



Castor Earl

More Bird talk

Well dag nab it. If I ain't back here writin' another column.

I just can't figure how these Castor boys can let the wool get pulled-over their eyes like this.

I can't write; never could. Sure, I can string a few words together to kinda make sense but not like your Beave' and your Mark.

But here we go again anyhow. Do you mind last time I talked on birds and how they don't flock to feeders except for your common everyday ones like sparrows?

And do you mind how I asked anybody out there with a notion on how I could get your fancy kinds to come should fill me in on it?

Well, I had a couple of wisecrackers tell me that if I wanted more birds around I shouldn't show my face 'cause that's what scares them off. I guess we writers just have to put up with that kinda sass.

Anyhow, this face ain't so bad. My mother -- she's goin' on 94 years now -- she likes it well enough. Just look at it starin' out at ya there; it's really kinda cute, ain't it.

But to get back to the subject at hand, I did get one letter from an Embrun gal - at least I figure it's a gal - who signed "Anna".

Ole' Anna had a lot to say on the subject, dang near as much as I did. To keep with the mood, she even made sure she got a bird stamp on her envelope.

The stamp shows a "falco peregrinus" whatever in tarnation that is. My Italian ain't all that good.

Anna starts with a little sympathy - which I appreciate - then gets right on into it:

"Dear Castor Earl. You poor, poor man. I know just how you feel about those bird not coming to your feeders. The same happened to me a few years back. before I read an article in a gardening magazine. You see, you have to put out the food in the fall, about the time sunflowers ripen. That is when the birds are looking for future feeding places and then stick close to them in the winter months. The bluejay and grosbeaks like sunflowers. I plant some in the garden just for them. It's so beautiful to see a gorgeous bluejay hanging upside down under the head of a sunflower. A little warning though. Watch your family cat. When the birds are busy feasting and fighting, our cat managed to walk off with two bluejays and a grosbeak. My feeder is in the wrong place."

And that's how Anna sees it and she has a lot of tips I'm goin' to take up next fall.

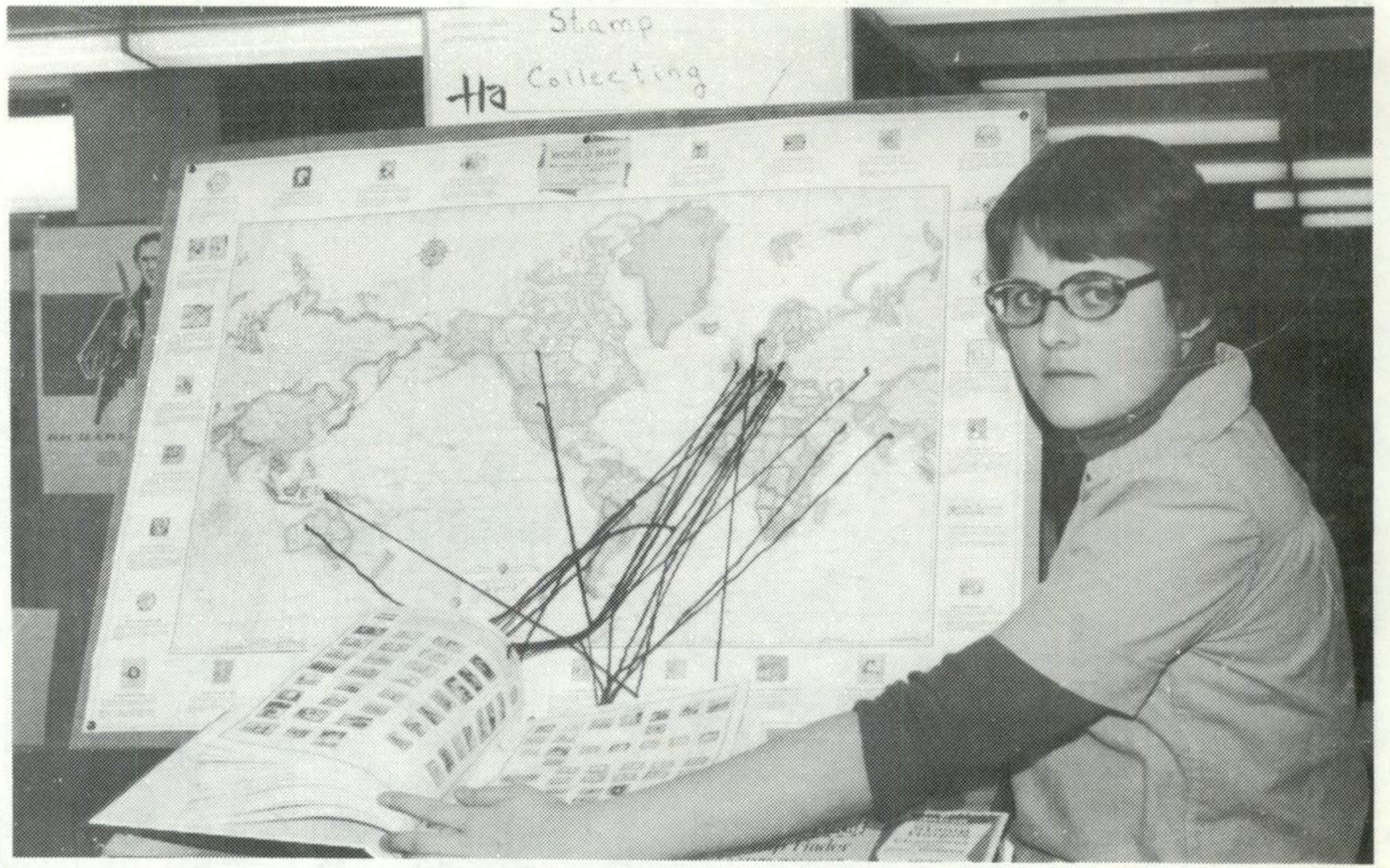
I wonder how those jays hang upside down on a sunflower like that? I think I'll try it sometime.

