

D and G group home overcomes problems

by Mark Holmes

Just outside of Acton a three-year-old group home for troubled native children has just overcome its own troubled past and is now making itself known as one of the best correctional homes in the province.

Walking inside the D and G Group Home one can't help notice the spotlessly clean rooms, smiling children and the sound of laughter that belies the fact the household is home for native youngsters with emotional and antisocial problems.

Two years ago the home received a lot of adverse publicity when one of the children living there left the custody of D and G and sparked an intensive investigation into how the home was run. As a result the reputation of D and G was seriously questioned and the home was almost permanently shut down.

According to David Stanley, the director and owner of the home, the problems started when he tried to obtain a licence to run the correctional program. Because of a previous record the government refused to

give Stanley a licence and it took several thousand dollars to fight the decision in court. Finally he won the right to run the program, but it was under the stipulation that some of the staff had to be Indian.

"This is when the major problems began," said Stanley. "These people were much more suited to work in an institutional setting where the patients have a mental illness."

Most of the non-Indian staff had little or no experience with Indian problems that weren't illnesses, Stanley contended.

For instance, "explained Stanley," "one especially aggressive 14 year-old slapped around two of the non-Indian staff and instead of releasing the kid's aggression they over-sympathized with him."

"With this kind of treatment the child would think he could get away with slapping people around and would've done it again if we hadn't let the non-Indian staff go," concluded Stanley.

Because of the recession, plus the fact

they were fired, the former staff members thought they could protect their jobs by complaining about the "unorthodox rehabilitation" measures used at D and G Stanley said. The complaints found their way to several prominent government agencies and the future of D and G was in jeopardy.

What the former staff and most people didn't understand was a lot of Indian kids were raised by very poor grandparents who couldn't give the children the guidance they needed.

"Cliff Summers, a native Indian from the Dakotas, said, "Where I grew up eight of us lived in a one room house and shared one bed." "There was more than one time some of us went hungry."

It tended to be a hard life on the reservation for many of the youths, but it isn't usually on the reservation that the children get into trouble, Stanley noted. It's when these kids, who are almost completely ignorant of life off the reservation, are

placed into a public school system and introduced to video games, drugs and peer pressure that the problems begin he continued.

"I mean," continued Stanley, "what is the real problem? The fact the kid stole a boat or is it he's hungry and needs a boat to catch some fish?"

"I'm not saying these kids are completely innocent when they leave the reservation, but when they are suddenly exposed to a totally different culture it blows their minds."

"The reputation Indian children have when they come into a public school doesn't help their attitude much either," said Stanley.

"Because they're poor and have to wear hand-me-downs, the Indians are labeled 'dirty and trashy'," said Summers. And you can imagine how that kind of prejudice hurts their pride and sense of self worth."

"People don't understand, the Indian has a much different outlook on life," said Louis

Movescamp, a former teacher at the University of Omaha.

Many outsiders tend to see Indian religion and folklore as a kind of black magic or voodoo when in reality much of their religion is similar to Christian beliefs, Stanley noted.

The Indian believes he was created equal to everything in nature and therefore treats his surroundings with respect.

With this philosophy in mind one can see how the North American attitudes towards "progress" and racism would be in conflict with Indian ways.

"What the whole thing really boils down to is," remarked Stanley "these children were raised on a reservation and educated with one set of values then placed into an alien culture that breaks down everything they were led to believe. The kid will become confused and do something stupid."

"I think the best word to describe it is culture shock," concluded Stanley.

(Continued on Page B3)

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Loyalist find . . .

Region Museum has special display

By WILMA BLOKHUIS

When two overloaded pick-up trucks returned to the Halton Regional Museum in Milton from Thunder Bay one day two years ago, an entire collection of artifacts documenting a pioneer family's history from 1776 to the 1930s, was not expected.

The donation came from Dr. E.N. Wright, 84, who married a direct descendant of the prominent Buck family of Palermo, Elizabeth Gertrude Campbell. She died in 1978 at the age of 70, and Dr. Wright, who only retired from active practise last year, felt the well-kept collection ought to be placed with the region's museum.

