

Good Brothers return to Bluegrass festival

On September 6, Waterford will resound with the freight-train harmonies, and the hot picking of real Kentucky Bluegrass music.

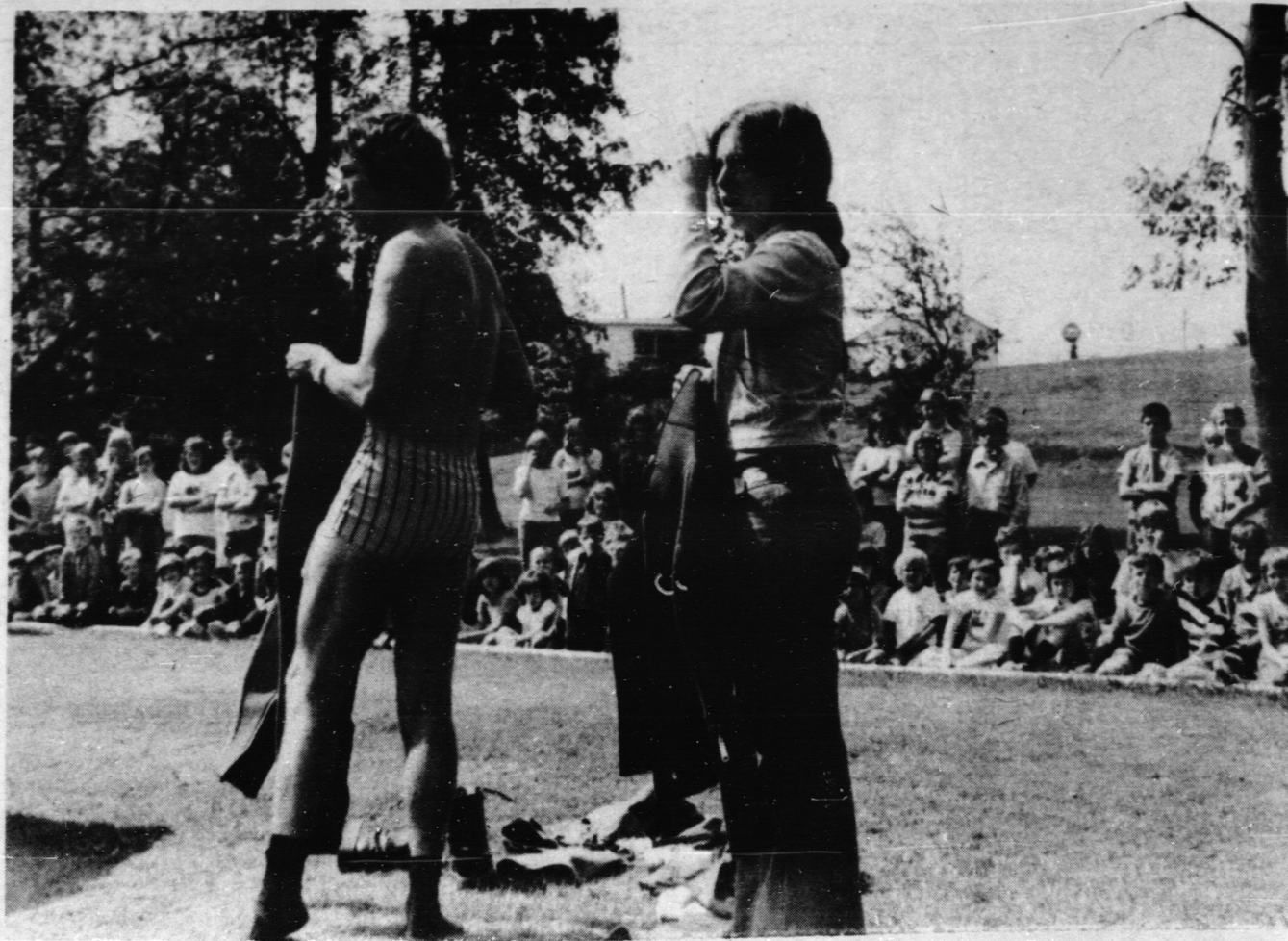
At least seven top Canadian and international Bluegrass groups have been signed for the Saturday show, and arrangements are rapidly being completed for the second Waterford Lions Club Bluegrass Festival.

The Good Brothers, easily the most popular group at

last year's festival will headline the program, along with Black Creek, Norfolk, Motor City Grass, the Dixie Flyers, and Brian Bowers.

