

Malton airport, Mr. and Mrs. Smolcic, their two-year-old son and a fourteen-year-old sister of Mr. Smolcic. (The Smolcics are natives of Jugoslavia and came to Canada from a refugee camp in Italy. Ed.) They were greeted by members of the committee and an interpreter, who stayed for a week with the family to help Mr. Smolcic understand the highly mechanized machinery on the farm where he was to be employed. There was a quiet luncheon that day for the new arrivals and later in the day a small reception. Mrs. Smolcic enjoys a shopping tour once a week with a Women's Institute member and is entertained quietly in a home before she returns to get dinner for Stevo. English instruction is twice a week and on Sunday there is always someone to take the family to church. The Smolcics are a happy family and are grateful to all who have helped them. (Mrs. Smolcic has been invited to be a member of King Women's Institute.)

In addition to the above activities the Women's Institutes, in the early months previous to World Refugee Year, had been hard at work raising funds for the General Fund. King Institute, a member of the UNA in York County, observed World Refugee Year by inviting Mrs. Douglas Henderson, national champion of the refugees, to speak to a joint meeting in June 1959. Since then they and sister Institutes have transported speakers on this humanitarian cause through World Refugee Year. Dr. and Mrs. Hardy Hill of Richmond Hill never failed to weather the storm if they were called upon to show films on the plight of the refugees, and a considerable amount of money was raised and an immeasurable amount of publicity provided.

During the preparation for the Smolcic family a disastrous fire, which took the lives of two small children, occurred in King Township. A relief fund was established and again funds and clothing were needed. All the Women's Institutes responded.

As this story is being written the King Women's Institute is catering for a tea to raise money for the Newmarket Hospital, and all neighbour Institutes are assisting.

"In these troublous times, the spirit of sharing will be the only thing that can save the world."
—Arthur Lee Kinsolving.

(Editor's note: The author, Mrs. Ursula McLennan, a member of King Women's Institute, was chairman of this refugee project in York county.)



A resident of the Davey Home for the Aged showing the toy poodle made in the handicraft class.

Photo Courtesy Sault Daily Star.

We learned the art of making flowers, foam rubber toys, slippers and fur fabric animals and agreed to pass on what we had learned to the residents of our Davey Home. All the sewing was to be done by hand, the idea being to have the older people use their hands as much as possible. We found they could handle the smaller toys made of foam rubber and the flowers, but in making fur fabric animals they would lose interest—the work was a little difficult for them—but they enjoyed watching us and trying.

We visited the Home each week, sometimes making two or three visits. The old people enjoyed these visits, not so much for the work, but for the contact with someone who cared. They told us their little stories and troubles. They made little gifts which they asked us to mail to friends; and they were so pleased when an article they made looked like the sample.

Out of this Homecraft Class the Davey Home Auxiliary was organized with myself as president and Mrs. Clyde Eggesfield as supervisor of crafts. The various church groups send members to the meetings and our projects are bringing sunshine into the lives of these senior citizens.

I think one of the best parts of our programme is the celebration of birthdays. We average eighteen birthdays a month in the Home; and each month we give a list of those having birthdays to any interested group desirous of helping. Each individual having a birthday that month is invited to a party in a room designated by the Superintendent. There is a programme, each guest receives a gift and a simple lunch is served. We find that tiny cup cakes iced in different colours with a candle on each receive great applause. The candle, or any favour, is cherished for months.

Homecraft in the County Home

By Mrs. Bert Eggesfield

THIS project began when the Superintendent of our Home for the Aged asked if I could arrange to have some members of the South Tarentorus Women's Institute meet with Mrs. M. Smith, Supervisor of Handicrafts for Ontario Homes for the Aged. Five Institute members and three Salvation Army ladies came. We were surprised at the small attendance but we carried on to the end of Mrs. Smith's three-day course.