

CASTOR COMMENT



Tired kittens

(Photo by Rowsell)

These four little kittens found an old tire on Mill Street in Russell to be as good a place as any to catnap. Although the camera's click startled them, the fluffy felines were quickly lulled back to sleep by the warm summer sun generated by their rubber cradle.

Much ado about nothing to do

Don't anybody ever say there's nothing to do around here. If you live in Eastern Ontario at this time of year, there's so much to do, you can't even fit it all into the agenda. And you don't have to go to Ottawa for diversion. Fair buffs could be kept busy almost every weekend from now to October with about 10 of these

down-home events within easy driving distance. Included among them is the oldest continuous fair in Ontario at Williamstown. For those who maintain that when you've seen one fair you've seen them all, there are activities with a different flavor such as the Maxville Highland Games, Pioneer Days at Vernon and Sand-

ringham near Maxville, and Old Home Week, Tubie Races, and the Applefest at Morrisburg. The Applefest honors the MacIntosh apple which was developed on a farm west of Williamsburg. And the first Prescott-Russell Festival held at the end of June shows promise for the future. So no more complaints.

Hockey trial a waste?

It has to be seriously questioned whether the assault trial of former Kingston Canadians star Ken Linseman, now before the Ontario provincial court, should ever have been held. Although hockey violence cannot be condoned, one wonders whether the trial was a waste of time and taxpayers money to accommodate political pressure. Could the police have more thoroughly researched the evidence behind the charges and could the crown prosecutor's office have used more discretion and been less quick to fulfill the campaign of Ontario Attorney-General Roy McMurtry? The charges followed a game during the 1976 playoffs between the Kingston Canadians and Ottawa 67's of the Ontario Major Junior "A" Hockey League (OHA), in which a brawl erupted between members of both squads. Linseman was charged by the Ottawa police with assault causing bodily harm after he allegedly kicked Ottawa defenceman Jeff Geiger in the forehead with his skate. The Linseman trial began in the fall of 1976. After much evidence was introduced the trial adjourned for the regular season. It reopened the following spring and then broke up again for the next hockey season as Linseman

was signed to play with the Birmingham Bulls of the World Hockey Association. After reconvening this spring the trial was suddenly halted only hours before Justice Beaulne was to hand down a verdict. Just moments before the decision in the case was announced it was learned that a film of the fight between Linseman and Geiger had been discovered at the offices of Ottawa 67's part-owner Howard Darwin. The film shows no sign of a kick by Linseman at Geiger. What it does show has caused a great deal of anxiety. After learning that he has been ejected for being the third man in a fight, Linseman skates over toward the penalty box where Geiger is serving a 5-minute major for fighting. At that point Geiger jumps out of the box and the two players come together for the umpteenth time in the contest. They grapple momentarily, neither landing a solid punch, before falling, officials and all, into a heap on the ice. Then, as Geiger is being pulled away, the film shows the Ottawa defenceman aim a kick at Linseman . . . but not kick from Linseman at Geiger. After hearing months of testimony Judge Geaulne has reserved decision until September 5.

For all intents and purposes the trial is over, save the decision. What of Jeff Geiger? Should action be taken against him since the film clearly shows him directing a kick a Linseman? In the Linseman case the Crown called witnesses who testified they saw Linseman kick Geiger. For each of those witnesses the defense had a witness who testified that there was no such kick. Hockey violence is abhorrent. Many have stated that the sport has gone from a healthy, entertaining game to a gladiatorial confrontation. McMurtry has vowed to quell violence in the sport through the courts. More power to him. But as is the case with an assault which happens in the street, you don't proceed with inconclusive evidence and contradictory testimony. We agree those who commit trial acts in this sport, in any sport for that matter should be dealt with to the most stringent extent of the law. But it is possible that the hue and cry over hockey violence has spurred authorities to act to hastily in this case much to the embarrassment of the courts and the police and more importantly to the misfortune of Messrs. Geiger and Linseman.

All's fair

A lot of ink has been spilled about Fall Fairs, about how they contribute to agriculture, bring farm and city folk together, arouse pride in community effort, show what men and women and young people can produce in the way of farm expertise, home cooking, garden vegetables and livestock. A lot of the people who write about Fall Fairs restrict their effort to just that, writing about them. Some actually go out and get the feel of the thing, the trotting races, tractor pulls, hot dogs and root beer, the red dust in the setting sun around the horse show ring, the red faces and the laughter and the good fellowship with the sound of fiddles from the arena as the dust settles and the stars light their lanterns in the sky. The real secret about Fall Fairs, if you go there with the right spirit, is that they are a lot of fun. There is excitement in the earthy smells, beer on ice (must we confess it?) the cherry sounds of bovine contentment, porcine satisfaction, equine pride and canine challenge. Even though it is not yet Fall, the fairs are getting under way with Russell one of the first this year. Sure, it's not the Canadian National Exhibition or even the Ottawa (Eastern Canada) "Ex", but the Russell Fair and the other small community fairs in the area have a hominess and sense of community that the big midways no longer have. It's our Fair and we like it the way it is and we hope everyone else does too.

