

# Sportlight

By Garey Ris

## Alfred and Jean Welch

### — Happiness among the holes

The Metcalfe Golf Course, situated just north of the village, is a new challenge for Alfred and Jean Welch, owners of this five-year-old operation.

Ottawa-born Alfred and Chesterville-born Jean have owned the 100 acres where the golf course is located for over 30 years. The Welch's operated a hobby farm including 20 head of Hereford beef, chickens, guinea hens, a horse and even some apple trees.

Alfred grew tired of running his roofing business in Ottawa. Known as T. Welch and Son Ltd., the roofing company had been in business for almost 100 years with the earliest records dating back to 1880.

Alfred and Jean, along with their two sons, Tom, 31, Scott 19, and daughter Marilyn had been clearing the land for quite some time and on the advice of some friends, the Welch's decided to build a golf course.

Construction began in 1972. The family continued to clear the land, cut down dead trees and had loads of clean fill brought in to shape the golf course.

Near-tragedy struck on New

Year's Day 1975 when a tree they were cutting fell on Alfred and broke one of his legs. Down as he was, Alfred never gave up and began working on the golf course in early Spring of 1975. Alfred said, "I was the only person in the Civic Hospital suffering from Dutch Elm Disease."

At present, the course is 3379 yds. long for nine holes. The Welch's say four new holes will be ready by mid-summer. With those four in operation, only holes 1-5 will have to be played twice.

Although Alfred only plays golf three or four times a year, he believes that hole 1 is the toughest. He says there is a feeling of narrowness because of the trees lining both sides of the fairway. Another problem is the boulder also at the beginning of the first hole according to Jean.

"I can remember on one occasion where a man hit the boulder twice and both times the ball landed behind him near the clubhouse. A man, seeing this, brought the balls back to the man who denied that they were his balls to prevent further embarrassment," she said laughing.

Another memory Jean recalled

was the day in late fall when a husband and wife team along with a friend decided to do some golfing. The weather wasn't the nicest. It was cold, damp, windy and rainy and the trio was beginning the back nine. The woman shot the ball into the creek. Her husband offered to get his ball retriever. His wife said she'd get it. While trying to retrieve her golf ball, she slid into the creek and sat on the ball. Her husband tried to pull her out and in the process, fell in himself. The friend ended up pulling the pair out of the frigid waters. Surprisingly, they finished the game.

Metcalfe Golf Course already has 50 memberships for 1980 and more are expected as the Welch's prepare for a busy summer.



Alfred Welch and boulder on Fairway 1 (Michael Van Dusen Photo).

## POETS OF THE... CASTOR, Thanks coach

While mom's warmed their hands around coffee cups,  
And dad's paced the time on the stair

The shots rang out and the sticks hit the ice;  
The taste of victory hung in the air.

Each boy took his turn in the struggle,  
And each his turn warming the seat.  
And each parent hoped in his heart of hearts  
That this time they wouldn't be beat.

Then the buzzer announced the end of the game,  
And the coached cheered them up with a smile,  
Sure it would have been nice to win this once  
But you guys know how to lose with style.

So they saluted the goalie a resounding thump,  
And the winning team with a grin.  
For each game held lots of excite-

ment,  
Though they'd seldom come home with a win.

But they knew not to blame the ref on the ice,  
And they'd work hard to perfect their skill.  
For they'd learned that the game's a reward all its own,  
And all equally shared in the thrill.

Those boys were a team the whole season long,  
Through success and "almost won" too.  
They'd worked and they'd learned, and each player improved  
And each game brought them hope anew.

They had coaches who cared for the boys, not the score.  
Who insured each child's confidence grew.  
Thank you Garry, Chuck and Dennis  
For seeing the "Atom A's" through!

Anne Fleming  
Russell.

