



CATHY HAWKINS is set to head for home plate! Her ten and under team met Brookville this week and has only one game left in their schedule. Most Eramosa teams will soon be into the play-offs.

Rockwood wins Peewee tourney

With Phillip Brace and Mike McNabb on the mound, Rockwood Ball Park was the scene of the first of the 1978 Peewee ORSA rounds against Norwood, 30 kilometers east of Peterboro, last Saturday. Norwood went ahead 15-7 after a seven run fifth inning and Rockwood playing catch-up ball having the advantage of the last bat, took the game 17-15.

Good solid hitting by Todd Wiseman, two home runs, Mike McNabb, Randy Coverdale, David McKnight, Mike Chapman and Mark

Lumbers-Heal tennis tops

Hot humid weather did not deter the tennis enthusiasts who played in Saturday's combined junior and senior tournament at the Rockwood courts. In the finals, Gary Lumbers and Shirley Heal were victorious over Debbie Lumbers and Charlie Barnes.

The next adult tournament gets underway at 9:30 a.m. August 26. The Rockwood Centennial Junior Doubles Mixed Trophy will be awarded to tournament winners on Sept. 23.

Now is the time for junior members to be out improving their skills.

The Pioneer Day Dance added \$460 profit to the court lights fund.

Fish dying in pond - cause being investigated

by Barb Wynneck
Wellington County Health authorities have been inspecting the septic systems along Alma Street during recent days.

Ed Thatcher of Alma St. reported the formation of scum and the death of fish in his pond, to the Rockwood trustees. The source of this contamination is being in-

vestigated by the health team.
Len Hockey, village secretary, reported to the trustees Audrey Bilton and Tony Reid that blasting has been neces-

arily along Division St. for the new hydro poles. New service is being installed for future housing. Hydro lines within the village will soon be surveyed to see where repairs

are necessary.
The trustees are still awaiting news from the Ministry of Transportation and Communication regarding the changing

posting of speed limit signs within the village.
Mr. Hockey reported that there have been few applications for Ontario Home Renewal Plan grants. Financial assistance is available for people on limited incomes to repair their houses. Incomes of \$10,000 and below can apply for grants ranging from \$800 to \$4000. Much of the loan is forgivable and interest rates are low. Persons seeking further information should contact Mr. Hockey at the village office.

Mrs. Meadows' zone change application for the Catherine St. area, running from Division to Station Streets, is now underway with the Ontario Municipal Board. Last date for objections to the area changing from Zone 5 (industrial) to Zone 2 (residential), is August 4.

Eramosa township has appointed a new dog control officer. She is Mrs. Mary Keane, R.R. 1, Rockwood. She can be reached at 856-9719.

Council was surprised at the news that the toboggan hill would be affected by the subdivision and agreed that if the developer eventually got permission to build the houses, the hill would have to be preserved.

The land is currently zoned agricultural, but the developer has been trying for several years to get the area rezoned residential.

"People buy a piece of property, next to a built up area," said councillor John McLeod, "but that doesn't mean he can build homes."

The land is situated at the west end of Carroll St.

Free Press

ROCKWOOD & DISTRICT

Page 10

The Acton Free Press, Acton, Ontario

Wednesday July 26, 1978

Creative playground is being built at school

by Barb Wynneck
Eramosa residents are busy this summer developing recreational areas within the township. Home and School volunteers are working hard

to get the Creative Playground at Eramosa School completed before the children return to their books in September.

The Lionsettes have finished the first stage of their work on the tots' playground next to the tennis courts. The four

foot high chain-link fence has now been erected.
Cox Construction trucks continue to dump fill at the playing field sights in Rockwood Park.

The tennis club executive plans to open tenders for the court lights in the near future.

Fire steals show

by Barb Wynneck
Floyd Meadows added excitement to Sunday's baseball game when the Rockwood Firemen challenged the Guelph O.P.P.

Floyd was up to bat, hit a foul ball, ran right down the third baseline, hopped the fence and raced out of the park, headed straight for the fire hall. He was the first to respond to the fire whistle!

The bewildered O.P.P. team saw their opposition clear the park within seconds. Fortunately only a few men were required to fight a grass fire and the team returned to finish the game.

The baseball games were held to benefit the March of Dimes. The O.P.P. defeated the tired firemen. The Rockwood Seniors were victorious over the Guelph Holiday Players.

Organizer Julie Brace reports that the day was most successful.

Increase amount of pit extraction

Alfred Lauzon of Northern Paving will be allowed to extract 100,000 tons of gravel from his gravel pit this year.

Mr. Lauzon had applied for an increase from 25,533 tons taken in 1977. Eramosa township council approved an increase to 50,000 tons for 1978. After the motion had already been passed, Mr. Lauzon realized the figure was wrong, as he had asked for a license for 200,000 tons.

He explained to council that if he had only a 50,000 ton extraction permit, he would actually be selling less than the year before. He pointed out he is selling some 27,000 tons to the township for road work. That leaves only 23,000 for commercial selling. "We have cut our own throats," Mr. Lauzon stated. He would not have enough to sell to his other Eramosa and out-of-township customers.

