

# Neighbors

## The Ken Miller Orchestra

Suzanne Veh

The dance floor was crowded at the Oldtimer's Association Dance at the Russell Arena last October 18. People waltzed, jived, and rocked to the lively music of The Ken Miller Orchestra.

This eleven-man group consists of five of the original Russ Hay Orchestra players: Ken Miller, Ian Crerar, and Don Moralle on sax; Keith Russell, pianist, and Floyd Cochrane on the trumpet — plus newer members Billy Campbell and John Simpson, also on sax; Walter Cherry on the trombone; Pierre Poirier on the drums; Bernie Lauzon and Chris Hammond (the group's youngest) on trumpets.

The group's leader, Ken Miller, lives in Ottawa now, although he

grew up in Russell and originally played in the Russell Town Band. His music career started there and though he never took any formal lessons he went on to play in the Grenadier Guards Band during the war and was transferred to the Service Corps Band in Italy. Upon returning home, he joined the Russ Hay Orchestra and played with them for 23 years.

Many people in this area will recall the Duquettes Orchestra that Russ Hay originally started playing with and then took over to form the Russ Hay Orchestra. This was the era of the the big band and the Orchestra was highly successful and very well known up and down the Ottawa Valley.

There were the cold winter nights in Cassellman's Hall in

Morrisburg, when they practically had to play with their mitts on. Then there was the night they played in Brenston and a blizzard blew up so that they didn't get home till three days later.

Or the time they played at the Fireman's Ball in Kemptonville and the school burned down while the firemen were all at the dance — so they suddenly had no audience to play for.

The Russ Hay Orchestra disbanded in 1973 — partly due to change in music trends and partly as a winding-down after more than 30 years of playing. For five years there was quiet — and then it was Walter Cherry who generated the interest in reforming the group and they then evolved into the current Ken Miller Orchestra.

Everyone in the group plays for the fun of it and they have attracted their members largely through word-of-mouth, with the exception of Pierre, the drummer, who responded to a sign, in a music store in Ottawa, advertising the need for a drummer. Betty Crerar, wife of saxophonist Ian, is their vocalist and also accompanies the group at all functions. The group does no formal advertising; they are well-known throughout the Ottawa Valley and they do an average of two bookings a month just through word-of-mouth.



Ken Miller and his orchestra entertain Russellites.

# Castor Calendar

Castor Calendar is a free service to community groups who wish to advertise upcoming events. Please contact Jude McGann at 445-3108.

November 15 — **Rock 'n Roll Nostalgia Night**. Fun for all of those who enjoy "Rock & Roll". "Fonzie" look-a-like contest. "Laverne & Shirley" look-a-like contest plus lots more... and prizes.

Wednesday, November 12 — Dundas County 4-H Clubs **Achievement Night** at Mapleridge School, Chesterville, 7:30 p.m.

Monday, November 17 — Winners of the Lion's **Grey Cup Trip Draw** will be selected and notified. Tickets available from Lion's Club members.

Monday, November 17 — Russell Recreation Association **General Meeting** and election of officers, 8:00 p.m. at the Frank Kinnaird Arena.

Wednesday, November 19 — Russell Public Library children's **Story Hour** 10-11 a.m. Any outgrown toys welcome contribution to story hour toy box.

Friday, November 21 — 70th **Birthday Party** for Father Minveille (former pastor for Russell) at Notre Dame Catholic Church in Russell. Wine and Cheese will be served in the church hall from 8-10 p.m.

Saturday, November 29 — Metcalfe Anglican Church Annual **Bazaar and Tea** in the church hall from 1:00-4:00 p.m. Home baking, crafts and tea table. Everyone welcome. For information: 821-1409.

Monday, December 1 — Senior Citizens' **Pot Luck Dinner**. Rather than exchanging gifts, guests will be asked to contribute to the pot what they think the dinner was worth, for the Terry Fox Fund.

Tuesday, December 2 — Russell County 4-H Clubs **Achievement Night** at the Navan Arena. 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 3 — Russell **Elementary Skaters' Competition** at the Frank Kinnaird Arena, around 7:00 p.m., some judging may take place earlier. Winners go on to area competition.

Monday, December 8 — Canadian Figure Skating Association **Senior Skaters Competition** to select Russell skaters to go on to area competition. Frank Kinnaird Arena around 7 p.m.

Every Tuesday — **Bingo** at the Metcalfe Community Centre (across from high school) sponsored by Metcalfe and district Lion's Club. 8:00 p.m.

Every Thursday — **Bingo** at the Russell Roman Catholic Church Hall, 8:00 p.m.

Every Saturday — Senior Citizens' **Card Party**. \$1.00 per person includes lunch, at the Senior Citizens' Drop-In Centre. 8:00 p.m.



**LaCo-operative Agricole**

RUE NOTRE DAME

EMBRUN

Office 443-2833

IGA 443-3064

Hardware 443-2833

Feed Dept. 443-2946

Petroleum Dept. 443-2892

Fertilizer 443-3333

## Club 18

COUNTRY & WESTERN  
BANDS EVERY WEEK

Nov. 6 to Nov. 9 **JACK McCRAE & The King of Clubs**  
**TED DAIGLE**

Nov. 13 to Nov. 16 **TERRY CARISSE & TRACKS**

Nov. 20 to Dec. 7 **BOBBY LALONDE & His Group**

FERN ST. PIERRE (owner)

443-5567

**ANNUAL CHRISTMAS DANCE**  
**METCALFE COMMUNITY CENTRE**

Saturday, Dec. 13, 1980

Music by  
**Westburg Union**  
Midnight Lunch  
by Porteous

Admission, \$7  
per person

Dancing 9-1



**DON'S GAS BAR**  
**DON MAY ELECTRICAL**

Residential Commercial Farm

Free Estimates

Russell

445-5332

**Loral Home Hardware**

Home &  
Farm Supplies

Russell

445-2191



## Beard Growing CONTEST

You could win one of three \$30 prizes for growing a beard on your face.

Beards will be judged by Miss Dominion of Canada, at the Russell Winter Carnival, on Feb. 5. Beard growers must register, clean shaven, at the Dr. Frank Kinnaird Community Centre before Dec. 15. Prizes of \$30 will be given to winners in three categories: Longest Beard, Thickest Beard with Most Character.

Fill out entry form, at right, as soon as possible. A few weeks' head start may help your chances of winning.

**ENTRY FORM:**

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_  
Please deposit entry at Dr. Frank Kinnaird Community Centre, Recreation Director's office.  
Deadline for entries: December 15  
Entrants must be judged 'clean shaven' at time of entry.

**RUSSELL WINTER CARNIVAL**

Sponsored by Russell Recreation Association and Russell Lions Club