But, the museum had to pick it up. Lamenting the gift would not otherwise be received, the late Eria Brittain, curator, made the arrangements, and then personally went up to Thunder Bay to make sure the offer was believable. Fortunately, nothing was lost or damaged enroute, despite the overloading, from the 500 to 700 piece collection, which includes everything from ball gowns to a spinning wheel, saddle, early farming implements, photographs, historical notes, legal documents, jewellery and furniture.

Help Hired

Faced with researching and cataloguing this substantial collection, the museum hired a full time historical researcher, display co-ordinator and public relations officer, Jonathan Mitchell. Though hired to delve into the history of the museum's entire 30,000-piece collection, Mitchell has so far only concentrated on the Buck family donation. He has recently assembled and arranged for display, a number of Buck artifacts for an exhibition titled Halton's Loyalist Heritage. It opens this Saturday, Sept. 17 and is expected to remain in the museum's Craft House to the end of December—perhaps longer depending on public interest.

When Mitchell had completed the display about a month ago, the donor, Dr. Wright and his family, visited the museum, and expressing obvious pleasure, he announced more artifacts will be forthcoming. But again, the museum will have to pick them up.

The Buck family, United Empire Loyalists, came to Ontario (then known as Upper Canada) in about 1776, fleeing as refugees during the American Revolution—also known as the War of



Clothing display includes a suit worn by Colin H. Campbell and two gowns belonging to his wife Milanie Campbell, daughter of Anson Buck. The one with a diagonal design was worn at the 1911 coronation of George V and the lace gown at 1901 coronation of Edward VII.

Independence. Supporters of the British monarchy were frequently imprisoned, and among those captured was Philip Buck I. His wife, Margaret Buck, turned off with four other women, taking with them over 30 children, on horseback through bush.

Enroute, Philip Buck II was born, and later, Margaret's husband joined the trek after escaping from prison.

Four Women

It is believed the four other women who travelled with Margaret were a Mrs. Nelles, after whose family Nelles' Corners may have been named; Mrs. Smith, original ancestor of E.D. Smith of Grimsby; Mrs. Secord, mother-in-law of Laura Secord; and Mrs. Bowman, of whom nothing is known. In total, 30,000 to 75,000 Loyalists escaped into Canada, settling areas stretching from Ontario to Nova Scotia.

"There are many legends surrounding their arrival, and they suffered a lot of hardship and deprivation," said Mitchell referring to historical notes written by a member of the Buck family. "Some of these Loyalists were well-to-do, but the majority were very poor. They built log cabins with dirt floors and a hole in the roof to let the smoke escape."

Philip Buck I and Margaret originally settled near Fort George, building their log cabin on a 200-acre crown grant. They raised 12 children, each of whom as United Empire Loyalist descendants, were also granted 200 acres. At times, this property was of little value, and those displeased with their allocation used it for bartering, or simply sold or traded. Thus, according to the Wilnot Survey of 1806, Philip Buck II moved onto crown land in Oakville. In 1816 he married Julianna Boehm at Black Creek (now a pioneer village museum), and later moved to Palermo—most likely in the early 1830s. (At approximately the same time, following Harastie Nelson's victories in the Battle of Trafalgar and French Revolution, whereupon he was subsequently knighted by the King of England and granted a dukedom (large estate) by the king of Sicily—the United Empire Loyalists and British colonists remained their settlements in keeping with Nelson's honors. Thus, Palermo, after the capital of Sicily, was selected to replace its original name, Hager's Town. The pioneer settlement was first named after David and Lawrence Hager, two brothers who are also

credited with the founding of Hagersville.

11 Children

The couple had 11 children, of whom the 10th born in 1833, was Anson Buck, builder of 'the house in Palermo', at the corner of Highway 5 and 25 which in recent years to the present serves as a restaurant, under different names. Anson studied in the United States and also earned a degree from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of London, Eng. He practised as a country doctor for 54 years, and often travelled a full day on horseback through bush to make a 24 home visit. "He was known for his absolute dedication to his work," said Mitchell. He married Keturah Adelaide Howell in late December, 1854, and she is best remembered for the local history she wrote.

