

Ogemewajumon

An 83-year-old Ojibway traces his ancestry

Two things become immediately clear during a conversation with Matthew King, an 83-year-old Ojibway who lives in Port McNicoll.

On is that he does not call himself an Indian. He is a native of Canada.

The second is his reference to immigrants. In Matthew King's lexicon, immigrants are non-Indians - all those who came to this country from over seas.

King traces his own ancestry to his great-grandfather who was a Potawatami from Wisconsin. He fought under the British flag in the War of 1812. When the war ended, Chief Ogemewajumon along with other native soldiers, was instructed to travel to the Naval and Military establishments at Penetanguishene.

"When they got there - they came by canoe - they were given presents

and then some of them went to live in Coldwater and some to Georgina Island. Then the immigrants came from overseas and the Queen sent a message that the Indians should let the white people live on their land. The chiefs talked it over and decided to go to Beausoleil Island and they lived there for a while but the land was not too good, so they went to Christian Island. There were 100 people there under my great grandfather, and they cleared land and made a garden."

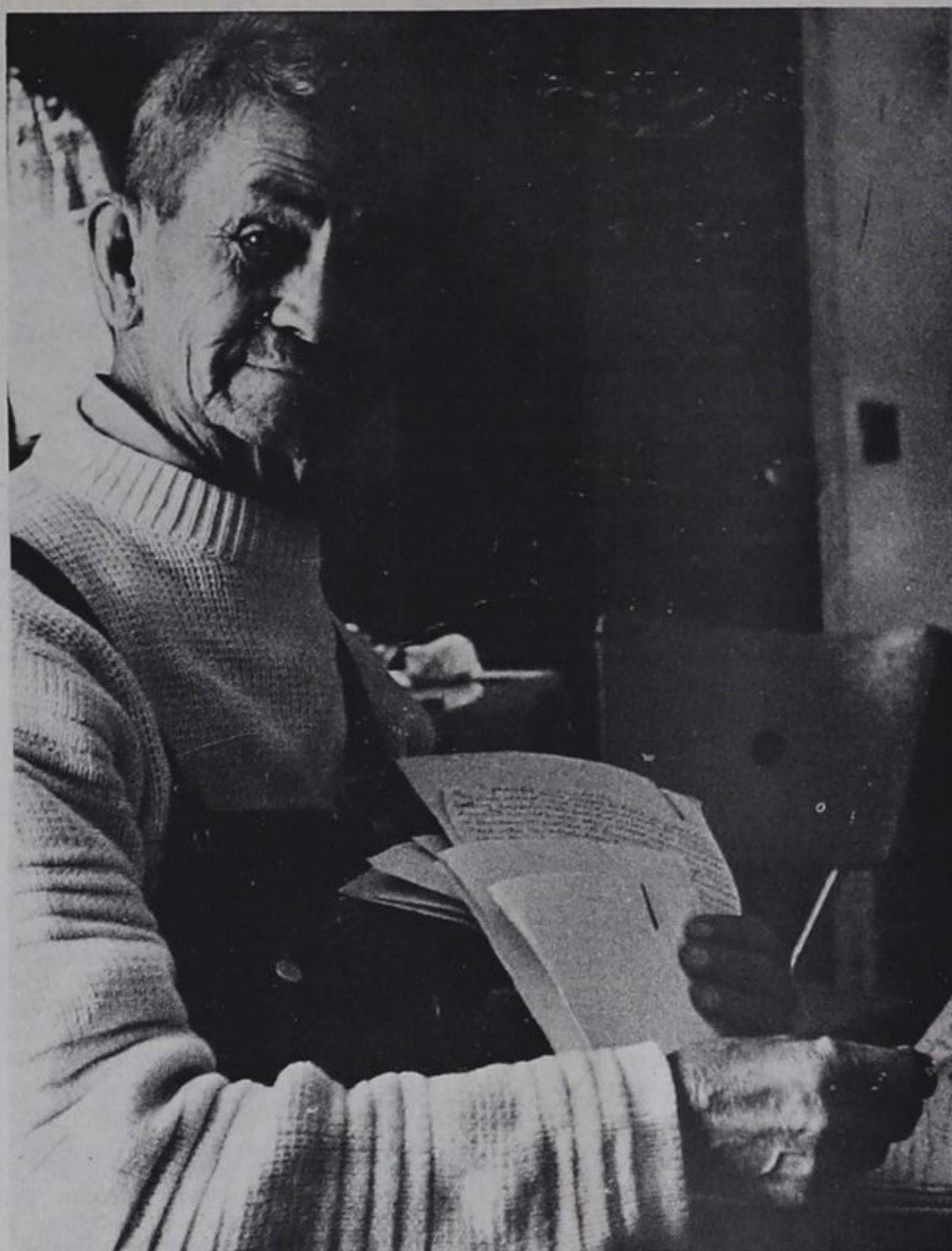
"My great grandfather never took the Christian religion, so they called him a pagan. They were still giving the native people presents, but my great-grandfather would never accept any of them. And this is how my family came to Christian Island."

