



Scrapbook

By Suzanne Schroeter

Welcome to Russell, New Zealand

Imagine this "Welcome to Russell" tropical resort on Bay of Islands in the Pacific; serene retirement location; yacht facilities; excellent fishing; gourmet seafood restaurants and tea houses. I'm speaking of Russell, New Zealand, a small town visited this summer by Metcalfe Public School teacher Anne Sterling.

Anne brought back a copy of the 'Russell Review' a non-political quarterly dedicated to the preservation of Russell's natural beauty.

The Russell paints a contemporary as well as historical picture of this well-known tourist town. Without going there one can experience the exciting historical events which are immortalized in the Tradition column.

One of the best known local legends tells of Maori chieftan, Hone Heke who had a strong disliking for the British flagstaff on Flafstaff Hill overlooking the town. On January nineteen, 1845, Heke and his followers cut down the flagstaff for the third time. Three weeks later the H.M.S. Hazard arrived from Auckland with orders to put up a fourth

staff, sheath it with iron to a height of 10 feet, build a block house around it and dig a trench around that. Signalman Tapper and detachment of the 96th Regiment of Foot were instructed to take up their quarters there to guard it.

Most old timers in Russell can recount the story of the fall of the fourth flagstaff and the destruction of the town on the eleventh of March. The Maori war divided into three groups. Heke took the blockhouse without much trouble in the early hours of the morning. The town's refugees, including Tapper and his family were forced to board ships in the bay. As the entire town lay burning, they departed for Auckland.

Many years later Tapper's granddaughter returned to Russell with a walking stick which her grandfather had made from the first flagstaff and dated 1844. Today it is in the Russell museum.

Flagstaff Hill, renamed Tapper's mount burst upon the public notice again in 1908. Sparetime prospectors had discovered managanese antimony and mercury within miles of

Russell, and a promising find of gold had been struck on Tapper's Mount. After the assayer's verdict that gold was present in payable quantities the Mount was in peace.

Subsequent owners of the Mount, however have exploited it for gravel for road-making, and have scored it with roads and paths. Protesting residents were told they could not stand in the path of progress.

What is to become of historic Tapper's Mount? Russellites don't know the answer to that question, but as one recounts, 'When I hear the word 'progress' I reach for my harpoon.'

Once a busy whaling and trading centre (Captain Cook landed there) Russell has now adopted a tranquil and relaxed pace-perfect for tourists, vacationers and retired citizens.

I'm really not hinting that some of our own Russell residents should go "down under", but if your interest has been aroused subscription rates for the Russell Review are \$4.50 per year. Inquiries may be sent to R. Nightingale, Subscription Mgr. Wellington St., Russell, New Zealand. I'm staying.

Russell Lion's Club



Halloween Dance

Dr. F. Kinnaird Com. Centre

Friday, October 27

Music by Pandimonium

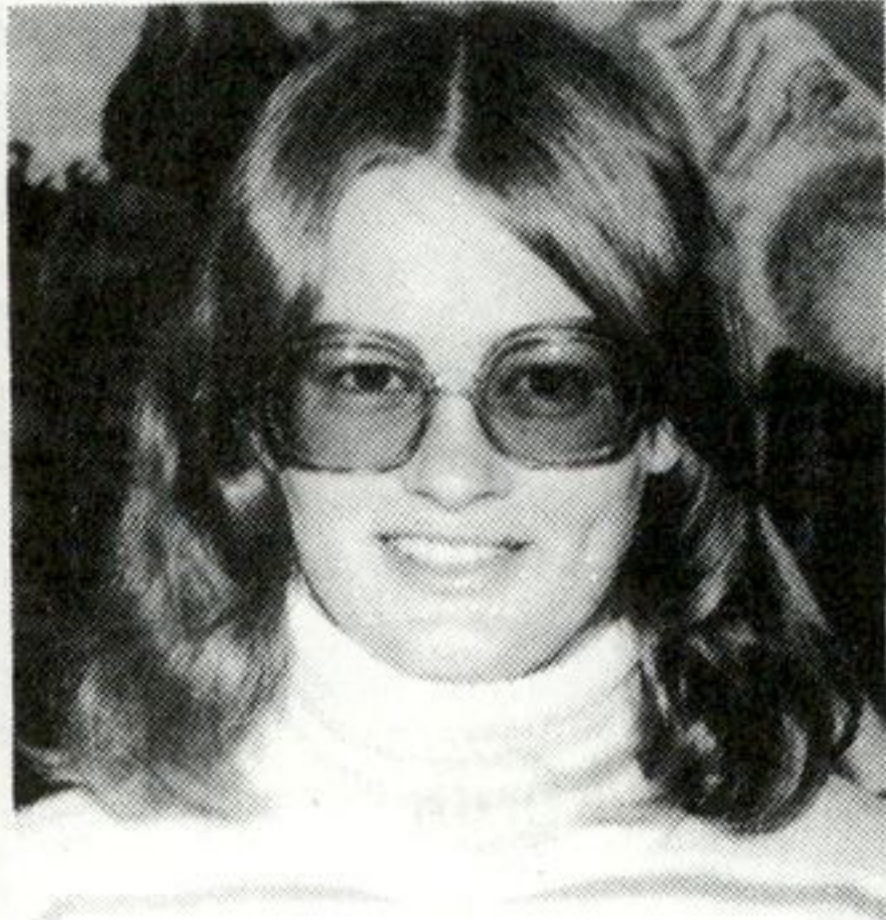
TICKETS
\$2.00 with costume
\$3.00 without

