

Polio In Family Launched Minister On Hobby Of Mercy

It was just 16 years ago that Sheila Essex came home after five years in hospital with polio. And it was that summer of 1954 which launched her father into an intense interest in respirators which has benefited not only Sheila but disabled people throughout Ontario.

Rev. Roy Essex, who is now 60 and very active as a Baptist chaplain in Toronto, found he had to learn about respirators in order to keep his daughter breathing. But just enough knowledge to do this did not satisfy him. Having had engineering training before becoming a minister, he wanted to know all about every kind of respirator then in use.

The March of Dimes, now known as the Ability Fund, was all for it. It sponsored a trip for him to Conitech, N.Y., where he learned about the Huxley machine (invented by a relative of Aldous Huxley for one of the family who had contracted polio). Then he spent a week in Denver, Colo., to learn the intricacies of the Monaghan

machine, and another week in Boulder, Colo., to find out about the Thompson. Back home he managed to learn enough about other machines, such as the large Drinker machine in which the patient is almost totally enclosed — as compared to the others which embrace only the chest in a plastic shell.

And ever since this training, Mr. Essex has been repairing respirators, free of charge, for anyone in Ontario who needs the service. When he has to go out of town — recent trips, for example, were made to Kingston, Owen Sound and Nipigon — the Ability Fund pays his expenses. He's liable to get a call at 3 a.m. or during a weekend because obviously when one is unable to breathe properly, it's an emergency situation. He regularly services the machines of about 25 people and every once in a while he has a call from someone he hasn't heard of before.

The demand for respirators is gradually

falling as the incidence of new polio cases has fallen to almost zero — there were just two new cases in all of Ontario in 1969. This is precisely why a man like Mr. Essex is so useful. Ever since discovery of the Salk vaccine in 1955, the demand is so low compared to the late 40s and early 50s that it is difficult to get necessary replacement parts. New models are now being made but many patients prefer not to change. Mr. Essex sometimes has to cannibalize another machine for a part, or have it made up specially.

In most cases the respirator is used only at night for old polio cases, but new uses are being found for it. Respirators have been found useful when a person breaks his neck, also in certain forms of sclerosis. And Mr. Essex and the Ability Fund, which tries to rehabilitate adults who have been disabled from any accident or disease, do their best for them all.

From his experience with disabled people, Mr. Essex has developed a philosophy. "The essence of a return to normalcy is that a disabled person be treated like any other," he says. "A disabled person does not want pity, but he does need help to get started back on the road to independence."

Renton Personals

A shower was held at the home of Mrs. Dr. Metcalfe on Wednesday night in honor of Mrs. Ron Lindsay (Joyce Lloyd) and Mrs. Bing Lunday (Jean Lloyd). The evening was spent in games and contests. Later, the brides opened their gifts followed by a lovely lunch.

A few from this district attended the auction sale held at Erie, sponsored by the Chalmers Presbyterian Church on Friday night.

Mr. and Mrs. J. W. Chase, Mr. and Mrs. Leighton Kitchen and Charlene of Simcoe, Mr. and Mrs. Joe Lovianski and children of Nixon, Mr. Earl Duncan of Turkey Point, Mr. and Mrs. Dick Matthews and children and Mr. W. Walker of Port Dover, Mr. and Mrs. Paul Weidendorf and Lorraine were Sunday supper guests at the home of Mrs. Geo. Duncan.



Mrs. Jean Ballantyne Page and Rev. Roy Essex demonstrate use of a respirator which he keeps in good repair for her. Mrs. Page, who had polio, earns a living at home taking telephone orders for a chemical company. She is a good example of the conviction by The Ability Fund (formerly the March of Dimes) that disabled people have many abilities left to help them live a useful and satisfying life.

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Point Of View On Our Times

With the Seventies now well under way it is obvious that the newsmakers of this decade are the young.

The hippies are young, Western Maoists are young, protesters are young, revolutionaries are young, and even among politicians and business leaders the strong voice is that of youth.

To some, the one area in which the young seem totally united in disinterest is the established church in the community. Most consider it a Victorian relic that has long since ceased to have meaningful existence.

The contrast is among Jehovah's Witnesses. Karen Wilcox of the (Age 14, of R.R.3, Jarvis) Hagersville Congregation, puts it this way, "We believe in social justice and equality, but we know that social upheaval isn't the way. We want peace, and we're preaching it, but history argues revolution won't accomplish it. Demonstrations are useful only if they demonstrate something, we're demonstrating that peace works — now! Jehovah's Witnesses have an international reputation for non-violence."

The outlook of these young people is refreshing. They agree that this is a time of revolutionary world change. They agree that the clergy and orthodox church systems have ceased to be relevant in a changing world — in fact Jehovah's

Witnesses have been saying so for more than 40 years. Rather than a uniform of individuality, these young people believe that miniskirts, beards and long hair have become the badge of conformity. They believe that relaxed morality, a permissive society, drug abuse and disrespect for authority have combined to boil a cauldron of hopelessness that has spilled over to scald every strata of society and every part of the world.

"The one sure prospect for better things is so simple, so unsophisticated, so practical and so real that it is just not acceptable to a society that is determined to complicate the simple", Karen continued. "Jehovah God himself will administer a government of peace. He has promised it, and we're convinced by many evidences that it will be a reality — in our time. One need not even be a believer in the Bible to know that we live in a disintegrating world. This system is finished. Man has heard a lot about student power, black power and even red power, but few give thought to improvement through God's Power. So why not put confidence in the only real answer. Jehovah God has promised it, he has the ability to do it — and has always fulfilled his promises in the past."