Council changed their decision to allow the 50,000 tons and increased the amount to 100,000 half of the requested amount, but enough to apparently satisfy both sides.

that they did not feel it was right for him to sell his gravel out of the township now, when in future years, the township will not have any left. Mr. Lauzon accused council of making them into land speculators. He explained if they wait until future years to extract their gravel, prices will be higher now because of the small amount available, and in the future, to pay for the land. "That is why the price of land is so high," he claimed. "Because land-owners have to wait so long to build." He said he hopes to have the land completely restored in 20 years with a house on it. He does not want to wait for a higher price, he said.



JOHN SALMON took up his duties in July as Eramosa and Erin townships' building inspector. He replaces Glen Creba, who has retired.

John Salmon new inspector

John Salmon was hired in July, as the building inspector for Eramosa and Erin townships. He replaces the retired Glen Creba.

Mr. Salmon is new to this particular line of work, having recently sold his local T.V. sales and service business. He worked for many years in his father's construction firm within the township and lives at Stratton's Corners.

Mr. Salmon says that he finds his new job interesting

and that he hopes to keep the standards high. He will follow the Ontario Building Code when inspecting new structures. He is also the townships' by-law enforcement officer. Mr. Salmon says that he plans to investigate before building permits are issued and make sure that they comply with the townships' by-laws.

With the high growth rate expected in Rockwood, he will be very busy in his new position.



Haying season is over for another year. Most of the hay is smuggled in barns and the aches of farm hands are a dim memory.

Hay hauling is a pretty common practice in the country now. The sight of pick up trucks groaning under a kids-castle of bales travelling carefully along side roads becomes commonplace. Most other drivers pass these loaded vehicles carefully and with courtesy but there's always one or two idiots.

It's to those people this column is dedicated.

Maniac in a hurry
We were progressing slowly and carefully along a narrow pot-hole sideroad with a load of hay recently. I was driving between 25 and 30 miles an hour. The truck is a good sturdy one. The load was well-packed and crocheted together with yards of rope crisscrossed over it. Thank goodness it was.

As we were travelling, the most startling sound—a sort of loud woosh followed by a shuddering of the load—occurred out of my left window. I struggled to keep the truck out of the ditch while yelling the load was coming off. With crashing heart, I realized our fright had been caused by a car shooting past us at a terrifying speed and disappearing in a cloud of dust. Fortunately, our load was much too well-tied to fall, but the truck windshield was shattered by flying gravel. We managed a quick glimpse of a couple of young men in the yellow car but the licence number was obliterated by dust. Anyway, they were several miles ahead by the time I could think straight.

I think I said, "Damn it!" a few times.

City driver impatient
Try another mental picture on for size. A pickup truck travelling cautiously along the 401 keeping to the right lane at 45 miles an hour.

"Oh, he's just an old farmer—a Sunday driver," you say. "He shouldn't be allowed on the highway if he can't drive it properly."

That picture is really out of place and doesn't happen very often. The farmer is usually an excellent driver, used to handling everything from enormous tractors and equipment to full loads. He's the best driver of the bunch on the 401.

But the city driver of urban transplant is impatient no matter where he meets the farmer and his truck—whether he's on highway or sideroad. "They shouldn't be allowed on the road with those wide slow loads," he says, forgetting the source of his food.

Always selfish drivers
There are laws and regulations governing the size, width, and safety of slow moving loads on roads. Some major highways are forbidden to the slow vehicle.

Farmers moving equipment are very conscious of how annoying they are to faster cars. I've never met someone driving a tractor and equipment up the road who did not move right over to the shoulder and wave me past with a smile.

Most drivers don't begrudge the few extra seconds it takes to slow down and pass with safety. But there's always the idiots. The ones who streak past in selfishness, swearing at the audacity of the farmer taking half the road, unaware of the havoc they leave behind.



Gordie Tapp

Gordie Tapp is a gentleman, horseman and much loved North American entertainer—but most of all, he's a gentleman.

Even though he's been a national institution for more than 20 years and is now a major star below the border, Gordie Tapp is as comfortable and easy to talk to as Cousin Clem, the character he immortalized on Country Hoedown for CBC back in the 1950s.

But unlike Cousin Clem, who is a somewhat raw-humored hick, the Milton resident comes through as a soft-spoken, cultured man-of-the-world with a definite affinity for the land.

After years on the CBC with Country Hoedown, host of P.M. Party, and radio country jamboree type programs, Gordie has spent the last 10 years as one of the major comedians on Hee Haw, a country style version of "Laugh In" (only longer running), with a viewing audience numbering 40 to 43 million each week.

"Do you know, we have the largest male audience between 18 and 48 except for network sports—it's the women that do it—we know that," Tapp is referring to the voluptuous, scantily attired feminine straight "men" on the show.

For years, Gordie was known as Canada's Ambassador of Entertainment as he travelled the globe visiting Canadian Armed

Meet Gordie Tapp: gentleman, horseman, entertainer

By Jennifer Barr

Forces bases as far flung as Tanzania and the Arctic. He also entertains U.S. servicemen.

