

# Steam train proposal takes off on wrong track

The Ontario Rail Association's proposal to recreate a page from Canada's steam locomotive history on unused CN railway tracks extending from Cheltenham to Georgetown, could be derailed by incensed residents of the Terra Cotta area before the first boiler is fired.

It has already generated generous amounts of verbal steam. The proposal was attacked by Terra Cotta resident Bill Zilio at Monday night's meeting of Esquencing council and he told councillors he was only the vanguard of a groundswell of disapproval from township residents who live near the old "northern" railway, which extends from Georgetown to Barrie.

They charge the locomotive page from the past is going to pollute the air, nearby houses will be bothered by vibration and it will bring an influx of unwanted city people to the area, who will break down fences and trespass on farmers' and other residents' property.

Two members of the Ontario Rail Association, Sherwood Hume of Milton and M. C. (Mal) Black, a director from Georgetown, listened to Mr. Zilio's charges with astonishment, following their presentation of the steam railroad proposal to council.

Reeve Tom Hill also strenuously opposed the proposals suggesting the rail association had found some means of "getting around"

the air pollution control branch of the Department of the Environment, which had eluded the township.

If the township can't get a permit to burn garbage in the dump to save tax dollars, how do you get one to run steam trains which will cause a lot of dust and smoke? the reeve asked Mr. Hume.

"If the right coal is used and the proper men are firing the engine it would not be objectionable," Mr. Hume replied to the unconvinced reeve.

### Cheltenham bas-

The two man rail delegation explained the group has a charter and would run the proposed steam rail tourist type attraction from a base at Cheltenham. Trains would travel to Georgetown for a nominal fee, turn around, and then go back to Cheltenham. There are some 100 or more similar operations in the United States, Canada and Britain, they pointed out, operated by enthusiasts with nostalgia for the steam operated railroads of the past.

The association has acquired four steam locomotives, 15 pieces of passenger equipment and three freight cars so the tourist railroad can operate as authentically as possible.

Mr. Hume explained the group was there to get township support so the CN could apply for permission from the Canadian Rail Transport Commission for "abandon-

ment of service" on the old northern line. The train had used the tracks about 20 years ago, he said.

The CN would apply for abandonment of service in favor of the Ontario Rail Association using the track for a running steam museum. He said support for the project had already come in the form of letters from Premier Davis, M. P. Terry O'Connor, M.P.P.s Jim Snow and George Kerr. He asked the township for a similar approval.

Hume said the tourist railroad would only operate on summer weekends to begin with but could become a daily operation in summer months if demand warranted. The Peel County Board of Education is interested in use of the steam railroad by students who had never experienced a ride on one.

"We feel the project has great potential," said Hume, noting most children under 16 have never ridden on a steam railroad.

All crossings would have signals or gates, he declared, with adequate provision to warn traffic of oncoming trains. Tracks would be completely maintained by Ontario Rail to better than ordinary railroad standards - which includes keeping culverts and fences up to standard.

"I'm against it," declared Bill Zilio, as the reeve indicated someone in the council chambers was there to oppose the proposal.

"Any steam engine I ever saw never had clean smoke."

Mr. Black said Ontario Rail intended to purchase low pressure sulphur coal which met the standards of the air pollution control branch and if the right staff men were operating the engines and they were fired correctly problems would be minimal. Problems from smoke in the past had been largely the result of poor operation, he said.

Mr. Hume also said that people mistakenly presumed a full head of steam is pollution when it is not.

### Reeve snorts

This brought a snort from the reeve, who declared he could distinguish between clean steam and black smoke and had failed to observe much of the latter from any steam locomotive.

Mr. Hume said that perhaps residents of the area would consider the proposal more considerably if they were aware the CN did not intend to abandon the railway, considering it as a future route to the north, circumventing Toronto. In his talks with railway officials there was talk of 100 trains a day using the tracks. This is why they would only lease the tracks to Ontario Rail for a 20 year period, he said.

Mr. Zilio intimated residents would face that problem when it occurred, indicating there were many more objectors who would appear at the next meeting of council. "I

hope council doesn't approve this," he said, "until we are given a chance to speak."

The reeve agreed, noting there was a meeting in Chingacousy township that night where many residents had gone to register objections and he predicted a lot of flack.

Mr. Hume replied that a previous meeting in Chingacousy had drawn only two objections and he could not understand their reluctance to accept the proposals. "It will be one of the biggest tourist attractions in the area," he felt, predicting it would also bring a lot of money into Esquencing.

