

ACTON'S CENTENNIAL FLAGS were made at Kennedy's in Erin, where Phyllis and Kathy Covert are shown on the cutting table while the flags roll by. The new flags were

officially unveiled by the Hon. Robert Stanfield on Tuesday morning in front of the town offices. (Photo by J. Carpenter)

Let's talk about HORSES

with Jennifer Barr



Last week, I wrote about Mac's mare, Nina, her unusual beginning and some of her quieter personality traits. I left discussion of her worst vice until now because I just didn't have the strength to cope with the feeling of utter frustration brought on by merely remembering the trouble this horse has caused. Nina is addicted to escapism.

Shocking isn't it? No horse worth its salt wants to escape from a cosy clean box stall filled with food. It must be some mutant gene, or some traumatic pre-natal experience, perhaps inherited from her houdini father. Whatever it's cause, it is virtually incurable, short of breaking her leg. But, of course, Nina doesn't want to be cured, she's having too much fun. It all started when she accidentally broke her halter at the age of two and was able to leave her standing stall. She had such a wonderful time teasing the two Belgian stallions that she was hooked.

We found her in the morning, looking innocently at one stallion completely trussed up in his tie rope and the other with THREE feet in his manger!

From then on there was no turning back. We tried a stout draft horse halter, special snaps (which she always learned to undo), kicking straps, the works. She stripped off everything—she wasn't the daughter of Gypsy Rose for nothing.

Terrorizing rabbits

When we moved to this area, it was with a sigh of relief that we were able to assign a roomy box

stall to Nina. Now she would be content.

What dreamers we were! Not only did she bounce out of her stall with sickening regularity, but she had even more fun when she was free. She could consume 30 pounds of oats without a vestige of colic (I suffered the colic viewing the feed bill). Frightened rabbits covered in cages, bales of hay would be completely massacred, the floor awash with squashed buckets, bridles, medicines, horseshoes, and sacks soggy from water pouring out of the turned on tap. She even got into a bag of bran one night.

Have you any idea just how far a 100 lb. bag of bran can spread? The stuff's like confetti—it's still turning up.

We tried different bolts, snaps on padlock hooks, a huge bar chained on each end, and eventually a wire gate over the top portion of the door. The longest it took her to figure out something new was three nights.

Ghosts

Back to a straight stall she went. By now we had no illusions that she'd actually stay in this one but at least an alley gate would close her off from all the goodies. A length of chain was fitted with a horse-proof sliding panic snap, a strong webbing halter completed the ensemble. Nina was temporarily thwarted. And MAD!

She'd stand sullenly in that stall, stamping and clanking that chain like the Ghost of Christmas Past. For two nights it worked and then came the morning I opened the barn door and met the Ghost of Christmas Past with halter, chain and snap in tact, but swinging the entire manger around her neck.

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Proposes to aid unemployed

By Dan O'Reilly

Halton County's chronically unemployed may soon be participating in a program aimed at teaching them the fundamentals of finding and holding a job.

Recently Halton County Council gave approval in principle to a program aimed at teaching the chronic unemployed the basic steps in securing employment. The program was submitted to council by Jim Gray, director of the county's social and family services department.

The proposed program is possible under the Work Activity Projects; General Welfare assistance Act passed by the province in 1970. The province pays 80 per cent of the cost of the program.

Although other areas have taken advantage of the act, Halton County has never utilized it before. Who are the chronically unemployed and why are they that way?

According to Gray the chronically unemployed are "people who are unable to stay at one job for any length of time. They are people who will work for a time and then quit. The chronically unemployed are people who have difficulty in taking instruction."

Poor Habits

"Some are young people who never received proper training as youths. Many come from families with similar working habits. A large degree of chronically unemployed men are men in the 20 to 35 year old bracket who never developed good work traits."

"Many of the unemployed people who are in their 40's have a problem with alcoholism. These people have an especially difficult time as employers aren't too fussy about hiring older men."

"Bad work habits aren't the only difficulty these people have to overcome, says Gray. "Many of them don't know how to dress for an interview with a potential employer. Some don't even know how to complete a job application form."

Can't read or write

"Our department knows of one man who doesn't even know how to read or write—an almost unbelievable situation in 1972. This man, who recently walked away from a job he had in Toronto, will have a tough time in obtaining even the most simple factory job."

