



Making shingles is easier than putting them on. Steve Thistle is operating a shingle saw run totally by steam. The cedar shingles fell like slices of bread. Only on special days is the saw used because it needs so much steam. (Herald photo)

CORN COB CAPERS

... at the Ontario Agricultural Museum



Dan Allen is feeding bundles of wheat into a 1935 Robert Bell threshing machine. There are many threshers on sight but they are rarely used. The belt in the foreground turns by steam and runs the thresher. (Herald photo)



Mrs. Joyce Young is practicing an Indian craft using corn husks. The dolls she makes, like those made by the Iroquois, have no faces. The Iroquois believed anything with a face had a spirit. (Herald photo)

Motorcycle stats need tempering riders argue

By ALAN CASSMAN
Herald Special

"Figures don't lie" said the wise man, "but liars always figure." Statistics, it can be argued, taken out of context or stripped of relevant numbers can inspire prejudiced judgements. And so it has been, in the opinions of some experienced motorcyclists, with the latest figures on motorcycle fatalities in Ontario for 1984.

The Ministry of Transportation and Communications recently reported 140 deaths to operators and passengers of motorcycles last year - 20 per cent more than the 117 fatalities documented in 1983 and an 11 per cent increase over the worst previous total of 126 in 1982.

Omnipotent statistics to be sure and for the automobile driver who always suspected motorcycles were 'death-traps' or wary parents of teenagers eager to ride the open road, fuel for their protests.

But cooler, indiscriminate heads point to the numbers that have not been published - numbers that would necessarily serve a more objective overview or at least soften the criticism.

Corporal John Arnold of the Whitby O.P.P. detachment is a veteran motorcycle patrolman and an instructor at the Aylmer Ont. motorcycle training centre. "Statistics must be made relevant to the amount of miles travelled", he maintains.

"I think that motorcyclists are travelling a lot more miles. This increases the odds for an accident. There may be some increase in the percentages but to be a fair indicator they would have to be matched against miles travelled."

are more operators riding more miles through more months of the year.

"Motorcycles are a fun thing. That isn't damning them, that's praising them," asserts Dave Armstrong, past president of the Halton Off-Road Riders motorcycle club. After 13 years of riding off-road and street machines Mr. Armstrong does not speak with a bias so much as he speaks out against the bias that has been directed towards all motorcyclists.

"Motorcycling is a method of transportation. It isn't a lifestyle. In our club we have a number of engineers, a librarian and a couple of P.H.D.'s...We don't all wear black leather jackets or bite the heads of snakes...There are just as many loonies and goonies driving cars."

The conventional notion that motorcyclists are society's 'road warriors', hell-bent for destruction, is as ludicrous as the assumption that most truckdrivers are strong-armed bullies or that sports car enthusiasts are frustrated playboys. "Unfortunately there are some people, especially the younger riders, who from time to time drive their motorcycles to excess", explains Mr. Armstrong, however he is quick to add "there is a general trend not to be observed when you're a car driver."

"I mean a motorcycle isn't very threatening. A great many fatalities are dismissed with the excuse 'Well I didn't see him'."

The main ingredients in the formula for a fatal accident have been identified as excessive speeds and alcohol, both for cars and motorcycles, and while no singular statistic has been calculated official police files indicate clearly that the shame and blame must be divided equally.

Add to this shared responsibility an increasing driver population, together with improved high-performance capabilities in all motor vehicles, and there becomes a serious need for more strict, compulsory programs or education in all categories of transportation.

Writing course for teachers

Elementary, secondary, and post-secondary school teachers in Halton and Peel will take some new strategies for teaching writing back to their classrooms this fall.

At a summer institute held at the Oakville Campus of Sheridan College in July, unique research into the process and teaching of writing evolved.

"Writing for Teachers" involved an "inside-out" look at the process of writing.



Corn eaters were smiling from ear to ear between chews of delicious sweet corn steamed in the husk. Fred and Clair Smith like most people had seconds. (Herald photo)

Sheridan TV production

A commitment to small firms

A commitment to support small business growth and survival was evident among financiers, governors, and educators involved in a TV production filmed at the Oakville Campus of Sheridan College recently.

The half-hour program "Starting a Business", to be aired in September over cable stations in Halton and Peel, is part of the College's mandate to improve resources and services to entrepreneurs, according to Distance Education Dean Peter Mallett.

TV program participants agreed that there is a serious gap between government, financial and education institutions, he added.

"You need a lot more than money to start a business. You need to acquire knowledge through community resources and support services before jumping in and risking your investment," Mr. Mallett said.

Sheridan is closing the knowledge gap with a number of strategies, including a 13-week home-study course also entitled "Starting a Business", to be aired over local cable stations in Halton and Peel starting the week of Sept. 9.

The College will also attempt to make marketing, advertising, accounting, and legal services available through an Innovation Centre being established this year. Innovation Centre staff will work on a fee-paying basis with business, industry, and government to meet the needs of entrepreneurs, inventors, and existing and new small businesses.

To enroll in the 13-week home-study course, call 456-1191.

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Art club meeting

The Palette and Pencil Club will hold its general meeting Tuesday Sept. 17 at 7:30 p.m. Cedarvale Park Cottage, which will include the election of officers, and input to help plan long range goals for its membership, the club would like to encourage people who are interested to come out and meet the members over coffee and donuts.

For more information call Frank or Fran Anthony 877-5856.

Police beat

A pool on Greystone Crescent was drained of all its water Friday night after being punctured. The pool lining received \$100 damage.

An estimated \$500 damage was done to the lawn and shrubs of Lane Court home Friday night in a hit and run. A brown Ford van was seen in the area.

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Modest John Layman wins steam trophy

John Layman is a modest type of guy. When it was announced that he had won the David Roger Memorial Trophy on Labor Day he said, "they must have run out of people to give it to."

Mr. Layman won the trophy for outstanding contribution and participation to the Milton Steam Era Show, held annually in Milton the first weekend in September.

The Hewson Crescent man has been displaying his six model steam engines in Milton for the past 12 years. This year he also helped promote the event by putting up posters and spreading the news about the Steam Era.

The trophy is sponsored by the Ontario Steam and Antique Preservation Association, an organization Mr. Layman has been a member of for over a decade.



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