

PROFILES

with JENNIFER BARR



Most weekday afternoons any time of the year Trinity United Church, Acton, is alive with quiet conversational voices and the squeaking of needles through cloth.

Trinity quilters gather to work on the latest communal effort and discuss the issues of the day. All ladies, the quilters number 13—a lucky number for them.

Included in the group are Dorothy Simmons, convener, Tiusus Veldhuis, Elsie Reed, Kate McEnery, Marguerite Taylor, Nellie Shoemaker, May Porty, Eleanor Grammatick, Loreen Jones, Nellie Wieck, Helen Pickett who makes the tops, Emma Near and Kay Ross who takes care of supplies, designs and patterns.

The ladies can't remember when quilting started at Trinity but all agree it was at least eight years ago and some of them carry group quilting back 20 years when they used to gather at Grandma Lambert's on Main Street South.

Most Trinity quilters learned to quilt at their mother's knees and remember quilting in their early womanhood. The present group is just as much of a social gathering as a work group spiced with tea, Dutch biscuits, lively banter and frequently a visit from the minister, Rev. Chuck Beaton, who finds the ladies good for lifting depression.

Roughly 50 quilts a year are turned out by the group who sell them for church proceeds. Some quilts are done as gifts or for donations. Quilting is also done by order from people who supply their own materials. They also quilt spreads completed by someone else up to the quilting point.

Quilts are sewn at home, each lady doing a block and sewing the patches by machine or appliqueing the design by hand. The entire quilt top is assembled and marked for stitching rows. It's then tacked to the quilting frame which stands in the Trinity nursery six days a week.

Quilting starts as each lady takes her position at the quilt and plunges her specially threaded needle into the virgin cloth.

Stitching is done by hand, tiny rows of neat stitches running in intricate mapping across the landscape of the quilt often the size of a kingsize bedspread.

As rows are completed the quilt is rolled from two sides to enable the needles to reach closer to the centre. Rolling involves everyone's hands as clamps are unscrewed, turned and reset with the help of Dorothy Simmons' screwdriving expertise.

When the last turns are made and everyone is quilting the middle they bump noses and get in a muddle of hands. Every Monday noon Miss Simmons calls group members to ask "Are you quilting today?"

The ladies will quilt for three to four hours at a stretch which, they say, does make them tired, specially if they're rushing to complete a quilt.

Walking home after quilting is tiring, explains Mrs. Reed who started quilting as a child. She has also done a variety of embroidered quilts—"You couldn't buy a quilt in those days". Not content with putting in her hours at the church, Mrs. Reed quilts at home. Sometimes her fingers are too sore to pick up a needle, she says.

Miss Simmons has trouble defining the exact time she started to quilt—it seems she's been involved with needlework most of her life.

Mrs. McEnery has been quilting full time since she retired from work in 1973. It seemed everyone wanted quilts in the early 70s she says, "they were in the thing". Now quilts have declined in popularity due to increased cost of materials, but the decline is only slight.

Mrs. Veldhuis says she "just got hauled into it"—quilting, that is.

She hasn't even got a quilt of her own, she remarks, and Miss Simmons agrees with her—"I keep selling mine", she grumbles.

The ladies don't have time to enter competitions with their quilts although one special birthday quilt they made for their minister last year was entered in the Acton Fall Fair where it won second prize.

Quilts have to be as neat on the reverse side as on the top. All knots have to be drawn in between the covers and thread finishing is done within the cotton batten. Stitches must be even and precise of uniform length. Sometimes Dorothy Simmons is tempted to redo a stretch but never does. It's important for the group to stay on good terms.

Trinity quilts have been sent all over the world including most of Canada, Mexico and Holland.

They are frequently donated to the Cancer Society for use in Princess Margaret Hospital, given to refugees and the OODE. Whoever needs a quilt gets on the Trinity quilters' list.

Visitors drop in to the happy nimble-fingered group, schoolchildren get lessons in the age-old art, ministers get refreshed—think Trinity quilters do more good in this world than just plain quilting.



Members of the Trinity Quilters, Tiusus Veldhuis and Kate McEnery keep stitching while Elsie Reed and Dorothy Simmons hold up a completed quilt.

WANT ADS ON PAGE EVERY TIME

Terry Fox to trot in town Tuesday

Sometime next Tuesday (July 22) town's people will have a chance to see, and perhaps talk to, an extraordinary human being.

That person is Terry Fox. He and his story have been told and retold in eastern Canada. It'll be told again as the 21-year-old one-legged runner follows the sun across the nation.

Terry Fox is the young man who lost his right leg to bone cancer. In an effort to raise money and create publicity for medical research against cancer, Fox is running across Canada's 5,200 miles. His goal is to raise as much money as possible for research. He gets none of it.

Each day Fox runs the equivalent or farther than the Olympic marathon. Some money has already been collected or pledged in town.

McKenzie-Smith graduate Andrea Arbic, her mom is Rena Arbic of the Cancer Society, challenged her classmates to see how much money could be raised.

As of early this week \$110 had been received from much of the three graduating classes. Two other classes remain to be sounded out. Andrea says most of the donations were in the \$2 range. Some teachers and parents, however, gave \$5 or \$10.

The friends helping Andrea with the pledges and collection are Lisa Doberthien, Sharon Lindsay and Kathy Coates.