"Yeah," thundered the reeve, "but why should the township have to put up with all the inconvenience for the people of Toronto who would use the railroad. We are fighting their garbage now and this is another problem."

Hill said he had received many phone calls objecting to the proposals and thought about them all day Sunday, turning all the problems over in his mind. He was convinced now he had all the answers.

"We have heard Mr. Hume and Mr. Black," said Councillor Len Cox quietly. "It is only fair we hear the ratepayers' side, too."

Mr. Black reiterated that probably a lot of the concern may only be lack of information. He said steam trains on the route between Cheltenham and Georgetown would only be travelling 10-25 miles an hour

which would not cause much vibration. The road bed had been surveyed and found in excellent condition, with replacement of ties the main item.

"We intend to take every precaution and abide by all the rules of the railroad."

At this point, John Cole of R.R. 2, Acton, present with a delegation on roads, chortled that the rail group could take the steam proposal to Acton where a station already existed and train service was needed.

"I believe we are doing a service to the community preserving a way of life that has virtually disappeared as well as trains from the past," declared Black.

"We will hear both sides April 30," commented Councillor Howitt.

"Don't you think they are taking this pollution bit too far?" asked Councillor Leslie, a steam buff himself.

"I'd just like to know why the township of Esquencing gets all the things no one else wants," grumbled the reeve.

Mr. Hume explained the township was in the centre of the Golden Horseshoe, the track was not being used and it was within easy driving distance of a whole lot of people.

The Reeve concluded the discussion by remarking that the group's friends headed by Premier Davis had made sure Esquencing did not share in the gold in the Golden Horseshoe by placing the township in a no development area.



THE ZONE ORATORICAL FINALS sponsored by Optimist Clubs in area towns were held in Milton Wednesday evening of last week and although Milton had two entrants, neither came out on top. From left in the front row are the boys' first runner-up Patrick O'Connor of Milton, runner-up John Church of Orangeville and winner Terry DeForest of Oakville; girls'

winner Kelly O'Neill of Oakville, runner-up Ria Booi of Orangeville and first runner-up Mary Ann Poland of Milton. Pictured with them are contest chairman Optimist Don Simons of Milton, Lieutenant-Governor Basil Cormier of Oakville and Milton Optimist President Marvin Sine. (Photo by R. Downs)

## Seniors hear fire prevention history

President Charles Bounsall called the meeting of Milton Senior Citizens Club on April 18 to order Wed. April 18 with O Canada, with Mrs. F. Rutherford at the piano. Prayer was led by Mrs. Elmer Zimmerman. Welcome was extended to all. Mr. and Mrs. Tom Bradley introduced and gave a special welcome to a new member, Mrs. Marks of 95 Main St., also a visiting senior citizen, Mrs. Hinton from Oakville, who accompanied Mrs. V. Bradley. Mrs. A. Peddie, secretary read the minutes of the March meeting. The treasurer's report was given by Mrs. Gordon Thomas. Mrs. M. Rusk announced that there are 125 paid up members. Mrs. E. Zimmerman reported on sick members. A short report was given by the president of the Shuffleboard tournament with the Manor folk. Zone 13 Senior Citizens spring executive is to be held at Burlington on Wednesday, April 25.

The Birthday song was sung for five members celebrating April birthdays. The first number on the evening's program was introduced by Mrs. E. Harbottle, in the person of Fire Chief, A. E. Clements with his fine address and pictures that emphasized the thought that "Fire Prevention is your Responsibility." Mr. Clements went back a few years in the history of fire prevention in Milton and dealt with the put, present and the future. These truths were to give us an understanding of how fire prevention is handled, not to frighten anyone.

Fire protection in 1888 Milton's first fire protection started; W. B. Clements was one of the originals, and was loyal to the fire-fighters at that time. In 1892 the first Fire Chief was appointed, Mr. McGinnis and Mr. Mitchell were two names mentioned up to 1900. Fire Chief Earl served from 1900 to 1930, when his

son Chester Earl took over till 1943.

He was followed by Bill Randall till 1951, and A. E. Clements succeeded him, and has been on the job ever since, 22 years of dedicated service. One of the Senior Citizens, R. M. Clements served with the firefighters from 1905 to 1909, and is a greatly honored member at any of their special occasions. In 1922 Milton purchased their first fire truck. This was their pride and joy. Milton, in those days of competition in running team and ladder races, won so many laurels with their well trained teams that other teams thought Milton should just keep the trophies.

In some very true and realistic pictures, much convincing evidence of carelessness was shown, neglect of correct wiring, placing cords, leaving boxes and old material laying around, that a match would ignite, or a cigarette thrown without thought.

