

LAND OF OPPORTUNITY

Woman architect settles in Canada

CAMBRIDGE, Ont. (CP) — Before Ludmila Dejmek left Czechoslovakia, she supervised reconstruction of an openhearth steel furnace, worked on the restoration of the Prague Palace and served on a board planning the renovation of downtown areas in historical cities of Bohemia.

All that ended with the Soviet occupation of the country in 1968, while she was working for a woman architect in Paris. Her fiancé was visiting her on a vacation in Nice when they heard the news and both decided they did not want to return. They were married in France and emigrated to Canada.

Now she runs her own business in the basement of her home in Cambridge and says she misses neither Prague nor Paris.

"There is no country in Europe where you would feel at home because they have such a long tradition," Mrs. Dejmek said. "But in Canada everyone comes from somewhere else, except the natives, and people aren't so traditional. Canadians are extremely friendly to newcomers."

Also, Canada offers much more opportunity for architects, she said.

When her husband's job as a mechanical engineer brought the couple to Cambridge, she did design work for a Waterloo firm, doing designs for the student centre at Waterloo Lutheran University, a building for Queen's University in Kingston, some Lutheran churches and a housing development in Waterloo.

While working for a Bradford company on designs for the W. Ross Macdonald School for the Blind, she spent her commuting time listening to tapes to

The Citizen Home & Family

with Bev Christensen



Ludmila Dejmek works on an architectural design.

improve her English in order to obtain a Canadian architectural degree. She also speaks French, German and Russian as well as her native Czech.

She worked for three years with Central Mortgage and Housing Corp., advising developers on housing projects and reviewing applications for loan insurance. It was good experience, she said, but she missed the designing and a year ago she left CMHC to start out on her own.

Since then, she has designed a St. Catharines shopping centre and supervised its construction as well as designing townhouse developments in Waterloo and Sarnia and an industrial mall in Waterloo.

Her latest project is a preliminary design for a \$23-million development in downtown Sarnia. It includes four levels of parking, three levels of shopping, offices and apartments. Its immediate future is uncertain because of financial difficulties.

But the business is growing, to the point where Mrs. Dejmek employs a draftsman two days a week and sometimes oftener.

She said she has no ambition to expand into a huge office with a staff of 150 people but would like to be able to employ five or six.

As you grow, she explained, you do more running around and less designing. Right now, the perfect arrangement would be a partnership with the partner doing all the running around.

COMING EVENTS

The Women of the Moose will hold their regular meeting today at 8 p.m. in the Moose Hall, 663 Douglas Street.

The first in a series of health care lectures for senior citizens will be held Thursday at 2 p.m. at the Dew Drop Inn Centre, in the basement of St. Michael and All Angels Anglican Church, corner of Fifth Avenue and Victoria Street. The free eight-lecture series is being arranged by the St. John Ambulance. To register phone 564-5375.

Saturday and evening transportation is now available for handicapped and senior citizens from the Carefree society. The service is being provided on a trial basis during January and can be arranged by phoning 562-1394 between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. weekdays. The fee schedule will be the same as for the daytime service.

The annual general meeting of the Red Rock Recreation Commission will be held at the Red Rock Community Hall today at 7:30 p.m.

The Women's Collective will meet Wednesday at 8 p.m. at 1306 Seventh Ave. A discussion on fund raising will be held. All women are welcome to attend. For more information phone 562-1762.

A Christian Family Film Night will be held Thursday at 7:30 p.m. in the basement of Christ Our Saviour Catholic

Centre across from Austin Road Elementary School. This is good family entertainment and everyone is welcome. Coffee, doughnuts and singing will follow.

Gas Light Girl, a musical melodrama in the Gay 90s style, will be performed at the Prince George Playhouse Jan. 20-22 at 8 p.m. by the Duchess Park Players. Tickets will be available at the door.

Curlers and non-curlers are invited to a dinner honoring Jane Kennedy to be held Feb. 9 at the old curling rink by the Prince George Ladies Curling Club. A social hour at 6:30 p.m. will be followed by dinner. Tickets are available from the curling rink, Gwen Clarke or Shirley Lawrence until Jan. 31.

The Spruce Capital Radio Association will hold a general meeting today at 7:30 p.m. at the Scout Hall behind City Hall.

A new show called Artists' Stamps and Stamp Images from the Simon Fraser Gallery at Simon Fraser University opened Tuesday at the Prince George Art Gallery, 2820 Fifteenth Ave. Also on display is an exhibit on print making from the Burnaby Art Gallery and the seven top models from the cultural complex competition sponsored by the City of Prince George. These exhibitions will continue until Jan. 29. Gallery hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday and 7-9 p.m. Wednesday.

Elderly's history preserved

SIoux FALLS, S.D. (AP) — A project in Sioux Falls seeks to record and preserve human events of the elderly.

The Sioux Falls Oral History Project plans to interview at least 200 persons aged 70 or older. The 90-minute tapes will be copied, indexed and stored at the Senior Citizens Centre here and at Augustana College.

The tapes will be available for schools and community organizations and will be used

for research at Augustana.

The project is funded by a Sioux Falls bicentennial grant and co-sponsored by the Voluntary Action Centre and the Aging Services Centre.

The project now has a file of more than 500 names of prospective persons for interviews. The interviewers plan to record each month about five persons who have anecdotes to tell.

Already on tape are recollections of:

—An 80-year-old couple who remember neighbors eavesdropping on the party telephone while they were courting.

—A 92-year-old woman who remembers her mother's disapproval of her participating in school programs.

—An 80-year-old woman who remembers a ride on an elephant at a circus.

About 16 volunteers are doing the taping and another 10 are being trained.

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