

# Riding the Rails

## Now Very Risky

April 8/72

Summer sun is nearly here and with it will be the annual youthful rash of spring fever. Soon they will be seen on highways criss-crossing the country, seeing the land and its people.

Some will tire of hitch-hiking and will turn to riding the rails. Spurred perhaps by folk songs from the depression era about jumping freights, they will head for marshalling yards and empty box cars.

Few seem to realize it is far safer to hitch hike, even if harder on the feet. These days, fast trains can lop off a leg or slice a person in the wink of an eye. All it takes is a slip on a wet foot rest.

The local CPR investigation department reports that last year they arrested and charged 217 persons for being unlawfully on trains. More than half of these were under 20. The youngest was 14—his mother had given him money and told him to take a vacation, so he hopped a freight to conserve cash.

Throughout CP Rail's Prairie Region, which includes Thunder Bay, 610 persons were arrested; 44 of them 15 years and under. People found near trains and obviously intending to climb aboard when convenient were simply warned and ordered away. Across the region 2,063 juveniles 15 and under—were warned. Many were so young they were simply returned to their parents who got a lecture on the dangers of letting youngsters hop freights.

Local CPR police revealed youngsters here jump on trains just to get across town.

The dangers were emphasized last weekend in an unfortunate mishap when two Schreiber boys were found dead alongside the tracks near Terrace Bay. Kevin Bottomley, 13, and Rodney Cormier, 14, apparently boarded at Schreiber. At Terrace Bay they jumped and fell beneath the train to be mangled by its wheels. Either they rolled back after landing or were pulled into the train by the slipstream.

The chances of other tragedies similar to that at Terrace Bay are great. Country singers may extol their experiences of riding the rods in an earlier era but there is no comparison between the trains of yesteryear and the diesel behemoths on today's rail lines.

Today the trains move quickly across the country hardly pausing for the steepest grade and ignoring the hamlets where their predecessors had to halt for water, permitting riders to hop on or off with ease.

Riding the rods today is flirting with death or a crippling injury.

# Reeve F. V. Harness' Record Equalled by Few Politicians

BY INEZ McCUAIG

The 1972 assessment list for Schreiber is \$2,047,418.

A breakdown includes Residential \$1,413,298, Commercial \$634,120, Public School \$1,258,609, Separate School \$788,809.

This year the reeve and clerk-treasurer were authorized to borrow \$40,000 to carry on town business, pending tax collection.

In 1902 the reeve was empowered to borrow \$100 for three months at seven per cent for the benefit of the municipality!

In that same year, \$80 for school purposes was to be drawn on the treasurer on the last day of each month, and, Dr. Pringle was paid the sum of \$10 per annum for acting as Medical Health Officer.

In 1901, the town clerk's salary was \$75 a year. The problem of pedlars' licences even those early days was causing great concern, being discussed at almost every meeting with some new issue arising, over the price set for them.



REEVE F. V. HARNESS

To be returned, unopposed, for a ninth consecutive term as reeve of the town, must have been gratifying to F. V. Harness, who came to Schreiber in 1935.

Mr. Harness served six years, 1957-1959-60-61-62-63, on

the council. His only recent rival, in years of service, as reeve, was W. E. D'Arcy whose term was also for nine years, 1955-1963, and prior to that serving as councillor for two years.

They follow a long line of citizens who, since the town was incorporated in 1901 with W. H. Wadlund as reeve, have devoted themselves to Schreiber's fortunes in development.

A few have been followed by a family member who absorbed their civic interest and pride, and served the municipality.

McGregor, reeve in 1904-1909, 1910-1913-1914-1917; his daughter Inez (Mrs. Lester McCuaig), councillor 1961-62-63-64, who was the only woman councillor ever elected.

C. C. Skinner, reeve in 1930-31-32 and councillor for 10 years; his son R. C. Skinner, town clerk from 1957-1967.

W. A. Spicer, town clerk, 1931-1957; his daughter Miss

Irene Spicer, hydro billing clerk in 1950, and since 1957 the Hydro secretary-manager.

W. D'Arcy, councillor for seven years; his son W. E. D'Arcy whose record as reeve and councillor has already been noted.

Others with distinguished services given to their town include Tom Bosler, clerk for 26 years, starting in 1915; F. V. Kelly, reeve for seven terms, and E. J. Sheehan, six times reeve.

J. B. Boland was the first town clerk, followed by George A. Evans, the town's first school principal, who served from 1903-1914 whose minutes are as clear in both writing and information as when they were first entered in the book.

But, it is conceded, if accolade for the most years spent in the service of a community will likely always go to A. W. Hadley, reeve eight, and 14 years as councillor at varying intervals starting in 1912 and ending 1945. For some years he also acting town assessor.

## Schreiber

# Mrs. Charles Todesco WI President for '72

Schreiber Women's Institute held its annual meeting with 14 members present and Mrs. John Morris presiding. The roll call was answered by paying dues and donating to the Cancer Cupboard.

Mrs. Fred Harness presented the annual financial report saying the books had been audited and found intact.

Letters were read from Mrs. O. Grann of Pass Lake, concerning the District Board meeting in Thunder Bay and from Mrs. Enders of Kakabeka Falls containing suggestions for celebrations during the coming year.

Two members volunteered to attend the annual rally in Thunder Bay, Oct. 19. Several also stated they would attend the district annual meeting in Nipigon May 17.

Mrs. Ken Williamson, card secretary, reported sending a card to Mrs. Victoria Winters, longtime member, holidaying in Florida, and also 36 cards, and flowers to sick members during the past year.

The annual tea was planned for May 6, in the town hall, from 3-5:30 p.m., with each member asked to donate a des-

sert. A door and draw prize will be added attractions.

A penny auction was planned for June 2, with members asked to donate prizes.

Mrs. Nelson Smith presided for the election of new officers:

Mrs. Charles Todesco, president; Mrs. Joe Campbell, first vice-president; Mrs. Harvey McCanna, second vice-president; Mrs. Wesley Clemens, secretary-treasurer; Mrs. Betty Baxter, card secretary; Mrs. J. D. Bryson, pianist; Mrs. Clemens, district director;

Standing conveners were appointed: Mrs. Campbell, Agriculture and Canadian Industries; Mrs. Lester McCuaig, Citizenship and World Affairs; Mrs. Clemens, Education and Cultural Activities; Mrs. Bill Thrower, Public Relations.

Mrs. Morris, retiring president, thanked her officers and members for the support given her and offered to take care of the cupboard keys.

Mrs. Todesco thanked Mrs. Smith for presiding, and asked for co-operation from the members. She also presented her report as Tweedsmuir History curator, asking anyone who has articles or pictures of Schrei-

ber's early history to donate them to the Tweedsmuir Book.

Draw prize for the meeting was won by Mrs. Campbell. The members enjoyed a potluck salad supper, with Reeve F. V. Harness as a special guest.

In the whist games which followed, winners were Mrs. Harness, first; Mrs. Baxter, second; Mrs. Eleanor O'Connor, third and Mrs. Morris, consolation.