

World's children respond to Canadian understanding



FAMILY TOGETHERNESS is expressed with the hikes and family fun of the Hughes family of R.R. 5, Rockwood. They are seen here before starting on an afternoon jaunt with dad Peter and mother Jean, with five year old Tanjila and brothers, Simon 12, Christopher 9, David 6, and, standing between his parents, Andrew 10.

Tanjila Hughes is special. Not that her parents want her to be treated so, and not that she's different from other children, it's more than that.

Tanjila is one of the few fortunate children who has been unleashed from the war-torn country in which she was born, facing a life of deprivation and possibly death, to be brought to a new home in Canada where a loving family that have given her the security and warmth that every human being, born anywhere, has the right to expect.

The story of Bangladesh women and children is a familiar one to most readers. To actually consider looking at the problems of these youngsters and accept them as one's own, however, is a bigger step.

World's Children

Peter and Jean Hughes admitted, wanted a little girl. They already had four boys of their own ranging in age from 11 to 5, but they felt that a little damsel in the household would round out their family nicely.

Contact with the Children's Aid Society had proven the adoption scene in Canada to be well under control. As Peter puts it, "We are not in the least interested in the politics of Asia or any other country. What we do care about, is kids!"

Recognizing the long list of adoptive parents waiting for Canadian children he found himself saying: "Okay, if that's the way it is, why not reach out beyond Canada, for one of the children of the world who need the same kind of love?"

So they did! Jean had first become inspired approximately five years earlier after reading a story written by Frank Chinnock. The author had related his struggle for the adoption of a Vietnamese orphan which had culminated in the restoration of a child's life and satisfaction for his family who had dedicated itself to

erasing the terrors of the little girl.

Correlating their empathy with news reports that Helke Ferrie, a doctor's wife in Burlington, Ontario, was conducting air-BIT excursions into Bangladesh to bring children home for Canadian adoption, they applied for a child for themselves.

Chances slim

Neither Peter of Jean knew how their family were given the privilege of receiving their little daughter. They knew that the numbers of babies being released were minimal in comparison to those being requested by other adoptive Canadians. "We are simply grateful," says Jean graciously.

Tanjila's mother tells what happened when they met for the first time. "I had flown from Toronto on Nov. 27, 1972. Dr. Ferrie was meeting his wife, Helke in New York, coming back from Bangladesh with the children." Jean explained that Helke had hoped to bring back 54 Bangladesh babies when she flew to the far-eastern nation, but had found herself unemphed in red tape on arrival. "She was only able to bring back eight, ranging in age from nine months to six years."

Returning with Tanjila on the flight from New York to Canada, Tanjila just sat on another seat the whole time, and looked the other way.

"After all", she said, "I would do the same thing if I was suddenly taken from my own country and whisked half-way around the world." She related the story of eight small children taken from their orphanage home without any pre-warning, and hurried off straight to the planes. Jean described the number of stop-offs for plane changes before the party finally arrived in New York and on to Canada, explaining that the children were probably terrified.

Helke Ferrie and three friends, one a pediatric nurse from the Sick Children's Hospital in Toronto, had left in October, a month earlier, to pick up the children, chosen at random in the orphanage for transportation to Canada.

Not final

It's been slightly over a year now since Peter and Jean took up their charge. Tanjila is not, and reportedly, never has been, a "little stranger" in the Hughes household. Talented, bright and musical, she has adapted easily to her new environment. Before moving from Mississauga to Rockwood, she was enrolled in a ballet class, doing very well.

"It's as if she was always part of our family," says Jean nodding warmly, "all of us love her and the boys adore their sister." She describes her tiny daughter as extremely feminine.

How old is Tanjila really? Peter and Jean cannot be certain as parental credentials on the children were not supplied at the orphanage. On arrival last year, she was supposedly four years of age. One year later, with her intelligence and perception, she is regarded as six by those who meet her.

Peter and Jean have been trying to tell all prospective adoptive parents something ever since their daughter has come into their lives. "What we want people to know," says Peter, "is that the pictures we are continually seeing of pot-bellied, starved, and sickly looking children, does not have to be the final story. They can be made healthy and, with nourishment and love, will thrive and flourish."

The happy father, relates that Tanjila, the healthiest of the eight arrivals, had gained considerable weight within the first five month period after her arrival and grown seven inches in the first seven months.

"Don't be intimidated by pictures and ruse out these children from your minds," he makes a plea to all

prospective adoptees. "They arrive in our country with many illnesses, including low blood count, worms, lice, and numerous other afflictions, but they're all curable," says Tanjila's mother. The couple want to assure others to consider the rewards.

Criticism?

According to a release from Father Labbe, regional director of the Christian Organization for Relief and Rehabilitation in Bangladesh there are countless numbers of children brought in dying off the streets, to the orphanages. Politics has decreed that few of them will be released.

