

Birth of Dionne Quintuplets Changed Obscurity of Small Town Doctor to World Fame

Allan Roy Dafeo was an obscure country doctor in sparsely settled northern Ontario, until May 28, 1934, when he sprang into fame over night by bringing the Dionne quintuplets into the world. For 27 years before that he had worked along the frontier unhonored and unsung, bringing ordinary babies to life, mending the torn bodies of injured lumbermen, and fighting north country blizzards to minister to the average ills of men, women and children.

At 4 o'clock in the morning of that eventful May day, he was awakened at his home in Callender by a vigorous pounding on his front door. It was Oliva Dionne, the father of the quintuplets. The doctor had attended Mrs. Dionne at the birth of three of her five previous children, and knew that another baby was expected, but not so soon.

So he hurried to the humble Dionne home, where he found everything in confusion in the dim light. Two babies already had been born prematurely and no arrangements for their advent had been made. The father disappeared but two midwives were making up wrappings hurriedly for the new arrivals and building a fire.

Six Lives in Danger
He rolled up his sleeves and soon three other babies, crying feebly, were born. The mother's life was in immediate danger and he was weighed down by the tremendous responsibilities of saving her life and keeping the spark of life alive in the five newly born.

"I didn't see how all of the babies could possibly live" he related later, "so I baptized each of them separately" — Yvonne, Emilie, Annette, Cecile and Marie. A Protestant, he frequently did this for Roman Catholic babies, whose lives were in danger, using the Latin form of the rite.

Constantly, it seemed as if the tiny infants were about to die. He wrapped them in the only covering available—remnants of old cotton sheeting and napkins—laid them in a corner of the bed and covered them with a heated blanket.

Meanwhile, the mother appeared to be dying. After emergency measures, he started out to get a priest—no one else was available—and made the trip to Corbell, nearly three miles away, in record time in his automobile. When he returned with the priest, Mrs. Dionne had rallied and a few hours later was out of danger.

Surprised to find the babies still alive, he gave his undivided attention to them. For 24 hours he fed them a few drops of warm water from an eye-dropper every two hours, later adding rum and corn syrup. Meanwhile, he had sent a hurry call for a nurse at North Bay, Yvonne Leroux. Capable neighboring women aided the tired doctor and the nurse in keeping the infants alive in those first few days.

A set of potato scales registered their aggregate weight at 13 pounds six ounces. For days the doctor had doubts as to whether they would live. Indeed, it was not until they were four months old that he really began to hope. Then a nursery was built for them and he felt that with proper medical care they would survive.

Mutual Love
As time went on, and they grew into normal youngsters, he loved

in the nursery each day and often kept them cooling their heels in a hotel if his charges showed the slightest indisposition. No father ever watched after their interests with a more tender care than he did.

In 1935 King George V of Great Britain appointed him a member of the Order of the British Empire. He was made a life member of the Academy of Medicine, Toronto, the Ontario Medical Association and the Canadian Medical Association.

He spoke frequently on the radio during the early childhood of "my babies" but declined offers to enter the movies.

Medical authorities throughout the world agreed that he had performed a miracle of science. Honors were showered on him. He declined fabulous offers to go to famous clinics, although he was a poor man. He preferred to remain a country doctor, the coroner of Callender and the medical health officer for North Himsworth township.

Visit From Royalty
In 1935, the Ontario legislature passed a measure to make them wards of the King. It was a proud day for him in 1939 when King George VI and Queen Elizabeth of Great Britain, while on their Canadian tour, visited the five-year-old girls and him. The Queen was especially charmed with their natural behaviour in the presence of royalty.

There was some unhappy moments in the interim when the parents objected to their babies being segregated from the rest of the family but eventually the difficulties were ironed out.

Dr. Dafeo was born on May 29, 1883, in the Ontario village of Madoc, the son of another country doctor, William Allan Dafeo and Rosa (Van Duesen) Dafeo. He attended the University of Toronto and was graduated in medicine in 1907 at 24. He headed for the north woods and settled in the thriving lumber town of Callender. He married a nurse, Bertha Morrison, daughter of a Halifax clergyman. She died after bearing him a son, William Allen Dafeo.

When the Dionne quintuplets were seven months old, he felt he could leave them in other hands and took his first "real" vacation in many years. It was a trip to New York. In the metropolis, he was idolized and was a constant centre of attraction. Later, he flew to Washington and was again a popular figure.

He made an address in Carnegie Hall, New York, and a fascinated audience of 3,000 persons heard the story of "a modern fairy tale," as he described the multiple births.

Idolized in New York
When the Hollywood movie people came to Callender to make a film of the famous five, he gave the orders to camera men as to the length of time they could stay

Poaching On His Trapline

KITWANCOOL, June 8—A local trapper, Samuel Douse, reports that on several occasions his trap line along White River has been poached upon and that, due to depredations, the once populous beaver colony at White Lake is practically wiped out. During May, Douse found strange traps on his line and, after posting a notice that he would seize any others that he found, he discovered several more, one of which contained a young beaver. Douse confiscated these. The trapline along White River has been the property of the Douse family for several generations.

