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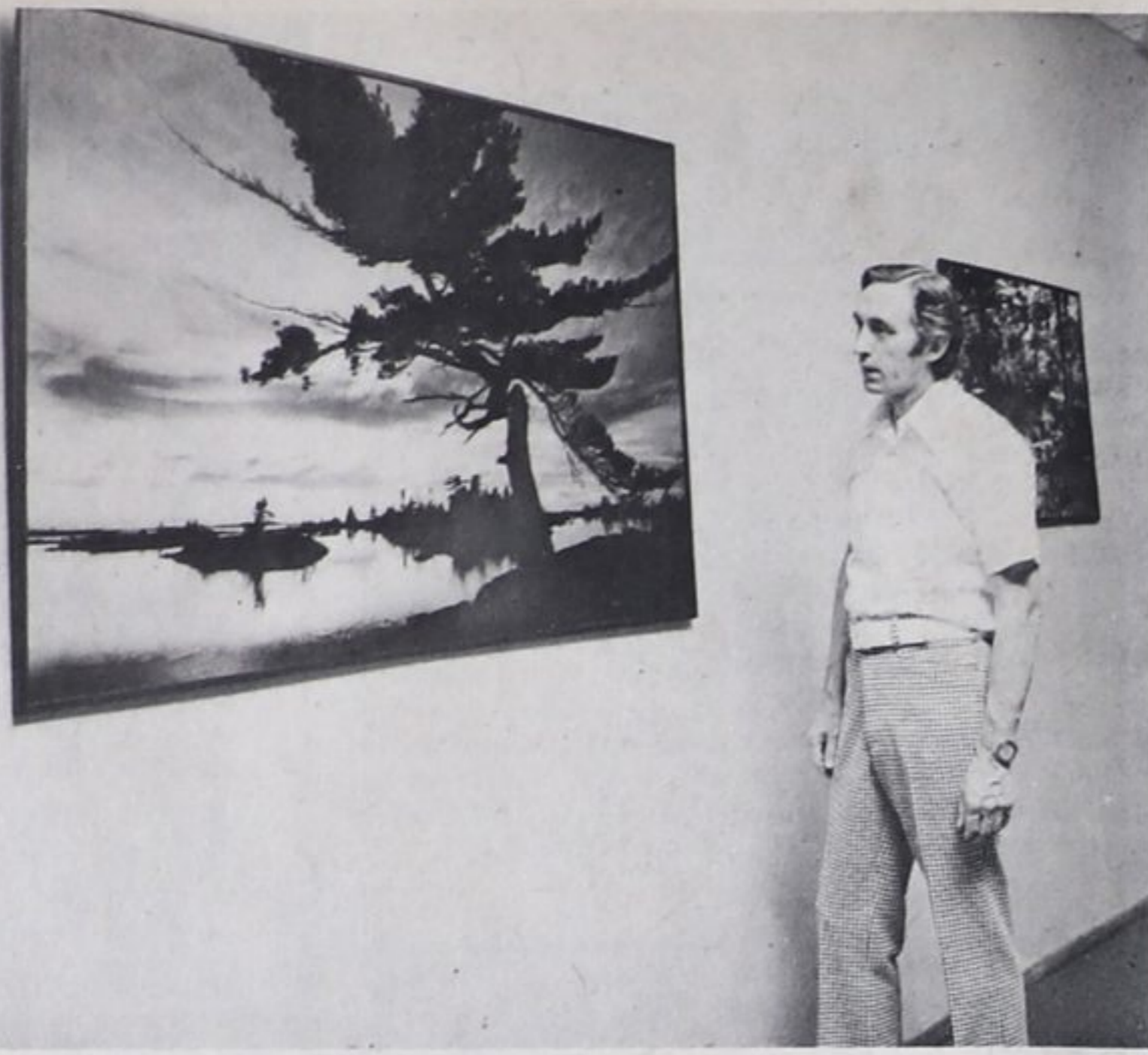


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### Watson exhibits

Renowned colour photographer Budd Watson of Midland and Wyebridge is exhibiting his work at the Gallery of Historic Huronia at Huronia museum in Little Lake Park, Midland. Photo courtesy of Watson's studio.

### Photography display

## Gallery features Watson

An extensive exhibition of colour photography by Budd Watson of Midland and Wyebridge is featured at the recently opened Gallery of Historic Huronia at the Huronia Museum in Little Lake Park.

In this collection, Watson displays his viewpoint of the eastern Georgian Bay area in his own distinctive way.

Considered to be among one of the best colour photographers in Canada, Watson was recently named a member of the Association of the Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain.

