

Adult Workshop Receives Stereo And Camera From C.S.S.

The regular monthly meeting of the Haldimand Association for the Mentally Retarded was held on Monday, April 1st at the Adult Opportunity Centre on Hwy. 56. Twenty members were present.

The meeting was opened by the President, Mr. Norman Crawford, with the prayer for the Mentally Retarded.

The report on the workshop was given by Director Mrs. Jennie Deagle. She showed members a beautiful stereo and Instamatic camera which had been presented to the Workshop by the Student Council of the Cayuga Secondary School. Mrs. Sandra Arnold presented Mrs. Deagle with a cheque for \$50 on behalf of the Fisherville Home and School. Mrs. Deagle also reported that the proceeds from two card parties held by the Hagersville Legion had been given to the workshop.

The report on the Haldimand School was given by Mrs. Quinn, who brought along a quilt, which was given to the school by Mrs. McKay of Dunnville, and quilted by the Ladies of the United Church in Cayuga. This quilt is to be raffled at the May meeting, and the proceeds will be given to the Camp Fund.

Mr. George Wandelt gave a report on the residence. It is the hope of the Association that plans for a permanent residence for the Mentally Retarded of the County will soon materialize.

Other reports were given by Mrs. Grace Baldwin (Family Services) Mrs. Eva Hobbs (Camp), Mr. Lynn Brown (Recreation) and Mrs. Keith Neale (Membership).

The highlight of the evening was a report

given by Mr. Howald, Supervisor of the Haldimand School with the Board of Education, and Mrs. Eustace, Board Member and member of the Advisory Council, on an O.A.M.R. workshop in Toronto which they had both attended.

The main theme of the workshop was "Integration". It should be remembered that our own school here in Cayuga was a pioneer in the area of integration

between our children and the children in the Public School. At Centennial Collegiate, Guelph there are 20 students between 14-20 years old. Except for their own teachers and two classrooms, they mingle freely with the other students. They eat together in the cafeteria and share social and sporting events. Each student was assigned a "buddy" to show them around the school, but after six weeks they

were completely independent.

In Toronto, a group of students were taught to read maps of the city and can now find their way alone, on and off buses and subways.

In the Lincoln and Cambridge areas, students are learning simple horticultural skills, and work with the community in mowing and raking lawns, cutting hedges, etc.

This integration is exciting and opens up a whole new picture of acceptance of our people by the communities. We hope it will increase as the general public becomes more aware of the potentials of the Mentally Retarded, and also of the problems they face during the integration period. It may be of interest to the reader that the motto of the Haldimand School is "Their hope is your understanding".

What Is It?

It happened again on April 3rd in the Fisherville Community Centre.

As I returned home on the wings of a song, I burst in and almost yelled "It happened again".

I was asked "What is it that you seem to glow about?"

I was embarrassed, looked down and couldn't explain. The girl who asked me wasn't there, and I didn't know how to express what it was.

I knew 178 other Hospital Auxilians who were returning to another 178 homes could each say in her own way that "it" was real - that it was as real as the electric current that comes into their homes.

Finally I blurted out, "I don't know what it is, but once a year when up to two hundred West Haldimand Hospital Auxilians get together at their annual meeting, it is as if a bomb of happiness comes down and explodes - sending its spray into so many hearts all at once. There is a force, a driving force of giving concentrated there, that makes itself felt.

It is not the coffee we have made.

It is not the weariness we have experienced.

It is not the money we have been able to raise.

It is that each of those 178 knows secretly in her own heart that she and her family in allowing her to serve, have given without any thought except for the well being of the unfortunate ill, and their loved ones.

It is that each one knows she has had a

smile for the tired nurses.

It is that she knows she has been sensitive to the relatives of the ill, or dying, who wish sometimes to talk and sometimes to be silent.

It means that each Auxilian somehow grows nearer to her God as in her concern for the troubled, she says in her own way, "Give me please the wisdom to speak if I should or to shut up if I should".

One hundred and seventy-eight of you have felt the impact of this happiness bomb.

It is felt in York, Empire, Garnet, Nelles Corners - all over West Haldimand and beyond.

What is this "it" fellow Auxilians? I ask you to write about it. Tell us who we are, what we have done, what we plan to do, so that my friend may understand what "it" is.

Edith Filsinger, Cayuga.

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Purpose:

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Speaker:

A. D. Fisher,
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