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Wednesday, August 16, 1995

Will Don Bell crack old Montreal mystery?

Sutton sleuth track's Houdini's death

By Sharon McCully

GLEN SUTTON — "The hunt for Harry Houdini's assassin began in 1982."

That's the opening line of a soon-to-be-published book, and the year award-winning author Don Bell began his 13-year investigation of circumstances surrounding Houdini's untimely demise on Halloween Day, 1926.

Bell moved to Sutton from Montreal in 1977 after a career in journalism which included stints with the CBC, the *Gazette*, the former *Montreal Herald* and various newsmagazines. He won the Stephen Leacock award for his book *Saturday Night At the Bagel Factory*, which he considers the "second best book ever written" — second only to *The Pocketman* he penned later.

Bell doesn't write full time. He spends most of his time scouting for used books, then selling them at local outdoor markets. A sign on his table promises: "No junk or self-growth books."

"This hobby allows me to combine my love for good books with my love for driving through the Eastern Townships countryside," Bell said. The winter months of the year are spent in Paris. Bell's other passion is uncovering the circumstances of the great Houdini's death.

The 58-year old author became hooked on Houdini after he was asked by *Today* magazine in 1982 to submit a column on the illusionist's death nine days after a stage appearance in Montreal. The magazine folded before Bell completed the assignment, but his curiosity was sufficiently piqued to continue the investigation on his own.

"By that time I was so intrigued, I started my own investigation and have continued off and on since 1982," Bell said in an interview Sunday at the Auberge Glen Sutton, where he spends every summer Sunday selling the books he collects.

What is known for certain of the master illusionist's death is that he died after receiving a blow to the stomach backstage of Montreal's Princess Theatre following the 1926 performance.

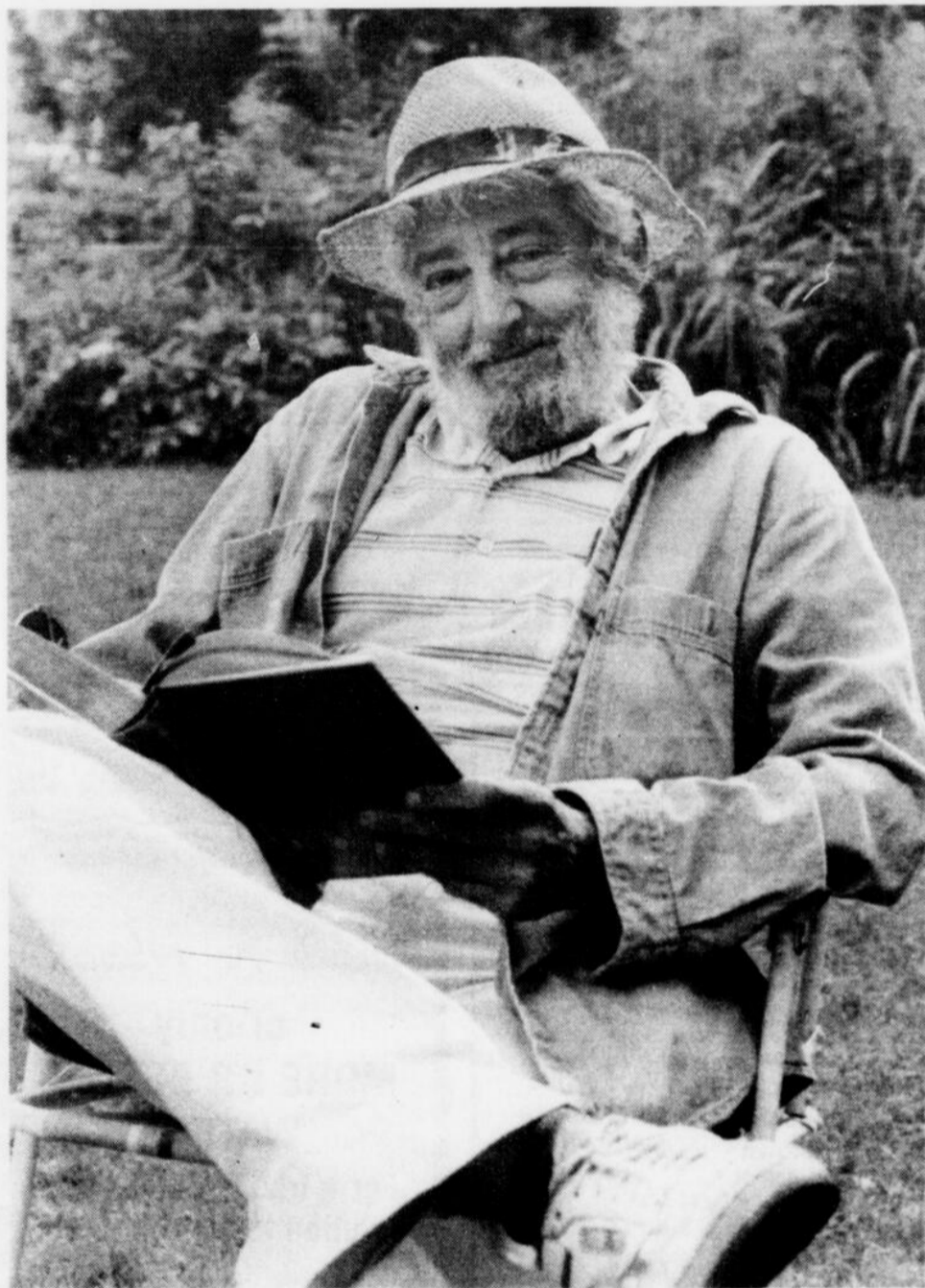
"Houdini used to boast about his ability to put mind over matter, which allowed him to withstand violent blows to the stomach," Bell said.

But even the great Houdini had to be psyched before taking a blow.

Bell maintains Houdini was struck in the stomach by a McGill University student who apparently decided to test the magician's mettle without allowing him time to prepare for the test.

Bell says he's learned through interviews that two McGill students, Sam Smiley, an artist dubbed Smilovitz by his friends, and Jacques Price, were invited to the magician's dressing room after Houdini expressed admiration for a sketch Smiley had done of him.

In assembling the pieces of the puzzle, Bell discovered that a third student, Joscelyn Gordon Whitehead, visited the dressing room on the same occasion and engaged Houdini in a conversation which led Smiley and Price to



Author Don Bell is looking for local links to the death of escape-artist Harry Houdini.

conclude it was not the first conversation between the two.

Bell said he was able to confirm from discussions with Smiley and Price before

they died — and later through affidavits — that Whitehead asked to test Houdini's muscle-claim, then struck

See BELL Page 2



Open: Patricia Kelly has decided to open her Sutton herb garden to the public. For the full story please turn to Page 5.

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Brome County Community Billboard

Arts Calendar

Theatre Lac Brome presents *Heat Wave* by Michel Marc Bouchard. All shows at Theatre Lac Brome run from Wednesday through to Saturday at 8 p.m. with a matinee on Thursday at 2 p.m. Ticket prices range from \$10 to \$18. For more information, please contact the box office at (514) 242-2270.