Witches and Goblins welcome

Prizes Galore

Refreshments Available

Award winner



Mr. and Mrs. Russell Phair attended an awards presentation earlier this month at the Ontario Agriculture College, University of Guelph, in honour of their granddaughter, Susan Emond, of Mississauga. Mrs. Emond won the Robert Thompson and Genstar Scholarships and the Ontario Scholarship for high marks. She is entering a two-year agriculture program at Guelph before going on to veterinary college.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

November 20, 1978
8:00 p.m.

Dr. F. Kinnaird Com. Centre

The purpose of the meeting is to consider:

- The Chairperson's Report
- The Treasurer's Report
- other Business

approve:

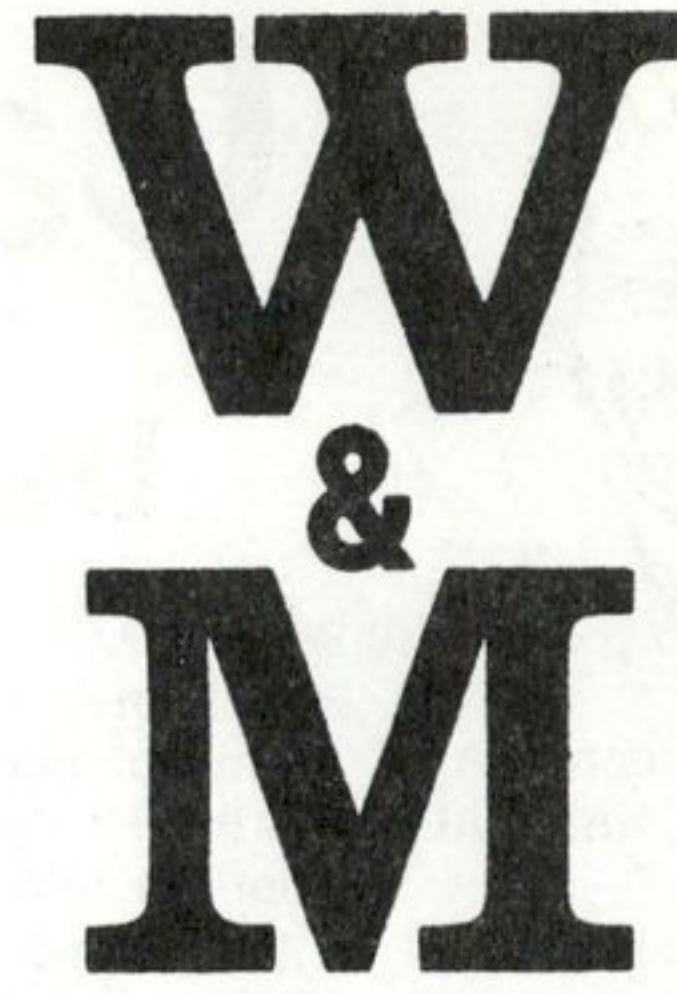
- The Minutes of the last Annual General Membership Meeting of November 29, 1977, as published and hold the election of officers.

Nominations are requested for the following positions: Chairman; Vice-Chairman; Treasurer; Secretary; Directors, 4
Please contact one of the members of the Nominating Committee to record your nomination.
Peter Romme, Nominating Committee Chairman, 443-5547;
Keith Boothe, 445-2009; Antje Loucks, 445-5411.

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