



Ed Henderson with his 117-day-old lunch bag signed by co-workers
Gazette, Michael Dugas
 21.7.77

2tr@lgs

club member,

Ed, VE2GS

His record's in the bag that carries his lunch

By BOB HAYES
 of The Gazette

Roxboro's Ed Henderson is eating his way — carefully to a world record.

As of yesterday, he had carried his lunch in the same brown paper bag for 117 straight working days.

The 39-year-old brownbagger is aiming for 125 days, "but if the bag holds out I might just keep going."

He plans to submit the tattered and torn bag which has served as a lunch box since Dec. 24, 1975, to the editors of the Guinness Book of Records. As proof of its continuous use, it was initiated by six co-workers on the first day.

"My wife thinks I'm crazy and probably a lot of other people will too, but it's been fun," he exclaimed during his lunch break in Dorval.

Henderson, a computer technician with Univac, said he has had to be careful with the type of sandwiches he's carried recently in the 10 by 6-inch bag.

"A tomato sandwich is a definite no-no. If there was a leak in the wax paper wrapping, the bag would be a goner.

"I've also dropped bananas and big apples. They could really finish it off," he said.

Henderson opened it carefully yesterday to find a bologna-on-white and a few cookies. Another successful opening in the cafeteria of the Bell Canada offices where he works.

How did the father of three ever come up with the idea of a perpetual paper bag?

"Last year we were going on a weekend outing and my wife, Irene, put everybody's name on their picnic bag. I kept mine and started using it for my daily lunches.

"It really held up and that's when I got the idea of a shot at the world record," he explained.

Up to now there is no record listed for lunch bags.

Morning lunch-packing time for Dad at the Henderson home on Jean Brilliant Ave. is a very delicate operation.

The contents are carefully wrapped and then gingerly slipped into what has become a flimsy, folded bag. They sell new in the supermarkets at 28 cents for 25.

It's then put into Henderson's briefcase and he hopes it's still in one piece when lunch time rolls around. He then drives carefully to the office.

But for the next week or so, don't forget, Irene — no tomato sandwiches.

How the Wings of Life idea took off

Wings of Life, a non-profit organization was launched by 24-year-old Donald Genest, a year-old commercial pilot who was inspired by Terry Fox's brave cross-Canada marathon.

Genest mentioned the idea for a sponsored flight in aid of cancer research to his friend Romi Singh, an Air Canada DC-8 pilot.

Singh was so enthusiastic about the idea that he convinced other Air Canada pilots and co-workers to join in.

From the initial takeoff Aug. 1 to the final landing Aug. 7, 35 Air Canada personnel pitched in to make the flight a success.

Wherever Muir and Daemen touched down, an Air Canada pilot

was waiting with food, supplies, clean clothes — and advice. The volunteers were responsible for making sure all systems were "go" and to cut down on delay.

Muir and Daemen's diet — composed of easily-digestible foods such as canned juices and fruit, canned meat and fish, dry cereal, peanut butter and fresh fruit — was planned in advance by Air Canada physician Antoine St. Pierre.

Mission control was established at the Centre de Formation Aéronautique in Dorval where one of four Air Canada pilots took turns sitting 24 hours a day with ham operator Souly Loizos, 21.

Through his set, mission control

was linked to a network of ham operators across the world.

Canadian Marconi lent Wings of Life a \$50,000 Omega navigation system and free fuel was supplied by Shell at St. John's, Shannon and Manila and Hilton hotels, Ramada and Holiday Inns provided free accommodation at each of the stops around the world.

The goal to raise \$1 million has not yet been reached, with donations now totalling around \$145,000.

Anyone wishing to contribute should send donations to The Canadian Cancer Society, 1980 Sherbrooke St. W., Suite 1102, Montreal H3H 1E6 (931-7548).

— Eloise Morin

helpful

club member,

Souly, VE2FSS