Oakbank/Dugald

Denise Flint 866-4415

Tragic accident

A collision at the corner of Springfield Road and Stoneridge Road Aug. 22 has resulted in the death of Maria Doerksen on Aug. 29. The corner was completely unregulated and two cars, one driven by Doerksen and the other by Lisa Harrison, arrived at the intersection at the same time. One car was traveling west and the other was traveling north. The northbound car, which had the right of way, was hit by the eastbound car.

The intersection is blocked by shrubbery on either side and so the two drivers didn't see each other until it was too late. Harrison and her two children, who were in the car with her, were treated in hospital and released.

No charges have been laid at this point. It is up to the Crown Attorney to decide what will happen.

The day after the accident the municipality erected a yield sign at the corner. According to RCMP sources there are at least 30 to 40 unregulated intersections in Springfield. People get complacent about crossing them and forget what they were taught about right of way. The danger is exacerbated by the shrubs and trees property owners plant close to intersections for privacy and windbreaks.

Doerksen, 41, is survived by her husband Ed and her two children, Ryan and Rachel.

Player back in Canada

Trevor Kidd of Dugald has been signed by the Toronto Maple Leafs for the upcoming season. Kidd is a goalie who played most recently for the Florida Panthers. He previously played for the Carolina Hurricanes after beginning his NHL career in 1990 as a first round pick with the Calgary Flames.

Kidd won the Del Wilson Trophy for being the top goalie in the WHL in the 1989-90 season and won an Olympic silver medal, playing for Canada in 1992.

His move to Toronto means a Manitoba lineup in the Leafs' net. He is expected to play as a backup to chief goalie Eddie Belfour, who is from Carman. Can't keep those prairie boys down!

Kidd and his wife Tiffany have three daughters. Tiffany has been diagnosed with non-Hodgkins lymphoma and is currently undergoing chemotherapy.

Charter status gained

A celebration was held Aug. 27 at G'News Restaurant in Oakbank to mark the granting of a charter to the Prairie Voices Toastmasters. In order to gain a charter 20 people must become members of a club.

Last spring Susan Kotello and Bev Doern, who both belong to Toastmasters Clubs in Winnipeg, decided to see if they could generate enough interest to build a chapter in Springfield. They began with demonstration meetings. Things started slowly. In fact, sometimes the two women outnumbered their prospective members. However, gradually the numbers grew and this spring they reached the required number and put in their application for a charter, which was granted June 17.

They are the 88th club in District 64, which includes all of Manitoba and northwestern Ontario.

On hand to celebrate were Kelvin Goertzen, representing Provencher MP Vic Toews, who was unable to attend, Springfield MLA Ron Schuler, Springfield Reeve John Holland, Past District 64 Governor Jo-Anne McDowall, District Lieutenants Lyle Appleyard and Dallas Bagby, the newly chartered members and their spouses and partners.

Appleyard, who is from a group in Stonewall, said he was particularly glad to welcome another rural club to the fold. Marion Clemens, who used to write this column for *The Carillon*, was an invited guest and was given an honorary membership for her help in promoting the organization.

There are 80,000 members of Toastmasters in 8,000 clubs worldwide. Though the purpose behind the club is to help people develop their public speaking skills, its membership is not necessarily limited to those who could benefit from such training in their professional lives.

The 20 members of the Springfield chapter boast a writer, a farmer, a construction worker, a health care worker, a research analyst, a dollar store worker and a student, among others.

The diversity doesn't stop there. They are just about equally divided between men and women. The youngest member is 17 and the oldest is 78.

Member Doreen Pendgracs says that she is involved in many different activities. However, since she came to the first open house, Toastmasters has gradually taken priority. "It's such a lot of fun and the people are so supportive," she says.

In a typical meeting, which are held every Tuesday night in Dugald, one or two people give prepared speeches of five to seven minutes and others are assigned impromptu talks, which are expected to last two minutes. After giving 10 speeches members become CTMs or Competent Toast Masters. From there they progress through higher levels of achievement as members or leaders and can specialize in areas such as humor, story telling or special presentations.

Though some people join for a long time, there is a fairly steady turnover. According to Doern a lot of people only join for a couple of years. Therefore they are always on the lookout for new members.

People who think they might be interested in checking out a meeting are encouraged to call Flora Schalla, one of the new executive board, at 444-3468 for more information.

Local hunts Big Foot

Fictional denizens of New York City know to call Ghost Busters if they need help with the supernatural. But what does a real life resident of Manitoba do when he or she is in a similar predicament?

