



Castor Earl — I'm for the Birds

If this ain't the darndest thing ya ever heard of. They'll let any dang fool who wanders in off the street write in the Castor.

I know, 'cause that's how I got here. I just walked in off the street and told them I had a few things I wanted to get off my chest and wondered if I could have a bit of space once and awhile.

And, just like that, they said "sure, why don't you start a column."

So, here I am, right along with Beaver Bob, and Snavelly what's 'is name, and that young lad, Mark.

I sure am a fan of ol' Beave'. Fact is, Beave' and I are neighbors. We both live down by the river not too far from each other. He's a cantankerous ol'

coot sometimes, but we get along well enough.

As for Snave', well I don't know him too well. Nobody knows 'im too well. He's not from around these parts; he just drops off one of 'is reminiscences once and awhile and they stick it in the paper. Like I said, they'll run dang near anything.

And the young lad. Well, he's a good sort; a little slow sometimes, but he means well.

At the Castor, they let ya write about anythin' that comes to you head. Look at Beave'; he talks on frogs, and pigs, and such. If it's an animal, Beave' has an opinion on it. And Mark; he goes on about any ol' thing.

So I thought I'd get the ball rollin' with somethin' that's been buggin' me about birds.

See, I'm a big bird booster. I really love the feathered little fellas. Anybody says I'm not for the birds is an outright liar.

I'm a peace-lovin' man and I'll beat the devil out of anybody says I'm not. I feel kind' a warm all over when there's lots of birds around.

I went out and got me one of them store-bought feeders with the glass sides so's ya can see what level the seed's at. I hung it out on a big pine and right along side of it I stuck a tray for chunks of bread, gobs of peanut butter, and such.

Then I sat back waitin' for all those fancy birds you hear tell about that hang around all winter. I sat, and I sat, and I sat.

I'm still sittin'; fact, I'm one of the best sitters around.

Sure, I got a few Chickadees that only staid awhile then flew the coop. Now, all I got is a handful of fat sparrows that look like they have a fight with the comb every mornin' what with their feathers stickin' out every which way.

Where are your Blue Jays and your Grossbeaks? I do see quite a few gross-lookin' jay-birds but they ain't the feathered kind.

Earl, what are ya doin' wrong, I ask myself? I figured maybe your fancy birds don't like the menu I lay out so I even dished out little slices of the missus' home-cooked apple pie. Say, you

don't think that's what's drivin' them away, do ya?

I don't rightly know what it is. I was thinkin' on startin' a little fly-in movie theatre to try and draw them in. You know, I could show all the ol' birdie hits like The Birds, Birdman of Alcatraz, and One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest.

Well maybe I'm flyin' off the handle a bit on this. What do you folks out there think on it? I'd sure like to hear from anybody with some advice on how to get birds to come to a feeder.

Why not drop a line to Castor Earl, care of the Castor Review, Box 359, Russell, if you think ya know where I'm goin' wrong.

It's Carnival time

You may be excused for complaining of the cold but you certainly can't complain of nothing to do if you live in this neck of the woods.

This time of year, area villages come alive with a multitude of activities as community groups host winter carnivals.

Successful carnivals have already been held at Embrun, Morewood and Greely while Metcalfe and Russell are gearing up for their celebrations. The Russell bash runs from February 21 to February 26 while the Metcalfe shindig starts February 17 and ends February 25.

One highlight of the rash of carnivals is that the area has been graced with a new array of royalty. Queens already crowned are Suzanne Gregoire at Embrun, Margaret Hunter at Morewood and Kim Scharff at Greely.

The princesses include Shari Hillis and Kathy Perdue at Morewood and Marion Skrabs at Greely. At Embrun, Brigitte Miron, Therese St. Pierre, and Shirley Thomas, all pageant contestants, won prizes for best ticket sales.

Organizing committees for the three carnivals already held report excellent turnouts for all events. Fine weather was a major factor in the successes.

From Morewood, Valarie Hansen reports the weatherman cooperated with sunny days for the fourth annual carnival, Jan. 27, 28 and 29. Highlights included an ecumenical church service, a pet show, hayride, bingo, dance and organized children's activities.

Participants were also treated to four delicious meals sponsored by the firemen and women's

church groups, tug-of-war and broomball games, and sky-diving by three experienced parachutists.

Embrun carnival participants enjoyed, dances, sleigh rides, hockey and broomball games, cross-country skiing, a pancake dinner, a bean eating contest and dog and bed races. The Embrun event ran from January 27 to February 5.

At Greely, it was more of the same with a teen dance, a parade, a costume contest, a snowmobile rally, log sawing, hockey, skiing, and a variety of races including skate and pancake. That carnival also ran from January 27 to February 5.

And the fun and games have just begun. So don't sit around and mope; get out and celebrate at Russell and Metcalfe.

Highlights of both carnivals include (unless specified, events are held at community halls):

- RUSSELL**
Feb. 23, carnival queen pageant, 8:30 p.m.
Feb. 24, start of Russell Lions International Midget A hockey tournament, 6 p.m.. Teen dance, 8:30 p.m.
Feb. 25, adult dance, 8:30 p.m.
Feb. 26, pancake breakfast, St. Mary's Anglican Church, 8 a.m. - 10 a.m.

- METCALFE**
Feb. 17, carnival queen pageant, 7:30 p.m.
Feb. 18, pancake breakfast, 8 a.m. - 11 a.m.
Feb. 19, carnival parade, 2 p.m.
Feb. 22, hockey game between CKBY Country Connections and The Family Brown Shilo Broncos, 8 p.m.
Feb. 24, Monte Carlo night, 8 p.m.
Feb. 25, wind-up dance, 9 p.m.



Beaming Greely Carnival Queen, Kim Scharff



St. Patrick's Dance

Russell Comm. Hall

Friday, March 17, 1978

9:00 p.m. — 1:00 a.m.

Music by the
Russell Oldtimer Music Makers

Tickets: \$3.00 per person
Includes cold buffet

Everyone Welcome
Sponsored by the C.W.L.



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St. Paul's and St. Andrews United Church

St. Paul's and St. Andrew's United Church is sponsoring a Cub Pack in Russell. Mr. Paul Hart will be the leader, assisted by Mrs. Hart, Mrs. Robert Matthew is the chairman of the Group Committee.

St. Mary's Anglican Church

Please take note of the following House Communions during lent: Wed., Feb. 15, 8 p.m., Mrs. M. Rowsell; Wed., Feb. 22, 8 p.m., Mrs. M. Saunders; Wed., Mar. 1, 8 p.m., Mrs. S. Schroeter.

St. Mary's ACW meeting, Mon., Feb. 13, 8 p.m. at the Church Hall. The ACW will again be holding their annual Pancake Breakfast during the Winter Carnival. Don't miss this event! Sunday, Feb. 26, 8:30 - 10:30. Admission: \$1.00 per person (per family, maximum of \$5.00).

Badge Night Carnival

At 6:30 p.m., March 17 at the Russell Arena, the Castor Valley Figure Skating Club will present its Badge-Night Carnival. Over 100 local skaters will perform. Solos and group numbers will highlight this event and in addition, a display of the skills required to obtain Canadian Figure Skating Association Badges will be demonstrated. Admission, \$1.00 adults and 50 cents for students; children under 5 years, free. The proceeds going towards club ice-time expenses. Tickets may be obtained from: Maureen Mayling, 445-5458; Donna Bond, 445-5253; Julie Ruttle, 445-5270.