

Voyageur McCutcheon back from Saskatchewan

Milton's Young Voyageur, Steve McCutcheon, arrived back from Rosthern, Saskatchewan, last Thursday. Steve was one of 19 Halton students to be chosen for the government-backed program.

The 15-year-old Miltonian left with the Halton delegation July 5 for two days in Ottawa and a day in Montreal before moving onto the prairies. The local students, and two escorts from Mississauga, travelled by train to Saskatoon then were bussed to Rosthern.

In the Saskatchewan town, population 1,400, Steve was billeted with Mr. and Mrs. Gamracy. Gamracy is the Rosthern High School principal and had arranged the Saskatchewan end of the Young Voyageur exchange.

Highlights of the trip, said Steve, were visits to Fort Carleton, a onetime Hudson Bay trading post and an excursion to the battlefield at Battleford where the infamous Metis leaders Louis Riel and Gabriel Demont were defeated. The Halton group visited Saskatoon for Pioneer Days, toured a western development museum, the Cominco potash mine and travelled to the Prince Albert National Park and the Prince Albert stuffed wildlife collection.

The young voyageurs also visited a grain elevator, private farms and Cosmopolitan Industries for the handicapped.

The Halton students were guests of honor at a barbecue banquet and a party on the night before their departure. They all received belts from Cosmopolitan Industries, a Saskatchewan key chain and a provincial flag.

Steven received an address book and a souvenir spoon from the Gamracs while he and his roommate, Frank Shura from Burlington, chip-

ped in to buy their hosts some wall hangings.

The Young Voyageurs flew from Saskatoon to Toronto on a DC-9.

"Everybody really enjoyed it," said Steve for the Halton group.

Eight members of the Halton delegation met recently for a day at Ontario Place and

plan another get-together in the fall at the Port Credit home of escorts Mr. and Mrs. Bob Bartlett.

Steve plans to write to the Gamracs. He has already responded to the Canadian group.

C. of C.'s meeting

The Regional Association of Chambers of Commerce met at the Milton Charles Hotel last Wednesday to discuss a regional promotion booklet. The association is considering entering into a contract with Windsor Publications to print the book. It will be paid for through advertising.

Committees have been set up by the association to establish a set of criteria for the new regional site to look into the establishment of a better business bureau and to promote the upcoming International Plowing Match to be held in Halton.



STEVE McCUTCHEON
Back from Rosthern

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Carnival helps M.D.

Two Town Line girls who organized a Muscular Dystrophy carnival Saturday report it was a grand success and \$52 was raised for the MD Association of Canada.

Catherine Daviau and Debbie Bilton held the carnival at 121 Town Line, assisted by Susan and Sarah Daviau, Vaughn and Duane Bilton, Joe Gaeton and Mark Rigo. Games such as break the balloon, coin toss, string pull, fortune telling and penny pick were highlights. Duane Bilton and Mark Rigo were clowns.

It was the second MD Carnival the girls have staged. Last year's effort raised \$56.37.



MILTON GIRLS PIPE BAND, pictured at a recent Lions Club convention parade in Sudbury, is currently seeking more new members to fill its ranks. The band has about 12 members on parade

plus another 10 learning to play pipes and drums, but there's room for more girls. The band is sponsored by Royal Canadian Legion Branch 136 Auxiliary, Milton. (Photo by Sudbury Star)

Town's "goodwill ambassadors"

Pipe band wants recruits

By Roy Downs

Girls of any age interested in learning to play bagpipes or drums and enjoying the fun of being in an excellent band are currently being invited to join the Milton Girls Pipe Band.

With about 12 girls now "on parade" and another 10 beginners at varying stages of the learning process, the band has decided to recruit more new members to swell the ranks and replace the dropouts. They prefer girls 13 and over but the band now has one nine-year-old member so the age limit isn't really strictly enforced. The only limitation is that a piper should have long enough fingers to reach all the holes in the chanter and usually girls' fingers aren't long enough until they are about 13.

The band has been operating for about 15 years and has travelled far and wide, serving as "goodwill ambassadors" for the town and bringing home trophies, prizes and happy memories. In recent years the Legion Auxiliary has assumed sponsorship for the band and this has helped greatly.

Busy all year, for instance, they have already played in a Lions Convention parade at Sudbury, visited Whiteville in Pennsylvania, played at Halton Manor and participated in Erin Founders' Day Festival (where, incidentally, they won second place in a

pipe band competition.)

They're booked now for a parade in London this September and of course will make their annual appearance at the Steam-Era reunion on labor day weekend. "The kids are really great, we all get along well and everybody has a good time in the band," says Drum Sgt. Patricia Powell, who is also the band's secretary. Pat is the third member of the Powell family to hold office—her mother Bertha was Pipe Major for many years and when she retired Pat's sister Audrey took over the post.

Current Pipe Major is Karen Ricketts, who echoed Pat's comments and added that it gives many girls a chance to travel to other communities. Of course the Scottish kilt uniform is popular and worn with pride. Karen mentions the band also gives young girls a good opportunity to learn a musical instrument as well as discipline and marching routines.

Beat, rhythm

Previous musical ability is helpful, but not essential, they noted. "Once you've got the beat and the rhythm, you've got it," says Pat.

