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More Aid For Disturbed Children

By MARGARET McLEAN
Words of cheer and encouragement were brought to all those concerned with emotionally or mentally disturbed children by Dr. Joan E. Bowers in the Florence S. Dunlop Memorial Lecture which she delivered at the recent Ottawa conference of the Council for Exceptional Children.

Formerly with the York 3 Inspectorate of the Department of Education, Dr. Bowers is now a provincial supervisor of special education. She is the wife of Dr. Jason McCallum, director of psychological services for the York South Regional Education Committee.

Dr. Bowers drew attention to the establishment earlier this year of a committee of deputy ministers and other senior officials of five departments of the Ontario Government to evolve a program of assistance to children with mental and emotional disorders.

Collaborating in the future planning and development of services to these children will be the Departments of Health, Education, Social and Planning Services, Attorney General and Reform Institutions.

Responsibility for identifying children suffering from mental and emotional disorders "must be shared by all who come into contact with children", states the government's White Paper on the subject, tabled in the legislature at the beginning of last year.

"To this end," Dr. Bowers advised, "all departments will collaborate in the development of a continuous educational program to help parents and others who care for children, to understand the needs of the children and to recognize symptoms of mental and emotional disorders."

The Department of Education has committed itself to instructing teachers-in-training on the characteristics and needs of emotionally disturbed children, said Dr. Bowers and pointed to the recent appointment of Donald MacTavish as assistant director of special education in the Teacher Education Branch.

(Mr. MacTavish was at one time a principal of Langstaff Public School and set up the first special education class in the Thornhill area.)

REGIONAL CENTRES
"Core of the new program," explained Dr. Bowers, "is the establishment by the Department of Health of regional diagnostic, assessment and treatment centres which will provide out-patient, day care and in-patient services for mentally ill and mentally retarded children and for those suffering from perceptual defects and other neurological disorders."

The centres will be staffed by a team including a psychiatrist, pediatrician, social scientist, psychologist and consultant in education. Liaison personnel will represent the schools, welfare and public health agencies and the courts, and will assist in carrying out the prescribed treatment programs.

Department of Education consultants appointed to these diagnostic and remedial centres will be charged with complete educational diagnosis for each referral, relating of the results of the diagnosis to the pupil's school system and working with the teachers to implement the instruction program; and to follow up the educational progress of the pupil, integrating the sequence with the medical diagnosis and treatment recommendations.

Five persons have now been appointed to such diagnostic and treatment centres in Windsor, London, Hamilton, Toronto and Kingston.

The Ontario Department of Education is committed to a threefold program of assistance to these children Dr. Bowers pointed out, the increasing emphasis on child development and the education of exceptional children in all teacher training institutions; supporting the establishment of services, including special classes and consultative services by school boards; and the co-operation with other departments of the government in the regional centres, committed to the inter-disciplinary study and treatment of children.

University Women Enjoy Pictures Stories From Pacific Paradise

November 27 the York County Branch Canadian Federation of University Women took a trip to the South Seas with Dr. F. Carlyle Hamilton as a very witty and informative guide. A specialist in cardiology at Toronto Western Hospital, Dr. Hamilton is also a specialist at taking tantalizing pictures as his slides of Tahiti demonstrated.

He chose Tahiti because it is 200 years since its discovery by Samuel Wallace, an Englishman, who landed in 1767 and with the help of an nautical almanac established the longitude of the island. Dr. Hamilton pointed out that since half the world is composed of water and that since Tahiti is right in the middle of a vast expanse of water, it takes a venturesome person to discover and explore its shores.

In 1769 Captain Cook was sent by England to Tahiti where he was able to answer the question, "How far away is the sun?" by observing the transit of Venus.

Tahiti became a French colony in 1880. At that time, it had a large population; now, it has a population of approximately 40,000 distributed equally in town and country. There are about 5,000 Chinese and only about 1,000 French inhabitants. Although Tahiti is a French protectorate, the large number of churches are mostly protestant and are non-denominational.

Two movies were being filmed during Dr. Hamilton's visit: "Mutiny On The Bounty" and "Tiara Tahiti". The latter, he felt showed the beauties of the island to better advantage. The replica of the "Bounty" which sailed to Tahiti in 1787 was built for the picture in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia.

While he was there, Dr. Hamilton also visited the islands of Moorea (12 miles away) and Bora Bora (150 miles away). He gloried in the absence of skyscrapers and traffic, the availability of good swimming, excellent food, outriggers, lolling on the beaches, exquisite scenery and a temperature of 76 degrees. Dr. Hamilton agreed with Captain Cook who thought he had discovered Paradise on earth!

The next meeting will be held at the Richmond Hill Public Library January 22 at 8:15 pm. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Mrs. D. Fayle, 884-3348.

