

PROFILES

with JENNIFER BARR



Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwadodwan-till-gochogoch—this is the name of a little town in North Wales which is unpronounceable to many Welshmen as well as the rest of the world.

Roger White of Acton, a Taffy to his toes, has trouble with it but his 16-year-old daughter Susan can even spell it.

The White family have been living north of Acton since their arrival in Canada nearly six years ago, but Wales is still a very large part of their heritage.

Val, Roger's English born wife, spent her late teen years and early married life in south Wales. Both children, Susan, and fourteen year old Gary, are Welshborn.

"We're very proud of it" Roger states commenting on his heritage. When asked why the Welsh don't celebrate saints days and national holidays as noisily as other ethnic groups away from home, Val explains the Welsh are always so proud of their backgrounds and country they don't feel the need to shout about it.

They're a gutsy people the Welsh (my quote not the Whites') and any that I've ever known have always been full of fire and enthusiasm. Roger White and family are no exception.

The Welsh play sports, sing, work and fight with their whole being. Val says they've had to be that way to survive in their rugged mountainous country.

Beach child's playground

Roger and his children were born in Barry, the southern most coastal town in south Wales, a place where daytrippers would come for a day on the sands and enjoying the island amusement park featured there.

As a child Roger remembers spending all his free time on the beach with other youngsters, swimming, crabbing, fishing, collecting driftwood for the fireplace. There were no organized sports, no arenas—nothing to do but make his own amusement around the coast as all children did.

Barry Docks was the biggest coal loading port in the world, according to Roger. Because it had the second highest tide in the world, the large ships from other countries had no trouble getting in and out. Railways from the surrounding coal mining communities transport their coal.

Barry is now predominantly a holiday resort for day trips.

As a teenager Roger remembers seeing 'dogfights' with German ships during the war off the coast of his home town.

Schooling was very "austere", says Roger with little chance for sports or light education of any sort. However, rugby was compulsory for all Welsh boys and singing played an enormous part in their lives. Everyone sang and belonged to various choirs—"singing is like a religion," says Roger.

The Welsh combine their two national pastimes at Rugby games when the entire spectator audience stands and sings the national anthems, harmonizing as only the Welsh can.

"It still brings tears to my eyes," says Val.

The Eisteddfod, a Welsh festival of the arts, is held every year, featuring choral groups, poetry readings, and drama. In early days the Eisteddfod was held in different towns with a ring of huge stones left on the grounds after it was over—remnants of early Druid days. Now a large Eisteddfod hall has been built attracting contestants from all over the British Isles.

Welsh Pride

Roger remarks on the pride of Wales, the many people they have produced who have bested their field, poets, actors, singers, rugby players and boxers.

"Some of the best boxers are Welsh," Roger explains. "There's nothing else to do (in Wales) but fight," he chuckles. He remembers fondly the time his children were introduced to Jimmy Wild, world boxing champion, who just happened to be Welsh.

Roger also claims that the first explorer to set foot on Canada was Welsh but we had a few discussions on that!

"Canada's Welsh, as far as I'm concerned," shrugs Roger.

Val comments the first Britons were Welsh coming over the mountains, a fact she, as a Kentish Maid, has some difficulty swallowing.

As a teenager, just entering the working world, Val emigrated to Wales to find quite a different world from the life she led in Kent, England.

In those days (not so long ago) women didn't go to Welsh pubs alone. They stayed home and looked after the house.

Women were sex playthings until marriage when they became servants, she felt. The men considered a working wife a real stigma. They had their pubs and clubs but the women had no social life.

Times have changed in Welsh cities now with sexual equality freeing more women. But life in the isolated coastal town has changed little.

Welsh life has operated around either the mines or agriculture for many generations.

Sheep, cattle, sturdy Welsh ponies and cobs have long been a major product of the "desolate" mountainous farms. And coal has been a product of the underground since the civilized world became industrialized.

Many towns grow around the mine shaft, with houses being built at the top of the shaft and the pit forming the central part of town.

Not all mines produce coal. Gold also comes from the Welsh mountains and every British Queen has worn a ring of Welsh gold, says Roger.

Most Welsh are 'chapel', a mixture of Presbyterian and Baptist religions, a "blood and thunder" religion full of fire and brimstone preaching, according to Roger. Similar churches evolved in the northern English mining towns of Newcastle and area.

Although, Roger benefited from fairly mild weather in his Barry life—Barry is on the gulf-stream and is called the Riviera of Wales—most of the country suffers from rain, fog and drizzle a goodly portion of the time.