White people had dif-

ficulty pronouncing Chief Ogemewajumon's name, so they changed it to King, and thus it remained.

Matthew King was born on Christian Island, spent part of his boyhood in Penetanguishene and then moved with his family to the Parry Island Reserve. Young Matthew became trilingual. He learned French from his mother, Ojibway from his father, and picked up English from men working in lumber camps. When he went to school on Parry Island, he served his teacher as interpreter.

From his grandfather, Matthew King learned another kind of language - that of the drum, and the rhythms of the native dances. He remembers 1928, when he and 45 native dancers from Shawniga, Bala, Christian Island and Pickrel River went to



King's proudest possession is the battered portfolio filled with hand-written legends

the CNE in Toronto.

"We went by train, and they paid our expenses and gave us \$2.50 a day. Another man and I played the drums, and hummed, and our people danced as part of the big grandstand show. We did it every night for two weeks. We all wore deerskin costumes with beadwork that the women made. I remember that the Prince of Wales - he became King Edward - came to the fair, and he was in a buggy with horses pulling it. He came to our camp and shook hands with us."

King's happiest memories centre around his boyhood on Christian Island. The legends that his grandfather told him are still fresh in his mind, and he has a thick sheaf of handwritten notes which he thinks might be the beginning of a book about the heritage and history of Canada's native people.

Visions after a period of fasting play an important part in these legends. "I remember in the old days when a boy wanted to be a man, he would go away from the people and stay in a place that was fenced around with sticks. He would stay there for ten days, and whatever he dreamt on the tenth night would show him what he was going to be in life."

One legend that King learned from his grand-

father has overtones of a familiar Bible story. "Nanibuss lived with his grandmother. One night when he was sleeping his god came and told him that the ground was going to be covered with water. So Nanibuss got enough food to last his grandmother for a year or two, and he went out to make something to save the animals. He walked till he came to a big forest and he cut the trees down and made a big raft. Every night, he would dream, and someone would tell him what to do."

"He put his raft on top of a big mountain and when the flood came he whistled to the north south east and west and whatever animal heard that whistle came, and they filled up the raft. After 40 days, Nanibuss dreamed that the water would go down, and in three days you could see the ground again. Nanibuss said to the animals, "You are free to go" and that way, the people would have meat to eat because there will still animals after all that water."

Other tales have a whimsical side. "A travelling hunter, saw a lot of people dancing and dancing in the distance. So he danced too, around and around until he got so tired he couldn't stand up. 'Stop, stop' he said to all those people that were dancing. But they went

right on swaying back and forth. And do you know what they were?" King pauses and his face crinkles into a mischievous grin. "They were bullrushes, swaying in the wind!"

Matthew tells the old tales to his grandson, George, who lives with him. He's also teaching little George the Ojibway language. "Many of our people don't talk the old language now," he says. "They and adds with a chuckle, "They are all Englishmen now!"

The Ojibway language, insists King, is a clean one. "You can't swear in Ojibway!" he says.

Matthew King says he does not want to live on the Reserve any more. "I don't like the way some of the people live. They drink too much and then they don't know what they are saying."

Today, he lives with his daughter and grandson in a little house that he built for himself in 1970. There are birthday cards tacked up on the walls, and a faded photograph of himself when he was 21 years old. But one of his proudest possessions is the battered portfolio filled with careful hand-written legends that were passed down to him by his grandfather.

Each one is signed: "This legend was written by a Native Person of Canada."

From the local slaughterhouse

Take a pig's ear home to mom

If you're looking for someone to lend you an ear, you might try Herman Quesnelle on Concession 11 of Tiny Township.

