

Abducted at gun-point

Kidnapped woman discovered in area

A 28 year old woman who was abducted last Friday leaving a Portland, Maine medical centre escaped shaken but otherwise unharmed from her kidnaper Tuesday afternoon in Coldwater.

For three and a half days, Cathy Stewart had been bound in chains and held at gun-point.

Her ordeal ended at approximately 1:30 p.m. when she escaped her captor after he stopped his yellow Volkswagen van at a Coldwater liquor store.

Carrying the chains in which she had been bound, Ms. Stewart flagged down a passing

motorist and asked to be taken to police.

A resident of Coldwater, Mrs. John Cropper, picked the woman up and drove her to the Coldwater municipal offices, where she was comforted until officers of the Orillia detachment of the OPP arrived.

"She was running across the road waving her arms with the dog chains and asked if she could see the police," said Mrs. Cropper. Mrs. Cropper went on to say that at first she suspected the woman had lost her dog, but when she explained her circumstances, drove Ms. Stewart directly to the village offices.

At press time, police had made no official statement on the incident beyond the fact that the case involved an abduction, and Ms. Stewart had managed to escape.

However, officers were heard to say that Ms. Stewart's ordeal began last Friday afternoon as she was leaving the Portland medical centre, where she is an employee. Apparently a single man was waiting for her as she left the building, and directed her into a vehicle with what is believed to be a silver plated toy revolver.

Another weapon, believed to be a sawed-off rifle, was apparently used during the in-

cident.

It was not known at press time when the woman and her abductor entered Canada, nor is it known when they arrived in the Coldwater area. Police were heard saying, however, that the two had stayed in a motel in what the woman thought to be the Barrie area.

Ms. Stewart's abductor was believed to be in the Simcoe County area when the Times went to press. He apparently was driving a yellow Volkswagen van with American licence plates. He was described as being

about five feet eight inches tall, weighing between 130 and 135 pounds. Apparently the man has a beard and wears wire rim glasses. He has ear length hair, and was last seen wearing a yellow shirt, dark green dress pants, and a green windbreaker.

Task Force prepares report

The job of the Downtown Revitalization Task Force, formed in January, will be complete sometime within the next few weeks. According to Task Force Chairman John Gignac, the four-member group is presently finalizing their recommendations.

The Task Force was formed in January, after Mayor Vince Moreau made a presentation to Penetanguishene council regarding the importance of investigating the question of downtown renewal. A previous effort to institute a Downtown Revitalization Program was defeated by a group of merchants from the business sector.

In February and March, two public meetings were held, and members of the public and business sectors to ex-

press their views on the problems and solutions for Penetanguishene's business sector.

Members of the Task Force have also met with various other interest groups, such as merchants and the Chamber of Commerce. The group also made a trip to Sarnia and Tillsonburg in April. There they viewed revitalized areas in both municipalities. Tillsonburg is about twice the size of Penetanguishene, and Sarnia is a city of about 60,000.

Both those municipalities carried out revitalization projects under a government program, called the Downtown Revitalization Program. In both cases the government provided financial assistance to

some extent.

According to Mr. Gignac, the visits to the two municipalities served to show the Task Force what problems might be encountered regarding a renewal program in Penetanguishene. Some of the problems investigated by the visiting Task Force were property acquisition, co-operation from public and private sectors, and government co-operation.

"We gained a lot of insight into how the government program works," Mr. Gignac said, regarding the visits. The information gained from the field trip will be included in the final report published by the Task Force.

When the report is ready, a third public meeting will be held. The date of that meeting is unknown at this time, but Mr. Gignac said it will be sometime in the next

week or so, and will be held at the Penetanguishene municipal offices. After that, the Task Force will take their report to municipal council, hopefully about the end of May.

After several months of working on the problems of downtown revitalization, Mr. Gignac said he and the other committee members are still very interested in the subject.

"We're still very excited about the project, and we're looking forward to seeing what suggestions contained in the report will be implemented," Mr. Gignac said.

The actual suggestions cannot be made public at this time, since they haven't been finalized yet. The Task Force has been meeting at least once a week, and sometimes twice a week, until their work is finished.

