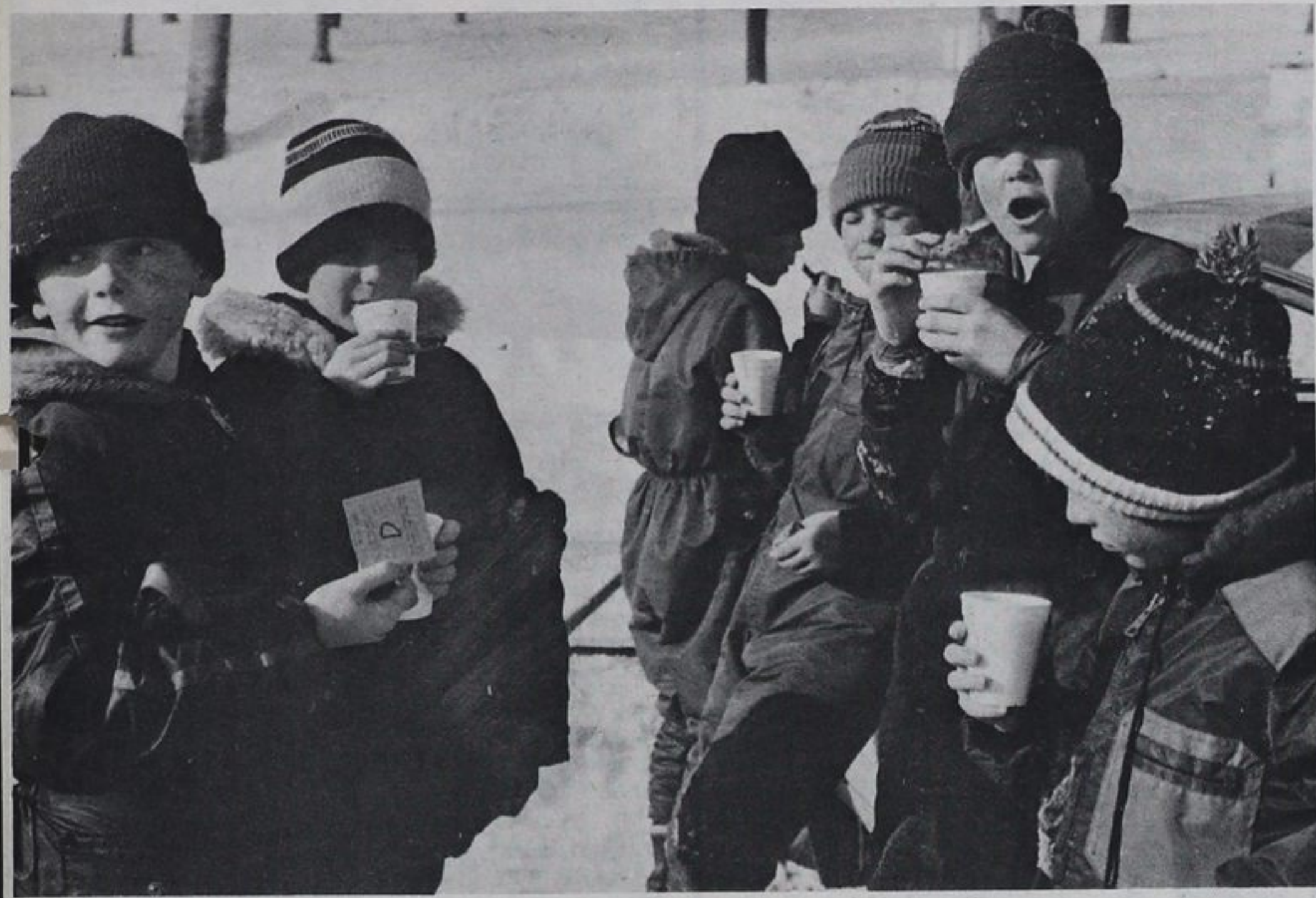


# Snowfrolics



## The Bookworm

# Updike novel has timely theme

by Shirley Whittington  
John Updike's novels are graceful, heady things, and I always look forward to the newest one.

Marry Me is his most recent. It's less gripping than *Couples*, more obvious than *Centaur*, entertaining and deft, like his short stories about the beautiful despairing idle rich.

The theme is probably timely, and deals with the breakup of two marriages. (The couples remained married to

each other at the book's end, but their marriages are not whole).

