

'Oldest Pioneer' loves her dancing

EDITOR'S NOTE: The following story is about Mrs. Emily Bessey, a long-standing member of Halton Hills. She was honored with the "Oldest Pioneer" award Thursday at the opening of Pioneer Days. The Herald-sponsored award was presented by Mayor Pomeroy.

The criteria for deciding the recipient of the "Oldest Pioneer" is not based solely on age. Each year Herald staff members vote on who they feel clearly represents the pioneer spirit and has contributed to the heritage of Halton Hills.

It should have been easy for Mrs. Emily Bessey, 92, to drift back into time for a moment after watching the twirls and swirls of the Pine Valley square dancers.

The night was hot and pleasant and for Mrs.

Bessey, she had much to smile about as she sat near the square dancers. She had just received the "Oldest Pioneer" award minutes earlier from Mayor Pete Pomeroy.

Mrs. Bessey fondly remembers being carted off to a winter square dance in Stewarttown on a horse and sleigh owned by her brother. The dance lasted until 3 a.m. "I never felt the cold," she said defiantly.

She used to ride to Brampton's Eldorado Park for square dancing, returning not much before the cows had to be milked in the early morning.

Born in Halton County on a 200-acre farm between the Eighth and Ninth Line below Norval, Mrs. Bessey walked the three miles each day to the old Pinegrove School. Her father, Andrew Anthony, worked on the farm with his six daughters and one son until they bought a farm in Glen Williams. He built a house on King St. in 1915.

The one son left the farm at the age of 21 to learn the plumbing and tinsmith trade. He eventually started a hardware store in Georgetown at the site of Barber and Henley on Main St.

Mrs. Bessey was active as a farm girl, "doing everything but driving the binder and the plow," she said. One of the

highlights of the fall for Mrs. Bessey was the annual Georgetown fair. She was usually entered in various light horse driving classes.

Last year she was honored as the fair's oldest exhibitor and she opened the 135th Georgetown fair. It was harder as a competitor in the old days and Mrs. Bessey made sure the judges knew about it last year.

"I told the judge you no longer have to cut the figures and when I was driving you had to take the judge along too," she said.

Mrs. Bessey was married in 1917 to Wilfrid Campbell Bessey who was a farmer. They bought a flour and feed mill at the current site of The Herald on Mill and Guelph St.

Her husband passed away in 1938 so Mrs. Bessey sold the mill and moved to Toronto where she worked for a drapery firm. After six years she left for Kitchener and worked for Smiles 'N Chuckles for 25 cents an hour.

Even then lay-offs were common as she lost her job once at Baetz furniture when a new style of lampshade was discontinued.

In the sixties she came back to Georgetown and worked for ten years as a receptionist for McChure-Jones funeral home (now



Mrs. Emily Bessey was presented with the "Oldest Pioneer" award by Mayor Pete Pomeroy on behalf of The Herald who sponsored the award.

called J.S. Jones and Son). It was a happy time in her life, meeting "so many nice people". They still ask for the little lady, she says.

Mrs. Bessey is proud that her great grandfather John S. Bessey donated all the wood in the Georgetown Alliance Church on Main St. - a former Baptist Church built in 1889.

The Kincourt resident sang in the choir at Knox Presbyterian Church for

15 years and she even now can play the piano by ear. She does her own cooking and likes to read.

She'll never forget her trip to California when she had the opportunity to dance with Lawrence Welk when he came down from the stage to mingle with the audience. Whether she remembers dancing in the '20s or dancing in the '70s, Mrs. Bessey will always treasure those fond memories of those earlier days.



Dawn Elizabeth MacGillivray was awarded the "Youngest Pioneer" honors. Here proud parents John and Heather accept a trophy presented to Dawn by Lynn Barnard of Penniesworth, the sponsors of the award. Dawn was born at 1:32 p.m. Friday.

Sheridan College convocation

Sheridan Grads should be self-sufficient: prof

There were 41 Georgetown graduates from Sheridan College attending their annual convocation held last week.

Students listened to professor Norman Rebin of the University of Ottawa talk about their prospects for the future.

"Be proud, never lose your sense of pride in yourself. Keep breathing with purpose and ambition: know where you are going and why," said Mr. Rebin, a director of a management consulting firm.

"No jobs will be readily handed to you. Create your own, be self-sufficient. Assess the needs out there and gain your own opportunities."

He told graduates to be realistic about the competition facing them in a tough economic climate and suggested they pool their resources and create work for themselves.

