Visiting director brings psychology to Huronia Players

by Ray Baker Ron Payne is married, with a daughter, mortgage, car, the usual things. He stands 6'4", who chucked everything and at thirty eight years to return to his first love, old and 185 lbs. is in pretty good shape - which is just as well with the active life he leads.

scrunched up in the front seat of his car, we sat and talked for forty-five of operations from which ninutes in the car park of he works outwards. e Sacred Heart School

in Midland last weekend. The snow drifted down, the school was not yet People first and last are open, and Ron waited to his motivation. Some of go through another his statements give a rare rehearsal with the depth of insight into what Huronia Players in their he describes as 'New latest production of Theatre'. Woody Allen's 'Don't Drink the Water'

he manages Santas Village. Out of the 40-50 applicants for the job of about." general manager at the Village he got it, I think, for two basic reasons.

Village as a huge stage 'off' note in a whole lot. He provides the symphony because he setting, as it were, for the himself can play each projected \$250,000 im- acting, stage sets, casting provement for the and directing. Then he children's playground is plays by a 'gut feel' never just one example of good forcing the pace. He

of an up and coming corporation executive

the theatre, must have put him on top of the list. In the last eleven years he has either played or With his lanky frame directed in 38 productions. His personal group in North Bay forms a base

I think Ron could earn an easy \$50,000 a year as a practicing psychologist.

"Everyone is an actor. At work or at play, it's a He is their director, defence mechanism" or courtesy of Theatre again "after hundreds of Ontario, and drives down collective hours of from Bracebridge, where rehearsal you gain five seconds of applause. That's what it's all

> The Apprenticeship of Don Quixote

Like an orchestra 1. He considers Santas leader who can detect one annual deluge of kids instrument, so Ron has (and parents). The been the route! lighting,

Martyr's ski tour hosted by MidlandSkiClub

"Martyrs' Tour" for cross-country skiers is set to go Sunday, March 13, said organizer Eric Rothwell of the Midland Ski

Martyrs' Tour is so named because the ski route passes through two Huron Indian villages where French Jesuits established Christian missions more than 325 years ago. The tour originates at St. Ignace, east of Concession eight, Tay Township, the village where Fathers St. Jean de Brebeuf and St. Gabriel Lalemant were martyred. The second village is St. Louis where the missionaries were cap-

Also on the route is the Bavarian House. End of the trail is Sainte-Marie among the Hurons, near Midland,

Jesuits' mission to the Huron Indians. Brebeuf and Lalemant once lived

Total length of the ski trail is about 20 kilometers (12½ miles).

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Second annual Participants can ski the whole distance or any segment or combination of segments.

Parking will provided at Sainte-Marie and skiers will be bused to Henderson St. Ignace, St. Louis or the Bavarian House.

skiers will be accepted with registration on a first come, first serve (on Dominion Ave., near in her 84th year. King Street), Midland, during normal business former Midland resident \$2.00 per skier.

Finishing times will not be taken but crests will be awarded to anyone completing one or more legs of the trail.

Soup and hot drinks will be provided at Saintethe reconstruction of the Marie but no food will be first European com- available along the trail. munity in Ontario and the The Bavarian House will central residence of the be open for lunches or full-course meals.

The event is sponsored by Sainte-Marie among the Hurons, Ontario Ministry of Culture and Recreation and the Midland Ski Club.

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prefers to direct on an 2. His basic background adult 'show and tell' basis, never asking more from a player than he himself can demonstrate

He is part of the 'New identify with and enjoy. Theatre of Canada' jigsawing the players, the switch for the Huronia plot, and the performance Players. Rather than together, into a situation employ a veteran actor of

This is a complete of a Russian concept the old school (Danny



Don Quixote director?

Director Ron Payne made sure the set was ready and what he wanted prior to dress rehearsals for the Huronia Player's production of "Don't Drink the

Water". Payne is a guest director and has come to Midland for this one production through the auspices of Theatre Ontario.

