

The snowplow on Vinegar Hill

BY H. LLOYD DYER
SPECIAL TO THE COMPASS

About the winter of 1930-31 a large snowplow was going east on Highway 7 up Vinegar Hill at the south end of Rockwood.

The highway was quite slippery because there was no sand on the road. The snowplow was just up to Carroll Street when the rear wheels started slipping and the vehicle began going backward down the hill. The driver had an inexperienced man on the wing plow. The driver yelled, "Drop the wing plow!" hoping that it might hold the snowplow. The man on the wing bailed out to save his skin. I guess he didn't want to end up upside down in the river at the bottom of the hill. The truck had the box piled quite high with sand; if only some could have been put under the wheels to stop the backward slide.

The snowplow went on an angle into the ditch just north of Harris Street opposite Annie Harris's house. Dave Townsend lives there today.

The plow lay on its left side, down about a seven-foot ditch.

The box of sand was all shoveled out by hand and another snowplow came with a tow chain to get the one in the ditch out.

A large crowd came to see the excitement. After several attempts to get the plow out, it ended with chains breaking or front and rear axles breaking, as the trucks had both front and rear wheel drive.

You could hear the snap of broken chain links hitting metal; luckily it wasn't people, who could have been seriously injured.

Other snowplows were brought in to pull the first one out of the ditch. Heavier chains were brought in. Several attempts were made, and sometimes the ditched plow would come up three or four feet. Then something would break, and the plow would go backward into the bottom of the ditch with a thud.

After three days there were three disabled plows in the William Harris sandpit, which was just south of the La Vieille Auberge restaurant. On the fourth night, the chain was snubbed around a maple tree up the hill and across the highway so that the truck doing the pulling would be pulling downhill.

After several attempts on the fourth night, things looked better. A man guided the attempts and finally the guide could see the centre of the plow in the ditch come up and start to cross the

high point on the shoulder of the highway.

The guide yelled at the top of his voice, "Give 'er hell, Alex!" This could be heard all over Rockwood. The plow finally was

up, out of the ditch and onto the highway.

Most of the action was at night and was sure exciting for the four evenings. Finally, success!

