

THE SENTINEL-REVIEW

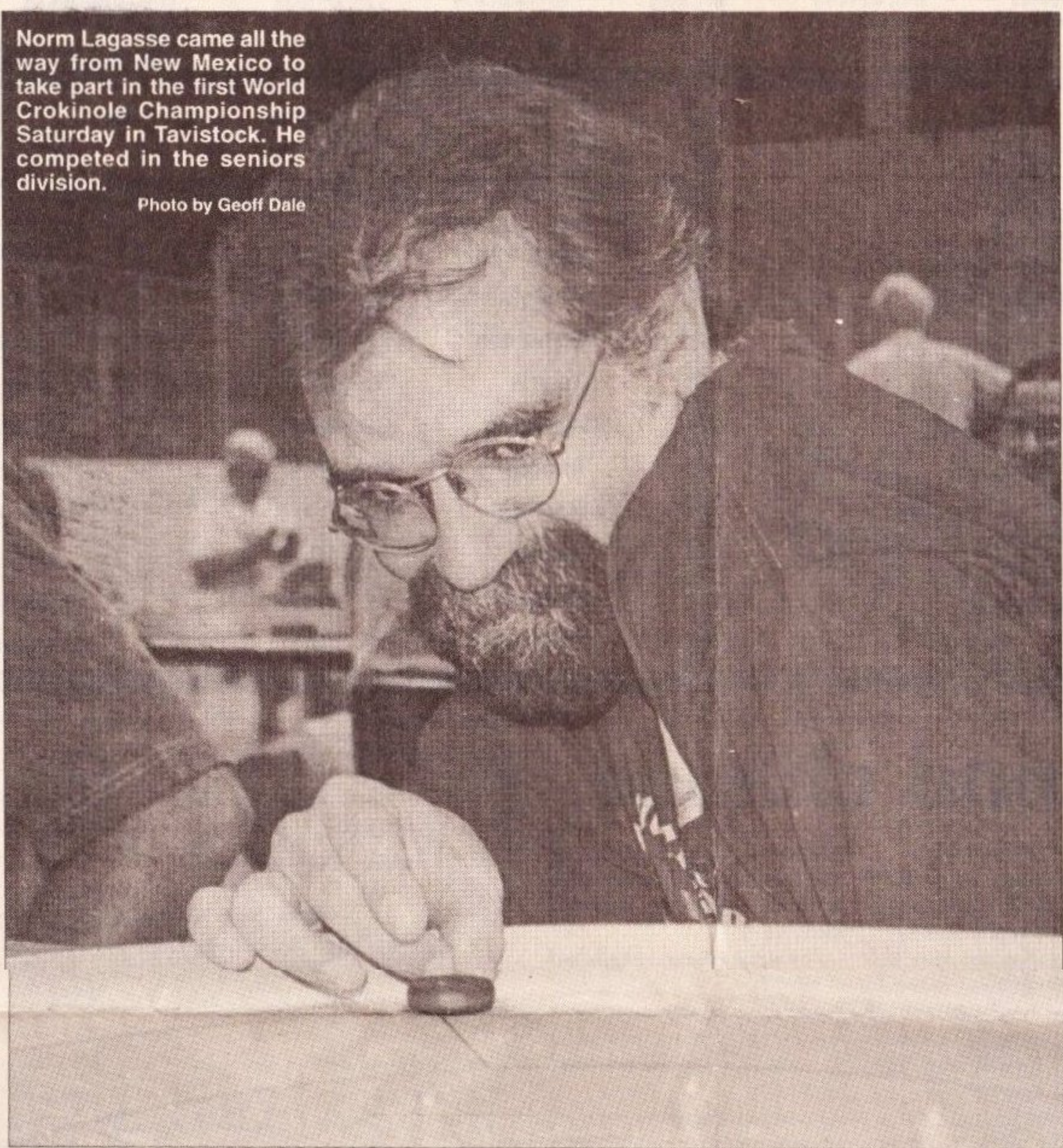
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Oxford County's best news source

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Norm Lagasse came all the way from New Mexico to take part in the first World Crokinole Championship Saturday in Tavistock. He competed in the seniors division.

Photo by Geoff Dale



Tavistock hosts world at crokinole championship

By Geoff Dale
STAFF WRITER

TAVISTOCK – You can keep your Internet, Nintendo and TV. This community is in love with the game of crokinole.

And to prove it's a love affair has taken on a global feel, the village played host to the first World Crokinole Championship Saturday at the Tavistock and District Recreational Centre.

"It was absolutely incredible," said organizer Wayne Kelly. "We got excellent feedback from spectators and participants. There were 240 here, with players from as far away as New Mexico.

"What's amazing is that, with all

the participation from other parts of Canada and five of the states, all 22 winners came from a 50-mile radius around Tavistock. That shows you something about the area and how it loves the game."

Kelly said it's the simplicity, combined with a measure of action, skill and camaraderie, that makes it so popular.

Former Oxford MP Bruce Halliday agrees with that assessment. After 65 years of playing the game, the 73-year-old Tory stalwart has now added refereeing international matches to his resume.

"It's a lot safer than being a referee at a hockey game," he said, with a grin. "Crokinole is a great game,

very relaxing. I've been playing it since I was eight years old.

The 52-year-old Kelly, who owns Mr. Crokinole (a Crokinole game and equipment store), said he's been a player since the age of three.