The band especially needs more pipers and a new bass drummer right now. Bass drum is probably the easiest but the heaviest instrument to learn to play.

Pipers first learn 15 scales and several tunes on the chanter—a bagpipe without

the windbag. Once that is mastered they "graduate" to a set of pipes and can join the marching band. Pipe Major Ricketts says it takes some girls six months, some a year before they're able to participate in the band.

Drummers are taught by Pat Powell and Drum Major Suzanne Ricketts, who say once the beginner gets the "roll" down pat, they're able to start marching in parades. Usually this instruction takes three to four months.

The band charges just \$1 for the weekly lessons but once a girl has participated in the marching band for seven weeks, there is no further fee for lessons, although lessons still continue each week. Lessons are held Mondays from 7 to 9 at the Legion while parade practice is held on Wednesdays.

Only other cost is the mandatory chanter a piping student must buy. Uniforms and band instruments are provided free.

The band invites any interested girls to drop around to the Legion Hall any

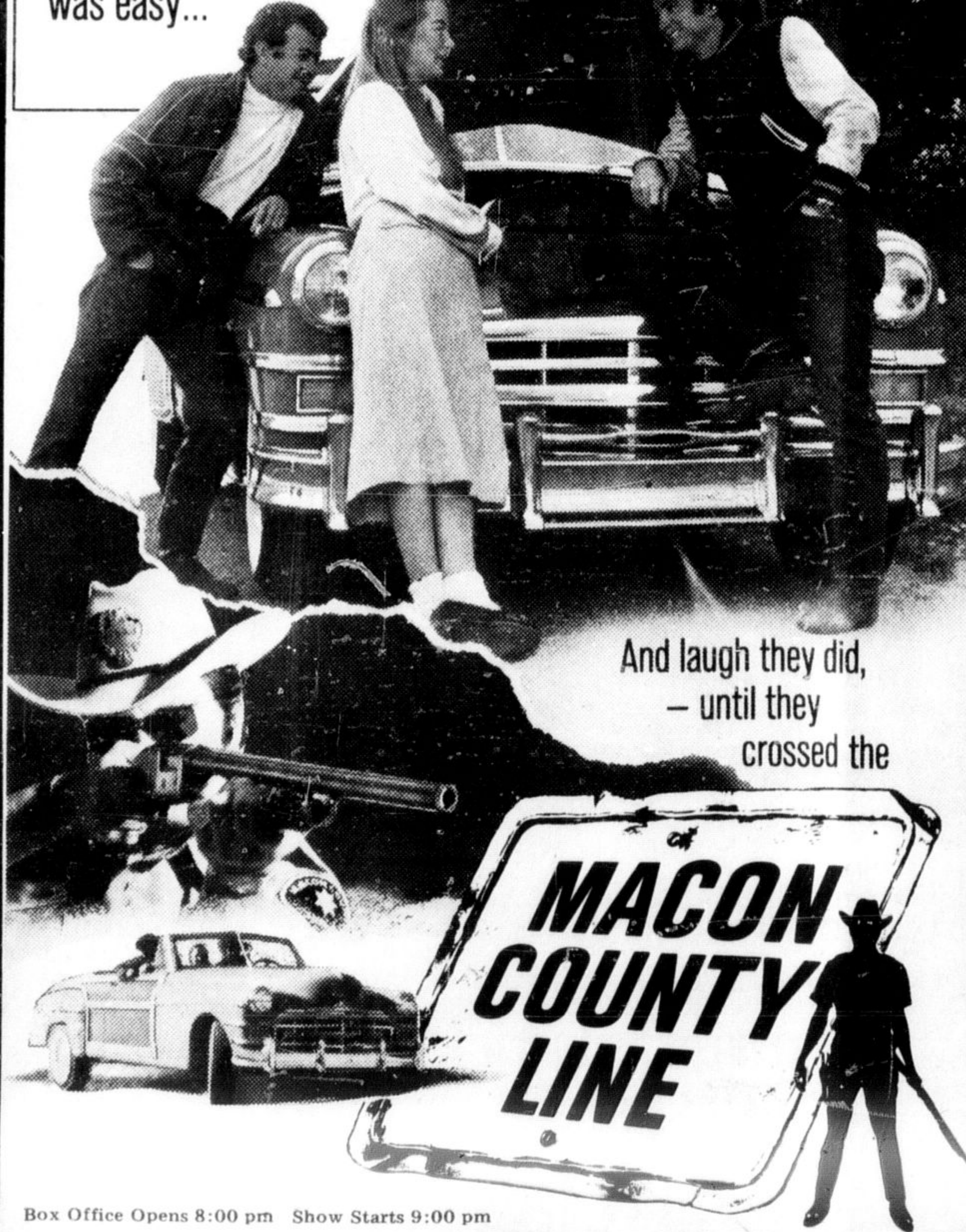
Monday night and sit in on the lessons. They can watch pipers practising for a night, then sit in on a drum session before deciding which instrument they'd like to try.

Although right now the band is anxious for new recruits, new members can likely be accepted at any time. Because of dropouts caused by moves, marriages and pregnancies, "the welcome mat is always out."

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