Herman owns and operates the only slaughterhouse in the immediate area, and his customers come from Lafontaine, and down beyond Elmvale - as far away as Craighurst.

Lately, his slaughterhouse has been visited by school tours. While a few of the youngsters are turned off by the blood, most are fascinated by the whole operations. "One little girl took a pig's ear home to her mother as a souvenir," recalls Herman.

Farmers bring their cattle or swine to Herman and he and his staff (Allan Marion and Ernest Quesnelle) do the killing. A farmer who brings his cow to Herman's door pays \$7 to have it killed.

First the animal is stunned with a steel pin fired from a captive bolt pistol. "It's humane," says Herman. "We aim for a spot between the horns and the eyes." The jugular vein is cut and the animal is bled. All

the blood (it may not go into the tile drain system) is collected in a large tank, and taken away for sanitary disposal.

After the animal is bled, it is skinned and the hides are salted down and stored for periodic pick-up by tanneries.

Offal - the bones and fat - is also collected to be made into fertilizer and bone meal.

The tripe and lungs go to Herb Ritchie of Elmvale who uses them as feed for young mink.

If it is suspected that an animal is diseased, Midland veterinarian Ben Van Toledo is called in right away. When disease is confirmed, the carcass is immediately injected with an evil smelling dye called a de-naturant which renders it obviously unfit for human consumption. The carcass is put into a barrel and is sent to the provincial inspector.

Inspections of Quesnelle's operations occur frequently. He has to meet the sanitation requirements of the Ministry of Food and Agriculture. Everyone who works with Quesnelle is periodically given TB tests. Because Quesnelle

and his assistants are in direct contact with live animals, they must also have anti-rabies shots.

After the animal is killed, the carcass is split and washed down, and put in a cooler where it is held at 36 degrees for 10 days. "This aging tenderizes the meat," says Quesnelle.

So far, there has been no kosher killing at Quesnelle's but when he started in the butchering business 25 years ago, a rabbi would make periodic visits and carry out the necessary ritual.

When the meat has hung for the prescribed period, it is handed over to butchers Henry Wilson and George Hanning who rent the front half of Quesnelle's building. Shirley Manning is also a butcher and she and her daughter Margaret and Betty Wilson look after cutting and wrapping, in accordance with the customers' written orders. They are often amused by the lists, which sometimes seem to be made up by someone with scant knowledge of the anatomy of a cow.

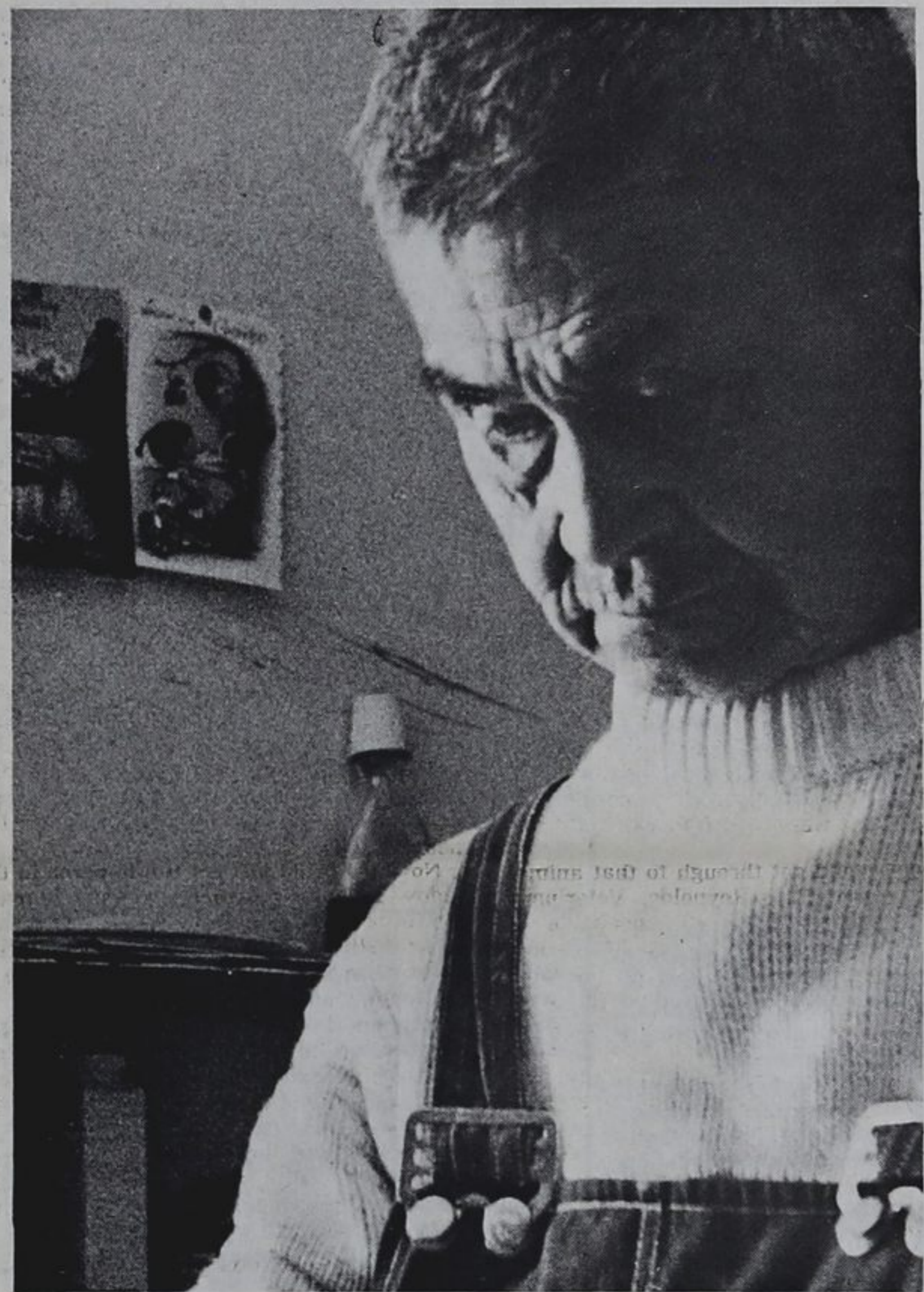
There are only so many steaks and roasts that can