Nationalism growing

Welsh are extremely nationalistic—"You say Wales you say pride," Roger states—with pride.

The Welsh Nationalist Army has been stirring up anti British feeling, for the past few years. Most Welsh don't care for the monarchy and British rule. However, a recent separation vote was turned down by the country.

Anti-British feeling runs strong in the south where the Bristol bridge, built over the Bristol Channel in the '60s, has opened up the tourist industry.

Until the bridge, southern Wales was difficult to approach. Travellers would have to go north around the channel, many miles out of their way. The northern part of Wales was also protected by the mountainous Pennine range. Now things are different with English buying up holiday land in South Wales, inflating prices, and "spilling things" comments ex-Britisher Val.

For this reason, the Whites are very glad to live in Canada and enjoy the tremendous opportunities this country offers for their children.

However, Wales is a very large part of their heritage and will always be the centre of Roger White's core.



Acton's Co-op Nursery opened its doors on Monday with supervisor Gillian Burns looking after things.

Here, Gillian helps Heather Bailey and Paul Ferguson with their projects.

Council okays asphalt tenders

The recommendation of Town Engineer Bob Austin for council to accept the lowest of six tenders for asphalt resurfacing on the First Line road, was adopted, even though it was \$7,628 over budget.

Graham Bros. Construction Limited of Brampton was awarded the tender at a low bid of \$44,628.35 subject to subsidy approval received from the Ministry of Transportation and Communications.

The budget amount of \$37,000 was based on an estimated two-inch depth of asphalt to be placed. The asphalt requirement was later changed to a three-inch depth on the

85 enrolled for university courses

Approximately 85 persons are taking courses being given in Acton and Georgetown this fall by the University of Waterloo.

The figure includes 35 taking Prof. Neil Hultin's folklore (English) course in Georgetown, and 50 taking Miles Genest's introductory psychology course in Acton. Approximately half of those attending are enrolled for degree credit; the others are attending as series of free public lectures.

Stephen A. Jones of UW's external affairs office says attendance at the Halton Hills lectures is "more than meeting our expectations." This is the first time UW has offered courses in Halton Hills. Jones says an attendance of 50 persons is looked upon as exceptionally high.

Dr. Ken Ledbetter, associate dean of arts (special programs) at UW, says the number of persons attending off-campus courses this year totals 775, representing a 34 per cent increase over the 1978 figure. A substantial portion of this increase is attributed to the new course in Halton Hills.

New council seeks help

The Halton Regional Social Planning Council wants to increase its scope with the appointment of a regional council member.

Rob McKenzie, interim chairman of the social planning council, said he would like a councillor who is now serving on the health and social services committee.

Officer charged with assault

A Halton Regional police officer has been charged with assault following a complaint lodged by an Acton resident last week.

Police officer Ayodhya Prasad was charged in connection with an incident September 25. A police spokesman would not elaborate on the incident.

Rural service plan complete

A draft plan for water and sewer services in Halton's rural areas has been completed and is under review by the Ministry of the Environment.

The Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation set aside \$204,563 in 1977 to underwrite 50 per cent of the cost of preparing an overall Regional Sewerage and Water Plan.

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CHECK THE SUPER VALUES IN OUR FALL FLYER IN THIS WEEK'S PAPER!

Treasury student sought

The region will hire an accounting student to help prepare its 1980 budget.

The student will be paid a total of \$2,200.

Regional treasurer Don Farmer reported to last Wednesday's administration and finance committee his assistant had done all the work on the 1979 operating budget.

Syrup Fest breaks even

Credit Valley Conservation Authority has not been losing money on their Orangeville maple syrup program, said Joan Rollings, Information Officer, they have been breaking even.

She said a story in this newspaper last week was misleading, and explained they only try to cover their costs. She said the \$13,336 mentioned last week to cover costs of buying maple syrup, is in this year's budget. She said they do buy maple syrup, but then sell it a slight profit.

The Information Officer said the Authority decided not to expand the program.

Door kicked in as man arrested

A Halton Regional police cruiser was damaged after an Acton man kicked the inside door panel while being transported from Acton to the cells in Georgetown.

Damage to the cruiser is estimated at \$118 for the inside rear door panel.

A wallet was reported stolen from the front porch of a Willow Street residence last Friday. Police say they have a suspect and are investigating the incident.

Clearance of all CANVAS SNEAKERS for Children
Regular \$7.98 to \$13.98
\$3.98 to \$9.98
BUSTER BROWN/SAVAGE/CLARK'S STAR WARS
Sweetman's



Grade 'A' Frozen 6-10 lb. Average
Turkeys \$1.09

OTHER SIZES AVAILABLE AT COMPETITIVE PRICES!