Well, if the problem they are experiencing has anything to do with a Sasquatch, they call Springfield resident William M. Borody. Borody is the head of the Manitoba Sasquatch Research Centre and there's not a theory or piece of evidence about the big, supposedly mythical creatures that he doesn't know.

He has a room in his house full of books and videotapes devoted to the subject. It is there that he keeps a cast that was reportedly taken from the mold of a footprint of the so-called Patterson Sasquatch, the most famous Sasquatch sighting of them all. That's the one caught on a grainy tape 25 years ago, loping across a clearing in Washington. According to Borody it's the most conclusive evidence yet of Big Foot's existence.

Borody has been interested in Sasquatch research for almost 25 years, but now that he has retired from his job with Canadian Airlines he's able to devote himself to it full time.

Borody doesn't actually document the research he does himself in any kind of scientific manner. He says that people always see pretty much the same thing.

Nonetheless, within that general framework reports do vary. Apparently Sasquatches can range from five to 12 feet tall. Their footprints vary from 14 to 24 inches long. They can be covered in black, brown, white or grey fur. A week ago the one reputedly seen by eight people in Nelson House was nine feet tall and had a grey diamond on its chest. When it was spotted it did three somersaults and then walked away.

If there is one thing for sure, however, it is that Sasquatch sightings are not rare occurrences. Though most reports of them seem to come from the Pacific North West, where stories of Big Foot are quite common, once Borody started hunting he found plenty here too.

In fact, they seem to turn up all over Manitoba. A few years ago there was a family of three of them that used to come into a garden in Mitchell and root around for potatoes. Several years ago three lost children were rescued by a kindly one outside of Grand Rapids. Another family of three Sasquatches used to live in a cave just outside of a town on the Manitoba/Saskatchewan border. Apparently everyone in town knew about them.

But they've also been spotted a lot closer to home. Ten years ago one used to come into a garden on Monominto Road in Anola and eat watermelons. They've been seen at the dump on Oakwood Road, in Bird's Hill Park, at Seven Sisters and Lake of the Woods. The most heavily infested area seems to be around Milner's Ridge. All kinds of strange sightings of UFOs and ghosts as well as Sasquatches have occurred there. Borody isn't quite sure what is going on there but he says that a few years ago it was swarming with military aircraft and they had to be looking for something.

All in all there have been over 500 Sasquatch sightings in Manitoba in the last 50 years. With this number it's hard not to ask why no confirmed evidence of their existence has ever been found.

Borody has an answer for this too. According to a medicine man he met in British Columbia, Sasquatches are protectors of the native people of North America. They are spirits with IQs of 2000 and can "walk through a wet garden and leave no prints." However, they occasionally do leave prints just to let people know they are still around.

Another native elder Borody spoke with believes that they are not spirits themselves, but are able to talk to spirits and receive help from them. They can change into any form they want except a snake and can stand right in front of you and be completely undetectable.

Borody's not sure he buys these explanations, but he does think there is some connection between Sasquatches and native people if only because many more natives than non-natives see them.

He's more inclined to believe that Sasquatches are different enough from the animals we are more familiar with that any evidence of their existence such as hair and footprints is enough away from the norm that it can be dismissed as manmade or a hoax.

For example a little while ago some mysterious hair was sent to a wildlife DNA lab in Oregon. Researchers there concluded it was manmade because it didn't have the scales on it characteristic of normal hair or fur. For Borody this evidence could equally well mean that the creatures are simply not like anything else on earth. Whether they are supernatural creatures or not he isn't prepared to say.

Borody is quick to point out that he has never actually seen a Sasquatch himself. But that doesn't stop him from hoping to do so one day. He doesn't want to follow in the footsteps of top researcher Rene Dahinden. The poor man spent 40 years researching Sasquatches. He used to go into the bush for 10 months at a time and he never saw so much as a footprint.

Consequently, Borody is always ready to respond to suspected sightings. He promises people confidentiality, at least partly because he doesn't want potential Sasquatch sites destroyed or compromised by media attention. He currently has a motion-activated camera set up on an island just off Kenora where a Sasquatch has reportedly been seen a few times. So far the only things that have turned up are the usual suspects like deer and bears. But that won't stop him from hoping to finally make the big find. What evidence would he most like to uncover? In his own words, "Anything other than the actual thing is inconclusive."

So, who you gonna call? If there's something strange in the garden try William Borody at 866-3268.