"I've been everywhere there is a Canadian Armed Forces base."

He has been the commercial voice for nine companies and is proud to call himself the corporate voice of International Harvester.

Travelling to the States twice a year to tape Hee Haw, attending many functions as entertainer and master of ceremonies, plus public appearances, not to mention all those commercials and service shows keep Gordie Tapp on the run.

Although the Tapps enjoy their 10 acre country home with horses, dogs, cats and birds just south of Milton, they find it necessary to reside part of the year in Sarasota to be near Gordie's work.

The Tapps, Helen, Gordie and their four now-grown children have lived in the Burlington-Milton area since 1951. Before that, Gordie came from London, Ontario.

A family man, Gordie's car licence plate bears the inscription "Happiness is being a grandparent." The Tapps are grandparents five times over, with a sixth on the way. The Tapp girls Joan, Kathleen and Barbara are away from home but son Jeffrey is still in evidence. He is a radio operator for CHML, Hamilton, where his father worked in 1951.

Daughter Kathleen (now Kato Mock of Milton) is opening Milton's first singing school this fall and still has a few openings for enthusiastic pupils.

Also well-known as a quarter horse breeder, Gordie used to have upwards of 22 horses on his Appleby Line farm. In 1972, the

Quarterama Grand Champion was Tapp owned.

Since the purchase of the smaller property next to Indian Wells Golf Course, owned by Vic Hadfield, a New York Rangers hockey player, Gordie has reduced his number of horses. The elegant stable behind the low white bungalow houses four

horses—two belonging to Hadfield and a quarter mare and colt, Gordie's pride and joy.

Two sizeable garages hold the family vehicles and Gordie's other babies—a magnificent white and chrome Harley Davidson motorcycle and a 1967 Mercedes 25SL.

Gordie pats his bike affectionately, commenting his friends call him the "White Knight" when he roams the roads in his white riding suit. In fall and spring, he wears a burgundy leather suit. Helen Tapp is just as enthusiastic about the bike as her husband and enjoys Sunday drives through lovely out-of-the-way

places in Halton and Wellington areas.

A couple of Great Danes and a poodle share the house with Ralph, a mynah bird, who claims in full throat that he's a "Hee Haw man."

One of Canada's finest talents, Gordie has studied the art of humor most of his life. He particularly enjoys dialects, their reproduction and introduction in his stories. A conversation with Gordie Tapp is liberally sprinkled with punchy stories and comments quietly told in the original dialect. He slips in and out of different accents so often, it's sometimes hard to pin down the famous Tapp voice that comes with the body. He also delights in picking up tell-tale accents from someone else's speech and zeroing in on their background. He's not often wrong.

English humor is Tapp's favorite, although he appreciates all humor.

"What's funny in one language is funny in another."

Gordie's material comes from a brain that stores all it comes in contact with.

"I read a lot. I steal a lot—only we don't call it stealing, we call it research," he grins.

He never uses material verbatim but is influenced by all of life's humor. One of his joys is watching the English program "The Two Ronnies" on television. He tapes all the shows and roars with laughter at them whenever the mood hits him.

"The writing is superb". After having his own show for nearly 10 years in Canada, the transition to U.S. television was dramatic.

In Canada he was a star yet in the States, at the start he was "nobody".

Gordie was with the CBC for 15 years but "got dif-

ficult", he says.

"They caught me praying and my boss got mad I was going over his head."

He would have stayed in Canada but "Canada doesn't want me," declares Tapp. He says it's not a question of talent, he feels Canada doesn't use what talent is available. Canadian entertainers have to go where they are appreciated.

And Tapp is certainly appreciated in the States. Hee Haw is an annuity to Gordie, with residuals paying into "infinity" and opportunities for public appearances all over the country. Not only has Hee Haw been a financial boon to Tapp, but he has met some of his dearest friends as a direct result of the program.

"They're so close and warm and helpful—it's so different working there."

There's no Hee Haw for Gordie at the moment, although he goes into rehearsal soon for a two hour television special at the Grand Ol' Opry House in Nashville to celebrate Hee Haw's 10th anniversary.

Right now, Gordie's playing with his horses, shooting a little golf and preparing for the big "Day in the Park" show at Kilbride, Saturday, August 12. Sponsored by the Optimist Club of Upper Burlington, this day will feature all kinds of fun family events for a summer festival and night show starring—Gordie Tapp.

With Gordie will be Maurice Bolyer, Robin Yancey, Bobbie Wingrove and the Nashville Sound and, of course, Cousin Clem.

A great entertainer and truly a gentleman—Gordie Tapp, Canadian national institution and mynah bird trainer.



ANOTHER OF GORDIE TAPP'S babies is this 1967 Mercedes 25 SL whose value keeps increasing "like a diamond" according to the entertainer, one of Canada's best loved comedians. Mr. Tapp will be appearing at Day in the Park Saturday, Aug. 12 at Kilbride.