Students gather to learn sign and finger language

and trying, wherever possible, to make their problems less difficult.

leadership of Kathy Quigley, the Deaf in Milton.

Classes were started primarily because the Bartons, with a deaf child of their own, felt they wanted to open as many lines of communications as possible between hearing people and those of the deaf community, "We feel, that with more people being able to speak the langu- for words such as telephone, age of the deaf, the more will be able to communicate with Andrew," said Lorene Bar-

Took course

tended a 20-week course in pic of contention. After presign language sponsored by school years, deaf children Sheridan college. It ran from are thrown right into finger October '74 to March just past, and was held at the Mit- speech, no longer getting sign ion School for the Deaf.

Lorene said she and her husband became particularly enthusiastic about the course when they saw the effect it was having on their young son. "Obviously we felt knowing sign language would make things easier for all of us. As we went along though, we found the most wonderful things were happening." Family camaraderie began todevelop and a real personality change took place in Andrew. For the first time he

could be teased in sign language and it was the beginning of humor. "It was the beginning of Andrew becoming part of normaley," said his mother, "It was great!" Andrew's mother explained

that, although he was getting home visit, pre-school sign language instruction from the teacher at the School for the Deaf at Milton, the double exposure he was receiving from having his parents also able to relate, proved extremely

Today, at his present age of three years, seven months, Andrew's I.Q. shows him to be above average with per-ception abilities of a child four years and nine months old. He has a vocabulary of well over 200 signs and is using short sentences.

Opportunity for all Having seen such progress in their own home, the Bartons feel it important that all deaf children have the same opportunity. Through the Milton school they learned there were eight deaf children in Acton. Parents were contact ed and an investigatory meeting was held at the Barton's home Ron Hackett, head of guidance at the Milton school and instructor on the Sheri-

dan college course, attended, Mr. Hackett expounded on the importance and value of children and parents being able to communicate with sign language. Lorene found that parents who had never taken sign language com- evenings.

A new program of learning municated with their children is being conducted in Acton by means of "worked out" these days. It began approxi- gestures. Some with difficulty mately five weeks ago and in relating were amazed and was motivated by what thought it quite beautiful that humanitarians often refer to Larene could relate so easily as the greatest buman to her own son. Andrew had denominator, that of earing been kept up that evening so very much about other people his mother could demon-

According to Mrs. Barton, language for the deaf at the The classes are being held Milton school has always in a living room atmosphere been oral which means deat the home of Gary and Lor- pending on lip reading and ene Barton on Elmore Dr. speech Last September, vis-There, students gather to ual finger spelling was introlearn sign and finger spelling duced spelling out each letof the deaf, under the able ter of words individually, combined with simultaneous a teacher from the School for speech (pronunciation with

> This year the school has said to teachers of pre-school children, "For the first time we will let you teach sign language, providing we have parents' permission." She suggests if is difficult to teach a child the alphabet when he can't spell out. "With a sign il's much easier." Not recognized

Andrew's mother says that sign language is even now not recognized by some schools Mr. and Mrs. Barton at for the deaf and it is a real tospelling and simultaneous tanguage instruction or allowed to use it. "Because it is sometimes easier, they revert to sign language once outside school limits," she points out that too often when children have picked it up subversively it is not spelled out in properly-constructed & English sentences, "If they pick up a wrong sign they

QUIGLEY

instructs a group of

people interested in

learning sign language.

She teaches at the home

of Mr. and Mrs. Gary

Barton on Monday

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DISTRICT AND LOCAL residents gather in the home of Gary and Lorene Barton of Elmore Dr. They are enjoying classes in sign language being taught by Kathy Quigley of the Milton School for

the Deaf. Sunshine by John Denver is being played on the stereo and students work out the

words to the music.

"Today's child" is happy one

Gary and Lorene Barton of of the boy and said he had a and finally being in a position Elmore Dr. are unusual hearing problem. Since that people. They adopted into time, more complete exatheir family a young deaf boy mination has shown almost and strongly advocate choosing handicapped older children as a worthwhile method increase their families.

years old. Both had been procured as infants through the local Children's Aid Society. the Deaf in Milton and learnfamily they decided it would be unfair to take one more tiny baby off the list for pro- training deaf children from spective parents. They con- all kinds of backgrounds were cluded they had already en-

Today's Child Gary and Lorene found their newest prodigy smiling no hearing.

Holding a family conference, Mr. and Mrs. Barton for other couples anxious to discussed with their children the possibility of bringing What makes a young couple Alec into their family. They feel they'd like to adopt a explained he was probably child with a problem? The deaf. Before taking definite Bartons felt their family was steps and getting into somealready blessed with two thing they perhaps, could not other beautiful adopted child- handle, they decide to first ren, Jim 912 and Janice, 712 consult experts on possible problems.

