

Community-minded . . .

would later have with some inmates and eventually they turned to him for help in a wide variety of ways, both inside and outside the jail.

Eventually he was visiting the jail three or four times a week but his visits inevitably ended up generating work that had nothing to do with his ministerial role. He was busy changing car ownerships, having clothes transferred from one place to another and even making long distance phone calls for those in jail.

He recalls the movies losing some of their popularity when television was installed and the Wednesday night hockey games siphoned off the attendance at the movies.

Jail work
He has since reduced his work at the jail but continues to serve as Chaplin. Dave Moulton, a Salvation Army Chaplain working at Maplehurst, has since become involved with work at the Milton Jail.

"He can do a far better job than I can, because he has specialized in that type of work. I am happy to bow to him, because he can do it better than I."

Mr. Lewis regards his attempt to teach religious education at the Ernest C. Drury school as one of his personal failures.

He's quick to point out that what he feels was a failure was due in no part to the people there. "They helped me in every way they could." Because of the difficulty in communication, the minister felt he wasn't able to get any more across than the most basic message.

The situation still disturbs him because he feels the deal community isn't getting a fair shake in terms of religious education.

Frustrations
"It was a real frustration to realize how inept I was. But it opened my eyes to an aspect of society that is all too often forgotten and sometimes criticized."

He continues to feel that the deaf community represents an area not being tapped by the church, but he concedes that the Roman Catholic church does solid work in that area.

Mr. Lewis sat with elected and non-elected people on a local Task Force on Housing in 1973. Recommendations of that committee went to the Comai Commission on Housing and attracted attention in the Toronto media.

Rod Lewis doesn't consider that to be among his more successful efforts, because he hasn't been able to see concrete results and because his line was limited at that point.

In 1973 he became one of the founding members of the Milton and District Kinsmen Club. He was elected chairman of the service committee. It was during his term in the capacity that the club became involved with Kinsmen Park, a bus shelter, town benches, and the new year's bell ringing ceremony.

1974, a funny year
Rod looks back at 1974 as "a funny kind of a year." "It seemed that every time I went to a meeting, I came away as chairman."

There was the Santa Claus Parade Committee, the Steering Committee for the Halton Recovery House, St. John Ambulance, Winterfest Committee and the Youth Advisory Committee and it was during 1974 that he first became involved in work at the jail.

On one hand Rod Lewis balanced the community commitments he took on and with the other he balanced his commitment to his two rural congregations and the professional bodies he belonged to and worked with.

He acknowledges having to continually remind himself of his commitment to the congregation and struggling to make sure the time devoted to his varied interests are kept in proper perspective and ensuring that those priority jobs are done.

Poor shape
It was through his involvement in Winterfest that he became involved with St. John. It was after asking Don Miller if the brigade could help out during Winterfest that Rod Lewis learned of the poor shape that organization was in.

In fact it appeared there might not even be any brigade by the time Winterfest rolled around. It was partly his insatiable curiosity and his passion for conversation that led him into deeper discussions with Mr. Miller.

His concern was obvious. He admits knowing nothing of the operation, but felt the role the group played was important.

He showed up out of interest at a meeting to discuss the fate of the organization.

When all the talking was done the group reached the bottom line. "Is there enough interest to keep it going?"

Lewis recalls nodding his head in approval with the rest of those present. "Before I knew what had happened, I was chairman of the Branch. (The Branch is the administrative wing of the St. John organization. He served in that capacity for two years.)

Youth Housing
The Youth Housing Committee grew out of the need for the community to provide a place for youngsters who could no longer live at home for one reason or another.

That project never really got off the ground, but Lewis claims the need still exists. The group's idea was to board teenagers out in private homes for relatively short periods of time.

It was through his capacity as service chairman for the Kinsmen that Rod introduced the idea of having a Santa Claus Parade in town. He served as chairman in 1974 and 1975 over committee representing several service clubs in town.

Since the parade started in 1974, it has grown in popularity each year.

Of his activities outside the church, Lewis has found his work with the Halton Recovery House to be the most rewarding.

"We're done it." "It was great to stand back and say 'we've done it.'" It has left me with the philosophy that nothing is impossible and there is money there, if you keep looking for it."

He recalls attending the meeting because of his interest in the whole alcohol scene. "I was just getting ready to leave when Peter Marks called to say he was sick and asked if I would chair the meeting."

"I winged it and the meeting went all right. We got to the bottom line: 'Is there enough interest?'" There was, and before he knew it, there was one more chairmanship.

A house on Five Sideroad was eventually procured and Lewis and a group of dedicated workers saw the project through from fund raising, renovations to the house and eventually incorporation.

Born in Wales
Born in Wales, the youngest of three children, he is the son of a minister. He lived in Scotland, New Brunswick and Bermuda before finally returning to Toronto in 1961.

