

ACROSS THE ISLAND

Child's Health Story Seen Most Unusual

By NEIL A. MATHESON

I HAVE a deep and abiding sympathy for anyone who is in poor health, and particularly for those who are suffering crippling physical handicaps...

That's why my attention was drawn a few days ago to the story of Carl Bickers, a boy who had a delicate heart valve operation shortly after his birth...

THE REASON for Carl's story appearing here is that his mother is the former Olga Stewart of Peter's Road, and it was told to me by his aunt, Agnes Stewart...

Carl was born a "blue baby" and his aunt recalls seeing him turning virtually blue when he would go into a sort of coma for an hour or more.

The "stroke" at nine months of age developed when a blood clot struck the brain and damaged permanently the right side of his brain, affecting his speech and partly paralyzing the right side of his body...

Fred and Olga Bickers were living in Truro when Carl was born and they moved to Milton where they would be close to the Children's Hospital in Toronto...

Open Heart Surgery At 18 Months

CARL WAS approximately 18 months old when the first open heart surgery was performed on him, replaced a valve on the left side of his heart...

But 10 years later the valve was growing weak, apparently, and another major operation was scheduled. This time it was the right side of the heart that had weakened...

"For Carl's heart was so strong it forced new blood vessels and adhesions, and continued to function on its own."

The heart function appeared to have been performed with reasonable efficiency for a time, but in recent years Carl slowed down and often awoke in the middle of the night in great pain.

But last December the parents took their son for one of the regular monthly hospital visits and they learned still another operation was scheduled.

'Deep Freeze' Ice Pack Is Used

THIS TIME "he was placed in a 'deep freeze' ice pack to lower his body temperature for a few days... and the operation was performed on January 27.

Carl came out of the recovery room five days later and two days later "he celebrated his 15th birthday by taking a few steps across the floor of the ward."

I'd like to tell you that this time the operation has really been successful and this young man who has endured so much ill health, remedial surgery and hospital confinement is really cured.

The real story, though as Roy Downs tells it, is "unfortunately the operation was unable to be successfully performed" though the new tube was placed adjacent to the heart as already described.

Carl's "will to keep going and modern surgery have extended his life span past the expected point of survival and each new day is a gift that must have come from some higher power—greater than man or medicine can ever be," writes the understanding and sympathetic Downs.

Agnes Stewart brought me Carl's story in hopes it might be of some assistance, and possibly comfort to parents of other children who may have been born with faulty heart development.

For myself I hope the boy's story may also have another effect on some who have health troubles. It's so easy at times to get feeling sorry for one's self and forgetting that other people have the will and the courage to live through similar or worse ailments.

Personal Triumph Over Ill Health

CARL'S STORY recalls one an Island man told me several months ago. He had gone through bout after bout of physical and mental torture and at times he was just about ready to give up.

"You have heard or read, Mr. Matheson, about people thinking about taking their own life because they felt they couldn't take any more", this man told me, then added "I thought seriously of suicide many times". Then he went to a famous clinic in the United States "and there I saw so many others worse off than I was, that I was ashamed of myself for entertaining thoughts like that."

He was fighting cancer and it must have seemed like a hopeless fight for there were three major operations in a short space of time. But he came through all of them and it does seem now as though the surgery was finally successful for it has been 10 years or more since the last one, and the man who found new courage by seeing others worse off than he was, is conducting his business successfully despite the handicap which the surgery has meant.

Sale Of 45 Years Ago Is Recalled

I REFERRED recently to a C. H. Robertson sale in Marshfield some 45 years ago and I found a few days later that the farm was the one now owned by Almon Wood.

Arrangements were made to meet the train at York for those who came by rail to purchase materials, and meals were served on the ground—hundreds were fed. The sale realized some \$6,000 and Robertson's herd of Ayrshire cows sold well.

The Woods hauled more than 100 sleigh loads across the ice as they moved their household furniture and farm equipment, feed for the livestock and numerous small articles.

Mr. Wood recalls that Baron Kelvin one of the stallions I mentioned was a Clydesdale imported by John Richards of Blenheim. Few will remember the Kelvin horse but many standard bred horse fans will remember Captain Aubrey, and this sire of good racing stock was also brought to this country by Mr. Richards.