Community Calendar

August 16

The Club de la Bonne Humeur de Lac Brome will be holding a picnic, petanque tournament and corn roast starting at 10 a.m. with dinner at noon and corn at 3. The event will take place at 5 Mill Road, Bondville. Registration for the tournament is \$3. Many prizes.

August 18, 19

The Bromont Figure Skating Club.

Annual registration for the 95-96 season will be held in the main hall of the Centre Sportif on John Savage Street, on Friday from 6 to 9 p.m. and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. The club also invites adults who would like to have courses in Figure Skating. "We look forward to your visit."

August 19 West Bolton Neighborhood Watch will hold a meeting at 9 a.m. at the Mont Glen ski chalet. A meeting not to be missed. People from all municipalities welcome. Guest speakers: the fire chief and an insurance broker. For information, please call (514) 243-0708.

The Royal Canadian Legion, Sutton Branch 158 will be holding a horse shoe tournament starting at 1 p.m. \$5 per person. Prizes. Everyone welcome. The kitchen will be open for hotdogs and hamburgers.

August 20, 21

Knowlton Players is holding auditions for the 1995-96 season starting at 7:30 p.m. upstairs at the Knowlton Pub. Everyone welcome. For information, please call Beverly at (514) 243-0124.

August 23

Knowlton Pre-school registration (for 3 and 4 year olds) and parent meeting at 7 p.m. at Knowlton Academy.

For information, please call (514) 263-4013.

August 31

Benefit night An invitation to all Townshippers to support the Townshippers' Association and your local theatre by attending our annual at Theatre Lac Brome. This year's presentation will be *De Beaux Gestes and Beautiful Deeds* by Marie-Lyn Hammond and direc-

ted by Micheline Chevrier. Tickets are \$15. For more information, please call Jonathan Nagle at (819) 566-5717 or Edwina Adair at (514) 263-4422.

August 18 and 19

60th Annual Stanbridge East Flower Show sponsored by the Parish of St. James the Apostle. Daily 2 p.m. with afternoon tea and a wine and cheese from 7-9:30 p.m. on Friday.

BELL:

Continued from page one

him repeatedly before he was fully prepared.

Bell said medical records have attributed Houdini's death to peritonitis, probably sustained from a blow to the stomach. No further investigation was ever conducted.

Bell said Whitehead, a Kelowna B.C. man of Scottish descent who died in 1954, vanished following the incident and little is known about his whereabouts. However the author's research did lead him to Whitehead's girlfriend in Vancouver, who provided a few more pieces of the puzzle.

Bell's theory the attack may have been deliberate is buttressed by the fact Whitehead, who claimed to be a divinity student though he was registered as an arts student, was at odds with the magi-

cian's views on spirituality.

"At that time Houdini was debunking spiritualist beliefs about supernatural powers and exposing many so-called spiritualists as hoaxes," Bell said.

He says there also appears to be a link between Whitehead and alternative religious groups. The McGill dropout is known to have spent time at the Jacquays farm in Sutton during the late 1940s or early '50s.

Bell is looking for anyone in the area who might remember Gordon Jocelyn Whitehead. He adds that although Whitehead is a recognizable name in the Townships, there is no connection with local Whitehead families.

Anyone with information is asked to call Don Bell at 538-1873 or write him at Box 806, Sutton, Quebec, JOE 2K0.

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Needle trek covered two provinces

Search pays off for persistent couples

KNOWLTON — It's unlikely to become the newest craze in recreational activity, but looking for a needle in a haystack has provided several weekends of fun and adventure for two local couples.

The exercise was even more rewarding when they succeeded in finding the 13-inch wooden needle, the only one hidden Quebec — then returned to find a second needle hidden in Ontario. The find netted the searchers a cash reward and a donation to a seniors residence of their choice.

on the search after reading about it in the U.S. based *Country* magazine.

Chesbro said it was Battley's father, a subscriber to the magazine, who encouraged the couples to enter the contest to find the hidden needle. Field editors for the magazine hid one needle in each Canadian province and in each of the 50 states as an extension of a popular "needle in the haystack" contest regularly featured in the magazine.

Initially readers were encouraged to find the needle hidden somewhere on the pages of the magazine and were rewarded with a country gift if successful.

The popularity of the contest prompted the magazine to launch a more physical search for a needle in the haystack.

The search was combined with a spring clean-up effort and searchers were encouraged to bring along garbage bags to collect roadside refuse while they looked for the hidden needle.

"The clean-up was an aspect that interested us," said Vivien Grenier. "We picked up a trunkful of garbage the first time and recycled everything that was recyclable."

Before setting out, the search-party studied a map provided by the magazine and developed a strategy to cover the 10 square miles of North-Western Quebec.

"We decided to work in relays, explained Kathie Battley. "Albert and Kevin started out on foot, then we drove the car to a different point and began there."

The first search, conducted under wet and snowy March conditions, proved unsuccessful, but it qualified the searchers for a second map which reduced the territory to four square miles. They set out again in April, trekking along country roads, through ditches and over streams until Chesbro made the discovery.

"I couldn't believe it," said Chesbro, still excited about the find several months later. "It was wrapped in plastic and hidden in a tree. I was so excited." The four shared the \$500 US

prize with seniors at the Knowlbanks residence in Knowlton.

"Half the money went to Knowlbanks and the residents decided to buy a Gordon Ladd painting," said Battley.

The Knowlton artist said he plans to paint a needle in the painting chosen by the seniors as a reminder of the search.

Buoyed by their success, Chesbro and Battley decided to re-enter the contest, this time to search for the Ontario needle.

"When you start out you never know which part of the province it's hidden until you get the map," said Chesbro. Since the Ontario needle was hidden close to the Quebec border near Carillon, the couple decided to spend last weekend searching for it.

"We saw tracks along the road so we were fairly certain others were looking for it as well," said Battley. But they were no match for the pros, who spotted the needle attached to a hydro pole along a country road.

Battley says this time the money will be shared with another group of seniors — probably in West Brome.

"We're not motivated by the money," said Battley. "We did it for the adventure and it gave us a chance to get away on a little vacation and have some fun doing it."



Finders, keepers: Kevin Battley and Vivien Grenier joined Kathie Battley and Albert Chesbro in a missing needle search that led them through two provinces.

Canadian Club opens year with look at racism

The Canadian Club of the Yamaska Valley will open its 1995-96 season with guest speaker Margaret Cannon, well-known Canadian journalist, whose topic will be "The Invisible Empire: Racism in Canada" (the title of her recently published book).

Racism is the social and political issue facing Canadians in the 21st century and Margaret Cannon's *The Invisible Empire: Racism in Canada* is the new daring, provocative book on the issue.

