



Rockwood Centennial School Staff, 1984-85, with Ramona (Shaw) Storey back row, second from the right.

## The dedicated teaching of Ramona Shaw

(continued from page 9)

with her to school each morning, heated and served soup or hot chocolate at lunch, supervised the playground at recess and lunch breaks, organized sports and games and from time-to-time ran the Red Cross Dances after school.

Being welcomed into the community was not a problem. The Andersons included the new teacher socially and young men in the community found reasons to drop by the Anderson farm for visits. One evening a week members of the Farm Forum gathered at the school to listen to the Farm Forum broadcast on the radio, discuss the program, play euchre and share a lunch. Presentations were held for newlyweds at the school or at the old Brookville Hall on Guelph Line. Musicians such as John D. and Bessie Currie or Alec Near and Laura Early and sometimes Andy Frank would play for the dances. The men were charged admission but the ladies were free if they brought sandwiches, cookies or cakes for the lunch.

Once a month the teachers from each of the 10 schools in the board got together, meeting at each school in turn. Ideas were shared for projects and arts and crafts. Problems were discussed and the more experienced teachers offered help to the newer ones. Sometimes they shared a meal or had a picnic and once a year the teachers entertained the Board members, usually at S.S.#5 because it had the best

kitchen.

Discipline was in the hands of the teacher in the one-room schools and the teachers knew they could count on the support of the parents.

"I was the recipient of the strap myself in Grade 5. I didn't use the strap very much. I never had to strap the same kid twice. I was always very reluctant to use the strap; it was at the discretion of the teacher. Some of the kids would rather have a couple of good wacks on the hand than a letter sent home to their parents."

Ramona taught at S. S. #8 for one year. She went on to teach at S. S. #5 on 2nd Line near Eden Mills, then at S. S. #2 on 2nd Line at 10 Sideroad. She married Mel Storey and they lived at the Storey farm on 6th Line before moving to their Guelph Line farm at Brookville.

Maternity and paternity leaves were unheard of. Pregnancies were planned around the school calendar. When she was pregnant with her third son, Ramona was asked to step down from teaching when she started to show in May. The baby was born in August and she returned to teaching when school started in September.

She also taught primary at J.M. Denyses and W.I. Dick in Milton, then at Brookville Public School as Principal's Relief. She left teaching and worked in the advertising department of a Guelph department store but resumed

teaching at Centennial Public School in Rockwood for 19 years until her retirement in 1986.

Ramona Storey's memories of her teaching career are filled with anecdotes about her students. Her love for them and pride in their accomplishments are evident.

"The rural schools turned out a lot of good kids. They became independent thinkers. Doctors, a minister and a lawyer or two can be counted amongst the kids that went through my classes over the years.

"I believe their success is not because of the teacher, but because they learned the importance of doing a good job on their own. There were children with problems and we didn't have resources for special needs back then, but you just did the best you could for each child," she said.

If you have memories of the one-room school experience, either as teacher or student, Bonnie would like to hear from you. Either call her at (519)837-1300 or write to her c/o The Compass.

## Andrews fruit wines bring home gold and silver

by Donna Danielli  
The Compass

The Scotch Block Country Winery isn't even two years old yet and already it's bringing home gold and silver medals. When Bert Andrews entered his wine for the first time in last year's Fruit Wines of Canada National Competition, he brought home two bronze medals for Scotch Block's Regal Black Currant table wine and their Cassis Dessert wine. At this year's annual competition, Scotch Block Country Winery brought home a gold medal, three silver medals and three bronze medals. The Cassis dessert wine, made from blackcurrants, went from last year's bronze to this year's gold. "We're very pleased with the progress we're making," says owner Bert Andrews. "I think there is a great potential for the elderberry, blackcurrant, gooseberry and redcurrant wines. Those particular berries are used extensively in Europe for wines as well."

Silver medals were awarded to three of the winery's dinner wines. Regal Blackcurrant, Gooseberry and Elderberry wines are all a little drier, scoring a one on the sweetness scale. True Blue, which is also one of the winery's dinner wines, rating a two on the sweetness scale, scored a bronze along with dessert wines Framboise and Redcurrant Cassis.

"The awards for the dinner wines are great," explains Andrews. "Most people have experienced fruit wines in the past as dessert wines and expect them to be sweeter. The main demand though is for dinner wines and we're pleased to receive silvers for our dinner wines. It helps to know we're growing in the right direction."

The Scotch Block Country Winery, the only one of its kind in Halton, is attached to the farm market on Andrew's Scenic Acres where the fresh fruits themselves are sold. Currently the winery is running on the winter schedule and is open to the public on Saturdays from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. After May 5, it will be open every day through to October. For directions or more information please call 905-878-5807. The North Halton Compass congratulates Bert Andrews and the Scotch Block Country Winery on it's well deserved awards of excellence.

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