Marilyn Young, High School Student Outlines Four Day Visit to Ottawa

Marilyn Young, Acton High School student, reviewed her four day visit to the nation's capital at Ottawa to her fellow students last week. Chosen by staff members at the school to represent Acton in the "Adventure in Citizenship", Miss Young was sponsored by the Acton Rotary Club, who looked after transportation and registration fees. The following is Miss Young's account of her trip.

ADVENTURE IN CITIZENSHIP
By Marilyn Young

On Sunday, May 11, I left by plane from Malton airport. Upon arrival in Uplands airport in Ottawa, two boys who were on the same plane as myself and I were met by an Ottawa Rotarian who drove us to where we were billeted during our stay.

There were three other girls all from Ontario, staying at the home of a Rotarian and I'm sure no one had a better host and hostess than we.

Monday morning, we went to the Chateau Laurier, where my 195 fellow adventurers were welcomed first by the chairman of the project Mr. Elmer Campbell second by the Mayor of Ottawa His Worship Mayor George Nelms and last by the Rotary President Mr. Ted McDonald.

Our week's program was briefly outlined followed by an address by Dean Gibson of Carleton University, where we were scheduled to have some group discussions later in the week.

Mr. Campbell, the chairman, emphasized three points which we were to follow during our stay (1) don't be afraid to ask questions, (2) don't do all the talking, (3) keep notes.

Mr. John Kidd, executive director of the Canadian Citizenship Council, spoke to us, pointing out that the purpose of our visit was to make us better citizens and to bring about a greater appreciation of our wonderful country. He explained that the qualities of a good citizen are: he must vote, be loyal, pay taxes cheerfully and obey laws. He also stated that citizenship in a democracy means citizens managing their own affairs working out problems with others taking on responsibility and accepting the results.

At this time, we assembled outside on the balcony of the Chateau for a group picture which could be purchased later. By now, everyone knew that the dinner hour was approaching, so we all proceeded to the ballroom of the Chateau for a luncheon which was the regular meeting of the Rotary Club.

Several Rotarians spoke to us — one mentioned that adventure meant something hazardous or exciting. He hoped it would not be hazardous, but that we would find it exciting.

Hon. Alvin Hamilton, Minister of Northern Affairs and Natural Resources, gave a brief address and reminded us that our proudest and most humble saying should be, "I am a Canadian citizen", and our proudest thought should likewise be that we have the responsibility of being a Canadian citizens.

Mr. W. P. J. O'Meara, Q.C., assistant under-secretary, spoke, outlining the requirements of a good citizen: loyalty, industry, sacrifice and determination. He took each of these requirements and spoke briefly on each.

In the afternoon, we went to view the opening of Parliament. However, we are not allowed to enter except by special invitation. We did see Governor-General Vincent Massey drive in his open landau drawn by four horses to the Main Block of the Parliament Buildings. We were all amazed to see several communists parading around in front of the Parliament Buildings, carrying umbrellas bearing slogans such as "Ban the H-Bomb".

Next, we went to the National Art Gallery and Museum, where we wandered off in small groups to learn a little of our country's former history. I'm afraid to say none of us appreciated the modern art exhibition. One item of interest on display was Queen Mary's carpet, which has been given to the National Museum.

Monday evening was one of the highlights of the week. We were invited to Fisher Park High School for dinner in the cafeteria, followed by a sing-song and then the students provided the program. We all donned red and white hats, the colors of Fisher Park, which bore our provincial crest. These were made by the art class and were an aid for identification.

It is certainly the most beautiful and energetic school I have ever seen, although their strawberry shortcake became a joke among us every time we ate. The program consisted of music by the band, acts from plays put on at various entertainments during the year and other talented performers. They certainly left their impression on us all.

We were amazed at the size of the school with a separate auditorium, gymnasium and cafeteria besides classrooms and staff rooms. They have entertained each of the eight Adventurer projects. The students had decorated the gym for a dance held in our honor later in the evening. The students were very friendly and did not keep to themselves but mixed among the adventurers. You will easily see we did not have much spare time as it was absolutely necessary to keep on schedule.

Next morning we went to Carleton University, where we were divided into nine groups for a discussion period led by the professors. It is impossible to tell all the points we discussed. Some of the main ones were: pipes against the central government, should we have a strong central government or should the provinces have more power", and problems of immigrants, do we or do we not help them?

