

Eatons write

Farmers clamor for wells in Bangladesh

Bruce and Jean Eaton's Christmas letter to family and friends back in Canada just arrived this week from Bangladesh. Here, some of their letter is shared with Free Press readers. (Bruce Eaton's mother, Mrs. Lillian Eaton, lives on Lake Ave.)

Dacca-5, Bangladesh, October, 1974

Dear Friends, Greetings to each of you once more.

Bruce, Jenn, Elizabeth and Andrew left Dacca August 8th and met Kimberly and Richard in Calcutta the following evening. We went by over-night train to Varanasi (Benares) and spent the next day visiting temples, mosques, museums and so on—all the places usually recommended for tourists.

Bruce had been there previously on more than one occasion but it was a "first" for the rest of us. We continued our journey by train to Dehra Dun (west) and by taxi to Mussoorie in the Himalayas.

We were fortunate in being able to stay there in the home of Indian friends, now living in Dacca, and enjoyed ten glorious days of snowy mountain peaks, rugged green hillsides, terraced fields and beautiful sunsets.

Although they knew that Delhi, Bombay and Madras were still to come, they managed to spend most of their money on Tibetan jewellery and Kashmiri embroidered shawls. We visited Oakville and Kilmarnock where we had spent the summers of '63 and '64 and it was interesting to note how much Kim especially remembered one fact in particular: amazed as she was to find a place to place things like flat rocks used as tables at their tea parties, trees they used to play in and so on were all very much smaller than she recalled. They seemed huge to her then, but now, in her words they are just "tich".

We were saddened by the fact that such a change had occurred in the community during the years of our absence. The language school, always so bustling with activity is almost non-existent now. Several missions have disposed of, or are in the process of disposing of property in accordance with new Indian laws.

Storekeepers of fruit and vegetable sellers walk the hillside looking for business. The majority of mission houses were unoccupied. Times have changed, but it was nevertheless thrilling to be in the Himalayas again. Rather reluctantly we left the cool of the hills and headed for the heat of the plains at Delhi and the Taj Mahal at Agra. It was difficult to realize we were actually there, for it seemed that we were still looking at a picture of it—so exact did it seem. After living in India and Bangladesh for seven years, we were finally able to be there in person. Elizabeth was upset that even in a place as beautiful as the Taj, hundreds of names were scratched into the walls.

On our way to Indore, we stayed overnight at the Ratlam Mission Compound and were delighted to have a good visit with Dr. Walter Anderson, our long-time friend. We were in Indore on August 28th for Andrew's eighth birthday.

Frances Buckles, another close friend, had invited 45 guests to help Andrew in his celebration. These included the Indian lady doctor who had delivered him, the Indian pastor who had baptized him and many of the children's former playmates. During our four days there, we were booked solid—even having tea with two families in one afternoon, preceded and followed by large dinners.

We were invited to Ralapur where Bruce had formerly been head of the vocational department. A special general assembly was held and after being garlanded and listening to speeches by principals of both parts of the school about the fine contribution Bruce had made during his time there, Bruce addressed the assembly in Hindi, then we had tea and excellent Indian sweets. Several boys remembered Richard as a four-year-old mischief and tried to talk to him, but as he has forgotten Hindi and the boys couldn't speak English, communication was rather difficult.

Still there We stayed at the C.M.S. House in Bombay (Church Mission Society) where we had stayed on arrival in India in 1962. The huge mahogany tree planted on the compound by David Livingstone is still there; so also are the crows. We enjoyed an afternoon of

swimming at a beautiful pool there known as Breach Candy. The children had played there as toddlers in '62.

We went for an hour long motorboat ride to see the famous Elephanta Caves. The figures of many of the Hindu gods and goddesses have been carved into the rock walls there. Kim celebrated her sixteenth birthday before we left Bombay.

Enroute to Madras we spent 24 hours in Poona, visiting at the home of Brigadier and Dene Quin (and their five daughters), Anglo-Indian friends of our Rasulpura days. After another 24 hours of train travel, we reached Madras.

The O'Briens of Catholic Relief Services who look after our children so well when they are travelling through Madras to and from school, met us at the station and took us to our hotel. We were invited to spend the next afternoon, after a hot, humid morning of shopping, at the swimming pool of the Madras Club. As the temperature was about one hundred, we really appreciated relaxing in this beautiful place before spending still another night on the train.

We reached Ootacamund (Ooty) on September 7th. Three days later, Kim, Richard and Elizabeth entered the senior school there. The same day, Andrew entered the junior school in Coonoor, ten miles away. It was a rather sudden decision, but life in Dacca for a little boy whose father is away much of the time can be quite lonely. Bruce returned by air to Dacca September 11th. Jean stayed for another month and returned to Dacca by train—second class, formerly called third, as far as Calcutta. From there she flew to Dacca. The train part of the journey, a distance of about 1,500 miles, cost her about twelve dollars.