A bear that has been wandering around Dugald lately finally met its match when it bounded out of a ditch in front of the truck of Beverly Schreyer. The teenager, who has only had her license for a week, was on her way to make a milk delivery and didn't have a hope of stopping.

The bear, after spending the day in the Schreyer's garage, was carted off by Natural Resource officers to be disposed of.

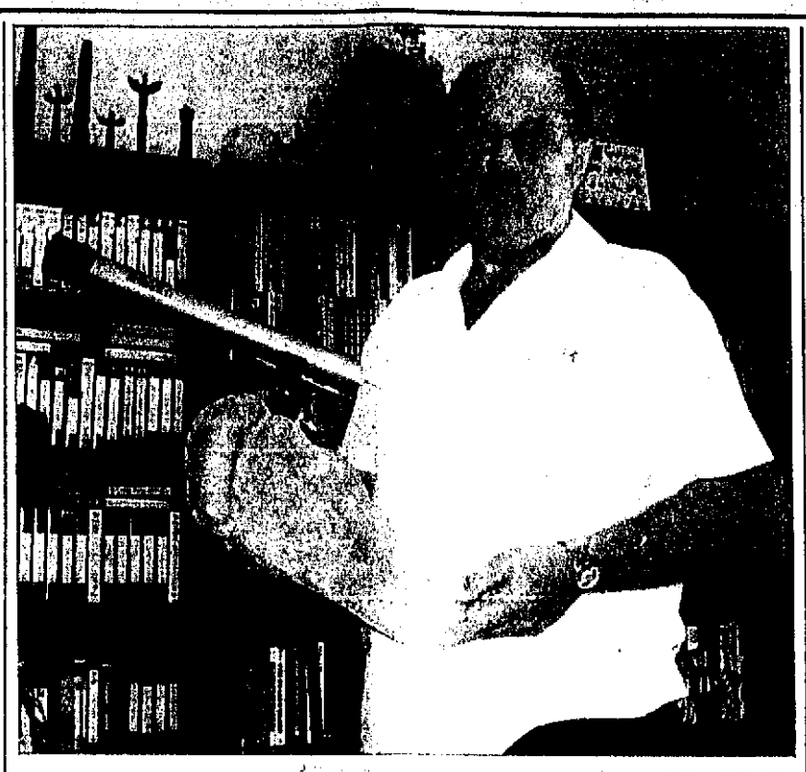

PHOTO BY DENISE FLINT

Sasquatch hunter William Borody with a cast of the footprint of the famous Patterson Sasquatch.

PHOTO BY DENISE FLINT

Marion Clemens receives an honorary Toastmasters' membership from president John Gowron.

Ile des Chenes

Lyse Giesbrecht 878-4338

The Ile des Chenes Old Time Dance Club welcomes you to their first annual general meeting, Wednesday, Sept. 25, 8 p.m., at the Ile des Chenes School, 455 d'Auteuil Drive. For more information call Lucien Beauchemin at 878-3352 or Yvette Damphousse at 878-9562.

The club is also offering dance classes for basic waltz and two-step pattern, heel and toe polka, seven step, St Bernard waltz, barn dance, French minuet, Jessie polka, Gay Gordon, Schottische, Waltz Across Texas, and more. The classes will be held every Thursday, Sept. 19 to Dec. 5, 7:30 to 11 p.m., at Ile des Chenes School, 455 d'Auteuil Drive. Instructors Isabelle and Romeo Choquette have 11 years experience. Register immediately by calling Lucien or Yvette.

The Ile des Chenes/Grande Pointe Christmas Craft Sale will be held at the Ile des Chenes Recreational Center, Saturday, Nov. 2, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Crafters are needed. For information and table rentals call Kelly-Lynn Denslow at 878-3744.

Learn to skate

The Ile des Chenes/Grande Pointe Learn to Skate program (Skate Canada Affiliated) will start Monday, Oct. 7, 6-7 p.m. and run until March 24, 2003. Registration will be held Sept. 10 and 11, 7-8:30 p.m., at the Ile des Chenes/Grande Pointe Arena. For more information call Janine Grabowsky 878-3284 or Kelly-Lynn Denslow 878-3744.

Monday night bingo will commence Sept. 9. Doors open at 6:30 p.m., with early bird bingo starting at 7:15 p.m. and regular bingo at 7:30 p.m.

School news

Meet the Teacher Night at Ile des Chenes School will be held Sept. 17, 6:30 p.m.

