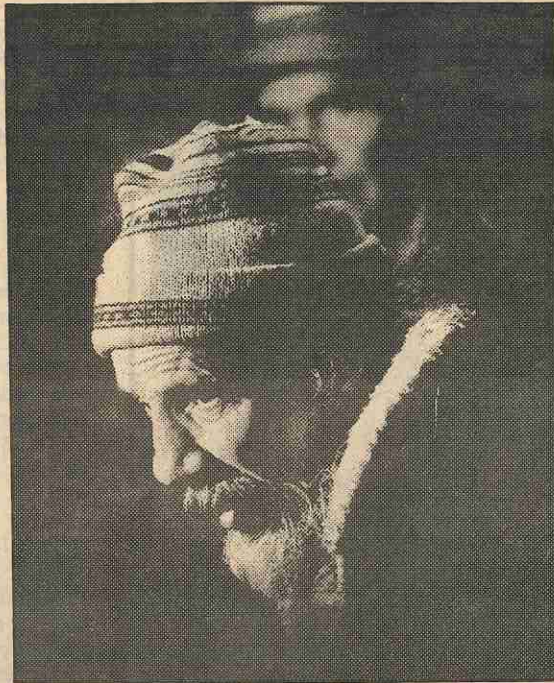
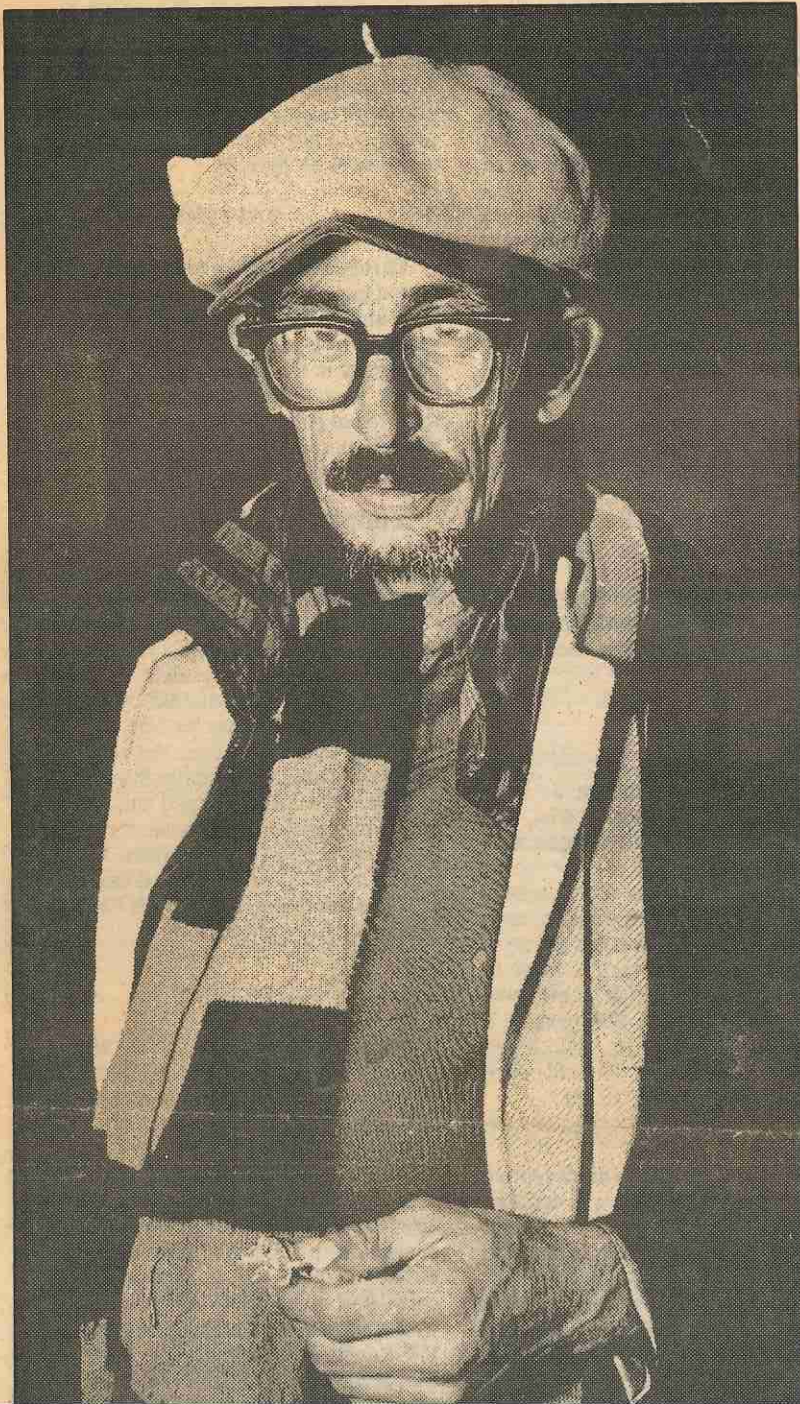


(Below) Spender Hanson wears layers of hats and coats against the chill. Charles Sherwood's face reflects his despair (below, right). A nightly ritual at the church, the short prayer service is conducted by Bob Lynn for those who want to participate (bottom).



