

Richvale Couple's Foster Child In Philippines

Mr. and Mrs. Vic Wilensky, 84 Oak Avenue, Richvale, have only one foster child, but in "adopting" six-year-old Benilda Cortez in the Philippines, they have assumed responsibility for making life a little easier for nine people they have never met.

Mr. Wilensky is graphics director for a company that contributes to various charities, and one of these is Foster Parents Plan of Canada, supporting a child in Venezuela.

Over 50,000 children are currently being aided by individuals, groups and families in Canada, the U.S. and Australia. The children live in Bali, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, Peru, The



BENILDA CORTEZ

Philippines, Vietnam and often the foster parents stipulate a country of preference, age, sex, when they commit themselves to the monthly contribution of \$17 to provide

material and financial assistance to both child and family. In the case of Vic and Mary Wilensky who have no children, they thought it was a good idea. They applied personally to Foster Parents, 153 St. Clair Avenue West, Suite 5, in Toronto, offering assistance to any child in need, regardless of age, sex or nationality.

Now they have Benilda, who has three brothers and two sisters, a father who suffers from pulmonary tuberculosis, a mother who earns about \$5 a month as a tailor, and a grandmother who does not work at all. Despite his illness, Mr. Cortez, a carpenter, manages to make about \$7 a month doing odd repair jobs.

Despite their financial and physical handicaps, however, the Cortez' have managed to provide some education for their children. Danilo, 15, is in third year high school; Carlito, 13, is in first year high school; Felinda, 11, is in grade 5, and Ronaldo, 9, is in grade 3. Benilda and Mylene, 2, are not yet in school.

The \$17 contributed by Vic and Mary Wilensky more than doubles the family's income and, Vic told "The Liberal", helps to take care of basic needs, medical, dental and educational requirements of the family. It would not be fair, he said, to help just one child and ignore the family.

The Cortez' are more fortunate than some. They have their own little house made of galvanized iron sheets and wood. Although it is furnished with only the barest essentials they have enough land to grow a few vegetables. Their diet is made up chiefly of vegetables, fish and rice, and houses in the community are built far apart, allowing a clean, fresh atmosphere.

The social work administrator in the area reports that Benilda is a pretty little girl, dark in complexion with black eyes and a pug nose. She is described as a playful girl who enjoys singing and dancing.

The foster parents receive regular reports on the progress of their adopted daughter. All children receiving aid under the Foster Children plan must attend school, and vocational training courses are available to the foster child, brothers, sisters and, in some cases, their parents. The aim is to give the family the tools to help become independent and self-supporting.

Suggest Home Fire Escape Plan

By JIM IRVING

Dialing "O" for operator when a fire strikes may seem to be the best thing to do at the time, but it's not much good if you neglect to mention where you're calling from.

That's why Richmond Hill Fire Chief Robert Kennedy gives an unequivocal "No" to dialing O in times of fire.

Too many people, the chief says, call the operator, give the address and forget to tell the operator — who is located somewhere in Metro — that the fire is in Richmond Hill, or nearby, and the fire trucks are dispatched to a similar street in Metro, if they get out at all.

So, if you must dial the operator, make sure you give her all the facts before hanging up; better still keep the number of your local fire department close by.

All of which is a reminder that Fire Prevention Week will get underway October 7 and homeowners everywhere will once again be dusting off their lists of good intentions, so far as making their homes safe against fire.

With most people, that's all they ever do, however; the fire department number fails to go up by the phone, the loose wires in the basement fail to get attended to, the smoking continues in bed and the chances increase just that much more for an all-out inferno some day just when it's the least expected.

STEPS TO SAFETY
Coincident with Fire Prevention Week, Reader's Digest carries an article on fires in the home, in which it states that fire breaks out in a Canadian home every 10 minutes, which equals 50,000 homes and 350 deaths.



It also lists several key steps, which could help avert a tragedy, if followed, and which are Fire Chiefs, Robert Kennedy of Richmond Hill and James Davidson of Vaughan agree should be carried out in all homes.

They also agree that the most important of these is the one calling for a family escape plan.

This calls for the family getting together and working out a system whereby they can leave the house safely and quickly in case that fire everybody dreads finally arrives.

Suggested formula calls for a floor plan showing alternate escape routes from each room. This should be reviewed periodically and posted as a constant reminder. Chief Kennedy says that a chain-ladder which sells for \$30 and which can be hooked over a window sill provides an efficient fire escape.

Each child should be trained to follow a practical plan to help ease any panic and all members of the family should arrange a meeting place outside the house.

When fire is detected follow the escape plan and get out; meet at a pre-determined place; call the fire department from an outside phone; do not re-enter a smoke-filled house.

INSPECTIONS ON REQUEST

Other suggested steps: Set strict smoking rules; smoking in bed is especially hazardous. Install smoke detectors; many fatal fires begin as slow, smoldering affairs during the normal sleeping hours between 10 pm and 6 am, involving a significant delay before being detected.

Another step is to inspect your home to check against faulty electrical equipment and wiring.

Fire departments will carry out home inspection on request.

Chief Kennedy said his department would like to be able to inspect every home in the area as part of its normal routine, but because of the time and staff involved, can only do it by request.

He said the department receives some 150 such requests a year.

Another safety request, now being carried out by the Vaughan Department, is to fit fuse boxes with a plastic fuse rejector, which prevents householders from putting the wrong size of fuse in.

MINI ALARM
In the matter of smoke detection in the home, Vaughan Chief Davidson suggests a mini-alarm that is as sensitive to smoke as the head table at a hay fever sufferers' convention.

Described as an "early warning home smoke detector," the alarm is about nine

inches high, cylindrical, and is enclosed in a plastic case. It is hung from the ceiling, where it can react to smoke from a smoldering fire, but is not in danger from having its alarm triggered from burnt toast in the kitchen, or the fumes from a roomful of heavy smokers.



The alarm operates on the ionization principle, so that when products of combustion, visible or invisible smoke, enter the small inner chamber of the detector, the electronic sensor detects the minute change, causing the alarm to sound.

Unlike many other alarms, where a heat of 135 degrees has to be generated to trigger the alarm, this new detector responds quickly to changes in the air caused by fire or combustion, so that those

being warned are able to get to safety quickly.

While some people might demur at its price — \$80 — Chief Davidson feels they would spend much more on fire insurance without questioning it, and the protection they would get from this new device would provide another

form of even less costly insurance.

During Fire Prevention Week, area fire departments will be showing films on fire prevention at hospitals and schools, as well as giving others talks and demonstrations in fire fighting.

In Richmond Hill, there will also be a tour through the fire hall, and a talk and film on safety in the home.

Similar programs will be held in the Town of Markham.

Town of Richmond Hill Tender For Sanitary Sewer

Sealed tenders, clearly marked as to contents, will be received by the Clerk, Mr. L. M. Clement until 4:00 P.M. Thursday, October 4th, 1973 D.S.T. for approximately 1,115 feet of sanitary sewer connection to the Town Park Arena on Church Street.

Tender Plans and specifications may be obtained from the Engineering Department upon deposit of \$10.00 which is refundable upon return of the documents within 30 days of closing of tender. A certified cheque in the amount of 10% of the tender price shall accompany each tender.

The lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

L. M. Clement
Clerk,
Town of Richmond Hill
56 Yonge Street North
Richmond Hill, Ontario.

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