Donations and pledges may also be made at Acton Home Furnishings, 47 Mill St. E., and L and L Ford on Main St. Other downtown business also have pledge sheets for Fox's Marathon of Hope.

Today the recreation department is holding a strawberry and bake

festival in Georgetown's Gordon Alcott Memorial Arena. All proceeds are going to the Cancer Society.

L and L Ford President Lorne Doberthien, plans to cycle the 25 miles, following Fox, through Halton Hills.

Tentative plans have been made to hold a welcome ceremony at the municipal offices on Mill

St. Either a cheque or the pledge sheets will be presented to Fox.

The Cancer Society will have Fox T-shirts and buttons for sale. All of the proceeds will go to cancer research.

Anyone wishing to run with Terry is asked to follow him by at least ten feet. He has been tripped at least twice by well meaning runners.

Market Jeanery for folks wanting denim

A young Guelph couple hopes soon to see everyone in denim because they are opening the town's newest jean shop.

The Market Jeanery is having its grand opening this week. It's located on Mill St. E. where the Music Stop used to be.

The newest merchants in town are Roseann and Peter Yeo, Peter, 24, said their shop's wares will be following the fashion trends. For example, the western look can be done with the wares at The Market Jeanery.

The Yeos have jeans for men plus designer jeans for women. There are also denim skirts for the ladies plus shirts and T-shirts for the men. Peter also has cowboy boots to round out the look.

The Yeos like the idea of opening their shop in a small town. "You get repeat business, you get to know the people. It's real nice," said Peter.

Roseann, said Peter, describes the shop as possessing an "earthy atmosphere". Peter employs some antique furniture, from his collection, to contrast with the modern denim.

Both members of the Yeo family gained some retail experience during high school. Later, for



Peter Yeo, of Market Jeanery, displays some of the denim and leather goods available at the Mill St. shop.

four months they tested the market for their wares at Fergus.

Peter worked at Guelph Twines Ltd., a plastics firm, for seven years. Roseann will be in

The Market Jeanery during the summer months. In September, she returns to her regular job as a teacher, of handicapped children at Guelph's Rotary Children's School.

Golden Agers

Davidsons host picnic

The Acton Golden Age Club were hosted by Bert and Irene Davidson, Churchill Rd. North at a picnic on their beautiful grounds on Wednesday, July 9.

The weatherman cooperated and a good time was had. As usual, the food was ample and delicious.

Games were enjoyed and the winners were—Kick the Shoe—Ladies—Isabel MacDonald, Irene Terry. Men—Walter Hug, Bert Davidson. Egg and Spoon Race—Nellie Wieck, Freda Lambert and Mary Milne. Peanut Game—Mabel Van Fleet.

Freda Lambert, Jar of Candies—Emma McIntyre, Ada Allison. Pillow Race, Straw and Pom Race—won by teams.

The group led by Alice Pilkington won the prize for the most members present.

The president expressed the clubs thanks to our host and hostess

for a very enjoyable evening.

We will be attending, by bus, the Zone 13 Picnic at beautiful La Salle Park on Thursday July 17, and will be home by 5 p.m. Members are to bring their own food and beverage. This is always an enjoyable outing.

Former residents support Actario

The Actario lottery isn't receiving support just from present residents of Acton. Following are two letters from former residents sent to Ted Tyler, one of the Actario organizers, and filed with this newspaper for publication.

Acton and region news with much interest. Ted I hope your endeavour to obtain the necessary funds for the restoration of the Town Hall is 100 per cent successful. Ron Cripps

Dear Ted: Enclosed you will find a cheque in the amount of \$100.00 to purchase an Actario ticket. I certainly want to commend you and the rest of the committee for the foresight to have the old Town Hall restored. As a former resident of Acton I still am very much interested in the happenings of the community. I still continue to get the local paper each week and follow all the

Dear Mr. Tyler, I just read of your fund raising lottery, in the Free Press, to save the Acton Town Hall. I, too, have happy memories of times spent in the hall, especially the Acton Fair dances, and so, if possible, would like to be part of its restoration. Please find enclosed my cheque for \$100. Doreen Nicklin, (Steele)

No funding new school...

(Continued from page 1) Minister of Education Bette Stephenson to come to Acton to visit St. Joseph's. Whelan said if there is no action to get the new school for Acton project moving he will urge parents of children going to St. Joseph's to boycott the present facility this fall. He noted this tactic worked quite well this year in Etobicoke and he thinks the board and province would take action if all the parents send their children to public schools in September. Byrnes said an architect, Michael Torsney of Hamilton, has been engaged to build the \$1.25 million school beside the Legion.

Advertisement for Mazda vehicles, including models like GLC, 626, RX7, PICK-UP, and Mazda logo with 'SALES and SERVICE' contact info.



Advertisement for the Marathon of Hope, supporting Terry Fox and the Canadian Cancer Research Foundation. Includes details about Terry's plans to be in Acton on Tuesday, July 22, and how to pledge support.



Advertisement for Home Gifts Cards Jewellery, featuring 'GIFTS for the Bride and Groom' and 'Wedding Stationery'. Includes contact information for 43 Mill St. East, Acton, 853-3160.

Table titled 'ACTON MINOR HOCKEY ASSOCIATION FINAL STATEMENT 1979-80'. It lists disbursements and cash receipts, with a total of \$30,487.23.