Naval and Military Establishments tour is an experience to remember

cont'd from p.1

There's a saw pit down by the water and blacksmith shop beside it which were probably the first things built on the site. Big fat logs are sawed into practical planks for constructing the buildings.

Navy storehouse The horses know the trail well and come to a stop when reaching the Navy storehouse. Everybody bails out and it's down to the dock to hear a sailor (costumed tour guide) talk about nearby Magazine Island where the gunpowder was stored for trick the invaders and 10 graves mark the passing of men long ago.

Turning to the naval storehouse he notes the palisade around the large red building to make the job of stealing more difficult. The boards of the storehouse came from the trees in the area, the British brought no boards with them. The bottom floor was for general storage and the upper level stored the gifts for trading with the Indians.

Inside there are chunky handcut wooden beams and thick coils of rope are heaped on the floor. Along the walls large kegs store salt beef and salt pork. And there are bales with a cruious arrow marking. Our sailor says the arrow is the king's marking and getting caught with a marked bale could mean a whipping with the cat of nine tails (leather strips with nails at the ends) or a more merciful death, shooting. The sailors are at work

with their knots, fixing the twine to the pulleys and carefully mixing ropes of different thicknesses. A sailor has to know his knots and the ones in the storehouse were happy to impart their knowledge with the interested onlookers.

building shows many of today's carpentry tools in a cruder version. The quartermaster was a fine carpenter himself and had several builders under his charge and he was also responsible for the two schooners and

Constable Thomas Tiffin is conducting the in-

Accident

Robert Street East.

Charges were laid against a Toronto man Sunday afternoon as a result of an accident on Fuller Avenue at

Arthur Morris was charged with following too

Morris' car sustained \$500 damage, and the damage

The investigating officer was Constable Art Lizotte.

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closely, after his car collided with one driven by Larry

O'Rourke, of Everton Drive in Midland.

to O'Rourke's car amounted to \$1,000.

their maintenance.

Crude ways of medicine The assistant surgeon's office was not the sort of place you liked to visit often in those days. The man didn't have much education behind him, but the assistant surgeon was eager to cure what allied

thought to be a sure sign of poor blood, yes-sireeee, what you need is some fresh blood. So, the assistant surgeon would kindly remove a pint of blood for you by making a small cut in your arm. Headache cured.

If a cold was your problem he'll fix that too. Since colds were thought to be caused by nasty germs on your tongue, a good tongue scraping with the metal scraper would leave your tongue germ-free.

Although the assistant surgeon's methods were crude, his home-office was a cut above the others. The womanly touch of his wife is seen in the hanging of curtains and the walls which are

to the stark sailor's sailor told the group, fool the ladies from "sailors were considered the scum of the earth" at

There's no doubt the not a life of comfort. Royal Navy had it's unsavoury types but this can be expected when men are pressed into service. The naval officers would visit the bars taking care of rationing, in towns and sometimes club a drunk on the head and when he woke up the the men. Servants looked next day he was in the after the clerk in charge Sailors and their ladies

Many sailors wanted to desert so their officers to let them on land when they docked. Ladies used to come out to the boat to tradition of "show a leg"

where to dessert to. Each sailor owned two

hammocks and a mattress was placed inside. Even when shored up the sailors used their hammocks and not bunks. They were handy not only for sleeping in but made a convenient coffin for those who died at sea. The headache was sailor was placed in his hammock and then it was stitched up with the last stitch going through his nose just to make sure he was really dead. Then oberboard he goes with a

mighty splash. Eight days a month each sailor would take turn being cook. This was always something to look forward to because it meant an extra ration of

Despite their reputation as a rowdy bunch the sailors could get quite particular about their appearance when visiting the ladies. They had white silk socks saved for the occasion and their navy pea coast with the brass buttons was thought quite snazzy. Most had hair long enough to wear in a pony tail but for those This is quite a contrast whose locks weren't long enough there was a quarters but then as the substitute which would

> The sailors life was a lonely one and certainly

Moving up to the higher echelons of naval society the group toured the home of the clerk in charge. He spent his time maintaining the bureaucracy and paying and his position also allowed him to have a summer cook house so the heat of cooking didn't thought it would be unsafe bother his family during

the warm months. Save the womenfolk At the top of the social visit the sailors and the ladder was the Commanding Officer. His

lives on in Barrie's to maintain. Not one fire Bayfield St.