Grade 'A' Fresh Killed
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Swift's Fully Cooked Partly Skinned • SHANK END 1.49 lb.
SHORT SHANK • BUTT END 1.59 lb.
Hams • HAM STEAKS 1.99 lb.

Maple Leaf 2-3 lb. Average Dinner Hams 2.29 lb.
Schneider's 16 oz. Pkg. 4 Varieties Bologna 1.59
Schneider's 16 oz. Pkg. Wieners 1.49
Schneider's 16 oz. Pkg. Side Bacon 1.59
Maple Leaf 1/2 Cut Cryovac S.P. Cottage Rolls 1.49 lb.

BAKERY	
Christies salted or plain Premium Plus Crackers 450 g.	.89
Christies Escort Crackers 350 g.	.89
Christies stack pack Ritz Crackers 350 g.	1.19
Christies Arrowroot Biscuits 350 g.	1.13
Weston sliced Sandwich Bread 24 oz.	reg. 69 3/1.59
Granny Butter Tarts 12's	1.09
Weston Brown 'n Serve Rolls Pkg. of 12	2/1.99
Weston Cinnamon Buns Pkg. of 8	.79

Robin Hood flaky Pie Crust 19 oz.	.89
Post Alpha Bits 275 g. Sugar Crisp 250 g.	.85
Club House stuffed manzanilla Olives 341 ml.	1.39
Orange flavour Tang Crystals 4 env. poly pack	1.19
Garlic, plain or Popsicle Ogorkle Bick's Dills 48 fl. oz.	1.49
8 varieties Robin Hood Pudding Cake 247 g.	.58
5 var., 614 g. or 680 g. Quench Flavour Crystals	1.79
Facelle-Royale Pkg. of 80 3 Ply Sheets Facial Tissue	2/1.79
Maple Leaf Hams 1 1/2 lb. Tin	3.79

Libby deep brown Beans with Pork 28 fl. oz.	.79
Libby, in tomato sauce Spaghetti 14 fl. oz.	.47
Libby Sauerkraut 32 oz. glass	.79
Libby pure unsweetened Grapefruit Juice 48 fl. oz.	1.15
Blue Ribbon ground Black Pepper 4 oz. cylinder	1.79
Blue Ribbon ground Black Pepper 8 oz. cylinder	3.19
Ocean Spray Cranberry Cocktail 40 fl. oz.	1.29
Ocean Spray Cranapple Drink 40 fl. oz.	1.29
Maple Leaf Mincemeat 28 oz.	1.88
York Deluxe Ice Cream 2 lit. pkg.	1.99

Thanksgiving
MONDAY, OCTOBER 8th
Date of sale Oct. 3, 4, 5, 6/79 We reserve the right to limit quantities

Libby fancy Pumpkin 28 oz. .59	Ocean Spray Jellied or whole berry Cranberry Sauce 14 oz. .58	Coca Cola 750 ml. 3/1.00 Plus deposit
Stokely Fancy Vegetables 14 fl. oz. cut green beans 14 fl. oz. cut wax beans 14 fl. oz. cream style corn 12 fl. oz. kernel corn 14 fl. oz. peas .39	Black Diamond single Slices Can. process Cheese 16 oz. 1.79	Red Rose Tea Bags 60's 1.89
PRODUCE		
U.S. No. 1 Seedless Grapes lb. 79¢	Ontario Fancy 3 lb. Bag McIntosh Apples 99¢	Ontario No. 1 2 lb. Bag Carrots 3/99¢
Ontario No. 1 Waxed Rutabagas 3/99¢	FROZEN	
Kent Orange Juice 12.5 oz. .58	Mrs. Smith's Pumpkin Pie-24 oz. 1.38	Bird's Eye Cool Whip 500 g. .68
	Green Giant Niblets Kernel Corn 2 lb. 1.19	
	Tenderflake Lard 1 lb. .79	Detergent Ivory Liquid 32 fl. oz. 1.59
	Dishwasher detergent Cascade 50 oz. 2.59	30 Dayline or 24 extra Absorbent Daytime Pampers Diapers 2.98
	Crest reg. or mint, pre priced 1.59	Toothpaste 150 ml. 1.59
	Schick super stainless injector Razor Blades 7's 1.49	4 varieties Soft & Dry Deodorant 150 ml. 1.79
	Right Guard Deodorant 200 ml. 1.79	4 colours Cottonelle Toilet Tissue 4 roll pkg. 1.29
	Assorted Scott Paper Towels 2 roll pkg. 1.15	