Rambling Around

(Continued from Page 2)

mentally with most situations. There are about 70 different subjects in the academic training alone."

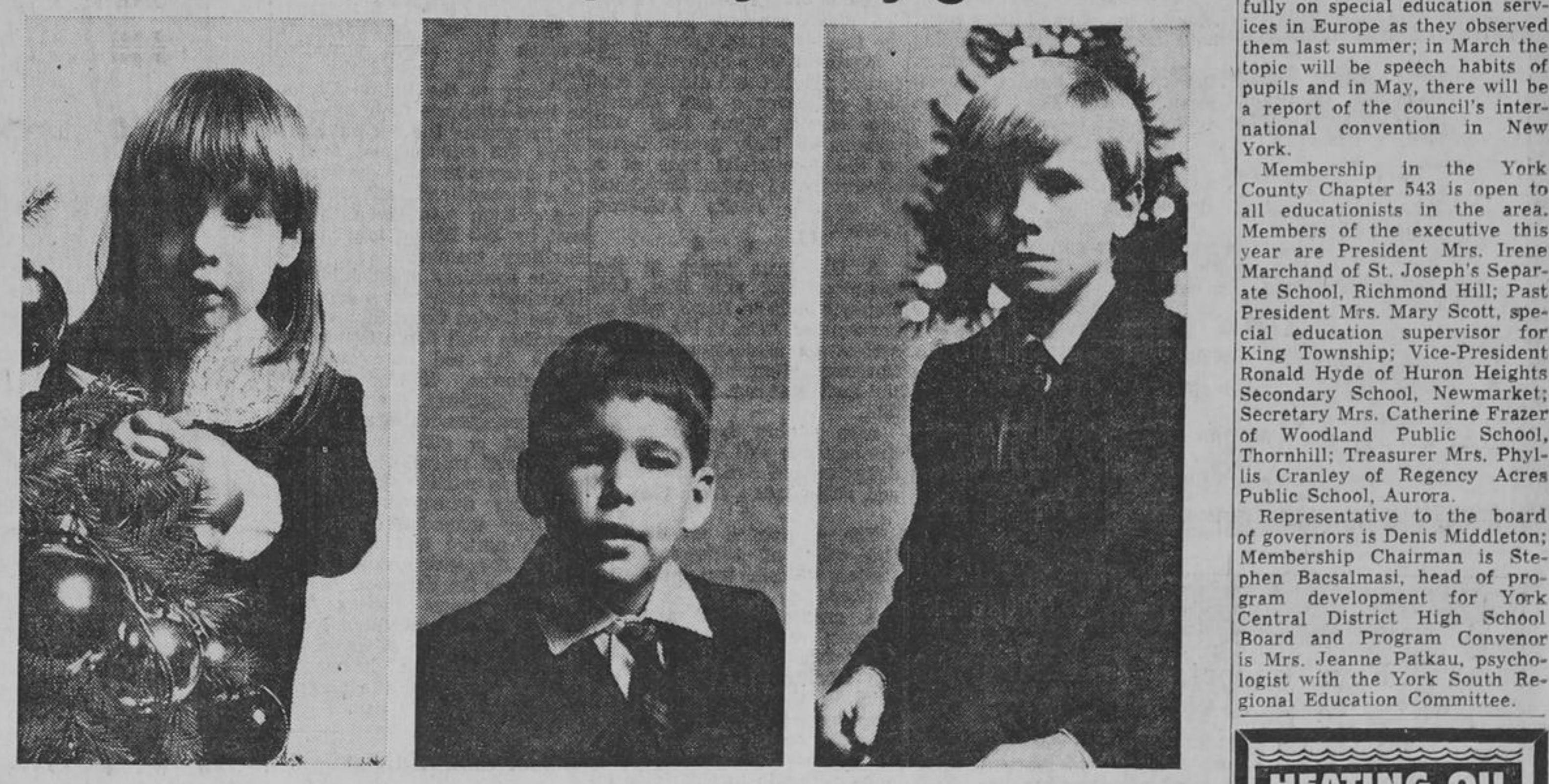
In his capacity as a corporal for the RCMP, Mr. Ewen was stationed for a while in Toronto, Winnipeg and Ottawa. For a period of three years, Ben Ewen was in charge of Point Pelee National Park for the federal government.

This summer, the RCMP performed their musical ride at the CNE. From time to time, the Exhibition throngs have been delighted with this fine performance. Ben Ewen was instructor of the RCMP musical ride for 13 years at Ottawa.

The original musical ride came from the British Lancer regiment in England and was adopted by the North West Mounted Police in the western provinces in the late 1800's.

According to Mr. Ewen, the ride involves months of training. There is no set pattern and the riding master devises his own patterns. Certain movements, however, are kept through the years. While Ben Ewen was instructor, the ride was performed mostly in the cities of Eastern Canada and Eastern United States.

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