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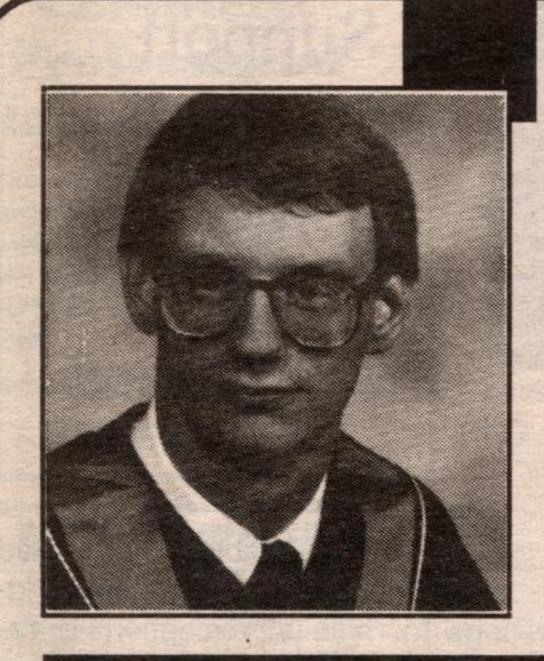
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Back in operation

Continued from Front Page

"I think we were confident it would re-open. I phoned most of the employees to say it was reopened, but I was also the one who had to say it was closing," stated Allen of the 75 returning employ-

The Hide House's new lease on life will dwarf a number of rumours about the company's status, especially the wild thought of a Chinese buffet opening on the grounds.

"It's quite an education being inside here and looking at the architecture," offered Chatham's Gene Burgess, who was visiting the Hide House for the first time in six or eight years. "You can't beat the smell, either."

The olde Hide House is back.

School cars in the North

BY BILL MCNEIL

"They were the first portable classrooms. That's exactly what they were," says Florence Bell.

We're talking about the school cars of Northern Ontario. The "School Cars" were actually ordinary railway passenger cars that had been refurbished to serve as travelling classrooms in that part of the North that was just opening up in the mid-1920s.

"The way it worked," says Bell, "was that our car would be pulled onto a railway siding close to where the families were living. We would stay for a week, giving the children their lessons, and then we would move to another siding farther up the line, and stay there for a week before moving again.

"Before leaving one location, we would leave behind three weeks of homework for the children. Their minds were like little sponges and they were so anxious to learn that the only complaint we ever got was that we didn't leave them enough to do."

Altogether, there were seven school cars in northern Ontario and the last one didn't close until the mid-1960s.

The children who got educated in the school cars went on to just about every job and profession you can name.

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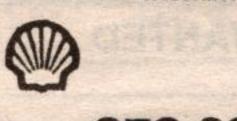
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