugh and jest and talk so merrily as if they were come to a wedding instead of a hanging. The character of the county for crime is, I am afraid, rather bad, but surely it cannot be the familiarity of all these people with crime that makes them so callous.

One could almost wish that executions, if they must take place, were conducted inside the limits of the goal enclosure, with the county officials and government officers alone as spectators.

The poor man who is to be the principal actor in the play is as unconcerned as ever. He ate yesterday as heartily as possible, he slept last night as soundly as could be.

At about 1 p.m. the clergy and magistrates of the county went to the goal and soon the prisoner dressed in his shroud and followed by the Negro executioner in a mask, went out of the enclosure. The man, as he passed the clerk of the crown said, "You never saw me in this garb before," and appeared quite unconcerned. The sheriff then asked him if he had anything to say. In a bold unflinching voice he then said:

"Ladies and Gentlemen: I do not deserve this fate at all. I consider myself a murdered man. I am a man that has seen a great deal in my time. I have been led into errors, it is true. I was never what you may call a habitual drinker. I have drunk, it is true; I have often been out of my mind through it; and if I had the misfortune to do that—I can tell but little of it.

"I am sorry that I have such a fate. I am worth of a better. I have been a loyal subject of the British crown and have fought many a hard battle.

"I have no more to say, gentlemen and ladies, so you only beware of bad company. I was led into grievous error by a man who was with me. I have no more to say, now, though I might speak an hour."

The Final Scene

The sheriff now said, "Twelve good men and true of this county have found this man guilty of murder. It is my duty to see the sentence carried into execution. And may this solemn spectacle have the desired effect of

detering others from crime." The executioner now put the noose around the culprit's neck. The Rev. Mr. Coleman and the Rev. Mr. Tremaine then prayed aloud. The prisoner asked if all was done and being told yes he said, "Christ receive my spirit."

The bolt was then drawn, and the fall of six feet or more, breaking the man's neck, he died without a struggle. The executioner slunk away and the crowd began to disperse. They conducted themselves in a most orderly way from the commencement of the actual tragedy. The man's relatives claimed his body.

There have only been three recorded hangings take place

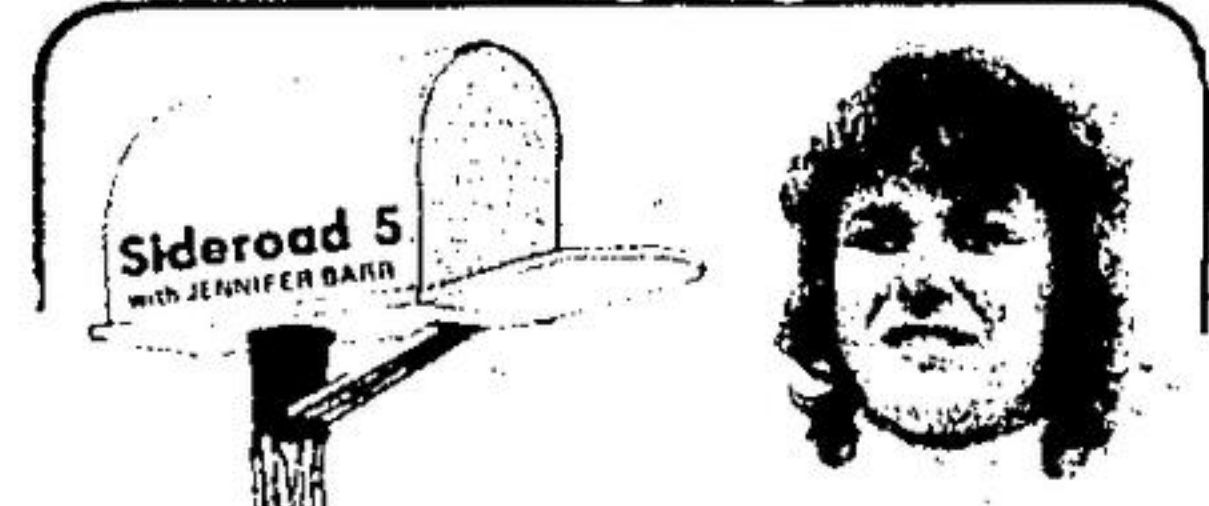
at the old jail yard. The last was in 1882 when a man was hung for murdering an old man from Burlington and his 37-year-old daughter. Some said the wrong man was hung.

