

# "Happiness College" Teaches Rural Boys and Girls Handicrafts, in their Community



Ross McPhail of Cromarty is drawing woodcutting plans. He is head of Junior Farmers' Association at Mitchell, Ont.

Myrtle Stewart of Primrose, Ont., finds woodcarving interesting, and has become extremely adept at that form of handicraft.



John Madsen shown with his wife and daughter, Karen, has started "Happiness College" in barn on his property on No. 7 Highway just east of Unionville. There 24 farm boys and girls take two-week course in handicrafts, folk dancing, and leadership.

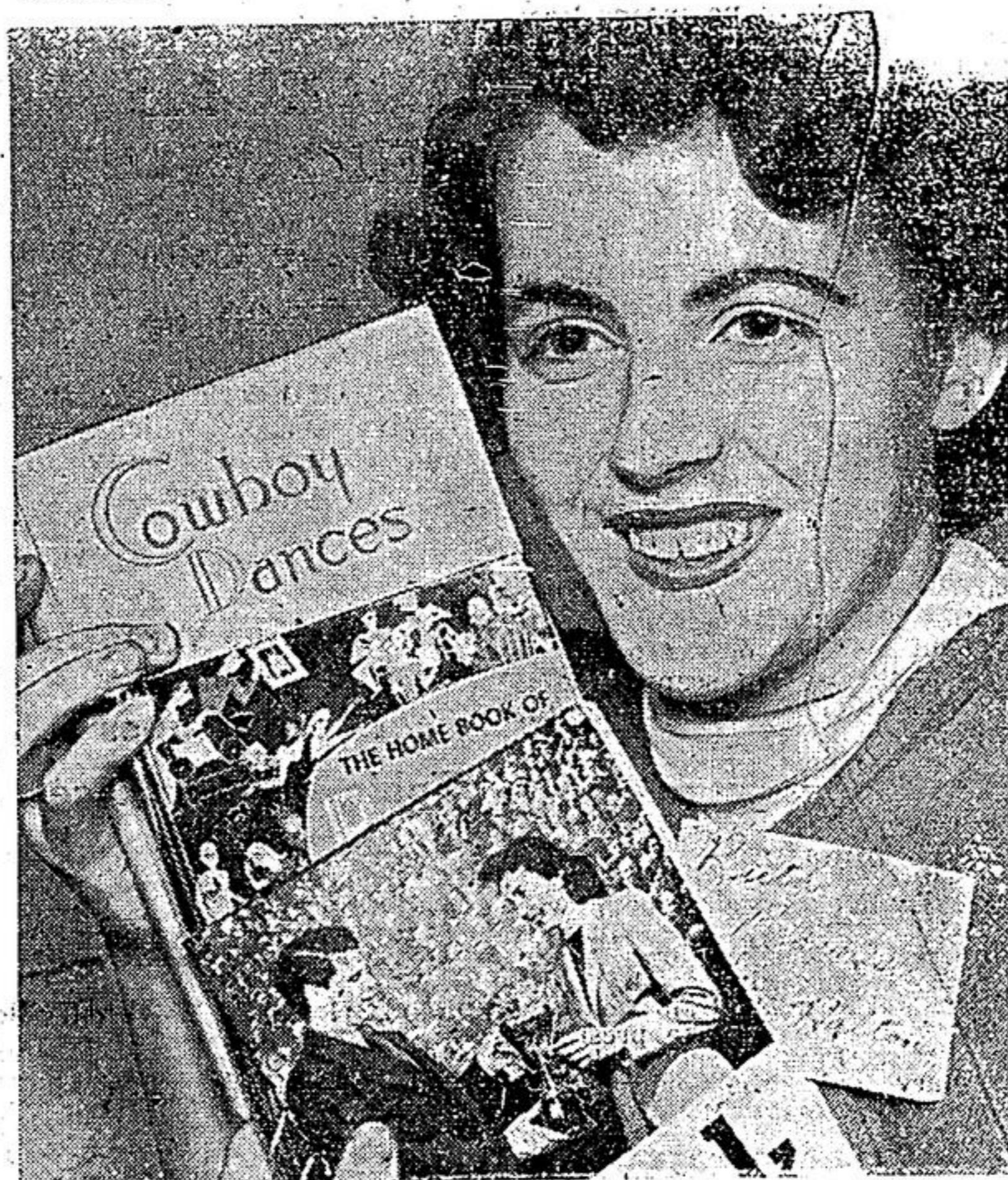