AN HEIRLOOM COMES TO LIGHT

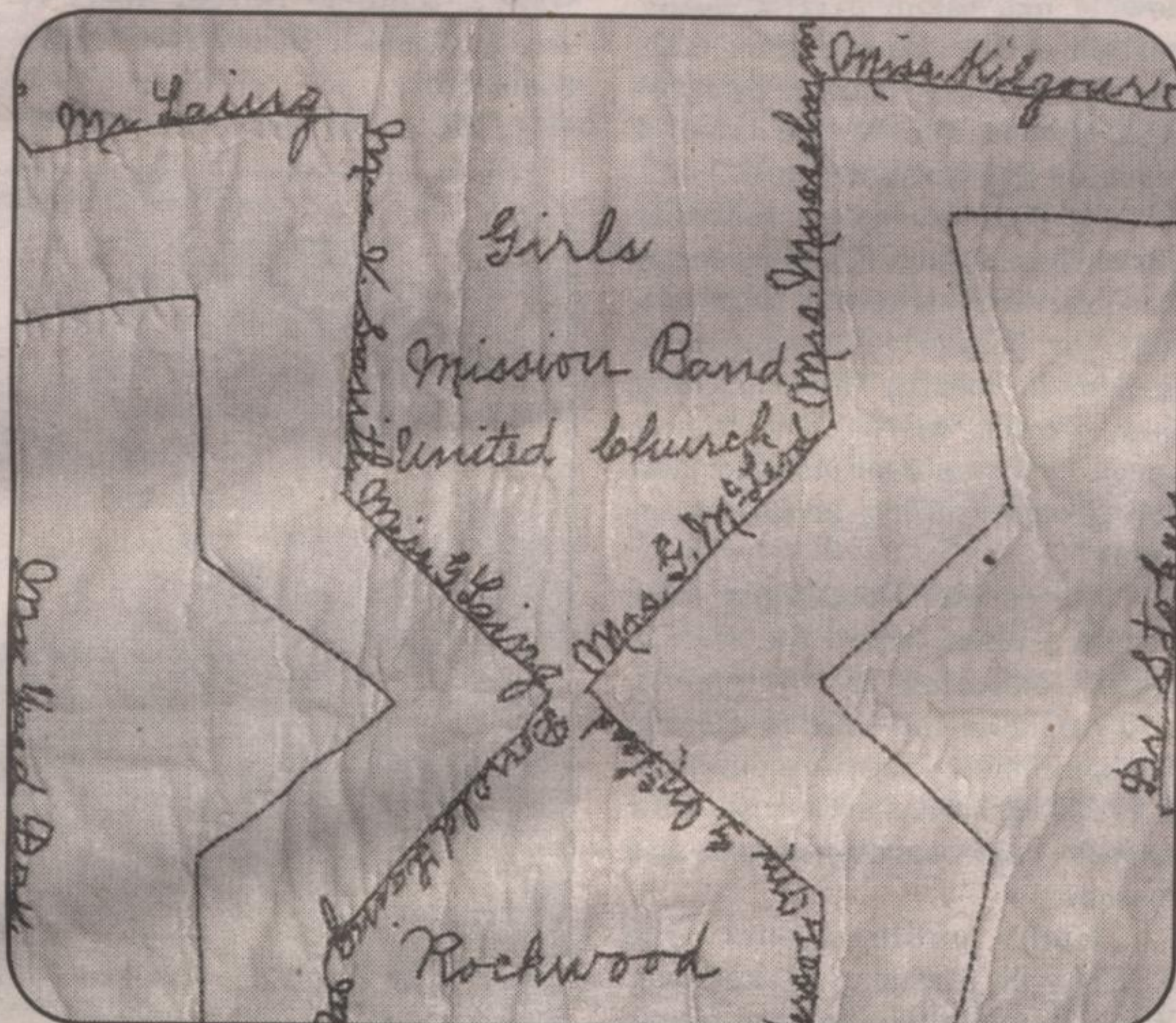


PHOTO BY DEBORAH QUAIL

Rockwood United Church was pleased to have a quilt donated by Sheila Hosking, a summer resident of the town. The quilt was created in 1931 by the Mission Band as a fundraiser; signatures were embroidered in bluss floss in a criss-cross pattern for 10¢ per square. The children in the congregation sold squares on the quilt and people autographed their names on cotton. The Women's Missionary Society then stitched them.

Hosking's grandmother, Jane Pearen attended Rockwood United all her life and was leader of the Mission Band. After her death, Sheila's mother Edna Hosking kept the quilt in the attic of their home on Guelph Street for many years. Upon her passing, Sheila then took the quilt to her home in Niagara Falls, where it stayed until her donation to the church in October. Finding the heirloom warmed the hearts of many older members of the church, who recognized names of grandparents or other acquaintances from over 70 years ago.

Interestingly, a Rockwood United financial statement for that year was recently found in a used bookstore and purchased by a church member. The document stated that the quilt raised \$28.

Ribbon Art

A new craft from Austria, called the "Artichoken Technique," integrates colourful ribbons into different forms such as eggs, balls, candles, and cones. In this introductory course, complete one project of your choice. This craft is ideal for Christmas decorations or a unique gift. Supply list will be mailed with your receipt. Instructor: Johanna M. Swaboda

Tuesday Dec. 5, 1-4 p.m. or Tuesday, Dec. 12, 7-10 p.m.

Fee: \$16.05 (includes \$1.05 GST)