Margaret Cannon investigates the myriad facets of racism, where she attends Heritage Front meetings and talks face-to-face with racists. Born white, middle class and Southern, Mar-

garet Cannon writes about her experiences growing up in the South (Arkansas) in the 1950s. She eventually leaves the States for a better — less racist — life in Canada, only to find that Canadians are also racist, just a lot more polite and subtle about it.

The Invisible Empire explores that strange no-man's land of race hatred and irrationality whose subjects are found in virtually every area of Canadian society. It is an excursion through frontier zones, the ambiguous edges of the invisible empire — through the familiar places in which most of us work, live, play and raise our children.

She looks through the broad lens of racism and focuses her eagle eyes on the different forms and venues in which

racism plays a part: the arts, education, multiculturalism, immigration, as well as considering the more invisible extremists and proponents of racism.

Through such events as the furore over Grant Bristow and the shocking CSIS connection with the heritage Front; the Showboat and Royal Ontario Museum episodes; June Callwood and the fight for control of Nellie's, Cannon shows us that racism is not only about extremists, but also about people just like ourselves.

Margaret Cannon is a contributing editor to *Saturday Night* magazine and a books columnist for the *Globe and Mail*. Her work appears regularly in the *Report on Business* magazine and she is the author of *China Tide: The Hong*

Kong Exodus to Canada. She lives in Toronto with her journalist husband John Bentley Mays and their daughter.

The meeting featuring Cannon will take place at Le Chateau Bromont, 90 Stanstead, Bromont, on Monday, September 11 at 2 p.m.

Everyone is invited to attend. There is a fee of \$5 for visitors, and memberships are available at the door (individual, \$30; married couple, \$45).

Following the talk, light refreshments will be served, providing an opportunity for members and guests to mingle.

On Wednesday, September 27, there will be a trip to the Shelburne Museum, Shelburne, Vermont. Details will be available at the meeting.

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Not a rose petal was left unturned

It's been some time since I attended a wedding, so I wasn't quite prepared for the emotionally-charged atmosphere and story-book quality of a love story unfolding before a packed church.

Saturday's wedding, unlike my own, was very personal and meaningful to the bride and groom, as well as to their parents and friends. It was filled with tender moments and unabashed professions of love and friendship.

Mine as I recall, was a wedding by Amy Vanderbilt, right down to St. Paul's pre-scripted vows pledging obedience, and a papal blessing which caused the Presbyterian side of the church to squirm uncomfortably. I know I was there because I've seen the pictures.

There was no corny stuff at my wedding. No tender toasts or personal tributes. And certainly no ad-libbing or spontaneous moments that deviated from the Amy Vanderbilt Book of Wedding Etiquette.

If my groom leaned over to whisper in my ear, it was more likely to ask "Who are all these people? How come so many of them have blue hair?"

Although I had very little to do with the planning of my own wedding, I read later in the paper it was "a lovely wedding". Not a rose petal was left unturned. Even the university chaplain was trucked 500 miles to perform the ceremony because the

Out of the Brome Closet

By Sharon McCully

parish priest stuttered.

Oddly, one of my few recollections is pounding the pavement with my mother in search of the perfect "going-away outfit". (I was spared a search for the perfect wedding gown since I saw it for the first time when it arrived with my uncle from Europe just days before the wedding — and miraculously fit).

It was an August wedding and we planned to travel to Maine so it shouldn't have been that difficult to find something to wear for a two-hour car ride. But my mother was fixed on a Princess Anne look, complete with the pillbox hat. I probably wore it just to get away, but I don't remember and there aren't any pictures.

More vivid is my recollection of the trip itself, and my anxiety at spending my first night at a motel without a sleeping bag, or sharing a bed with a friend or sibling.

August 23 will mark the 26th anniversary of that curious day, and I'm happy to report the ensuing years have been significantly more meaningful than the ceremony that kicked it off.

Notre vie et nos croyances — la clé de la réalité?

Vous avez certainement entendu dire que ce que nous croyons crée ou attire ce que nous vivons.

Ce n'est pas une idée nouvelle. Des sages et des maîtres spirituels nous disent depuis toujours que ce que nous vivons est causé par ce que nous croyons (le mot croyance ici n'a rien à voir avec croyance religieuse).

De plus en plus de gens s'ouvrent à cette idée. Nous entendons beaucoup d'enseignants dire ou suggérer que nos croyances sont la clé de la réalité que nous vivons. Le célèbre livre de Deepak Chopra «Un corps sans âge et un esprit immortel» (Ageless Body, Timeless Mind) est largement fondé sur l'idée que nos croyances créent notre santé et même la manière dont nous vieillissons.

Le «Cours des Miracles» (A Course in Miracles) dit même que toute maladie est une maladie mentale parce que le corps ne peut rien en lui-même et qu'il est dirigé par l'esprit.

Des physiciens quantiques ont compris que dans des conditions d'expériences exactement identiques, des scientifiques différents obtenaient des résultats différents. Ils ont réalisé que la seule variable était l'attente du scientifique sur ce que devaient être les résultats!

Et dans une étude sur l'efficacité des placebos, les chercheurs ont trouvé que le facteur principal de l'amélioration de l'état d'une personne prenant un placebo était l'intensité avec laquelle elle croyait en son médecin.

Les croyances transparentes sont celles à travers lesquelles nous regardons sans les voir. Une croyance transparente nous semble absolument vraie sans doute ni réserve.

Comment ces croyances créent-elles les expériences que nous vivons?

C'est comme pour un projecteur de cinéma qui produit une lumière blanche constante. Si la lumière blanche devait

Entre Nous

Par Thérèse Bernard

atteindre l'écran, telle qu'elle est, l'écran apparaîtrait blanc. Mais elle passe à travers un film qui change la lumière blanche en couleurs et en images. Changez le film et vous changez l'image sur l'écran.

Tout comme le film filtre et change la lumière du projecteur, ce que nous considérons comme vrai filtre et oriente notre attention. Plutôt que de changer le film pour créer une expérience différente, nous pouvons changer ce que nous croyons. En fin de compte, c'est notre attention qui solidifie et porte à notre conscience les possibilités infinies que nous appelons la réalité.

Mais nous sommes si identifiés avec ce que nous vivons que c'est tout ce dont nous sommes conscients. Nous sommes si absorbés dans l'action de notre vie que nous n'avons pas conscience que derrière l'écran de notre expérience, nos propres croyances orchestrent notre vie comme le film qui passe devant la lumière du projecteur.

Jusqu'à ce que nous nous séparions de notre expérience et que nous voyions les événements de l'extérieur, nous avons l'impression d'être l'expérience. Exactement comme dans un bon film, nous nous perdons dans l'action.

Comment sortir de l'action? Il y a plusieurs techniques parmi lesquelles se trouve Avatar, un cours de puissance personnelle qui a la capacité de nous amener à un tout autre niveau d'expérience en enseignant des méthodes pour changer les croyances qui ne nous aident pas pour les remplacer par celles qui créent les expériences que nous désirons.

