

One small flame

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the kitchen floor.

One small flame

They began mopping up the floor with old newspapers, and shut off all the stove valves. Twenty minutes later they opened

Discussion informal

Continued from page A1

tion issue because education depends on the quality of the teacher," she added. "Our teachers work hard, but they are also well paid."

Robert Filman, president of the Halton Elementary Teacher's Association, said their position is that the long term staffing agreement was simply a year-by-year arrangement appended to the annual contract.

As to the board's offer of lower salaries for more teachers—"there was never a table position on that. If there was discussion on that topic it was very informal and in the hallway," he said.

The PTR adjustment the sides are haggling over, he said, would mean the hiring of 12 more teachers for the system, at a cost of about \$2.52 for a taxpayer with a \$6,000 assessment.

Adding 12 teachers to the Halton system, he admitted, would have only a marginal impact on class sizes throughout the region, "but the impact on specific situations will be important."

Mr. Filman argued the role of the elementary school is changing and teachers at this level have to have time for individual attention and parenting, "and that is certainly affected by the PTR."

He said the lead of other boards should be followed and a different PTR established for special situations—such as special education and French immersion classes.

When pressed on the issue of accepting a lower salary settlement as a way of financing more teachers, Mr. Filman said the proposal amounted to asking teachers to subsidize the school system.

up the stove to see what had happened.

"There was still a bit of flame left inside and it started shooting out. The flame hit the floor and paper and the two of us were doing a Mexican hat dance trying to put it out," said Doug.

Despite their valiant attempts, the pair were eventually smoked out. By the time Milton and Burlington firefighters arrived, there was little that could be done to save the two storey home.

The stone walls collapsed within a few hours, leaving nothing but a smoldering mess.

The cause of the fire has been put down to a faulty space heater, but that does little to ease the pain of losing everything one owns.

The list of their valuables is not lengthy, but the sentimental value of such items as the buffet and hutch belonging to Pat's grandmother is great.

There was also the wall unit the couple had saved for and managed to purchase less than one year ago. Fridge, stove, washer and dryer were all burned beyond repair.

"At first I was swearing and crying—angry at myself for not somehow managing to have the insurance. All I could think of was that we had lost everything," said Doug.

Generosity overwhelms

"But I am grateful nobody was hurt. Normally, Pat would have been upstairs at that time of the day with the children. I hate to think what might have happened," he said.

He is a little overwhelmed by the generosity of the people who have come forward to help, many of them strangers.

