

Boys' teacher tours world on sabbatical

As I write these words, Mike Maunder is somewhere in India, Burma, maybe even Thailand, sleeping in tents, watching camel races, or in the temporary employ of an Arabian merchant. But one thing is for certain. He's not taking the tourist route.

Maunder is the big, lumbering teddy bear with the constant broad grin who has relinquished his position as Headmaster of St. John's School for Boys in Claremont in order to take a four-month sabbatical.

Mike has always walked to the beat of a different drum. For the past 18 years, he has dedicated himself to the furthering of the cause of this hard-nosed but rewarding educational institution which isn't afraid to challenge young boys to the extremes of



FROM WHERE I LIVE
Bruce Stapley

their endurance level, in both mind and body.

At times Mike appeared more like the leader of a band of ragged bandits or renegades at first glance. Always shabbily dressed, he was never big on stuffy formality, preferring to meet the boys at the school, and their parents, on a level of 'where the rubber meets the road' sincerity characterized by unpretentiousness and good humor.

When Mike announced his intention to step down as Headmaster at St. John's, he indicated that he needed to get off on his own for a spell. For his was a high commitment, and his days were never really his own; his entire week centering around the school and its 50 to 60 students.

His last involvement with the school before setting off on his poor man's world trek was to be a part of the school's annual year opening canoe Expedition through Northern Ontario. Which was fitting in that Mike has always seen that gruelling but breathtakingly beautiful experience as being the cornerstone of the St. John's approach to teaching about life and nature.

And as the gear was all packed and the canoes were put on the

trailer at the end of this year's adventure, Mike boarded the bus with the rest of the students and teachers. The bus began its homeward run, from the southernmost point of Lake Temagami.

When they reached Whitefish Falls, and the junction with Highway 17, the bus stopped, and Mike climbed out. While they all knew that it would eventually come down to this moment, none were really prepared for the sight of their loved and respected leader strapping an enormous pack on his back containing most of his earthly possessions, and preparing to head off on his own.

He would hitch a ride and set up camp somewhere on the north shore of Lake Superior, where he'd spend the first night of his

world tour. From there, it would be on out west, then across the Pacific to who knows where.

He wanted to visit an island somewhere in Asia where giant tortoises went to mate, watch camels race, and sleep in a tent in the desert. To work a week here and there to get to know the people, as well as help finance his trip.

Come January, Mike will be

back, and he will assume a teaching role at the rag tag little private school that has served to enrich the lives of so many boys who just couldn't put it all together in the regular school system.

Good luck Mike, wherever you are. And look after yourself, big guy. For some men are irreplaceable.

Fall from roof leads to hospital

By MARJORIE WOODLAND
FOURTH LINE — Friends and neighbors were sorry to learn of

George McIntosh's serious accident. Mr. McIntosh fell from the roof of his house. He's a patient in St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto.

Elsie Boland has been moved from Uxbridge Cottage Hospital to Green Gables Manor, Bloomington.

Art and Reta Parrott enjoyed a trip last week through the Eastern United States. Included in the package tour was a stay in Amish country of Pennsylvania, also a visit to Wallaceburg and Hershey.

A Missionary Conference will be held this weekend at the Baptist Church. Evening meetings Friday and Saturday are at 7:30 p.m., and on Sunday at 10 and 11 a.m.

Conference speakers are David Mensah, Daniel Wiebe and Rev. George Pape of Canadian Baptist Overseas Missions. Special music will be provided by The Nelles Family.

Following Sunday morning worship, the Hockley Coach treated seniors to an autumn color tour. Among those enjoying the afternoon outing were Ethel White of Eldercare Manor, Stouffville; Olive Maye and Irene Alderson.

Douglas and Heather Maye and baby Mark enjoyed a week's holiday with her parents at Moosenee. Motoring as far as Cochrane, they boarded the Polar Bear Express for the remainder of the journey.

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