

Tree Planting, Birthday Cake, Magician Mark School for Deaf Anniversary Party

By Roy Downs



PHFFFT! IT'S OUT! Ontario School for the Deaf students Douglas Hammond, Garnet Waite, Danny Dinsmore, Carl Wolfe, Teddy Schot and David Weldrick muster up all their wind to blow out the candle on their school's first birthday cake. Thursday was a big day for the children as a tree planting ceremony, special menu for the birthday supper, and an evening program including a magician and films of school activities, helped them celebrate the first birthday of O.S.D.

A tree planting ceremony, a special birthday supper and an evening program of magic tricks, films and slides — all made it a pretty busy but eventful day for students of Ontario School for the Deaf, Milton, on Thursday of last week.

The occasion was the first birthday of the school. It was April 23, 1963 when the school first opened to 84 junior students who transferred there from the other O.S.D. at Belleville. Last September more classrooms were opened and beginners from the area of Ontario west of Highway 400 were accepted to their first classes. Enrolment at the school is now over 160, in 19 classes.

With Anticipation

All week the students had been anticipating the planned birthday celebrations. By Thursday all were sporting "Happy Birthday O.S.D., One Year Old" cards on their lapels.

After classes that afternoon, the classroom groups filed outside to the front of the Junior School, where three tree planting ceremonies took place. The oldest students and their teachers Mrs. L. J. Burnham, N. Onyschuk and Mrs. J. McDonnell officiated while others watched, three Red maples about 10 feet high were lapped into prepared holes in the ground as each student tossed in a shovelful of earth.

School gardener Ron Postma lent a helping hand during the ceremony, and a brass plaque prepared by carpenter Bill Robb was placed beside each tree, bearing the date and the names of the students who participated in the planting.

List Pupils

Mrs. Burnham's students were Wayne Currah, Elizabeth Dueck, Joseph Lavoie, Marjorie Matthews, Daniel Pare, Charles Tebow and Valentina Quagliette. Mr. Onyschuk's pupils included Douglas Elligson, Verna Henry, Keith Hohner, Robert Young, Wayne Copland, Gregory Bignell, Cecil Denomme, Kenneth Hohner and Rachel Tessier. Students helping Mrs. McDonnell were Jimmy Allen, Carol Bowman, Sharon Cook, Judy Driscoll, Michael Larocke, Dianne Monteith, John O'Brien, Linda Russell, Diane Shantz and Joanne Stephens.

School superintendent O. E. Kennedy said it was hoped the tree-planting would be an annual birthday time ceremony, and it is expected that when the school takes in senior students in the future, the graduating class would do the honors each year.

Birthday Cake

At suppertime dietician Mrs. P. Van Trig had a special birthday supper prepared for the pupils and staff who eat in the staff dining room. Topping it off was the birthday cake — a large one for the junior school dining room and a smaller replica for each table of students—made in the school's bake shop by Neil Devlin.

Students enviously eyed the delicious cakes as they hurried through their dinner, awaiting the moment they could light the candle and blow it out. Six boys from Miss Sandra Paton's section of the dormitory, Doug Hammond, David Weldrick, Carl Wolfe, Garnet Waite, Danny Dinsmore and Teddy Schot, (with the help of a Champion photographer) were singled out for the honor of blowing out the candle on the large cake.

Show Pictures

After the supper and the last few crumbs of cake were demolished, students headed for the auditorium where an interesting program of slides and films of school activities were shown. Supervising principal Miss Winnifred Maloney ran the projector for the films an O.S.D. business administrator A. H. Britton showed the colored slides — including many pictures of animals which the children loved.

Prizes were also awarded for the best decorations during the recent Christmas season.

Another highlight of the evening was a magician, who kept the audience in stitches with his funny antics and whole table-top loaded with tricks. He was John Foley, who is deaf and a graduate of O.S.D. at Belleville and now working as a carpenter in Hamilton.

Receive Typewriter

Last but not least on the program was the presentation of a special typewriter, for use by the crippled children among the students. Seven girls from the Beta Chapter, Delta Chi Sorority in Oakville made the presentation and student Frankie Schneider, his teacher Miss N. Pytyl and typing instructor Clay Morrison accepted it.

President Judy Savin, vice-president Nancy McKnight and sorority members Pat Willman, Jayne Pearson, Liz Evans, Sue Jarrett, Susan Bradd and Sue Barnhart were present for the presentation.



DELTA CHI SORORITY from Oakville, Beta Chapter, raised enough money to purchase a special typewriter for Ontario School for the Deaf, Milton, and it was presented Thursday evening during the school's first birthday celebration. Frankie Schneider, one of the crippled students who will use the typewriter, accepted it on behalf of the school. Shown with Delta Chi vice-president Nancy McKnight and president Judy Savin at the presentation are Frankie, his teacher Miss Nancy Pytyl, and typing teacher Clay Morrison.



A TREE PLANTING CEREMONY was part of the first birthday celebrations at Ontario School for the Deaf on Thursday of last week. Above, teacher N. Onyschuk's class of nine children does a little spade-work around their tree — one of three planted during the ceremony.



A BRONZE PLAQUE was planted beside each of the new Red Maple trees, after three classes of O.S.D. students did the official planting Thursday. Here, teacher Mrs. Jean McDonnell helps a student steady the plaque in front of a tree planted by her class.



A BIRTHDAY CAKE honoring the school's first birthday, was in place at each table at suppertime Thursday, and O.S.D. baker Neil Devlin must have been pretty busy in the bakeshop that day! Pat Willman, Jayne Pearson, Liz Evans, Sue Jarrett, Susan Bradd and Sue Barnhart smile proudly as they show off the cake from their table.

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SUPERVISING TEACHER Miss Winnifred Maloney got into the act, when Mrs. Lynn Burnham's class set out to plant a commemorative tree at the O.S.D. birthday party. Miss Maloney is shown with Mrs. Burnham and two of the students from her class, with the plaque that accompanies each of the three new trees. They hope to make the ceremony an annual one.