

Housekeepers feel the job was a lovely way to spend summer

"The best job in the world!" That's how Pearl Goldsmith, Quebec Street, describes her 26 summers as a housekeeper in Midland's Little Lake Park. "Not everybody was as lucky as I was," she says. "Imagine spending your whole summer in the park."

Ada Laughlin of Eighth Street, feels the same way. "It was a lovely job," she says, and I always looked forward to starting each spring. Ada worked with Pearl for 27 years.

Now both ladies are in retirement, not because they wanted to stop work but because their jobs no longer exist. Cottaging in the Park has been phased out.

At one time there were 86 little "bunkie" cabins

in the Park which were rented out to summer visitors. In 1950, larger two bedroom cottages were introduced. All the little cabins are gone now, and it won't be long before the bigger cottages will be moved out.

"I guess," jokes Pearl, "they had to close the cottages to get rid of us."

In the more than a quarter century that the two women have put in looking after the cabins and cottages, they've seen changes in the Park. Pearl remembers the bandstand with affection and feels sorry that it was taken down several years ago. "They used to have a church service there every Sunday night, and that park was right full of cars. Now it's gone, and the boothhouse is gone. Sometimes we used to go

over and straighten things up at the arena. Now it's gone too."

When Ada and Pearl first started their housekeeping duties, they went from cabin to cabin, carrying linens and cleaning supplies.

"Then," Pearl recalls, "we got modern. We were given big laundry-baskets to carry the stuff. In the most recent years, we were really up to date. The men used to deliver the linens for us in the truck."

Both ladies still keep in touch with friends they made among cottagers who returned to Little Lake year after year.

"There was one lady I remember," says Pearl, "who used to fix her little cabin up every year just like a little doll's house. She always had a cold

drink ready for us when we made our rounds in the afternoons.

Ada Laughlin remembers the days when campers used a communal kitchen in the Park. "That used to be so much fun," she says. "Just like a picnic."

Among her souvenirs is a collection of water colours of Little Lake, done by a Miss Walton who used to spend her holiday there annually.

According to both ladies, there were many disappointed cottagers this year when the news went out that renting was being discontinued.

Forced retirement doesn't phase either one of them. Although both are past traditional retirement age, both are brimming over with energy and things to do. Pearl and her husband are planning a trip out west. Ada has her garden, and maintains that she's going to spend some time housecleaning her own home, which is already as shiny as a new pin. She also has an orphaned family of baby squirrels to look after.

They both have a rich store of happy memories. "There were lots of other wonderful people who worked there with us," says Ada. "I remember Lily Ironside, and Elizabeth McMann and June Hansford and Evelyn Banks - she's still working down there. My mother used to work down there with me, and my brother Herman and my daughter, Mrs. Barbara Preston."

They also have high praise for their boss, "Mac" McAllen. He is quick to return the compliment. "Ada and Pearl were very faithful. Very reliable," he says. "You could count on them, and they never let you down." And for Ada Laughlin and Pearl Goldsmith, that's a mighty fine employment record.



Ada Laughlin



Pearl Goldsmith

St. Mary's CWL hold regular meet

St. Mary's Catholic Women's League Victoria Harbour held its meeting in the school room, on Tuesday, Sept. 14th. It was reported mass cards had been purchased for two deceased members and candles were held at their funeral during the summer. The financial report was read from the Turkey supper and everyone who helped in any way is to be thanked very much for their part in making the supper such a huge success.

The winners of the Lucky Draw were Peggy Cadeau, Midland, who won the Afghan and Carol Holms, Whitby who won the Poncho and hat set. The Fall regional meeting will be held in Port McNicoll Sept. 29th with mass at 7:30 p.m. The date for the Annual Christmas bazaar will be Thursday evening, Nov. 25th. The meeting closed with prayer.