They visited the School tor Wanting to increase their ed there were qualified people there, willing to assist. These people with years of prepared to help, "That was a joyed the delight of small turning point for me, when I babyhood and should con- was at the school and knew I sider adoption of an older wouldn't have to cope with the problem alone," said Lor-

Rewarded

Gary Barton is a pharmaat them from the pages of the cist. Before her marriage-Toronto Star, in January, two Lorene was a primary teayears ago. Under "Today's cher in Etobicoke. Both have Child" with Helen Allen, he always been involved in comwas headlined, "Little Alec's munity work. They felt that, eager but bewildered too." having been in the business of The article gave a description helping people all their lives,

financially to provide special aids, their plan to adopt the little boy just fitted perfectly. Also, their other children were old enough to under-

stand some of the problems. Through the adoption agency where the child was listed, the Bartons went to visit him. "Everything went well on that first visit," says Lorene. Gary Barton spent 20 minutes pretending he was a horse before finally gaining the confidence of the worrled tense little boy who rewarded him with a big, round smile.

The couple told themselves, "If he takes to us we'll go through with it."

A change was made. Alec's name became Andrew and together with his mother and father, Gary and Lorene, he attended a summer course at the School for the Deaf in Milton. If was one held during off-school summer months when regular students are away. The week-long cram course is designed for parents of deaf children where they are given instruction on the use and care of hearing aids. They also have the opportunity of fraternizing with other

parents of deaf children and

exchanging ideas and problems. The Barlons left the course feeling better informed and more able to cope with Andrew's disability.

Flying colors "We as human beings have such great strength. If called up to face things we can come through with flying colors." Andrew's mother feels that today, life is so plush most people don't have to call on other sources. She feels her association with Andrew, although frustrating at times, has proved to he a tremendous blessing and joy.

crowd attending. When chairs are filled, guests sit around casually on the floor. A coffee Meeting the youngest time with refreshments supmember of the Barton family plied by students is a break in in his home is a delight. He is the evening. Hostess Lorene outgoing, happy and wellhopes to see the classes conmannered. He does not hide tinue on at least until sumfrom people but tries to talk. mer. She feels that students, His parents, brother and sister respond beautifully to us well as learning are also him, as well as neighbor enjoying sociability. children. Visiting with the well-adjusted, healthy littleboy makes one wish to know his special language.

Lorene Barton explains that of children available for adoption, there are many with handicaps looking for homes. She, with her family, has found their response greatly rewarding and worth-

Landfill

have to unlearn It."

Classes at the Harton home

have grown from ten to about

43 people. Andrew's pre-

school teacher Kathy Quig

ley, is the instructreas who

voluntarily taken her growing

homework review, new words

and sign impuage to music Students break into groups to

work out sentences and signs.

Current records are played

and, through the combined

media of ingerspelling, lip-movement and signs, stu-

lating without vocalizing.

specialist courses. Her great-

Collingwood, She is a gradu-

Washington, D.C. the univer-

Advocates sign language

Miss Quigley is a strong ad-

vocate of using sign language with deaf children in conjunc-

tion with hearing aids and

speech work. She explains

that, in Canada, the concept

of sign and speech is only

about ten years old, "Before

that authorities were arguing

so much it had to be

elther, or." She says more

deaf children are learning to

speak so they can be under-

Those taking the classes at

the Barton home come in

from Erin, Georgetown,

Guelph and Acton. They

range in years from teen-

agers to middle-age. Driver

of a bus who takes the child-

ren to the Milton school is one

of the participants who feels a

need to communicate with

tnore proficiency. Parents

and baby sitters of deaf child-

ren, as well as those who

would simply like to relate

with deaf people, are also

At the moment, the house

on Elmore Dr. is handling the

part of the weekly classes.

sity for deaf students.

class through their paces of

Halton Region's Public Works Committee will review a proposal that the region's annifary landfill site be established on Burnahamthorpe Rd. in Oakville.

Her greatest hope is that

more people will learn the language of the deaf. Some enthusiasts see its use as a way of communicating when ACTON The Church of St. Alban visiting foreign lands. Mainthe Martyr. Tucklay, 7.30 p.m. ly, Andrew's mother sees it as a way of talking coally with a nociety of people who, through no act of their own, Andican. have been inflicted with a

dents learn the delight of re-Today there are three schools for the deaf in Ont-Credentials of the teacher arto. The oldest is at Belleare extensive. Kathy Quigley has a Masters and teacherville where visible finger spelling and simultaneous training degree plus those of speech are taught. The secand is at Milton which follows est quality is her affinity with the same method. The latest children. Living in Milton she one was built at London, Onttravels, through the School arto. There students are for the Deaf, to deaf pretaught the oral method which school children in an area, inmeans they depend on lip cluding Barrie, Erin and reading and speech. ate of Galleudet college in

serious problem.

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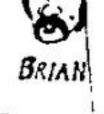
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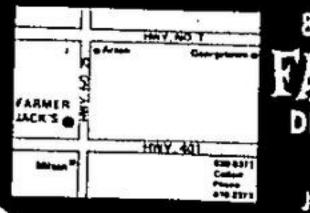
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