



Seventeen year old Barb Bruinse is a Grade 12 student at Stouffville Dist. Secondary School and a resident at R.R. 1, Cedar Valley. Jim Thomas

"Girl Next Door" Avid skier

By JIM THOMAS
CEDAR VALLEY — A winter without snow is no winter at all, says 17 year old Barb Bruinse, an avid downhill and cross-country skier. And thousands will agree.

It's been a strange season, one that has Barb wondering if she should forget the sport completely and think more about a planned trip to Florida this spring. At least there, she'll be able to get in a little swimming, a recreation she also enjoys. She's presently working on her Bronze.

Barb's our "Girl Next Door". A native of Aurora, she and her parents moved to R.R. 1, Cedar

Valley when she was quite young— one year old to be exact. She has a sister, Valerie, 16, in Grade 11 and a brother, Jim, 14, in Grade 8. Barb's in Grade 12 at S.D.S.S., having received her elementary education at Vivian and Ballantrae.

At the recent high school Variety Show, she was a participant in two of the dances and enjoyed the involvement. She plans to complete Grade 13. Shorthand's her favorite subject.

Barb's been on several exciting family trips including a Winebago holiday to the West Coast four years ago; The Bahamas, last year and twice to Florida.

Chosen Ones Aids girls

By LYNE COUTURIER
STOUFFVILLE — Unwed mothers do have a place to turn for Christian counselling and guidance. Chosen Ones Mission, 20 King Richard Court in Markham, offers this type of service. Casework is provided for any mother-to-be and there are no restrictions as to age, race, religion or marital status for those in need of counselling.

Norene Wardlaw, founder of the Mission, was guest speaker at the women's coffee hour in the Stouffville Missionary Church, Jan. 16. She explained to the women how young girls today are faced with peer pressures making it easier for them to be drawn away and enticed. That's why she decided to incorporate the Mission in 1977.

Norene has spent several years in this type of ministry including directing children's homes and a summer camp. She felt that there was a great need to assist these young girls. "They were being short changed and they really needed help," she said.

Encouraging single parents and teenagers to give up their children for adoption in born-again Christian homes is a vital part of their work. The Mission provides and

arranges temporary care for infants or children in a Christian foster environment and interviews and counsels prospective adoptive parents.

Mrs. Wardlaw feels that abortion is not the answer because the girls will carry the guilt on their conscience the rest of their lives. Marrying the father of the child is not always the best solution either. However, giving up a baby for adoption is not an easy decision. "When a baby is born a mother's love is born," Mrs. Wardlaw said. But she feels this is the best alternative.

Mrs. Wardlaw feels that keeping the child poses many problems and has ruined many lives. "When a girl chooses adoption then she has chosen to give her child life," she said.

In 1977, eight children were placed in Christian homes through the Chosen Ones Mission. In 1978, sixteen children found new homes and in 1979 11 were placed.

Adoption laws are provincial, therefore at the present time, all babies are placed in homes in Ontario. Chosen Ones is a non-denominational faith mission and its funding consists solely of free-will donations.

Marijuana use increases

The smoking of marijuana is increasing so rapidly among teenagers, it's almost as common as store-bought cigarettes.

A recent government survey showed that 16 per cent of young people between the ages of 12 and 17 years are smoking marijuana regularly while 22 per cent said they smoke ordinary cigarettes. Eight per cent of the 12 to 13 year olds canvassed, had smoked marijuana at least once

and half this group are current users.

Although children under age twelve were not questioned, many of those surveyed admitted they had first tried marijuana and even began smoking it regularly, while still in grade school.

Most young people are of the opinion marijuana is harmless. However, the Ontario Lung Association says this belief may be mistaken.

YOUTH

Rodger Brndjar

Youth spent year in Kenya

By LYNE COUTURIER
STOUFFVILLE — Rodger Brndjar is a fortunate young man. At the age of 19, he has already had an opportunity to experience other cultures.

Rodger spent from Sept. 1978 to Sept. 1979 living in Kenya as a voluntary missionary. Through the Penacostal Assembly of Canada, he went to Africa to operate a mobile film unit showing biblical movies to children and adults.

The school curriculum in Africa is managed by the government along with the Christian educational program. The purpose of the films was to support religious teaching with audio visual aids.

Rodger said that some children had never seen a movie and they didn't know what to expect. "Some children were frightened and would run out of the room," he said. Overall, the response was tremendous, he explained.

Rodger stayed at a mission station 500 yards from the equator. His itinerary consisted of two nights a week on the road travelling to different villages. The remainder was spent showing films four times a day in both

secondary and elementary schools.

He used 16 millimeter films of English content. He said many of the local people spoke English, however, interpreters were on hand for those who didn't.

A total of six participated in the program, all stationed in different areas. This is the first year the program has been launched and Rodger said that it has already been extended to other countries because of its success.

The recommended stay is one year but participants are not restricted to this period. Rodger was asked to remain longer but he had already made plans to return home.

Since this program is strictly voluntary, missionaries are required to pay their own air fares and expenses. They receive a monthly salary from the money contributed. If the funds ran out, the mission would make up the rest. Rodger said that it was an experience in self sufficiency.

Rodger said it was his decision to go to Africa when he was in Grade 10. When he graduated from Stouffville Dist. Secondary School in

June 1978, he heard about the program from the Pentecostal Church in Stouffville. So his wish came true.

One of Rodger's most memorable experiences happened one night when he was setting up the screen to show a film to the Kisi tribe. He said there were 5,000 people in the field when members appeared with spears. The screen and the projector were knocked over and a riot started. He packed up everything and decided to leave because a tribal fight had begun. He said he found out later that the chiefs of the area had planned the battle because they didn't want the Kisits to view the film.

Rodgers describes the year as a rewarding experience. He said it taught him how to live on his own and to take care of himself.

Rodger said he enjoyed talking with the natives of the villages and having dinner with them in their huts. He said it's an insult to refuse what they offer so you must eat everything from sour milk to fish heads.

Rodger has since left for Edmonton to work on an oil rig until September.

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