

This girl baits own hook

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pain threshold of worms.

Mr. Loewen prefers to keep life simple. Worms come from Mother Earth. Mr. Loewen doesn't know how much a single worm is worth on the market. Mr. Burd buys them in bulk. Worms feel about as much as people who vote for the Canadian Alliance Party do.

"They're alive when we put them on the hook. I know that much," said Mr. Loewen. He then offered to bait my hook. Note the lingo. I talk like a fisherman already.

"Put the worm on like you put on your socks," Mr. Loewen said. "Make sure you cover all the metal with the worm."

Fish are smart as whips. If they see the least bit of shiny metal, they take off in the opposite direction. To all novice fishermen out there, make sure your sock covers all.

Now for the biggy: casting. Successful casting starts and ends in the motion of the wrist. You cast at a 45-degree angle, Mr. Loewen said. After a number of aborted tries, I managed to fling the line out far enough.

After a minute or two, Mr. Loewen was summoned to help other customers. It was then I had time to study the water. I couldn't believe my eyes. A multitude of trout was swimming close to the surface.

Burds Fishing is a going concern. Paying customers — you pay by the

weight of the fish you catch — were lined up. Everybody was in a good mood. I must admit, fishing brings the best out in people. I was thinking about fishing and human nature when another staff member approached, stopped and informed me I had a fish on my line.

Apparently, when the little round ball sinks beneath the surface of the water, it's a tell-tale sign a fish has taken the bait. Staffer Mark Rennie instructed me to start reeling in the line.

Mr. Rennie was right, I had a fish on my line. I stayed calm, cool-headed and focused. I reeled it in. When it broke the surface of the water, I asked Mr. Rennie to take over. I wasn't about to press my luck any further. A smart fisherman knows her limitations, I always say.

When Mr. Rennie scooped the fish into a net and placed it into a secondary net, I asked if we should give it a name. I settled on Never Again.

Within seconds, Never Again lay on the grass. He was a good size. With a pair of pliers, Mr. Rennie pulled the hook out of his mouth. Within a few minutes, Never Again suffocated to death. Mr. Rennie carried Never Again to a table where he whacked off his head and cleaned him. He was then placed in a bag of ice and presented to me. I ate Never Again for dinner. He was tasty.

Been There, Done That is a regular feature following the exploits of staff as they try to keep up with experts in a wide variety of sports and recreational activities.

Women assess action from sidelines

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they get drawn into it, too."

There are many reasons why girls' sports are booming, including general awareness and greater opportunities in most activities to achieve careers and education through sport.

"Some people on our board realized and embraced the idea that girls' soccer was an area that would grow and refused to treat it as second fiddle to the boys," said Gerry Gentile, a 12-year veteran of coaching and now head coach for the Vaughan Soccer Club's under-14 girls provincial level team.

Perhaps the most telling sign

times are changing is when moms are willing and able to assess training and practice sessions from the sidelines. Once the exclusive domain of fathers to behold with a critical eye the training sessions, it's clear mothers have the same background and are as likely to voice an opinion about what's happening on the field.

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12:00 pm - "Herb Garden Walk"

1:00 pm - "Growing Sweet on Stevia"

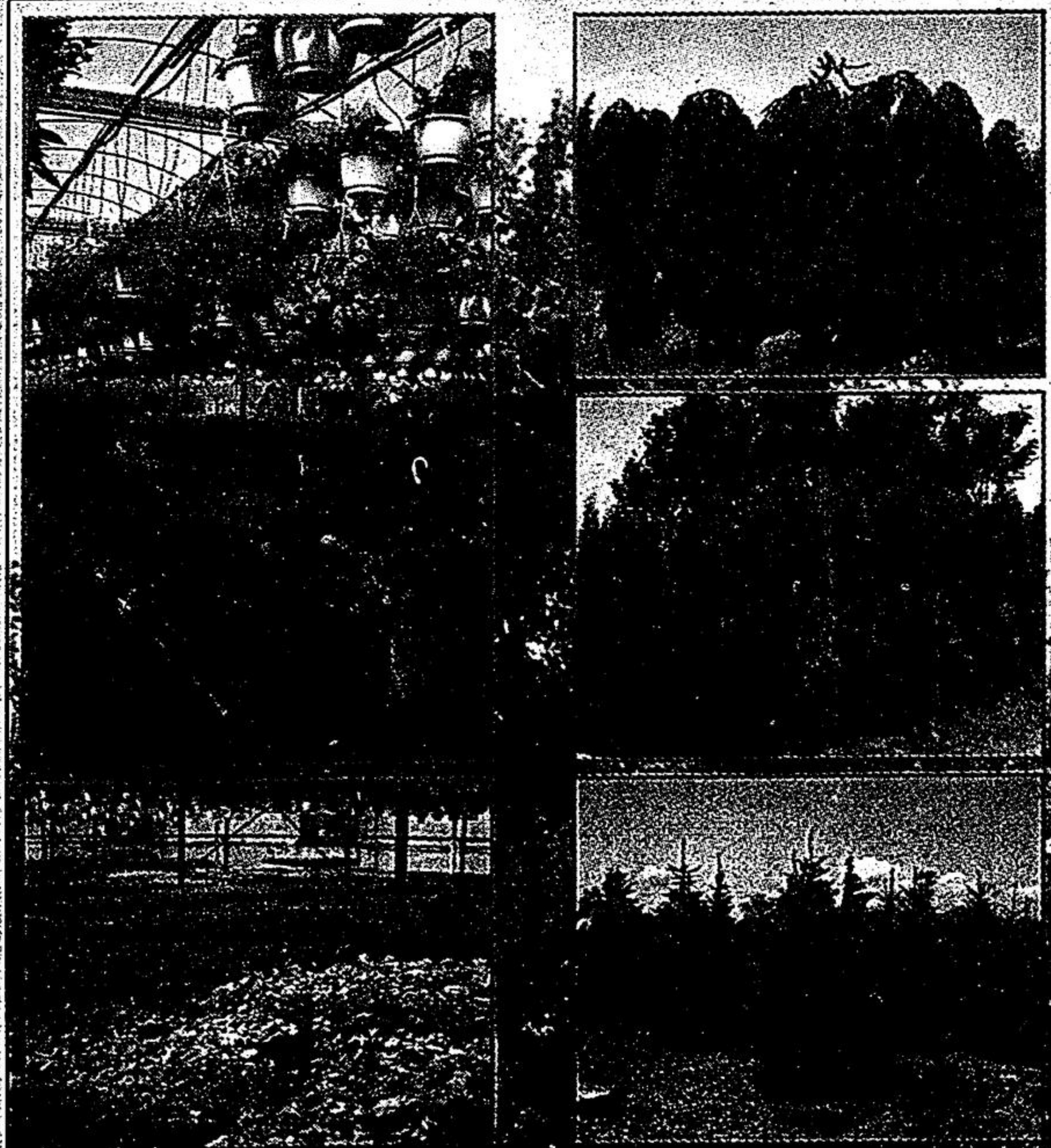
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