



Sprout

Motorists passing by Regent School in Midland on Monday afternoon witnessed a spectacular display of colour and imagination, as the school held its annual Halloween parade. Everyone in the school, from kindergarten to teachers participated in the parade. Shown leading the march are a pretty bold looking buccaneer and a far-out spaceman.

Staff photo

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Monday to Friday
(Except Holidays)

FLASH! FLASH! The Fall and Winter Sports-arama is now only a few days away and the excitement is building. Not only are the members of the Board and staff of Contact excited, the exhibitors are too—because they will be showing you the brand new lines of 1978 snowmobiles, skis, skates and all winter sports equipment, along with crafts and hobbies for the indoor people.

There will be a fashion show both on Friday and Saturday and entertainment will be provided in between the fashion shows. There will be a snack bar and movies to interest all sports enthusiasts. Contact has been most fortunate in obtaining excellent movies on skiing and snowmobiling from the Molson's film library and they will be shown at specified times.

Our Winter Sports-arama opens on Friday, November 4 at 2 p.m. On Saturday, November 5 the doors will be open from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. The fashion show being presented by Curves Ahead will take place on Friday, November 4 at 8 p.m. and on Saturday, November 5 at 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. The Barbershop Quartet will perform on Friday evening at 7:30 p.m. The Midland Pipe Band will be at the Civic Centre on the Saturday at 12 noon. We also hope to be presenting a Judo demonstration sometime during the time of the show.

The price of admission is minimum—\$1.00 for adults and 50 cents for children or \$2.00 for a family. The monies received from the rental of space to the exhibitors and the admission fee will all go to the coffers of Contact, thus enabling Contact to carry on with the service that Contact provides to the community.

The article that appeared in the local papers over the last couple of weeks about the evaluation of Contact's services to the community, have started to trickle in. We of Contact are anxiously looking forward to hearing from you so that we can judge if Contact is doing the job that you, the people of the community, need and want. So if you have not answered the questionnaire please do so and either mail it to Box 423, or put it in the boxes marked with Contact's name in your bank or trust company.

It was most heart-warming to me and the staff of Contact the other day, when we received one of the questionnaires back to find enclosed with it a letter praising the services that Contact provides. A letter like that certainly gives us at Contact, a good feeling of warmth and happiness just knowing that at least we have really helped someone out there in the community.

Happiness is helping others to help themselves.
Mary M. Gibson,
Administrator.

Rhodes to address PCs

Graham Card, president of the Simcoe East Progressive Conservative Association

speak on several occasions and he is entertaining, dynamic and most interesting. I am certain that the people of the area will avail themselves of the opportunity to hear him."



John Rhodes

recently announced that the association will be privileged with the presence of the Honourable John Rhodes, the Minister of Housing at their annual meeting on Wednesday, November 16. The meeting will take place at the Sundial Restaurant at 8:00 p.m.

In addition, the officers for the ensuing year will be elected. Card said that he was happy the Honourable John Rhodes had accepted the association's invitation to be the guest speaker.

"I have heard him

Dr. James Small

Doctor says criticism of physicians is unwarranted

The medical profession is under the gun these days.

Ontario Health Minister Dennis Timbrell says the province has too many doctors. At the same time, the public complains that waiting rooms are full, and doctors appear to be reluctant to make house calls—especially in larger cities.

Most of us think doctors make too much money, yet many Ontario doctors are leaving the province to practise in the U.S. where salaries are higher and taxes are lower.

Last week, The Times talked with one of Midland's senior and most respected physicians, Dr. James Small. Dr. Small has practised in Midland for 32 years. Now, he smiles, and says "I'm in the twilight of my practise."

These days he's relatively free from extra duties, but he has served on the boards of both the St. Andrew's and Huronia District Hospitals. A decade ago, he was president of the Ontario Medical Association, and he has been a member of the board of Directors of the OMA and the CMA.

He thinks that the medical profession is coming under undue criticism. "The feeling between an individual patient and his doctor remains a good one, a sympathetic one. Yet society as a whole seems distrustful of the medical profession."

Part of this stems from

overblown publicity when a doctor transgresses. "A physician's life is undeniably made more difficult," says Dr. Small, "because he has so many governing bodies looking over his shoulder."

Thugs in every profession Small doesn't deny that some doctors have cheated on their income taxes, or their OHIP billings. "But," he says bluntly, "there are thugs in every profession. They are no fewer in the medical than in any other profession. It seems that everybody is punished because a few misbehave." And the result is more governing

bodies. Most people assume that doctors are wealthy. "In 1974," says Small, "the median medical income was thirty nine thousand. It's the same today, although the cost of living has gone up."

He explains that in 1970, doctors agreed to put a freeze on their income. "The medical profession went along with the freeze, and they've been suffering ever since."

Thirty thousand dollars doesn't sound like the wage of a suffering man, but Small explained further.

"Some school teachers are making \$40,000 an-

nually, plus all the fringe benefits. The fact that doctors have to provide their own 'fringe benefits' is overlooked in any discussion of income. They arrange and pay for their own pension plans, their own OHIP coverage. They are also responsible for office overhead, rent, utilities, and the salaries of assistants. And if they become ill or disabled, these expenses continue. His income, however, stops, and there are no disability benefits."

"By the time all this is looked after, and the government takes its chunk," says Small, "the disposable income isn't

that big." Dr. Small hastened to add that he wasn't complaining "I'm getting along fine," he said, "but it's a misconception to think that all doctors are rich."