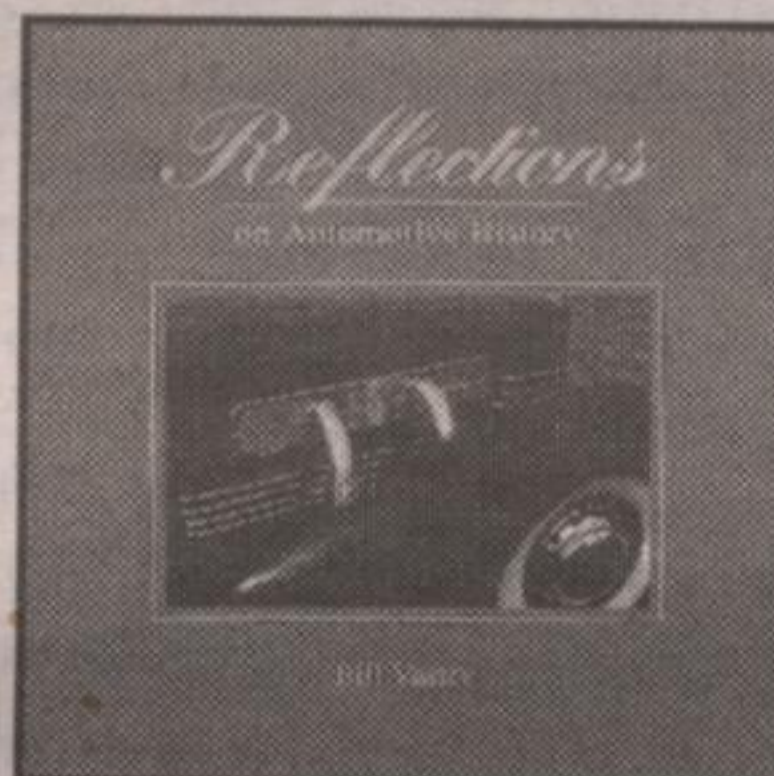
Location: Rockwood Community Library

For information call Glenn Smith, 519-856-9951, ext. 25

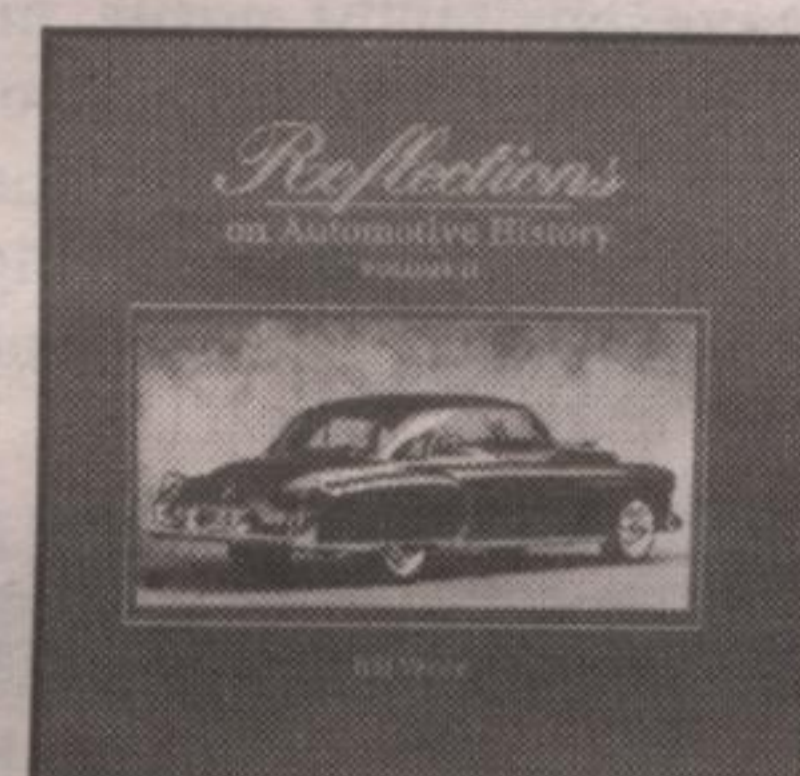
I reach out with deep appreciation to those persons - some known to me, many unknown - and say thank you for your support.

Teresa Gibson Smye

Reflections on Automotive History



Volume I



Volume II

by Bill Vance

Widely Syndicated Automotive Journalist
Eramosa Valley Publishing 519-856-1065

Authoritative, well researched automotive history, written in an enjoyable easy-to-read style that will delight the auto enthusiast, as well as those generally interested in history. Makes a great gift for readers of all ages.

Signed copies available at

Hog Hill, 118 Main Street S., Rockwood
519-856-2220

Dr. Tim Peloso, B.Sc.(H.K.), D.C. Rockwood Family Chiropractic

- Manual treatment for care and prevention of nerve, muscle, bone and joint pain

Have a wonderful holiday season!

Dr. Tim and Daphne

(519) 856-2624

118 Alma St. (Hwy 7 at Main St.)
Rockwood, ON N0B 2K0

Tooth Chatter by Alex Trenton, Denturist

The staff at Alex Trenton's office have written a Christmas carol and dedicated it to him! Merry Christmas Alex!

(Sung to the tune of "Winter Wonderland")

Denture Wonderland

Appointments made, soon you'll have them
Your new teeth, you've been wanting
A beautiful taste
Without any paste
Wearing your new teeth from Alex 'T'!

Gone away, are the old teeth,
Here to stay, are the new teeth
Alex makes them fit great
You're old ones you'll hate
Chewing in your denture wonderland!

