

Ballinafad stories spun for history group's meeting

Nearly 60 Ballinafad and area people turned out to share memories and stories during the Esqueusing Historical Society's meeting in the village hall Monday evening.

"There's been as much change in this half acre as anywhere," Fred Shortill offered at the meeting's start. There followed stories about getting to school in winter and what was done there: summer field threshing; the Whiteside Murder, early sporting and many other tales.

Area teachers, at the Peacock and Blue Mountain schools, used to board with local residents. The group learned it was not until the early war years that a teacher could expect to be salaried \$1,000 a year. The Peacock school served Erin Township; Blue Mountain school served Halton.

School children had at most four miles to walk to school.

For some time Mrs. Robin, a relative of the Whitesides, has been researching the details of the murder: which took place at Ballinafad. "They're all buried right there," (pointing to the cemetery), she said to the hushed audience.

Mrs. Robin's information delved back into Ballinafad's history, beyond the recall of memory, to when British soldiers who battled Washington and Napoleon were paid off with land by a grateful government.

Robert Whiteside was for 35 years a cattle drover in the Ballinafad area. He also owned some 400 acres. In the 1850s such timbered land would cost about 50-cents per acre.

The motive for the murder was probably money, said Mrs. Robin, whoever did it, never got the money.

In Fred Shortill's time the Ballinafad hotel was

no more than a foundation. It burned down years ago. John Cole, though, remembered the building as a two-storey structure. Horses were housed in below and the dances were held above. One morning his father, and of course there were no telephones then, went for a walk. They lived not far from the hotel. The dad was puzzled for a while by the sight of a lone chimney. "That's the first we knew of the fire."

Mr. Cole spoke off the top of his head for some minutes. "I got a lot in my head; now if my lips don't fail me." Baseball and hockey figured in a couple of the Cole's stories.

He recalled a softball league, which went for four or five years. Ballinafad usually beat the other teams, but generally it was nip-and-tuck when Terra Cotta was on the diamond. Other teams were the

Mountaineers, Stewarttown, Limehouse and Bannockburn.

Ballinafad hockey fans used to travel to Acton to see the Tanners host the Georgetown squad, Mr. Cole recalled. The hollow underneath the wooden bridge to the crescent was flooded, and spectators used to watch from the sides.

Threshing figured in much of the farm life and Clarence "Bud" Snow detailed a couple of mishaps and near fires resulting from steam threshing.

Speyside

by Lisa Sansom

Mrs. Preston's class is doing a Hallowe'en song in this assembly. Mrs. Preston's and Mrs. Park's grade three's have been swimming in Acton.

Mrs. Pearce's class is really getting into fall. They have been doing leaf rubbings and in the assembly her class is doing oral reading.

Mrs. Warwick is filling in for Mrs. Murphy our secretary.

This year Speyside School has a nursery class.

The reason for this is that parents in the area

have been needing one so the Acton YMCA rented a room at our school. The average number of pupils in the class is 10 to 15. The project is done voluntarily.

Our librarian, Mrs. Doberthein has been a librarian for six years, four at Robert Little and two at Speyside and Robert Little combined. Before Mrs. Doberthein was a librarian she taught grades 6-7-8 geography.

Mr. Coe's class has just started a Hallowe'en unit and are writing poems and studying animal habitat.

by Janet Rowe

The annual King and Queen of the courts of Acton High will be chosen on Friday of this week. This after school intramural sports event involves a number of basketball drills which have to be completed in order for six boys and six girls to qualify for the finals. So come on out and try for the crown.

On October 19, representatives from "Chum" radio station will visit Acton High to show the film "History of Rock" to students.

If you are interested in joining the swim team, come on out and train with the other team members on Monday after school.

Interested in spending the March Break in sunny Florida? Well there is still time. Acton High school travel club has planned a trip to south for eight days. For more information contact Keith Black, trip organizer.

CORRECTION

In this week's Beaver Lumber flyer there was an error.

Page 2 — Polystipple paint should read 'our reg. 10.95... sale price 7.99'

We regret any inconvenience this may have caused our customers.



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Ballinafad

Church goal

by Winnifred Smith

The United Church of Canada has established a refugee fund for the "Boat people". It has been recommended by the special committee of Ballinafad United Church that the goal be set of \$500.00 for their share of the support for this general fund. Opportunity will be made available to anyone wishing to donate towards the fund.

Mr. and Mrs. Henri Gagne recently became the proud parents of a baby girl. Mr. and Mrs. Don Brown are the proud Grandparents. Congratulations!

The Sacrament of Holy Communion was celebrated at the morning Service of Worship at Ballinafad Church on Sunday. The men's choir favoured with another beautiful anthem "How Long Has It Been".

The annual Fall bazaar in the basement of the church will be held this Saturday and in two weeks, Nov. 3, the annual Turkey Supper.

The UCW met at the home of Mrs. Joanne Stevenson on Tues. Oct. 9.

The minutes of the September meeting were read and approved and the correspondence dealt with. The business period was mostly getting the final plans made for the annual bazaar.

This being The International Year of the Child, Mrs. Eileen Brown gave an interesting reading on child development. She also had a film which was shown. It proved to be both entertaining and educational. There were a great array of articles on display for the bazaar which is to be held on Sat. afternoon. Mrs. Joan March, and Mrs. Eileen McEnery assisted the hostess with the serving of a cup of tea and a social time followed.

Visitors on Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Marshall were Mr. and Mrs. Art McGunagle from Wyndotte Michigan and Mrs. Lillian Jackson of Erin.

Const. Beverly Swann of RCMP stationed at Winnipeg spent a few days last week visiting her grand parents Mr. and Mrs. F. Smith and other relatives living in the community.

We extend sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Marshall who recently suffered a bereavement in the loss of a brother-in-law, Elias Cheyney, who passed away in Guelph General Hospital on Thursday of last week.

A good time was had at the community centre on Saturday night when the base ball club met for their annual banquet and dance.

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Robert Little

On Thursday, October 18, Mrs. Ormsby's grade three class is going on a trip to the Acton Post office. Mrs. Smith's class went on a walking tour.

Robert Little school is having a pumpkin carving contest next week.

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Bob Harvey

Bob is the new owner of Harvey's Tire Centre. Associated with Firestone for the past 18 years, Bob is looking forward to creating a new image at the store as well as becoming a part of a growing community.



Randy Vervaeke (Service Manager)

Randy has been employed by Firestone for the past five years. He is a Class "A" licensed mechanic. As service manager, Randy is capable of handling all your needs.



Steve Kruk (Apprentice Mechanic)

Steve is a third year apprentice at Firestone and is capable of handling most automotive problems. He holds a keen interest in his trade and can't wait to get his mechanics license.



Jules Russiani (Manager)

Jules has been associated with Firestone for five years, the past four as manager. He resides in Acton and is keen to help in assisting and advising all customers.



Jack Vermeulen (Class "A" Mechanic)

Jack has been a Class "A" mechanic since 1966 and has been employed at Firestone for the past five years. He is well-known in the area and is looking forward to seeing former customers as well as new ones.



Ray Russiani (Apprentice Mechanic)

Son of the store manager Ray is eager to learn the trade and will be helping throughout the service area as well as in tire sales.

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