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SECOND SECTION

Nurse practitioner Sandi Deasey checks Greg Louie.

Joe Shatters Tradition With Cool Aid Clinic

By DON VIPOND
Times Staff

Meet Joe Haegert—not exactly your typical family doctor.

Joe is 35 years old, married, with three children, raised in Victoria in what he calls a middle-class Quaker family.

He graduated from the UBC medical school, interned at a Montreal hospital and takes refresher courses at the University of Washington's medi school.

So far so good.

But wait. Where is the white smock, the starched nurse, the sterile waiting room? Joe is wearing a tuque, parka and snow pants because it's cold in his office and he's just come in from house calls.

His office is a cluster of homey rooms at the rear of the Cool Aid youth hostel at Gladstone and Fernwood.

That really shatters the traditional image, first because Cool Aid means all those hairy young people drifting here and there doing goodness knows what, and second, because Gladstone and Fernwood is hardly the Harley Street of the city.

In fact it is the lowest income area in Victoria, with the highest transient population, the most social service cases and biggest Indian population, Joe says.

During the winter months twodthirds of Joe's patients are Indians. In summer about half his patients are the wayfaring young people with beards who tramp up to the hostel at the rate of close to 200 a night.

There's more. Joe must be the only doctor in these parts who nearly went broke earlier this year while working the sort of hours which should have made him rich. Trouble was, most of his patients had no money or medical plan.

Then there's the nurse.

Joe was the first doctor in Victoria to have a full-time nurse practitioner, a concept he's keen on where a qualified and experienced nurse deals with some patients under his supervision.

Sandi Deasey, 23, is the nurse practitioner. She has worked for two years in an intensive care unit and also helped run a "street clinic" in Regina, a combination emergency, crisis and counselling centre.

Joe describes her as "excellent—in fact she's my boss." Sandi does most of the pelvic examinations on the clinic's female patients besides other diagnostic work and treatment.

Muriel Adey, who was a social worker in England, serves as receptionist because, as she says, she believes she's involved in something worthwhile.

It's not that the medical problems or treatment at the clinic are so different. It's the mood, the atmosphere of the place. The informality, the dress, the talk, match the patients, keep them comfortable.

It began four of five years ago simply as the Cool Aid clinic, a one evening a week operation in which a few doctors agreed to volunteer time to deal with the health problems of the travelling young people.

But the load gradually shifted onto the shoulders of one or two doctors, including Joe, until by this spring he was devoting all his time but going broke at it.

What is now known as the Fernwood-Gladstone Medical Clinic, with Joe and Sandi on salary, is a unique provincial government effort to meet the peculiar health care needs of the neighborhood.

It is also practical recognition that within society there are social groups who slim the traditional medical system because they are shy or poor in some other way feel strangers to it.

Not that money is always the problem. The Indians Joe treats are covered by a comprehensive federal insurance program. But that doesn't mean they'll go to a doctor—unless they like him. They like Joe enough to have invited him to a recent Indian wedding.

The non-Indians who sometimes just drift into the clinic without appointments and who don't have medical insurance are asked to pay what they can. Sometimes it's a dime, sometimes a dollar. They come from as far as Sooke.

Clinic hours are 8:30 in the morning to 2 or 3 in the afternoon weekdays and about 25 patients a day are seen.

Then come the house calls. Joe is enthusiastic about the importance of his patients don't have transportation but do have several children. A house call enables him to treat the whole family, give more comprehensive care.

For such a clinic to work requires a doctor interested in that sort of practice and Haegert is "quite unique," says Connie Hunley, coordinator for development groups of the provincial health and human resources departments.

He's a "missionary sort of person."

The clinic was started because the government saw both a special need and a special person to meet it, she says.

DR. JOE HAEGERT
". . . a missionary sort of person"

Early Start For Housing On Bay St.

Construction is expected to start early in the New Year on a 12-unit townhouse scheme, initiated by a Victoria developer for sale to the provincial department of housing as family rental accommodation.

Wheaton Construction Ltd. will build the townhouse ensemble, designed in an H-shaped cluster, on property at 1209 Bay consisting of two former city-owned lots and an adjacent parcel that was privately owned.

One old house now standing on the property will have to be demolished.

A city planning official said Friday no rezoning is required as the site is already zoned for multiple-dwelling to permit a density up to 35 units per acre. The Wheaton project has a density of about 26 units per acre.

"It's an interesting example of the type of family accommodation that can be provided by a developer working a joint venture with senior governments, who finds it economically reasonable to build to much less than the maximum permitted density," the official said.

The scheme, designed by Victoria building consultant Ted Bowers, has been approved in principle by the city's Advisory Design Panel.

An application will be submitted for Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation financing.

City Body Shops Split on Rates

About half the 38 Victoria auto body shops are in favor dropping the surcharge on car rentals, the Times learned Friday.