Wolverine have also been taking a toll of the remaining beaver, and Douse is anxious to get in touch with anyone who has experience in catching these wily animals.

FOR CLOSE FIGHTING
LONDON, June 8—As part of a long-term policy to make the British Home Guard the equivalent to front-line infantry forces, they will be equipped with Bofors cannon and other field pieces.

TAKE STARCH OUT OF 'EM
LONDON, June 8—The Air Ministry is taking some of the starch out of R.A.F. and W.A.A.F. officers. An order says they now may wear soft collars—but not during inspections, and collar-attached shirts, but only off parade.

Gene Desjardines of Oak Point lost two horses, a bull, four calves, and all his poultry in a fire which destroyed his barn recently. The fire started from a smudge burning to drive mosquitoes from his cattle.

The rat situation in Winnipeg has reached such a state that the fear of bubonic plague has caused the civic health committee to order a special emergency session to deal with the rapidly increasing menace. Dr. M. S. Loughheed, medical health officer, said that each day more rats were invading the city in large numbers.

Leading Aircraftsman Earl A. Rindress has arrived overseas according to word received by his mother, Mrs. M. A. Rindress. Leading Aircraftsman Rindress enlisted with the Air Force in February 1942, as a radio technician.

MOOSE JAW

Petty Officer R. A. (Dick) Cassidy has arrived in Moose Jaw for a thirty day leave to visit his wife and son. PO. Cassidy recently arrived in Canada after serving overseas.

Moose Jaw is going to have a lacrosse team and its organizers hope to create a league throughout the southern part of the province. Vic Myles of the New York Rangers of the National Hockey League, and "Gymie" McMillan, former Moose Jaw junior hockey coach are going to handle the team. Both Regina and Notre Dame are reported to be also forming teams.

Miss Jane Haggerty, a Belle Plain resident since 1906, died in Belle Plain recently. Miss Haggerty was well known in the Belle Plain district, having lived there 41 years.

A marriage of interest to Moose Jaw friends was held recently in St. Joseph's Church, Stanley, Durham, England when Corp. Don C. Stover, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stover, South Moose Jaw, was joined to Winnifred Henderson, eldest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert Henderson of Stanley.

Hon. Dr. William R. Motherwell, agriculturalist, was buried at Abernethy recently, from the church which he long ago helped to found, and for many years helped to sustain. People from many parts of the province attended the service. Those present from Moose Jaw included Mr. and Mrs. W. J. Motherwell, Mr. and Mrs. J. Gordon Ross, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Miller, Mr. and Mrs. F. J. Workman and Mrs. Black.

NEW U-BOAT HIDEOUTS
LONDON, June 8—The Germans are building new hideouts for U-boats along the French coast as a result of destruction caused by R.A.F. raids on St. Nazaire and Lorient, according to word reaching London.

TURKS TRAIN AT CAPE
CAPE TOWN, June 8—Six Turkish pilots are doing special training on Lockheed Lodestars at the British Airways Training School at Vaaldam, Transvaal. Six other Turks recently qualified in the Union on a specialized radio course.



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THE EXPERTS SAY ...

Wartime Conservation Hints for Busy Housewives
(By the Canadian Press)

CAREFUL COOKING—Cooking plays a part in making meat go further; an important consideration now the amount of meat which can be bought is limited by the number of coupons as well as the supply of cash, consumers have to spend. Cooking tests made by the consumer section of the Agriculture Department show that in cooking roasts, a moderate temperature—from 325 to 350 degrees Fahrenheit—for the entire cooking period, results in less shrinkage and results in a more tender juicier roast. Other points to keep in mind, say the experts, are: "Don't add water, and don't cover roasts while cooking. Allowing them to stand for a short time in a warm place after cooking makes for easier and more economical carving."

PICK THEM YOUNG—F. S. Grisdale, deputy foods administrator for the Prices Board, warns housewives in the market for chicken that unless they know their fowl they may be paying the price of a fresh young chicken for an old hen. Prices for various grades differ across Canada, and thrifty shoppers should ascertain the ceiling prices for fowl prevailing in their areas. Also, housewives should beware of paying higher prices for live fowl than they would for the dressed product.

CORN SYRUP—Consumers are asked by the Prices Board to cooperate with retailers who are trying to distribute available stocks of corn syrup as evenly as possible. There is no regulation governing the sale of corn syrup; making its sale contingent upon the production of a doctor's certificate is not allowed. Ration officials suggest that consumers leave corn syrup for mothers with small babies.

SNACKS A HELP—Canada's war industries recognize a short rest period morning and afternoon, with a light mid-shift snack, as an aid to greater production, and what has been proved true of industrial workers applies also to others. Mothers are advised to adopt "mid-shift" rest periods and snacks for themselves. They will find that the short relaxation with a cup of soup or tea, a glass of milk or fruit juice or some fresh fruit will pay dividends in increased energy and vitality.