be cut from one animal. Quesnelle's busiest time is from September to the early part of January. At such times, he'll kill 87 cattle and 15 hogs in a week. A summer specialty is suckling pigs, which when they are eviscerated and de-haired, are in demand for barbecues.

Sometimes, Quesnelle gets night calls. If an animal has been struck down in a road accident, and the veterinarian has determined that the meat is fit for human consumption, Quesnelle may, after consultation with the farmer, take it to his slaughterhouse.

Not all the visitors to Quesnelle's slaughterhouse are stock owners. Biology students come out to pick up lungs and eyes for biology projects. And school groups continue to find the process fascinating.

At least most of them do. Quesnelle and his butchers are still chuckling about the little girl who after viewing the first step in the production of a T-bone steak, went home and announced that she was eating nothing but eggs.



Born on Christian Island, Matthew King speaks three languages

Huronia Community Calendar

Wednesday, March 10

The Ted Moses Jazz Quintet will perform at the Georgian College Theatre, Barrie, at 8:30 p.m. Tickets are available from Sam The Record Man, Muntz Centre, Georgian College, or by calling 728-1951, ext. 281. A reception for audience and musicians will be held at the College following the concert.

Thursday, March 11

Midget Minor Hockey Club presents Stompin' Tom Connors, Midland Secondary School at 8:00 p.m. Advance tickets are available from Jim Armstrong at CKMP 526-2268.

Thursday, March 11

The general public is invited to attend the annual meeting of the Board of Directors of the Penetanguishene General Hospital, to be held at the Hospital at 8:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 13

St. Patrick's Dance will be held in St. John's Hall, Waubausene, from 9 p.m. until 1 a.m. Music by Music Machine. Only 100 tickets, and are available at Hook's Store, Waubausene, or from any council member.

Saturday, March 13

Legion Curling Bonspiel Dance at 9 p.m. in the Normandy Room, Penetanguishene Legion. Music by disc jockey. Lunch! chili and homemade bread. Everyone welcome.

Saturday March 13

Midland Horticultural Society bus trip to the Flower Show in the Automotive Building, Exhibition Grounds, from 8 a.m. until 7 p.m. Please contact Mrs. Maria Wittig at 526-5530.

Saturday, March 13

St. Patrick's Tea and Bake Sale at Bonar Church, Port McNicoll, from 2 until 4 p.m.