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Fixing up the bathroom? I have a set of glass shower doors to give away. I would also like to borrow a trailer or something suitable to transport a bed and junk to university. (514) 242-1188.

Need a suit or a sports jacket? It's yours if you're size 42 with a pant size 34. Call (514) 263-8027.

Neighborhood Watch is a program for all

West Bolton Neighborhood Watch invites citizens for all municipalities to their next meeting.

One of our most successful meetings had the fire chief as guest speaker, so we have invited him back to continue telling us more ways to prevent fire (be they chimney, grass, house, car, propane or BBQ fired), how to react in case of emergency, and to answer as many questions as we can come up with.

Our second invited guest is an insurance broker who will tell us about theft and fire from his point of view — how to minimize the chances of a fire or burglary in your home or car, etc, and the pre-

cautions that can be taken.

So whether or not you have a Neighborhood Watch in your municipality, whether or not you belong to a Neighborhood Watch, please come and learn from our two guests. They are giving their time to help us benefit from their experience.

Bring along a note pad and all your questions, and we look forward to seeing you on Saturday, August 19 at 9 a.m. at the Mont Glen ski chalet on Glen Road (between Route 243 and Bolton Centre). For information, please call (514) 243-0708.

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
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Good for health and beautiful too Sutton herb garden now open to public

SUTTON (SM) — Patricia Kelly, co-owner of the Au Natural health food store in Sutton, has revived the ancient art of herbalism in a medicinal herb garden where visitors can find a cure for what ails them — including the craving for something beautiful.

Each wild plant in the stunning collection, grown in the shadow of the Sutton mountains, is filled with promise. Herbal gardens originated in the Middle Ages when wild plants were collected for their medicinal properties and secret ingredients.

Kelly spends much of her time chatting with visitors about the various properties and possibilities of each of the plants. Visitors might learn that hollyhocks have emollient properties and can act as a skin softener or calm a troublesome cold. Valerian with its pungent sweet smell has roots which will purportedly help cure insomnia.

Wormwood tones the liver, the yellow flowers of the mullein are used to produce an oil used in the treatment of earache, and the betony soothes neuralgia as well as having a calming effect.

If nothing else, people will feel better after strolling through the garden.

Kelly said she began the herbal garden last summer for her own use and pleasure, but due to local interest in the harvest, decided to open it to the public this summer.

Since mid-July she has been answering questions from some 20 visitors a day on the hundred different varieties of medicinal plants she has cultivated. Each cluster of plants is clearly identified by a wooden marker and an accompanying guide sheet helps visitors walk through the garden.

In addition to the medicinal herbs, Kelly also grows a variety of vegetables and fine herbs for cooking, and provides helpful tips on ecological gardening and crop rotation to preserve soil.

The garden is framed by colorful displays of poppies, bee balm, rudbeckia and other flowers which have survived despite the long hot summer. The garden is situated off Route 139 between Sutton and Abercorn — turn left on Rocheleau — and is open seven days a week from 10 to 5 until the end of August. An entry fee of \$2 is charged.



Patricia Kelly: People will feel better after strolling through the garden.

A long list of plants that help with health

SUTTON (SM) — Some of the plants visitors might find in the garden include: All-heal, an astringent used in the treatment of sore throats and cankers; Angelica, a cough medicine and stimulant used to treat colds, digestive weakness, menstrual irregularities, and alcohol addiction.

Anise is used to relieve gas and abdominal pains while Basil helps to relieve fevers, colds, headaches and nausea, and aids in digestion. Betony can be used as a tonic to calm hysteria and other nervous afflictions, Bittersweet is a narcotic that helps eliminate skin eruptions, and the troublesome Burdock serves as a diuretic and helps purify the blood and ease urinary tract problems.

Catnip helps curb insomnia, Chamomille calms the nerves, reduces digesti-

ve disorders and menstrual cramps. Fennel relieves gas and colic, Garlic is a stimulant with antibiotic properties used in the treatment of lung ailments, infections, headaches and nervous disorders.

Eucalyptus is used for relief of coughs and arthritic aches and pains. Dill relieves abdominal pains and children's colicky cramps, Coriander acts as a laxative and relieves fever. Lavender is an aromatic plant said to reduce emotional upset and nervous depression, and Chinese Licorice relieves bronchial congestion.

Tarragon is good for the heart, head, and liver, while Thyme has antiseptic properties which aid in the treatment of colds and flus. Sage relieves sinus congestion and bladder infections, and Savory helps prevent flatulence.

Reading is Fundamental

Tell your child stories that you enjoyed as a child.

Older children and grandparents can share in this experience.

Write the stories down, draw pictures about them, or put them on cassette.

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Pizza Man delivers big laughs

An outrageous comedy at Echo Art Barn



Kate Wisdom, Ralph Steiner and Emma Stevens make up the cast of *Pizza Man* at the Echo Art Barn.

Echo Art Barn Dinner Theatre continues its summer season with *Pizza Man*, a hilarious and outrageous comedy starring Echo Art's artistic director, Emma Stevens, who also directs the play.

Last seen at the Barn Dinner Theatre as Shirley Valentine, Emma has a formidable array of theatre credits to her name, which includes performances on London's West End stages.

Emma is supported by Ralph Steiner, who played one of the three alternating Josephs in Echo Art's production of *Joseph and The Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* at Theatre Lac Brome last Fall and who starred in the spring production of *Oh, What a Circus!* Ralph has also designed the set and lighting for *Pizza Man*.

Kate Wisdom completes the cast and is well known to Townships audiences having appeared for the past five years with the Knowlton Players. She also participated in *Joseph* and the *Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and *Oh, What a Circus!*

Echo Art's barn lends itself to intimate shows in a delightful ambiance. Marvellous country dinners are served prior to the shows and, according to last year's audiences, the evenings are "pure magic".

Pizza Man runs from August 18 to 20 at Echo Art Barn, 700 Turkey Hill, Brome (just South of Kowlton). Dinner and show (7pm) \$35 plus tax. For reservations or information (514) 242-2048 or (514) 465-7183.

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The choice was between Sutton and Bromont...

Mountain biking: A tale of two places

Life is filled with passages. Each time you experience one, the only sure thing about it is you know you're getting older.

One of the early, happy transitions though is going from the three-wheeler to the bicycle sans training wheels.

The first few falls do nothing to detract from the exhilaration of freedom, burning down the road on those two big wheels. Some little ones have so much fun on their bikes, you have to wonder if puberty isn't going to be a big disappointment.

Many of us go back to a time when a bicycle had one speed, and applying the brakes involved pushing backward on a pedal. Stopping options were the sideways slide, or jamming your sneaker between the front tire and the fork. That was risky though; once I hit the spokes instead, and the result was disaster in the dust.

Technology as always moved swiftly. One speed gave way to three-speed, succeeded quickly by the ten-speed, then as-many-as-you-want speed. The first ten-speed bikes with their pencil-thin tires looked silly in the country, though, much too vulnerable to rough pavement and quite useless on gravel.

