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The Terrace Bay-Schreiber News

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SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF TERRACE BAY - SCHREIBER - ROSSPORT AND JACKFISH LAKE

Clinic offers state of the art service to hearing impaired

by Darren MacDonald
The News

Most of us know at least one person who always needs to have words repeated, or who seems to have trouble keeping track of conversations, particularly in social situations where there's a lot of background noise.

Well, chances are, this person has a hearing problem. According to Thunder Bay District Health Audiologist Carol Gascoyne, she sees a lot of people like that.

"A lot of people, especially older people, come in to satisfy their children, to show them that there's nothing wrong with their hearing," Gascoyne says.

"But then they discover they really do have some hearing loss."

Because hearing loss is usually gradual in older people, she says they resist admitting to themselves they have a problem.

"People tend to think that

others are mumbling as they grow older, when in fact, they are experiencing hearing loss."

Gascoyne heads up a new Audiology Clinic set up in Marathon last fall. The clinic is intended to serve Schreiber, Terrace Bay and Manitouwadge, as well as Marathon.

"We were very fortunate to get one here, because they are quite expensive to set up," Gascoyne says.

She says Marathon was chosen as the clinic's location because it is at the geographic centre of the area the clinic serves.

"It's certainly better than having to travel to Thunder Bay, which previously had to be done," she says.

Appointments are by referral only, which can be obtained either through the local branch of the district health unit, or through a family doctor.

"We've had a very good response so far from Terrace Bay and Schreiber," Gascoyne

says.

The clinic itself offers hearing assessments and hearing aid evaluations.

"We also do central auditory processing assessments," she says.

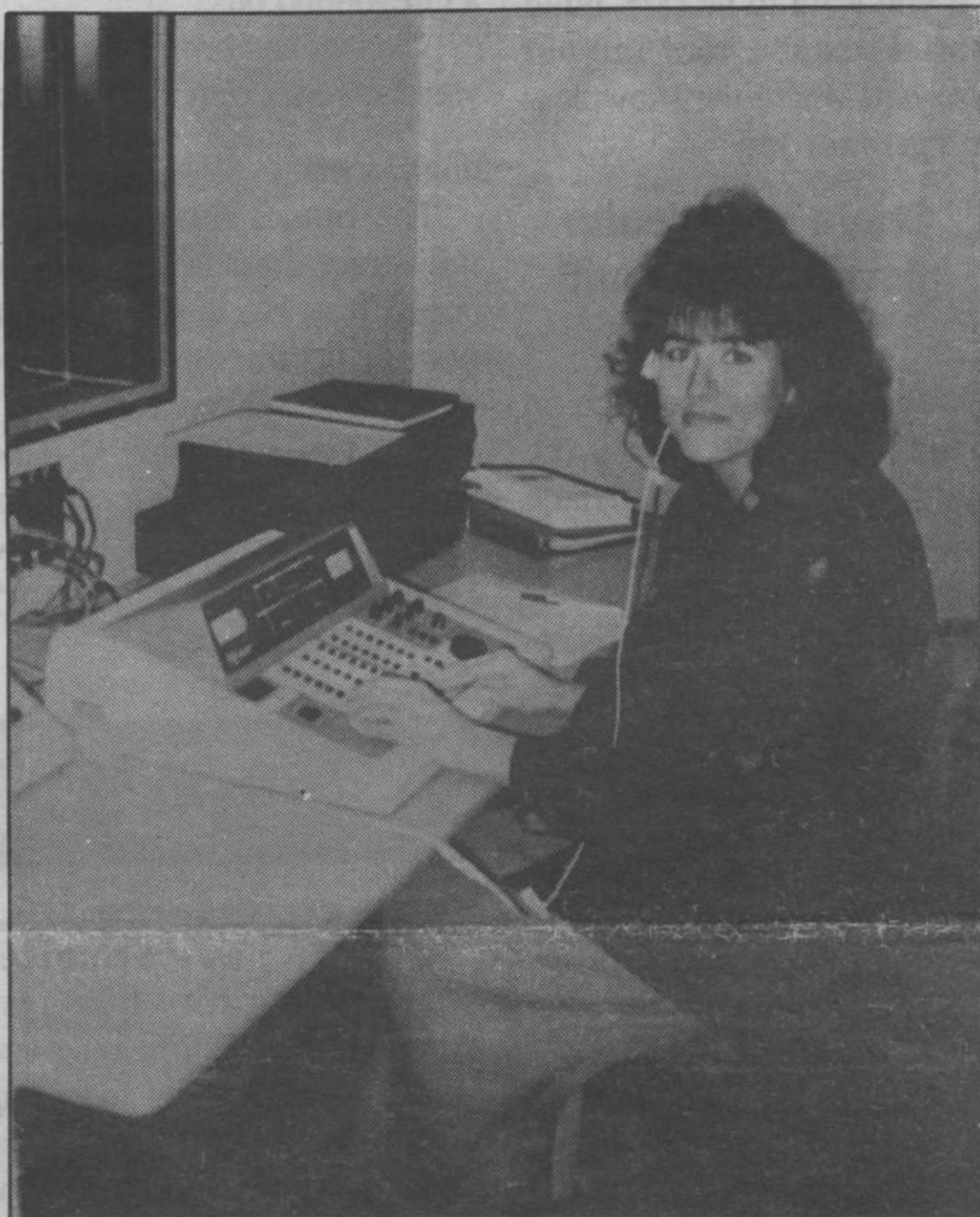
"That's a situation where a child can hear, but the way the signals are interpreted is impaired. For example, if there's noise in the background, such as in a classroom situation, the child may have more difficulty picking out what the teacher is saying."

