

103 years young

Mina Parnell, born Mina Veals, on a farm near Omemee, Dec. 2, 1880, was one of six children.

She spent the first 25 years of her life in this area before moving to Wyevale in 1905, the year she married Thomas Parnell.

They soon found themselves raising four

daughters on their farm on the sixth concession of Tiny Township. Farming, at the time, consisted of growing hay, grains, corn and turnips to feed the horses, cattle and poultry through the winter. Mina tended a large garden each summer to provide vegetables for winter

use. Strawberries and raspberries were also grown and preserved in quart and half gallon jars for family desserts. Mina occasionally sold strawberries for five cents a box. A good-sized orchard could also be found on the farm as well as maple trees which yielded half

gallon jars of winter sweetener. Mina made butter using a hand churn, but often had lots of help from the children.

To give you an idea of how life was in these earlier times, we heard an amusing story about Mina. She and a friend drove Mina's eight month old daughter to Midland in a horse and buggy in the month of September to have the child's photo taken.

Upon arriving, Mina realized she had

Bicentennial celebration

At the regular Council Meeting held on Nov. 28, a resolution was passed and sent to the Ministry of Culture and Recreation for the application of a \$600 grant to be used toward the celebration of the bicentennial of the Province of Ontario.

Since there is no specific day on which

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forgotten a special hand-made dress for the picture and had to improvise by buying a piece of embroidered material and gathered it into a strapless dress. The family still treasures this memorable picture.

Mina's interests included early institute work as well as a special concern for her church, firstly the Methodist church and later the United Church, where she served as Sunday School teacher for many

years. She always seemed to find time to lend a helping hand in the neighborhood when necessary. Her eldest daughter passed away in 1923, at the age of 16, then in 1927 her husband died suddenly, leaving her with three daughters to raise.

She carried on the farm with the help of a brother-in-law until 1941. She then lived with

her daughters until she was in her 100th year.

Mina has always been interested in the activities of her 12 grandchildren and her 16 great grandchildren. She now happily resides at the Villa Community Care Centre in Midland where she appreciates all their kindness and care.

Happy Birthday Mina!



Have a happy retirement Gord

After 19 long years of service, Midland Parking Bylaw Enforcement Officer Gord Henderson is to retire. He's shown with his wife Viola at the

town's Christmas Party where last Friday night at the Midland Legion he was so honoured.

-Special Photo

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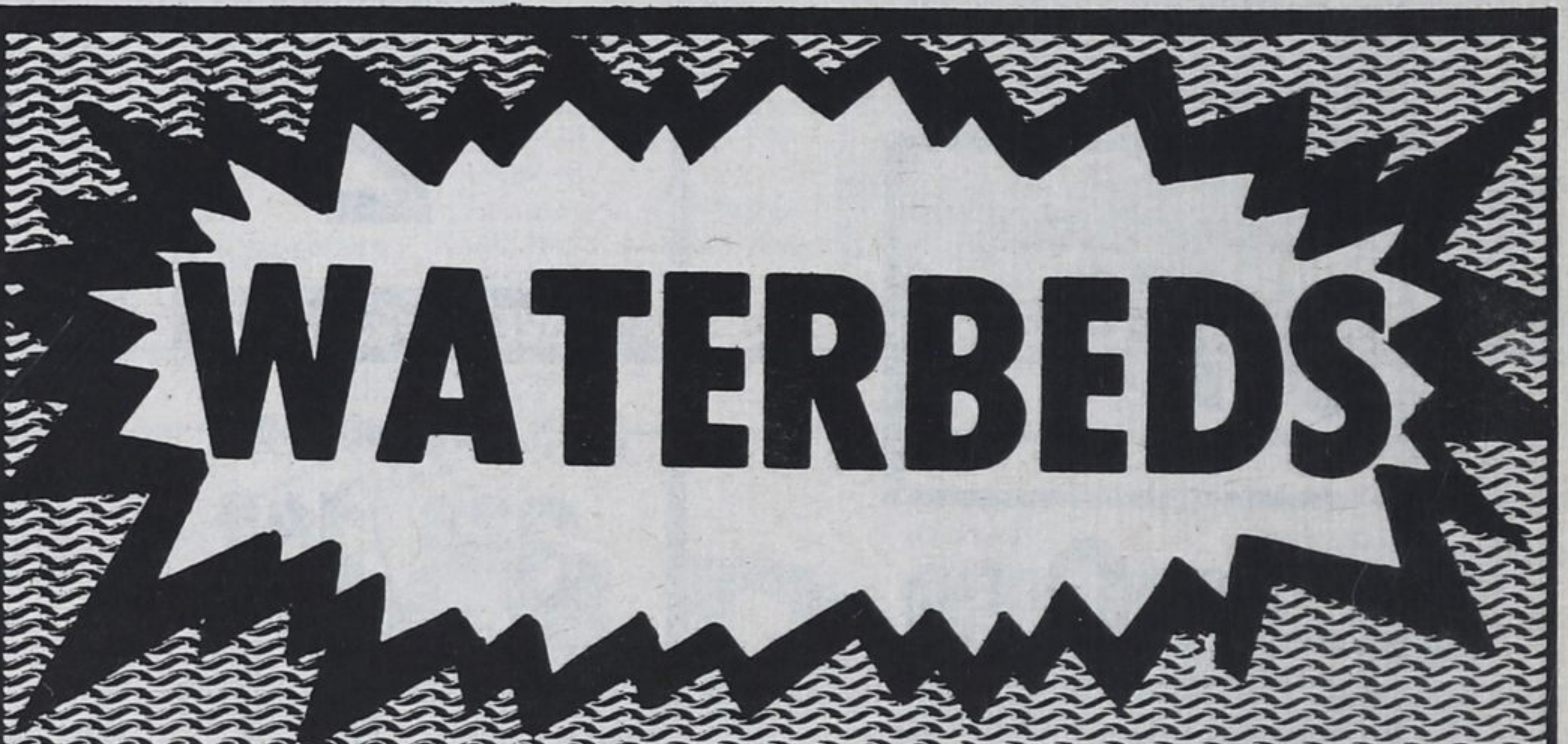


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