

Looking back at... funerals

\$65 once covered cost of dying

By Ina Kinkaid

Away back in the days of the first settlements — Luxemburg, then Duncanville and, finally, Russell — there were no funeral homes or undertakers. Generally, when a death occurred, a kindly neighbour prepared the body for burial. John Duncan made the first coffins, simple pine boxes. Later, James MacDonald made coffins and his wife lined them. Mr. and Mrs. MacDonald were the grandparents of Mabel Little and Hubert MacDonald. The first professional undertaker was William Millar, who set up in business where Alex Graham resides. There was a building to

house and display coffins and a hearse drawn by a team of black horses. The horses wore blankets of net as a mourning symbol and also to keep off flies in summer. Mr. and Mrs. Russell Latour have given a page for the Tweedsmuir History from Mr. Millar's record book of 1903. Hearse and Coffin, \$12; For a more elaborate funeral: Black casket, \$50; rough box, \$5 Hearse, \$5; shroud, \$5. Total: \$65. There was no embalming. The family went in deep mourning. The women wore black dresses for a year after death and black veils

over their faces at the funeral. They carried handkerchiefs edged in black and sent letters to friends in black-edged envelopes. Funeral garb for men included black arm bands and black ties. General merchant C.F. McArthur succeeded Mr. Millar assisted by his son Don and Harry York. Funerals took place in homes and in summer sometimes on the lawn. William MacDonald kept two teams to draw the hearse, a black team for the elderly and a grey team for the young. C.F. McArthur and William MacDonald were tall men. Driving the hearse, all in black, crown-

ed with high silk hats, they created an impression of unimpeachable dignity. When William MacDonald moved to Ottawa, Olin Stearns kept a fine black team for funeral occasions. In 1912, R.M. Warner joined C.F. McArthur in the store and assisted as funeral director. They bought a motor hearse which was used in summer and year round when roads permitted. For a few years, the front rooms of Mr. and Mrs. William Fielding were used as an undertaking parlour. This is where Mr. and Mrs. Cuthbert Smith. C.F. McArthur retired in 1935 and R.M. Warner's nephew, Douglas, succeeded him until 1946. James McNaught assisted Mr. Warner until he went to Ottawa to work for Hulse and Playfair. Roger, Douglas' brother, came into the business with his uncle. In 1974, the Warner store was sold, marking the end of an era in Russell's

colourful past. The present funeral parlour east of the village was opened by Roger Warner in 1968 and sold to the Lafleur brothers ten years later. The area boasted five cemeteries as the population of the dead bid fair to overtake the living. Many headstones date back to the early 1800's. The Anglican cemetery was on first street; Baptists used the Dewar cemetery near Ormond, Presbyterians in the Loucks cemetery near the original church. Methodists were buried in the village cemetery. The North Russell Cemetery was a union cemetery. A.A. Fraser built a vault in the North Russell Cemetery and it is used by all denominations. Prior to that, graves were dug winter and summer by family friends and neighbours. That's the way it was in the short and simple annals of the Village.

Library News from Greely and Embrun

The Saturday morning movie at Greely Library in January was very well attended, and we invite everybody to come to the next one on February 21st at 10 a.m. This one is entitled "High Grass Circus" and is suitable for all ages. Admission as usual is 25c. Please be on time. A good way to while away those February blues is to curl up with a good book. Plan your summer planting now with Crockett's Victory Garden, or one of a wide range of gardening books in the Library. Recommended reading:

The Canadians "Blackrobe" — Robert E. Wall; Random Winds — Belva Plain; Beulah Land & Look Away Beulah Land — Lonnie Coleman. Juvenile: Soccer & The Joy of Coaching Youth Soccer — Graham Ramsay; Judo, Tennis & Baseball — Sports Illustrated; Walk a Lonely Road — Joyce Stranger; The Black Hole — Alan Dean Foster; Welcome is a Wonderful Word — Gyo Fujikawa; Seymour the Prince — Sue Alexander. Happy reading from the Librarians.

Avec Lucille Legault **Bibliothèque municipale d'Embrun** Heures d'ouverture: Mardi-jeudi: 19h. à 21h. Mercredi-vendredi: 15h. à 18h. Samedi: 10h. à 12h. **Nouveautés d'intérêt général** LA PSYCHOLOGIE DU DEVELOPPEMENT, Elizabeth B. Hurlock REFLEXIONS SUR LA CONDUITE DE LA VIE, Alexis Carrel FAMILLES EN THERAPIE, Salvador Mimechin **Romans**

UN TRESOR ENGLOUTI, Jacques Yves Cousteau LE SOURD DANS LA VILLE, Marie-Claire Blais L'OISEAU DE FEU, Edward Stewart UN BEL ETE POUR TES QUINZE ANS, Claude Cénac UN AVION AU FOND DE LA MER, Nikolai von Michalewsky DES HOMMES TRAQUES, Michel Grimaud 418 rue Notre Dame, (sous-sol)

Fatality

An Osgoode youth was killed and two others injured in a single car accident just east of RR 4, Osgoode, on Feb. 17. Dead is driver Jeff Charron, 17, of 223 Gordon St., Osgoode. The two passengers, Peter Huff, 16, and Kevin Johnstone, 17, both of Osgoode, were thrown clear of the vehicle. They were taken to Queensway-Carleton Hospital in Ottawa. Huff was in satisfactory condition while Johnstone was in critical condition.

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S.H.I.T. Lottery
Guess when the privy goes through the ice and win a prize — \$500 to be precise. It's the **Shure Hope It Tips Lottery**. That little blue outhouse sitting on Castor River ice at Russell Village is the Recreation Association's novel way of collecting money for the swimming pool change room and curling club building funds. Tickets are \$1 and the winner will be holding the one that correctly names the date and time the privy goes out along with the ice. Leading the unique fund raising drive is Angela Burgess. "When I sell tickets, I ask people if they want to buy a ticket on the S.H.I.T. Lottery. They look at me a little funny. Then I explain, "Sure Hope It Tips" and they laugh. Sales are going well. We hope to sell 1,600 tickets."

Distilled Water
\$1.00 per gallon (4.5 litres) (445-2950) after 6:00 p.m. Russell, Ont.

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Classified
The Gaelic Society of Ottawa will hold their February Ceilidh on Thursday, February 26th at 8:00 p.m. in the Orange Hall, 334 Gladstone Avenue, between Bank and O'Connor. Everyone welcome. **BABYSITTER** — Bilingual mother will babysit my home. 445-2870. **CLASSES** — Ceramic Classes starting soon. Call 445-3421. **PREGNANCY TEST** — In total confidence. Metcalfe Pharmacy Ltd. Metcalfe, Ont. 821-1224.

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