Other important facts were brought to our attention, every home should have a fire-extinguisher, young and older people forget to take out fire insurance.

Square dancing The second part of the program

was taken care of by Les Cairns who was introduced by Mrs. Ellen Harbottle, program convenor, as caller and instructor of the Ligny Square Dancers. Mr. Cairns in turn, introduced one set of Square Dancers. Mr. and Mrs. Jack Bousfield, Mr. and Mrs. John Purdy, Mr. and Mrs. Harry Overend and Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Fraser. Also, Mr. Les Cairns was along to help, as well as a caller from Oakville Senior Citizens.

Mr. and Mrs. Ernie Wildon, who are in charge of the Square

Dancers Training programs sent their regrets. These dances are all carried on with special records.

The Ligny Square Dancers danced three or four square dances most graciously then Mr. Cairns had his dancers encourage as many of the senior citizens to join in and have a bit of fun with them.

This was an interesting and instructive program, and could be well repeated at some future time.

### Obituary

## Mrs. Isobel Wilson

Mrs. Mary Isobel Wilson passed away suddenly Friday evening April 13 in Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital at Burlington. She was in her 63rd year. She was the second daughter of the late John Stephens and Ethel Howes.

Talented musically, she was a member of St. Paul's United Church Choir and a member of the Haltones musical group. She was deeply interested in the Rebekahs.

She had received her 15 year membership pin the evening prior to her death, and was the group's pianist. She taught school at Cedar Springs before marriage and later acted as Sunday School teacher. She was an avid lover of flowers and gardening.

Born in Trafalgar Township she attended Coyne school, Oakville High School and Toronto Normal School.

In 1933 she married Harold Graham (Paddy) Wilson and had lived at her present address 413 Kingsleigh Ct., Milton for five years.

She is survived by her husband, one daughter Mrs. Warren Hall (Shirley) of R.R. 6 Milton and four sons Walter, Harold and Robert of Milton and Donald of Hornby. She is also survived by seven grandchildren. Also surviving are two sisters Mrs. Clifford Wrigglesworth (Margaret) of Georgetown and Mrs. Gerald Neill (Betty) of Milton.

Funeral service was held on April 16 at McKersie Funeral Home. Rev. C. A. Hainer conducted the service. Interment was in Evergreen Cemetery, Milton. Pallbearers were Tom Marsh, Mike Ledwith, Lew Sampson, Fred Amme, Jim Brooks and Douglas Haslam.

## T. Perritt winner at Festival

Tommy Perritt, a 13-year-old Norval boy won top honors at the Peel Music Festival recently when he won three gold and two bronze medals.

Although he is only 13 years old the youngster studies grade nine singing and scored marks from 60 to 97 in the competition against several girls who averaged from 16 to 19 years old.

The young soprano won a scholarship in music for his efforts at the event. He will sing with other top performers at the competition in a concert in Brampton May 30.