To come from the cold climate of Ooty (7,000 ft. elevation) to Madras with its high temperatures is quite a shock. However, one soon becomes acclimatized. Jean had planned to stay in Ooty another two weeks, but as the children had all settled into school life with no major adjustment problems, she felt there was no need for her to remain there where she crawled into two sleeping bags with two hot water bottles every night about 8 p.m. in order to keep warm.

She is having no such problems in Dacca now! Last week we went to Jalchatra (90 miles, four hour drive) so Bruce could show some of his associates how to install the propeller pumps in wells. At this time of year, it was difficult to weld flanges on the top and hard to see when the pumps were locked inside the casing. Within a few weeks, it will be much drier and the farmers will be wanting to pump water to irrigate the winter crop.

The tubewell program continues to grow with farmers clamoring for wells before the results are available from those drilled last winter. We expect to drill 50 to 100 in the coming season in Kushiia and Rajshahi districts.

To halt One part of the program was brought to an abrupt halt when Father Cobbe, the priest who had organized the farmers near Jessore, was brutally murdered about a week ago. He was a humble, dedicated, talented man who had helped the downtrodden in his area and built up a large mission enterprise. Unfortunately he made some enemies too. Bangladesh has far too few people of his calibre and without the help of such people our drilling program would be impossible.

The two cyclone drilling machines have reached Bangladesh and the smaller one has been made ready for work. Drilling will begin shortly when roads and fields become firm enough to carry the equipment. Many other pieces of auxiliary equipment and tubewell pumps and components are expected to arrive in the country shortly.

The recent floods and other problems of this nation have left many people homeless and hungry. Gruel kitchens have been set up in many places to feed some of the most desperate. Others, weakened by malnutrition, are dying from intestinal diseases.

As usual, we are not suffering personally. Inflation has pushed up the price of all foods. Butter, for example, is now \$2.50 per pound and powdered whole milk is \$4.00 per pound. Since our cost of living allowance is fixed, we merely cut down on such luxuries but are glad we can afford to buy the staple foods we need.

Thanks to all who have written to us. Your letters are appreciated and your prayers solicited during these difficult times.

Sincerely, Bruce and Jean Eaton



ALICE BRIDGE of Rosemary Road is one of the last persons to pay a Bell Telephone bill at Moss Pro Hardware on Mill St. Charlene Hubbell takes care of the details. Beginning April 26, Bell customers may pay their accounts at any branch of a chartered bank or use the brown envelope accompanying the bills.

13-year-old cancer victim leads normal, happy life

Though he is only 13, Brent Sellsizzi of Milton knows what money donated to the Canadian Cancer Society has done for him.

Had Brent been born 25 years earlier, he mightn't be around to tell his story today.

Nine years ago, while Brent was recovering from a bout of chicken pox, his mother noticed he was unusually tired. A few days later, while bathing him, she noticed an unusual lump over his appendix.

The doctors diagnosed this as a Wilms' tumour, a rare form of cancer in children, usually before they are six.

Twenty years ago, survival chance was practically nil. Today, it can be cured and victims lead a normal life.

The grapefruit-size tumor removed from his abdomen totally destroyed his right-

kidney. Doctors were confident they had gotten "everything". But six months later, a spot on his left lung was discovered. Radiation treatment quickly destroyed this.

Brent still visits Toronto's Princess Margaret hospital for yearly check-ups. And, though his one kidney precludes playing contact sports, he is able to play a game of tennis and has excelled in his school work.

He can thank his parents for their early concern; the Cancer Society for effective treatment; and the people whose dollars provided research funds and equipment to fight the disease.

Is there any better reason to support the April fund campaign presently in progress in Acton and district?



FIRST DIAGNOSED as having cancer nine years ago, Brent Sellsizzi of Milton is an active and healthy teenager.

NEWS of the district

Don't worry about smell

ERIN—Farmers from Erin have been worried about possible Ministry of Environment action because they are spreading manure over fields. They were concerned the Environment Ministry might frown on resulting odor. Minister of the Environment, Bill Newman, gave the farmers the good word this week that his Ministry isn't too worried about the smell. Newman said "farmers who are only carrying out normal farm procedures have nothing to fear from officials of the Ministry of Environment."

M.P. appalled at conversion

BURLINGTON—Haltion-Wentworth, M.P. Bill Rampling (PC) has called for a shake up of the people in Ottawa who are running Canada's program of metric conversion. Kemping said last week Canada's Metric Commission needs more direction from both the government and cabinet ministers. He stated the lack of progress in converting Canadians to the metric system is appalling.

