



MRS. MAYME MOYER, owner of Kirkcraft in Norval, is pictured above as she weaves an article of clothing during her spare time. Mrs. Moyer started out with as a hobby and now owns a business which sells many articles made by a handicraft group. Recently the business moved from its original location on Number 7 highway at Victoria in an old Presbyterian Church to its present location in Norval.

## Woman's Hobby Buds in to Big Business Kirkcraft Sells Handicraft Work

Proof that a hobby can become a good business is Kirkcraft in Norval village, No. 7 Highway. It is not only a business but, says its founder, Mrs. Mayme Moyer, "is a way of life."

Like many another profitable venture, Kirkcraft had a most humble beginning. It began when the Moyers moved from Toronto to a farm near Georgetown. "Our friends suddenly began bringing their pets out to us from the city, thinking they'd be happier," said Mrs. Moyer.

Among this great variety of pets given to her was an Angora rabbit. She thought it would be fun to make some wool from his fur, only "I didn't know anything about how to do it," she said.

She got busy and enquired around and found a place where she could learn spinning and the science of art of dyeing. This was fine as far as it went, but it still wasn't enough. "All I had was a hank of wool. I wanted to make things and have them professional in appearance."

Gradually she had heard of others in the Georgetown area who were interested in handicrafts. They decided to form a group. The next step was to find a place to sell the items made by the group.

A friend, Mrs. D. R. McLaughlin, and Mrs. Moyer decided to go into partnership with the latter as manager. They found the old, long unused Presbyterian church on No. 7 Highway and went into business.

Tea Served

It worked out fine excepting in winter when the large building was too cold for comfort. Besides the handicrafts sold, afternoon tea was served in what had been the choir loft of the church. "I had several old silver tea services that I couldn't find much use for," continued Mrs. Moyer. "We used these to good advantage."

About a year ago, Mrs. Moyer bought out her partner and soon after, decided that with her husband's aid, they would be happier in a large house that could be used for their home and business too.

The old Dr. Webster home in Norval was the answer. Over a hundred years old, it contains 15 rooms in the original building and more in a recently added wing. It is a cheerful place with large windows, a lovely staircase and fireplace. With its complicated heating problems, the Kirkcraft business can be kept open all the year around.

"No one will come and find us closed now," says Mrs. Moyer.

Greater Variety

With so much more space, a greater variety of articles are now offered to customers. They range from hand-made dresses for women to baby things. There are jewelry and pictures.

At present she has about 40 skilled artists working for her in many different mediums. These include besides weaving, painting, block printing, smoking and pottery. Several from Acton sell their attractive wares at Kirkcraft.

Two artists in particular are Marjorie Nazer and Lou Gillis, both painters. Miss Gillis works particularly in wood designs.

Once a dress buyer, Mrs. Moyer is already designing many of the patterns sold at Kirkcraft. It is her ambition to achieve patterns in original Canadian designs.

She is constantly looking for talented artists who may be able to create something new.

Distinctive Work

By striving for unique patterns, she feels that art students leaving school will have a chance to see what they can do. "If the Canadian students don't have an opportunity to work at what they have studied in school, our money will be wasted," says Mrs. Moyer. She feels that by constant effort, distinctive work of Canadian origin can be achieved.

Sometimes customers ask for the familiar patchwork quilt, often said to be the only original handicraft that is strictly Canadian. She feels, however, that little skill is needed to make them, also that they are church items and she doesn't wish to take any revenue away from the women's groups in the area who make and sell the quilts.

## Barry Stewart Joins US Navy Address, Gifts at Gathering

A very pleasant time was spent on July 27 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. J. Stewart, Peel St., when over 50 friends and neighbors of the Second line met with a surprise farewell party for their son Barry, who has enlisted in the United States Navy. He leaves Thursday morning for Buffalo, and goes from there to training centre in Chicago.

Progressive euchre was enjoyed, prizes going to Mrs. Fred Dancy, Jack Allan and Charles Davidson. Games and contests and dancing were also enjoyed.

## Library Record After Holiday

Things are back to normal at the library, and the bookworms can again crawl through the aisles in peace.

Monday night of last week was a different matter. After two weeks vacation, the library opened its doors again to process hundreds of books for an all-time high in circulation. There were 278 books taken out that evening, and the librarians who keep no record of the number of books brought in, just know there were hundreds more.