"Family backgrounds play a factor in the shaping of a person's work habits, says Gray. "Many of the chronically unemployed come from marginal income families. This is sometimes a second generation problem—a continuous circle."

"Of the approximately 150 people on Halton County's annual welfare rolls, only a handful, 20 to 50, could be classified as the

chronically unemployed, suggests the director. "Most welfare recipients are people who through some misfortune are without employment."

Participants in the program, submitted by Gray's social and family services department, must be on welfare and be recommended by the local social worker. "They must also want to help themselves," Gray points out.

The proposed program calls for a large degree of involvement by the Halton Region Conservation Authority and Sheridan College. Gray is in the process of approaching both bodies in an attempt to interest them. The Halton Board of Education and Canada Manpower would also play key roles.

Three Courses

Tentatively, the program calls for three separate divisions or course for at least a year.

"In the North Halton area the Halton Region Conservation Authority would be the driving force. Participants would be hired by the Authority and would perform such duties as tree planting; conservation development and dead elm removal."

"Our department or perhaps Canada Manpower would conduct counselling sessions with these people on a regular basis. During these counselling hours the men would be taught such things as how to obtain and hold a job."

A much broader program is planned in Oakville by way of Sheridan College—if the college administrators can be persuaded to participate.

A family affair

"A family affair" might be the term to use for describing the Sheridan College aspect of the program.

"We want the wives of any men who will be attached to Sheridan to accompany them. The idea being that if the wife can see how her husband is being motivated she may back him up. We would like to teach classes in budget preparation and nutrition—subjects these people know very little of."

"At Sheridan counselling on job attitudes and habits may also be given. The local factories in the area will be asked to hire these men."

County pays

The wages of any men hired by area factories will be paid by the County. "The only expense for the factories would be the time and effort needed to teach the men," Gray points out.

"Pay for men working for the conservation body would also be paid by the County. "This program is designed to teach basic

steps in finding and holding a job. It will not

The third division of the program doesn't exactly fit into the terms of reference laid out in the 1970 act. "We want to help women in their 40's and who have never had any job training but find they must now support themselves. Many of them are widowed housewives," notes Gray.

This housewives class will be based in Burlington for at least a year, if it is created. Gray is confident this part of the program can be incorporated. "We might convince the government these people could benefit from a training program," he says optimistically.

If the program comes into being the Social and Family Services Department would give it a year's trial course. "At the end of a year we could examine the best points of all three divisions and combine them into one in-depth program. We thought it best to have three divisions at the outset. This gives the program three chances of success," Gray explains.

At the end of one year the classes taught at Sheridan College may be extended into North Halton. "High schools in the northern portion of the county might be used if the Board of Education is favorable."

All three divisions might be expanded and duplicated throughout Halton depending on the demand and need, Gray suggests.

\$50,000 a year

Cost of maintaining such a program for any given year would be around the \$50,000 mark. "That isn't such a high figure," says Gray. "When the cost of supporting these people for an equal amount of time is about \$40,000. The extra \$10,000 could be well used helping the chronic unemployed begin to lead a better life," Gray points out.

One thing the program is not, is a work for welfare scheme; Gray says emphatically. "The workers will be paid an incentive allowance in addition to their regular welfare allowance. Hopefully, the incentive bonus will give the participants something to strive for."

Halton County has given the program approval in principle. But the plan hinges on the county's budget allowance, Gray remarks. The program would probably start in January 1973 if county council gives the green light.

Gray expresses cautious optimism for the success of the program. "People who are now in the chronic unemployed category need encouragement because many of them feel they're the dogs at the bottom of the barrel. Hopefully after a few years with the aid of training programs we won't have the problems of the chronic unemployed," he concluded.

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We're interested in rainbows of reality, not just of promise. Doing no more than average is what keeps the average down. What gums up our budgets is yearnings outstripping earnings.

HI! NEIGHBORS



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With the addition of Glenlea Medical Clinic, Dr. L. Embrack D.D.S. and the Glenlea Drug Mart, our home is now complete.

