

**'The Missing Link'**

# A wrestler turned good

They still introduce him with a flourish. A video shows him pummeling at opponents and leering maniacally out into suburbia from ringside. The eyes of more than 100 grade four-to-sixers are riveted.

A few moments later Dewey Robertson strides into the gym at Our Lady of Victory, a Milton primary school. The kids, sitting on their haunches while a clutch of teachers patrol the perimeter, crane their faces curiously to compare today's speaker with the apparition from the television.

On the TV screen, they have seen a psychotic-looking grappler with a garishly painted face who would have fans believe he backslid in the evolutionary line. He was billed as The Missing Link.

In person, they see an outsized middle-aged man in a golf shirt, still trim through the middle and heavily muscled from the rib cage up, a 6'2" 250 lbs. individual of 53 years fronting a craggy, stern face. It is not the visage or body of a man to be trifled with.

Close-cropped and thinning hair frames a crumpled nose and an intense pair of eyes that rove over the captive audience as he speaks, singling out listeners in the manner of a trained speaker. Dewey Robertson can play a crowd, no matter what its average age, just the way he did in the halcyon days when he strode around the wrestling ring with the Canadian heavyweight championship belt circling his midriff.

That was a long time ago.

Back then Mr. Robertson could pull in \$2,000 a week offering up airplane spins, figure fours, full nelsons and all the fabrications that go with being a top-billed touring pro on the wrestling circuit.

"I travelled to Hawaii, Fiji, Japan, Australia, all over the United States," he reminisced. "I was never home. I was gone a long time."

And he picked up some very burdensome baggage along the way. A self-confessed addictive personality, he used steroids, then nullified his chemically concocted strength edge with alcohol and drugs. Like all tailspins, it gained momentum as the dive steepened.

He was eventually reduced to sleeping in his pick-up truck or moving in with friends for as long as he could, until they told him to leave. He did it in Dallas, in Jackson, Mississippi and again for two months in Charlotte, North Carolina.

After that he parked his truck in the lots of Waffle House restaurants, all-night eateries frequented by police officers. That offered more security than simply

## VIEW POINT

with ROB KELLY



sleeping in a vehicle on the street. And, "I got food out of the dumpster," he repented to the children. "I'm not proud to tell you that."

Two men he thought of as friends initially coerced him into taking anabolic steroids. His bench press nudged up from 400 to 425 lbs. In return for the marginal strength gain, he says he sacrificed emotional balance. Aggression overtook him. He couldn't control his temper. And he began to drink more and more.

Soon "I carried alcohol with me all the time." By then he was doing drugs to, in a dangerous attempt to play one addiction off against the other. He had several car accidents. Once he abandoned a car on a major highway, went back the next day and found it facing the wrong way on the shoulder. He doesn't know how it happened.

Eventually, he bottomed out. He and wife Gail limped home from North Carolina "with \$26 between us. I blamed everybody else. I resented everybody. But it was not anybody else's fault. It was all my fault." He went to a rehabilitation clinic. Today he's between 18 months and three years into what he terms "recovery", depending on which addiction one selects. "Recovery is hard." But "the highs and lows of everyday life are levelling out better and better."

He lives in Hamilton, the hometown where as a lanky 140 lbs. 19-year-old he discovered wrestling while pumping iron to put some mass on his slim frame.

He enjoys talking to young people, and wants to make that the focus of his life. He hopes to create a youth help program in a sheltered setting to give young people gone astray a second chance. He says he's already generated some interest. There's also talk of a biography.

As his presentation at Our Lady of Victory winds down, he takes questions. The kids want to "see his muscle." He rolls up a sleeve and gives them a quick flex of tuned bicep. They gasp. He smiles, then signs autographs for all. It's his job now.

# What's New?

at Milton Mall

EVERY SUNDAY  
SUNDAY SHOPPING NOON TO 5 PM

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### JANUARY/FEBRUARY

- Feb 12 MEET ARTIST CALVIN NICHOLLS 2:00-5:00pm at National Trust
- Feb 12-13 SPORTS REGISTRATION
- Feb 17-20 1993 CAR SHOW
- Feb 25-27 MILTOWNE DISTRICT GIRL GUIDES
- Feb 25-27 KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS -Car Raffle
- Feb 27 MILTON LACROSSE REGISTRATION

UPCOMING EVENTS

## Feature MERCHANT

Smith's  
**Orchids N' Lace**  
875-4408

"We deliver your floral gifts locally or around the world."