Saturday, March 13

Don't miss our last Jitney Curling Night of the season at 7:30 p.m. Two curling draws, two sets of prizes and two lucky number draws. Dance to the music of Rick Lemieux at the Penetanguishene Curling Club.

Saturday, March 13

Georgian Shores Swinging Seniors are holding a St. Patrick's Tea, Bake Sale and Variety Gift Table, at The Surf, Balm Beach, from 12 until 4 p.m.

Saturday, March 13

St. Patrick's Tea and Bake Sale, and "Anything Goes Table", will be held in St. Ann's Church, Penetanguishene, from 1 until 3 p.m. Proceeds to be donated to the First and Second

Brownie Pack. Donations would be appreciated for baking and "Anything Goes Table". For pickup call 549-2168 or 549-8324.

Wednesday, March 17

Quota Club of Huronia invites you to their annual card party on St. Patrick's Day, at 8 o'clock in Burkevale School, 39 Burke Street, Penetanguishene. Lots of door prizes. Free lunch and refreshments. Tickets available at the door or from members of the Quota Club.

Wednesday, March 17

In St. Ann's Laboreau Hall, Penetanguishene, the Catholic Women's League invites you to our open meeting, to see several short films from the Cancer Society. All ladies welcome.

Monday, March 22

Annual Meeting of the corporation of St. Andrews Hospital, Midland, will be held at the Hospital, on Dominion Avenue, at 8:00 p.m. Everyone welcome.

Saturday, March 27

Dance, sponsored by the Penetanguishene Senior Citizen Club will be held at the Penetang Legion. Jack Trewin's orchestra. Open bar. Tickets available from E. Robitaille 549-8450. A. Cote 549-2552, and at the door. Everyone welcome.

Wednesday, March 31

Auditions for the 13th annual Elmvale and District Maple Syrup Talent Showcase will be held at Elmvale and District High School. Times: 10 years and under 6:30 to 7:30 p.m., 11 years to 15 inclusive 7:30 to 8:30 p.m., 16 years to 20 inclusive 8:30 to 9:30 p.m. and 21 years and older 9:30 p.m. Contestants may pick up entry forms at music centres throughout the Elmvale area or call Mrs. Isobel Thompson 322-2201, Mrs. Lynn Gorell 322-2573.

Notice

The Simcoe County Health Unit is offering its annual Pre-School Screening Clinic for children who will be entering Kindergarten in September 1976. Clinics are held weekly. Please call for an appointment now. Telephone Midland Health Unit at 526-9325.

Saturday, April 3

The Midland and District Shriners are holding their annual dinner dance at the Country Mill. There will be dancing to Bob Walker's orchestra. Tickets are available from any Shrine Club member. Proceeds go to work with crippled children.

Tuesday, April 6

Wednesday, April 7

The 1976 Music Festival for Coldwater and District will take place. The United Church facilities will be requested. Mrs. Dora Dent, Port Hope, will be Adjudicator. Mrs. Pat Doughty, who heads the Music Festival Committee, is directing the efforts of a large group to prepare the Festival.

Saturday, April 10

Ladies' Auxiliary Royal Canadian Legion Branch 80 "Tulip Dance". Music by the Phillips Trio, from Brantford. Time: 9 p.m. Lunch, door prizes. All proceeds to Huronia District Hospital.

Saturday, April 24

St. Paul's United Church UCW are holding a rummage sale in the auditorium. Doors open at 1:00 p.m.

Friday, May 7

The W.A. of Knox Presbyterian Church will hold their Spring Tea and Bake Sale in the Sunday School auditorium from 2 p.m. until 5 p.m. Everyone welcome.

Friday, May 14

St. Paul's United Church Women will hold a Pussy Willow Tea, from 2:30 until 4:30 p.m.

Friday, May 14

Saturday, May 15

Friday, April 23

Saturday, April 24

Elmvale and District Choral Society Annual Spring Concert in Huronia Centennial School, Elmvale.

Notice

The winner of the Midland Cívinet Club afghan draw, was Mrs. M. Gignac, 2 Robert Street, Penetanguishene.

Notice

Camping Course. Names are now being taken for a "Camping Course" to include types of equipment, safety measures, what to buy and not to buy, etc. For further information, call Midland Y.M.C.A. at 526-7828.

Organizers are invited to publicize their upcoming events free of charge in the Times Community Calendar. Please call the Community Calendar editor at 526-9369 or drop your message into the Midland Times office, 525 Bay Street.

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