

Sidney T. Harvey



"Tested jam for Britain when W.I.'s were doing their bit during the war years."

Born in Cabbagetown, Toronto is his home and he is proud of it. He can remember when deer grazed in the Don Valley and the river was the local swimming hole.

Mr. Harvey started his career as a page boy at Queens Park, in 1927 he came to work for the Department of Agriculture under Minister John S. Martin. He has served under five Superintendents or Directors for Women's Institutes commencing with Mr. Geo. Putnam and at the present time, Miss Helen McKercher, Director of the Home Economics Branch.

The last sixteen Provincial Presidents of the Federated Women's Institutes of Ontario have all worked with him. "Sid" has kept historical data for both the Department and the Women's Institutes over the years and his main goal, before retirement, is to catalogue information concerning all Women's Institutes organized in Ontario, the Officers, and date of organization. This is a long and tedious job, however, it will become an invaluable piece of information when completed. The Women's Institutes can thank this far sighted gentleman for keeping all this information so it could be recorded. If it had not been for "Sid" and his genuine interest in both the organization and the history, many of these old records might have been lost over the years.

In Mr. Harvey's opinion, hobbies and voluntary work have kept him young and alert to the changing times. Diversity of interests are important and one of his interests is Canadian art. At one time he owned originals of the group of seven and knew some of the artists personally.

Tropical fish occupy some of his spare time, an aquarium is set up in his home, displaying all the Child family, another aquarium holds a three foot elec-

tric eel who can discharge an equal of 600 volts of electricity. Another prize is a lung fish from Africa, in its native environs, when a stream dries up this species tunnels a vertical hole, secretes mucus over its body which allows it to breathe air and live until the next rain when the stream flows again. If anyone should call in at the office at 1200 Bay St., you will see a lovely aquarium with many tropical fish, compliments of "Sid."

Many hours are spent photographing historic places, people and things, the wide collection of pictures are a joy to see. Along with photographing, Mr. Harvey spends hours seeking out the dates of Toronto's old buildings, attempting to find authentic dates of incorporation of places such as Seaton Village, Parkdale, and Yorkville.

Probably Mr. Harvey's greatest interest is Scouting. He was a scouter in 1927 and has continued through the ranks as Cub Master, Scout Master, District Cub Master, District Commissioner, Chairman of the Area, Group and National training team. His travels have taken him around the world as Scout Leader and he has attended Jamborees in 1955 in Niagara-on-the-Lake, 1957 — England, 1961 — Greece, 1971 — Japan and hopefully in 1975 in the Scandinavian countries. Over the last forty-seven years Sid has spent an average of two nights a week with boys and one night in programming. He has indeed a deep loyalty to Scouting.

At work, Mr. Harvey's office serves as a mail room and supply centre which is a busy place — when you think of the tons of mail going out each year to Women's Institutes, 4-H Homemaking Clubs and for all the Home Economics programs — he has few idle moments. It can be said "Sid" is a real friend of the Women's Institute.