Budd Watson's work has been chosen to grace the walls of the executive offices in the Garfield Weston building in Toronto and his work has also been included in the McMichael Canadian collection at Kleinburg. The story of Huronia is featured in numerous ways in the new Gallery. Among these is a graphic display covering more than 350 years, and ranging from Champlain's visit to Georgian Bay in 1615, as shown in drawings and paintings by C.W. Jefferies, to more recent times as created in a collection of paintings by The Group of Seven.

The story of Huronia's past is fascinating and an excellent outline can be seen at Huronia Museum, which is open weekdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and Sunday from noon to 5 p.m.

### At MHC

## History compiled

An investigation of the Penetanguishene Mental Health Centre began early this past week. However, this investigation is not of a governmental or criminal nature nor is the investigation under the supervision of the RCMP or ombudsman.

The Penetanguishene Mental Health Centre Volunteer Association is spearheading an investigation that will reveal the historical developments of the centre since the 1800's.

Information relating to the centre is scattered throughout the area and a history research committee has been organized under the inspiration of Gary Westgarth the Volunteer Co-ordinator, to investigate the history of the centre.

At the completion of the project a document is to be published that will unveil the facts that illustrate the dramatic and exciting significance that the centre has played in the development of this area.

This committee requests the assistance of citizens in the area to inform them about any documents or articles that they may have in their possession which could lead to the completion of the project. Call Gary Westgarth at 549-7431, ext. 284 if you have any leads. Your cooperation will be sincerely appreciated.

### Opens Monday in Barrie

## Midlanders perform in "Ah! Wilderness"

by Pat Ligowski

The city-born myth of Midland as a "cultural backwater" is crumbling. The number of people in this area involved in the arts has always been proportionately high, but the evidence is becoming more visible, particularly in the field of theatre.

The Gryphon Theatre Company, as part of its continuing salute to the American Bicentennial, opens Eugene O'Neill's "Ah! Wilderness" on Monday, July 19 at the Georgian College Theatre in Barrie.

Featured in this play are three faces familiar to native Midlanders and patrons of the Huronia Players.

O'Neill emerged as a dramatist in reaction against the sentimental farces and melodramas which dominated the glib commercial theatre as he knew it. The revitalization of American theatres in the 1930's, as reflected in the works of O'Neill (the only U.S. playwright to receive the Nobel Prize for Literature) can be partially credited to the experimentation of the non-commercial Little Theatre movement in the States at the time. It is appropriate that the Huronia Players continue to feed the professional market in the same spirit

of regeneration, almost fifty years later.

There are many inherent problems in Canadian theatre. Certainly it is not the glamorous and well-paying profession that we mistakenly believe it is, due to the influence of the American "star" system. Without debating the difference and relative merits of the Canadian and American systems, it is indeed difficult to succeed as a Canadian performer. There are many obstacles to face, not the least of which is national exposure. The regional nature of this country and theatrical philosophy make it necessary for Canadian performers to be extremely flexible. The time, money and energy expended by Canadian performers trying to eke out an existence in professional theatre gives some indication of the dedication required for this strenuous art.

"I only feel alive when I'm in the theatre," says Lloyd Gabriel, who plays the Bartender in "Ah! Wilderness". Mr. Gabriel, a Midland resident for the last five years, has had a varied career in theatre and dance, exemplifying the flexibility and healthy ego necessary to sustain oneself in the performing arts. As he says, "I do a little bit of a lot of things."

For someone as wholeheartedly enthralled by theatre as Lloyd Gabriel, the Huronia Players provide a welcome opportunity to practise his art. The chance to perform with the Gryphon Theatre Company helps to fill in

the summer months. Although Gabriel is with the Gryphon as an amateur actor (he is not currently a member of performers' union, Actor's Equity) he is no stranger to the professional scene. As well as doing a number of commercials for CKVR television, Lloyd was a dancer in the pilot film for CTV's Pig and Whistle, has worked for CBC, and going back further worked at the Niagara Barn Theatre with such celebrities as Elwy Yost and Cecil Lender. Currently he is deeply involved with the Regional Academy of Dancing, as well as teaching at the National Conservatory. His energies are being channelled towards promoting ballet in the area, an ambition which he sees as one aspect of his total career.

Ray Holt is another person who extends his talents and energies over a wide area. As well as being Creative Drama teacher at Midland Secondary School, a husband, a father, and an active member of the Huronia Players, Holt has been furthering his theatrical education at Toronto's York University. His role as David McComber in "Ah! Wilderness" provides him with the opportunity to work in a professional environment without relinquishing his amateur status. "In two eight-hour days," says Holt, "We cover what would normally be covered in a three-week period in a teaching experience."