Gymnastics course Gymnastics will be held in the Victoria Harbour Public School for a period of 20 weeks. The cost will be \$15.00 for 19 years and over. For 18 years old and younger it will be \$6.00 for 20 weeks. The girls and women will start Monday, Oct. 18th, with Anita Smitten being in charge. The men and boys will start Thursday, Oct. 21 with Rick LeClair of the Midland YMCA in charge. For further information contact Ted

Savage at 534-3952.

Bridal shower

On Sept. 23 at bridal shower was held at St. John's United Church for Mary Lee Walker. There were about 60 people present. The programme started with the ladies making Mary Lee a wedding dress out of tissue paper and pins, it looked good, however, I wouldn't recommend Mary Lee wearing it on a very windy day.

With the help of Susan Copeland, Anne Walker and Lorraine Belcher Mary Lee opened many beautiful gifts. The present from the town collection, was a canister set in gold, an ironing board in gold and cover, some bakeware, a laundry basket and an electric grill. Afterwards Mary Lee thanked everyone for the lovely gifts and lunch was served.

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YMCA news

Registration open

by Anne Bourgeois

Are you looking for something to do this fall. The Y.M.C.A. is offering a number of different youth and adult programs and registrations are now being accepted for our fall and winter activities.

One of our new programs this year is a Dried Flower Course beginning Tuesday, Sept. 28th at 7:30 p.m. Our instructor will initiate the six week program with a lecture on how to dry, followed by practical work including a rosebowl, basket, shoka, centrepiece and plaques.

Pottery classes are once again being conducted for both adults and teens beginning Thursday Oct. 7, 1976 Erica Pape and Agnes Vogt are the instructors of this 10 week course and will include many aspects, and techniques in the art of pottery into the program. Call now for further in-

formation.

A number of last year's youth programs are once again on our schedule including, bowling, and baton lessons held on Monday, Fun Club on Wednesdays and Arts and Crafts on Saturdays. Leadership has already been established for all of these programs but if you should have some time available extra help would be appreciated.

The Ladies Take A Break group would like to build up their membership on Wednesday mornings. Are you new in town? The T.A.B. group would like to welcome you to their ladies club which consists of coffee, babysitting, and speakers, outings, films, etc.

The main purpose of the club is to meet new friends, and relax for a few hours without the kids at your feet. New program ideas are

always welcome.

A popular program at the Midland YMCA is the ballroom dancing program to be held on Wednesdays beginning on Sept. 29th.

Our classes are conducted by Loyd Gabriel who will incorporate many dances and steps such as: waltz, fox trot, jiveswing, and other latin american dances. There is limited registration in the program. Register now.

Other activities beginning in October are pre-ski fitness classes, interior design and applications are being accepted now.

We are looking for a record player and toys for our youth programs. If you have one please contact Anne Bourgeois at 526-7828.

Further information can be obtained on any of our courses by calling the Y.M.C.A.

Midland woman died recently

The death occurred on Wednesday, September 22 at St. Andrew's Hospital of Marjorie May McMurry of 522 Yonge Street.

She was the daughter of the late Thomas and Minnie McMurry and sister of Eva (Mrs. T.J. Craighead) and Myrtle (Mrs. M. Wood), both of Midland, and the late Gertrude, Percy, William and Elsie.

A private service was held, Interment Lakeview Cemetery.

Raymond Noakes

Raymond Spencer

Noakes passed away at St. Andrew's Hospital on Thursday, September 23. Beloved husband of Eva Ames, he was in his 67th year. He was the dear father of Barbara (Mrs. Don Charlebois) of Penetanguishene and is lovingly remembered by grandchildren Daniel, Michelle and Lisa Anne. He was the brother of Charles of Toronto.

Funeral services were held on Saturday, September 25 at the Lynn Funeral Home in Midland.

Interment St. Mark's Cemetery.

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Convicted

Bernice Dufield last week pleaded guilty in Elmvalle court to five counts of making false statements to the Unemployment Insurance Commission and to receiving over \$700 of unentitled benefits.

The UIC investigator told Judge Anjou two claims were made, one in 1975 and the other in 1976 and the accused had not volunteered information on this 1975 fraud when the 1976 instance came to light.

Dufield was fined \$750.

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