Draw winners

The Penetanguishene Lions Club recently announced the winners of their 200 Club draw for the months of January, February and March.

Ticket number 37 was held by Joanne Rustin, and was drawn for the \$50 first prize for the month of January. Willie Trillsbeck and De De Marchildon held ticket numbers 177 and 72 consecutively, and both won prizes of \$25 for the second and third prizes.

In February, Jeanette McDonald won the \$50 first prize. She held ticket number 125. John Quesselle, ticket number 42 and Rene Martin, ticket number 175 won the

\$25 prizes for second and third.

Finally, the March draw was won by Louis Arbour, with ticket number 172. Mrs. Arbour won \$50. Marcel Duval held ticket number 24, and he won second prize of \$25. Jeanette McDonald won the third prize of \$25, with ticket number 125.

The final draw, for \$1,000 will be held next December. All tickets purchased up until then will be entered in the "elimination draw", but the Lions are selling only 200 tickets. According to a spokesman for the organization, there are still tickets available for the big draw next December.

New system within year

The Penetanguishene Memorial Community Centre arena should have a new sound system within the next year if all goes as planned. Recreation Director Ron Marchildon submitted a report to the Arena, Parks and Recreation Board at their last regular meeting. That report outlined why a new system is necessary, and what steps could be taken to acquire the system.

"I have come up with an estimated cost of \$4,500 for a completely new system," Mr. Marchildon said in his report. "To accomplish this project there will have to be monies raised to match the Wintario Funds which are available."

Wintario Lottery Corporation will match dollar for dollar all funds that are raised from the public sector, in this case the town of Penetanguishene.

The Figure Skating Club approached Mr.

Marchildon, saying that they would be willing to try to raise part of the money to pay for the new system, since that club is one of the biggest users. Mr. Marchildon also recommended that proceeds from the Martin and Downs Circus go towards the purchase. The circus will be performing in Penetanguishene, and the town gets a certain amount of the profits from that event.

Mr. Marchildon calculates that half the total purchase price, \$2,250 will have to be raised between fund raising efforts and the proceeds from the circus. Wintario will then match the donations dollar for dollar, up to \$2,250.

The Arena, Park and Recreation Board accepted the report in principle, but they stipulated that the Figure Skating Club would be responsible for raising part of the money to pay for the system.

Summer staff to be hired

At their last meeting, the Arena, Parks and Recreation Board heard a report from Recreation Director Ron Marchildon calling for the hiring of waterfront staff for the upcoming summer months.

One person will be hired as a Waterfront Director, and that person will act as the supervisor for the rest of the staff, and also be responsible for the actual swimming program. That position will cover a period of nine weeks at 40 hours a week, and will pay \$4 per hour.

Advertisements will also be posted for six lifeguard / swimming instructors, who will work a maximum of 30 hours per week. Mr. Marchildon stressed in his report that only the people with the best qualifications should be hired, and that they should understand their duties and hours of work well in advance of their starting date.

One student and one full time person will also be hired to work at the Penetanguishene Trailer Camp. A student and a full time person will be hired to work at the wharf—the town dock. Periods of employment for both the trailer park and the wharf run from mid-June until Labour Day.

Other summer staff include a number of student employees to work at the various parks in Penetanguishene. There will be one extra student hired to work for the parks department, according to Mr. Marchildon, because of the increased work load due to "at least three" new parks which will be in operation this summer.

The new park operations for this summer are the town subdivision park, the Robert Street parkette, and new service building at Scott Street and the McGuire Park extension.

