

## Woman Devotes Her Life Helping Other Blind Folk

LONDON, Ont. (CP) — When Mrs. W. C. Bending lost her sight, 40 years ago, she was a young wife and mother.

"It was a week before I could tell anyone about it. It was like a curtain had been pulled down."

"Little things would set me off... dropping things, loud noises or bumping into tables and chairs. But no one ever knew I was having an emotional upset."

As Mrs. Bending began painfully to adjust, she decided she must live as normally as possible, and must work for other blind people. She has spent 17

years as president of the Canadian Council of the Blind, which she helped found.

First, during the '20s and '30s, Mrs. Bending cared for an ailing mother and a daughter who had been struck by a car and she spent two years in a sanatorium with TB.

In those years, she recalls, it was believed a sightless person could do little more than weave baskets. Legislation governing his affairs was poor, financial help almost non-existent.

**ALLOWANCES RISE**  
In 1932 Mrs. Bending became the first president of the London Association of the Blind. In 1944,

The Guardian, Charlottetown, Thur., Dec. 15, 1968. 9

in response to a suggestion from a Winnipeg group, the Inter-Provincial Council of the Blind was formed, with Mrs. Bending as chairman.

The council eventually became the Canadian Council of the Blind, and Mrs. Bending remained its leader until 1969 when she decided someone younger should take over. She is still a member of the national directorship.

As a result of CCB's efforts, Mrs. Bending says, the blindness allowance has gone from \$60 to \$75 a month, eligibility age has been lowered to 18 from 21 and the Blind Persons Act passed to allow the blind to receive old age pensions at 45.

During her chairmanship, Mrs. Bending attended confer-

ences in other countries to represent Canada. In recognition of her work, she has been made a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts and received the CCB award of merit, its highest honor.

**EDITS PUBLICATION**  
She is still editor of the CCB Outlook, a publication for the blind that she started in 1948. She is a member of the Canadian Women's Press Club and the London Business and Professional Women's Club which named her their woman of achievement in 1962.

She belongs to the women's auxiliary to the London-Middlesex advisory board of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, the CNIB London-Middlesex advisory board, the Ladies

## New London WMS Holds Xmas Meeting

Plans were made to cater to the Men's Association on Friday, December 16 at the December meeting of St. John's Pres-

byterian Women's Missionary Society, New London, held at the home of Mrs. Don MacKay. A committee appointed to make final plans was composed of: Mrs. Earle Campbell, Mrs. Leslie Files, Mrs. Earle Murray and Mrs. Francis Murray.

The devotional service was conducted by Mrs. Don MacKay on the theme, "Called to a mission of service". Hymn 595 was followed by scripture readings and the Exposition. Prayer by the leader closed the devotional service. The season of prayer was led by Mrs. Donald MacEwen, Mrs. Earle Campbell, and Mrs. George P. MacLeod.

Roll call was answered by 23 members with a verse of scripture. The minutes of the previous meeting were read by the secretary, Mrs. Oscar MacKay. Correspondence consisted of a

letter regarding the projector fund. A motion was passed that \$5.00 be sent to the fund.

The visiting committee reported three calls made, fruit taken and thanks received for fruit. A new visiting committee was appointed, as follows: Stanley Bridge, Mrs. Donald MacEwen; Graham's Road, Mrs. Peter Eisinga; Wigmore Road, Mrs. Earle Murray; New London, Mrs. Leslie Files; Fountain Rd. Mrs. Oscar MacKay. A motion was passed that Mrs. Francis Murray purchase a book of Remembrance for the church.

The program consisted of a reading "When Sheep go Wrong" by Mrs. Donald MacEwen, a Christmas Carol contest by Mrs. Ellis Burgoyne, and the singing of Christmas carols by all the members accompanied on the electric organ by Mrs. Don MacKay.

Mrs. Francis Murray will be leader for the January meeting when season of prayer, will be led by Mrs. Leslie Files, Mrs. Mont MacEwen and Mrs. Roy Brown. The study book will be in charge of Mrs. Don MacKay.

The meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Refreshments were served by the hostess and committee.

**"Touch" Reading Used In Brain Damage Cases**  
VICTORIA — (CP) — If a child can't learn to read by using his eyes, maybe his fingers can "see" and understand the words. The University of Victoria's psychology department has a found that a child suffering

from brain damage may be able to learn the alphabet from touch.

And so a child with alexia (inability to read) may be introduced to the alphabet with a series of carved wooden shapes. Dr. William Gaddes heads the department, which is gaining international attention for its study of children with perception and learning difficulties.

**BRITONS SMOKE LESS**  
LONDON (Reuters) — Britons smoked fewer cigars and drank less wine and hard liquor in the fiscal year which ended last March. But figures released Wednesday also show tobacco still provides almost 50 per cent of customs and excise revenue. Alcoholic drink yields 18 per cent of the £2,400,000,000 (\$10,200,000,000) total.

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