According to The Champion, "Sheriff Clements had great difficulty in securing a hangman and was compelled to pay \$50 to the individual who officiated. The executioner said he came from Buffalo and stated he had never assisted at any previous execution, but the skill with which he pinioned the prisoner and adjusted the noose clearly showed he was no novice at the business. Three-quarter inch rope was

used and the drop was about eight feet."

The man who hanged for the double murder (above) was probably the first to hang in Milton jail yard. The second hanging was just four years later, when a man "suffered the last penalty of the law" (said The Champion) for the murder of his mother, committed while the youth was on a drunken spree.

This man was just a boy and he was tried during the term of the first sheriff, Levi Wilson. The sheriff did not think the boy had been given a square deal, and his terrible fate so preyed on his mind that the sheriff resigned.



This is a good time of year to plant a vegetable garden! Firstly, it just happens to be the growing season and secondly the price of store produce rapidly streaks out of sight right about now.

I don't think it has anything to do with supply and demand or the earliness of the southern seasons compared to ours. It's a plot designed to get every one out of the house and into the mud. A plot to sell seeds and fertilizer and rotor-tillers and weedkillers. A plot to keep us bent double and out of trouble.

Don't show me lettuce

Every year in May, I meet people who comment of the quality of their new peas and potatoes showing three inches above the ground. Or (horror of horrors!), people who are actually eating their first lettuce. All I'm growing is a super crop of twitch grass.

I know from fifteen years of vast experience puddling around in Mother Earth that anything I plant, no matter what time, won't show its head until mid-June. If it does, it gets frost-bitten, skied across, or washed down the drain.

Last year, we had a gorgeous hot early April that fooled everybody. The remainder of April was a blizzard while May dawned hot and dry. Terribly proud of myself, I had most of the garden in by mid-May, only to stand watering it every night until July when nature took over. The little beggars still didn't come up till late June, even though I said prayers, threw rose petals, invoked the spirits at midnight and generally startled my neighbours.

Fertilizer to the armpits

Mack is a farmer used to plowing twenty acres at a stretch. He can't think in terms of kitchen gardens so I always have a stretch of several hectares to deal with when planning my planting. The manure for my rose garden used to be delivered by the ton via his back-hoe and front end loader—all I needed was two bushel-baskets full.

To compensate, I plant everything two feet apart in rows that would accommodate a coffin widthways in between. This leaves an awful lot to hoe.

This year, I plan to shove all the seeds in a spot the size of a rug, fold black plastic between, and toss corn seed in the remainder of the plot. There's always some animal around here who loves corn. With any luck they'll break the fence in September and harvest it themselves.

Galloping round the garden

Why not get a rotor-tiller, you ask. We had a rotor-tiller—in fact, I think it's still here somewhere, probably in pieces in Mack's shop. The rotor-tiller was an old one with two speeds—stall and gallop. Once I got behind that thing with my hands glued in electric shock to the vibrating handles, I was good to plow the back forty. Mack would put it in gear and off I'd race careening around the lawn trying to look as if I was in control. I liked the hoe better, at least it would stop when I wanted it to.

Actually, now that I've had my little grouch, I'm quite looking forward to getting in the garden. Right now I'd need a boat but when it ever stops raining and we can go dancing round the earth sowing seeds, we'll really feel as though summer is here.

Ah, the feel of the warm earth between your toes. The warmth of the sun on your back. Repetition of one of mankind's earliest occupations—sowing seed. Pure joy. Sheer ecstasy.

If I keep this up I may actually psyche myself into some enthusiasm about this business of gardening.



THE ALL-Round Cord was recently presented to these four hard-working Eden Mills Guides. They are front to back Paula Hayward, Michelle Heard, Margarita Bell and Della Chesworth.

Busting out in Babies

Hey, it's

Spring

SPRING HAS arrived with a vengeance at the Barr farm north of Acton. Chloe, little lamb of four days, greets her very new sister Carol, in the picture above. Three week old fantail pigeons look quite adult (right) but two weeks before they were ugly creatures (below right). Their growth is so phenomenal, they are totally mature at five weeks. The baby Silkie chick, a Japanese show breed, resembles an Easter card chick (below left) and ring-necked doves peer down from their nest (centre).