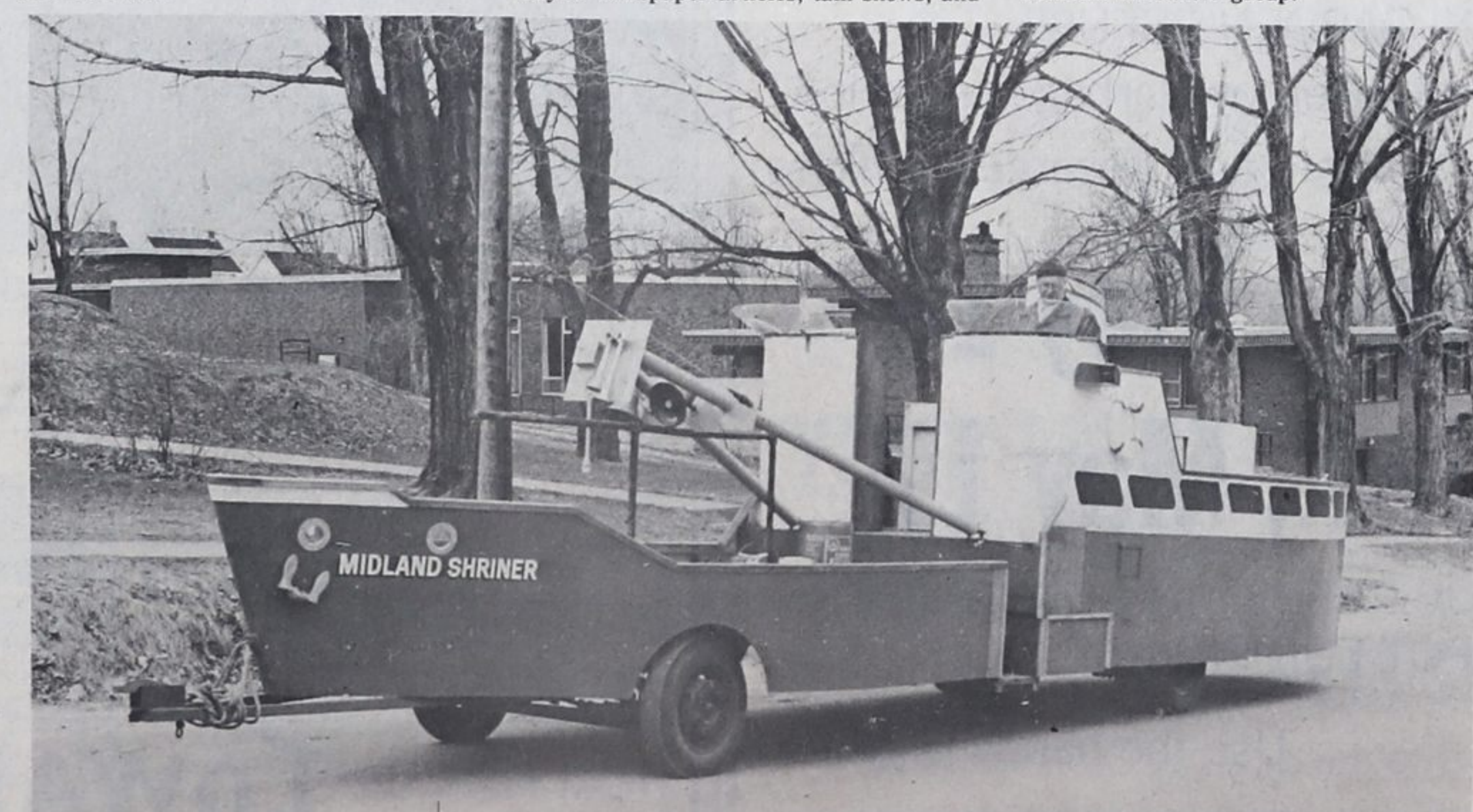
"With this added area, it is very important that we can cover all the parks completely," Mr. Marchildon said.

In conclusion, the report heard by the board suggested the process that should be used to hire summer staff for the various jobs available in Penetanguishene.

The positions will be advertised, stating the pre-requisite that all applicants must have a drivers licence. They will be paid minimum

wage, and will go through an interviewing process.

Total expenditures for summer staff will be included in the budget for the Arena, Parks and Recreation Board. That budget will be submitted to council for consideration at their next meeting, and if adopted, will provide the money to hire the necessary summer staff.