Anson sat on the former Trafalgar township council for 40 years, and missed only one meeting during his entire tenure because of a death in his family. In January 1908, his retirement as reeve was marked by the township presenting him with an 18-karat gold chiming pocket watch.

Also among his credentials is field hospital and surgical work in the federal army service in the United States, and it is believed he marched with the victorious army following the American Civil War, to Baltimore in 1865, and that he was reputedly in the audience when President Abraham Lincoln was assassinated. Supporting Lincoln, Anson believed in freedom from slavery for the American negro.

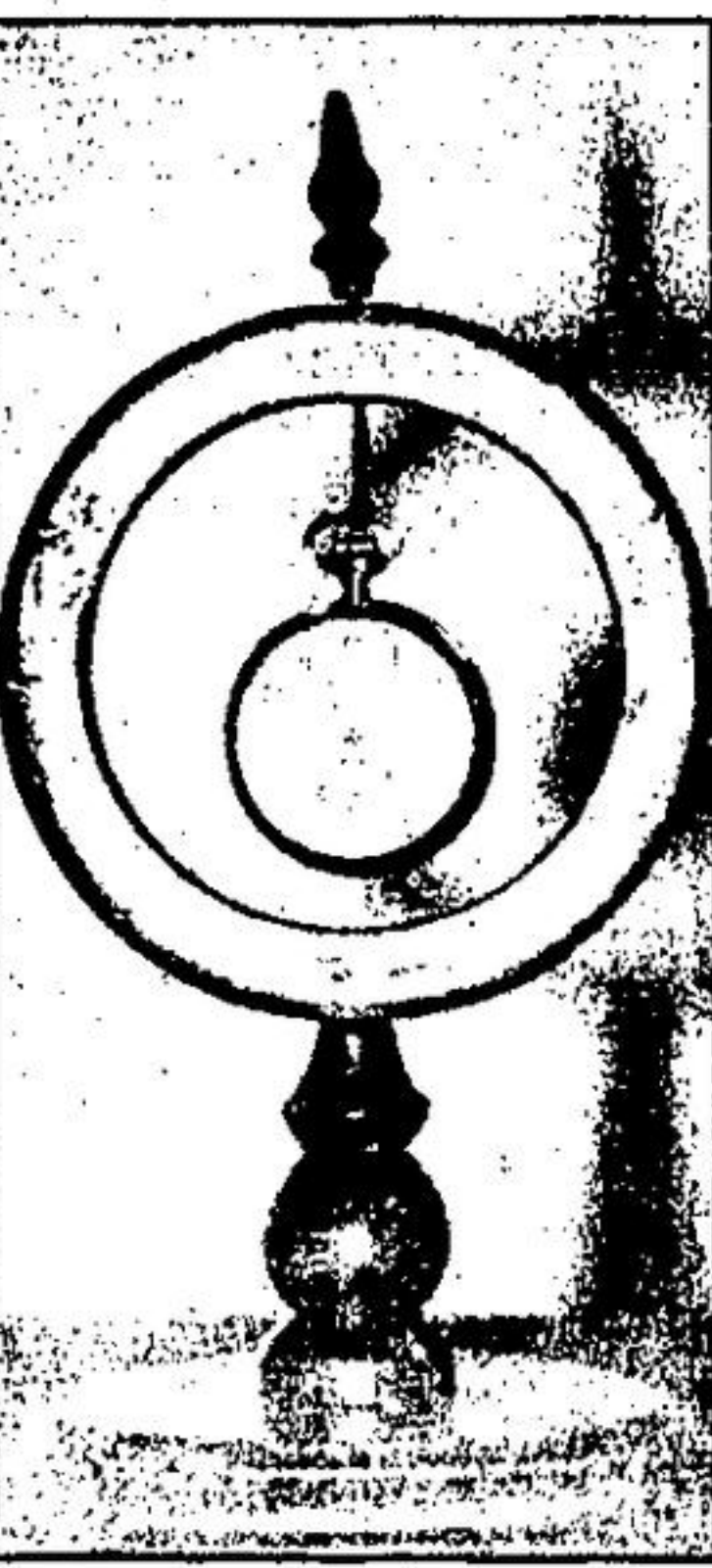
"I have never refused a call of suffering humanity or sued a man in court," states Anson's creed. "I would rather live in the hearts of my people than die rich as a cross." He died in 1919, and the family sold 'the house in Palermo'.