"Captain Aubrey was the best Standard Bred horse that ever was brought to the province, without any doubt", Mr. Wood emphasized. He was a big horse, probably about 1,500 pounds and some horsemen were reluctant to breed standard bred mares to him lest the colts would be big and awkward.

EXPULSION FROM SYRIA DAMASCUS (AP)—The Syrian government has accused a U.S. embassy secretary, Martha Scherrer, of involvement in espionage and ordered her to leave the country by today.

Winter's Onslaught Increases Hardships Of Rural Residents

By J. LINCOLN DEWEY

Farmers who still have last fall's soil samples at home are advised to send them to the Soil Advisory Lab at the Experimental Farm without delay.

PHYSICAL AND MENTAL

Having been storm stayed home for a day and a half we are in a position to assess from firsthand experience the problems involved in drifting snow, stalled tractors, tractors which act up, with being short of milk cans to hold two days supply, with the possibility of fuel running out and all the general inconvenience associated with snow, cold and wind.

True, good organization and good management on the farm all help to tone down the inconvenience but certainly doesn't eliminate it completely. For a really disagreeable experience we suggest that being stuck in a drifting snow with zero temperatures will pretty nearly take the first prize.

For many rural people particularly those which keep our farms operating, for those who work in the bush, for those involved in transportation winter life can be at times very rugged even hazardous. Certainly, not the type of existence for people who are in poor physical condition or who have hearts that they must worry about.

All this is quite a far cry from the ideal urban existence of well heated homes and public services which take most of the responsibility for seeing that streets and sidewalks are in good order so that groceries and other necessities can be delivered.

For those who like life to be warm, comfortable and not too strenuous the rural winter is certainly not to be recommended. For those who can take satisfaction out of challenging the elements and who can take some enjoyment out of really rugged experiences the opportunity is there and many rural people would not like to pass up this sort of strenuous existence.

POTATO PLEBISCITE

Last week a committee from the Federation met with the Hon. A.B. MacEwen and had a very satisfactory discussion on matters related to the potato plebiscite to be held in April.

In addition, to the legal question which will seek to establish the opinion of growers on the operation of the plan and Board there will likely be other questions designed to obtain the opinion of growers on how potato boards should be made up and what the attitude should be to actual marketing.

This plebiscite is now slightly less than two months away and so far the interest displayed by growers doesn't seem to be very great. It would probably be much better if the attitude was strongly for or against than to be one of indifference.

DAIRY PROBLEM

Last week we had the privilege of hearing Doctors Neely and MacEwen of the Ontario Department of Agriculture make their presentation on the problems and control of mastitis in dairy cattle.

While mastitis has never ranked in the public mind with TB and contagious abortion it has probably cost the farmer more money than the other two did together. Due to the fact that mastitis isn't spectacular or very rarely so in it affects it is easy for dairy farmers to disregard it and to be philosophical about living with it.

Over and over again the presentation emphasized that good herd management and sanitation are of prime importance. The proper operation of the milking machine and thorough milking done as quickly as possible are of prime importance. Again we think it is important to report that these experts believe that much of the money which is spent on antibiotics is largely wasted as in many cases the drugs are ineffective and in some cases they continued

use may even be retarding recovery. The old fashioned approach of milking the quarter frequently and bathing with hot water to improve circulation is probably better than the new drugs.

Two practices which were highly recommended were the use of individual paper towels for washing udders and the use of a good sanitary agent for the dipping of teats after milking.

Part of the answer to present high potato prices is contained in recent figures on stocks and recently released by the United States Department of Agriculture.

In what is referred to as the 26 fall states on February 1 supplies amounted to 75,910 hundredweight as compared with 90,275 on the same date a year ago. This scarcity in the United States is, of course, responsible for strong demand and related strong prices.

Britain Offers Force For UN Peacekeeping

By JOSEPH MacSWEEN LONDON (CP) — Britain has offered to make a non-combat contribution, including short-range aircraft and signals troops, to the long-proposed United Nations peace force.

Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart, making the announcement in the House of Commons said "I do not think a British government has ever made so precise an offer" to the UN force.

"If so requested, and subject to our national commitments, we will help provide logistic backing for a United Nations force of up to six infantry battalions," Stewart declared.