Here are the Georgetown graduates:
Elsa Barbara Alexander, Secret'l-Exec; Douglas William Barnes, Elec. Eng. Techn-Micro; Jean Audrey Barton, Inten Secret'l; Patricia Beach, Secret'l-Exec (WP); Kathleen Louise Broomhead, Business-Acct'g; Michael Anthony Cannon, Bus. Admin-Acc-Fin; John Ross Colter, Elec. Data Process; Douglas Lorne Crowe, Bus. Admin (Market'g); Mae Darlene Duchin, Social Service; Kirk Manley Gosse, Social Service; Patricia Anne Harris, NS-Micro Mgmt; Sherric Elaine Hawkins, Secret'l-Legal; Lorraine Susan Henderson, Media Arts; Laura

Marie Henson, Travel Counsellor; Lori Ann Hutchinson, Microcomputer Mgmt; Marilyn Noreen Jones, Travel Counsellor; Steven John Krajaich, NS-Draft Eng. Techn; Susan Patricia

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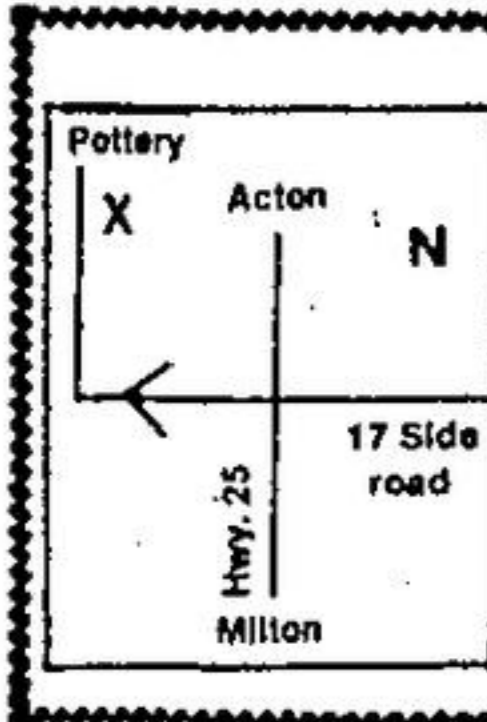
Donald, Bus. Admin-Acc-Fin; Jack Kenneth Martin, NS-Micro Mgmt; Susan Gail McCosh, Retail Fash Arts; Sandy Joan McCauley, Inten Secret'l; Kim Catherine Moody, Bus. Admin-Market'g; Jim William Pearson, Major Appliance Serv.; John Stephen Peeters, Bus. Admin-Acc-Fin.; Bonita Marie Penney, Bus. Admin-Acc-Fin.; Daryl Dunmore Simm, Bus. Admin (Market'g); Andrea Kathleen Staf-

ford, Law-Sec. Admin.; Troy Lyn Staudt, Illustration-Tech; Maria Margaret Tassone, Early Child'd Ed.; Cathy Elizabeth Taylor, Gas-(Children); Ellen Mary Tucker, Law-Security Admin.; Brian William Ventry, NS-Elec. Data Pro.; Robert Duncan Wakefield, Community Planning; Virginia Alice Walker, Business-Acct'g; Angus Neil Willoughby, NS-Elec. Eng. Techn; Katharine Woolley, NS-Draft Eng. Techn.



SAFARI CUB

Amanda McKinnon, 11, was able to pet a four-month old Hyena cub belonging to Rockton's African Lion Safari. Employee Kathy Pace of their promotions department was on hand Saturday at Zellers to introduce shoppers to their 500 acre drive-through wildlife park.



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Micro-fiche woes

By CHRIS AAGAARD
Herald Staff Writer
Feeling that a tender call for micro-fiche equipment was handled badly, Halton's finance and administration committee last Wednesday agreed to seek new bids in the contract worth about \$24,000.

Halton council awarded the contract for micro-fiche processing and duplicating equipment to 3M Canada Ltd. May 4.

But Brian Spergel, a sales representative for Bell and Howell Canada (the second lowest bidder), argued that the tender call drafted by regional staff was misleading. In it, he told the committee, staff asked companies to offer prices on equipment similar to Bell

and Howell's exclusive "Microx" processing system. Microx is a "dry" processing system, Mr. Spergel said, substantially different than wet chemicals used in conventional micro-fiche processing.

Although it was used only to convey an idea, Microx was used in the tender call, Mr. Spergel said, adding that if the tender were more generally written, he would have offered at least three other alternatives.

CLEAR AIR
Halton has budgeted \$24,000 for microfilming equipment. 3M Canada offered to supply the region with its system for \$23,784.57, including tax and \$1,260 of maintenance.

For its Microx system, Bell and Howell's bid came in at \$33,540.22 brand new and \$21,973 for a demonstrator model which is six months old. These prices included yearly maintenance of \$3,180.

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The challenge facing forest companies right now is stiff competition in world markets. Canada's pulp and paper often travels thousands of miles to compete on

the home grounds of foreign producers. It is their standards of service and levels of cost that Canadian companies must at least match, or beat.

All those involved in the industry - investors, workers, suppliers - have to take the long-term view and work together to build the competitive strength of

Canada's number one manufacturing industry: pulp and paper.

For more information, send for "New Challenges", a free booklet from Public Information Services, Canadian Pulp and Paper Association, Dept. 4, 23rd Floor, 1155 Metcalfe Street, Montreal, Quebec, H3B 2X9.

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