The music starts at noon on Saturday at the Waterford Community Centre, and continues until 11 p.m. Proceeds from the show will be used to pay for the City of Nanticoke rescue van which is operated by the Waterford Fire Department.

Complete food and drink facilities will be available at the park and the entertainment will be non stop. Tickets are available at Townsend Pharmacy, Waterford, and the Muntz Centre in Simcoe.



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Sparks gets dunked again

Most Port Rowan residents will not soon forget the day that unexpected visitor, Bob Sparks dropped in, with his propane powered hot air balloon.

Neither will the school children who received an impromptu lesson on ballooning from Mr. Sparks

while they sat on the grass on Stark's Golf Course.

Mr. Sparks, then on a tour of the Great Lakes was attempting to cross Lake Erie, but was blown off course and became an unexpected visitor on Long Point.

He told this reporter at that time that he was making plans for his second trans-Atlantic crossing in a balloon. The first trans-Atlantic attempt almost cost him his

life after he went down in the north Atlantic and foundered in the ocean for more than 24 hours.

Last Wednesday August 20, Bob Sparks was again pulled from the cold waters of the Atlantic Ocean. His helium-filled trans-Atlantic craft went down just 18 hours after taking off from a golf course in Cape Cod. Somewhere the helium structure had sprung a leak.

Mr. Sparks of Pottersville, New Jersey says that he will make a third attempt at crossing the Atlantic but not this year.

"It's a beautiful body of water, and somebody ought

to cross it in a balloon," he said after a United States Coast Guard helicopter plucked him from the bobbing gondola.

"Even after two failures, I still want to do it," he said. "I've learned a lot about survival on these last two attempts."

On his last attempt, Mr. Sparks gained an unscheduled hitchhiker on the take-off.

G. Hadden Wood, crew chief of the balloon, hung onto a rope as the gondola lifted off. He was still dangling there when the craft vanished from the view of 3,000 startled spectators.

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Work stops at Backus Mill

Because of an injury to project leader Louis Gomori work at the Backus Mill has

stopped for the present time. The students involved in Experience 75 program who were working on the Backus Mill project will be transferred to other projects with the Long Point Region Conservation Authority, said Tom Hasket, Authority member at a board meeting last week.

Mr. Gomori was lifting some heavy machinery while working in the mill, and put a disc out in his back.

He was taken to Norfolk General Hospital but was released on August 15. Mr. Gomori will be off work for at least a month.

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Editorial

Greatness in small things

We like to think that we live in the era of the common man, that all persons are worthy of equal respect -- and equal disrespect. But we also live in a time of excessive adulation of certain types of persons -- or Personalities, with a capital "P", as it is now fashionable to call them.

Many of those who receive this adulation are, of course, persons of authentic distinction. But some are of questionable distinction. Not all the stars of entertainment and sport are cast in heroic moulds. We sometimes let ourselves be excessively impressed by celebrities who seem to be well-known mainly for being well-known. And there are those big-shots among us whose big-shottery is, by the skills of the communications experts, magnified all out of proportion.

Our adulations, quite silly though some of them are, tend to engender in many of us feelings of inadequacy and even of failure. Very few of us play starring roles in life. Eminence and greatness -- as we generally judge such things -- evade all but a handful of us. We find that life's selection processes are often capricious and sometimes cruel.

When Bernard Shaw was a drama critic he was impressed by an actor playing a minor role in one act of a play. In his review Shaw described this actor as "a great artist in small things." The best that most of us can hope for is that we may be great artists in small things -- and that can be a very good best.

Let us rejoice in the achievements of those who "make it big" in the things that make life better for all of us. But let us remember that personal greatness is not limited to those who do the big things and get the applause and the admiration of the many. Greatness can also be a quality of those who do unexciting things, routine things, small things which contribute to the good life for all.

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Wisdom from the young

In early August a teen-ager was asked to record what he would remember most about his summer camp experience. His comment was arresting: "I learned," he said, "that justice doesn't mean 'just us'." Those are good words to remember on Labour Day. Nobody likes strikes; they are disruptive and frustrating to everyone, but every purchaser of groceries for a growing family feels the impact of inflation where it hurts. The postman or factory worker has to feed his children just as the banker or civil servant, and a dollar will stretch only so far, whatever our stations.

There are 5 million people in Canada today living below the poverty level and 2/3rds of them are working poor. A good deal of talk and experimentation with the concept of a guaranteed annual income is going on -- a scheme that would help these minimum wage earners enormously. It's worth examining, rather than hotly rejecting it out of hand.

