No Sound speaks up for the world of silence

By LORI MATSUMOTO

Common living editor

No Sound, the soon-to-be-released autobiography of Julius Wiggins, is a story of a man who overcame deafness, but does so with humor.

And will bring back years.

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three children lived on three.

Community living editor for 10 years before publishing the Silent News a year and a half ago.

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Mr. Wiggins and his wife and three children lived on Action Avenue in Downsview for 10 years before moving to Fair Lawn, New Jersey to begin publishing the Silent News a year and a half ago.

The Silent News, with a circulation of 4,000, is a monthly newspaper carrying the specifically for deaf people.

Mr. Wiggins and his sons Morton, 14, and Steven, 12, Morton went to court for the past year and a half and is "hopeful that eventually it will go bi-monthly and then possibly weekly."

The current circulation is over 2,000 copies but most of the circulation is in the east coast. Wiggins said, "We are trying to get further west, to get more clubs information on it."

THE SILENT NEWS BOOK REVIEW

Published shortly by the Silent Press, Inc.

Another need he fulfilled was to bring to hearing people the realization of what it's like to be deaf. He has done this through his work with the Silent Press Inc. Raised in an era when there were few aids for the handicapped, Wiggins takes the reader to his world, a silent one, and shows how his barriers that normal persons seldom understand fully.

was six months old, explained the worst part of being deaf. "When an infant sees the dim sensation was sourfd. It was understood, little understanding of his life at the Ontario School for the Deaf in Belleville, Canada. It focuses on a deaf working man and tells of a normal world and how he succeeds.

Julius Wiggins was deaf at the age of six months following a severe cold, infected mastoids and an operation for appendicitis.

It tells of his years at the School for the Deaf in Belleville, recalls what it was like to deliver milk by cart in the Kensingtong district with his grandfather during the war, when the Belleville school was closed and he had to attend a hearing school, of his first trip to magical New York and the courtship of his wife Harriet, also deaf.

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And finally it tells of the work involved in setting up a newspaper, particularly when neither the publisher nor the editor can hear.

The book has been in planning for six years, Mr. Wiggins was added by Flora Clark, also deaf, who wrote the first draft; Sarah Dora, who revised and wrote the final draft; and Shel don Wiggins, who did some preliminary editing and helped his brother with the introduction. Today both Mr. and Mrs. Wiggins depend on their three children to answer the phone for them and relay messages. Morton travels a great deal with his father, takes pictures for the paper and often acts as an interpretor.

In fact, at the age of 12, Morton went to court for his parents who wanted a zoning variance to build an enclosed porch behind their house in Fair Lawn. Morton not only won the case but he told the zoners he hoped to become a lawyer board attorney Joseph Spreviere jumped to his feet and said "Fascina, we have enough competition in this profession now, without dealing with a person of the great intellect."

After his school years, which are recorded very vividly, Wiggins moves into the fur trade that he learned in part from his father. Wiggins left for New York City when he was 18 years old and worked in a number of fur houses before he started his fur business with his hearing brother.

Yers later after he had met and married Harriet Barkawiza and they had three children, the entire family moved here.

Since that time, Wiggins has concentrated on the newspaper business instead of the furrier game. He has been publishing the newspaper for the past year and a half and is "hopeful that eventually it will go bi-monthly and then possibly weekly."

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Julius Wiggins, right, who has been speechless and deaf from infancy, poses with his son Morton, 14, and his soon-to-be-released autobiography No Sound. MIRROR photo

DEADLINE'S NEAR — Julius Wiggins, left, and his son Morton start laying out next month's edition of the Silent News.

The paper is a family venture, and all the children assist in its make-up, Adele, a high school junior, has been answering the phone for his parents since she was two years old. The first issue of the paper was put out by his first son, Morton, 14. The youngest member, Steven, a first grader at Warren Point Annex, has not started answering the phone for his parents. Wiggins' wife Harriet types and lays out all of the copy which includes news, four nationwide gossip columns, sports, recipes, club news and a column which straightens out problems for the deaf.

What future plans does Julius Wiggins have? "It is continuous improvement of the paper, more books for audio books," he said and finally taking his book accepted and widely read, Morton said, "My dad always has ideas, he never sits around; he always wants me to do something."