Our congratulations to our new neighbors

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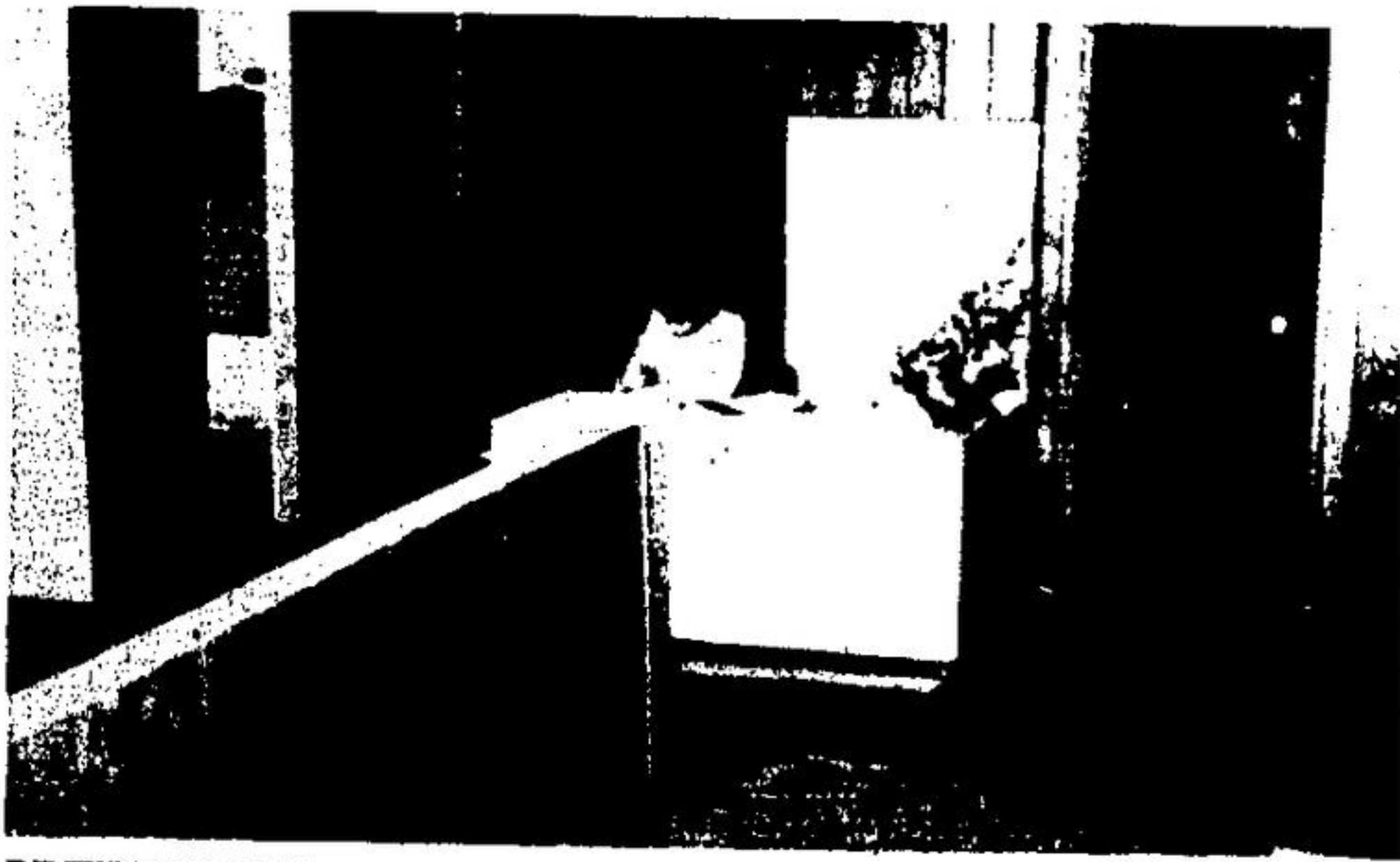
SUCCESS

and our sincere CONGRATULATIONS on the completion of ACTON PLAZA to include

- Glenlea Medical Clinic
- Dr. Leonard Embrack D.D.S.
- Glenlea Drug Mart

We are proud to have assisted by being chosen as Electrical Contractor

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RECEPTION DESK at the top of the stairs in the Glenlea medical centre will receive patients for Dr. Hutchinson and Dr. Wilson. Dr. Embrack's patients will be received in another part of the building.