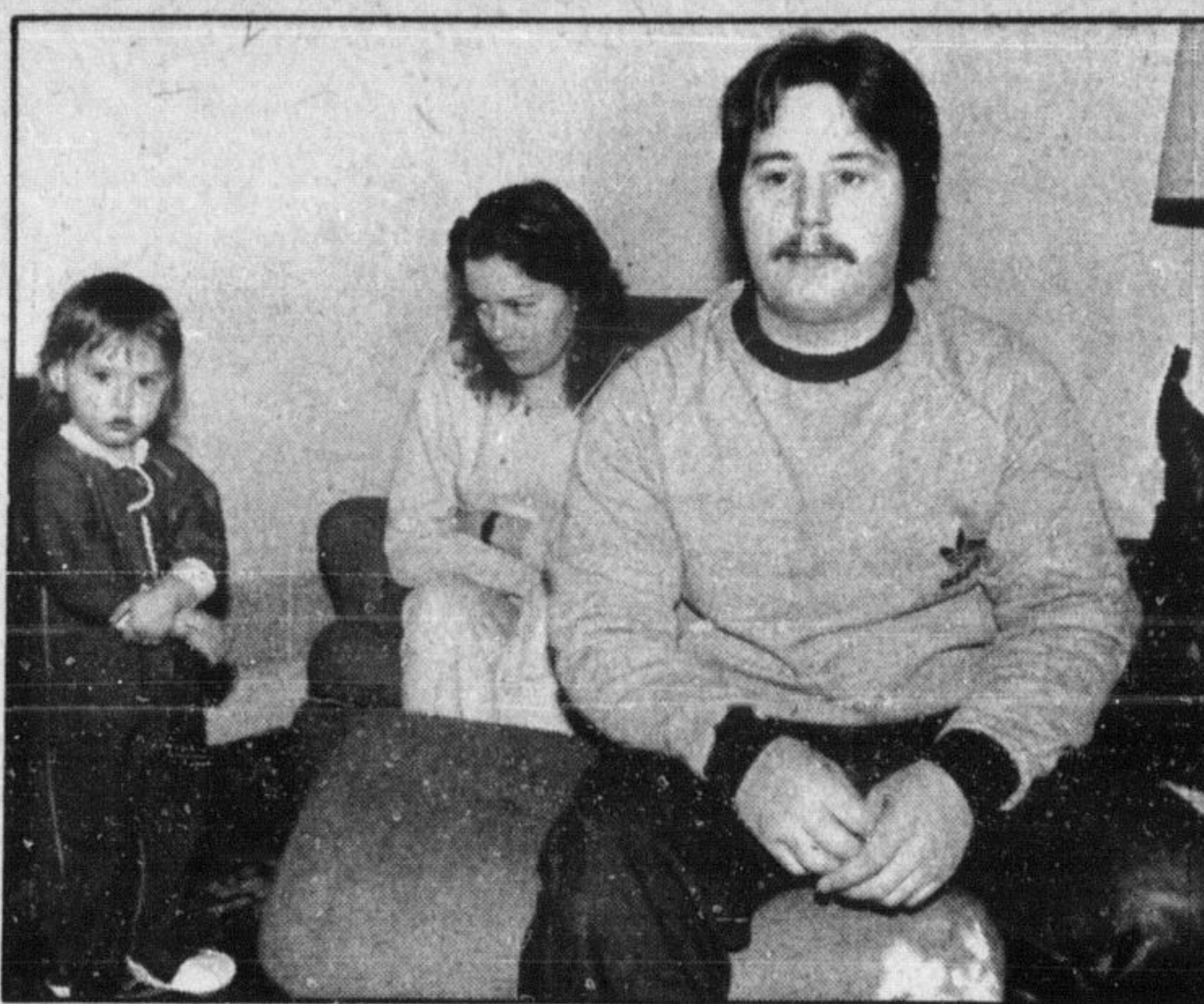
"It does make you feel good when people, especially strangers offer to help, but it is hard to accept sometimes. You don't want to impose."

Although they have now received ample clothing for the two youngsters, they don't have too much for themselves.

Their main concern is however, finding a place to call home.

"Anything that would be big enough for the four of us would be fine," said Doug.

Anyone who feels they may be able to help out may contact Doug or Pat at his parents' home by calling 876-1426.



The last few months have not been easy for this young Milton family and a recent fire has added to their misfortunes. Doug Strath would like to find a place to call home for himself and wife Pat and their two young children.

Death follows tractor accident

A decision has not yet been made to call an inquest into the death of a 47-year-old Milton farm laborer.

Joukol Piiranan, a farm hand employed by Barcrest Farms in Milton, died Friday in Hamilton General Hospital after suffering a brain hemorrhage three days earlier.

Mr. Piiranan was driving a tractor east on Five Sideroad when the accident occurred shortly after 2.30 p.m. Tuesday afternoon.

Mr. Piiranan apparently suddenly slumped over the wheel of the tractor, causing the vehicle to careen through a roadside ditch into a nearby field.

A second farm employee, Jeffrey Nicol, was travelling behind the tractor in a truck at

the time, and attempted to rescue the victim.

According to Halton Regional Police, Mr. Nicol made an unsuccessful attempt to get onto the tractor, and was injured himself when the vehicle ran over his legs.

A passing motorist, who witnessed the accident, was able to finally free Mr. Piiranan and rescue the younger man, with the help of a Ministry of Transport crew who were working nearby.

Mr. Piiranan was rushed to Milton District Hospital by ambulance and later transferred to Hamilton General Hospital, where he died.

Mr. Nicol suffered a fractured left ankle as a result of the accident.

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