Reportedly, there has been some criticism regarding Canadians adopting children outside their own country. Helke Ferrie contends that people who say such things are usually those who never endeavor to assist anyone, have never visited such an orphanage, and learn towards

racial prejudice.

To the Hughes, Tanjila is a wonderful addition to their family structure. To Tanjila, it is the absolute acceptance of a loving family. She may never realize fully her escape from a fateful future and has simply moved in with Peter and Jean and their boys, Simon 12, Andrew 10, Christopher 9, and David 6.

Family move

Two months ago the Hughes family pattern changed again as they moved from their home in Oakville to another one situated just outside Rockwood on the banks of the Eramosa River.

Tanjila's dad, Peter, is the chairman of arts at the Lord Elgin high school in Burlington. He and his wife wanted to introduce their children to country life at its fullest where they could enjoy nature in an atmosphere of casual, friendly living.

The children are taking their place in the community,

all attending Rockwood Centennial public school. Tanjila is enrolled in kindergarten and, according to Jean, applying herself well. Vivacious and feminine she sings songs in Bangali, much to the delight of her parents and brothers.

Of the eight children brought into Canada on the November, '72 trip, four, including Tanjila, have stayed in Ontario. Four others are parented in the western areas of Vancouver, Edmonton, Princeton, B.C., and Prince Rupert, B.C.

"A cross section of parents" is the way Jean Hughes describes those who want to adopt the "world's children." She explains that social status, great wealth, or walks of life, do not play any particular role in those applying where they could enjoy nature in an atmosphere of casual, friendly living. Although she knows vaguely where some of the parents are located, she has not attempted to keep in touch.

Operation rabies

There is mixed concern about reports of several incidents of animals with rabies in the Rockwood district. Animal lovers question whether supposedly rabid animals are being diagnosed and disposed of unnecessarily and whether people making the choice should be curtailed.

According to Harry Gingrich of the Ministry of Natural Resources in Galt, his department is not anxious to see animals killed or destroyed. "But," he said, "if there's the slightest chance that any animal has rabies he should be destroyed immediately."

He points out that most wild life population reaches a peak approximately every three and one-half to six years then decreasing in numbers again, with various diseases playing their part in the balance of nature.

The learned wild life protector explained that, as rabies is the one animal-carried disease fatal to humans, anyone coming in contact with an animal acting in an abnormal manner should not fool with it.

Few infected Referring to an incident where a ground hog was prepared to attack anyone

entering the Eden Mills school recently, Mr. Gingrich posed the question, "What should everyone have done? Waited around until someone was bitten?" He said that most animals coming out of hibernation act in a dozy manner but, rather than take a chance on that being the only problem, it would be better to have the animal destroyed.

Dr. Fred Mollison, veterinarian at the health of animals division of the federal department of agriculture, feels that rabies in this district is on the decrease. He contends the outbreak had reached its peak late last December and early January first.

Boosters important He recommends that animals which have not received vaccine within the past year should be inoculated. "Although the vaccine carries a high dosage of immunization which should last from one to three years," he said, "during epidemic days, animals should receive annual booster shots."

Clinics are being conducted free of charge by the department in co-operation with the health unit and municipal authorities.

"Dogs and cats only," is the word from Dr. Mollison who hopes that other animals will be taken care of by local vets. "If cat and dog owners miss their area clinic," he says, "they can take them to the next nearest one on the list of scheduled clinic dates."

Local places for the Eramosa district are Rockwood town hall and the Eramosa (Speedies) hall on Feb. 27 from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. On Feb. 28, clinics will be held in the Hillsburgh community centre and in Erin at the agriculture hall.

Rockwood bowling

One down, nine to go and, standing in top position for the bowling league are the Rockets with 91 points. Goeyers are second in the league with 89 points. 1 Neighbors 87, 4 Jr. Farmers 83, 5 Pevers 79, 8 Carneys 75, 7 Nortons 74, 8 Guelphites 72, 9 Barley Sandwiches, 10 Country Men 71, 11 Four Corners 70, 12 Ramlers 69, 13 Trotters 66, 14 Alley Cats 61, 15 Unruthfuls 60, 16 Optimists 59.

The Jr. Farmers made a 5 point landing at last Tuesday's games with Bruce Miller hitting a 603 triple with 239, 203, and 221, Harvey Allan bowled a 604 triple with 228, 211, and 227, Brian Garner brought in a 600 triple with games showing 156, 206, and 155. For the Guelphites Bill Scott was top man with 118, 200, and 289, tripling in at 607, and Garry Parks made a 520.

Hockets bowled a 5 to 2 against Goeyers with Edna Davis shooting home free with 147 triple points with singles 214, 273, and 290. Dunc Kingsbury bowled 275, 188, and 286, tripling 729, and Harry Jestin bowled 197, 255, 191, tripling at 613. Clarence Hilton was the gooyer teamster with the 626 triple bowling singles 199, 206, and 221. Don Hills bowled 156, 206, and 155.