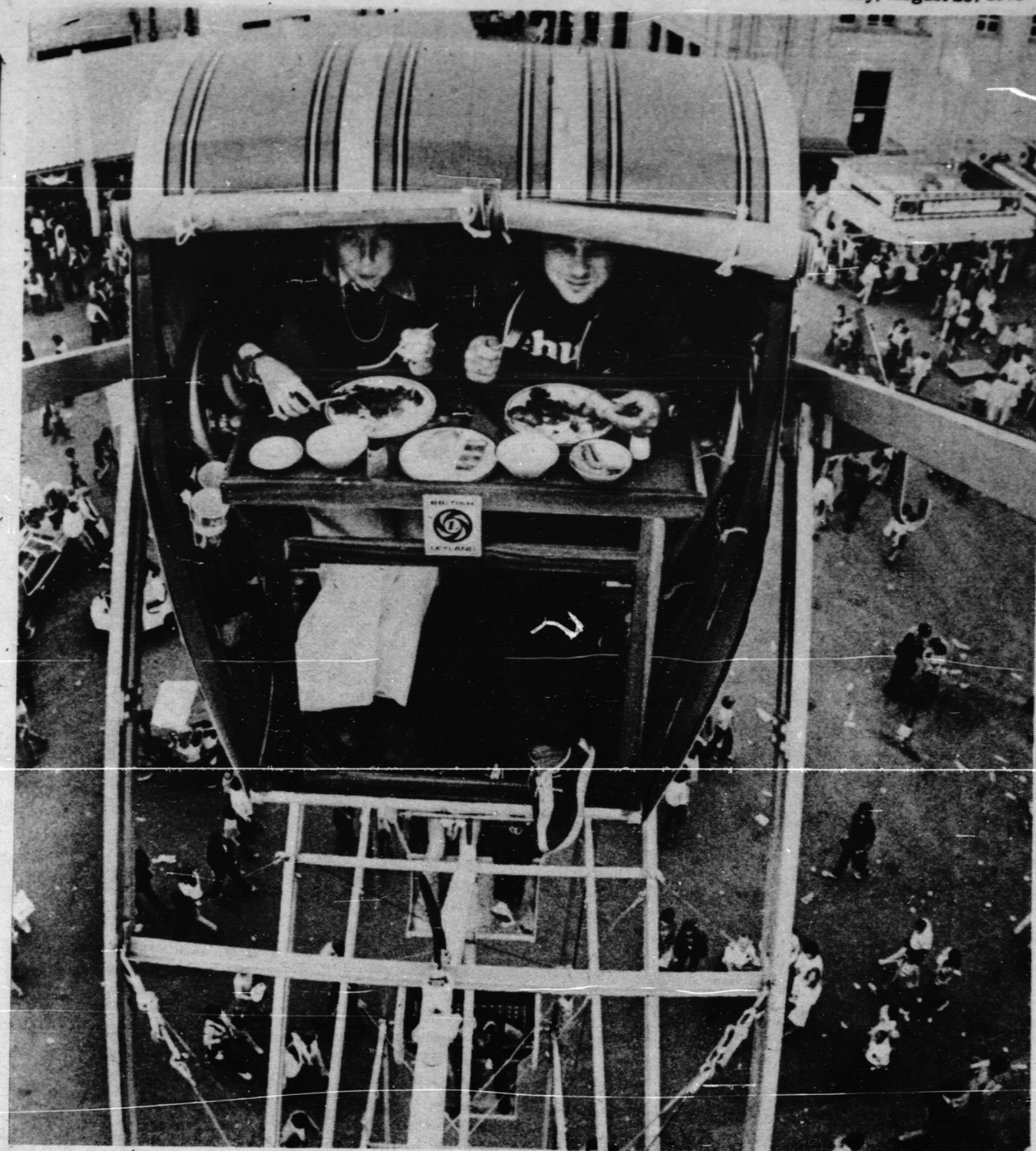
While it's true that pensioners and others on fixed incomes from investment are also caught in the ever-escalating squeeze, not many scream when interest rates rise and owned houses double in value.

In short, we are all in this financial spiral together and until someone, somewhere finds a way out of the frightening maze, patience and a willingness to examine facts are something each of us can contribute to an admittedly frightening economy. The youngster's comment is pertinent. Justice is not 'just us.'

United Church of Canada

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Ten and a half days and halfway into his attempt to break the world ferris wheel endurance record, disc jockey Mike

Cooper and Debbie Cooper enjoy a meal at the top.

Sand Hills theft

While the sand slide was being investigated at the Sand Hills Park, someone thought that the natural diversion would make an ideal opportunity to make of with the cash box from the gate of the park.

