

# Acton volunteers assist Ontario's largest manhunt for Kilbride girl, abductor

Despite what police term a "superhuman" search effort by at least 18,000 police and volunteers from all over Southern Ontario, 10-year-old Marianne Schuett of Kilbride was still on the missing list at press-time today.

The girl, object of Ontario's largest manhunt, disappeared after four o'clock Thursday afternoon and it is feared she was abducted by a middle-aged man driving a late-model foreign type station wagon. Witnesses reported seeing the girl, as she walked home from school Thursday, stop to talk to a man in a car near her home two houses away from the school.

To date, rewards totalling \$5,500 have been posted for information leading to the conviction of her abductor. Her distraught parents, Mr. and Mrs. Milton Schuett of Kilbride, have pleaded for her safe return and even offered to sell their modern home and turn the money over, if only their daughter can return safely to them.

The girl, described as "small" for her age, is the second child in the Schuett family. Her brothers John and Stephen are aged 15 and five. When she disappeared, Marianne was wearing a red car coat, a red plaid skirt, blue socks and running shoes. She wore white blouse under her red cardigan. She weighed about 70 lbs.

Several neighbors reported she was a shy girl and had refused when neighbors offered her rides to school, even in bad weather.

Witnesses who approached police to help after her disappearance said a few weeks earlier a man had offered a ride to a Kilbride school classmate of Marianne's. Descriptions of the foreign model car — first a Renault and later an Opel — were given by several witnesses. While two men saw her get into the man's car, several said they saw her talking to the driver.

Police on Sunday issued an artist's sketch of the suspect, which was circulated to newspapers and other press media. The man was described as thin, dark haired, and aged 35 to 40, but the police drawing indicated the man might be older than that. He also wore dark glasses.

The incident which touched off nationwide sympathy for the distressed family, began Thursday afternoon when the girl did not return home from school at the usual time. Her mother telephoned the school to see if she had stayed late, only to find that the caretaker was the only one in the school.

Mrs. Schuett then phoned several neighbors, but no one had seen her daughter. At 5 p.m. she and a friend, Mrs. Dorothy Nykoruk searched the Kilbride area in Nykoruk's car.

Police were notified at 5:30 p.m. and soon several police were on the scene, organizing men and women from the community into search parties. Mr. Schuett was at work at Ford Motor Company in Oakville at the time, and rushed home when notified of his daughter's disappearance.

Soon Mrs. Wilbert Ford, the school caretaker, was organizing women of the district into a coffee and sandwich brigade to feed the searchers, many of whom were going without their supper to assist the policemen.

They searched on into the night, covering the Kilbride district, and while some stayed through the night others went home to rest before joining the search at 5:30 the next morning, Friday. Meanwhile, the Halton County Emergency Measures Organization, militiamen, police carrying walkie-talkies, motorcyclists, dogs and men on horseback were joining the hunt.

Friday's all-day search started with about 200 men and grew to over 400 as the day wore on and publicity spread. Radio and TV stations sent reporters to the scene to assist in publicizing the need of searchers and food. Two planes went aloft and more dogs were brought in to assist.

Late in the day, Const. Jerry Perryberry, a motorcyclist officer with Milton O.P.P., found a blue running shoe on Highway 25 near 17 Sideroad in Esqueping Township — 20 miles north of the village of Kilbride. Mrs. Schuett said it was her daughter's but police could not be certain as it was a common type of shoe worn by many children. Nevertheless, at that point it was the only substantial clue to her whereabouts.

Police from many municipal and O.P.P. detachments joined the search on Friday. Several more clues were turned up but none proved as significant as the shoe at Speyside.

While classes continued at the school, the school grounds were converted into an emergency centre complete with food services, radio communications centre, maps and a St. John Ambulance station. While children frolicked on the playground at recess time, they were surrounded by police.

## Acton volunteers

Tuesday evening an appeal was broadcast asking local garage operators or farmers who might have an information on towing a damaged car to report to Burlington police.

Apparently oil slicks and scrape marks, and two sets of tire tracks indicate a car was towed from a spot on No. 17 sideroad, near No. 25 highway, just a half mile from where a running shoe, identified as the missing girl's was found. A small foreign-made car was there Thursday afternoon. It is believed that car had a broken oil pan.

With the discovery of this clue, the search was directed toward the Speyside area again Wednesday morning, with police cruisers assembled to bring officers to direct the day's plans.

