

MPD taking safety into local schoolrooms



He's no stranger at Parkview

Midland Police Safety Officer Dan Gilbert demonstrated the "Stranger Rules" to Reet Macfarlane's Parkview Kindergarten class on Friday. The slide show titled "Stranger", that

Gilbert composed starring his friends and family, is the safety program most requested by both parents and teachers.

Between the two of them, Midland Safety Officers Cons. Dan Gilbert and Cons. Mike Brady logged 350 hours of community service work in local schools last year.

Gilbert spent Friday morning at Parkview School visiting teacher John Todd's Grade 4 pupils and the kindergarten class taught by Reet Macfarlane.

The Grade 4s were treated to a TV video titled "Consider the Source". The 15 minute show, sponsored by the Drug Abuse Committee of the Ontario Association of Chiefs of Police, explains to students that knowing where a drug comes from is more important than knowing exactly what it is.

"There is no such thing as good drugs and bad drugs. Anything you take into your body that can change you, can hurt you." The two questions, "Where did you get it?" and "Who told you to take it?" are stressed repeatedly throughout the video.

The message of "Consider the Source" was further emphasized by special hand-out buttons and posters provided by the Midland

Kiwanis Club.

In the half hour question period after the show, the 25 nine and ten year olds showed themselves to be surprisingly well informed about drugs and drug problems. "It was almost scary the first time I talked to a class like this four years ago," confides Gilbert, "to find out how much these kids know about things like 'angel dust' and 'PCP'."

When asked by a young boy, "What's the harmfulest one?", Gilbert immediately replied, "Any drug you take without asking the two questions in the film is the most dangerous drug for you."

He explains that the video is geared towards providing grade four children with the right information now, because statistics show that by grades seven and eight some youngsters will already be abusing drugs.

A program geared to senior public school students about the consequences of drug abuse is currently being prepared, says Gilbert. The new video, to be available in January 1985, promises to be popular in the schools because it will star the TV hero "Mr. T".

Gilbert then walked downstairs to visit Parkview's kindergarten with the Safety presentation that is most often requested by parents and teachers alike.

After seeing the idea at a Safety Officer's Workshop, Gilbert assembled a slide show

called, "Stranger", with the cooperation of his family and friends.

As 47 slides appear on the screen one by one, the five year olds learn to choose between the "good strangers" and the "bad strangers". The slide of a baby

showed a stranger, because nobody knew her. Of course, she was a good stranger. And the man in the bush jacket and baseball cap eating a hamburg was no stranger at all. He was a friend.

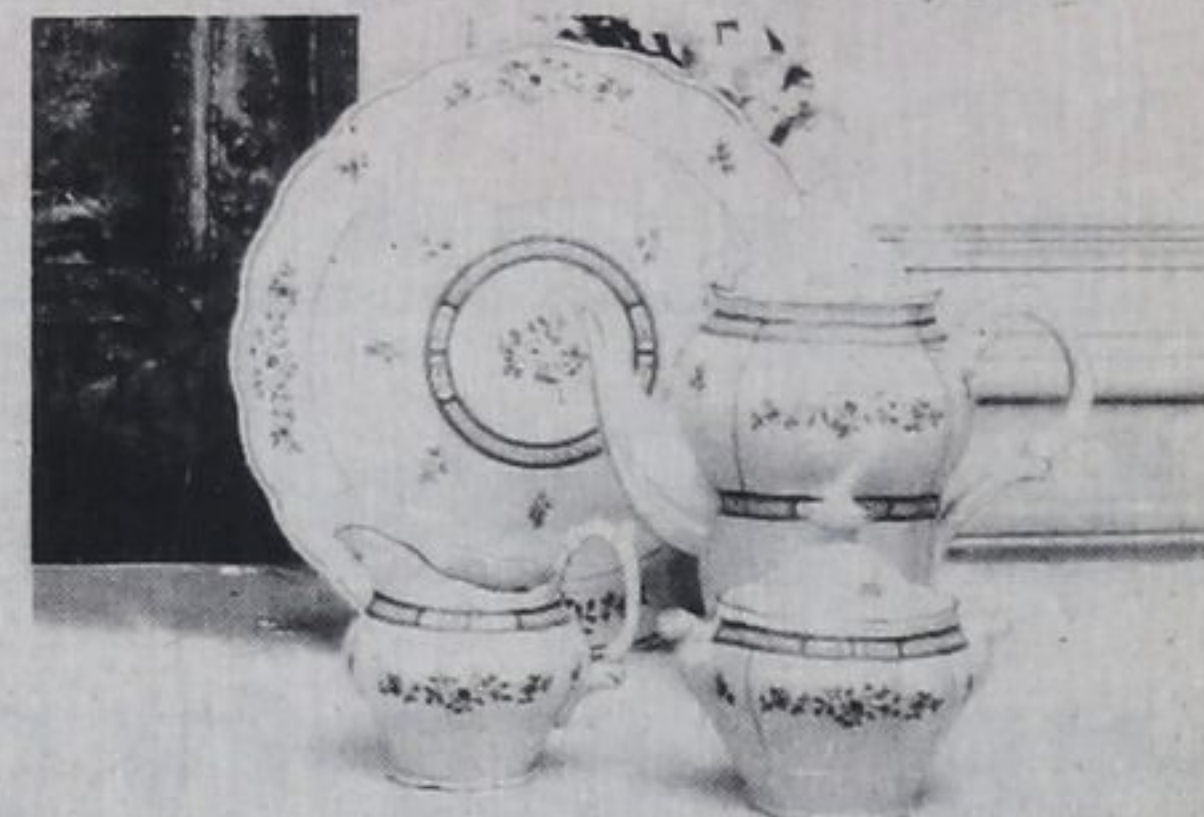
He was "officer Dan".

Dec. 2

On Dec. 2, at 2 p.m., the Friends of Sainte-Marie are having a Christmas Party in the foyer of Sainte-Marie. Each family bring 12-18 cookies to share. Dress warmly as we will be outside for part of the afternoon.

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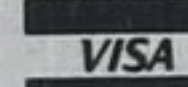
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