

Blanchard Hall adopts foster child

The Blanchard Hall House Committee, re-presenting the students of Blanchard Hall, have decided to use some of its money to support a Foster Child. Our foster child is an eight year old girl from Ethiopia. Zenebich Bekele, the daughter of a farmer, is 3'2", short for her age, and weighs 35 lbs. She has no religion, and does not attend school. She has three sisters and one brother, as well as one half-brother. Her father has two wives.

The family is poor because they have moved from their original home to a place with more fertile farmland. But they received no assistance from the government, so they are struggling to support themselves. The family grows corn and cotton on 1 hectare of land. They own a pair of oxen for ploughing. The corn is used for the families consumption, and the cotton is sold for cash. There are two cows to provide milk. The yield per hectare is not very large.

The family owns their own house called a "tukul". It is a one room hut with a thatched roof and no windows. It is made from branches lashed together with rope and then plastered with mud

or cow dung. There is no electricity or plumbing, and furniture includes a wooden bed, a bench, leather chairs, stools and a small table. The diet includes a corn bread called "kurkurfa", and stews made of cabbage, potatoes or green vegetables. Meat and milk are expensive and eaten only on special occasions. Despite these hardships the family is healthy.

There has been some controversy as to whether we should have sponsored

a child, since we are a committee which changes its members every year. When sponsoring a child, you are expected to continue funding until the child and family become self-sufficient.

The committee has income from the vending machines and fines, so the money will always be there. Information will be left in a file to be presented to next year's house committee. We can only hope that everyone involved in the future will continue with the program.



Sand Patterns

WRITERS * ARTISTS* a "little magazine" devoted solely to the works of Island writers published quarterly, and includes short fiction and poetry, line drawings, occasional photographs, and a continuing bibliography of Island books

invites you to submit your manuscripts or drawings for possible publication. All materials should be sent to:

Sand Patterns Assoc.
Box 1921

Charlottetown, P.E.I. and should be accompanied by a stamped, self-addressed envelope if you wish them to be returned.

Switch to milk pop addicts told

GUELPH (Special): Soft drink addicts should consider switching to milk, particularly in view of the upcoming saccharin ban, according to Trevor Watts, acting chairman of the consumers studies department at the University of Guelph.

He made the comment in an interview March 9 in reviewing a report he recently wrote for the Nutrition quarterly outlining how milk consumption has dropped by 28 per cent in the past 25 years.

He said the decline is not, in itself, dangerous to health if consumers make up for the loss of calcium and other nutrients by eating other nutritious foods.

Milk is certainly better nutritionally than soft drinks and coffee, he said.

Soft drink consumption has in-

creased by 76 per cent in the past 25 years, and coffee consumption by 33 per cent.

Mr. Watts said there is recent evidence that the decline in per capita milk consumption "has bottomed out and is perhaps reversing."

The Ontario Milk Marketing Board has spent more than \$2 million a year for the past two years trying to persuade consumers to drink more milk. The board's statistics indicate slight gains since last fall.

RON STILES' BATTLE WITH M.S.

Ron Stiles, an up and coming Atlantic artist, is the victim of the mysterious crippling and debilitating disease, multiple sclerosis. The disease strikes young adults between the ages of 18 and 40, in the prime of life. It attacks the central nervous system, which can leave its victims in various stages of paralysis. Yet Ron, 26, is an optimist, diligently pursuing his career while waiting for medical researchers to discover a cure.

Multiple sclerosis plays no favorites. Victims of the disease are from all walks of life, rich or poor, and of all races. MS may be totally disabling or it may appear suddenly and then regress to the point where the victim is capable of continuing his daily routine as normal. Ron Stiles is not restricted by the disease, unlike so many, and, although he is not cured, he may be able to continue a normal life without another attack.

Ron first became aware that he had MS in 1972. He thought nothing of it at first, experiencing only the typical loss of balance and a general feeling of weakness. "I thought at first it was because I was not doing enough, so I began to exercise more", Ron

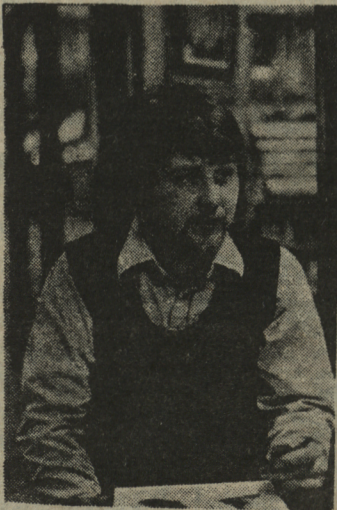
reflects about his first attack. But more exercise was not what he needed. In fact, rest and less activity is recommended. When he was finally admitted to hospital and after repeated tests, he was diagnosed as having MS.

As to his reaction to finding out about the disease Ron explains, "I didn't really know what it was all about. I didn't understand it so I did not worry about the disease."

To pass the long hours while in hospital, Ron took up drawing portraits of the nurses and staff from photographs they brought him. Portraiture had always intrigued him, so he started drawing and earned himself a little spending money doing it.

Since being discharged from the hospital, Ron has taken up art as his form of rehabilitation. Unable to occupy a full time position because of MS, Ron has discovered that he now has the opportunity to develop his artistic skills, whereas, if he was employed elsewhere, he might not have the freedom to be as creative as he would like to be. He now has time to visit other artists and art galleries, to broaden his educational scope in the art field and it is because he

has MS that he feels motivated to develop his artist talent. While Ron is an amateur, he is well on his way to becoming a successful artist, has won awards for his work and has had several exhibitions to date. He even took first prize for an oil portrait of his sister, at the Art Instruction School, in Minneapolis through a correspondence course.



Ron can no longer participate in contact sports as he once did, but he appreciates nature and enjoys getting out into the country to relax and he finds it a source of inspiration for his work.

Ron is single and does not plan to marry, at least not until he is absolutely certain that medical research has found a cure. He explains that, "If I am confined to a wheelchair or a bed, I wouldn't want to place that burden on my wife. I would rather make it alone."

And so as Ron heads back to his drawing board, scientists all over the world are toiling away in their laboratories seeking to discover what causes the human body to suddenly, without warning, to reject its nervous system. Is it a virus? Is it genetic? No one knows for sure, yet! The only hope for the 35,000 victims of MS in Canada like Ron Stiles, is relentless research and public support.

The Multiple Sclerosis Carnation Day Campaign will be taking place on May 5, 6, 7, and 8th in Moncton, Bathurst, Fredericton, St. John's, Sydney, Truro and Halifax to raise funds for volunteers to help us. If your home town is one of these communities - You can Help!

We urgently need volunteers for street sales, which involves selling plastic carnation pins door to door.

A number of volunteers are also needed to operate display booths in shopping centres.

With your support the MS Carnation Day Campaign will be a success. If you can help by volunteering your support in your home town for these four days, please fill in the form below and mail it to the address indicated. Your support is greatly appreciated.

VOLUNTEER INFORMATION FORM

Name

Address

Dates Available:
May 5....., May 6.....,
May 7....., May 8.....

Hours available (morning, afternoon, evening)

Location Preferred

Please return this form no later than March 31st to:

Multiple Sclerosis Society
(Atlantic Division)
329 St. George St.
Moncton, N.B.
E1C LW8