The long distance feeling

Complaints about Bell Telephone from Castor River residents have been steady during the past five years. If it wasn't sluggishness in getting a phone installed, it was sluggishness in getting one removed. Then there was anger over snotty operators, line interference, frequent bad connections and getting dead air more times than not. The latest and most frustrating sore point is phones mysteriously cutting off by themselves. Important calls have had to resume over embarrassed denials of having purposely hung us. One party had to call back three times to complete a single five minute conversation. That was the complaint call to Bell three weeks ago. The situation hasn't improved. One has to wonder whether big, fat, rich, comfortable Ma Bell considers herself above responding to complaints, maybe that's what is meant by The Long Distance Feeling.

Rights of anglophones

Let us say at the outset that we detest the word anglophone almost as much as we detest the equally noxious word, francophone. We detest these words for what they represent, an attempt to segregate free Canadian citizens on language lines. Having said that, let us consider the plight of anglophone parents who desire to have their children educated in the French language. Much has been said and written about the rights of French language parents to have French language education for their children and about the right of English language parents to educate their children in English. Very little attention is paid to anglophone parents who wish to have their children educated in English. Surely, these aims and objectives are as binding and conclusive as the others. The fact that they are not considered so is a revelation of our tendency to place everyone in neat little compartments. Rights of francophone parents to French language facilities. Of course. Right of English language children to education in English. Indisputable (except in Quebec). But, a right of anglophones to instruction in French? A right of francophones to instruction in English? This is something else. And yet, if freedom of choice in education is to be a fundamental right, as French Canadians have maintained in Ontario since 1917 and as insisted on by the B and B Commission and re-emphasized in Prime Minister Trudeau's new Constitutional Charter, then the right of anglophone children to French language education must be recognized. Under the Education Act of Ontario a board may admit an anglophone child to a French language school on the recommendation of an admissions committee made up of the school principal, a teacher who teaches French and a French speaking supervisory officer of the Board. While the composition of such a committee appears to load the dice against the anglophone child, some principals are dispensing with even this tipping-of-the-hat gesture and taking it on themselves to reject all applications from anglophone children, even those who have had a year or two of French, something that certainly was never intended by the legislation. If bilingualism is to be respected in this country, it must be the right of every child to be educated in either French or English where facilities exist for such education. This right over-rides the convenience of principals and teachers. A right is a right and not subject to the whims of educators.

CASTOR REVIEW

"One Canada"

Box 359, Russell, Ont.

Editor: Mark Van Dusen, 445-2080.
Reporters: Joyce O'Reilly, 445-2008; Suzanne Schroeter, 445-5709.
Sports: Jack MacLaren, 445-2131, Peter Van Dusen, 445-5770.
Photographs: Mary Rowsell, 445-5244.
Advertising: Theresa Griffith, 445-2820; Joan Van Dusen, 445-2080.
Layout: Stuart Walker, 445-5707.
Subscriptions: Tina Van Dusen, 445-5707.
Submissions preferably typed,

double-spaced are welcomed, publishable at the discretion of the editor.

Published by Castor Publishing, Russell, Ontario.
President: Thomas W. Van Dusen.

Printed by Eastern Ontario Graphics Ltd., Chesterville, Ont.

NEXT DEADLINE
Sept. 8
NEXT ISSUE
Sept. 15

Second Class Mail Registration No. 4218

Correspondence

Editor, Castor Review:
Myrtle and I appreciated your complimentary article and the excellent photographs taken at the testimonial dinner on June 21. We were happy to know you enjoyed the dinner and program with us. With all the best wishes for the future.

Sincerely,
C. E. Lynn Morrow
Metcalf

Dear Mr. Van Dusen:
We thoroughly enjoy the paper, especially the articles on days gone by.

Yours truly,
Mrs. J. T. Kinchen
Russell

SEND IN SUBSCRIPTION NOW!

BOX 359, RUSSELL, ONT.
Please send the Castor Review to

Name.....
Address Box No.....
Amount (\$3 for 12 issues)