CONSERVATION THE WATCH-WORD—If present day beauty aids are to stay, Canadian women will have to practise dressing table economy. Lipstick containers, mascara cases, rouge and powder compacts and all such fancy devices are "out." Older containers, which can be used over and over again for refills, now are becoming the "musts" on personal salvage lists. It is economical to buy the larger containers and jars of creams and

lotions. These do not evaporate or become rancid if they are kept tightly covered in a cool place. For current use, creams and lotions can be put in smaller jars and kept at hand.

PRaise FOR SERVICEMEN—Servicemen and their families make the best possible tenants, says Mrs. Harvey Agnew, supervisor of housing registries for the Prices Board. These reports, Mrs. Agnew says, indicate that the opinion is pretty well universal that members of the forces make the most desirable of tenants.

PLAYGROUND ACTIVITIES

Gyro Club Planning to Continue This Season—Assistance is Sought

The Prince Rupert Gyro Club is considering carrying out again this year a program of supervised activities for children on its playgrounds this summer similar to those which it has conducted for several years past. Frank Skinner, chairman of the club's playground committee, placed proposed plans before the club executive at a meeting yesterday and these will be taken up again by the club as a whole at its regular monthly business meeting tomorrow. They provide for an expenditure of upwards of \$600 by the club itself and the assistance of the city and military authorities in playground improvement work is to be sought. The military has been responsible for the disruption of some of the playgrounds if not for actual damage.

Another matter to come before the club at tomorrow's meeting will include that of representation at the international conference in Toronto and the district meeting in Vancouver. It is possible that members may be able to attend.


The annual Gyro picnic is being planned for June 27 with the use of Dr. R. G. Large's power cruiser Soogwills.

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New priority procedure:



the
Program Classification System
effective June 7

A NEW priority procedure, the Program Classification System, has been established by Priorities Order 4, effective on June 7, 1943. Under this simple, new procedure, industrial purchase orders placed with Canadian firms will be classified within one or more of 24 code numbers.

After June 7 every purchaser of goods or commodities valued at \$25 or more, (other than a retailer, a person who buys from a retailer, or such others as are designated in the regulations), must provide his supplier with the appropriate code number as indicated by the regulations, or with sufficient information to enable the supplier himself to classify the purchase order.

Industrial and mill supplies, warehouses and other businesses performing similar functions for industry, shall NOT be deemed retailers for the purposes of the new regulations.

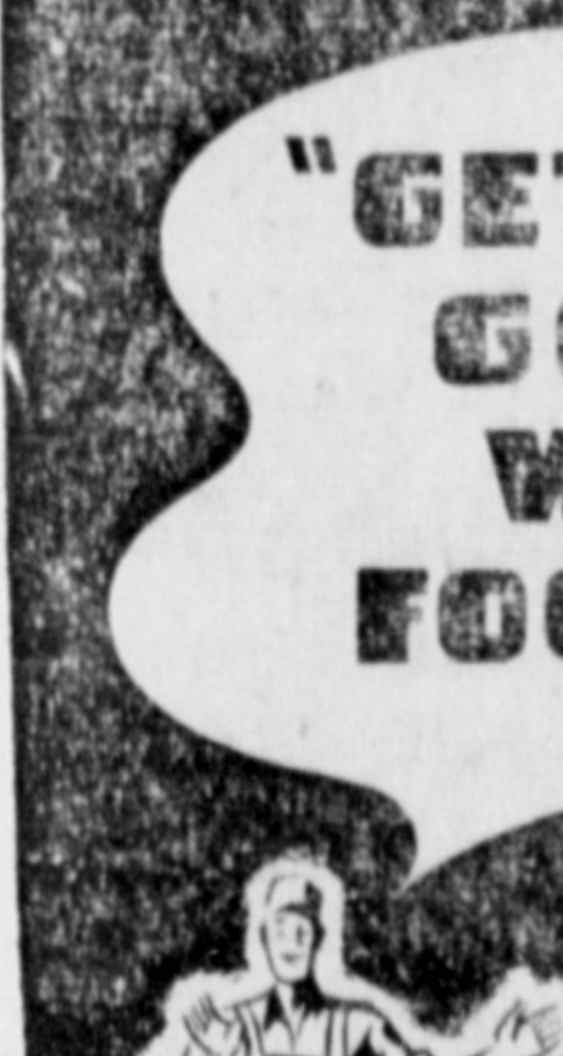
Copies of the new Order, P.O. 4, together with complete details of its operation, are obtainable from Regional Priorities Offices.

Regional Offices:


514 Bank of Nova Scotia Bldg.	Halifax
1155 Bishop Street	Montreal
Osler Building	Toronto
Terminal Building	Hamilton
1099 Canada Building	Windsor
209 Power Building	Winnipeg
c-o North West Purchasing Ltd., 109th St. and Jasper Avenue	Edmonton
1130 Marine Building	Vancouver
Priorities Branch (Ref. P.O. 4) No. 3 Temporary Building	Ottawa

To the Small Importer:
Another new order, P.O. 5, also has been issued. This new order determines procedures under which the small importer of United States materials for maintenance, repair, or operating supplies, may obtain the necessary priority assistance. Obtain details from your nearest Regional Priorities Office.

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