



Strange magic

Travelling magician Claude Haggerty had the crowd in the palm of his hand last Friday and Saturday as he entertained in the Mountainview Mall on Highway

93. In this photo, Haggerty walks underneath a levitating witch.

Group meets once weekly in town

They gather together at a small table in the basement of the Salvation Army at the corner of Second Street and Dominion Avenue.

They are a group of people who have lived on the fringes of society. They are all addicts, self-confessed.

Every week for the past three months, a Narcotics Anonymous group has been getting together Tuesdays in Midland to help one another "stay clean and sober."

Those who attend say the weekly meetings are the most valuable resource available in this area to help them stay away from the substances which have caused them so much difficulty.

Narcotics Anonymous runs much the same way as the older, more established Alcohol Anonymous (which also meets in the Salvation Army building).

The head office is located in Van Nuys, California. The group follows a series of steps and traditions designed to help drug addicts become and stay clean.

The similarities between NA and AA don't end there. Of the four who attended last Tuesday night's meeting, three said the drug they were most addicted to was alcohol.

Still, they all said that drugs are here - beneath

everyone's nose. Even in Midland, they said, hard drugs such as cocaine and heroin are readily available.

One former addict, who grew up in town and is familiar with the street-level drug scene here, said that despite what some may think, there are heroin-users in town; some, she said, were needle-users and obtain fresh needles at drugstores by claiming to be diabetics or relatives of diabetics.

Even "crack," a cheap form of cocaine paste notorious in the U.S. for hooking thousands of the young and poor, is on the streets of Midland. Cocaine, said the former addict, comes in regularly in large shipments.

Add to this prescription drugs and so-called "soft" drugs like marijuana, and there is a lot of room for people to become addicted.

How do they find help? Narcotics Anonymous is one way, probably the only way to find help without going to a large city like Toronto, said the former addict, who did not wish to be identified and stressed she did not speak on behalf of NA.

Although there are programs and services for alcoholics (such as the Problem Drinker Program at the Mental Health Centre in Penetang), there is a need for a similar social

structure to help drug addicts, she said.

For instance, she said, there is an immediate need for a recovery house - a place to stay, and stay clean.

"There is no reason we can't have recovery houses here. No matter how many we had, they would never be empty." Right now, the nearest such facilities are in Orillia and Barrie.

"There should be an ongoing support structure for people with drug problems."

At the regular NA meetings, there are readings and a discussion session. If the group were to become larger than the average one to five people who have attended in Midland, there may be speakers.

A visitor to any of their meetings can learn a lot about the lives of people who live the life of an addict. Stories of desperation, of crime, guilt and violence are par for the course.

But it should be noted that those stories come from people who have, in effect, cleaned up their act. For those who are still "users," the stories could be much worse.



THE DARDANELLA

Presents
BIG BAND DANCE
Wednesday,
Aug. 12th, 8 p.m.

SWING FEVER

All Star Swing Band

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The Dardanella will be jumping with the sounds of Benny Goodman, Glen Miller, Jimmy and Tommy Dorsey, Duke Ellington and other great bands of the swing era.

"In The Mood", "String of Pearls", "Sentimental Journey", "Memories of You", "Moonlight Serenade" are among the favorites to be heard.

Hot Spot

LIVE BAND
Thursday - July 30th
Friday - July 31st
"AVENUE ROAD"

TICKETS - \$21.00 per person including a light buffet
Tickets and Reservations
(705) 429-2211

Accountant needed in town

Here are some of the job opportunities available at the Midland office of the Canada Employment Centre.

Intermediate Accountant for all phases of accounting; textile technician, CAAT grad, chemical tech R & D dept.; senior accounting clerk with two to three experience with computer knowledge; cook/assistant cook/short order cook, seven needed experienced. One position requires someone with one year of Italian experience; waiting persons, four needed experience or non-experienced; hairdresser, three needed, seasonal, experienced; set-up mechanic with three years experience as Millwright Machinist or Class A Motor Vehicle Mechanic.

Lathe operator with five years experience tool room lathe; patternmaker/in-

staller with at least two years experience - canvas/vinyl boat tops; marine mechanic, three needed, licenced with proven experience and reliable transportation; cabinet-maker yachts with five or

more years experience refinishing work on yachts; wooden boat repair person with five or more years cabinetmaking experience; electrician apprentice electrician helper, a second or third year ap-

prentice or four seasons or two years residential experience; six carpenters with five or more years experience - one position is bilingual; captain - tour boat - must be a Certified Captain.

Guess number of beans

Some lucky family in Huronia will be sitting in free seats at one performance of the great Kelly-Miller Bros. Circus when it comes to town on Sunday, August 9.

U-Bag-It Bulk Foods is conducting a contest to guess the number of jelly beans.

The person guessing closest will receive a family pass for six people (value \$34) for any performance of the Circus which will appear at the Penetang Waterfront Park at 2 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. under the sponsorship of the Catholic

Family Life Centre. Entries may be placed in boxes at U-Bag-It, Midland Town Centre until 5 p.m. Thursday, August 6.

Reduced price advance tickets for the Circus are being sold now at various outlets in Huronia.

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