"There have been efforts to hold an event like this over the years but nothing official," he said. "This is the first one and, well let's face it, Tavistock is a crokinole town.

"We've held a local annual event here for the past decade that attracts more than 200 people; everyone seems to like the game and we have the oldest known board in the world, so we can honestly lay claim to that title."

Winners at Saturday's event:

Singles:

Seniors

- 1st Derik Kidnie, Kitchener
- 2nd Joe Fulop, Exeter
- 3rd Bob Mader, Breslau
- Honourable mention: Dave Scott, Stratford

Intermediate

- 1st Adam Stock, Tavistock
- 2nd Trevor Baer, Plattsville
- 3rd Travis Kropf, Woodstock
- Honourable mention: Corey Bowman, Tavistock

Junior

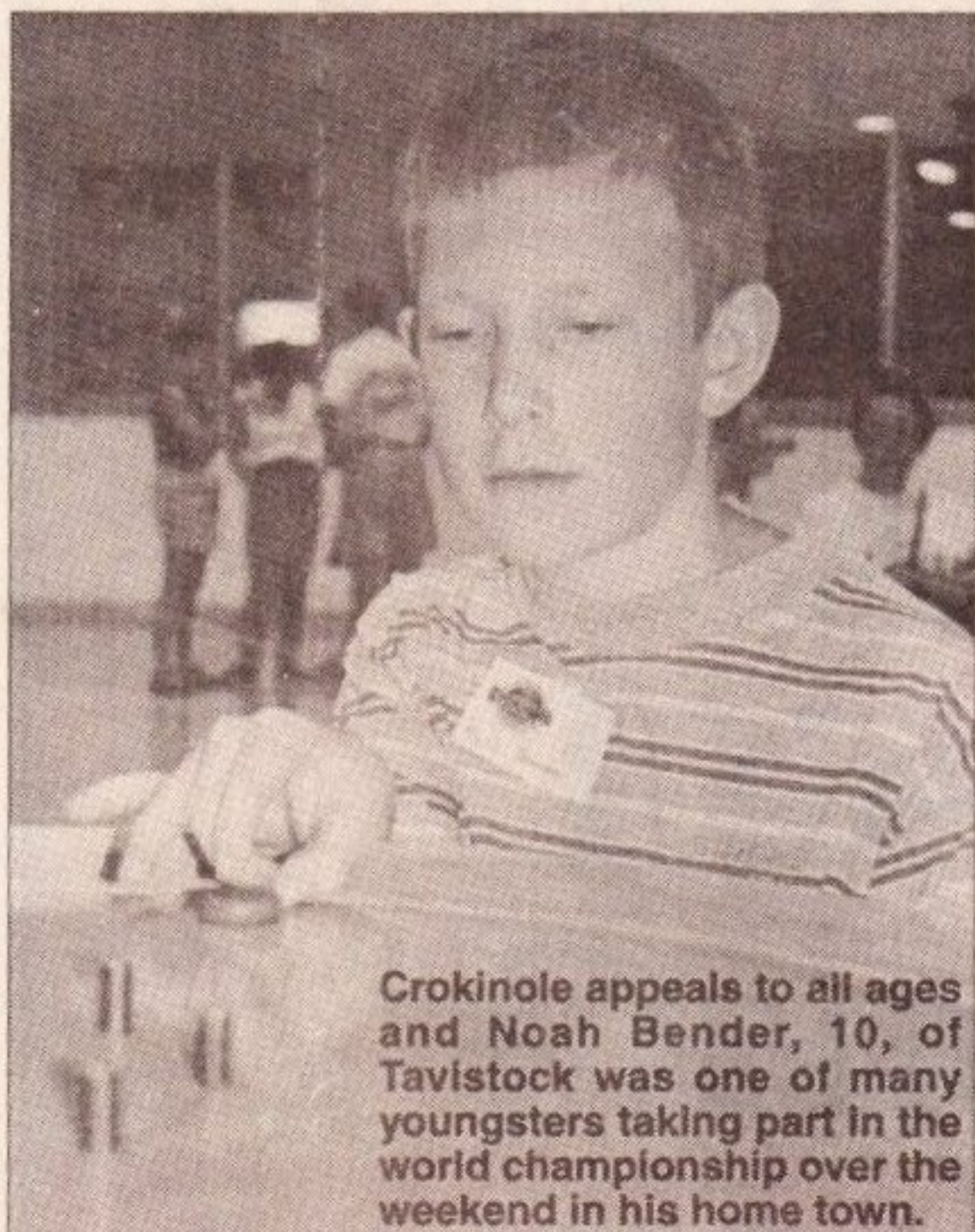
- 1st Andrea Green, Tavistock
- 2nd Josh Ruby, Tavistock
- 3rd Adam Kropf, Woodstock
- Honourable mention: Barratt Bender, Tavistock

Doubles:

- 1st Oscar Weber, Enoch Weber, St. Jacobs
- 2nd Waldron Eckstein, Roy Parker, New Hamburg
- 3rd Donald Neal, Mike Neal, Arthur

Cue Crokinole (doubles):

- 1st Jason Beierling, Raymond Beierling, Varna
- 2nd Bill Freeman, Dan Shantz, Petersburg
- 3rd Don McLean, Charles Fraser, Kitchener



Crokinole appeals to all ages and Noah Bender, 10, of Tavistock was one of many youngsters taking part in the world championship over the weekend in his home town.