Although he has planted roots in Midland (he has

been here for nine years), the siren song of theatre beckons him. Given the right opportunity (and salary) he would not be adverse to leaving this area. Still, Holt has not found this area to be lacking in theatrical opportunities, and when considering this chance to work with the Gryphon Theatre Company, seems to be quite content to be where he is.

Bev Hanna, an ex-Midland resident now making her home in Stroud, plays Belle in O'Neill's play. As a fully professional member of the Gryphon Theatre Company, Hanna is continuing to grow as an actress as theatre develops in the area. As well as her numerous roles with the Huronia Players, Hanna has worked with Barrie's Little's Hill Players, and Georgian College. Her talents are not confined to performing—her ability as a visual artist are testimony to the breadth of her creativity.

Theatre has always been considered a somewhat elitist form of entertainment, and

O'Neill is certainly regarded as a literary playwright. "Ah! Wilderness," his only comedy, deals with the growing pains of a sensitive adolescent boy in a small New England town in the early 1900's. The play is considered to be a fantasy of what O'Neill's own life might have been, as opposed to the bitter picture painted in the truly autobiographical Long Day's Journey Into Night.

The play merits viewing on that basis alone, but more importantly the Gryphon Theatre Company and the Midland residents involved in the production are deserving of support. The importance of Little Theatre as a driving force in professional theatre continues to be as important today as it was in O'Neill's own time.

"Ah! Wilderness," opening July 19 at 8:30 p.m. and running to July 24 at the Georgian College Theatre (401 Duckworth Street, Barrie), with its small-town setting and local actors, provides a glimpse of ourselves.

## Ann B. Smith dies

The death occurred at the Villa Nursing Home on Sunday, July 11, of Ann B. Smith (Develin).

She was the beloved wife of the late Thomas Smith, sister of Hilda (Mrs. J.A. Bremner) of Toronto and the late Evelyn (Mrs. N. Edgar), Sarah (Mrs. C. Gropp), Ethel (Sister St. Marcion), Ella (Mrs. D.

Kenelly) and Charles Develin.

She was the loving aunt of Mrs. C. Wilding of Midland, and will be lovingly remembered by nieces and nephews.

Funeral services were held from the Lynn Funeral Home in Midland on Tuesday, July 13.

Interment St. Margaret's Cemetery.



### A hobby and a craft

Grinding and polishing stone to work into jewelry has been Dave Nicklin's hobby for two years. A Midland

resident, Nicklin demonstrated his craft at the St. Paul's church arts and crafts festival last week.

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Phelpston 7.30 p.m. Sat 9 a.m. Sun.  
Elmvale 8.00 a.m. 10.00 a.m. Sun.

### PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA

Minister: Rev. Sydney McDonald BA  
Phones: The Church 322-1411, The Manse, 322-2453  
Elmvale Church: Christian Education, 10 a.m.  
Christian Worship, 11 a.m.

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St. John's - Elmvale  
Minister: Rev. B. Gazzard  
Worship: 11:00 a.m. (Nursery during Service)  
Phones: Church 322-1472, Manse 322-1522  
Wyevale United Church: 11:30 a.m.  
Waverley United Church: 10:00 a.m.  
Rev. Allan J. McLaughlin, Minister

### SALVATION ARMY

Capt. and Mrs. Roy Figley  
The Salvation Army are meeting in the Youth Hall at the rear of 251 2nd St., Midland.  
9:30 a.m. — Sunday School for all ages  
11:00 a.m. — Sunday Morning Meeting  
7 p.m. — Sunday Evening  
Tues. 7 p.m. — Prayer and Bible Fellowship  
Wed. 2:00 p.m. — Ladies Meetings

Appointments for spiritual help, practical assistance, marriages, dedications, funerals, marriage counselling, suicide prevention, etc. telephone 526-2751 — Captain and Mrs. R.C. Figley.

## Twins born at St. Andrew's hospital

A son was born to Mr. and Mrs. David Babcock of 7 JURY Street in Penetanguishene on July 6 at St. Andrew's Hospital.

On July 7, a daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Marcel Ladouceur of R.R. 1, Perkinsfield.

Mr. and Mrs. Leslie Tobey of Honey Harbour announce the arrival of a daughter on July 9.

A daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Finlayson of 420 Ellen Street in Midland on July 10.

On July 11, a daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Powell, of Penetanguishene.

Twin boys were born to Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Cote at St. Andrew's Hospital on July 11. The Raymonds live on Peek-a-Boo Trail in Penetanguishene.

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