The story is set in Greenwood Connecticut - Updike's upper-class Everyplace. Populated by stylish, moneyed, upwardly-mobile young marrieds, Greenwood belongs to an earlier, more materialistic generation.

The men are busy making money. The women relieved of housework by machines and housekeepers, seem

to spend their time taking the kids to the beach, making posters for the church rummage sale and designing parties.

First - the Conants. Ruth is "an Eastern woman, who never bothered with make-up, or conspicuously flirted, beside whom Sally felt clumsy." A former art student, she's married to Jerry, an animator of television commercials. He's regarded as a "religious man. Each Sunday he deposited his children in... Sunday

School... sat through the sermon and came home cocky and ready to fight. He hated Ruth's pale faith."

Richard Mathias is a big, overweight man with a blind eye which gives his leonine head an overly watchful tilt. Sally, his wife is "big boned, expensively dressed" and utterly selfish.

Richard and Sally are "determined hedonists." Ruth finds this vulgar. Richard considers it blasphemous.

Who falls in love with

whom? As always, Updike uses names as clues to character. So the Biblical Ruth, and Richard Mathias are the wronged spouses. Jerry and Sally who sound like a pair of cartoon characters, have an affair, fraught with small difficulties. They run away to Washington for a few stolen days and both almost panic when their honeymoon plane is cancelled because of a strike.

Their affair flickers on and off throughout the summer, in the twilight of the old morality. "There's just enough to torment us," says Jerry, "and not enough to hold us in."

When the dream threatens to become real, ugliness intervenes.

Jerry worries about his children. Jerry begins to think that he loves both women. Sally's husband agrees to a divorce, and threatens Jerry with a law suit if he doesn't marry Sally. Beautiful Sally occasionally appears coarse and shrewish to Jerry and each begins to doubt the other's devotion.

The plot, stripped of Updike's grace and wit sounds dreary, petty and self-seeking. Perhaps that's the way life is for those affluent enough to seek pleasure perpetually. Ruth, in a bitter four-way confrontation says, "If we all had to sweat for our food, we wouldn't have time for this - folly. We're all so spoiled we stink."

Lovers of Updike will enjoy Marry Me. Those who aren't among his fans may find themselves wondering if the theme is worth the trouble. And perhaps, in the affluent upper class American Sixties, there were troubled people who felt the same way.

## Preview of 1977 movies

by Terry Dupuis

The quality of movies in general has been steadily improving in the past three years. During the late 60's and early 70's motion pictures seemed to go into a slump. There were maybe five or six worthwhile ones coming out each year, but you had to look awfully hard to find them. Most pictures coming out at that time seemed to be cut from the same piece of cloth. The emphasis seemed to be on unnecessary sex and violence, as well as an incoherent story line.

The result was a good many theatre goers stopped going to the movies. In 1974 I noticed that the quality of movies was beginning to improve. Films once again were beginning to have interesting plots in which the audience could become involved. In other words, entertainment, which is what the movies' function had always been, up to the late 60's, 1975 continued this positive trend, and last year was

better still.

I predict that 1977 is going to be the best year motion pictures have provided in at least a decade. The trend is towards big productions with good casts and interesting plot lines this year. And most important this year there will be great diversity, which is what used to be one of the American cinema's strongest points. There will be pictures to suit all ages and tastes - adventure epics, comedies, dramas, science-fiction, westerns, and even a few musicals.

The following is a random sampling of just 20 movies to be released in 1977 which look promising. There are many others too numerous to list:

**Fun with Dick and Jane** - A comedy with George Segal and Jane Fonda.

**Slap Shot** - A hockey drama starring Paul Newman.

**Airport 1977** A thriller with an all-star cast, headed by Jack Lemmon,

Lee Grant and James Stewart.

**Twilight's Last Gleaming** - A political suspense thriller with Burt Lancaster and Richard Widmark.

**Damnation Alley** - A nuclear war survival story with Jan-Michael Vincent and George Peppard.

**MacArthur** - A biography of the famous U.S. general with Gregory Peck in the lead role.

**The Last Remake of Beau Geste** - A zany comedy with Marty Feldman, Michael York and Ann-Margaret.

**New York New York** - A return to an old-style musical with Liza Minnelli and Robert DeNiro.

**The Car** - James Brolin plays a deputy sheriff in a unique type of suspense thriller.

**A Bridge Too Far** - A massive World War II drama with an incredible cast which includes Robert Redford, Ryan O'Neal, Sean Connery, James Caan, Michael Caine.