## Russell old Golds take second

The Russell Oldtimer Golds took second place in the season-ending tournament which saw six Castor-area oldtimer teams competing at the Dr. Frank Kinnaird Community Centre last month. Crysler took the first place trophy donated by Voyageur Pontiac Buick Ltd. At right, Bruce Woolsey, president of the Russell Oldtimers Hockey League, presents the second-place trophy donated by the Russell Hotel to Gerry Leroux, to Golds captain. Mike Fletcher, of the Golds, won the MVP trophy donated by Benny's Hotel.



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# RIS RAP

With Garey Ris



As the National Hockey League season draws to a conclusion, the NHL governors must hold some serious discussions concerning the playoff format which resembles nothing more than a minor league operation. It's a disgrace to the league.

The NHL expanded to 21 teams from 17, absorbing four former World Hockey Association teams. Edmonton, Winnipeg, Quebec and Hartford merged into the NHL and it couldn't have happened at a better time because of skyrocketing salaries, dwindling attendance and basically, floundering interest in the world's fastest game.

On the ice it was a different story. Hartford finished in 14th position and Edmonton in the 16th and final playoff spot. Both were easily eliminated in the preliminary round.

The NHL showed why it isn't a first rate operation by allowing 16 teams to qualify for further competition. Only nine teams out of the 16 had records over the .500 average. Ridiculous as it may seem, the NHL continues to have 16 playoff teams where only the top eight should qualify for further action. Obviously, the league desires the extra playoff revenues from a bunch of also-rans.

If the playoffs were revamped to include only the eight highest teams at the season end, we would have to wait until late May to determine who would win the Stanley Cup.

It's time the NHL governors did something about the quality of playoff hockey and the time to do it is now.

The road to the Stanley Cup has raised a few eyebrows, especially with the early departure of the Montreal Canadiens.

Montreal Canadiens' fans have become accustomed to winning over the past four years and the Canadiens were expected to meet the Buffalo Sabres.

Due to injuries to five key players, the Habs weren't at full strength and with speed and tenacious checking, the North Stars made believers out of many hockey fans. The Stars died in the semi-finals at the hands of the Philadelphia Flyers who advanced to the finals.

Much was also expected of the Boston Bruins. However, the Bruins played 10 games in 15 days and it caught up with them in their quarter-final encounter with the New York Islanders. The Isles handled the physical Bruins but it took two overtime wins to do it.

## Recreation News

by Paul Wylie

### BALL HOCKEY

At last report I had inserted a request for those people interested in playing "ball hockey" at the arena to drop in on April 23 at 7:30 p.m. to determine the interest and hopefully form a committee to get the program on the road. Unfortunately, only 11 people attended, 10 of which were children and one adult.

That's not all bad news but certainly there are more people in this town interested in summer activities and willing to provide the children, youth and adults with more than one activity to choose from. People wishing to register for ball hockey may do so May 20th, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.; May 21st, 7 p.m.-9 p.m.

The cost will be \$5.00 per player and the schedule will consist of one game per week. The complete schedule will be made up once registration is completed. If there is not enough registration then we will have to cancel this program.

### PLAYGROUND PROGRAM

Toys are needed for this program. As I mentioned in our last issue please call me at the arena, 445-2050, and arrangements can be made to drop them off here.

### POOL PROGRAM

Yes, we will be open! Many thanks to this year's pool committee for their support. Our next issue will cover the registration dates. Please watch in your next issue as well as in the Russell Restaurant, post office and Tyo's Red & White.

Those people interested in Mom N'Tot lessons, adult lessons and swim team are asked to contact the arena, 445-2050, and leave your name and telephone number.

### OLD TIME JAMBOREE

Saturday, June 14, 1980 will see

the first Old Timers' Jamboree sponsored by Ottawa & District Old Time Fiddlers Assoc., East Osgoode & District Old Time Fiddlers, Russell Old Time Music & Dancing Association held at Dr. F. Kinnaird Community Centre.

Everyone's welcome at the evening festivities. See you there!

