

Lifestyle

Wednesday, January 25, 1989

Community Notebook

Racers Ready: Milton District Cubs should come to St. Paul's United Church ready to race Friday evening. The 15th annual Kub Kar Rally kicks off with registration at 6:30, followed by races. The model cars will be back on the track Saturday from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Winners will qualify for the regional rally. For information call 878-4020.

Give a Hoot: Learn how to hoot Friday night at Mountsberg Wildlife Centre during an "Owl Prowl" from 6-9 p.m. Mountsberg's resident Great Horned Owl, Oscar, will help visitors learn about the species. This time of year, owls look for mates and hunters can expect to hear answers in the woods. Visitors can also adopt an owl for \$5 and watch it released.

Fastest Draw: Black Bart will be at Holly's Tavern this Sunday to challenge gunslingers to the draw from 1-8 p.m. This fund-raiser for the Thomas Remedial Equestrian Centre (T.R.E.C.) will also include a special guest appearance by Tumbleweed Jones and recording artist Tom Destry. Holly's is located at 63 Steeles Ave. west of Hwy. 25. Admission is free.

Ladies Slo-Pitch: Women aged 25 years and up are wanted to play in a fun slo-pitch league. Registration will be accepted until March 1. For information call Cathy Dills at 878-4804.

Free Classes: The Halton Board of Education offers free English as a second language classes mornings and evenings at Milton District High School. To find out more about these programs call 878-4978 or 878-2839.

Goodbye Bill: Bill Manuel of Milton has stepped down from the board of the Halton Housing Authority after three years. The accounts manager at the Royal Bank in Oakville was named finance committee chairman of the authority in 1986. He is a long-time community worker and advocate for affordable housing. Mr. Manuel has lived in Milton for 25 years and is former vice-president of the Milton Optimist Club. He has worked with local Boy Scouts for eight years and supported baseball, hockey and soccer clubs in town.

Crafts Galore: For the second time this month, the staff at Crawford Lake Conservation Area will help visitors to design crafts from natural materials. The nature crafts can be made from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday. All supplies and directions provided. Crawford Lake is located on Guelph Line at Steeles Ave. For information call 336-1158.

Torch Parade: Glen Eden Ski Area will be alive with lights Friday evening during the annual Torchlight Parade. Members of the Ski School and Ski Patrol will ski down the slopes carrying torches, between 6-8:30 p.m. as part of National Ski Week activities. Greg Lee Masters Races will be held from 6:30-10 p.m. from Wednesday to Friday inclusive. Pre-registration is required and can be arranged by calling 878-5011.



Photo by LISA TALLYN
Karen Hubert has several souvenirs of her stay in Zaire, Africa and many memories as well. She spent three months in the Third World country as a participant in the Canada World Youth program.

She's out of Africa but country's flavour and languages linger on

By LISA TALLYN

A lot of things have happened since Karen Hubert left Milton seven months ago.

She turned 20, worked on a dairy farm, munched on caterpillars for the first time in her life, inherited several family members, improved her French language skills, and soaked up three months worth of African culture.

Karen left Milton in July as a participant in an exchange program sponsored by Canada World Youth. CWY is a non-profit organization which each year offers 350 to 400 Canadian youths an opportunity to spend three months in an area of Canada, and three months in a third world country.

Karen spent three months in Zaire, Africa. Earlier, she had worked and lived on a dairy farm in Quebec. Both experiences were new to her.

In June Karen and 13 other youths aged between 17 and 20 met in Ile Perrot, near Montreal, for an orientation session. They were joined by 14 participants from Zaire.

From there the groups split up. Karen and her counterpart from Zaire, Bo Mabike, were taken to the small village of St. Andre Avelin, to a dairy farm where they stayed for three months.

Four days a week the two girls worked on the farm, milking cows, haying and any other chore that needed done.

Karen enjoyed her stay on the farm.

One day a week was devoted to education. The seven Canadians and seven Zaire youths in the village got together to discuss what they were experiencing. There was an analysis of the farming quota system, they learned about chicken, sheep, cattle and goat farming.

Karen says that Bo had difficulties adjust-

ing to the concept of working. She had never held a part-time job.

In late September the youths were reunited in Ile Perrot for an orientation session on the next portion of their adventure in Zaire.

On October 1 the CWY participants boarded a plane for Zaire. Two days later they arrived after stopovers in Madrid and the Canary Islands.

Karen's luggage was missing for the first week of her stay, it had been sent to the Canary Islands.

After an orientation session Karen and Bo were taken to the home of their host family in Kinshasa, a city of about five million.

There were eight children in her host family. The father worked at a bank, the mother was a principal at a local school. They were not wealthy by any means.

"There seemed to be two classes there. Some are very wealthy, others are poor. There didn't seem to be a real middle class."

"They lived in a cement brick house. There was electricity, but there was no phone. We had water, there was a tap in the yard. Some other people on our street didn't even have water."

Karen says the cultural differences were what she found most interesting.

"Not too many people there have cars, you have to either walk or take public transportation. You don't know if you are going to have electricity at any given moment. Water is one temperature, cold, and washing is done by hand in a bucket. Showers consist of pouring a bucket of water over my head."

Food was very different from what she is used to.

When she first tried caterpillars she says the texture threw her off. But after tasting five or six of them she found she liked them.

Manioc is considered a staple there. The flour-like substance comes from a tree native to the area. Mix it with water and you have fufu, a thick dumpling like substance.

Fish is a popular dish. Karen was surprised to find that much of the salted cod eaten there was Canadian.

"They also eat chicken and beef and a tomato sauce which is made largely of oil."

During their stay with their host family Karen managed to see alot of the country. The participants travelled 13 hours by car to visit Moandal by the ocean. They stayed for three days.

The political and military situation was stable during Karen's stay.

"There were armed soldiers with semi-automatic rifles in the streets. You'd see them when you were shopping."

"The whole experience was very rewarding. Just the experience of living with other people was exciting. It was different being a minority. I think we gave them a different perspective also. There the whites are rich. Little children would come running up to us on the street just to touch us, as if we were good luck or something."

"I hope we gave them the impression that we are just like anybody else."

The trip introduced her to several new people. She plans to keep in touch with her families in Zaire and Quebec, and Bo.

"I learned Lingala (a native language of Zaire), and became bilingual in French." That was the language spoken in both Quebec and Zaire.

Karen will spend the next couple of months talking to school children, and community groups about her adventures. She plans to finish her political science degree at University of Waterloo. She won't start back until the fall.

We've Got it All!

Mon - Fri 10:00 — 9:30 p.m.
Sat 9:00 — 6:00 p.m.

MILTON
MALL