

Heartfelt sympathy extended

The members of Branch 120 extend their heartfelt sympathy to our comrade Terry Bludd and wife Marina and their children in the recent loss of a beloved son and brother.

**SICK CHAIRMANS REPORT:
CHARLES TUTTY - 877-0618**

The latest visitations included comrades Duke Wilson and Bill Gibbs at the Bennett Centre, Ray Harley and Jim Collier both at home. I am pleased to report Ray and Jim are improving, thanks to care and attention of their families. Dropped into the Bennett Centre to visit Bill and Duke. Bill was in fine fettle, inquiring of comrades Hennesey and English. I was happy to report to him, both Matt and George were in excellent health. Duke was resting during my visit, I did not wish to disturb him, but I will see him again at a later date.

I wish to inform the many friends of Sidney Irvine, I was in contact with his wife Alice in Sandy Cove Acres, and she informed me that he was back in hospital in Barrie and in failing health. Alec Goldie, or should I say "King of the Parallel Bars" is continuing his exercise routine, and according to



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Branch 120 PRO

his wife, Sheena, is doing well, but not quite ready to set any records. Alec had been in touch with many of his friends since our last report. Keep up the good work Alec.

Recent visitors to our Branch were Jill Lefebvre, home Branch 255, Windsor. Les and Lil Horner and W.J. and Elsie Mossop home Branch 66 Minolta, Manitoba. Janette Howald home Branch Lucknow, Ont., no. 309. We wish you all a safe journey home.

Plymouth Committee Meeting: On Monday, August 13th at 8:00 p.m. in the lounge at the Branch. All members of the Branch are more than welcome to attend.

Reminder for Warriors' Day Parade August 18th, 1990. The distribution of the free family admission tickets to the C.N.E. on Warriors' Day will be by mail. In-

dividual veterans must write requesting tickets and enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope to: Warriors' Day Tickets, Box 882, Station "K", Toronto, Ont. M4P 2E0. They must give proof of their military service, Personal Number, and name of their unit. For further information see branch bulletin board.

Car Club Draw: August 2, 1990 - no. 492 Jerry Bell, no. 233 Clark Gibson, no. 222 Max Stafford, no. 97 Ross Walters, no. 338 Carrie McFarlane, no. 363 Bill Weir.

Friday Night Euchre: Ladies - 1st Floss Tracy; 2nd Mae Tost, Most Lone Hands Beatrice Harrison. **Mens** - 1st Vi Hewitt, 2nd Bob Darling, Most Lone Hands Charles Sheppard.

Meat Draw Saturday, Aug. 4: C. Tutty, C. Reid, C. Watson, H. Allen, P. McNeilly, B. Porter, W. Reid, B. Dunn, A. Ford, M. Stevenson, N. Yates, S. Stevenson. The steaks were won by D. Kerby. Congratulations to all of the above lucky winners.

Thoughts: We do not inherit our time on this earth from our parents - We borrow our time on this earth from our children.



Off to Grandma's

Baby and bear both snooze during a Guelph Street stroll. Five-month-old Cassie-Marie Graham and mother Stacey enjoyed the fine weather and took a stroll east on Guelph Street on their way to grandma's house, recently. (Herald photo)

Videotape can be both a blessing and a curse

By GIL HARDY
Ottawa Bureau
Thomson News Service

OTTAWA - For film archivists like Jana Vosikovska, videotape is both a blessing and a curse.

On one hand, videotape is ideal for showing rare archival footage too fragile to be exhibited in its original form. But original material on videotape quickly becomes inaccessible as technological changes render formats and viewing equipment obsolete.

"Even things which are being produced now, you know that in five years, maybe 10 if you are optimistic, you can't play it unless you keep the playback equipment," says Vosikovska, acting director of Canada's Moving Image and Sound Archives.

The videotape dilemma, along with film deterioration and the handling of dangerous nitrate film stock, are just some of the everyday problems facing the archive. In a time of government restraint, the national repository for Canada's visual and audio history has to be increasingly selective when it adds to its collections.

Vosikovska, 55, who came to Canada from Czechoslovakia in 1969, has about \$1.2 million to spend this year on acquisitions and service to the public. Budget increases over the last five years have not kept pace with inflation.

"It's a problem which all archives are trying to resolve. There is just so much material to sort out and decide what you can keep and look after. We just can't take everything in and let it rot on the shelves," she says.



Once a film is restored, it still must be checked regularly for shrinkage or rewashed to prevent deterioration.

The collection is housed in six climate-controlled vaults in the National Archives Building, a short walk from Parliament Hill. There are more than 300,000 film, radio and television and assorted sound recordings, with a total running time of 180,000 hours.

NITRATE STOCK
Film footage on old and highly flammable nitrate stock is stored elsewhere in Ottawa until it can be transferred onto modern safety film. It was a disaster involving nitrate films that led to the creation of the archives.

In 1967, a fire destroyed millions of feet of nitrate film stored by the National Film Board in an old airplane hangar at Beaconsfield, Que. The fire followed years of government inaction in which more than half the films produced here between 1890 and 1950 were lost through deterioration.

In the fire's aftermath, Ottawa authorized the National Archives to collect unstable nitrate films

and transfer them to safety film. A separate division of the National Archives devoted to film became official by 1976.

Last year, the film archives fielded more than 9,000 inquiries from film, TV and radio producers, educators and researchers. Vosikovska says the number of inquiries levelled off about five years ago.

"That was about the time we became completely saturated, we couldn't do any more."

Lack of funds has prohibited hiring the staff needed to research and catalogue material and serve the public. Anyone wishing to view archival footage faces a two-week wait and that's if the material has already been copied.

The material itself pours in from the NFB; TV networks; governments; film producers; private collections and companies. Last year, some 15,000 hours were acquired, down from 26,000 in the previous year.

Among the finds was 1927 footage showing Eldorado Mines operations in the Arctic and the Calgary Stampede; a large collection from Alcan Aluminum and footage of the 1934 Charles Bedeaux expedition across northern British Columbia using Citroen tractors.

EDISON SHORTS
Some of the earliest films shot in Canada are preserved in the collection. Made by the Edison Company in 1897, the silent, black and white images of our past show baggage and horses being loaded on a train bound for the Klondike.

New nursing home beds for multicultural use

Health Minister Elinor Caplan has announced the licensing of 600 new nursing home beds dedicated to multicultural use.

Mrs. Caplan said annual operating funds of approximately \$10 million had been set aside to support the additional beds.

The allocation meets a commitment made by Premier David Peterson to invite proposals from non-profit groups to establish 600 nursing beds specifically tailored to meet the needs of Ontario's diverse cultural communities.

"We wanted nursing home that were linked to their communities' programs for the elderly," Mrs. Caplan said, "in settings that felt to their residents as much like home as possible."

In addition to the 600 beds, Mrs. Caplan said her ministry is also acting on a commitment to license more nursing home beds in Metro Toronto, by allocating a further 60

beds to the three cultural communities whose bed proposals were rated the highest, and where need was clearly demonstrated.

The health minister offered an extra 20 beds to Metro's Chinese, Greek and Ukrainian communities. Each has three months to respond to this offer.

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