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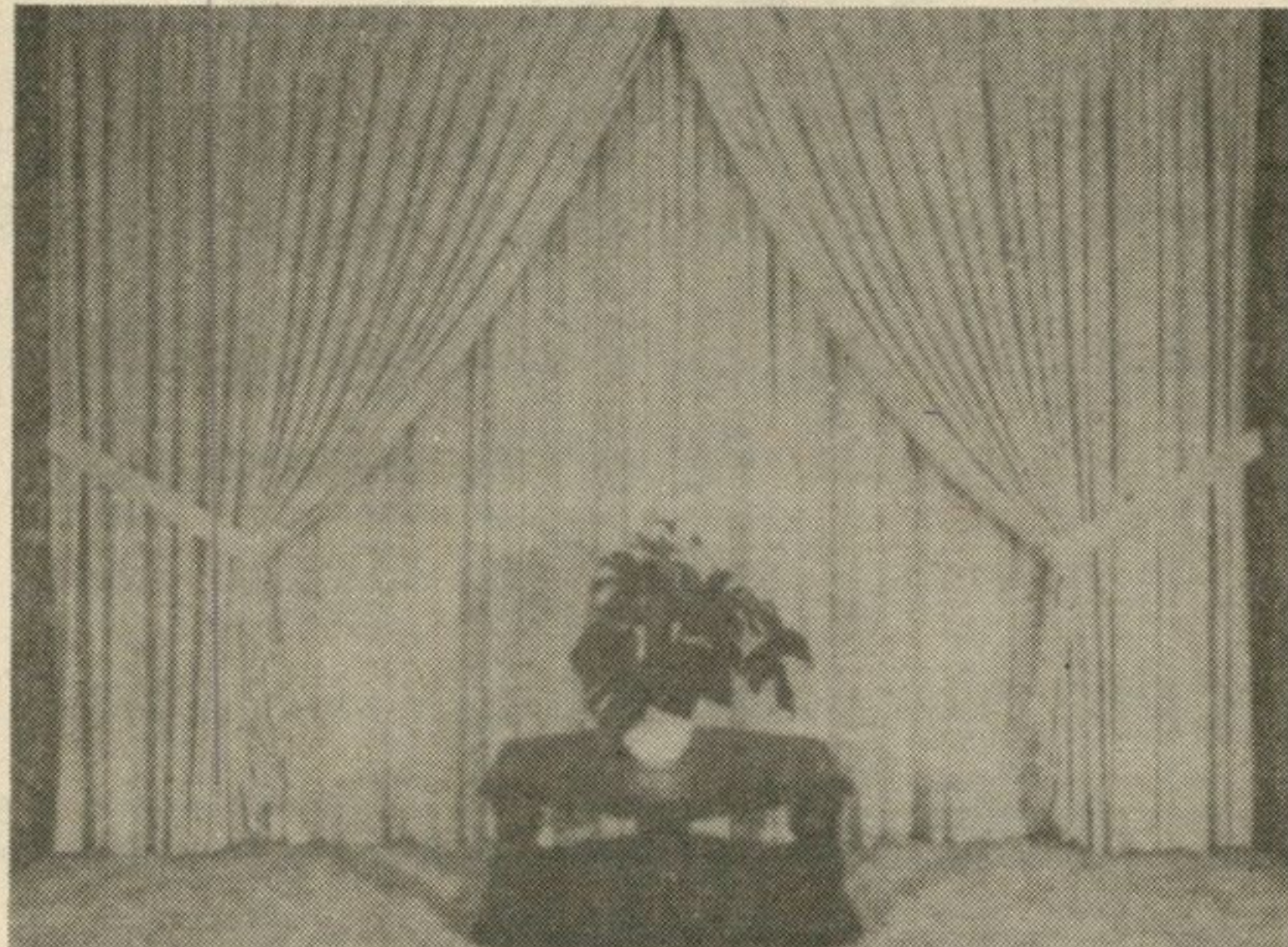
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## Crysler Oldtimers take season

Crysler Oldtimers defeated the Russell "Gold" team to win the Russell Oldtimer Hockey Tournament held April 5 at the Dr. Frank Kinnaird Community Centre.

The six-team event included the OC Transpo Oldtimers, Capital City Tractor and three teams from Russell from the Oldtimer Hockey League.

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