The mountain bike seemed the perfect innovation for back roads and off-roads, black, straight armed and nubby-tired, tough and menacing like a giant mechanical attacking insect. I've watched for sales, or good deals on used

The Country Squire

By Brian Eddington



ones from guys in casts and bandages, but so far have stayed with a typical Canadian compromise; a six-speed with sort of big tires.

Recently, a former neighbor returned from Ontario with two quality mountain bikes on her rack, and off we went. The choice was between Sutton and Bromont. I suggested the former, it being farther off the autoroute and perhaps more forgiving for the beginner — me.

I was a bit hesitant, my spring training program having died in the planning stage. And that hard, narrow little seat. Do bicycle seat designers really have absolutely no clue as to the size of the average adult behind?

We practiced in the parking lot. There was lots of room, ours being the only car. I didn't like putting my feet in the stirrups, preferring to have them free for breaking falls on short notice. The moment of truth at hand, we headed for the hills, only to find the way roped off with a "Do Not Go Beyond This

Point" sign.

That wasn't very encouraging. It certainly didn't match the little happy face with "Bonjour!" beside it on the pamphlet. We checked with a fellow working behind the motel. He too was puzzled, but suggested it must mean cars.

A bit confused, we struck off up a trail rated easy, but which might more aptly have been labelled abandoned. Heat, humidity, brush and mud soon took their toll. It was hard replacing bodily fluids at the rate we were losing them. We realized quickly that these were the cross-country ski trails, converted to biking only on the glossy pamphlet. Summer maintenance was not a high priority.

After the shaky start, the experience had many rewards. I didn't have a heart attack, or suffer a major injury. I looked more fondly upon the mud and thick brush after a head-over-handlebars summersault. Best of all, not another soul was about.

We enjoyed a great picnic in a shady stand of spruce with a cooling breeze to keep the deerflies down. The main trail leading back to the parking lot was a well packed series of curves and cross-cuts requiring almost no legwork, a pleasant reward for the earlier uphill struggle. Riding the crest of this modest success, I was ready for the next challenge: Bromont. Kind of like the guy who wins ten bucks on the poker machi-

ne at the local depanneur and then immediately heads for the Ile Notre Dame casino.

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Brome briefs and beefs

Tourism Bromont has been awarded a \$10,000 grant under the Quebec regional development program. The funds will be used to produce promotional brochures outlining the various tourist attractions in the region and a tourist guide to Bromont restaurants.

The grant is one of 19 projects approved in the Montérégie to share \$550,000.

The Cyclists Association of Drummondville-Foster received \$75,000 to complete a cycling path which will link with existing paths in the Eastern Townships and Vermont.

Total investment projected for the 19 projects is \$1.2 million and will create some 50 jobs in the region.

● The CP station has been moved from Foster to its new perch at the corner of Routes 243 and 215. The Chamber of Commerce plans to organize a series of fund-raisers to raise the funds necessary to renovate the historic station as a tourist bureau and train museum. Donations are welcome.

● A memorial service will be held Thursday at 3:30 at L'Abri in Knowlton for local businesswoman Denise Goyer. The former Brome Lake Chamber of Commerce secretary was instrumental in organizing several activities for the business community.

● After a brief closure, La Canardine restaurant on Lakeside has re-opened under the ownership of chef Michel Cloetens. The restaurant will be open daily except Monday, as well as for lunch Wednesday through Sunday under the new name La Canardiere.

BROME BEEFS

● Ed Reyjacks thinks its time Brome Lake town council takes another look at its noise bylaw. Reyjacks told council earlier this week legal authorities for

the town claim the bylaw lacks teeth. The West Brome man claims he is being kept awake nights by noise from the neighboring saw-mill now operating 24 hours a day.

Earlier this summer Knowlton resident Brian Timmins complained to the town about amplified music in the park. Councillors promised to re-examine the bylaw...

● Women in the region have plenty to beef about following the release of income statistics last week by Statistics Canada. Women in Cowansville earn roughly half as much as men: \$22,400 for men compared to \$12,100 for women. In Bromont men earned an average \$24,200 compared to \$12,900 paid to their female counterparts. But there is little to rejoice about for anyone. The average wage for the region ranged between \$14,300 in Sutton to a high of \$18,600 in Granby.

● Dunham resident Pearl Yates is disappointed with a response to her complaint to provincial police and the Quebec minister of public security over the lack of English-language service by the provincial police force.

Yates wrote to Public Security Minister Serge Ménard and Dunham QPF Sgt. Roger Poirier in July bemoaning the inability of provincial officers to respond to English-language calls.

Ménard responded curtly that he noted from her letter the matter had been raised with the local detachment.

QPF supervisor Poirier of Dunham acknowledged there is a language weakness, but assured Yates there is always someone on duty who can speak and understand English.

Yates says that's small comfort in an emergency.

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CLEARANCE OF SELECTED IN-STORE ITEMS

Dolly Pope and Kay Motz: Homestead Antiques

Prices high at dealers' retirement auction

By Jean Murray Chute

To many this was an auction like so many other auctions, but to those of us who know these ladies this represented the end of over a quarter century of dealing in and collecting antiques.

A life's work was put on the auction block to be sold to the highest bidder.

Dolly Pope and Kay Motz met while serving in the Red Cross 44 years ago and have been best friends ever since. In 1964 Dolly returned to the place that had been homesteaded by her great-uncle, then farmed by her father, and now would become her home. Kay came for a visit in 1965 and fell in love with the farm and it was at this time they became partners in Homestead Antiques near Sherbrooke.

Failing health has plagued the two of them for the past ten years and is what forced them to make the decision to sell out and slow down.

Kay was unable to attend this auction that she had worked so hard to prepare for. Thursday evening she suffered a heart attack and has been hospitalized since. I am sure I speak for all who attended and the auctioneers when I wish her a speedy recovery that will enable her to return to the home she loves so very much.

This auction was under the direction of Art and Ross Bennett Auctioneers of Sawyerville, with the help of Alden Ticehurst of South Stukely.

Friday, July 21 was the start of this three-day marathon with a large crowd in attendance from many province of Canada as well as friends from south of

the border. They were ready, willing and eager to buy, but very few did.

The majority of prices received were high retail, with some beyond reason, and the bulk of the auction being bought

by a handful of bidders. This auction was blessed with about a half dozen larger than life, ego's, competing for top spot.