A proposal passed by the Vancouver branch of the Automotive Retailers Association Thursday night to accept a rate of $15.50 per hour under Autoplan will go before the Victoria membership of the association on Monday night.

About half are in favor of accepting the ICBC offer and said a spokesman for a major shop.

"I think most companies feel the offer is almost enough but we are concerned about the future of the (Automotive Retailers) association if we give in now."

A spot check by the Times confirmed the local shops are divided on the offer.

Under the plan to be voted on Monday night, the body shops would work for a basic rate of $15.50 per hour, up from $14 per hour, starting in January and would end their surcharge, which was an extra fee paid by the motorist.

The agreement would last until April 1 when a higher rate would be sought from the Insurance Corporation of B.C. to cover higher wage rates expected to be paid in new contracts under new contracts to be negotiated at that time.

In addition, no formal contract would be signed between ICBC and the bodyshops because the ICBC offer would bind the shops for a six-month period, expiring on July 1.

Of the 38 Victoria shops, 29 met earlier this month and at that time voted 25-4 to reject the ICBC offer.

However, a compromise plan worked out by the Vancouver branch to work for $15.50 an hour for three months, not six, has been favored by many shops in Victoria.

"The association is split right down the middle on this," a spokesman for a small body shop said.

"We kind of favor the plan but we feel we should all stick together on this."

In Vancouver, provincial ARA president Lloyd Kinnaird said the compromise plan was accepted by Vancouver body shops "with great reluctance."

He said the 200 lower mainland shops will work for $15.50 an hour starting in January but may have to begin charging a surcharge unless ICBC increases its rate in April, three months ahead of the time set by ICBC for an increase.

Spokesmen for the insurance corporation said they would force no comment until after the Victoria meeting Monday night.

Local body shops are currently charging an extra $2 per hour on body work and $3.50 per hour on painting for all work under Autoplan.

Woman Fair In Hospital

A 22-year-old woman is in fair condition at Victoria General Hospital suffering from multiple fractures received in a pedestrian-car accident Friday.

Saanich police said Sharon Rauch, address not known, was crossing Saanich Road by Seymour when she was hit by a car, driven by Patricia MacDonald, 27, of 980 McBride.

No charges are expected to be laid, police said.

PEDESTRIANS INJURED

Three persons in Victoria pedestrian accidents were taken to hospital Friday, but two were later released.

Still in Victoria General Hospital suffering a severe lip cut and a jaw injury is Bryan Prokopow, 12, of 739 Catherine.

City police said Bryan was hit by a mirror on a van driven by Antal Erodon, of 934 Fullerton, while he crossed Esquimalt at Russell.

He is in fair condition.

Mae Wise, of 535 Flagard, and Jane Archer, of 2037 Albany, were both released after being treated for bruises at Royal Jubilee Hospital.

Mrs. Wise was hit by a car driven by David C. Greene, of 848 Esquimalt, at Douglas and Flagard, and Miss Archer was struck by a vehicle driven by Sydney Evans, 302 Kensington, at Pandora and Douglas.

First Students Named To University Board

Frieda Lockhart and Alastair Palmer, fourth-year arts and science students, will be the first students to sit on the University of Victoria board of governors.

They were elected Friday from 15 student candidates in the first election for seats on the board.

Two elected were two faculty representatives, Dr. I. D. Pal of the economics department and Dr. Alfred Fischer of the mathematics department.

The election follows passing of the Universities Act by the legislature in the spring.

The new university board from 11 to 15 members — eight appointed by the provincial cabinet, two students, two faculty members, the university president and chancellor, and a representative of the non-academic staff.

The non-academic seat will be filled later.

The old board had six cabinet appointees, three members elected by the university senate, plus the president and chancellor.

Donor Charges Clinic Foul-Up

Red Cross bureaucrats in Vancouver are fouling up blood donor clinic dates in Victoria, a veteran donor charged Friday.

City firemen Bob Melnyk, 25, who has made 50 blood donations, said he had not been able to make his usual donations at local clinics this week because the mandatory three-month waiting period between clinics had not passed.

And that was because the Red Cross spokesman, who service in Vancouver had juggled the dates for the Victoria clinics, moving them a week earlier.

He was commenting on remarks of Gerry Savage, local Red Cross spokesman, who said earlier that "we really fell flat on our faces the last three clinics."

Melnyk, whose wife Katheyne has given blood 15 times and who is shooting for 100 donations himself, said treatment of local clinics by those in charge in Vancouver has left him "disgusted."

Victoria should have a "walk-in clinic," he said. There are many people walking the street with half an hour to spare who would give blood.

He also suggested the Red Cross should get a government grant so it could effectively advertise clinic dates in advance.

Jordan River Enthusiastic About Prison Camp

Evans . . . give them a chance

If you are feeling disenchanted with your fellow man some time, take a brisk stroll in the winter wind along the beach at Jordan River and stop for a chat with Harold Evans. You'll feel better.