"This could include, for example, short-range aircraft, engineering and signal troops, and ambulance, ordnance and motor transport units. "If it were desirable, suitable

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The Fun Of Being A Woman

Have you forgotten the joys of being female? Would you consider changing the right to flirt...to show your emotions...to be frivolous? In March Reader's Digest, one woman describes the advantages of belonging to the second (or improved) model sex. Find out if you've been missing the fun of being a woman. Get your copy of Reader's Digest, now on sale.

PROVINCIAL ICE SPORTS Friday, Feb. 26th at the Charlottetown Forum 7.30 P.M. Admission 35c

Pearson, one of the architects of the trail-breaking UN emergency force in the Middle East. SUPPORTED LBP

George Thomson, minister of state in the foreign office, said then the Labor government had fully supported Pearson's work and was studying ways to assist the UN, particularly in logistics backing for a peace force.

Sir Alec Douglas-Home, Tory opposition leader, implied after hearing Stewart that the announcement was so hedged-in view of Britain's far-flung commitments in war-torn Malaysia and elsewhere—that the position of Britain relating to the UN force remained unchanged.

Douglas-Home, referring to the current financial and other difficulties of the world body, suggested that Stewart read a speech made four years ago by Douglas-Home, then foreign secretary and later prime minister.

Douglas-Home said in the 1961 speech that Britain had been placed in an "appalling dilemma" because of a serious falling away from the principles of the UN charter.

The question which many sober and responsible observers of its practice are asking is whether we can continue to do so, and whether the United Nations of the authors of the charter has had its day.

WOULD STRENGTHEN UN Stewart, noting the UN General Assembly in New York has adjourned until Sept. 1, said Britain and "the majority of nations, are determined to do our utmost to see that the United Nations shall emerge from this crisis stronger than before."

Several countries, including Canada and the Scandinavian nations, have earmarked troops for UN service.

Steel Price Increase Sparks Construction Industry Worry

By KEN SMITH Canadian Press Business Editor

TORONTO (CP) — The steel price increase announced Monday by Steel Co. of Canada Ltd. likely will be felt first in construction, but early reaction indicates it is not expected to cause any slowdown in building, industry sources say.

A survey shows the sources are more concerned about whether the rise of four per cent for Stelco's bar mill products is just a fore-runner for increases in other types of steel. Most agreed it is.

Further hikes are bound to be inevitable now that the first breakthrough has come, "one supply spokesman said. "It's just a question of time and how much."

Another supplier said the increase could be absorbed without difficulty. Donald Jupp, immediate past president of the Canadian Construction Association, said the increase "was one of those things that just had to come eventually."

One Toronto supplier gave this example of the effect of the increase: An apartment building with 200 suites uses about five tons of reinforcing steel for each suite at an old cost of about \$185 a ton.

Stelco's increase, which it said was due to a large accumulation of factors including higher labor costs, the federal 11-per-cent sales tax on production equipment and higher scrap steel prices, was the first of any major proportions since 1957.

Other companies are expected to follow Stelco's lead. COSTS TO RISE One Toronto steel supplier said the simple effect of the increase is that buildings are going to cost more—"though I doubt if it will be enough for most builders to be aware of it."

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Stelco, in a preliminary report of its 1964 operations, showed record production, sales and earnings. Production rose to 3,478,000 ingot tons from 3,109,000 in 1963; sales to \$477,822,000 from \$370,988,000 and profit to \$43,630,000 from \$37,095,000.

LABOR CRITICAL

A criticism of the increase came from the United Steelworkers' Union (CLC), which last December won a new contract for Stelco's 17,000 employees. It is worth an estimated 31 cents an hour during the life of the two-year contract.

In a telegram to Prime Minister Pearson, William Mahony, USW national director, called it inflationary and unjustified and called for steps to prevent the increase taking place pending a government investigation of steel pricing policies.

Mr. Mahoney called the increase the first major step in a new drive by business for higher profits.

GETS KNIGHTHOOD

LONDON (CP) — Documents conferring knighthood on Sir Alfred Etienne Dupuch, editor of the Nassau Daily Tribune, were dispatched Wednesday to the governor of the Bahamas for presentation to Dupuch, a spokesman for the colonial office said.

Dupuch was given a knighthood in the New Year's honors list in recognition of 40 years' service in the Bahamas Legislative Council and the Senate and for charitable and welfare work.

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