



Dr. Dennis Sherman, right, and "Rollo" the Clown were two of the many participants who helped make the latest Child Identification Program at Cunningham School such a success. See more pictures on page 10!

Schools Gain National Recognition for Safety

By Dr. David Harte

Last Friday, Cunningham School gymnasium was the setting for over 300 Milton children participating in the Masonic CHIP program, now recognized as the most comprehensive child identification program "in the world by recovery, law enforcement, dental, and Forensic authorities."

Over 40 volunteers from the Masonic lodges of the 4th Masonic District, Milton Rotary Club, Milton Police, Massachusetts Dental Society dentists and assistants living or practicing in Milton, gave their time to make the children of Milton safer, while giving their parents maximum peace of mind.

Representatives from Norfolk County District Attorney William Keating's and Norfolk County Sheriff Michael Bellotti's office, Massachusetts Crime Prevention Officer's Association President Louis A. Assad, Milton Deputy Chief Richard Wells and Representative Walter F. Timilty lent their support to Milton Police officers Michael Dillon and Edward Villard. Fingerprinting is a vital part of the 3-tiered program which also includes videotaping and Toothprinting, and essential to recovery officials investigating leads of lost, missing, or abducted children.

Eight video camera set-ups were used. Milton Rotary Club members and Masons shared tasks in interviewing, taping, and reviewing the tapes for quality.

The TV quality videotape has actually saved a child's life. Videotape offers expressions, mannerisms and speech patterns, as well as clues to actually locate lost children. Recovery officials find it far more valuable than a single still photo.

Ten Milton dentists and assistants Toothprinted children. Teeth are the hardest tissue in humans, can withstand 5000° F temperatures, and are used in over 100 identifications in Massachusetts every year. The saliva on the wafer is one of the best scent tracers for FBI recovery dogs, trained in tracking lost or missing children.

International award-winning Masonic Shrine, clown Ernest "Rollo" Pearlstein kept children and adults entertained.

One year ago, Milton Rotary Club made a commitment to comprehensively ID every child in Milton. With the generous support of Milton Masonic Lodge and Milton Rotary Club, there is no cost to the school or the children for the program.

Fox 25 TV News featured the program on their Saturday night 10 o'clock prime time news, and interviewed Milton's Superintendent of schools Dr. Mary Grassa-O'Neill. Under Superintendent Grassa-O'Neill's and Assistant Superintendent Mary Gormley's leadership, Milton Public School system is the first in the nation to comprehensively ID every child grades K - 12. Holbrook, Quincy, and Randolph public school systems

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known sex offenders residing in our state. That averages about 50 offenders per community;- 95% of all Massachusetts children have a sex offender which lives between them and, their school. Of the 250,000 known sex offenders nationwide, Massachusetts' 17,500 offenders represents 3 times the national average per capita.

Friday's CHIP event will be featured on TV FOX

25's "America's Most Wanted" in a few weeks. Milton's community leaders and volunteers in Masonry, Rotary, law enforcement, dentistry and school officials will be highlighted and commended for their concern for children's safety in Milton.

Milton's school project will continue with the Collicot School children on March 21.