Establishment. remained Penetanguishene from 1814 to 1834 and was then abandoned because the British found it too costly

Bayfield Mall and was shot at Americans although the threat of This was the Naval invasion was very real at different points in history. In 1828 the British Army moved to the site to join the navy in defence.

Captain James Keating's

house has been restored

Keating had five children in his small house and caring for them was not an easy task. The kitchen was the center of activity and the children were rarely allowed in the living room.

after burning to the touring visitors to help make candles, cook soup on the fireplace and tend the garden and other domestic chores. The stop at the Keating House may also mean sketching on slates and playing games outdoors. Living high off the hog

The last stop of the tour is at the army officer's quarters. The life of the officers seems much more comfortable than those of their underlings. In fact, it was such a desirable life that they used to buy their way into the army. A thousand dollars would make you a lieutenant and if you had more money to spend you could become an officer of higher rank.

The Establishments never saw any action and these made life easier for the officers who would hunt and fish to their hearts' content. They had the luxuries of tea, sugar and imported French

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Mrs. Keating gets the wine. There were four and five course meals every day plus plenty of parties and dancing if you were of the proper rank.

The building was braced for invasion even if the officers weren't. The walls are two feet thick with special outlets for firing guns. Outside were cannons which fire 10-pound muskets.

The soldiers were also

MIDLAND

COLLINGWOOD

← Highway 26/27

BAYFIELD

MALL

well prepared for invasion, sometimes practising their drills up to seven hours a day. The soldiers will often drill for the visitors in their smart red and white uniforms then fire their guns or charge forward with their

bayonets. For the past six years people have been able to walk through the history of the Establishments. In

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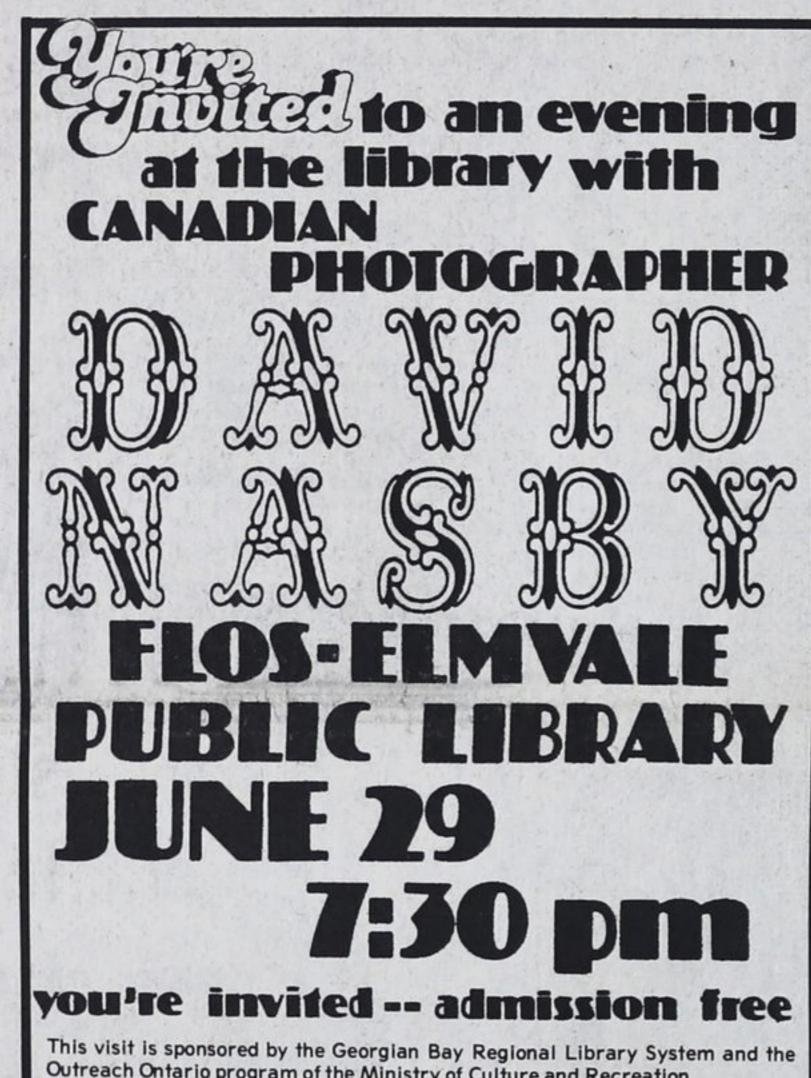
earlier years (1856 to 1871) the buildings were used as a boys reform school, a private residence, a mental home then a museum during the