Such financial binds are part of the reason so many Ontario MDs are considering a move to the U.S. "Income tax down there is 10 to 20 per cent less than it is here," said Small, "and in many cases, you can deduct mortgage payments from your income tax."

Salaried doctors? In Quebec, a suggestion has been put forward that doctors be put on salary. The idea brings a wry smile to Dr. Small's face. "If you gave a doctor the same salary, plus the fringe benefits—the car, the secretarial staff, and so on—that a senior civil servant in the same salary bracket earns...well the government just couldn't afford to do it."

Dr. Small remembers the early days of his

practice when physicians were sometimes paid with a sack of potatoes, or a load of firewood. Sometimes they weren't paid at all, and many a doctor's widow used to find herself with little to live on except the unpaid bills on the books.

The Ontario Health Insurance Plan has changed all this. But the paper work demanded by OHIP, and other governing agencies is tremendous. Dr. Small employs one assistant who attends full time, to the bookkeeping.

He agrees that our socialized health care scheme is a good thing, but he suspects that it has encouraged the public to expect a great deal from their doctors. And in some cases, the public abuses the system. "Ninety per cent of the services are used by 50 per cent of the people," he says.

Locally, Dr. Small thinks health care is good. "Our people are well looked after. There is

always someone on the weekends. Of course, no system is perfect. Doctors are highly individualistic people. But the doctors here feel their responsibility to the people."

And that's the

physicians' side of the story. "Somebody has to point out that many of the public's assumptions are wrong," said Dr. Small. "Personally, I am not complaining. But I can understand why some of the younger doctors are becoming disenchanted."



Midland's Dr. Small

Climax Jazz Band earns standing ovation in Barrie

The sounds of righteous two beat Dixieland Jazz set toes tapping and hands clapping at Barrie's Georgian College Theatre Tuesday night when the Climax Jazz Band from Toronto dished up such old favourites as D.J.'s Rumble and Tin Roof Blues.

The group - Chris Daniels on bass, Geoff Holmes, trombone, Jim Buchanan, clarinet and saxophones, Bob Erwig, cornet, Stephen Tattersall, drums and Jack Vincken, banjo seemed a little intimidated by the formal concert setting at first, but became simultaneously more relaxed and musically tighter with each succeeding number. By the end of the concert, the audience was on its feet for a standing ovation.

They stayed on their feet, and with the band, trooped up to the school cafeteria for some refreshment, and more good sounds from the band. Climax sounded even better in the relaxed

cabaret setting, and they kept going until after midnight. The Climax Jazz band plays with a spontaneity and good humour that absolutely dazzles, and it's easy to see why they attract big audiences at such spots as D.J.'s Tavern, Harbourfront and Albert's Hall at the Brunswick House. They are also regulars at the New Orleans annual jazz festival, and their reputation is as solid down there as it is in Ontario.

Tattersall strong The foundation for the good work of the Climax on Tuesday night was well and truly laid by drummer Stephen Tattersall listened well, suited his rhythms to the mood and instrumentation, and exploded into staccato dominance only when it

was his turn to do so. In a faithful rendering of Haggart's Big Noise from Winnetka, he drummed delightfully on the strings of Chris Daniel's double bass. Meanwhile Daniels fingered the strings and whistled the theme. Clarinetist Buchmann inspired sighs of happy recognition with his soulful rendition of Stranger on the Shore, but it was his nimble and confident contrapuntal soaring in the two beat Dixie numbers that left listeners gasping.

Several times, he joined in sweet harmony with cornet player Bob Erwig. Erwig played a clear and raunchy horn throughout. Jack Vincken's banjo was more than a chuckling embellishment. His cleanly stated strumming seasoned everything. Geoff Holmes blew a

gutsy reliable trombone, and Holmes occasionally contributed vocals.

The Climax Jazz band provided a rollicking evening of good tightly woven music, and hearing them was a happy experience. Thanks are due to the Georgian College Faculty Association who had the wisdom to invite this great group to Barrie.

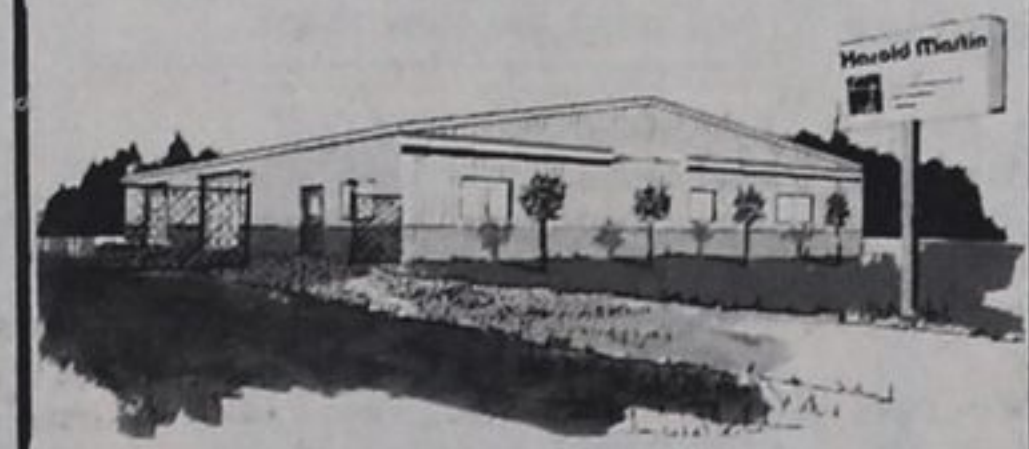
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