

Bowler, William



It has been an interesting 20 years for the William Bowler family of Foxboro as he and his wife, Helen have raised these three strapping lads. Left to right, Raymond, Roger and Ronald were born about five minutes apart at Belleville General Hospital on March 31, 1964.

Parents recall arrival of triplets

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By JACK EVANS
Staff Reporter

For Bill and Helen Bowler of Foxboro, the "three r's" are not "reading, 'riting and 'rithmetic" but their three sons, Raymond, Roger and Ronald. Their arrival as triplets is an event very much remembered by both parents, especially since the family and friends just got together on the weekend to celebrate their 20th birthday as of March 31, 1964.

"They were only about five minutes apart, recalls Mrs. Bowler, "and it really threw the delivery room into a tizzy."

It had a similar effect on the father. "There were no indications from the doctor to suspect triplets or even multiple births," he said. "When they came out of the delivery room I thought they were fooling me, but it was no joke. And, to make matters worse, no one would believe me when I told them." (They

happened to occur on the day before April Fool's Day.)

It was Mrs. Bowler's first children "and my last," she said.

Now aged aged 20, the boys have been helping their father in the family business for quite a few years, but, admits Bowler, "Helen did most of the raising of them. She developed a system to change all their diapers at once and buy them new clothes all at once."

The "freebies" were few and far between, they said, although some free formula and baby food was provided in the early months.

All three went to school at Foxboro Elementary and Quinte Secondary. The school, especially in senior classes, made an effort to place the boys in different classes because teachers thought it was not good for them to be together all the time.

As for the boys, a life of triplets can be

"embarrassing" some of the time, according to one of them.

There were the usual confusions from time to time. Even the father admitted having problems telling them apart sometimes, but Mrs. Bowler says "I could always tell, even by the way they cried."

The birth was a major event in Belleville at the time. News photographs were taken and a crew from CKWS-TV, Kingston, was sent over. It was the first triplets at the hospital in 27 years.

None of the boys are married yet, but girl friends are popular. Meanwhile, they all help out in the television antenna and disc and electric fencing business Bill Bowler was just starting up when they were born.

"I don't think it was that difficult," he summed up. "You raise three just like you raise one."

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