Friday was a big day of selling furni-

ture with sporadic sales of glass and smalls from the Barn. A three-drawer ash bureau with mirror left for Maine with a bid of \$400 as did a mission oak

See next page



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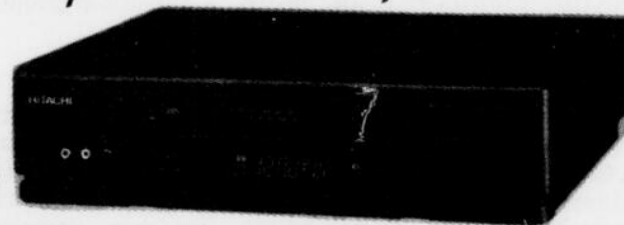
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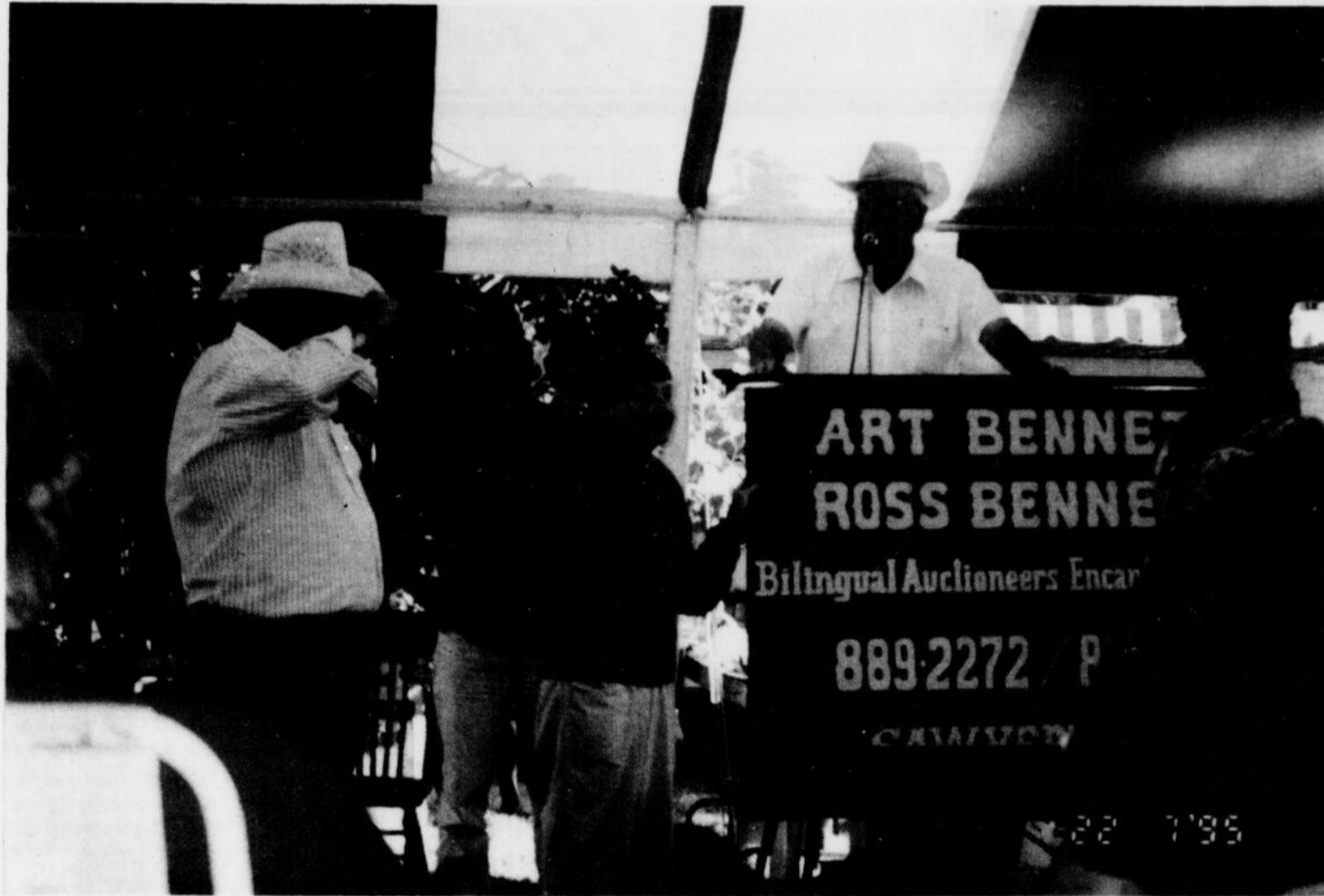
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From last page

china cabinet at \$675.

A lady from Thetford Mines won the bid for an oak rounded glass china cabinet with a flat glass door with a bid of \$1400. This same lady purchased a small round parlor table with glass ball feet for \$310. Another dealer from Maine won the bid on the J.P. Coates spool cabinet for \$210.

Saturday saw a mixture of furniture and beautiful glass as well as the collection of 27 pieces of Portneuf pottery sold. Prices remained high throughout.

The matching pair of cranberry girondols sold for \$1500. The peach art glass basket fetched \$775 from the same buyer. A cranberry pickle liner with enamel flowers brought a bid of \$260, again the same buyer.

When the moment came to sell the Portneuf collection and auctioneer Ross Bennett announced that it would be sold as a collection, many in the crowd reacted negatively, but it was a very cal-

culated move that payed off well. The collection was hammered down to Mr. André Poupart from Magog, with a final bid of \$5000.

Mr. Poupart later described himself as an amateur. With this purchase, this self-claimed amateur moved up in ranks to professional.

Sunday, the final day, prices remained consistently high, with a 7-piece Rodgers plated silver tea set selling for \$600, a square walnut china cabinet fetched \$1125, a cranberry opalescent art glass vase sitting on applied amber feet for \$650.

By day's end the buyers were weary and nerves a little frayed but the auctioneers kept everything well under control and did what was necessary to guarantee a successful completion to this extraordinary auction.

As I always say, remember: buying antiques is your way of preserving your heritage, helping to preserve the environment and recycling.

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From the Pens of E.T. Writers

TALKING TO MYSELF
OR
WHERE TO NOW

I hope you realize what this means
If you can't take the heat or the cold;
You've already acknowledged that "you're getting on"
But you've not yet admitted you're old.

You're in love with the Sun and all you have done
In the past when you swam like a duck;
Not a fish 'cause you plunged in and out having fun,
Now it seems that you've run out of luck.

Seems too you're susceptible to all sorts of things
That you had never considered before;
You're experienced too; there's a price you must pay

For the wonderful freedom of yore...

But there's still reading and writing doing your best;
And frolicsome fun with the pets.
There's a little more fear and a lot more rest
And things that you haven't tried yet... (and not likely to).

Whilst rhyming with rest, there's still many a test
And challenges coming your way;
Still you haven't shirked yet, so I'll make you a bet,
That regardless, you'll have a nice day! (And I will).

Marjorie P. Ferris
Rougemont, Que.

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A surprise bridal shower was held for Carol Hébert on July 30 at Café Chez Moi. She and Mark Boomhower will wed on August 19 at the S.E. Anglican Church with the reception being held at Mr. and Mrs. Joe Boomhowers. They will live in Wisconsin where Mark has employment.

Johanne and Sharon Kidd of Montreal were visiting their parents, Bruce and Doris and other family members.