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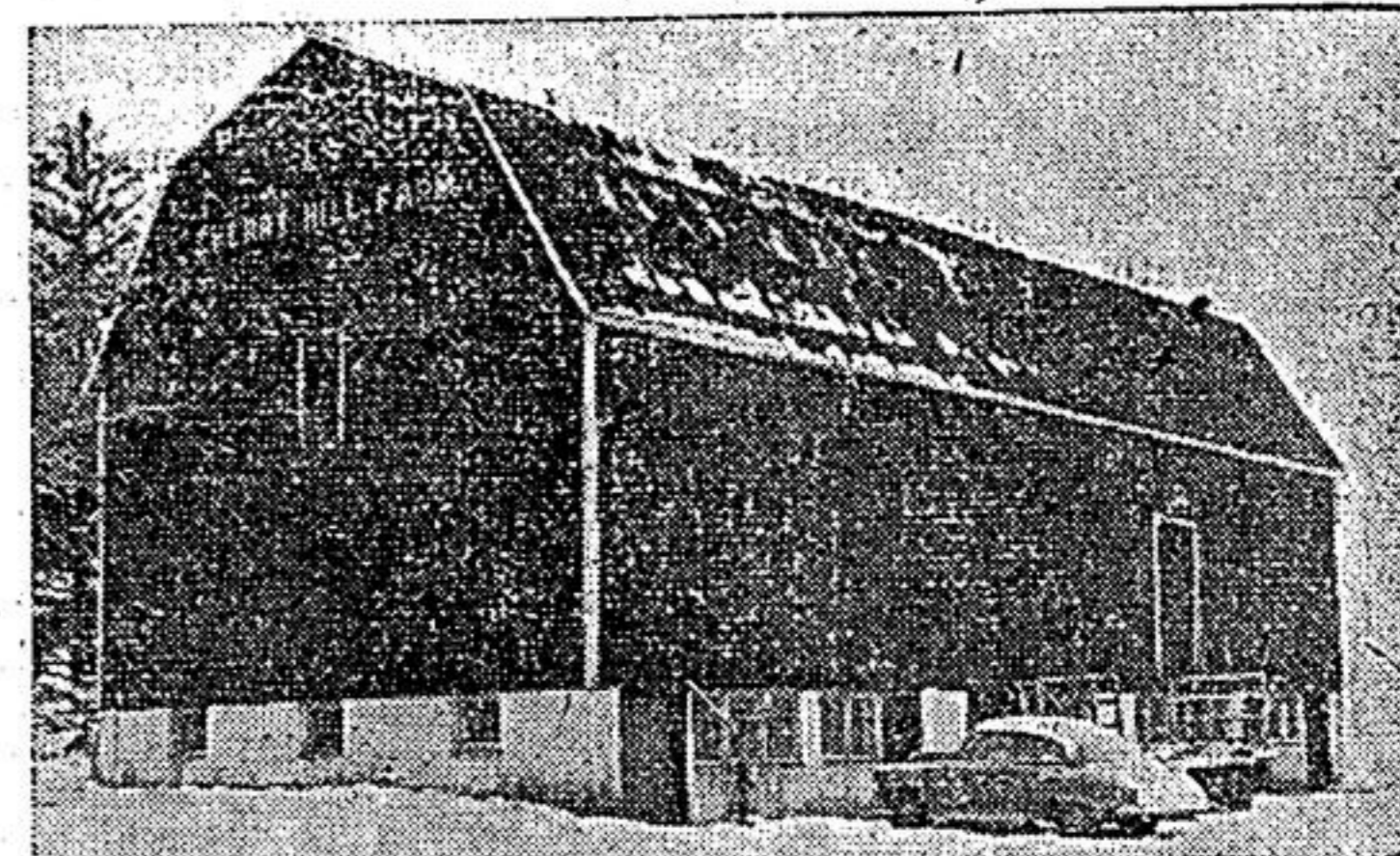
At keyboard, having fun in the lounge located in the barn, are Rita Madsen, 12, Warren McDougall, Perth County;

Janet Edwards, Napanee and Elva English of Kingston. Students carry on as instructors in communities.



Ruth Barnes of Norval was chosen by the Ontario Federation of Agriculture, along

with others, to take the course. She finds booklets invaluable in training. Enterprise is on non-profit basis.



"Happiness College" is housed in this barn. Main object of unique venture is to stress

co-operation, teaching rural youngsters how to help others enjoy themselves.