In the days ahead you'll need adjustments

Just to double check they're fitting right
Your mouth might get a tender little sore spot,
But Alex will fix you up and make you bite!

Later on, we'll recall you
To make sure you can still chew
If everything's fine,
You'll skip your reline
And keep smiling in your denture wonderland!

Creating confident smiles since 1982!

Alexander Trenton, D.D.; F.C.A.D.(A), Denturist
Georgetown Denture Clinic
18 Church Street
Georgetown, ON
(905) 877-2359

(Across from the library and Cultural Centre;
corner of Church and Market St.)



Season's Greetings from the staff at

ROCKWOOD **PRO** hardware

Please don't DRINK and DRIVE

Christmas Gift Giving Ideas

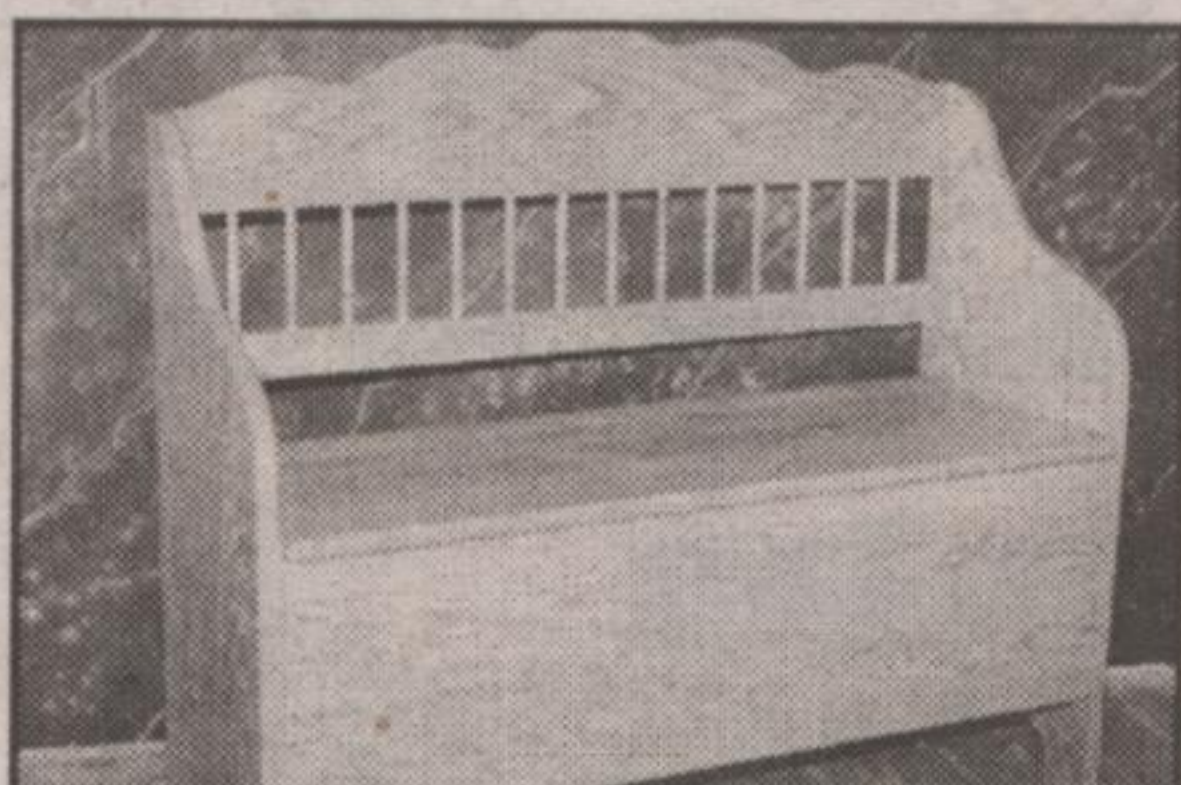
Oak & Pine
Deacon Benches

Also available...
Rocking Chairs,
Coffee & End Tables
Blanket Boxes &
Quilt Stands

from
SCOTT'S
OAK & PINE
FURNITURE

Oak & Pine
Hall/Sofa Tables

Many other gift and
accessory items in stock
while supplies last



Visit our website at starpages.com/scotts-oak-pine • Open 7 days a week • 197 Main St. S., Rockwood, Ontario • 519-856-2537 • 1-888-877-6001