Recalling his days in Bermuda, Lewis recalled working on the docks with the longshoremen. He was 15 at the time and the workers had all quit to go on strike. There was no union.

Bermuda is heavily dependent on shipping and everyone who would go was being called in. The following summer the workers had unionized and he joined the union. He was one of two white people working with 800 blacks.

"It gave me a whole different insight into personal relations and laid the groundwork for opinions I would hold later on," he recalled.

The fact that the son of a minister would work with blacks "caused some righteous indignant noses to be turned up."

At that time the racial situation was just brewing and there was a lot of prejudice. "My dad was known as a 'nigger lover' because he allowed blacks to worship at his church."

Fond memories
Many fond memories of Bermuda linger on, but there are some not so fond. He recalls chatting with some black friends when some other blacks arrived, chanting "whitey, whitey."

"One guy came over to me and said 'you are about my size. He pounded me out.'" Besides his many community activities, Rod Lewis has been very active with church-related activities. He served as Milton and

J. Graham steps down as Supt. Special Services

District Ministerial Association President in 1975, was chaplain to Halton Regional Police Department in 1976, is serving on major committees in the Presbytery of Brampton, The National Committee on Congregational Life, is an executive member of Knox College Alumni Association and is currently the interim moderator of Campbellville and Nassagaweya Presbyterian Churches.

Mr. Lewis is 32 years old and lives at 241 Woodward Ave. with his wife Olive and sons Reese and Derek.

Halton Board of Education is searching for a new Superintendent of Special Services following John Graham's announcement, Thursday, he wants to step down to the position of Area Superintendent.

In a letter to the board Graham noted last month trustees authorized major development for improving Halton's special education programs and noted he and many others realize how complex and demanding a

project it will be. "It is important, it seems to me, that the board be free to assign the best available people and to create the most promising climate to ensure the success of the new direction (in special education)," Graham said.

A longtime board employee stated, "A personal review of my professional responsibilities and job satisfaction leads me to request that I be redeployed from my present post to a position as area

superintendent." Director of Education Em Lavender said he valued Graham's integrity. Alluding to the success he will have as an area superintendent, Lavender said there is probably no one who could go into a classroom and match the program to a child who was having problems better than Graham.

Lavender recommended a replacement be found for Graham as soon as possible and no later than July 1, 1977.

He said that as soon as a new superintendent of special services is hired, Graham will be moved to an area superintendent's job. If there isn't a job open at the time then he will serve as a special liaison assistant to the new superintendent of special services. All of Lavender's recommendations were accepted by the board.

Chairman Rev. Garry Morton, speaking on behalf of all trustees, said everyone has been gratified with the

Ebenezer

By Mrs. Ron McLean
Jesus tells His own story of His temptation, so we may know that His victory is possible for us all. Temptation today means lure into wrong doing. Its fuller meaning is to be tested and tried. When God wants to use you and me, He tests our tolerance. Satan asked Him, "Why not turn these stones into bread?" Testing is at our

particular level. Satan cannot bring peace. There is continuous testing. Jesus wanted a kingdom. But Satan didn't understand that the kingdom Jesus wanted was to live in His heart always. Only Jesus knew about His battle. We have one who is victorious and has gone before us. All one needs to do is centre our thoughts on Him. Let me be used, O God. This is the spiritual growth to let His will be done in you.

Congratulations to Margaret and Jim Allsop on the birth of their first grandchild, Sarah Marie, daughter of Rev. John and Karen (Clark) Allsop, at Orillia hospital, on Dec. 31.

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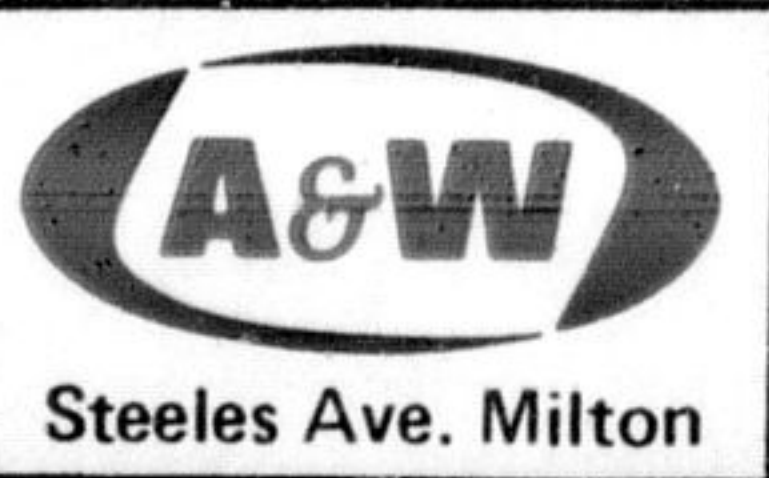
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