Orpha A maximum of 120 died Sunday

Orpha Henderson, beloved wife of the late basis. Participants must William Lewis Henregister in person bet- derson, died on Sunday, ween March 1 and 12 at February 27 at Georgian Canadian Outdoor Sports Manor, Penetanguishene, Mrs. Henderson was a

hours. Registration is and is survived by daughters Helen (Mrs. Ed O'Connell) of Chicago and Betty (Mrs. Anthony Quigley) of Penetanguishene and by son Bill Henderson of

She is also survived by sisters Mrs. Eva Higley and Mrs. Leon Castner, both of London, Ontario. Orpha Henderson rested at the Nicholls Funeral Home, Midland. Funeral services were

Wednesday, March 2 at 2 p.m. Interment at St. Mark's Cemetery, the Reverend Sid Maddock officiating.

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Walsh) and an adaptation (Chekovs Cherry Orchard) as they did last year, they now have a modern American comedy with a young intense director and a

refreshing approach. He knows nobody in the cast, has no bias, and starts by asking "well what do you want to do?" His criteria for success is "the actors know when they put out their best, the accumulation of these collective bests gives a cohesive whole. The audience reacts, and enjoys the performance".

He had no idea or intention of directing the Players until recently, when Joan Hanna spotted him after a mime presentation. His basic love of mime which he says is "non-verbal communication" is the same for a class of kindergarten children or a room full of professors. His best "total identification sessions" are with children of 11 years

The innocence of youth Ron feels that all children are born mimics and actors, reaching a peak around 11, after which they acquire inhibitions. His job, working with adults, is to re-acquire that ability to live the part which he knows children do without any effort, in fact which we all did in our childhood, accepting anything and everything



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romantics, we all 'dream His psychological the impossible dream.' approach to 'The New Mine is to continue as I Wave' of Canadian am. I don't want to play Theatre is to lead, not Hamlet. I think Don drive, to orchestrate, not Quixote in Man of Laconduct. There is little Mancha, would be just

difference in his eyes

between professional

"Community Theatre

Group'. The only basic

difference being the ease

of long practice of the

professional, but "every

woman is born to a part'

or as Shakespeare said

"all the worlds a stage,

and all the men and

women merely players".

A tilt at windmills

Why Don Quixote?

So there you have it. actors and the average The Huronia Players, through Theatre Ontario, have got themselves a vibrant personality whose 'bag' is people, who thinks of himself simply as a catalyst. You, the reading public and the paying audience will be there to see 'Don't Drink the Water'.

And to quote once more. "after hundreds of collective hours of Well I asked Ron "what practice you gain five about the next 11 years" seconds of applause, and how did he see himself? that's what it's all about." Ray Baker is a

He said, "Ray, I am a resource person, enjoying manager at Midland RCA my work with groups like plant and a freelance this (The Huronia writer for Markle Players) I just want to Community Newspapers. continue what I'm doing. He and his family live in I am one of the last Penetanguishene...

Count me in.

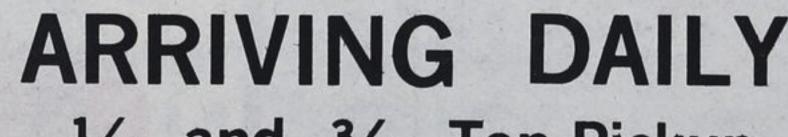
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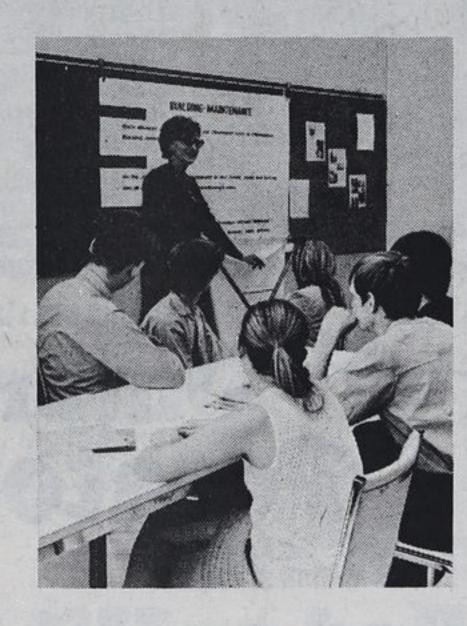
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