And that warnin' about the family cat really hits the mark.

Over to home we got the biggest, meanest ole' tom ya ever laid eyes on. But I don't think ole' Butch would even bother with none of them prissy jays and grosbeaks.

I figure Butch would rather tackle hissself one of them falco peregrinus and I don't doubt for a minute but that he'd get the best of it.

Like I said, I don't know what in blazes a peregrinus is but it looks tough enough in the pictures. But not as tough as ole' 'butch.



Science Fair: Grade 8 student Wendy Stone displays stamps from around the world at science fair held recently at Metcalfe Public School.



Hayride: These children couldn't wait to climb aboard these trailers stacked with hay in anticipation of a good time. It was all part of the fun at the Russell Inter Carnival.



D. LATREMOUILLE

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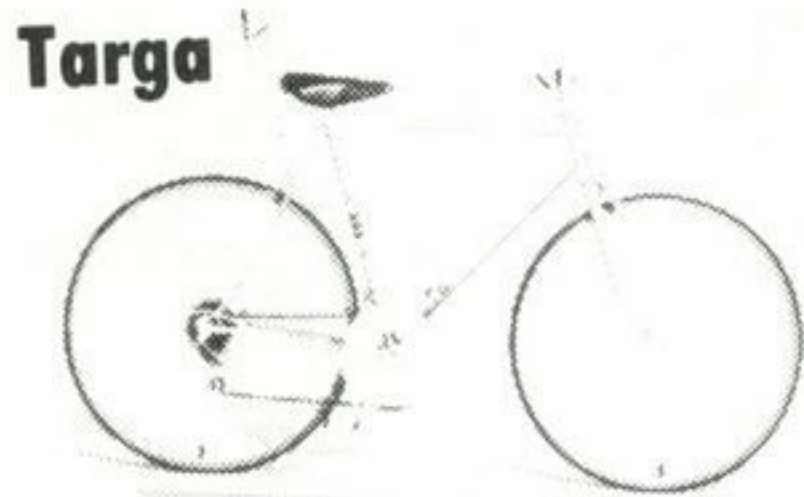
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