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Chatting

By M.H.B.

Imagine, everyone knows about the ballet classes which are being held under the Recreational Council program, but am quite sure very few know about the interesting career and background of the ballet instructor, Mrs. R. B. Canham. We went out to see her Saturday afternoon... remember how windy it was that day!... and were quite literally blown off the front doorstep of their attractive home on St. John's (formerly owned by Harold Stalford)... before we stopped to see Mrs. Canham and her three young children.

Mrs. Canham, as you might have gathered, is still intensely interested in ballet dancing. We thoroughly enjoyed her reminiscences as we looked over press clippings and photos of her career, when, as Maizie Green, she was a very successful ballet dancer in America, as well as in Berlin and London, England. Mrs. Canham confirmed our suspicion that one does not become a successful ballet dancer overnight, when she explained that starting at fourteen, she studied four years at the Detroit Conservatory of Music, before going to New York to study with "Mordkin," who was the dancing partner of the world's greatest danseuse, "Pavlova."

With her period of intensive training completed, Maizie Green launched her professional dancing career with the Albertina Rasch Ballet Company. Incidentally, Maizie Rasch is now the top Hollywood training instructor for dancers appearing in movies. As a featured dancer with the Rasch Ballet, Miss Green toured the USA. Mrs. Canham recalls that not all the dancing was to classical music. There was one three week period when Paul Whiteman's Orchestra appeared with the Ballet. At that time, three young men were soloists with the Whiteman Band, one of whom is the now-famous Bing Crosby.

The next engagement of the Ballet took them to Germany and Berlin. There was the first American ballet company ever to appear in Germany. The show was a tremendous success, and the girls were feted everywhere. They were not allowed to accept all invitations, however, and because of their youth and unfamiliarity with the language, were strictly chaperoned. In those days, before the meteoric rise of Hitler, Berlin was a really gay and wonderful place to visit.

Further ballet engagements followed Maizie Green's return to the States. After then came a vacation in England with her mother. The young dancer liked London, as well as that she decided to stay there, with the result that she spent nine exciting years in London as a dancer, actress and artist.

MRS. CANHAM SHOWED us a picture of herself and cast of dancers taken during the filming of the first technicolor film made in England in 1934. She recalls the terrific heat thrown out by the big Kleig lights, and how they all had to wear dark glasses until the actual filming of a scene began. She was in many other films, including several which have been shown in Canada, such as "Brewster's Millions" and "Evergreen," with Jessie Matthews. In addition to her movie work, Maizie Green appeared in many stage musicals. She was Ballet Mistress of "Floodlight," a play by Beverly Nichols. Starring in the play was the now famous British actor, John Mills. During her years in London, Mrs. Canham formed a close friendship with another very famous British movie star, Anna Neagle, and reversing our story back to the present, Mrs. Canham told us that Miss Neagle is a god-mother to one of her sons. Television also came within Mrs. Canham's career, and she took part in the first experiments in that field, in England.

An outstanding success as a dancer on the stage, as well as in the movies, was the magic key to social success, as well, and Miss Green attended a great many large parties, where it was not at all unusual to meet members of Royalty. One party, she particularly recalls, was given by the Earl of Arlington at his London home, at which she was introduced to no less than eleven members of Royalty, including the ex-Kings of Greece and Spain. Also present was Douglas Fairbanks Sr., who died a few years ago. Mrs. Canham feels that celebrities are much easier to meet and chat with in England, than in Canada and the States. One autographed photo she especially prizes - and can't say we blame her - was snapped while she was talking with Prince George, the Duke of Kent. You may recall that the Duke was killed in a tragic plane crash, early in the war.

While kept very busy with her professional work in London, Maizie Green also continued to study her profession at Madam Rambert's Ballet School, where all the Sadler-Wells Ballet Company trained. Just this fall the Sadler-Wells Ballet played to capacity houses at the Royal Alexandra Theatre, Toronto.

