

That Uxbridge 'Boyfriend' was a real 'swinger'

By Sheila McLeod
UXBRIDGE - After a day of slithering

Plan theatre trip

GREENWOOD - The activity committee of the Senior Citizens' group met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Milton Pegg to plan for a theatre trip on Feb. 16, to see Rose Marie at the Ontario Science Centre. The group will also go to the O'Keefe Centre for the flower show on Feb. 23. Buses will leave the Greenwood Church yard at 12.20 noon.

Members of the local Institute will be in attendance at the 75th anniversary celebration of the Institutes of Ontario in the Royal York Hotel. Miss Kathy Pegg of Guelph University spent the weekend with her parents Mr. and Mrs. Edgie Pegg. She is a member of the Guelph Choir which sang at the Edward Johnston building in Toronto, Sunday. Steven Goodwin who is at present at the Pickering Nuclear Power Station spent the weekend at his home here.

Unit No. 1 of the United Church Women met at the home of Mrs. Heaton. Plans were made for the catering at the annual Father & Son banquet on Feb. 26.

Euchre by candlelight

By Barbara St. John
GOODWOOD - The L.O.B.A. sponsored a euchre party, Feb. 4. A portion of the games were played by candlelight, due to a power failure that 'blacked out' most of the area. In spite of problems, there were some winners. Darlene Sawyer and Harold Elson (1st); Vi Elson and Charlie Symes (2nd). The couple with the poorest candles were Dorothy Littlejohn and Ginger Todd. Lucky draw winners were Clarence Bunker and Grace Hockley.

Jill St. John celebrated her 11th birthday with a party, Feb. 3. One of her friends, Marie Herrell became snowbound and had to stay over until Saturday.

Mrs. Ellen Mackintosh and Mrs. Barbara St. John attended the 4-H training course in Trinity United Church.

along Hwy. 48, the last thing I wanted to do, Saturday evening, was make a trip up '47 to keep a date with 'The Boyfriend' in Uxbridge. On the other hand, old-fashioned ethics dictated that he couldn't be 'stood up' and, when someone offered to drive, I pulled on my high-button boots and skidded off for our intimate rendezvous in the High School

gymnasium. So much for romance! Let me tell you - that Uxbridge 'Boyfriend' is a real swinger. Our meeting was neither romantic nor intimate but a 'vo-de-oh-doe' affair shared by about 600 people, determined to horn in on the action.

If you weren't one of these 600, or one of the 265 valiant Friday-nighters who braved the snow and power cuts,

then you missed a peppy, little musical presented by the Uxbridge Secondary School Music Theatre, on the 4th and 5th. 'The Boyfriend' is set in the roaring '20s and, for a while, during the overture and an opening number that presented the cast in an awkward, swaying-on-the-spot routine, I thought the action was going to promote more sighs

than roars. But no...the band picked up and the cast stopped swaying to swing into some lively staging and choreography. By the time "Wont you charleston with me?" was sung, I had tapped the chill out of my high-button boots and was longing to accept the musical invitation. The youthful cast deserves credit for its bouncy performance: Wendy Kester was

excellent in the lead role of Polly Browne. She had a sweet voice and smile to match. She and 'The Boyfriend' - Greg Freeman - made a pleasing couple on stage and their voices blended well. Susan Reed played the role of a headmistress with creditable French accent and excellent singing voice. She was paired - with Zoltan Gyivicsan, as Polly's

father, and they, along with Denise McConney and Jerry Lewis, did well in 'acting' much older than their years'. The latter was particularly good in the humorous role of a lecherous, old gentleman and the number "It's never too late to fall in love", which he sang with 'flapper' - Pat Manley - was the best in the show. Both had strong voices and a bouncy

style, well-suited to musical comedy. Another singing duo was Kathy Chesworth and Roy Scott. However, it was as a dancing team that they excelled. In acting and dancing, Roy was the 'smoothie' of the cast. Eva Merrick also did well in the acting department. She was naughtily 'Ooh la la!' as a French maid. Sets and costumes, throughout, were

colourful and smacked of the right era although some of the long, hairstyles with headbands looked more 'Pocahontas' than 'flapperish'. The musical was directed by John Garbutt, Stouffville, a science teacher at the school. There's no doubt that he has found a formula to stimulate a youthful cast, production crew and band of musicians into

giving an audience what it wants... Something to make it laugh; to make its toes tap. A formula to showcase the verve of youth. Perhaps the most pertinent scene was played after the show, when cheering students hoisted the director on their shoulders. It was quite obvious then why Mr. Garbutt's formula works.

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