Keith Allan Martin, 16, of Hamilton was observed by a

park staff member taking the cash box containing \$145, and trying to get through the gate.

The staff member ordered him to put the box back which he did.

He is charged with theft under \$200.

Spring hangers

Why some young drivers like to use spring hangers to raise the rear end of a car is a mystery. Experts tell the Ontario Safety League the hangers serve no useful purpose. The low profile, wide

tires usually seen on such a vehicle aquaplane easily; the hangers change the vehicle's center of gravity, throw the alignment off, and dangerously expose the gas tank to rupture in the event of a rear-end collision.

Davis Guarantees No More Changes

TORONTO — Premier William Davis has guaranteed Ontario's municipal leaders that there will be no further restructuring of local governments by the provincial government.

In a letter sent to 681 Reeves, Deputy Reeves, and County Councils across the province, Davis noted that there has been continuing interest about the Ontario government's attitude toward new regional governments in the province.

He said: "Perhaps the simplest and most direct way for me to deal with this matter is to quote from the statement which I made to the Association of Municipalities of Ontario on the 6th of August of this year. On that occasion, having spoken of certain of the benefits resulting from regional governments where established and noting the interest shown by people in other parts of Canada, the United States and abroad about regional government in Ontario, I went on to say:

"On the other hand, and this I reaffirm without equivocation, there is no intention to extend regional government or government restructuring any further except where there is a voluntary process undertaken in a particular area. Anyone who states otherwise is clearly trying to deceive people for his own particular ends. We are determined to strengthen local government with greater powers and with more resources to the extent that our resources makes possible."

"I trust that this will set the record straight," he said in his letter to the municipal officials.

The Premier's assurance reflects the approach taken in the County Restructuring Studies Program whereby the provincial government shares with counties and their associated cities and towns the cost of a local government study where the local governments themselves request one.

A cardinal principle of the program, announced in 1973 by Hon. John White, then Minister of Treasury, Economics and Inter-Governmental Affairs, is that the recommendations of an independent commission's study will be implemented only if there is a consensus in favour of such action among the local governments involved.

Introduction of the current program, which has drawn a favourable response from Ontario municipalities, signalled the end of an era in regard to the Government of Ontario's approach to local government reorganization.

During the previous two decades, the provincial government had moved actively to revise a municipal system that had stood relatively unaltered since the Baldwin Act of 1849 and to produce 12 regional governments across the province. The Municipality of Metro Toronto was established as North America's first full-fledged metropolitan government in 1954; others followed in

Ottawa-Carleton, Niagara, Peel, Halton, Thunder Bay, York, Hamilton-Wentworth, Muskoka, Durham, Haldimand-Norfolk and Sudbury.

The advent of regional government was, above all, a response to the growing pressures of industrialization and urbanization which had put tremendous strain on the existing municipal structure. There simply were too many small municipal units -- in 1966, half of Ontario's 900-odd municipalities had fewer than 2,000 inhabitants -- struggling to deal with problems within artificial boundaries and a fragmented decision-making process.

"No one would try to convince you that with restructuring of local government all of the problems have disappeared," said Provincial Treasurer Darcy McKeough in an April, 1975, review of regional government. "Hopefully we have a system of priority-setting and responsibility that can deal in an orderly way with a wide variety of inter-related but very complex problems and issues."

With the major task of constructing 12 regional governments completed, the Davis government adopted a different attitude toward possible restructuring of the remainder of the province where populations were sparser, the urban element less dominant, and such problems as environmental pollution and urban sprawl much less urgent.

Currently, more than 10 counties have initiated studies under the CRSP program with the province agreeing to co-sponsor the work of an independent commissioner. The District of Parry Sound is expecting its report shortly, while Northumberland County has a December, 1975, completion date for its study. The Counties of Bruce, Dufferin, Elgin, Essex, Haliburton, Lanark, Prescott and Russell, Renfrew and Victoria all expect to receive their reports sometime in 1976.

Thus, the process of reshaping local government to meet the needs of the second half of the 20th century has itself adjusted to changing circumstances. But the overall goal of the Government of Ontario remains much as it was stated some years ago by Sam Clasky, former Director of the Regional Planning Branch:

"The Government of Ontario believes that the main way in which we can preserve and strengthen our local community governments is by giving them more to do. In practice, this means giving local governments more responsibility to make decisions. But in order that local governments can exercise their powers effectively they must be organized rationally."

"In other words, by making local government stronger in terms of size, population and finances, we are setting the stage for a major program of decentralization of political power in this province."