Following this we went to the Chateau for a luncheon, at which Hon. Paul Martin addressed us. He said that an adventure is something done well through many years which requires integrity and character. Canada, he said, offers more in a short time than any other country. To be a citizen is to share in a great adventure but do we treasure that opportunity and are we contributing to that which our descendants must share?

A good citizen does something well according to talent and opportunity. To achieve a democracy, we need good citizens. It is our duty to see freedom continued in Canada and all over the world. A good citizen also understands problems of the day, of all peoples of all nations regardless of color, creed or religion. He closed by emphasizing the point that the Citizenship Act, which he introduced 12 years ago, allows us to say proudly, "I am a Canadian citizen".

After dinner, we went out to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police barracks at Rockcliffe. There we were entertained by the Mounties, who went through a precision drill of about 20 minutes with no orders. It is done entirely by counting. Then we saw a drill on horseback and a gymnastic exercise. We were certainly impressed by the rigid training of the Mounties.

We then saw films on criminal investigation and scientific laboratories. The motto of the Mounties is "Maintiens le Droit" or "Maintain the Right." After that, we rode by bus to Government House, the residence of Governor - General Vincent Massey. We toured some of the rooms and walked around the gardens. In the ballroom there is a magnificent chandelier 10 feet high by eight feet wide, weighing 1,500 pounds, containing 12,650 pieces of crystal.

There is also a one and a half ton carpet on the floor which is lifted during a ball. When the Governor-General entertains, he must be able to talk to all his guests, so he sits in a special chair and every five minutes he changes his conversation partner. This is called musical chairs.

We went back to the barracks, where we enjoyed a smorgasbord style dinner. We were in small groups, each with a Mountie for a guide and he told us of the necessary requirements to enter training as a navigator. He showed me the different dials and explained that we were at an altitude of 12,000 feet and travelling at 200 miles an hour.

The pilot spoke in Acton two years ago to the Y's Men's Club and is the brother-in-law of an Acton businessman. Before landing, I began to realize that tomorrow would be another school day and that my happy adventure was almost over.

When our citizenship papers were presented to us, I was glad that, like Pauline Johnson in her poem, Canadian Born, I could say that "I was born in Canada beneath the British flag."

Then we enjoyed a band concert by the Mounted Police band and Commissioner Nicholson, the head Mountie, gave us a short address in which he stated there were 12 police divisions and two training divisions in Regina and Ottawa, and an air division with 13 planes.

It was very cold that night so we were glad to get on the bus and go to the National Research Council for films on the development of Canada and her natural resources. I might say that the Mounties are in need of good recruits and I would certainly recommend this training for any boy who had the qualities and ability and the desire to become a Mountie.

Next morning we were back at Carleton University where we discussed the civil service, the backward way in which our M.P.'s conduct themselves in our democratic system best", do you vote for the man or for the party policy", would it be right for a good citizen to disobey the law?

We went to the headquarters of the Federal District Commission who look after the beautification and maintenance of the tulip beds and lawns in Ottawa for our benefit. We were shown films of future proposals for the beautification of Ottawa and Hull. We then toured Ottawa and Hull stopping to admire the tulips and also stopping briefly in one of the parks. It was also very cold that day so we kept on the move.

At night we had possibly the most formal dinner in the Chateau where we were honored by the presence of our Members of Parliament. You will be glad to know that Sandy Best was on his job but when he was surrounded by four beautiful girls, he had no choice of refusing.

Professor Adamson of the University of Toronto, consultant on the St. Lawrence Seaway project, spoke on the role of the capital in Canadian national life. He stated the capital should be the centre of beauty and inspiration to other cities and should act as a symbol and criterion of the city. There followed a dance in the salon of the Chateau.

Next day was dismal a rather sad one as we realized how quickly time had passed and no one was anxious to leave. In the morning, we toured the Parliament Buildings, the Senate, House of Commons, Library and the Peace Tower.

Then Prime Minister J. Diefenbaker addressed us in the Railway Committee Room of the Parliament Buildings. As the adventure was devoted to making us better citizens, he naturally stressed this part. He hoped we would give a portion of our time and develop our citizenship because we are the builders of Canada's future.

