Good times rock n' roll at the Barrelworks

comfortable. There's a live band up front, and the dance floor's alive with swaying bodies. They're moving to the music of today - a ripe blend of raunchy blues and ballad, hanging on a crackling driving rhythm. It's loud, and drenched in silky synthesizer.

The guys are here, in

The atmosphere is their jeans and linear T- social place," says owner the trend of the times, and The beat pulses through on. to the next room, where spaghetti.

> kids are raving. "This is a fun place, a



Ralph Poole

Community calendar

Saturday, September 10 - Penetang Legion - corn roast and dance. Music by Rick Lemieux.

Monday, September 5 - Registration for Cubs and Scouts and Venturers will take place at St. Ann's Church, Penetanguishene, 7:30

- Ladies, are you interested in an afternoon of fun and good fellowship? Join the Topperette Bowling League, Tuesday afternoons 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. starting mid

September. Phone 526-9483 or 526-8234 evenings. Saturday, September 24

- 25th Anniversary Dance will be held at Penetanguishene Legion Hall. An invitation is extended by the Ladies' Auxiliary Branch 68, to help them celebrate. Marcel Maurice orchestra. Lunch will be served. Small nominal charge at the door. All Legion members and guests are welcome.

- Organizers are invited to publicize their upcoming events free of charge in the Times Community Calendar. Please call the Community Calendar editor at 526-9369 or drop your message into the Midland Times office, 525 Bay Street.

shirts. The shiny-haired Ralph Poole. "But it's not it's something that fits the girls are here, lissome in a tough place. If it was kids' tongues." tube tops and white pants. tough, I'd sell it and move Poole freely admits

Poole is dead serious were rough ones. "I was late diners make con- about running a straight working at two jobs in nections with steaks or and level operation. "This Toronto, and coming up is a family business," he here weekends and says earnestly, "and the running dances and It's Saturday night at whole family works on redecorating and the Barrelworks, and the dance nights. I have eyes renovating. The whole everywhere, and things thing just about wore me just don't get out of hand. And there are no drugs in this building. I want the place to have a good fell asleep at the wheel of

some not so young — who go there Thursday,

There's been a dance efforts in one direction hall on the Barrelworks right here." location for years. Poole Wagon Wheel then, and 'We called it Danceland, and Club Malibu and

reason for the name, in the dance hall.

his car during one of his And it does, certainly trips back and forth from Toronto. "I darn near killed myself," he says. "That was the turning Friday or Saturday point for me. Since then, I've concentrated all my

In 1972, chronic fatigue

caught up with him. He

that the first ten years

It hasn't been a single bought the place from handed effort. The whole Midland's Beauchamp family worked together, family in 1959. It was the and still does. Mrs. Poole (Margaret) is in charge it's gone through several of the kitchen and with changes of name since. the help of daughter Renee looks after the 60 seat dining room.

Sons Russell, Robert, Barrelworks,'' says Ralph Jr., Ricky and Poole. "There's no direct Randy work at the bar or except that it seems to fit Every Saturday night,

> Midland Major Bantams Born 1963

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Poole himself takes a set, trouble. Sure - I've got a up on the bandstand. He's bouncer here - a big guy. qualified. He's been into But he's a gentleman, and the music scene since pre- he talks kids down if he

Presley days. started out in country music, playing guitar and singing. Then I got into rock and roll - had my own band - Bobby Bishop and the Rebels.' (Bishop is Poole's stage "We played arenas and

clubs around Toronto, and we played up here too. We were one of the first rock and roll bands to appear in this area." He sees a big difference in the kids who crowd the

Barrelworks today, and the rock and roll audiences of yesterday. "Used to be all slicked back hair and leather jackets and pointed shoes. They were a tough crowd, but today's kids at least the ones that come out here - just aren't like that. They're

Barrelworks. In the past, Poole has hired show bands from Toronto. For the last three years, the house band has featured local talent and has included Keith Stratton, Andy Camp, Roger LaCroix, Wayne Redditt,

Gerry Holden, Peter and

Scott Whittington and

Neil Dragoman among its Above all, the kids have a good time, and Poole talks wistfully about expanding the social scope of the place. "I have a lot of space here," he muses. "I'd like to make use of it, maybe

Meanwhile, his plate's pretty full. Summer courteous and reasonable dances on Thursday and we don't have any Friday and Saturday

with tennis or badminton

nights have been a big hit - so big that if you don't get there by 9:30 on a Saturday night, the dance hall's 350 seats may well

There are dances on the

And as long as there are dances, there'll be

weekends in the winter.

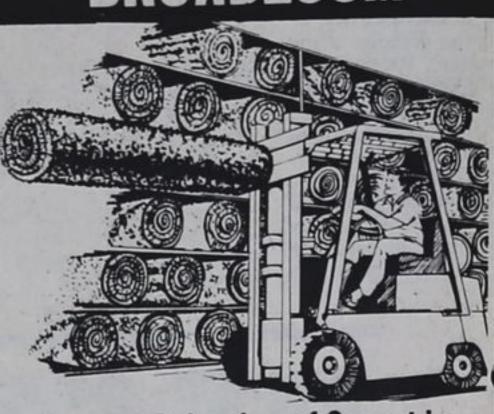
and Poole's considering

the possibility of winter

Thursday nights as well

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