Debra and Callah Boomhower of Cobble Hill, B.C. are spending a lengthy vacation with Neil and I and other family. They and Shelley MacDonald drove to Cape Breton Island to visit a friend for a week and then spent a few days at Hardwick, N.B. with Wayne and Tara MacDonald at his parents' summer home.

Melissa Boomhower earned an eighty-five percent mark in her final semester at John Abbott and was named an honour student. She will attend Concordia this fall (grandma's bragging now!). Her brother Breenen will start at John Abbott.

John and Tilda Jettan motored to James Bay where they spent time at Chisasibi Bay, which means Great River in the Cree language.

Family members attended a birthday celebration for the two-year-old daughter of Steven and Caroline Rhicard on July 31. She was a happy little girl, sitting on the knee of each gift-giver while she opened their present and then kissed and hugged each one.

Looking ahead... Townshippers Day in Mansonville on September 16.

7 For Rent

KNOWLTON — Available November 1 to April 30. 3 bedroom furnished house, 1½ acres, fireplace, wood stove. 1 km. walk into downtown Knowlton. Call (514) 242-2494. ¹⁸⁴⁶³

9 Room and Board

2 STUDENTS LOOKING for a non-smoker for a share a 4½ in Lennoxville. Short walk to campus. Excellent price. (514) 263-5003 ask for Sarah. ¹⁸⁶⁶³

20 Job Opportunities

INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL EXCHANGE — Ages 18-30 with agricultural experience to live-work with family in Australia, New Zealand, Europe, Japan. Cost/details: 1-800-263-1827. 206, 1501 17th Avenue S.W., Calgary, AB, T2T 0E2. ¹⁸⁶³⁸

20 Job Opportunities

SECRETARY — Brome County News is seeking a full-time secretary. Should be familiar with Micro-soft Word and Page Maker. Bilingualism preferred. Please send c.v. before August 20 to: Box 488, Knowlton, Que., JOE 1V0. ¹⁸⁵⁹⁰

25 Work Wanted

TRANSLATION from French into English and from English into French. Have computer and fax. Call (514) 266-0550. ¹⁸⁶⁸⁶

31 Travel

JOIN THE FUN bus trip to Branson, Mi., October 10-19. Tours, cruise, accommodations, shows, most meals, etc. Southern Caribbean 10 day Cruise on Holland America's new ship, "The Ryndam", February 12-22, 1996. Escorted by Stan and Carol Soule, Courtiers en Voyages Bedford, Quebec permit. Call 1-800-363-4545. ¹⁸⁶³⁴

40 Cars for Sale

1983 FORD XR7 COUGAR in good shape. V6 motor, 25 miles/gallon, 4 perfect tires for winter, electric windows, good radio. \$800. Call (514) 242-1006. ¹⁸⁶⁷¹

1987 OLDSMOBILE DELTA ROYALE — Beautiful blue, 2 door, 106,000 km., very good tires, AMFM radio, V6, air, cruise control, tilt steering. No rust. Like new. \$4,250. (514) 539-1727. ¹⁸⁶⁷⁸

60 Articles for Sale

WHARF (Brome Lake) — 40 ft. x 6 ft. on wheels, \$550.; T.V. antenna (IHVHF) with 40 ft. power and rotor, \$400.; Garborator for kitchen sink, \$35. Call (514) 243-6794. ¹⁸⁵⁶³

5 PIECE BEDROOM SET including dressing table from 1940's. Call (514) 243-4185. ¹⁸⁵⁵²

60 Articles for Sale

4 DAY BROME FAIR passes \$20. Brome County Horticultural Society hats \$8. Please support our society. Space still available for this year's event. Call (514) 263-2794. ¹⁸⁶⁶¹

AT THE LOWEST PRICE than anywhere else! Aspenite 7/16: 8.49, 5/8: 11.99; plywood 1/2: 17.99, 5/8: 19.99, 2x2x8: .49, 2x3x8: .79, 2x4x8: 1.09, 2x8x12: 4.09, 2x10x12: 7.49; steel door: 39.95; oak flooring: .99 ft.; pre-varnished parquet: 1.19. Material with imperfections...at perfect prices. Matériaux Bromptonville (819) 823-3315. ¹⁸⁶²⁵

TRACTORS: Bolens 12 h.p. hy., \$700; three 8 h.p. from \$350-\$450; Ford 14 h.p. with snowblower, \$600. 1 pair truck tires, 875x16.5, \$70. Chainsaws from \$80-\$125. Tractor cross chains, 14.9x28, \$125. Tillers, 5h.p., \$125. Call (514) 263-2976. ¹⁸⁶⁴⁶

60 Articles for Sale

HEARTLAND SWEETHEART wood burning cook stove, barely 2 years old and in mint condition. Includes heat shield and all piping. This is a lovely stove and must be seen to be appreciated. \$2,300 firm. Call (514) 292-3084 after 6 p.m. ¹⁸⁶⁶⁰

AT LOW PRICES — Cement products. Patio stone No. 1: 1.29, 24x24: 3.19, embankment block No. 1: 1.19, split-face: 1.39, border: 2.49, cement block 4": .39, 12": .79, mini slope: .69, paving stone: .99. Material with imperfections...at perfect prices! Matériaux Bromptonville (819) 823-3315. ¹⁸⁶²⁵

61 Articles Wanted

SCRAP METAL WANTED — Clean out your garage, barn or shed. Old cars, trucks, farm machinery. Anything metal. Call E. Woolmer (514) 248-2446 or Leo Painchaud (for French customers) (514) 248-2996. ¹⁸⁶⁰⁶

20 GAUGE or 16 gauge double side by side shotgun. Call (514) 243-5021 ask for Pete or leave message on recorder. ¹⁸⁶⁶⁰

66 Livestock

BOER GOAT SALE, Markham Fairgrounds, Markham, Ontario. Sunday, August 27, 2 p.m. Free info. Seminars start at 10:30 a.m. Selling 50 purebreds. Diversify your income with growthy Boer Goats. Contact Ram H Breeders, Ray and Ann Marie Hauck, call/fax (403) 932-3135. ¹⁸⁵⁵⁶

70 Garage Sales

DUNHAM Lots of antiques for sale at the United Church Flea Market, Saturday, August 19. See lady with several trunks, butter churn, tools, quilts, etc. ¹⁸⁶⁵⁵

70 Garage Sales

BONDVILLE Saturday, August 19, 27 Price Road, Bondville (corner Tibbits Hill and Frizzle). Aluminum boat and motor, fishing equipment, 30.06 semi-automatic with shells, golf clubs, knick-knacks, antiques, etc. Rain or shine. ¹⁸⁶⁶²

BROME Garage sale at 259 Jackson Road on August 19 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fisher Price toys, books (some old), dishes, a bit of everything. ¹⁸⁶⁴⁵

COWANSVILLE Multi-family lawn sale, Saturday, August 19, 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., in case of rain: the following Saturday, August 26, at 906 North Street, Cowansville. Baby items, books, toys, pony rides and many other items. ¹⁸⁶⁴⁰