About 16,000 delegates are expected to attend the Men of Good Assembly scheduled for Toronto's Woodbine Racetrack, July 30-August 2, more than half of whom will be young people with a purpose. Karen was one of 20 young people attending from the congregation.

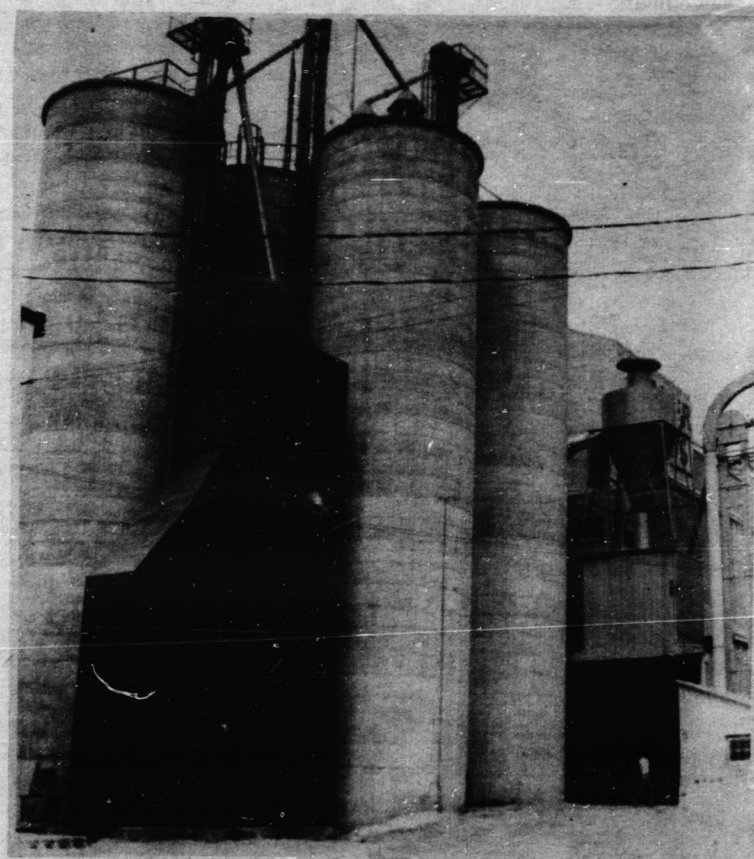
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Children cool off in the wading pool at Haldimand County Park. (Staff Photo)

This Week

Specially Written for
The Record
By The Canadian Press
Provincial Secretary
Robert Welch promised last week that the government

will broaden its programs to give better help to immigrants trying to establish themselves in Ontario. He made the statement after a provincially commissioned study was released saying both Queen's Park and Ottawa have failed to commit themselves to a policy of integrating newcomers.

Mr. Welch said that many of the 23 major recommendations contained in the Ontario Economic Council study are valid.

Among the first of the study's recommendations to be carried out by the government will be establishment of reception centres for immigrants at major points of entry, he said.

ASS IMMUNIZATION

Health Minister John Munro said last week that the federal government is very concerned about the high incidence of German measles and that most provinces are planning mass immunization of school children in the fall.

Dr. J. S. Bell, chief of Ontario's epidemiology service, said earlier in the week, however, that there is no epidemic of German measles in Ontario and that the number of cases reported this year is actually lower than last year.

Mr. Munro agreed that the present rate of 60 cases of German measles per 100,000 people is far below the epidemic rate of 300 to 400 cases.

Mr. Munro said he was concerned about the high

number of cases, 8,700 so far this year, but added that the peak usually comes in the spring, followed by a decline.

TOTAL SHUTDOWN

Postmaster-General Eric Kierans said last week he doesn't "know how much longer we can go on like this" in the contract impasse between the government and 27,000 postal workers.

Alcoholism Treated

VANCOUVER (CP) — The Central City Mission here hopes to have at least 50 of British Columbia's alcoholics off skid road and on the path to a rejection of alcoholism this year.

The mission recently opened a new alcoholic recovery unit at its downtown headquarters following a \$42,000 conversion program.

It started off with six men from a pilot project now operating within the mission's live-in care unit and eventually will provide a residence and intensive treatment for 30 chronic alcoholics.

"We took a chance that the project would work within the domiciliary care unit", said Canon Stanley Biggs, executive officer of the mission.

"The results have been amazing. We have got 14 men off welfare."

Those entering the unit will be in the 20 to 50 age group, referred from outside agencies in co-operation with the province's department of corrections.

The unit will be staffed by three counsellors, an

orderly and medical and catering staff. The men will be free to come and go. They will be encouraged to take up hobbies and given jobs in the unit to get them into a daily routine. They also will have films, outings and at least six Alcoholics Anonymous meetings available weekly.

"The basis of treatment is group therapy", said Canon Higgs. "The alcoholic gets to know himself and his problem."

"Association with others breaks down the isolation of alcoholics and they learn to argue and discuss without resorting to violence. "If we can get 50 men off drink in a year — or if we cure just one — the project will have been a success."

"We have broken the belief that men cannot be treated for alcoholism while living on skid road. If they can beat it here they can beat it anywhere, and they do."

Canon Higgs said he hopes the men will be able to find jobs after treatment with the interests they are given at the unit.

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