On a day like today, if the wind is there and it usually is, you can watch young surfers riding giant breakers in the misty rain and cross the road to see if Harold is there selling gas at Van Dame's service station. Usually, if it's a day like today, there isn't anyone to sell gas to and you'll find Harold huddled by the heater in his little wooden shed nearby. He's waiting and thinking.

And if you ask him if he's thought at all about the fact that the B.C. Corrections Branch is transplanting 40 of its Wilkinson Road inmates in a new no-bars, no-fences forest camp six miles north of Jordan River, harold says "oh sure." But you can tell he isn't concerned.

"Look at it this way," Harold says with all the wisdom of his 78 years, "you've got to do something for them. I've been a fisherman over men since I was 18. I've had a lot of experience working in machine shops and never had any of the valuable tools stolen. And I've always found that if you're fair with men, then they're always pretty darn fair with you."

There's something refreshing, in today's world, about Harold Evans and his simple country philosophy. Let's face it, there are few who trust anyone at all and, particularly in the cities, fewer still who would be prepared to give someone who has strayed once the benefit of the doubt. Prisons, like airports, are something people remotely consider necessary. And they want them as remote as possible.

As Hal McGillivray, deputy director at Wilkinson Road and the man responsible for setting up the Jordan River camp, says: "Too many people nowadays say we have to have jails, but not in our neighborhoods." Hell, in Victoria people don't even want neighbors in their neighborhoods, judging by the furore kicked up every time someone contains a housing scheme.

And yet out there in the boondocks in Jordan River, almost deserted now that Raymond has stopped logging and the mills has closed, the warm country people prepare to meet their new "neighbors" with almost the same philosophy as Harold Evans.

McGillivray, who has been 29 years as a corrections officer and 11 years at Wilkinson Road jail, prepared the Jordan river people somewhat. He travelled up to address a meeting and explain what was happening. There were questions, of course, but he met with real opposition from only one woman.

He explained that the camp, like the successful Snowden Forest Camp near Campbell river and several others in the province, would be for minimum security inmates only. All would be serving less than two years and most would be first offenders. They will live in mobile home trailers, with four being put together in pairs to form two three-bedroom houses. As well, on the one-acre site there will be a kitchen-dining trailer, a recreation trailer and another serving as an office.

max low

I travelled with McGillivray beyond Jordan River to the forest where the acre has been levelled and pegs have been put in to mark where the trailers are to go when they arrive in the first week of the New Year. And we looked around the beautiful reforested setting, where the inmates and staff of 21 will have use of an additional 14 acres. And we saw the huge old highways gravel pit above the camp where the man will create a soccer field and a baseball diamond.

We stood and listened to the clear water rush down from the mountains to the sea and McGillivray talked enthusiastically of the plan to put the men to work on worthwhile projects, such as park improvements, which will benefit both the public and those who are in for a short stay before returning to normal life with their families.

Many of the Jordan River people are enthusiastic, too.

Francois Gething, one of several young people who are renovating The Breakers restaurant they took over last August, thinks the idea of putting the men to work is a good one and feels the bringing of inmates and staff to the area could be a boost for business.

At the little local store, co-owner Georgina Albert thinks the move is "all right, as long as there are no real terrible people going up there."

And at the "local", the Jordan River Hotel, former proprietor Don Androwski feels "anybody who objects in this area is a fool as this move is bringing people here, which we need. Fred Erickson feels it won't adversely affect anyone and will be a good thing for business. "Why, indeed, should anybody complain?" The answer escapes him.

Jeff Mayo and Stewart, who live between Sooke and Jordan River and stopped in on their way home from a fishing trip, both can't see anything wrong with the idea of a prison camp and Jeff adds a light touch. He says there won't be any danger from those inside as "an country folk can handle ourselves better than they can, and they can't be smarter than us as they got caught and we didn't."

And Alan "Skid" Skidmore comes from behind the bar to tell the tale of nearly that if people knew about these sort of forest camps they wouldn't be against them. "Some people are against the idea but they know nothing at all about it," says Skid.

I met one of those people, high on the hill above Jordan River from Kathleen Gleeson mind. She's in her 70s, has lived there 36 years and hates the idea of the camp going in, and she's written to tell MLA Jim Gorst, Attorney-General Alex Macdonald and even Premier Barrett so.

"This is a shocking thing to dump a joint like that on us," says Mrs. Gleeson, who is one of very few landowners left in an area of Raymond controlled property. "There are going to be no fences, and they're not going to stay in there; they'll be parading all over the countryside and it won't be safe for us to go out at night."

Mrs. Gleeson takes a quick breath and rushes on: "By the way they've been rioting, they're anything but desirable people I'd say."

But somehow I felt a bit better when I came down from that hill and walked near the surf and let the wind clear my head. And when I talked with Harold Evans again.

"You know," he says, looking thoughtfully out over the sea, "most people are pretty employable. Most are not of the ordinary or has committed some little misdemeanor. But I've always found people have been reasonable . . . if you give them half a chance."

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