MANY OF THE people who used the shelter during the first two weeks could show some sort of Evanston connection. This is not to say there were no Halsted-Madison St. types. But more have lived and worked in Evanston, coming to the North Shore for the security and protection against violence it provides.

Bill Wilson, 34, for instance, had been living at St. Elizabeth's shelter, 7635 N. Bosworth, in the "Juneway Jungle" area on Howard St., just across the Evanston line. He often has been in Evanston over the last five years, living at the YMCA for some time and doing side jobs, such as washing windows on storefronts. He likes the sense of safety here — a factor mentioned by some of the other homeless. In Chicago, you are too often open to capricious attacks.

"I got stabbed three times when I was in an alcohol (treatment) program on Skid Row," says Dan Farmer, 22. He is a short, stocky muscular kid, a former Golden Gloves boxer who was one fight short of winning his division when he went on a binge and ended up in the hospital for seven months, his left side paralyzed as a result of the abuse. "I was on Halsted and Madison three years," said Farmer. "I read (about the shelter) in the paper and said, Well, I'm going to try it out." Farmer spent his most of his life in foster homes. "I've been out on the street since I was 18 and I'm still out on the street roaming

around."

LEROY BERRY, "BORN Jan. 29, 1935," had been living off of general assistance at 2114 Darrow in Evanston, until he got in a dispute with his landlord. "I tried to find a room but I couldn't," said Berry, who gets about \$200 a month from general assistance. He was brought to the shelter Saturday night by a man who runs the Jonquil Hotel. What are your immediate plans — what are you going to do? he is asked. "Probably going to stay here till I find me something," he says.

David McMurray, 30, a Viet Nam veteran with long stringy yellow hair, who suffers from a mental disability, found out about the shelter through ACORN (Adult Community Outreach Network), an Evanston drop-in center. He is not new to the area.

"I've basically been on the street for the last few years," he says pleasantly. Where?

"Oh — Evanston, Chicago, Waukegan, Zion." He has been in Evanston since July. During the summer he would sleep on the beaches. He likes the feeling of safety here. "You don't have to worry about being robbed or mugged or anything like that." He says the homeless number here is bigger than most people think. "I know of maybe 30 to 40 homeless," he said. "I'm sure there's plenty more. What's the population, 73,000? I'd say it's got to go up to 75 to 100." Like others, though, he feels if

word gets out about Evanston's shelter, the area will be flooded with people trying to get in. Told he seemed in pretty good shape, he acknowledges the compliment. But then he adds casually, "It's been hell, you know?"

LINDA IS A more recent case. Nights she works in a \$4.25-an-hour market researching job here asking consumers about their product choice. She began looking for shelter last week when she was suddenly locked out of her Chicago apartment. Her search was fruitless until she inquired about shelter to an Evanston police officer. He told her about a place at Church and Lake Sts. He said it was the only church on the block.

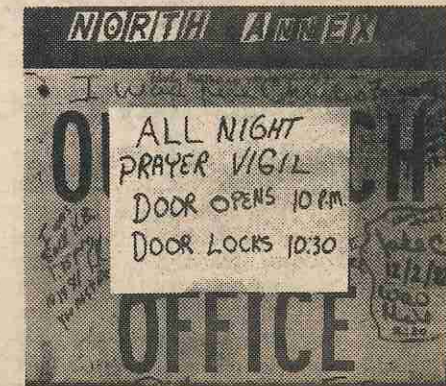
When she arrived at the spot, however, she found there were three churches and there didn't seem to be activity going on in any of them. She tried banging on the doors of one of the churches and then gave up after two or three minutes. She then began walking south again, toward where she had met the cop.

Then, as fortune had it, she bumped into an old man, just coming from the shelter. "I just happened to ask him by chance and he knew of it," she said. The man walked her the four blocks, cutting through an alley to the shelter, on the northwest side of First Baptist Church. She feels fortunate Evanston acted when it did on its homeless situation. "It's a good thing I wasn't put out

a month ago. There really wouldn't be any place to stay go because this place has only been open two weeks."

Shelters had always seemed different to Linda. After all she had a college education, standing two years short of a degree in business administration. She knew about the flophouses on Skid Row.

"I use to stereotype shelters as being places for really the scum of the earth." But that has changed with her experience. People who need shelters are "just people who have been beaten down by the system and haven't been able to get back on their feet."



A welcome sign for the homeless.