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## Canadian family aids formation of explorers club in Peru

Almost 25 years ago, Canadian Marion Sharon from Napanee, Ontario, and her three children Douglas, then 16, Robert, 14, and Anne 9, sold their home and belongings and moved to Peru where they helped to form the Andean Explorers' Club.

Because of a background in art, she was chosen to be artist and researcher for the club headed by a 28-year-old American explorer. She also did the club's general office work.

For the next ten years, Sharon and her three children lived in Peru, Yucatan, Mexico and Florida where she pursued studies in Indian art.

### Ran explorers' club office

While her elder son Douglas was on expedition, she and her younger son Robert ran the office and did illustration maps from photos the explorers brought back. This left the marketing, cooking and general housekeeping duties to her daughter Anne.

"It was quite an experience, although at times it was terribly difficult," said Sharon. "Customs were so different. Women were chaperoned and weren't expected to walk on the streets unless accompanied by their husbands or children. They didn't speak to anyone unless formally introduced."

*Marion Sharon, 70, admires some of her Peruvian artifacts. Behind her is a painting she did of Yungay, a small town where she and her children lived almost 20 years ago.*

During her sojourn in Peru, Sharon visited and studied many known archaeological sites and did research on them. However, she was never on an expedition through the jungle and surrounding country.

"The purpose of exploration is to make earlier civilizations known to the world," she explained. "Explorers promise not to disturb ruins and they are not allowed to dig. No artifacts are ever removed from the sites. Civil guards always accompany expeditions to protect the explorers from wild animals because the explorers are not permitted to carry guns."

### Legitimate souvenirs

Some 60 pieces of pottery and artifacts — legitimate souvenirs of her sojourn — have been exhibited at various galleries. She has also loaned them for display in gift shops and shopping malls. She uses a colourful collection of Peruvian crafts of wool and beads as backdrops for her many lectures.

"My Peruvian pottery collection is a modern copy of pieces found in tombs," she said. "They were moulded by Moche Indians, the many-gifted healers."

### Earthquake disaster

While living in Yungay, in the Peruvian Andes in 1962, an earthquake struck which trapped her and her two younger children in the mountains for five months. It caused avalanches of ice and snow to pour down the mountains to the valleys. Parts of five towns were destroyed within five minutes. Markets were flooded but helicopters were able to drop food and blankets.

Sharon attributes their well-being to the Indians who were very kind to them. "The food was fabulous," she said. "The Indian women cook creole-style with herbs and peppers. They are experts in the proper use of herbs and use a great variety of vegetables and fruits, mostly accompanied with rice. Everything is cooked fresh."

Shortly after the disaster struck, her older son Douglas became ill with amoebic dysentry and was flown out of the region by helicopter. Just after his departure, the mountain roads were washed out and all transportation ceased. It was five months before the family was reunited.

When Sharon returned to Canada in 1969 she opened an art gallery in Kingston, Ontario. It provided her with an excellent opportunity to display her collection and her own paintings.

*(Excerpts from an article by Jean O'Bright in* Housing Ontario, December *1981.)*

## Kanata firm's laser marking system sales increase

A system, introduced by Lumonics Incorporated of Kanata, Ontario in 1976, is providing code markings for an increasing number of products ranging from barely visible electronic components through food products to beer bottle caps and whiskey bottles.

During the past year sales of the Lumonics LaserMark system totalled $5.6 million and according to president Bob Atkinson, in the less than six months this year the company had passed the half-way mark of their 1982 target of $7.6 million.

### Pulse of light imprints mark

The system imprints a desired code or message on products by selectively changing or removing the surface material of the part or package to be marked. This is done with a pulse of light from a laser lasting one-millionth of a second.

The infrared burst of energy is guided through a stencil-like mask which forms the letters or numbers, then projected through a lens system onto the surface to be marked.

When the system was first introduced, companies bought a single unit for up to a year's evaluation, said Mr. Atkinson. Coca-Cola, the first company to test the system agreed to try it but pay for it only if it was successful.

Today there are so many LaserMark systems operating that first-time buyers buy in bulk. Motorola Incorporated has just purchased 15 units, at about $30 000 (U.S.) each to add to the more than 40 they already own.

Of the total sales to date, 90 to 95 per cent are outside Canada with about 60 per cent made in the United States and about 25 per cent in Europe.

Owing to the large United States market, Lumonics opened a new plant in Houston, Texas in June this year to service the market there, especially the integrated circuit industry.