

Nursing volunteer shocked by Jamaica's deep poverty

By KAREN SMITH

Rosemary Galbraith spent three weeks in sunny Jamaica, but not as a tourist.

The Milton nurse spent the time providing medical services to poverty-stricken Jamaicans.

Volunteering her assistance in a foreign country was an encounter Mrs. Galbraith had always hoped to experience.

"It's always been a dream of mine," she said. "Ever since I was a kid I wanted to work as a missionary."

Through the Canadian Foundation For World Development, Mrs. Galbraith worked at a clinic in Kingston which provides medical, dental and eye care.

The clinic, called the Foundation for International Self Help (FISH), opened in 1985 to aid low-income Jamaicans. The FISH client list has grown dramatically since government medical services have declined on the Caribbean island.

Mrs. Galbraith said she saw a different kind of life in Jamaica than tourists see. About 90 per cent of the population lives in ghetto areas, without running water or electricity in their homes, which are shacks.

"When you do something like this, you see the other side of the coin," she said. "We get so much more opportunity in Canada than the poor do in Jamaica."

One Jamaican dollar is equal to \$5 Canadian, but food costs about the same amount as here, making it impossible to afford, explained Mrs. Galbraith. The poor usually only get one meal per day.

"I was appalled so much because there was so little help for these



Rosemary Galbraith

people," she added. Every day, from as early as 7:30 a.m. until late afternoon, about 200 patients walk through the gates of FISH to be registered for health services.

The clinic employs its own doctors, dentists and other professionals, but relies heavily on the services of medical professionals from Canada, Great Britain, the United States and Europe.

The Milton District Hospital nurse said she saw a number of cases of diabetes, ulcers and children suffering from red measles.

But a more positive aspect of her stay was the friendliness of the people, Mrs. Galbraith said. The Jamaicans treated her well and were quite sociable.

"They were extremely open and

friendly people," she said. "As much as I responded to them, they responded to me. I was there with them, not above them."

In the future, Mrs. Galbraith said she hopes to travel to other countries and do similar work.

If you want to do volunteer work in another country, write to the Canadian Foundation for World Development, 2441 Bayview Ave., Willowdale, Ont., M2L 1A5 or call 445-4740.

Science centre proposed . . .

from PROPOSED on page 1 Ontario Place. A large pier configuration as well as the possibility of the construction of a group of islands have been considered. A land based Centre has also been considered but Mr. Diamond said that particular alternative would significantly alter the beach dunes which could be part of a later development.

The committee heard that the largest part of the capital costs are required for the exhibits themselves. The cost of the project is \$56 million

in 1989 dollars. With a recent federal declaration of environmental concern it is possible that federal money could be secured for the project.

Mr. Diamond suggests the best way to proceed with the project is to find a champion. Projects like this have succeeded in the past when they are pushed by a major private sector or political figure. The more practical arrangement is to hire a paid co-ordinator for government contacts and to help secure funding from both the public and private sectors, he said.

CORRECTION NOTICE

The Class Afloat ad that appeared in the paper on WED. OCT. 25/89. Should have read (General Fees \$ 20,000.00)

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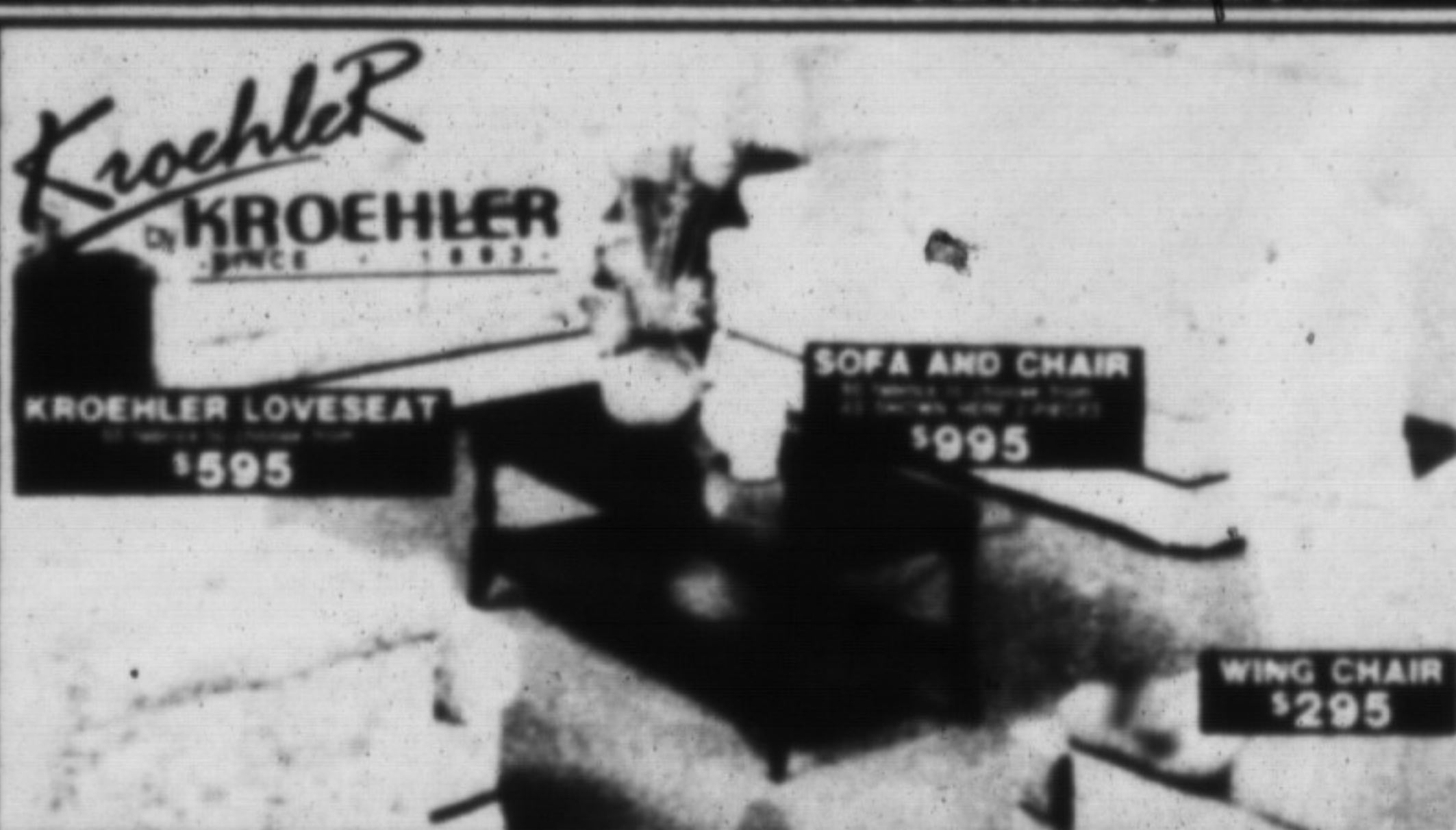
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