

# Neighbors

By Julie Van Dusen



Metcalf Prestidigitator Rick Goodman (Julie Van Dusen photo)

## Presto! A magician

When was the last time you saw a colored ribbon 75 feet long being pulled from a person's mouth? Or how about a deck of cards transformed from red to blue under your nose?

The last time you saw a magician, right? Well, there is one of these mysterious mischief-makers right here along the Castor.

Rick Goodman, of Metcalfe, is not your average 21-year old. He's a veritable whirlwind of activity. Dropping in for a chat is like dropping into the eye of a hurricane. What's that hammering?

"Oh that," he explains, "I'm just having some illusions built, you know those big boxes used to put ladies in and saw them in half."

I nodded nervously and was happy to see Rick's wife Judy and baby Brent were still intact.

The shelves in his den were lined with dozens of books on the magician's art. Props, including the standard rubber chicken, were displayed. I soon learned this was the Ottawa Valley's largest magic retail store, a kind of commercial drop-in centre for at least 30 area magicians.

A dove. I ducked several times as the bird fluttered around the room until it was finally muffled under a huge top hat.

Doves, top hats, all the other accoutrements and their magical manipulation at a show three years ago so impressed Rick that he decided to give it a whirl. He took in other shows, came away confident.

"I felt that if these people could take in so much money doing what I thought was a poor job in many cases. I could become a lot

better and at least people would get their money's worth," he said.

He immersed himself in the art. It became a 24-hour habit. "I'm always thinking about some new trick or a different way to perform old tricks. I wake up a lot in the middle of the night and write down new ideas."

He uses some of the ideas in his regular job. Rick is first a car salesman and said some customers won't buy until he does tricks for them.

Despite all of this, he has found time to write a 76-page book on a new twist he perfected to an old trick. He says his version will amaze even the pros.

He started with 700 tricks but whittled them down to those he could finally do without a hitch. Coins — he played with those for six months until he perfected walkin' the dog (rolling them over his knuckles).

He has a special, point-blank way of dealing with skeptics. "I shoot them, not with a real gun of course but the bang scares them and keeps them quiet for the rest of the performance."

"There's no doubt about it, you have to be a bit crazy to get into magic."

## Tweed Park Opened

The J. Henry Tweed Conservation Area was officially dedicated recently and many Russell area residents turned out for the official ceremonies.

Chairman Ernie Brisson of the South Nation River Conservation Authority turned the first sod on behalf of that body.

The 12-acre property was donated to the Authority by Alex and Mable Little and Mrs. Little's sister, Jean Hay. The new park is named after their father, J. Henry Tweed a well-known Russell resident.

Master of ceremonies W. Ernie Burton, past chairman of the Conservation Authority, spoke feelingly of Mr. Tweed's contribution to the community.

"He was a quiet man. When he spoke, you listened. He lived for this village."

Mr. Burton said the site would be a boon to young people and especially school age children, preserving something of the area's natural beauty in its untouched state.

"Fifty years ago, I was one of the lads who used this area to play games in. It is a great consolation to know that it will be untouched by time, kept as it was then, removed from the threat of the bulldozer and power shovel."

Reeve Gaston Patenaude said the contribution made by the Littles and Mrs. Hay would not soon be forgotten. It was one for which all citizens of the area would be grateful.

Alex Little spoke briefly, outlining J. Henry Tweed's long devotion to Russell.

"He would approve of what is being done here today. It was always his dream that this area should be preserved for future generations. Today that dream is being fulfilled."

The park includes an excellent stand of mature timber and is ideal for hiking and other recreational uses. Chairman Brisson explained plans of the Conservation Authority to develop the area to provide recreational services to the greatest number of users. Generally, the park will be retained as an unspoiled wildlife area.



TWEED PARK DEDICATED

Well it's official. The J. Henry Tweed conservation area has been dedicated to people of Russell and area thanks to the generosity of residents Alex and Mable Little (centre of photo). Also seen are Ernie Burton, left, of the South Nation River Conservation Authority. And yes, Joe Rowan, (far right) famous local photographer is one of his own rare appearances on celluloid. (Shirley Van Dusen photo).

### OMB NOTICE

IN THE MATTER OF Section 35 of The Planning Act. (R.S.O. 1970, c. 349),

— and —

IN THE MATTER OF an application by The Corporation of the Township of Russell for approval of its Restricted Area By-Law 75-79

#### APPOINTMENT FOR HEARING

THE ONTARIO MUNICIPAL BOARD hereby appoints Monday, the 8th day of September, 1980 at the hour of eleven o'clock (local time) in the forenoon at the Municipal Building, Village of Embrun,

for the hearing of all parties interested in supporting or opposing this application.

If you do not attend and are not represented at this hearing, the Board may proceed in your absence and you will not be entitled to any further notice of the proceedings.

In the event the decision is reserved, persons taking part in the hearing may request a copy of the decision from the presiding Board Member. Such decision will be mailed to you when available.

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