

Hours are perfect

The 'postman' is a lady

by Shirley Whittington
Joyce Milewski is an energetic 21 year-old homemaker who has found what she thinks is the perfect job.

She is a letter carrier for the Post Office. So far, she's working on the temporary staff, but if the opportunity arises, nothing would please her more than to be hired as a permanent staff.

The route at present is really only half the regular walk. It covers parts of Robert Street, Wellington, Nelson and part of Queen Street and several large apartments on King Street.

"I like walking," she says, "and I like getting up early. The hours are just perfect for a married woman." Her day starts at 7:00 a.m. when she sorts her mail for her walk. She puts it into her bag in the correct order, and she's out on the street shortly after 8:00.

Apartment mail goes down by truck because there's so much of it. Joyce puts it into the correct boxes when she gets there.

She finishes her walk shortly after lunch and then it's back to the Post Office where she checks through changes of ad-

dress on mail she hasn't been able to deliver.

This takes her about an hour, "Then," she says cheerfully, "I have the rest of the day to work around the house and to make a decent supper for my husband when he gets home."

She hasn't been on the route long, but already she has made some observations about the mail service and what it means to people.

"People are always a little amazed to see a woman delivering the mail," she says. "And the funny thing is they continue to call me 'the mailman'."

Joyce takes the mail to the senior citizen's apartment building. "Mail time is a social time there," she says. "Everybody gathers and visits, while they're waiting for the mail to arrive."

In her short time on the job, Joyce has experienced some of Midland's bitterest winter weather. "The cold doesn't bother me," she says. "On a really frosty day, I wear two pairs of slacks. I have to keep one hand ungloved in order to sort through the mail. That hand is a

little numb for about ten minutes, but it's soon warm up. And when I get back to the nice warm Post Office, I call myself the 'toastie postie'."

More troublesome than the cold is the snow. Loose and unplowed, it's tiring to walk through. Owners of unshovelled sidewalks or icy steps may not get their mail delivered. "We phone them from the Post Office and ask them to clear the path to make it safer," says Joyce.

Dogs are the traditional enemies of postmen, but Joyce says they don't bother her. "If they look violent," she says, "I simply avoid that house. Most of the dogs on my walk are tied up, or in the house, but we all carry a can of repellent just in case."

Being a woman, and a rather petite one at that, doesn't seem to affect Joyce's performance of her job one bit. "If anything, it's an asset," she says. "I find the men I work with are exceptionally helpful."

Joyce takes her job seriously, even though it's only a temporary one. "Delivering mail is more than just a job - it's a heavy responsibility,"

she says. Midland has one other lady postman. Heidi McClacaterly. So, in our

town, the mail gets through and sometimes it's at the hands of a female.



A high stepping
Joyce Milewski

Rotarians told Canada needs national spirit

by Murray MacAdam
A rousing defence of Canadian unity was given to about 40 Rotarians Wednesday, by Allan Martin, a backbench Liberal member of Parliament.

Martin warned that "the future of the nation is up to each and every one of us. It is by no means a problem of the residents of any particular region, nor is the matter simply in the hands of your elected representatives."

To counter the schemes of the Rene Levesques in the country, Martin called on his listeners to be more tolerant of those in the rest of Canada and to develop a national spirit in place of the prevailing negativism.

Martin suggested that one of our problems may be that nationhood has been taken for granted, rather than considered something to be worked for.

"Rene Levesque may well go down in history as the man who has forced us to re-examine our Canadianism in all its aspects - including our commitment to Canada at a time when such re-examination may be crucial to our national existence."

The MP for Scarborough West noted that strains to Canada's unity have existed throughout our country's history. The Riel Rebellion and Nova Scotia's unhappiness with Confederation under Joseph Howe's leadership were two examples of such strains.

Tensions between Canada's two founding peoples erupted at times during the nation-building period of 1917-1967, said Martin. Yet Canada continued to survive and our Centennial year was a celebration of the nation's accomplishments.

Focus on French good and bad
Martin stated that the focus on the French-English question of the last decade has had both good and bad features. It's been positive in acknowledging the bilingual and bicultural nature of Canada, an acknowledgement embodied by the Official Languages Act.

Yet the last few years have also witnessed the emergence of "the gremlins that are normally hidden but always present in many citizens in all parts of the country" regarding the Frenchist, Parochial and separatist sentiments in various parts of

Canada have also grown in recent years, Martin said.

A lively question period following Martin's speech showed that his concern over French-English relations is well-founded. Several members of the audience expressed the view that Quebec issue is getting undue attention.

One man complained about the construction of federal government buildings in Quebec and about salary bonuses for bilingual civil servants. Another claimed that the topic of Quebec's possible separation from the rest of Canada shouldn't even be discussed. "I think they (the people of Quebec) should be told they're right out of line."

