

**One  
person  
can  
make  
a  
difference**

***This is the third in a series  
about people who have made  
a notable contribution to  
our community.***

By JO ANN STEVENSON

Isabella Linton says she is "a daft old lady. I just enjoy myself. The Lord's been good to me. What I do is no credit to me."

This humble and active grand lady has received two awards since 1976. The first was the Ontario Medal for Good Citizenship from the Province of Ontario and the second was received just recently by registered mail, The Canadian Silver Jubilee Medal from the Governor-General. "It's rather embarrassing because I don't really know what the award is for," says Isabella. The Times talked to a number of people who had no trouble at all understanding what the award was for.

The Tyndall Nursing Home Ltd. on Eglinton Avenue knows Isabella well. Mrs. Weiss, a staff member, says, "She's marvellous. She comes every Sunday to play the piano for our services. Whenever anyone tries to tell her how much she's appreciated she says, "Please don't thank me. God has been good to me." She donated her typewriter to a young woman in the nursing home who always wanted one. She comes here with the Dixie Belles whenever I book them in and she's their pianist."

Mr. Albert King, a resident of the Tyndall Nursing Home, said, "Isabella's schedule is busy, but she always comes, rain or shine. She has an excellent memory and delights us with stories from her childhood when she comes to visit. Anyone who knows her could have only good things to say. She's an unusually active woman."

Olive Ball, former president of the Dixie-Bloor Club says,

"Isabella Linton is a fine Christian lady. She never sees any faults in anybody. The unkindest she can be is to say that some poor dear has a lot to put up with. She drives half the Dixie Belles to practices and concerts. Once we were downtown entertaining and she asked me if I could drop off some of her passengers because she was going out camping overnight with the girl guides."

Isabella has lived in Mississauga for ten years. She has five children and 20 grandchildren, including one great-granddaughter. "When I'm not busy doing things, I'm with them. I have Christmas all year round." Isabella still has her car and enjoys driving.

She belongs to the Bloor-Dixie seniors' club and last summer played the organ for a church on Burnhamthorpe Road. "Believe me, it's not so much talent as availability," she says.

Her volunteer life started during the First World War, when she was in the volunteer corps, and planned parties for the wounded and found wheelchairs for them.

Isabella received her Red Cross pin for her work at the old Christie Street Hospital. She did 200 hours of service for the Red Cross, mainly running the snack bar and helping in the kitchen.

"My work with the girl guides has been fun. I've been involved with the guides since 1925. I'm still a girl guide. When I put on my uniform to attend a function, my daughter thinks I'm silly but I'd feel silly not wearing my uniform to guides."

She was district commissioner from 1930 to 1946, then leader of the 303rd guide company from 1950-1958, in the Toronto Western Hospital, where she met Eskimo families from the North West Territories. "They are my friends now. I write to them and received a phone call from one of them just last week by satellite. I have nearly 100 "grandchildren" there. They all call me Grandma Linton."

She has been to Frobisher Bay twice. The first time, Isabella recalls a sunny, beautiful day in April when the Anglican Church, St. Jude's Cathedral, at Frobisher Bay was opened. She remembers it as an interesting building, shaped like an igloo. In April, 1974, she again flew up for the consecration of the new bishop.

Isabella taught Sunday school at Chalmers Presbyterian Church for 25 years and belonged to the Volunteer Bureau in Toronto where she typed for many charitable agencies such as St. John Ambulance, Community Chest and United Way here in Mississauga.

"When my husband died 18 years ago, I heard the Family Service Association needed a bit of secretarial help. They put me on the payroll and I was supposed to help over Christmas but ended up staying for 12 years. They were called the Neighborhood Workers then."

Back in the forties, the Second Mile Club was started, Isabella's first experience with seniors' clubs, and she helped compile information so it could be accepted into United Way. "Anything I do I'm happy to do. I don't accept money or even an honorarium. I've held on to my typewriter, my car, my piano and my sewing machine. With these, I figure I can't come to any harm."

Isabella Linton makes a difference. The Times is anxious to hear about other good citizens. Call Jo Ann Stevenson, 823-3800.