**White Buffalo** - An action thriller with Charles Bronson.

**Rollercoaster** - A disaster film with George Segal and Richard Widmark.

**High Anxiety** - A new Mel Brooks comedy.

**The World's Greatest Lover** - A new Gene Wilder comedy.

**Apocalypse Now** - A war drama with Marlon Brando and Robert Duvall.

**Smokey And The Bandit** - Burt Reynolds in a comedy-adventure.

**Audrey Rose** - From the best-selling novel about reincarnation.

**Black Sunday** - An action-drama with Robert Shaw and Bruce Dern.

There will also be more outdoor adventure films for the family and quite a few new Disney flicks.

And the long-awaited sequels to former hits such as *Jaws*, *The Exorcist* and *The Omen* are also scheduled for release this year.

It sounds like it's going to be quite a year for interesting movie-viewing. All of the above films, plus many others, will be reviewed in this column in fuller detail as they are released throughout the year.

## Pictorial biography of Elizabeth II at library

Library Hours: Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., Saturday 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

From the new book list: **God's Defector**. Bingham. The case of the missing priest, has an original plot, which develops into a powerful and emotional crime novel.

**Lady with Carnations**. Cronin. Novelist A.J. Cronin has once more written "an engrossing tale and delightful love story", concerning Katharine Lorimer, (an antique dealer) and the

famous Holbein miniature known as "Lady with Carnations."

**The Doomsday Carrier**. Canning. Victor Canning brings his mastery of the suspense story to this novel about a threat to our survival...Charlie, a laboratory chimpanzee at a biological research station, is incubating a devastating plague bacillus, when he escapes and becomes an innocent time bomb in the English countryside.

**Your Erroneous Zones**. Dyer. Bold but simple techniques for taking charge of your unhealthy

behavior patterns, by therapist Dr. Wayne Dyer.

**The Road Home**. Barber. Philip Barber's delightful book of "Sketches of Rural Canada", is the result of two coast-to-coast sketching trips, in which he turned down quiet country roads searching for the simple structures in which ordinary Canadians have lived, worked and worshipped.

**Queen Elizabeth II**. Brown. "The Silver Jubilee Book 1952-1977" by Michele Brown, is a well illustrated pictorial

biography of the reign of Queen Elizabeth II, with pictures of both formal and informal occasions.

**The Smell Book**. Winter. What the nose knows will surprise, amuse and inform you, and Ruth Winter's lively book tells it all.

**Mills of Canada**. Priamo. In her enthusiasm to chronicle the past of the Canadian mill, and to find and photograph those which still exist, Carol Priamo has produced a thorough and engrossing account. Her book includes over 220 photos, drawings etc., the result of travelling for four years and thousands of miles.

**Better than Oceans**. Kimbrough. 914.4 KIM. Emily Kimbrough's many readers will be happy that she chose to embark once more on a cruise through the canals

of France, and then a year later she and her friends went for another excursion in the U.S., also on rivers and canals.

A display of Handicrafts by the residents of Georgian Manor is to be seen at the Library for two weeks.

"News, Reviews and Interviews" on CKMP

Radio each Thursday, at 6:30 p.m. continues to bring interesting information about books and library events. This

Thursday, Feb. 24th the second part of Mrs. Delaney's interview with Miss Elizabeth Willmot (author of "Meet me at the Station") will be heard.

## Proclamation

Whereas the Association of Kinsmen Clubs has been a vibrant responsible, Canadian Association of Service Clubs, devoted to the concept of voluntary service by hundreds of thousands of members dedicated to serving their communities throughout Canada since its founding in Hamilton, Ontario in 1920; and Whereas the Association of Kinsmen Clubs has been cognizant of the needs of our Town and has diligently sought the development and conduct of timely, relevant programs to meet the needs and challenges of constantly changing society; and Whereas the anniversary date of the birthday of our Canadian Flag is February 21st and Whereas the Flag of our Country is symbolic of the heritage of all groups and ethnic backgrounds forming the citizenry of our Country, and

Whereas the Association of Kinsmen Clubs feels that each citizen would welcome the opportunity to pause and reflect with pride on the rich heritage of accomplishment created by the desire, dedication and determination of those who preceded; and

Whereas a day designated Heritage Day would allow the Kinsmen Club of Midland to give the citizens of Midland an opportunity to rededicate themselves and to demonstrate their pride in the heritage of their Country;

Now, therefore, I Moreland A. Lynn, Mayor of the Town of Midland do hereby proclaim the month of February 1977 as National Heritage Month and the week of February 19th through to February 27th National Heritage Week and more specifically February 21st, 1977 as National Heritage Day; and urge all people of Midland to share and demonstrate justifiable pride in our heritage by celebration and joining with Kinsmen in saluting the Country's Flag, thereby strengthening and unifying the determination of the Country's future.