In an interview after his talk Martin said rumours that Prime Minister Trudeau may be replaced as Liberal Party leader before the next election are unfounded. He thinks that few Liberals want to see former cabinet minister John Turner become the party's leader.

Referring to reports of the prime minister's unpopularity in the media, Martin added "I'm finding people's feelings don't reflect the headlines."



Allan Martin, M.P.

Students find rape program informative

"It was extremely informative," said one Grade 12 girl at Midland Secondary School, "and it cleared up a lot of misconceptions that we may have had about rape in general."

The comments came after attending a three-day presentation on rape that was given by Ontario Provincial Police Constables Chuck Coulson and Jack Charlebois at MSS last week. The film and discussions were held in conjunction with the Physical Education classes at the school and over 1600 student male as well as female, at MSS got to view the film.

The film itself was of a presentation of a similar forum held at Geneseo University in New York state.

"It's a gripping film," Constable Coulson said, "and it's difficult to talk about the content itself - people would have to see this film to appreciate its scope."

According to the OPP constables and Mrs. Scott of the MSS Physical Education department, who organized the forum, the film does not attempt to state explicitly "what to do and what not to do." The film does however, instruct viewers to "minimize possible violence," and that the "kick and scream"

method when used as a first reaction, can turn a possible rape into a senseless murder.

"I think the film banishes a lot of myths," another young girl said. "For example, 35 per cent of all rapes occur in the midst of a dating situation, and seven out of ten rapists are people you know - acquaintances!"

"And it can happen to anyone," another added, "young or old."

Constable Coulson will be presenting another forum at the Y's Take-A-Break program February 9th at 10:00 a.m.

"The response here has been very good," Coulson noted. "These students have been a real appreciative audience and the feedback was very gratifying. It's something that they want information about."

"We aren't doing it because it's a large problem here in Midland," Mrs. Scott added.

The OPP reported one rape and 15 other incidents of indecent assault in the Midland area for the year 1976.

The film, "How to Say No to a Rapist and Survive," was produced by Frederick Sturaskas and was acquired through the Georgian Bay Regional Library.

Film in Victoria Harbour

"The Grapes of Wrath", a portrayal of the problems of farmers who left the dust bowl of Oklahoma during the Depression and took up the life of migrant workers will be presented in the Victoria Harbour area next Monday, February 7.

The film stars Henry Fonda, John Carradine, Charlie Grapewin, Jane Darwell and Russell Simpson and was nominated for an Academy Award for best picture in 1940.

Screen time is 7 p.m. at the Victorial Harbour Public School, Martha St.



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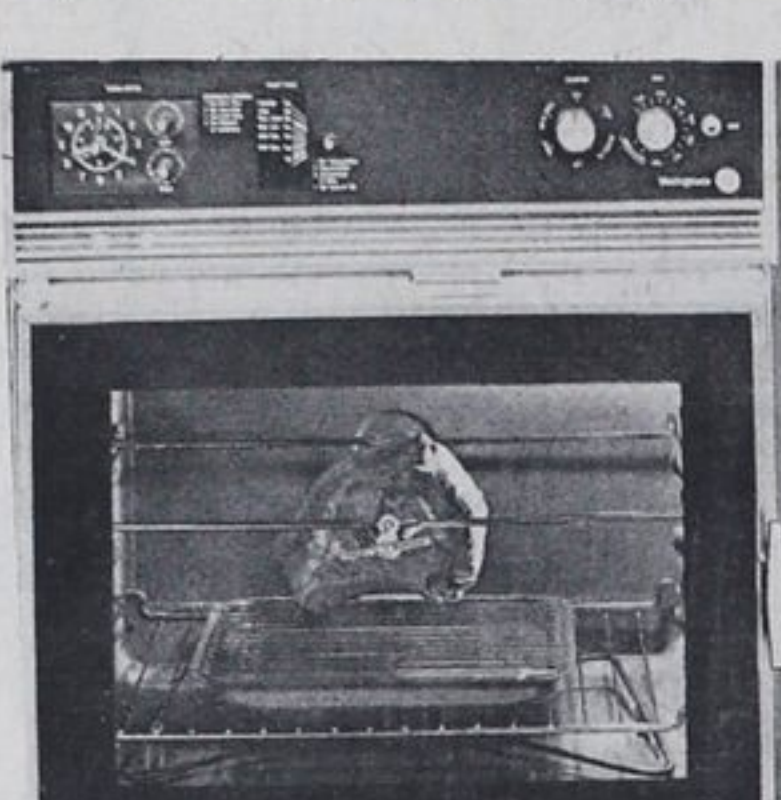
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