There will be no school Sept. 20, due to inservice.

There are many workshops being offered to families in the area.

Upcoming programs at South Winnipeg Family Information Centre include: Early Years Parenting for parents of preschool children, Wednesdays, Oct. 2-30, 9:30-11 a.m. Childcare is provided.

The ABCs of Staying Home Alone is a workshop for children age 11 and older. A parent/guardian must attend with the child. Classes will be held Saturday, Oct. 5, 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

How to Talk so Kids will Listen and Listen so Kids will Talk is a six-week program offered Thursdays, Oct. 17 to Nov. 21, 7:30-9:30 p.m. or Tuesdays, Oct. 22 to Nov. 26, 1:15-3 p.m. Pre-registration is required for all programs. Call 284-9311.

Family workshops also offered are: The Healthy Use of Anger, Thursday evenings, Sept. 26 to Nov. 8, in Ste Anne or La Broquerie; 1.2.3.4 Parents, Thursday afternoons, Sept. 19 to Oct. 24, Steinbach; Active Parenting for Parents of Children ages 4-12, Monday evenings, Sept. 23 to Nov. 11, Steinbach; Active Parenting for Parents of Teens, Wednesday evenings, Sept. 25 to Nov. 13, Steinbach; Co-operative Parenting - parenting children from families of divorce, Wednesday evenings, Sept. 25 to Nov. 13, Steinbach; Parenting the Spirited Child, Tuesday evenings, Sept. 24 to Nov. 12, Steinbach; The Healthy Use of Anger for Pre-Teens and Teens, Monday afternoons, Sept. 23 to Nov. 11, Ste Anne; Mom's Support Group will free childcare, Monday afternoons, beginning Sept. 9, Steinbach Resource Center.

For more information or to register, call Nell Loewen at 320-2453. Space is limited to 10 participants per workshop, so call early, the only cost is for books purchased (optional).

Truthfulness is a corner-stone in character, and if it be not firmly laid in youth, there will ever after be a weak spot in the foundation.

New Bothwell

Edna Vogt 388-4573

Remember all the activities for the Bothwell Family Day, Sept. 7. All activities were listed in last week's column. The weather is supposed to be great, so come out and enjoy. Just the relaxation of visiting with a neighbor or friend is worth the day itself. Come early and enjoy breakfast from 8 to 10 a.m.

Get well wishes

Pauline Funk, wife of Garry, has had a long and difficult week. First it was the pain from severe headaches she had to suffer, then it was awhile before they were able to diagnose the cause and then it was the waiting for surgery. Doctors removed the tumor, located below her brain, that was causing her the pain. We're told the surgery was a success, so a lot of prayers were answered and we're thankful for the skill of doctors. All the best, Pauline.

Tavis and Marilyn Peters' house trailer has been moved to their property, one mile east of town, but they need to do all the connections and water piping yet. I'm sure they're hoping for a long, warm fall.

Condolences

Johnny and Erna received the tragic news of the fatal accident of Johnny's nephew, Shawn Hiebert of Calgary. He is the son of Pete (Cornie) and Darlene Hiebert, Johnny's youngest brother. Johnny and Erna left Sunday for Alberta to be with his brother during this sad time. Sympathy to the family.

Quite a few of us attended a baby shower at the home of Ron and Margaret Camire in Winnipeg for baby Scott Adam, son of Glenn and Treena Camire. Little Scott didn't get too excited about all his great outfits, as he slept away the day. He left the excitement for Mom and Dad.

Comings and goings

Our neighbors, Paul and Evelyn Goulet, have sold their house on Park Bay and will be moving to an apartment in Steinbach. Steve and Carol Tresluck have purchased their place and are looking forward to moving in. All the best, Paul and Evelyn, in your new surroundings.

School news is here again. Our enrollment this year is 165, which seems to be our number. Sept. 12 is Meet the Teacher night, with hot dogs and drinks from 5 to 6 p.m. It's always a great hit and the weather always seems great. A short PTA meeting follows, with students and parents visiting with the teachers after that.

Our only change in staff is our new principal, Leon Reimer. We welcome him to our school and hope he enjoys his new surroundings.

Special birthdays bring out special people, as Harry Banman found out. Coming out especially for Harry's 60th birthday was son Don Banman and grandson, 14-month-old Cameron of Fort St John, B.C. The celebration took place under the picnic shelter with family and friends.