He wanted us to be participators rather than onlookers in the building of Canadian citizenship. He then started to present our citizenship papers but he had only an allotted time so presented a few. These lucky adventurers all came from the Maritimes and so the rest of the provinces felt rather slighted at being denied that honor.

Finally we had our farewell luncheon at the Chateau during which one from each province who was selected by the university professors spoke on a particular highlight of the adventure. After that we had a sing-song but I am afraid it wasn't as rousing as the one on Monday evening. Then came the saddest part — the saying of farewells. We were a doleful looking group, quite in contrast to the shy jubilant adventurers who crowded into the Chateau Monday morning.

We made friends so quickly we hated to part. But every happy event brings its sorrow and ours was no exception. The plane trip was somewhat more pleasant coming home as it was not so bumpy. I was in the cockpit with the pilot and explained that we

MARRIED RECENTLY in Toronto, Mr. and Mrs. William Merkley are pictured following their wedding ceremony. The former Nellie Hall, Mrs. Merkley is the daughter of Mrs. W. Hall and the late W. Hall of Acton. The couple left on a wedding trip to the eastern provinces and will reside in Toronto upon their return.

Boy, Girl Champions At Bicycle Roadeo

OAKVILLE — Elizabeth Jesseman of Oakwood School and Ted Grootland, of Lambrook School, took top honors in the fifth annual bicycle roadeo. The event is jointly sponsored by the Kiwanis Club and the Oakville Safety Council. Both of the winners received 1958 three-speed bicycles as prizes.

In the first year of the event, only 75 participants were active, whereas this year's roadeo drew a record 290 entries. The basic purpose of the roadeo is to instill into the children a sense of safety responsibility.

Prior to the roadeo, PC Hooks and PC John Robson, Trafalgar Township safety officer, lectured in the schools and distributed safe cycling folders and roadeo safe cycling pledge and entry cards.

It's amazing the number of things one can remember having forgotten.

Merkley-Hall Vows Given At Double Ring Ceremony

The marriage of Miss Nellie Elizabeth Hall, daughter of Mrs. Hall of Acton and the late W. J. Hall to William Coxford Merkley, son of Mrs. Merkley of Toronto and the late H. L. Merkley, took place in the champagne and gold - toned living room of the couple's new home at 47 Bunty Lane, Bayview Village, Willowdale, on Saturday, May 17.

A double ring ceremony was performed by the Rev. Evin Mackay of Rosedale Presbyterian Church, Toronto, before the fireplace banked with coral gladioli, white shasta mums and orange chiffon carnations.

Escorted to the ceremony by the Honorable G. H. Dunbar, uncle of the groom, the bride, who was given in marriage by her brother, J. Robert Hall of Wingham, wore a waltz length dress of soft blue peau-de-faille. The tightly fitted bodice fashioned of Alencon lace fell to a full princess line skirt, softly gathered at the back with a small bow.

To complete the ensemble, the bride wore mitts of matching lace and a headdress which was a blue satin bandeau with nose tipped veil. She carried a colonial bouquet of cascading white spray orchids with lily-of-the-valley.

Mrs. James Ross of Weston, who was her attendant, was attired in gold lace over nylon net with matching accessories. She carried champagne orchids with white and green foliage.

Little Barbara McEachern of Acton, who was the bride's flower girl, wore a pale blue dress of nylon eyelet embroidery over taffeta with a flowered headband and carried a nosegay of baby roses and blue and white corn flowers.

Attending the groom as best man was Clifton J. Frankforth of Kipling Heights.

Following the marriage, a reception was held after which Mr. and Mrs. Merkley left for the Eastern provinces.

Every woman seems to harbor a secret desire to write cheques.

EARLY BIRDS

ST. JOHN'S, Nfld. (CP)—Among 35 species of birds spotted in a count of early arrivals were a flock of male rusty blackbirds, which reached the coast April 13, believed the earliest date for this species in Newfoundland records.

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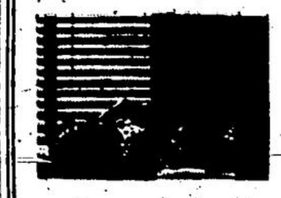

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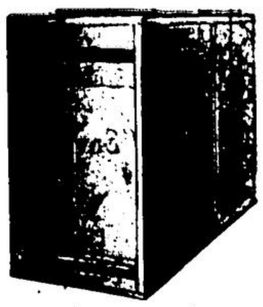

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