

Six weeks traction five in body cast

A nine-week ordeal is almost over for six-year-old Danny Staves, who has been suffering from a broken leg since April 24.

Danny, son of Mr. and Mrs. Tom Staves, 39 Rosemary Rd., was spending a rare lunch hour at school, as his mother decided to go shopping in Toronto. After he had eaten, Danny went outside to play. Within minutes, he lay in the playground's sandbox, his left leg broken in three places. An accident had rendered him immobilized.

School chums raced into the school to get the principal Doug Magwood. The supervising teachers also raced to Danny's side, and within minutes, the grade one student was at the Acton Medical Centre, under the care of Dr. David van der Bent.

Mr. Magwood was later to comment on the few tears Danny shed, although obviously in great pain.

Before the youngster could be transferred to Guelph General Hospital, one of his parents had to be notified. However, with his mother out of town and oblivious to the accident, she could not be reached. Mr. Staves' job, as a mechanic for Champion Road Machinery in Bramalea, keeps him out of the office and on the road most of the time. However, by sheer luck, Mrs. Staves comments, he happened to be between trips when the doctor telephoned him.

In the time it took the ambulance to travel from Guelph to Acton, Mr. Staves had driven from Bramalea.

X-rays revealed a badly broken femur. Because of the position of the breaks, Danny was put in traction.

In the meantime, Mrs. Staves was making her way back home. Once in Milton, she and her friend decided they should call home before embarking on still another shopping trip. The mother put in a call to the babysitter to whom Danny was supposed to go after school, and was told of the accident.

Eventually Danny was wheeled to his room and put in traction, where he remained for the next six weeks. Nurses had a difficult time trying to keep him still, trying everything short of a straight jacket over the next few weeks. He was just too active a boy to keep pinned down, his mother explained.

Over the next several weeks, the Staves family was to find out what the words "friendship" and "neighbor" mean. For the first week, the family was without a car. However, neighbors made sure the mother got to the hospital and back each day.

Cards and gifts poured in from relatives, friends of relatives, friends and schoolmates. Before he got home, there were 102 cards.

Danny's teacher, Miss

Cindy Blades, volunteered to tutor him while in the hospital and at home.

Five-year-old sister Julie, after a few weeks of all the attention to her big brother, began to feel pangs of jealousy, her mother said. Recognizing this, her parents and grandparents bought her a few gifts as well. Luckily, Mrs. Staves said, she celebrated her birthday during the seven weeks and was guest of honor at a birthday party. Within a few days, all jealousy disappeared and she was back feeling concern for her brother.

While in the traction, the nurses did their best to help Danny pass the time away. A few times, during the May heatwave, his entire bed was wheeled outside where he could watch the passing traffic of people, and smell the fresh air.

After six weeks of being almost literally tied down, the doctors put Danny in a body cast. His entire right leg, and from his waist to his chest was wrapped up and plastered. Doctors felt because Danny was so small, a normal cast would not have any affect on him, Mrs. Staves said.

Danny was able to go home one week later, after learning how to master the clumsy cast and crutches. The

youngster normally took a size 7 in clothes, but with the cast, measuring 27 inches around the body, he zoomed to a size 14. Donations of clothes came in from several directions.

Even though he is at home among his family, Danny still has a problem. He either has to lie down or stand up. He has to watch the other children at play instead of being part of the action.

However, on July 7 Danny returns to the hospital for more X-rays and hopefully to have the cumbersome cast taken off. He will then remain for a few days while undergoing therapy. It will have been 11 weeks since the accident.

Mrs. Staves said she cannot believe Danny's attitude over the past several weeks. She explained that he has never complained of pain, or of the cast being itchy or hot. She says Danny has never watched the children at play and verbally wished he could be with them. She admires his courage and unselfishness.

The family will never forget all the kind words of concern from everyone they come in contact with. Their lives have been changed in the past few weeks.

For Danny, his life will soon be back to normal, but not without a great deal of pain, patience and understanding.



SIX-YEAR-OLD Danny Staves, in a body cast for several weeks as the result of an accident at school, gets a loving kiss from little Julie. He holds a giant get well card from his Sunday school class.

Chaotic meeting of library board

A chaotic meeting, held by Halton Hills Library Board, Thursday night, resulted in the board leaving the stage of the Georgetown high school, and continuing the meeting in the staff room, when a Toronto dance group, "The

Dance Sphere" began to act out the library controversy, and refused to stop. Approximately 60 people, some carrying signs, attended the meeting, where the only concrete fact emerging, was a promise to

make a decision within two or three months. Vera Macdonald told chairman Dick Howitt the dance group wanted to present an artistic expression of the feelings of some residents about the library.

Howitt replied they were here to listen to submissions, but said if they wanted to present the dance interpretation after the meeting, anyone who wanted could stay and watch. Mrs. Macdonald said it was

a submission, but the chairman ruled it out of order. The dancing and music began and the library board adjourned into the staff room, with half the audience in their wake and the other half staying to watch the dancing. According

to a spectator, the lights were eventually turned off in the cafeteria. At the beginning of the meeting, Howitt said he would restrict speakers to residents of Halton Hills, since the board is interested only in their concerns.

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Gudgeon is re-elected

Halton-Burlington Progressive Conservation Association held the annual meeting in the lower hall of the Bayrischer-Hof Restaurant in Milton on Wednesday, June 21.

Elected for his second term as president of the Association is Eric Gudgeon of R. R. 2, Milton. Others on the executive are First vice-president John McArthur, second vice-president Larry Fraser, past president Fran Baines, secretary Irene Saunders, treasurer Graeme Goebelle and Y.P.C. president David Baker.

Area presidents who are

also members of the riding executive are Brian Cargill of Acton, Phil Russell of Burlington, Peter Ramsay of Georgetown, Stu McFadden of Milton and Roy Wood of Nassagaweya.

An amendment to the constitution was approved and five directors were added to increase participation and

input from the riding. Accepting positions as directors are Ken McDonald from Burlington, Jack Belleghem from Georgetown, Don Romanetti from Burlington, Bruce Cargill from Acton and Ken Hassard from Milton.

Guest speaker for the evening was Bob Harris, party organizer for the P.C. Party


Building inspector to be chosen

Eramosa township council received four applications for the position of building inspector for the township.

These names will be pooled with names received by Erin township council for the same position, and a joint meeting will be held to choose one name.

Both townships share the same man, thus cutting down expenses on both sides.

The position became available when former inspector Glen Creba resigned from the post for personal reasons.



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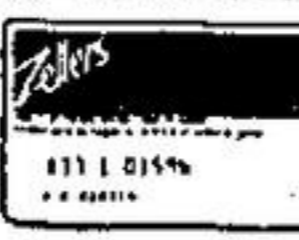
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