No parade

If you were drifting down Robert Street East on Monday morning you might have run across this unusual vehicle slowly making its way down the side of the road. It's the Midland Shriner Float, and it's on its

way to be stored until the next time it is needed. The lone float caused more than one driver to slow down, no doubt wondering where the rest of the parade went to. Staff photo

Anglers open season in style

Ted Mitchell is going to have the last laugh when he returns to work Monday.

Mitchell came into The Times office Monday, toting a large, freshly caught Rainbow Trout and just to make sure everyone back at National Grocers would believe his fish story, he posed for a photograph with his prize.

"My boss likes to razz me," said Mitchell. "He says, 'Oh you're always going fishing, but you never catch anything!' I'll put the picture up on the notice board to show them".

Mitchell's catch weighed in at a respectable nine pounds, 14 ounces and took him about 20 minutes to land.

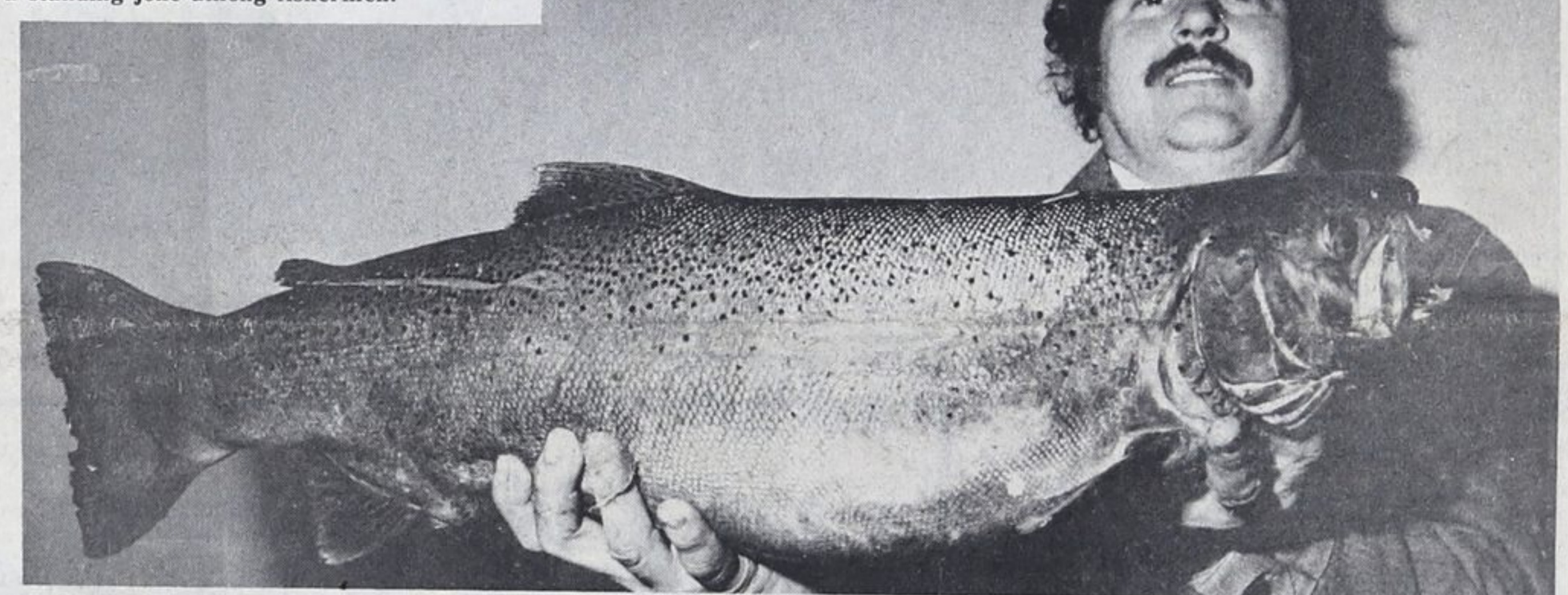
"They don't like to come in too easy", he said.

The most surprising thing about his fish story though is that he made his catch while trolling the mouth of the Wye River. Rainbow trout are not native to the Wye and Mitchell is one of the few fishermen who even managed to catch his limit this weekend.

Sunday, he landed the limit of five fish: four Rainbows and one Chinook Salmon of about eight pounds.

