



by Ron Jones

Beef beefs part of price Hullabaloo

It is sold once more, trucked to a farm and stays put for a while. Once at an Ontario farm the animal can be handled in a number of different ways but generally it is either grown for a year, sold, trucked again to be fed to slaughtered weight, or fed on the farm to slaughter.

When the animal is ready to kill, it usually (in this part of Ontario) is trucked to Ontario Public Stock Yards where several additional charges are levied against the seller, including a licence fee for the producer's commodity organization, the Ontario Beef Improvement Association.

If the nursery rhyme had been written, "this little beefy goes to market", it could have turned into a full-length novel. Of course in many cases the calf is born and fed to slaughter right on an Ontario farm.

The Canadian Cattleman's Association, a western-dominated beef commodity organization and many people who now feed off the present marketing system are insistent that beef doesn't need a marketing board—"a disaster" prophecies CCA president, Gordon Parke, a B.C. rancher. He claims marketing boards mean "a loss of freedom to make our own decisions."

A Simcoe County beef animal marketed at Ontario Public Stock Yards leaves the farm and is trucked to a privately operated commission firm which attempts to sell it along with all other offerings for the day by auction to the highest bidder. This service costs the producer approximately \$10-15 per head depending on size of the animal.

In a highly technical business world it seems incredible that cattle are still being sold on eyeball appeal of the live animal—what the buyer sees is a few bucks worth of cowhide. The real value of the purchase isn't revealed until after the sale and the carcass is hanging on the rail.

In comparison, a market hog sold under the Ontario Pork Producers' Marketing Board is delivered to an assembly yard generally in the county of origin. Both selling and buying are done by teletype in offices often over 100 miles from the product. When sold, the hogs are delivered direct to the purchaser's processing facilities. For this the pork producer pays his own board approximately \$3 per head. The true value or producer price of the carcass is not determined until it has been graded and weighed under government supervision.

It would seem, considering the two systems, that the cattleman's "freedom" is of dubious value at best. Mrs. Plumtre's published report on beef trade a few months ago has had little effect on beef pricing. Hopefully the findings of the Pricing Inquiry will result in streamlining of an ancient and untrustworthy beef marketing system.

Ron Jones is a Tay Township resident and a freelance writer with Markle Community Newspapers.



by Ray Baker

Dad, the pool shark bridges gap

poolhalls and sure enough they had tried them out, finally giving their loyalties to one particular hall. "Well, what do you think?" said mom. "Do you think we should encourage them, discourage them, or what?"

Looking back in anger I thought back to when I was a boy. Oh deary me. Our local billiard hall was a bad, bad place. My mom and dad told me so. Full of drunks, smoking, swearing, gambling even.

The police raided it on one occasion because people were laying wagers on the results of a game. Boy did I get a lickin' just for being in there watching.

So I thought for a while and said "Well, we won't encourage them, and we won't discourage them either, let's see if it's a passing phase."

It wasn't. They began to talk of 'side in' racks, 'banks' and 'fishing 'em in'.

The toboggans were forgotten, the skates discarded, even phone callers with sweet feminine grade eight voices were told "sorry, I'll be busy tonight. I'm going out with the gang."

Sitting quietly at home last Saturday the boys approached me with "Hey Dad, what are you doing?" I told them "Nothing, just sitting here worrying about you guys."

"Well," they asked, "how about coming down to the poolhall and playing a game with us?"

This was accompanied with winks and looks at each other, as though to say "boy are we going to take him to the cleaners."

I looked at mom, who nodded imperceptibly. "OK," I said "but take it easy on me." Which is how this forty-two-year-old teenager came to be shooting pool with his two sons on a Saturday.

The green base table lay clean and bright, the balls were set up. I rolled a cue to check for distortion in a professional manner, finally choosing one. After all, you never buy a used car without kicking the tires do you?

The first red I sunk was a fluke, out and out, but nonchalantly playing on I beat them by a narrow margin.

"Let's play 101," they said. This involved using balls with numbers on them — one to fifteen or something.

They had to get exactly 101, so my last ball had to be a three. Full length along the table and into the pocket.