I bet you always thought CBC stood for Canadian Broadcasting Corporation. Well, you're wrong; it's Crumby Broadcasting Corporation. Can you imagine on Sunday they would rather show an American car race, which was rain delayed, instead of a Canadian football game, which they showed after the car race, when the game was actually over. How unCanadian can you get, and they want our support?

Jennifer Henzel spent quite a bit of time at home this summer, as she decided to go back to school this past year. She had applied at three colleges and she was accepted by all three, but she chose Harvard in Boston. Last week she returned to school. She decided to take her car for this term, so her mom Marcia drove back with her to help her move from her apartment to campus. Marcia flew back home nine days later.

Jennifer is taking her second year of her Masters in Business Administration and she just received word she accomplished her first year with honors. Congratulations, that's quite a feat.

Myron and Penny Vogt enjoyed hosting a student from Germany when they lived in Lethbridge, Alta. and now they're again host parents to a grade 11 student from Switzerland. Catharina Rodemeyer is attending school at the SRSS and she is finding it a bit overwhelming, but says every day is a bit better. We hope she enjoys her year in Canada.

Girl Guide registration

Registration for Girl Guides in Niverville will be held Monday, Sept. 9, 7 p.m., in the science room at the Niverville Elementary School. Girls ages 5 to 15 are welcome. For more information call Wendy Blair 388-6826 or Jacky Booth 388-5147.

Pine Ridge Guiding

Cindi Rosolowski 422-8535

July 28 saw girls and Guides from the United Kingdom, Brazil, Ukraine, the United States and Canada converge on Caddy Lake Girl Guide Camp. The camp, called Packs, Paddles and Pals, was an international camp hosted by Girl Guides of Manitoba. Thirty-five girls involved in Guiding, aged 15 and up, enjoyed 11 days/10 nights of hiking, canoeing, horseback riding, miniature golf, swimming, bicycling, and much more.

The tunnels of Caddy Lake were a beautiful part of an overnight canoe trip for half of the girls, and an overnight hiking trip on the Mantario Trail proved to be a challenge the other half of the girls met with pride. Day canoe trips on Caddy Lake and day hiking trips on the Hunt Lake Trail were also part of this adventure camp. All girls were involved in service projects to enhance and beautify the Girl Guide camp at Caddy Lake.

Dusk many nights saw flashlight beams winding down the paths to meet at the lake shore for campfires and songs. On the final night of the camp, girls and Guiders took part in a beautiful peace ceremony. This night also produced many tears, as did the next day, when we had to say good-bye to our international friends and we all left for our homes. One thing I have come to know in Guiding is that it is never really "good-bye," but "I'll talk to you later." By mail, email or seeing each other again at another camp, the friends you make in Guiding are forever.

St Malo

Aline Pilotte 347-5249

News from the Chalet

Claudette Remillard
347-5652

Thursday, Aug. 29, Sherisse, the activity coordinator, organized a celebration for the Chalet residents having a birthday in the month of August. Irma Gosselin, Alice Cure, Dave Parrott, Jean-Baptiste Mulaire, Georges Morin, Brenda Friesen, Sr. Irene Forest, Marcel Deblois and Lucienne Catellier were our special guests. It was nice to see to many residents from the EPH and Assisted Living attend.

A big bouquet to Ron and Margaret Doerksen, along with George and Johanne Friesen who charmed us with their beautiful music and songs. After their performance, the entertainers joined the residents for some cake, juice and friendly visiting.

The birthday party of the month is a regular event at the Chalet. Family members and friends of the person being honored at these parties are welcome to take part. The next birthday party will be held Sept. 17, 2 p.m.

Welcome to new residents: Marie Maynard, Anna Gosselin, Eudore Lacasse and Gilles Lemoine. We hope you enjoy your stay at the Chalet and encourage you to participate in all the activities being offered.

Get well wishes to residents in the hospital: Annie Shydlowski, Mary Shewchun, Emma Gosselin and Bill Kuryk.

The Chalet Malouin has a congregate meal program. Anyone wishing to reserve a meal can do so by calling 347-5735 at least two hours before the scheduled meal time.

The next resident meeting will be held Friday, Sept. 6, 2 p.m. followed by a tea party. Everyone is welcome; try to attend. Lots of valuable information is given out at these meetings and it gives you a chance to voice your opinions and concerns.

Anyone wishing to come along on the St. Vital shopping trip planned for Sept. 9, give me a call. This outing is for anyone in the RM of De Salaberry. You don't have to be a resident of the Chalet to join in.

Chalet Malouin's next regular bingo is Sept. 10.

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