### Valentine's Special

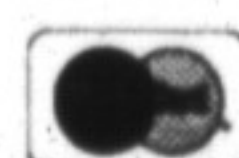
Gorgeous Long Stemmed Red Roses delicately arranged in a vase with baby's breath and a plush stuffed animal to say "I Love You"

39.95

Order Early  
Call Us Today



Great service & satisfaction Guaranteed



## MALL HOURS

Monday to Friday  
9:30 to 9:00

Saturday  
9:30 to 6:00

Sunday  
Noon to 5:00

# MILTON MALL

Closer to Home

55 ONTARIO STREET, SOUTH  
MILTON, ONTARIO  
**878-3900**

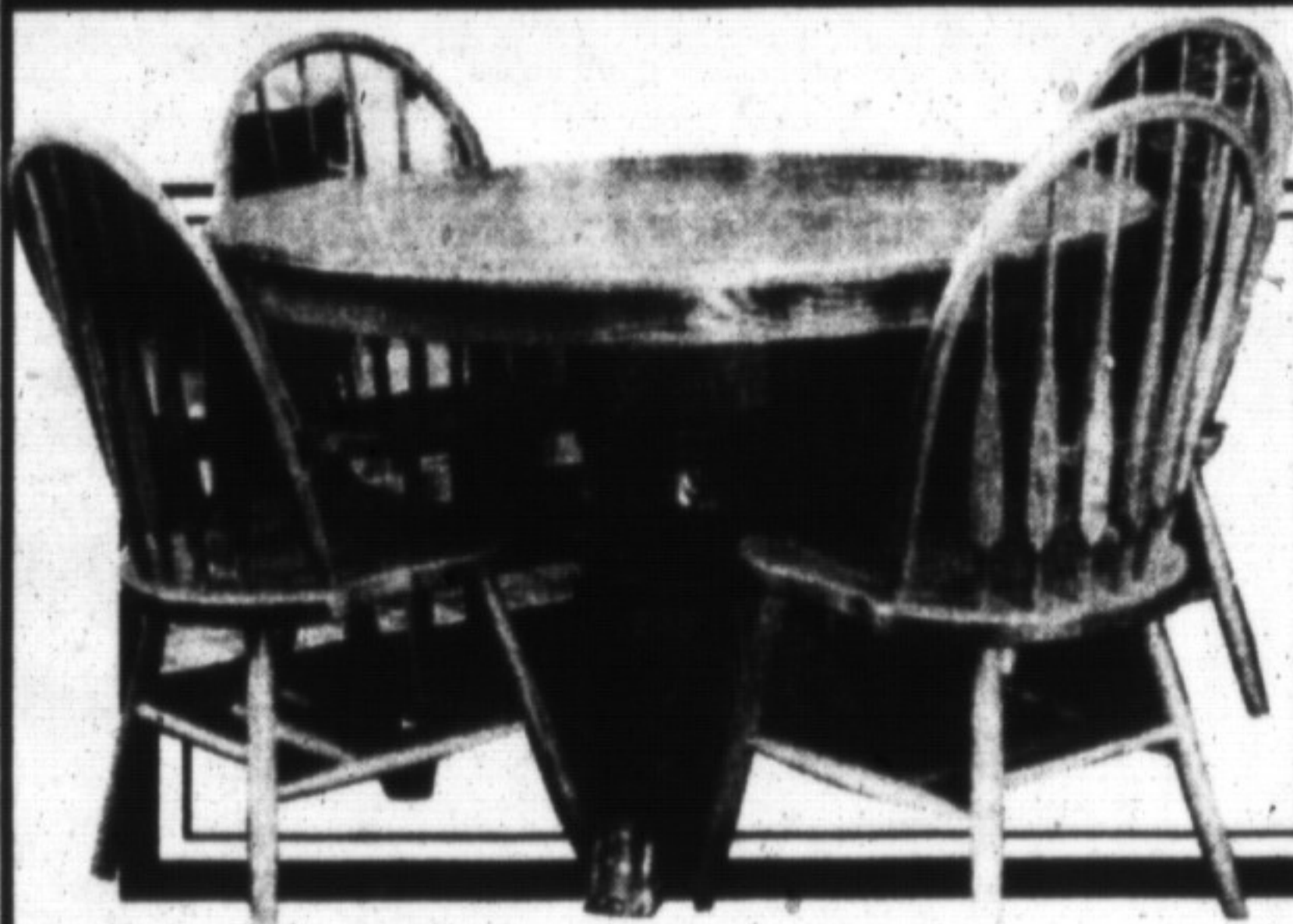
# Fine Oak Things

QUALITY OAK FURNITURE

OF CAMPBELLVILLE

HWY 401 AND

GUELPH LINE



### 42" Solid Oak Table

with two 12" leaves plus four 6-spindle side chairs. Features a double gear driven extension mechanism.

- 42" Round opens to 66" oval
  - 48" Round opens to 72" oval
- Also available in 36" • 42" • 48" & 54"  
Solid tops or with leaves.

**\$968<sup>00</sup>**

### Solid Oak Hutch & Buffet

This china cupboard features solid oak construction. The open pie shelf provides decorator space & the china cupboard comes with two adjustable shelves with plate grooves. Available in plain or leaded glass. Call for details on larger sizes - 50", 60" and 72" widths also available.



Guelph Line North to Campbellville  
OPEN 10 am to 5 pm THURSDAY to MONDAY  
CLOSED TUESDAY and WEDNESDAY  
**854-0649**



100% AMISH MADE SOLID OAK FURNITURE

VISIT OUR 1000 SQ. FT. SHOWROOM FOR AN EXTENSIVE SELECTION OF OAK BUFFETS, HUTCHES, CHINA CABINETS, BOOKCASES AND ACCESSORIES.