## PROCLAMATION

### OPERATION PLACEMENT WEEK SUMMER STUDENT EMPLOYMENT

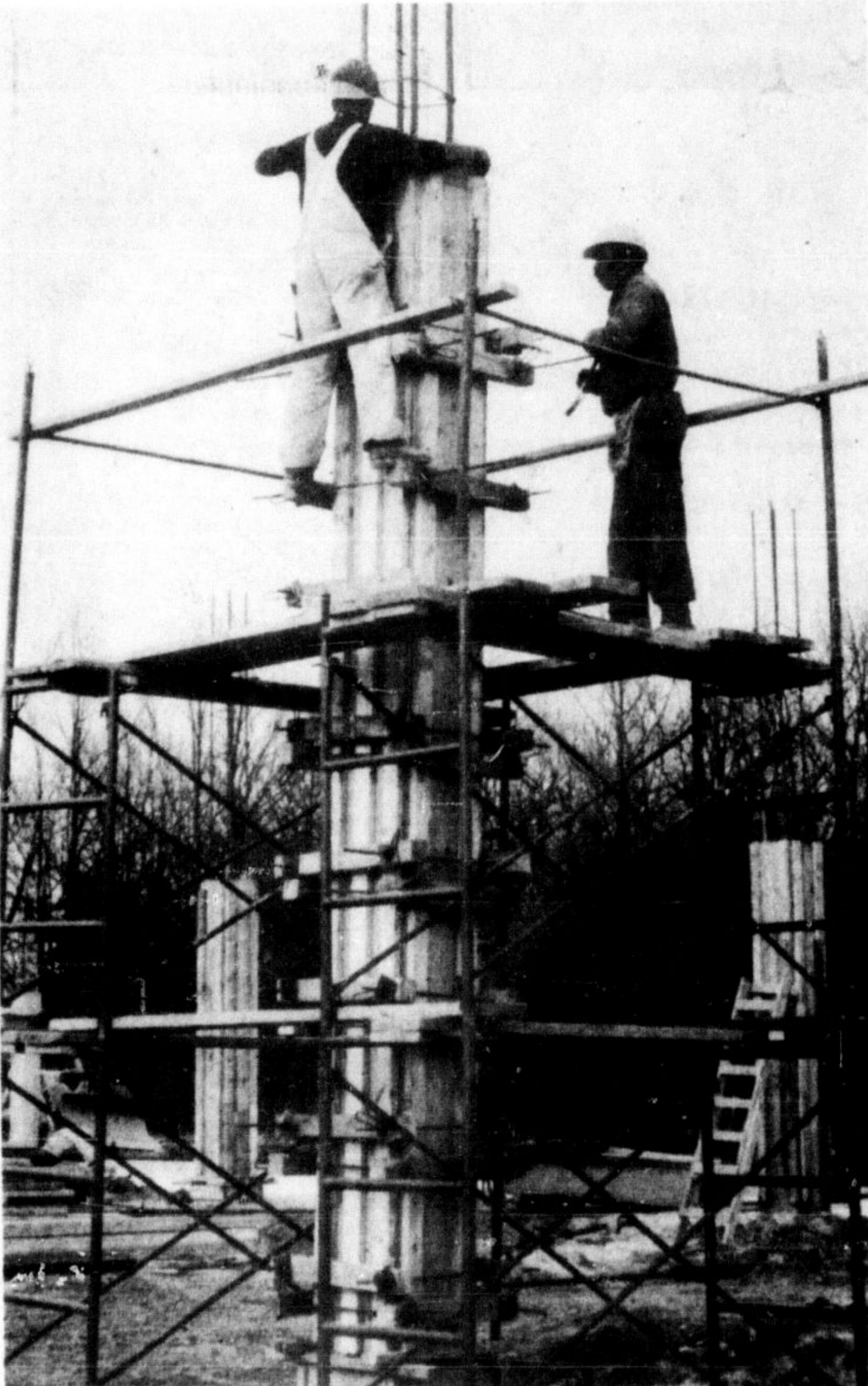
Whereas a large number of Milton university and high school students are now available for summer employment, and

Whereas these students can offer commerce, business and industry invaluable assistance, and

Whereas there is a dire need for assistance from commerce, business and industry to assist such students in gaining employment, and

Whereas Operation Placement is dedicated to the principle of obtaining summer and temporary employment,

Therefore, I, Brian Best, Mayor of Milton, do hereby proclaim April 30th through May 5th, 1973 as Operation Placement Week, and FURTHER, do call upon the citizens of Milton to support wholeheartedly the Operation Placement Program.



CONSTRUCTION IS UNDERWAY at the \$14,000,000 Maplehurst detention centre at the corner of Highways 401 and 25 in Milton and workmen are pictured at one of the roof supports in one of the buildings. (Photo by R. Downs)

-Bikes are crowding the streets of Milton, now that spring weather is here.

## WOOL

Realize the highest returns for your wool by patronizing your own Organization.

SHIP COLLECT TO Our Registered Warehouse No. 10 Carleton Place, Ont.

Obtain sacks and twine without charge from WM. A. WILSON (Shearer) R. R. 3, Georgetown Phone 877-5679 or by writing to CANADIAN CO-OPERATIVE WOOL GROWERS LIMITED CARLETON PLACE,

## ALUMINUM DOORS

Custom made to your specifications  
Free Estimates

We sell Aluminum Doors, Windows, Awnings and Store Fronts

GLASS • SLIDERS • MIRRORS  
• REPAIRS • SERVICE

W.J. KOSKI Limited

324 Steeles Ave., Milton 878-9452

**crop insurance**  
guarantees your production - so you can cover your costs

**JOSEPH STUTT**  
6554 Tremaine Rd.  
R. R. 1, MILTON  
(416) 878-6390

AGENT  
The Crop Insurance Commission of Ontario  
Parliament Buildings, Toronto, Ontario N7A 1B7

# RECORD RIOT

## ALL LP'S \$3.59

Reg. to 6.29

### THURS. - FRI. - SAT. - ONLY

# FIRST TAKE

136 MAIN ST. Upstairs Crest Hardware 878-6011