All R-4 Renault station wagons in the province will be checked out by police.

Acton Boy Scouts and young people belonging to Project Acton assisted in the search on Saturday and Sunday. They combed assigned areas of the countryside near Speyside, some of them in swamps with water as high as their hips. They were given lunch by other volunteers.

Gordon Clow used his two-way radio equipped truck to assist the searchers.

Army and militia personnel searched as far north as the Acton area on Sunday.

searchers, horses, dogs and helicopters. Meanwhile farmers, firemen, factory workers, boy scouts, postmen, scuba divers and women flocked to the area. They ranged in age from teenagers to grandmothers.



**THE WANTED MAN:** Police artists, after talking to witnesses who say they saw Marianne Schuett of Kilbride get into a man's car Thursday, provided this drawing of the suspect. He and the girl have been the object of a county-wide search and a province-wide alert.

By Saturday it was turning out to be the province's largest manhunt. But after over 5,000 men and women had combed over 500 square miles of fields, swamps, gulleys and roadsides in both the Kilbride and Speyside areas, there was still no trace of the girl. At one point early in the day police were appealing on TV and radio stations for more volunteers and searchers, but before the day ended they were pleading with people to stop coming and stop sending food — the volunteers had far surpassed the need.

Police were flooded with new clues as the day wore on. One man turned up the license number of the wanted car with an outija board, which was checked out and proved a false tip. A woman reported a vision of a girl in a nearby lake and scuba divers searched the waters for hours without turning up a clue.

Sightings of the car and the wanted suspect came in a flood, and each one was meticulously checked out by the police, without any success.

Sunday the search resumed and official "guesstimates" of the crowd ranged above the 10,000 figure. Organizers were swamped again with food and coffee as commercial firms and bakeries despatched truckloads of refreshments to feed the horde.

The volunteers, guided by police from a variety of area detachments, methodically checked concessions and back

roads throughout Halton and neighboring counties in hopes of finding the missing girl. The response was so overwhelming police were forced to call a halt to the mass search by volunteers on the Monday. That day instead, police, E.M.O. volunteers and selected citizens made more thorough searches of several areas.

Response to the weekend search was overwhelming, Burlington Police said. Women of the community served hot meals in the church basement, the Salvation Army sent in a crew of workers to help feed the hungry, and estimates went as high as 80,000 sandwiches the women prepared while the men scoured the district for traces of the girl. Hundreds of gallons of coffee and milk were consumed.

School buses, taxis, army trucks and private trucks were quickly volunteered by many, to transport the searchers to the areas under police guidance. One army truck carrying 40 volunteers rolled over and one teenager was seriously injured while another 11 were treated at hospital and released.

Some police forces cancelled all leaves and placed their men and cars at the disposal of the search organizers. Numerous known sex offenders throughout this part of Ontario were questioned by police.

When police issued the sketch of the wanted man Sunday, district police stations

were flooded with calls from people who thought they had seen the suspect. One officer at Milton O.P.P., who received three telephone clues within 10 minutes on Monday said, "we are checking every clue thoroughly. We may make 99 investigations for nothing, but the 100th one might prove to be a help."

As of Tuesday, the rewards had climbed to \$5,500. The Attorney-General's Department put up \$2,000, Burlington Board of Education \$1,000, Burlington Council \$1,000, the Hamilton Spectator \$1,000, and Local 707 UAW at Ford a further \$500.

Hopes of finding the little girl alive and safe have diminished each hour since her disappearance. Police said the abductor probably won't strike again in this area, but parents are warned to remind their children it is dangerous to talk to "strangers" or accept rides with anyone.

A Burlington Police safety officer had given a lecture at Kilbride School less than two weeks before the incident, and one of the points he stressed to children — including Marianne — was that they should not get into cars with strangers.

From the parents' and neighbors' descriptions of how tim-

## CHURCHILL

### Presentation for newlyweds held at hall

By Mrs. R. F. McArthur  
Friends and relatives of this vicinity are sorry to hear Mr. Bill Thompson of Acton is in Guelph General Hospital undergoing surgery.