KNOWLTON

Moving sale. Incredible buys. Saturday, August 19. One day only, wet or fine. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. 32 gl. tank, garden tools, chairs and cushions, glassware, electric kettles, polisher, toaster, drill, trimmer. Size 10 mens leather shoes, lady's leather hand bags, neckties, luggage. Brackets, hinges, door handles, etc. Knitting wool, pieces marble, iron stair rail, lamp shades, glassware, tape deck, antique percolator, trampoline, plant stands, (2) x 15 auto tires. Large wine rack and lots of other items. 10 Manson, Knowlton. Off Victoria by the Lakeview. ¹⁸³⁹⁶

SOUTH BOLTON 90 South Bolton Mountain Road on August 19 and 20. Tools, furniture, tires and much more. Rain or shine. 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. ¹⁸⁶⁷⁰

82 Home Improvement

FLOORING — Sanding, install and finish. Ceramic tile. Free estimate. Quality work guaranteed. Call (514) 538-0146. ¹⁸⁴⁷⁹

82 Home Improvement

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83 Lost

REWARD — One water ski lost on Brome Lake, southeast side, late afternoon of Saturday, August 5. Sea Glider brand, Bimini No. 67 model, laminated wood, varnished, blue toe and heel. Call Peter White (514) 242-1260. ¹⁸⁶⁴⁸

88 Business Opportunities

ENERCRAFT, the leading Canadian manufacturer of Portable Band Sawmills, requires bilingual dealer for Quebec. For dealer information or complete product brochure package, call 1-800-387-5553. ¹⁸⁶³⁸

NEARLY-NEW CLOTHING BOUTIQUE, centrally located in Sutton. Warm and cosy atmosphere. Agent for dry cleaning and Sears catalogue services. Call (514) 538-2326. ¹⁸⁴⁵³

PROFITABLE MOTEL for sale. 12 suites with kitchens, T.V., air, (Manager's apt.). 547 Knowlton Road, Knowlton. Mr. Timmins (514) 243-0801. ¹⁸¹⁰³

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the Record

The Record, in its fresh new tabloid format, is presently re-vamping its distribution system to provide door-to-door carrier delivery Monday to Friday to homes and businesses in this region.

For less than \$10 a month, you could receive the Eastern Township's only English-language daily newspaper at your door, along with the weekly **Brome County News** and the **Townships Week** Arts and Entertainment section and weekly television guide.

As the region's only daily community newspaper, **The Record** is committed to bringing its readers news that is important to them.

To begin receiving **The Record** at your home or office, simply fill out the attached form and return it to our office at 88 Lakeside, Knowlton, or call us at 242-1188.

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Sharon McCully,
Knowlton Office

The Record/Brome County News

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PARTICIPATION



Prosperity Rebekah Lodge No. 32 welcomes President Doreen Findlay

COWANSVILLE — Prosperity Rebekah Lodge #32 met on June 19 in the Fraternal Hall for their regular meeting.

The Noble Grand Sister Marilyn called for Regalia Drill, then read a poem to all. The Colour Bearer, Sister Melanie Holliday entered with the flag and O Canada was sung. The lodge opened in regular form.

Fourteen officers, six courtesy officers and fourteen Past Noble Grands answered the roll call. There were only two Past Presidents attending who were Sisters Isabella Beattie and Irene Williams.

Sister Jean Scott was asked to introduce the appointed officers. They were Sisters Peggy Eastman, Marshall; Diane Barton, Chaplain; Isabella Beattie, Musician; Marjorie White, Outside Guardian; Ruth Blanchette, Left Herald; Marjorie Lancaster, D.D.P. of District No. 5, all of the Rebekah Assembly of Quebec. They were welcomed with a poem by Sister Marilyn. Sister Elizabeth Pow introduced the selective officers who were Sister Sadie Talbot, Vice-President; Sister Shirley Vaughan, Secretary of the Rebekah Assembly and Brother Ronald Talbot, District Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Quebec and Patriarch Eddie Clifford, Grand Senior Warden of the Grand Encampment of Quebec. They

were all given the "Honors". Sister Peggy Eastman introduced the President, Sister Doreen Findlay. She was given the "Honors" and seated to the right of the Noble Grand.

There were two bills handed in. Blotters for the desks and Lodge supplies. These were ordered paid by the Noble Grand.

Communications read by Sister Elaine Grubb was a cheque for our 80th Anniversary and a note from Yamaska No. 10 and also from Riverside No. 12, Granby, one from the Townshippers informing us about their special day on September 16 to be at Mansonville. A letter from Richmond telling us about the President's reception to be held on July 15.

Sister Irene was asked to prepare the entertainment for Ives Hill which was for Goodwill Day on July 8. Sister Phyllis Durkee thanked the lodge for the bubble bath she received when she was indisposed and for all the phone calls and cards.

New business: Sister Donna Luce moved that the lodge be closed for July and August, seconded by Sister Isabella Beattie. The President was asked to send us a dispensation.

Under Good of the Order: The charter was undraped for Sister Emma Sully of the

I.A.R.A. and redraped for Sister Luella Brady, P.P. of Myrtle Lodge No. 28 and Sister Lou Hariman, P.P. from I.A.R.A. Two hymns were sung, "Beautiful Isle of Somewhere" and "In the Garden."

The program for the President was several Sisters entering the room with cards in their hands bearing a beautiful red Maple Leaf on the back of them and on the front the letters "MAPLE LEAF" which had a saying for each letter. Each Sister taking part.

The President then spoke. She brought the greetings from the Rebekah Assembly and her own personal greetings and also thanked the lodge for her monetary corsage

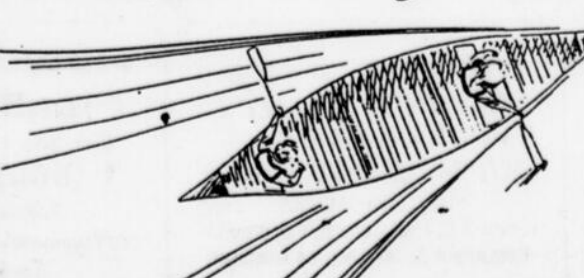
and all courtesies extended to her. It being such a hot night she had no speech but read a poem on "Friendship."

A silver collection was taken which amounted to \$34.00. This will be given to her two projects, Rebekah Assembly and Cancer Research.


As there was no other business, lodge closed in form. The Rebekah Creed was recited and God Save the Queen was sung.

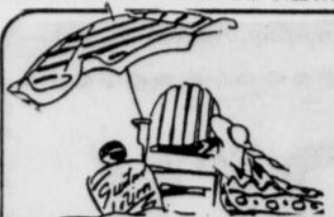
All then retired to the lower hall where a buffet luncheon of sandwiches, dips and sweets was served with ice cream. The hall had red balloons and red maple leaves everywhere.

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