## Starts Out with Forty cents Has School in Twenty Years

Twenty miles from Toronto, on John Anchor Madsen's rambling Cherry Hill farm, near Unionville, Canada's folk school movement is passing an important milestone; and congenial John Madsen is watching the fulfilment of a life-long dream.

When Madsen, a stocky, shock-haired Dane, landed in Halifax, in 1929, outward indications of a promising future were nil. He had 40 cents in his pocket; he spoke not a word of English; and the immediate future held only a low-paying job on a Prince Edward Island farm.

But the 26-year-old newcomer had one more asset—an asset which has now firmly established him among leading figures in the field of Canadian adult education. He had an all-consuming desire to acquaint Canada with a movement born in his native Denmark a century before—the folk school movement.

Now, twenty years later, Madsen has parlayed his meagre funds and singularity of purpose into a project unique in Canada—a folk school completely equipped with gymnasium, meeting hall, workshops and dormitories. The entire project has been constructed, and will be maintained by revenue from a sprawling, two-story sporting goods factory that had its beginning 15 years ago in Madsen's basement.

Now in progress at Cherry Hill

farm is one of the largest folk schools ever operated in Canada. Thirty-four young people from farm communities throughout Ontario and beyond, have gathered to spend two weeks together, studying arts, crafts, agricultural sciences, forms of recreation and various academic subjects on a co-operative basis. There are men and women, single and married, and of many creeds and races.

"These young people," says Madsen, "will leave Cherry Hill farm trained as community builders. Each will take back to his own district, a new conception of community living. And each will play an important part in the job of building sound, contented communities out of scattered farm districts."

Madsen feels his students will use their knowledge of arts and crafts to start schools and classes in their own communities. And he feels the knowledge of agriculture politics and applied philosophy they gain at Cherry Hill farm will equip them to serve as leaders. "It will be their job," he says, "to get people working together, playing together and planning together."

From his first job as a PEI farm laborer; Madsen rose to become a leading recreational worker among Danish groups on the East Coast. In 1932 he was brought to Toronto to teach Danish dances and gymnastics, and from that day

his whole life has been directed toward achieving his one goal.

In Toronto Madsen met and married Betty Hansen, a young Danish artist, and together they began saving and planning for the day when their dream of a Canadian folk school could be made a reality.

In a few years they built one of the most successful dancing classes in Toronto, and the John Madsen folk dancers won fame across the continent. They launched the John A. Madsen Manufacturing Co., and its sports-goods products found ready markets among schools and athletic clubs.

Soon the Madsens met others who were interested in the same movement, and together they formed the Ontario Folk School

Council. By 1945, Cherry Hill Farm had been purchased by the Madsens, and donated at no cost to the movement which by then was growing rapidly. To this day, Madsen, now 46, and his wife, 40, still refuse to accept remuneration. Instead they offer a grant of \$5 to every student at their school. Remainder of expense is paid by farm organizations and by students themselves.

Latest step in the movement's growth came just as the Madsens opened their latest two-week school; the Ontario Department of Education announced the appointment to its community programs branch of a full-time folk school administrator, Ray Hergott of Waterloo.

## Barbara Brent's BUYS AND WHYS



MONTREAL—"Up to your eyes" in Christmas shopping? Then here's a time-saving, meal-getting tip for you. Prepare several delicious JELL-O dishes (fruit salads 'n' desserts) and keep them in the ice-box—ready-to-serve at a moment's notice! So easy to prepare... Jell-O Jelly Powder dishes are always welcome—and as gay and merry as Christmas itself. And you have Jell-O's seven "locked-in" flavours to choose from... all of them exciting AND economical!

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**There's A Man** thinking of you these busy Christmas shopping days. And he's ready to help you save time and money on meal preparation. That's the Heinz "Chef"! He can help you save hours at the stove, not mention work 'n' worry! Just remember to "stock up" a little ahead of time on these luscious 7 \*HEINZ MAIN COURSE MEALS... four kinds of Oven-Baked Beans—two kinds of Cooked Spaghetti, and Heinz Cooked Macaroni in Cream Sauce with Cheese. How grand to be able to shop more leisurely, with no feeling of "meal-getting rush"! All you have to do with these seven "flavours" is heat any one of them—and serve! You know they're good because they're Heinz!

\*Heinz will soon introduce Cooked Macaroni in Tomato Sauce with Cheese.

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## Yours TO PROTECT



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