Moreland A. Lynn, Mayor  
W.A. Hack, Clerk-Treasurer

## YMCA plans book and record sale

The Midland Y.M.C.A. is once again preparing to provide the town of Midland and surrounding areas with another service.

On March 19th a gigantic book and record sale will begin at 9:00 a.m. in the front lobby of the Y.M.C.A., but please note we need your help!

Donations of books and 45 records are being sought to help make our sale a success. Those not able to get their items to us can simply call and leave their names and a volunteer will be made available to pick them up.

Those wishing to put a price on their old L.P.

records may do so and the Y.M.C.A. will reimburse all but 25 per cent.

Get your items in now! Support your Y.M.C.A.

The program department is happy to inform you that the Day Babysitting Service provided on Thursdays, is coming along very well.

Just a reminder to those wishing to take advantage of this service. You must call and make an appointment to assure yourself a reservation on the dates of your choice. Remember, we have three competent babysitters and others on call if needed along with a planned program of fun,

games and snacks.

Are you interested in learning some new card games and in meeting new friends. If you are, the Midland Y.M.C.A. has the perfect program for you and your friends commencing Thursday, March 3rd at 7:30 p.m.

"A Get Acquainted Card Night" has been planned to operate the first Thursday of each month and possibly more regular if the interest is there. The program comprises of cards, refreshments and especially an opportunity to socialize. Make your inquiries now.

## PEN THEATRE

Thurs., Fri.  
Feb. 24-25  
**THE GUMBALL RALLY**  
also  
**BILLY JACK**

Sat. Matinee  
**THE SHOEMAKER AND THE ELVES**

Sat. Sun., Mon. Tues.  
Feb. 26-27-28  
Mar. 1  
**92 IN THE SHADE**  
plus  
**CARRIE**

ADMITTANCE RESTRICTED

## The Great Escape

PRESENTS: **GENESIS** March 6th  
**SANTANA** 8th  
**JETHRO TULL** 24th

Limited number of tickets available.  
Gold tickets available for sold out Genesis concert  
Tickets with bus charter only \$20.00

Available at: **MUSIC COMPANY, HURONIA MALL**

Radio Shack-Collingwood

Muntz-Owen Sound

Rudy Meeks M. Center-Orillia



## Barbershopping auditions

Auditions for additions to the Midland Barbershopper's were held Tuesday night. Seven hopefuls turned out to try and warble their way into a position in

one of the quartets. Glen Campbell leads members and hopefuls alike through a version of 'A Sidewalk in New York.' Staff photo

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Enjoy our specialty of German Cuisine with a Canadian Taste  
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Open for Meals:  
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Sunday: 12 noon to 10 pm.  
Contemporary German Disco

Music by Helmut Tietz and His *Studio 67*

Located two miles past Martyrs Shrine from Midland, Hwy. 12 and Con. Rd. 4  
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(Only Restaurant in area mentioned in Book "Where to eat in Canada 76-77")  
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Steak House & Tavern

Offers the finest steaks seafood and service. Fully licensed.  
Business Men's Luncheon Monday-Friday 12-2:30 p.m.  
Open Sunday 12:00-10 p.m.  
Weekend entertainment  
Reservations call 549-8671  
Main St., Waterfront Penetanguishene

The 56th annual meeting of the Midland YMCA will be held **TUESDAY, MARCH 1st, 1977**  
6:45- Program displays and gymnastics demonstration  
8:00- Annual business meeting  
Everyone welcome - no admission charge

HURONIA PLAYERS PRESENT  
**DON'T DRINK THE WATER**  
by Woody Allen  
Directed by **RON PAYNE**  
(by arrangement with Theatre Ontario)  
at  
Sacred Heart School  
Sat & Sun., Feb. 25 & 26  
Sat. & Sun., Mar. 4 & 5  
Curtain - 8:00 p.m.  
Adults: \$2.50 Students: \$1.25

**NOW PLAYING**

**CLINT EASTWOOD IS DIRTY HARRY**

**THE ENFORCER**

**ODEON THEATRE**  
King St., Midland Niteley 7 & 9 p.m., 526-5791

**The Watergate**  
The Watergate Restaurant prides itself on its fine cuisine and its excellent service.