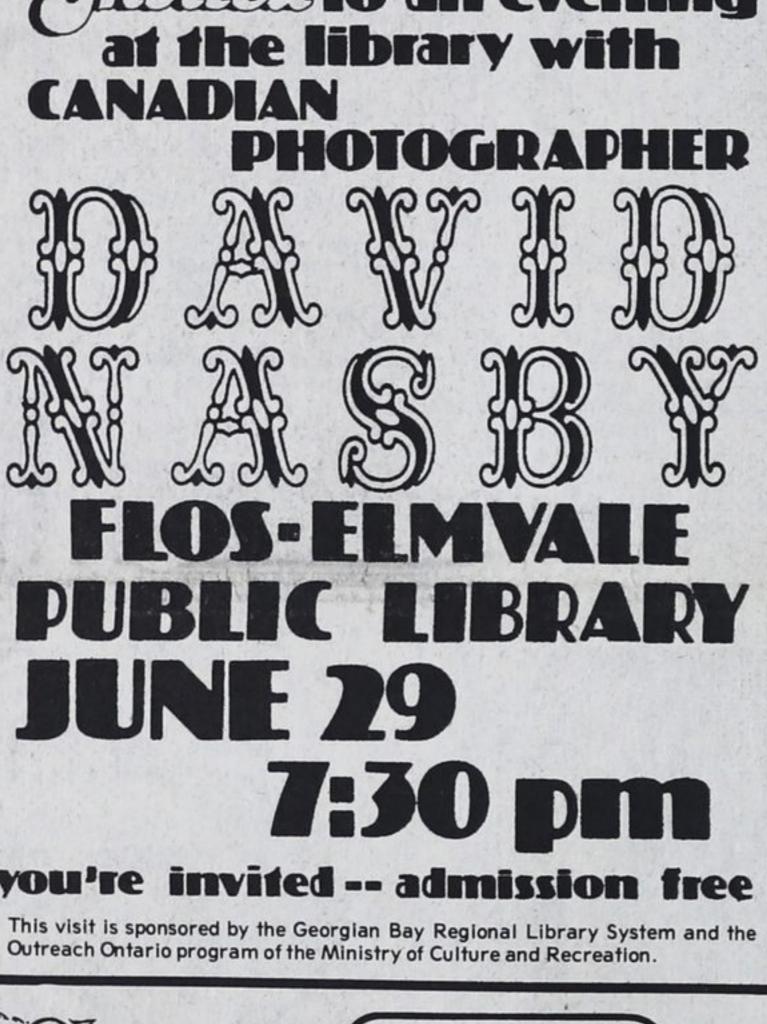
A wise man once said experience is the best teacher and the experiencing of history at the Historic Naval and Military Establishments proves his words true.

