

## MISS LYDIA'S FURNITURE by Arthur H. Folwell

Miss Lydia lived in a quaint old place,  
Quaint and old as Miss Lydia's face,  
For quaint and old was she.  
Sufficient facts have now been told  
To prove Miss Lydia quaint and old,  
Of lace, and lavender, silk and gold,  
A maid of seventy-three.

Miss Lydia's neighbours, brisk and young,  
Would slyly laugh at the way she hung  
Her pictures on the wall.  
Portraits and prints of a bygone day—  
"Isn't it quaint and old!" said they.  
"Walls in tint is the modern way;  
No pictures there at all.

They giggled, behind Miss Lydia's back,  
At her horse-hair furniture, shiny black,  
At her marble tables too.  
Her parlor carpet's rose design—  
A red, red rose on a green, green vine—  
After the style of sixty-nine,  
Was also a laughing cue.

And then, one morning, a rumor sped,  
"Pictures are coming back" it said.  
"The vogue is all that way."  
And all the people who know what's art  
Decree that horsehair furniture's smart,  
And old-style carpet is now a part  
Of modern homes, they say.

Miss Lydia lives in a quaint old place  
But folks now speak of her taste and grace  
In furnishing the same.  
"Nothing old-fashioned! So up-to-date!  
Really a pleasure to contemplate!  
At her age too! Why, it's simply great!"  
Such is Miss Lydia's fame.

And Miss Lydia smiles at her neighbours all,  
Of furniture fashions, large and small,  
She's ignorant as can be.  
Unaware she was once passeé;  
Unaware she "came back" one day;  
Just placidly living her life away—  
A maid of seventy-three.

## A Safety Project For Children

WHEN Jasper Institute in North Renfrew considered sponsoring an educational project for school children last year they decided on a Safety project rather than something in arts or crafts or public speaking because they felt there was a great need for safety education.

Jasper has a two-roomed school and one teacher is an Institute member and was present when the Safety project was discussed. The two teachers were asked to choose any Safety projects they liked and they were appointed a committee to act with a third person, an Institute member, to arrange the whole programme. The teacher of the senior room decided to have a quiz on safety rules and the junior teacher chose a safety poster

contest. The third member of the committee looked after the renting of the hall for the final event, secured judges for the posters and got a police officer to conduct the quiz.

The lines of safety stressed were rules relating to the lives of elementary school children—traffic, fire, electricity, water. Sources for these rules were health books, newspapers, radio and television. When the time came for the quiz the police officer found the children's knowledge of safety rules far beyond his expectations. In fact he had difficulty in eliminating enough pupils to make the awards. The police officer also gave a talk to the children and musical numbers added to the entertainment of the programme.

It was one of the teachers who, at the request of the Women's Institute secretary, gave us the information about the project; and she added that the teachers did not find their part in it to be too much work and that the children were very much interested.

## CONCERNING SUPPLIES OF HOME AND COUNTRY

In sending the parcels of Home and Country to the branch Institutes, the number of copies is based on last year's membership as given in the District Secretary's Report. Naturally the copies are mailed to the secretaries elected this year. If any secretary is not receiving the correct number of copies for her Institute will she please let us know? Write to Home Economics Service, 1207 Bay St., Toronto.

## A RECORD OF SERVICE

Mrs. George Ridley sends a note of warm appreciation of a member of Willow Grove branch and Haldimand county, the late Mrs. Emma Smelcer. Mrs. Smelcer joined Willow Grove Institute twenty-nine years ago and from then until the time of her death she attended every meeting, serving as branch president, branch secretary, district director, county secretary and convener of Resolutions in the county and the Hamilton convention area.

This unique recipe, "How to Cook a President" added a light touch to the tribute paid Mrs. Roy Aitchison, retiring president of the Avonlea Women's Institute:

"Select a young, strong and pleasing personality. Trim off all mannerisms of voice, dress and deportment. Pour over all a mixture of equal parts of the wisdom of Solomon, the courage of young David, the strength of Samson, and the patience of Job. Season with the salt of experience, the pepper of animation, the oil of sympathy and a dash of humor. Stir for about two years among forty members who have diversified aims and work, testing occasionally with the fork of criticism. When done to a turn stir the hot and strenuous two years, garnish with no salary and let loose in the community."