Five to 2 was the Pacers outcome against Unruthfuls as Bob Van Wyck rolled in a 212, 204, 326, tripling with 742. Alice Johnson bowled 635 with 210, 207, and 191. Paul Waddell bowled a 600 triple with 132, 214, and 234. Unruthfuls had John Thatcher as their best shot Charlie with a 742 triple, singling with 261, 219, and 225, as Randy Peart bowled 316.

Trotters went down cllobbered by the Alleys 5 to 2 as Alley cat Eomer Allan made a 634 triple with 194, 243, and 197, and Garfield Tarzwell tripled a 634 score with 168, 209, and 237. Doug Cross for the Trotters bowled 396 and Ted Jestin 619 triple with 231, 216, and 180 for singles.

Carneys beat out the Barley Sandwiches 4 to 3 as Nancy Gordon bowled in a 689 triple with 276, 179, and 214. Bob Lilley made a 603, with 223, 160 and 222, and John Gordon bowled 363, with singles, 221, 192 and 152. Barley Sandwiches Walt Ferries bowled 282, 290, and 314, tripling with a spectacular 696 and Norm Beattie made a 538.

Four to 3 was the Four Corners win over Nortons as Tom McCutcheon made a 583 triple, and Tony Stokman, 574. The Nortons were low man with top men as Art Davis whipped in a 731 triple score with singles, 260, 238, and 238, Vivian Nightingale hit 719 score with 245, 261, and 211 and Roy Hitechie, that superbly alert, amazing athlete, bowled 602, with 184, 205, and 211.

Neighbors took a 7 point straight game from the Country Men as Dunc McPhedran bowled 720 with 296, 278 and 216, and Bill Garner a 695, with 248, 279, and 168. Country Men had Peter Bosch with his 826 triple with singles 215, 263, and 236. Rika took a 520.

Ramlers spotted with Optimists 5 to 2 as Ramlers Betty Burnett bowled 569, and Mabel Wingrove 531, Optimist Sam

Bruce bowled 461. Team Standing Men over 600, Walt Jefferies 896, Bob Van Wyck 742, John Thatcher, 735, Art Davis 734, Dunc Kingsbury 729, Dunc McPhedran 720, Bill Garner 695, Bruce Miller 683, Harvey Allan 664, Peter Bosch 656, Harry Jestin 643, Garfield Tarzwell 634, Elmer Allan 634, Clarence Hilton 626, Ted Jestin 619, Charles Milne 609, Bill Scott 607, Bob Lilley 605, Paul Waddell 600, Brian Garner 600. Women over 500, Edna Davis 747, Vivian Nightingale 717, Nancy Gordon 689, Alice Johnson 635, Ivy Gribble 602, Ruth Kingsbury 583, Rika Lee 582, Nellie Stokman 573, Betty Burnett 569, Winnie Hiltz 531, Nancy Ferguson 531, Mabel Wingrove 531, Irene Lovell 521, Ellen Garner 520, Ann Parkinson 519.

Counterfeit

Oakville merchants are being given counterfeit \$5 and \$20 bills. The \$20 bills are described as good reproductions while the \$5 bills are of poorer quality.

REGISTRATION FOR ROCKWOOD MINOR SOFTBALL

All children interested are asked to register Saturday, Feb. 23rd

at the following Rockwood Centennial School 10 a.m. to 12 noon Eramosa School 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Free Press Rockwood

A valentine, a cake please Sunshine club

Hearts and roses were decorations on a cake presented to the Sunshine club last week when members were reminded of the special day, St. Valentine's.

Mrs. N. Saunders had donated the cake and, for each member, Mrs. M. Riley had thoughtfully placed a valentine at their tables.

Entertainment was interesting and informative with Mrs. Bruce Farr showing slides of Norway, Lapland, and Iceland, as Mrs. H. Farr gave the commentary. Mrs. Mary Milne touched off the program with a reading The

Touch of the Master's Hand. Game time And then it was game time. Euchre and crokinole was the play of the day and W. Davidson the champ winning the euchre prizes along with I. Harris, Mrs. W. Gilbertson, and Mrs. W. Wright. Crokinole prizes went to W. Naimsmith, and Mrs. W. Black.

During business a pot-luck supper was discussed and final plans set for Mar. 14, in the evening, with entertainment to follow. Mrs. D. Kingsholt, Mrs. A. Doby, Mrs. A. Johnson, and Mrs. Anna Wilson will convene the event.

Members were reminded that the next meeting for Sunshiners will be on Feb. 28 where there is a hope for a complete member turnout.

Active, sure While mail to the Acton Free Press often arrives written to the Acton Free Press, we got a new one this week - The Active Free Press. We're pretty active on Tuesdays and Wednesdays, anyway.

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