Two Daughters

Anson and Keturah had two daughters, the second of whom, Milanie Julia Beatrice Buck born in 1863, rose to great prominence following her marriage to Colin H. Campbell of Campbellville in 1894.

It appears only fitting that the Buck family collection was donated to the Halton Regional Museum, as it also has a family history of its own.

The museum is the original farm of Adam Alexander I who settled in the Milton area during the 1830s, hailing from the Kelso area of Scotland, according to curator Ernest Buchner. The property passed through four genera-



This 18-karat gold chiming pocket watch was presented to Dr. Anson Buck upon his retirement from Trafalgar township council in 1908 as reeve. He sat on council 40 years and missed only one meeting.

tions until Adam Alexander IV sold the 200-acre farm to the Halton Region Conservation Authority in the late 1960s. The museum, which opened in 1984, occupies six acres of land in Kelso Park which it leases from the authority for 99 years. "We have 70 years left," noted Buchner, curator since November 1982.

Of its six buildings, four are from the original Alexander farm—the stone house, blacksmith shop, barn and craft house, which was the piggery! A log cabin, circa 1830s, was moved to the site from Campbellville during the early 1970s, and opened as an early pioneer exhibit in 1976. The museum's Carriage House is a Centennial project of 1987. The Halton Regional Museum and all of its exhibits are opened seven days a week, from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Halton's Loyalist Heritage, the Buck collection, is on display in Craft House.



Isabel Benton

Post Mistress at Limehouse for 24 years

Funeral services for Mrs. Arthur W. Benton were conducted by the Rev. Peter Barrow on Friday, October 7, from the J.S. Jones & Son Funeral Home in Georgetown.

Mrs. Benton passed away on Tuesday, October 4 at the Georgetown District Memorial Hospital following a five month illness.

Interment was in the family plot in Limehouse Cemetery. Pallbearers were Joe Brooks, Fred Gisby, Dick Appleyard, Ellwood Payne, John Lefterink and Bill Brooks. Flower bearers were Fred J. Brown, Donald Lindsay, Kevin Clark, Randy Banish, Inez Crichton and Ruth Linham.

Mrs. Benton was born Mary Isabella Neilson on June 5, 1909 on Lot 7, Con. 5, Esqueving Township, the daughter of Jonathan Neilson and Mary Anne McEwen.

She married Arthur William Benton in Acton on October 29, 1935. She was predeceased by her husband in September 1972 and by one son Neilson Arthur in August, 1979. She is survived by one son Albert John of R.R. 4 Acton and his wife Glenda and only grandson John. Also survived by her sister Charlotte, Mrs. Wilfrid Greenlees, of Campbellville.

Mrs. Benton taught school at Limehouse and Mineral Springs.

She was a member of Limehouse Presbyterian Church, Life member of the Limehouse Women's Missionary Society and a Life member of the Limehouse Women's Institute, having held various offices in these organizations.

Mrs. Benton and her husband operated the Limehouse General Store for 35 years where she was post mistress for 24 years.

Since selling the store in 1967, as long as health permitted, Mrs. Benton enjoyed her hobbies of sewing and fancy work, gardening and compiling local history. She was keenly interested in all community activities and local history. She derived great pleasure from conversing with people and sharing her knowledge.

Mrs. Benton has been the Limehouse correspondent for The Acton Free Press and Georgetown Herald for over 40 years and for The Independent from its beginning.

Parent-relief at Oaklands

North Halton Association for the Mentally Retarded wants parents to know the Oaklands Regional Centre is offering a parent relief service for up to six people at a time, from age six and up.

The parent-relief unit is in the main building at Oaklands Centre and consists of a living-dining-kitchen area, two bedrooms, and three bathrooms.

The service is available for up to two weeks at a time for 30 days per year and costs from two to three dollars a day for children. For adults over 18 years of age, a portion of Family Benefit Allowance is deducted for each day of care.



This dress belonged to Keturah Buck, wife of Philip Buck II. It was entirely hand-stitched.