All last week business boomed, but this week a summer lethargy seems to have seized the suffering readers and things are quiet.



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## At Haltonville

### Former Woman Doctor's Home Receives Renovations, Repairs

**BY JAZEL MACK**

The tiny cottage - home once owned by Dr. Letitia Meade-Sirrs in Haltonville, is undergoing alterations after many years of neglect. Not since Dr. Meade-Sirrs occupied it during summers in the latter days of her life has this once comfortable home been used. It has remained closed since her death in 1943 with windows and doors boarded up to try and keep intruders out.

It didn't succeed, however, for broken into many times, it is feared, not always by mischievous children. It is said that much good furniture was removed from the home. Parents, alarmed about their children's safety, had the police come and take away drugs that had been left in the dispensary. Dampness and decay have had their way for several years and the property became almost beyond saving.

**New Owner**

Bert Day, a resident on the fourth line of Nassagaweya township, has now acquired the house and has begun renovating. He is pleased with what is left of the building such as an interesting, very old front door, spill-level floors throughout and the interesting way the building is constructed, half stone and half frame.

One expert on old houses maintains that the upper part of the house does not belong to it and should be removed. This change would make it a true "small box" type of house. Whatever Mr. Day does, he is going to have much pleasure in restoring what was once a comfortable home.

**Born in Home**

It seems probable that Dr. Letitia Meade-Sirrs was born in this home. Her father, Robert Meade, conducted a shoe shop in Haltonville in 1857, probably in this very house.

This village was a thriving one in those days, situated as it was on the main road from Port Nelson and Dundas Street to Guelph. The famous (or infamous) hotel called "The Beehive" was here. Somehow the village received the name of Sodom which, incorrectly, is on many maps.

Born in 1857, Letitia first taught school in the area. In 1887, she began her medical studies in Toronto at the old Ontario Medical College for Women, they not being allowed at the University of Toronto until 1906.

## ENGAGEMENTS

Mr. and Mrs. Walter Freeman, R. R. 1, Campbellville, wish to announce the engagement of their elder daughter, Mary Isabella, to Mr. Charles Ray Stokes, son of Mrs. Stokes of Campbellville. The marriage to take place on August 22, 1959, at 3:30 p.m. in Ebenezer United Church.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Quinlan, R. R. 2, Meaford, announce the engagement of their only daughter, Glendia Marie, to Albert John Franklin-Benton, younger son of Mr. and Mrs. A. W. Franklin-Benton, Lamhouse, Ont. The marriage will take place on Saturday, August the twenty-second in Temple Hill United Church at two-thirty p.m.

Latest model ranges include a Venetian blind in the glass oven doors. This is for the bashful girls who cook ramp roasts.

quick temper. She once took her horse whip to some school children when they threw some catkins into her buggy.

They got away safely but Letitia soon quietly contacted the school teacher, invited her to supper and next day, the children were punished properly by their teacher, as was no doubt suggested by Letitia. One of them now living in the village says they "disappeared" in being so angry. Meade-Sirrs ceased active practice in 1919. Altogether, she must have practiced for about 28 years.

She later married and had one son, Elmer. He too is no longer living. It is recalled that she had a

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## Free Press Stalled By Power Cutoff

The giant newspaper press was just ready to roll last Thursday afternoon when the power flickered off, during a thunderstorm which frenzied the district.

Repairs were made to damaged lines and electricity returned in 15 of an hour.

Last time was found somewhere and all the copies of the Free Press were delivered on time to the post office and dealers in town.

No serious damage was reported, although homes were struck by lightning in the district.

Chippers for cutting hair were originally imported from England and France.

## Lightning Hits Two Area Homes

Lightning struck two homes in Rockwood during last Thursday's electrical storm. Mrs. Ceel Meredith, Jackson St., was home when the TV aerial was struck, severely damaging the TV set. The same bolt also set fire to a corner of the next field. Smoke from the fire darkened all the wall paper.

Mrs. Meredith called firemen but found they were unable to have the fire out before their arrival.

A bolt of lightning hit the A. Larkins home, Main St., striking a switch box, putting out of commission all lights except those in the kitchen. An electrician had to be called to repair the damaged wiring.

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