Where is the intrepid sportsman off to next during his week of fishing holidays? "I'm going to another secret hot spot," he replied.

Editor's note: The Times learned late Tuesday that Mr. Mitchell was pulling a bit of a fast one. The fish he's holding didn't come from the Wye River. Outdoor writer Bryan Berriault tells us catching trout in the Wye is a standing joke among fishermen.



Ted Mitchell struggles to hold up his prize rainbow trout for Times photographer.

Mitchell wanted to have proof of his catch for the folks back at the office who, he says, have

a tendency to doubt his fish stories. The female trout weighed in at nine pounds 14 ounces. Staff photo by Dave Fuller

Mental Health campaign underway

Mental Health Week will run from May 1 to May 7. According to a recent press release The Canadian Mental Health Association and its branches across Canada in conjunction with community mental health facilities will be implementing a vigorous campaign that will focus on public awareness and public education of mental health issues.

The campaign will emphasize the contribution that millions of Canadians have made as volunteers in the field of Mental Health.

The campaign will focus on issues such as child abuse, stress on the job, at home and at school; drug abuse, unemployment and the family.

During Mental Health Week issues and concerns are to be presented to the public by way of newspaper articles, talk shows, and

television shows.

There will be a Community Service Luncheon in Barrie on Wednesday May 3, featuring Dr. E. Barker from the Canadian Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children. Dr. Barker is also a consulting psychiatrist to the Oak Ridge Division of the Penetanguishene Mental Health Centre. The topic will be child abuse.

There will be a display at Bayfield Mall in Barrie on Friday May 5. An annual meeting will be held at the Barrie Y.M.C.A. at 8 p.m. on Thursday May 4 with guest speaker Dr. D. Syer from the Crisis Prevention Centre in Toronto. Suicide will be the topic.

CKBB will host a talk show on Wednesday May 3 at 9:30 a.m. The topic is Focus - a women's encounter group.

The campaign slogan for Mental Health Week is "Give something of yourself. It's Good for Your Mental Health". According to a spokesman, Gary

Westgarth of the Mental Health Centre in Penetanguishene, volunteers are needed in the field of Mental Health.

News briefs

Figures on drive unavailable

The Canadian Cancer Society has not released final figures on the annual April canvass, according to Publicity Chairman, Gwen Patterson.

"We're well on the way to our objective", said Mrs. Patterson. For those who did not contribute to the Cancer Fund, when canvassers were out door to door last month,

Gwen Patterson has suggested that should they still wish to do so, they may contact Mr. Jake Reimer, Manager of the Toronto-Dominion Bank.

Mr. Reimer is the Penetanguishene Campaign Chairman. He will be happy to accept contributions for the Cancer Society.

YMCA receives penny clips

Have you got drawers and old piggy banks full of loose pennies that you are too lazy to roll and take to the bank?

If you do, now is your chance to get rid of the money in a worthwhile way.

The Midland YMCA building fund is receiving a special shipment of "Penny clips" from Midland's Royal Bank. The clips called "Penny Pinchers" clips coins together

putting an end to the frustrations of wrapping coins in the traditional paper wrappers.

According to John Leitch, chairman of the YMCA Building Fund students from five local schools, including Bayview, Huron Park, Parkview, Regent and Sacred Heart will pick Penny Pinchers up at school and fill them with pennies from home. They will return them to the YMCA.

New face at Citizen office

The Citizen office has a new face, at least for the next week or so. Jackie McLaughlin, a grade 12 student at Penetanguishene Secondary School is on a work experience program, and is working for the Citizen to get some extra experience.

Jackie plans to study journalism next fall at Georgian College, so her experience with the Citizen should come in handy.



Jackie McLaughlin

Jackie McLaughlin, a grade 12 student at PSS will be working for the Citizen for another week or so. Staff photo

PSS concert

The Annual Spring Concert will be held at Penetanguishene Secondary School on Wednesday May 10 at 8 p.m. Featured are the Senior and Junior Concert Bands and the Dance Orchestra. The concert will be held in the school auditorium. Admission is \$1.50.