Sorry boys, you can't take me to the cleaners tonight, I'm just getting into my stride. The hall itself was well run, well lighted, and clean. Coffee and donuts were available. There were no drunks, no kids old enough to drink even, no gambling, no bad language, no police raids.

There was plenty of action at our

table as the boys led me through all kinds of games. I had to remember that some balls with numbers on had a solid colour, while others had striped colours.

Either the boys had memories like computers or they made up the rules as they went along. Whatever, I thoroughly enjoyed myself.

Although it's called a billiard parlour, nobody plays billiards, so I began to teach the boys how to play. Once they mastered the basic moves like standing back and freezing in position when their opponent takes a shot — "I've seen men killed for moving during a shot" — they caught on fast. Billiards, a gentleman's game. They played like gentlemen and I just managed to scrape home.

All I had to do was pick up the tab for the three of us and go home to mom. "Dad's not that shark," the boys said. I hadn't told them I played for two years in the army. Guess I've still got the touch.

The generation gap had been bridged. The communication gap was well. I was pleased the boys had invited me into their world for a while. It was a compliment. But I'm dreading next Friday night. Hope they don't ask me to go out with them. It's a teen dance....

Ray Baker is a manager at RCA's Midland plant. He and his family live in Penetanguishene.

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Grants awarded French day care

Grants totalling anywhere from \$20,000 to \$28,000 have been approved by the provincial ministry of Community and Social Services for three French Day Care nursery schools to be operated by Le Centre d'Activités Françaises during the next school year.

The total amount of the grant money is not definitely known because grants are based on a percentage basis meaning that the final grant figure depends on

the number of children who enroll in the three schools. Approval of the grants, which are retroactive to May 5, means that the French Centre will be able to open two more day care nursery schools in addition to "Les Petits Angels" which currently operates out of the basement of St. Ann's Church in Penetanguishene. The other two nursery schools will be located in Lafontaine and Perkinsfield.

Historical supervisor



Wendy Buscombe, 25, has previously been employed by the Toronto Historical Board on an architectural survey, has been staff supervisor at Hamilton Place Theatre and a hostess at the Royal Ontario Museum's Chinese exhibition. She received her honours bachelor of fine arts degree from McMaster University in 1971 and has done graduate work in museology at the University of Toronto and the Royal Ontario Museum.

She is residing in Midland.

DESTROY WEEDS

Notice is hereby given to all persons in possession of land in the Town of Midland, in accordance with the Weed Control Act, 1972, Section 4, 14 and 20 that noxious weeds growing on their lands within the Municipality are to be destroyed and kept in control throughout the season.

If it is deemed necessary, the Municipality may enter upon the said lands and have the weeds destroyed, charging the cost against the land in taxes as set out in the Act. The co-operation of all the citizens is earnestly solicited. Please note that Dandelions, Burdock and Goldenrod are not considered noxious weeds within the Town of Midland under the Weed Control Act; therefore, complaints concerning these weeds, or any anonymous complaints, cannot be accepted.

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J.F. Reynolds, City Enforcement Officer

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Students organize senior activities

As the result of two government grants, institutionalized senior citizens of this area can look forward to a summer filled with activity designed for their particular needs.

Two university students whose homes are in Midland have already started working from a headquarters provided for them at the Mental Health Centre, Penetanguishene. Jo-Anne Cheateley and John Parker will be operating under direction of Gary Westgarth who is president of the Simcoe County Recreation Association for Institutionalized Senior Citizens. Seven additional high school students will join the group when their classes terminate.

Jo-Anne has completed her first year at McMaster University and is aiming for a career in social work.

John Parker has received a federal OFY grant to work in CHIMO—Citizens of Huronia Involvement and Motivational Organization. He will be joined by three secondary school students to provide social and recreational programs for all institutionalized senior citizens in the area which includes homes in hospitals and nursing homes. John said he will also be aiming at starting some activities in the Barrie and Collingwood areas which have not been as fortunate as our own locale. He expects to organize one joint activity for the area each week during this summer. In addition, if he is successful in sparking programs in the other centres, John says he hopes to be able to schedule some back-to-back events between the areas.

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