—The Nassagaweya Ratepayers Association is holding another meeting tonight (Wednesday).

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Equipment turnover solved

What appeared to be a mountain of controversy just a few weeks ago was whittled to a molehill in seconds Wednesday. Public works officials from Halton Hills and the region had been at loggerheads for several weeks as staffs were unable to come to an agreement concerning the turning over of equipment

from Halton Hills to the region. At stake were two dump trucks and a backhoe. The local staffs insisted the equipment had been used primarily on regional highways but the town argued the equipment was necessary for functions for which it is still responsible.

It was that issue that sparked the initial meeting between the two committees. The meeting was called to discuss matters of mutual concern.

The matter was disposed of almost instantly Wednesday when Oakville representative Gordon Brown suggested the equipment be left with the town and the region acquire new equipment as it became necessary. The matter was voted on and passed without discussion.

Later after all other matters were discussed and decided upon the generosity of the earlier decision was challenged by Councillors Tom Sutherland of Burlington and Bill Mason of Oakville.

Sutherland questioned the move and wondered if the decision was the right one. Halton Hills representatives suggested the machinery was available upon request.

No motion to rescind the earlier motion was presented so the joint committee recommendation stands. That action has to be sanctioned by both councils.

During that discussion regional staffs were ordered to have emergency numbers published and made known to the general public.

Works Chairman Jack Rafits pressed the issue. He said it was brought to his attention at a public meeting in Acton.

"I don't blame the people in Acton for being mad. I'd be mad too." He noted the regional directory had omitted the emergency number and regional councillors in the area couldn't provide the number if asked.

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Centennial library notebook by Mrs. Isabel Watson

A large shipment of books arrived at Acton public library last week and it will take time to process them so they are ready for the shelves.

Here is a brief review of some that have been processed and are available.

How to Build Your Own Low Cost Home is complete with floor plans, by Anderson and Zoring.

Survival in the Bush by Bernard Assinivi is proving popular.

The Common Millionaire and How to Get that Way should be popular.

A Book on Concrete and Masonry should be helpful to all those do-it-yourself folks.

There are a dozen new books on being friends with your shade trees, flowering trees, shrubs and lawn bulbs and this set covers almost every aspect of the growing season.

The chess players I hope will be happy with our choice of new how-to-play chess books.

There is a fine selection in the fiction section as well such as Tinker, Tailor, Soldier, Spy by John Le Carre and a fabulous new one by John Creasey, The Masters of Bow Street. Jay Bennet's The

Dangling Witness is a fine mystery.

Jack Higgins' In the Hour Before Midnight and The Bodyguard Man by Philip Evans are intense thrillers. Knights Acre by Norah Lott will surely please her wide following. James Hilder's The God Tree has been greatly publicized and is another of our collection.

Jaws by Peter Benchley has been on the best sellers' list for months. The Hawkline Monster, a gothic Western, is quite a treat for our Gothic readers.

There are 13 paperbacks of Catherine Cookson's.

Illustrations The children's books are wonderfully illustrated this year and beautifully colored.

There is a wide selection of them such as the Three Little Kittens, The Magic Finger, Stone House Stories, Read-to-Me story book, Mary Ann's Mud Day as well as a variety of science books on insects, animals, wind, weather, rain and even a Quarraling Book.

For the older boys and girls there are horse stories, hockey and other sports and even car racing books.

Coxe fights

Whenever regional politicians get together, the matter of siting a landfill site somewhere within the region's boundaries is sure to be under discussion. Last week's tour by the region's public works committee in Halton Hills was no exception.

The landfill site question is and will continue to be one of the most critical and sensitive issues for the region. The committee stopped at Ashgrove to take a look at the 300 acre parcel of land that has been recommended as the major site for the entire region.

Launches tirade Even as the bus rolled down the sidewalk Len Coxe, a resident of the area and the area's representative on regional council, moved from the casual conversation he had been engaged in and launched into a tirade against the recommendation.

It wasn't the first time Mr. Coxe had conducted a verbal castigation of the consultants who recommended the site. Even the mention of the landfill site near Ashgrove sends the councillor's adrenal glands gushing and sets the stage for a verbal tirade.

"These people up here have

to fight to get a land separation because it's prime agricultural land, but now the region wants to take 300 acres for a landfill site," he said. "It's absolutely incredible. No one can sit here and say that's a likely place for a landfill site. It just isn't responsible. Sure it would make a good landfill site. But it would be good for housing or anything else. Surely there are sites less suited for other things than this one," he continued.

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