

Acton man in stricken Peru with Canadian relief team

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CORPORAL C. F. CHARLES Watson, aero engine technician with 424 Squadron, CFB Trenton, Ont., pumps up the softened tires of a Caribou aircraft during rescue operations of earthquake victims in Peru. He is the son of Mrs. A. Watson, Acton, Ont.

An Acton man is in Peru with the Canadian relief team working in the stricken earthquake area. Corporal C. F. Charles Watson, an aero engine technician with 424 Squadron CFB, Trenton, has been assigned to assist with rescue operations. The CFB Trenton 424 Transport and Rescue Squadron are flying daily trips from Lima to Callejon de Huaylas, a 90-mile long valley hit hard by a shattering earthquake on Sunday, May 31.

Corporal Watson is the son of Mrs. A. Watson of Acton. Five twin engine Caribou aircraft and support planes

arrived in Peru on June 6. The short take off and landing Caribou and their crews were faced with a rugged job—transporting medical supplies and evacuating injured using a 3,000-foot makeshift airstrip 8,700 feet high in the Andes mountains. The enormity of their flying job became evident on the first Caribou run. Cloud blankets Lima during this, the winter season to about the 2,500 foot level. Flying on instruments, the first Caribou crew climbed northwards from Lima to get above cloud. Once in sunshine they inched upwards to 14,500 feet to safely cross the Cordillera

Negra, (Black Mountain range). They guided their craft through a pass and then descended steeply into the Valley of Rio Santa River to land on a small dirt strip at Anta still under construction. The first flight set the pattern for 424 Squadron airlift operations.

As disaster relief aid continues, armed forces crews remain on the ground only 20 minutes to unload cargo and take on injured, orphans and homeless Indian mountain people. They work at high altitude without oxygen. Then there's a dust-storming take-off and a steep climb straight ahead until the Caribou have gained enough height to turn about between rock walls that rise abruptly on both sides of the narrow valley.

At first the Caribou litters were full with casualties crushed by collapsing adobe walls. Injuries included broken backs countless broken arms and legs, fractured skulls and contused wounds most of which were infected after days without medical attention. When litters were full, more injured were strapped to the aircraft floor.

The pace was hectic. In the first six days of flying 806 persons were carried and more than 70 tons of food, water, fuel, clothing, vaccine, hypodermics, plasma, bandages and medicines were transported by the Canadian Caribou squadron.

The situation is improving around Anta but there is still great need for help at the north end of the valley around Caras where top priority is being given to the construction of a small landing strip.

Perhaps the Canadian Caribou will be tasked to fly that shuttle route. Perhaps not. Members of 424 squadron are wondering about that now. They don't know and nobody yet can say.

But what the Caribou men do know is that if they are called upon, they now have the experience necessary to face the difficult but worthwhile task of bringing relief to those in need.

What Council did

At the regular meeting, Tuesday, Acton council:

—Read and passed a by-law designating streets in the industrial park.

—Passed a by-law to authorize construction of a new water main on Churchill Road North to improve the stability of the system. Cost for 3,086 lineal feet is \$64,000 which will be debentured over 20 years. Tenders will be called when O.M.B. approval is received. Original estimate for the job was \$50,000 in the 1970 forecast but now the engineer estimates it will cost \$64,000, which necessitates further approval from the O.M.B. Council.



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—Accepted the low tender of six received for installation of sanitary sewers and watermains for phase one in the industrial park. Successful bidder for the job was Civiero Construction of Acton. Tenders ranged from a low of \$35,799 to a high of \$46,451.25. Councillor Bill Coats uttered a loud hosanna when the motion passed. It is still subject to approval of the town engineer.

—Passed a resolution allowing the Board of Parks Management to exceed their budget by \$2000 to have grading on the north shore of Fairy Lake done.

—Passed a resolution to consider annexation of Lots 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30 east of the town boundaries as recommended by Acton Planning Board.

Councillor Bill Coats was in the chair for the committee of the whole session which occupied most of the one hour and 45 minute meeting.

Council endorses over budget

Acton council passed a resolution Tuesday night authorizing the Board of Parks Management to exceed their budget by \$2,000 to grade the north shore of Fairy Lake but two councillors voted against the motion because of the procedure used.

Both Councillors McKenzie and Greer said they were in favor of the grading but felt the methods used set a precedent which could work to the town's disadvantage. Although council only passed the resolution authorizing the deficit, if necessary, Parks Board already started the project on verbal assurance council was favorable to the work.

What if the industrial committee, library board and others all exceeded their budget? asked Councillor McKenzie.

Councillor Coats replied that any board must come before council first to ask permission. Councillor Marks, chairman of the parks board, admitted the procedure was poor but cited the discussion at the last meeting of council when he was advised to ask for extra money when there was a need. He pointed out Parks Board had gone through the same procedure several times before when extra funds were needed.

"But don't blame Parks Board," he said. "It was me. No one complained about the procedure at the last meeting. It is a mis-understanding. We wanted the work done before school got out."

"What if the renovation in the arena needs \$15,000 more. Will they just go ahead and spend it?" Mr. McKenzie asked.

Councillor Masales reminded council that Parks Board had not exceeded their budget now but needed assurance the money would be available.

"Our budget was cut to the bone," commented Mr. Marks. "The only place we can cut back would be on staff and it is only a skeleton now."

"No one on council would be opposed if something has to be done," said Councillor Greer. All our commissions should be doing the same. "Hold back here, spend there when needed."

Mayor Les Duby agreed that no precedent had been set. "I made the decision two weeks ago. It is a Parks Board decision." Other boards and commissions would have to come to council first for a decision.

Mr. Greer said he was opposed to the resolution because it hadn't come from the budget committee and the amount was stipulated.

Joint services during summer

Rev. Murray Campbell, the interim minister at Trinity United, preaches his last sermon here on Sunday and there's a coffee hour afterward. He will be spending the summer at White Oaks conference centre.

Beginning Sunday, July 5, till August 2 the congregations of Trinity United and Knox Presbyterian will worship together at Knox with Rev. McKenzie in charge. Then August 9 to September 6 both congregations will meet at Trinity, with Rev. Gordon Turner in charge, following his leave of absence.

Curlers remain active through summer

By Bob McArthur

Just because the ice is out of the arena, doesn't mean the curlers are resting. This past week a bridge was held at the club. There were 15 tables playing. Lady winners were Marilyn McArthur as high winner with Marion Patterson, Mrs. Walter Dubois and Mrs. Frank Heller as other winners. Gent winners were Dave Muckle, George Maltby, Bill Waddell and Len Lovell.

Monday, the ladies held a golf tournament at Acton Meadows. Twenty-eight golfers teed off at 10.30. After the game, lunch was

served and all golfers were declared winners, and received prizes.

This Thursday, there will be a steak fry at the club, with dancing provided in the club room. All interested are welcome to come out and partake.

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