A very pleasant evening in spite of the fog and rain was enjoyed by a large number of friends at Ballinacra Community Hall on Friday evening, April 21, in honor of the recent marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Smith. Dancing was enjoyed to music of McDougall's orchestra. They were presented with a beautiful dinette suite for which both expressed their thanks. Lunch was served by those in charge to conclude a nice evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Bob Kerr were at Kemptville and attended the wedding on Saturday, April 29, of Miss Barbara Vander Daart of Kemptville to Mr. Barton McLean of Naparee. On their return home they stopped in at Hampton to visit Mr. and Mrs. John Knox and brought Pat's brother, Ken Knox, assistant agricultural representative of Oxford County, home with them for a visit. Mr. and Mrs. Charles Binnie attended a dinner at the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Maynard in Brampton on Sunday in honor of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Best of Peterborough who were celebrating their 25th

id Marianne was with strangers, police advanced the theory she might have known the man believed to have offered her a ride last Thursday afternoon.

wedding anniversary. Other guests were Mr. and Mrs. Alex Jackson, Mr. Hugh Jackson of Erin; Miss Laura Miller and Miss Wilma Miller of Brampton.

Mr. and Mrs. Herb Job, Kathy and Brian of Toronto visited on Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Archie Kerr.

### More flags

A flag pole is being erected near the community centre, and Canadian and centennial flags — ordered through the Lions club — will be raised soon. A rock garden will be created around the base of the new pole.

## DRIVE-IN THEATRE

### The Jem Drive-In

SHOWS EVERY  
**Thursday, Friday and Saturday**  
AT 8 P.M.  
SHOWING THIS WEEKEND

### "DO NOT DISTURB"

STARRING DORIS DAY AND ROD TAYLOR

also

### "DUAL AT DIABLO"

STARRING JAMES GARNER AND SIDNEY PORTIER

— ALWAYS A CARTOON —

**MEAT** that makes the difference

## RED & WHITE

<b>RED BRAND - SHORT RIB</b>	<b>ROAST</b>	<b>53<sup>c</sup> lb</b>
<b>TENDER - JUICY</b>	<b>BLADE ROAST</b>	<b>49<sup>c</sup> lb</b>
<b>SMALL LINK SAUSAGE</b>	<b>2:99<sup>c</sup></b>	<b>FRESH GROUND HAMBURGER</b>
		<b>39<sup>c</sup> lb</b>
<b>FRESH PRODUCE</b>		
Ont. No. 1 - 50-lb. Bag	<b>POTATOES</b>	<b>79<sup>c</sup></b>
Produce of U.S.A.	<b>Cucumbers</b>	<b>2:39<sup>c</sup></b>
<b>Grade A - Extra Large</b>		
<b>LOOSE PACK</b>		
		<b>EGGS</b>
		<b>45<sup>c</sup> doz</b>
We Reserve the Right to Limit Quantities		
<b>WHITE SWAN - (SAVE 13c)</b>		<b>TOILET TISSUE 4 rolls</b>
		<b>49<sup>c</sup></b>
<b>MAXWELL HOUSE - 1-lb. BAG</b>		
<b>COFFEE</b>		<b>75<sup>c</sup></b>
<b>KING SIZE</b>		
<b>TIDE</b>		<b>\$1.37</b>
<b>CLUB HOUSE - 2-lb. JAR</b>		
<b>Peanut Butter</b>		<b>63<sup>c</sup></b>
<b>YUBAN - INSTANT - 5-oz. JAR</b>		
<b>COFFEE</b>		<b>\$1</b>
<b>— RED HOT SPECIAL —</b>		
ALL 3-QUART JUGS		
<b>2% MILK</b>		<b>59<sup>c</sup></b>
<b>HOMO</b>		<b>63<sup>c</sup></b>
(Plus Deposit on Jugs)		

## Mother is a Queen!

Mother is Many Things  
To Many People . . .

**TO HER CHILDREN, SHE IS**  
Nurse  
Psychologist  
Playmate  
Teacher

**TO HER HUSBAND, SHE IS**  
Bookkeeper  
Laundress  
Chief Cook  
Homemaker

**TO HER FRIENDS, SHE IS**  
Club Member  
Church Member  
Fund Drive Canvasser  
One who somehow finds time to participate in any event

**BESIDES ALL THESE . . .**  
She finds time to do many other things during each day which contributes to the general welfare of her family and her friends.

We salute you, Mom, and repeat a sincere thank you for being all these things which make you "Queen of Hearts"

**GIFT SUGGESTIONS**  
Dresses, Blouses, Lingerie,  
Sportswear — and as a Special  
**20% OFF**  
All Deliboth Stock of  
Sweaters on Hand

**THE CAMEO SHOPPE LTD.**  
25 MILL ST. E. ACTON, ONT. 853-0100