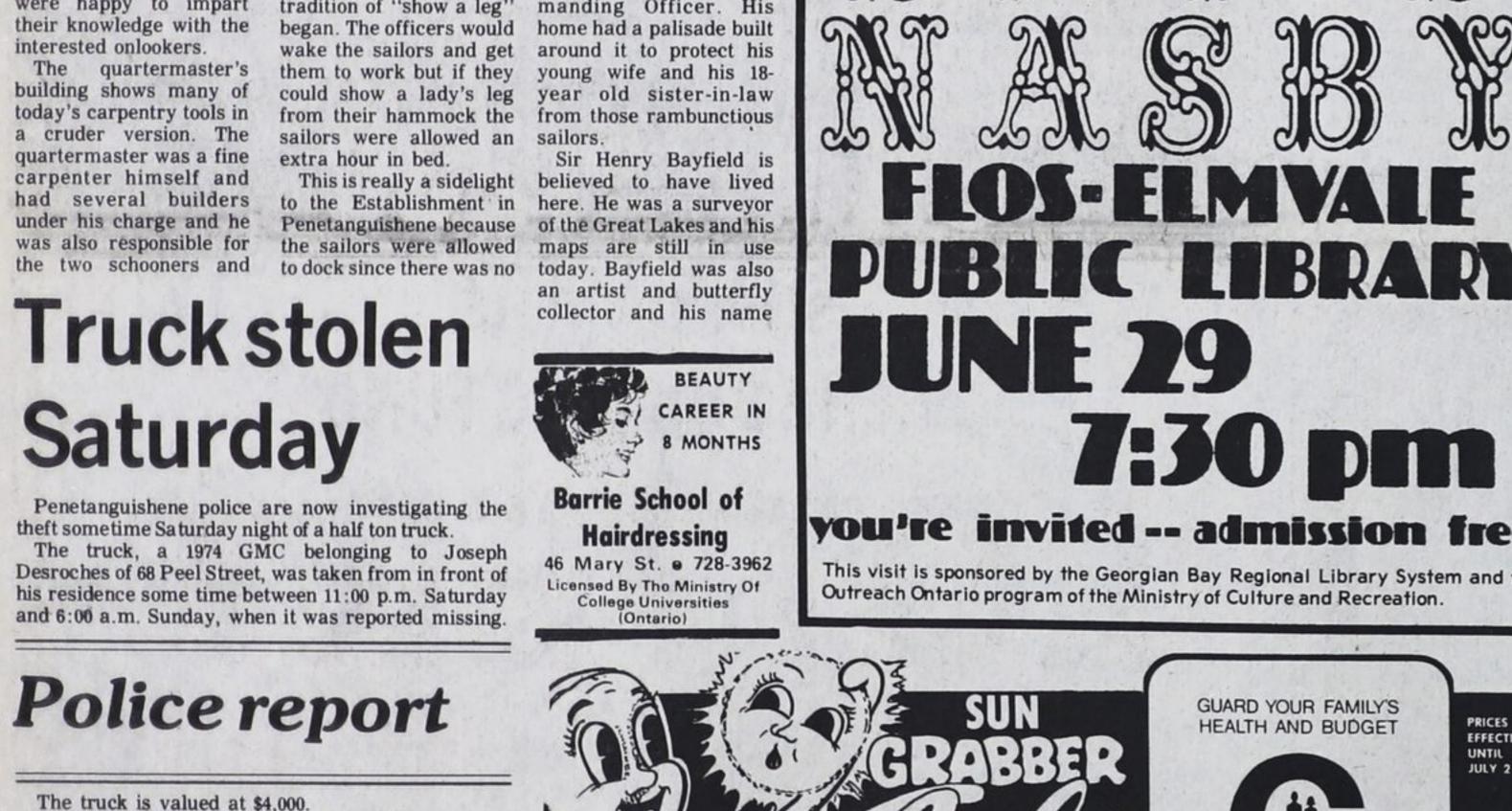


Drilling a motley crew

Participation is a good part of learning the art of drilling from soldier (tour history at the Establishments in guide) Jim MacMillan Penetanguishene. These students learn Staff photo









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Page 2, Wednesday, June 22, 1977

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