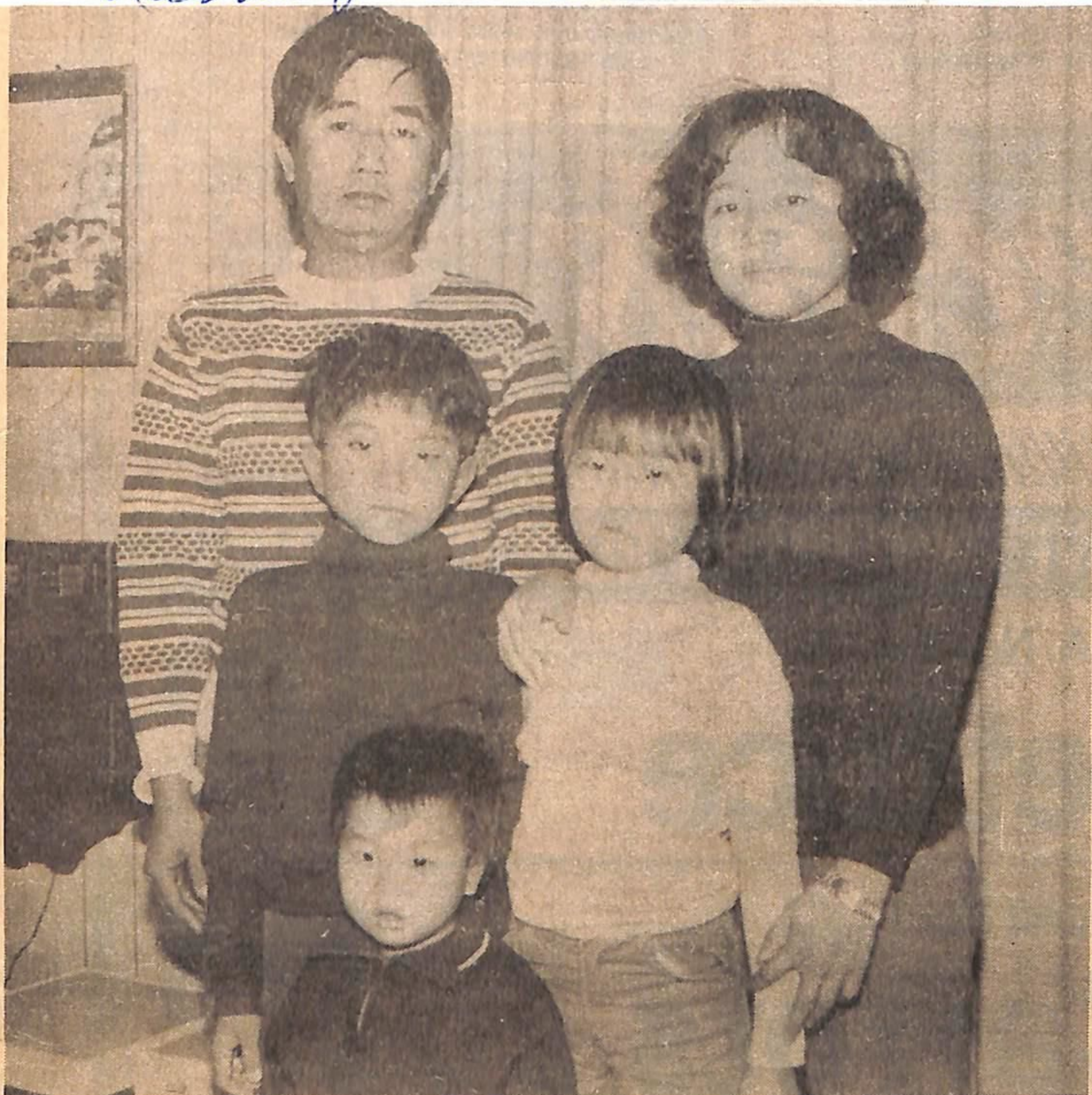


1980
February



Pictured here are the Duangratdy family from Laos, who came to Canada from a refugee camp in Thailand: Buaphet (father) and Kieng

(mother) with their three children, Khan Yang (8), Kham Dy (7) and Kham Boon (3).

1980

Boat people arrive

On Saturday, February 9th the Duangratdy family arrived in Lion's Head.

They were met at Toronto airport by Mrs. Anna Russell and Mr. Aimo Manninen who then drove them to Lion's Head. So the Duangratdy family completed one more stage in their long, dangerous journey to a new life. All five of them, Bua Phet the father, Kieng the mother, Kham Yang the 8-year-old son and Kham Dy and Kham Boon their daughters who are respectively 7 and 3, were born in Pakse, Laos and are all ethnically Chinese.

Mr. Duangratdy was the owner of a building supplies

store in Pakse. In November of 1977 they decided to leave Laos because of the communist take-over. They left by bus and then walked through the jungle for two days until they came to the Mekong River which forms the border between Laos and Thailand. They paid to be ferried across to Thailand. The Duangratdy's were very afraid that they might be caught by the Thai border police and sent back to Laos. Fortunately they were not spotted. They caught a bus to the Lao Refugee Camp at Ubol, a camp of over 40,000 persons and lived in a mud hut in the camp. In order to support his family, Mr. Duangratdy

made noddles with a hand machine and sold them at the camp.

At present, they are all staying at the United Church Manse in Lion's Head while more permanent accommodation is found for them. They are obviously a very close, quiet, appreciative, trusting, resourceful family. Their first tasks will be to complete all the governmental formalities, get themselves somewhat orientated and to begin the difficult task of learning to speak English. We welcome them among us and hope that their future in Canada will be bright and happy.