Although all of the services the clinic provides are free, Gascoyne says they do not supply hearing aids.

"They can come to us and get everything they need except the hearing aid itself," she says.

"But we will supply information about what hearing aid is required, where it can be obtained and for how much."

Subsidies are available to help offset the cost of the hearing aid, Gascoyne says.



Audiologist Carol Gascoyne at the clinic in Marathon.

"The Ministry of Health will pay 75 per cent of the cost of two hearing aids for a child, and part of the cost of a hearing aid for an adult," she says.

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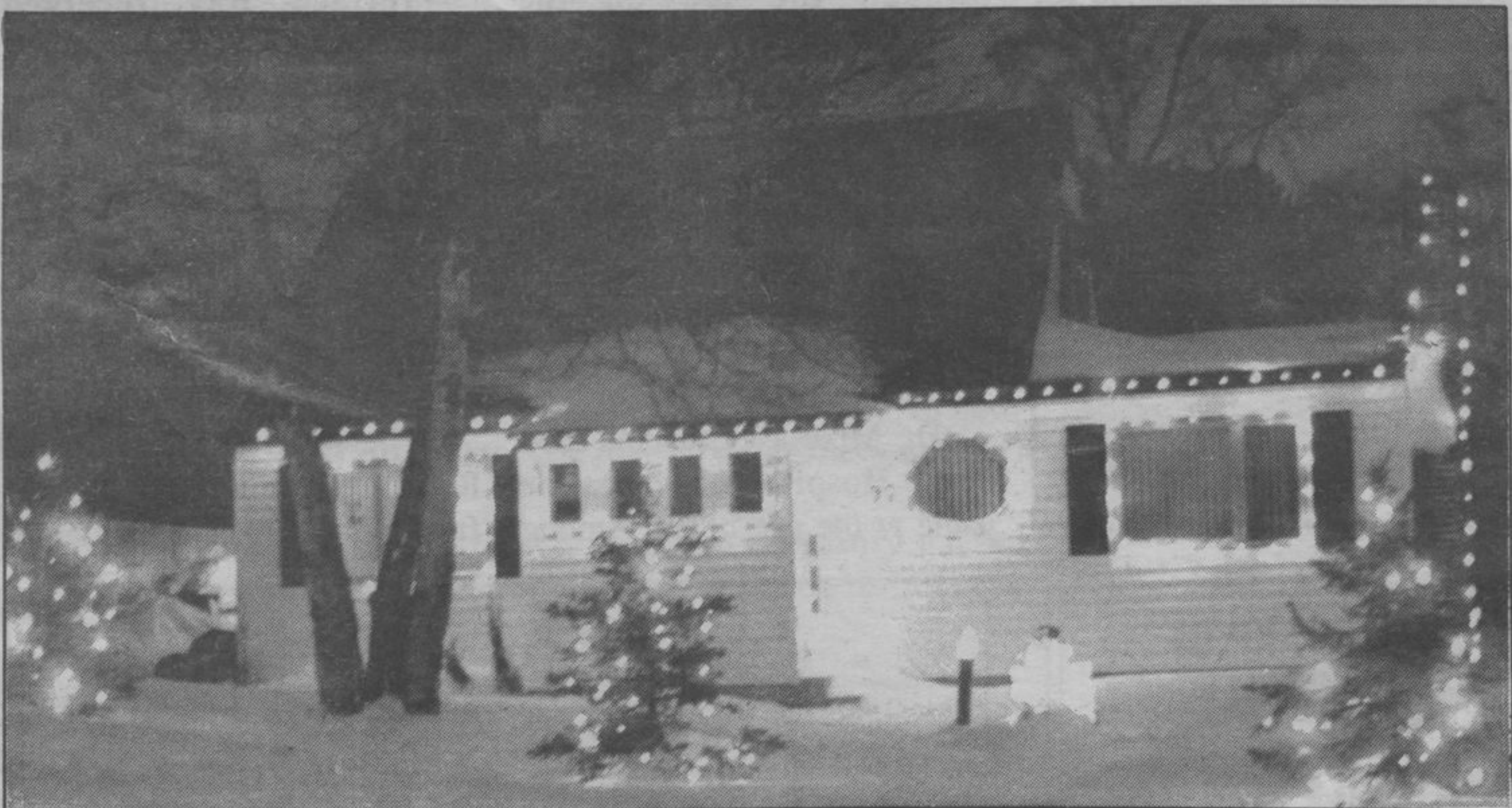
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House decorating contest winner



First prize in the Horticultural Society's Christmas Decoration contest went to C. Bortex's house (above). Second prize went to H. Landry and third prize went to G. Fisher.

Power failure in Terrace Bay

The second power outage in as many weeks left parts of Terrace Bay in the dark Sunday, Dec. 22.

The same line that caused a power interruption of about 12 hours Dec. 12 in Terrace Bay broke again, leaving residents behind and including Simcoe Plaza power from around 4 pm to 6:30 pm.

Terrace Bay Hydro said the basic reason the line broke was age.

"It's an old line," said Terrace Bay Hydro spokeswoman Sandy Pawson. "It's being replaced."

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