ONE CLIPPING which Mrs. Canham gets a kick out of - and what girl wouldn't - doesn't have anything to do with the theatre, but is a Lux Soap ad which ran for several months in the English papers. The ad consists of a large picture of herself framed in a star, and underneath she tells the world how wonderful Lux Soap has been for her complexion. Then in the bottom, right hand corner of the ad, is quite a small, square, picture of Constance Bennett. Couldn't resist asking Mrs. Canham if all those things she said about Lux were true - and the awful truth came out - up until the time she endorsed the ad, she had never used Lux, but she certainly used it for years afterward, as the Company sent her a great many cases of Lux flakes in appreciation of her service.

In addition to her other accomplishments, Mrs. Canham is also a gifted painter, who studied art on a four year scholarship in St. Mary's Academy in Windsor, and continued her art work at St. Martin's School of Art in London, England, where she took three years of life classes. Certainly we'd say those interested in ballet dancing in Georgetown, and vicinity are most fortunate in having such a gifted and well-qualified instructor. Don't you agree?

Just now, of course, the former Maizie Green's career is marriage, home and family. But her exciting dancing career has laid the foundation for what we're told everyone needs and should have - an all-absorbing hobby. It was her enthusiasm for dancing and dramatics which produced several Red Cross benefits, shows during the three years the Canhams lived in Aton, where Mr. Canham with the Beardmore Company bought and moved into the country home near Georgetown just last spring.

THERE'S NO DENYING that electricity is a marvelous boon to the housewife, and now it's got to the point where everything in the house runs by it. But the time you really notice how dependent we've become is when there's a hydro cut-off. To those housewives in the Queen Street district, who cook, even run their furnaces with electricity - last Saturday morning was practically a complete loss, as far as accomplishing any household tasks was concerned. We stopped wandering around like a lost soul at noon, however, when they hydro came on again and set our household things going again. On Saturday morning, too, along with everyone else, we felt so sorry about the fire which destroyed the lovely big barn of Mayor and Mrs. Harold Clave. The air was filled with smoke for hours afterward, even up our way.

Wonder if all their old friends in town know that Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Norrington sold their restaurant in Dundas, last spring, and together with their son and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. Walter "Rus" Norrington, have bought "Crystal Mountain Farm" from Mr. and Mrs. Frank Dewhurst. The farm is located on the "mountain," three miles west of Milton. Mr. and Mrs. Dewhurst brought the Walter Norrington's restaurant and gift shop "Mayfair" in Milton. For the benefit of newcomers to town we might explain that both the Norringtons and Dewhursts are former residents of Georgetown.

IN CASE YOU'VE BEEN dining at "K's Grill" and wondering why Mrs. John Cordaro is getting around with a very uneven gait, to say the least, we will tell you it's because her right foot in a plaster cast, as a result of an auto-accident last September. Just last week it was discovered she had fractured a bone in her foot. Suffering painful injuries to the ligaments in her leg, is Mrs. W. V. Grant, as a result of a fall at her home, last week. And striking a more cheerful note - 'twas good to hear that Mr. George Riddall Sr., is home from St. Joseph's Hospital, Guelph.

Nursing at the Belleville General Hospital, is Miss Pamela Cousins, daughter of Lt.-Col. and Mrs. G. B. S. Cousins. Pamela has just received her R.N. degree, and is a graduate of Guelph General Hospital. Mr. and Mrs. Harry Stockford, George Street, are on a month's vacation with their son and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Stockford, and Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Watts, in Downsview.

The substantial donation of \$76.00, proceeds of their December "Lucky Draw," was made to the Georgetown Recreation Commission, by the members of the Arts and Crafts.

MRS. THOMAS HAINES LADIES GUILD HEAD

Mrs. Thomas Haines was re-elected president of St. Alban's Ladies' Guild when the annual meeting of that organization was held at the home of Mrs. Matthew Beaumont Glen Williams, last Thursday afternoon. Mrs. W. G. O. Thompson is honorary president and other officers are: Mrs. E. Miller, 1st vice president; Mrs. E. Appleyard, 2nd vice president; Mrs. J. Hooper, secretary; Mrs. A. Beaumont, assistant secretary; Mrs. William Korzack, treasurer; Mrs. J. R. Williams, sick convener; Mrs. H. Compton, assistant; Mrs. E. Appleyard, sewing convener; Mrs. J. Hooper, social convener; Mrs. J. R. Williams, assistant.

The meeting was opened with prayers by the rector. The president thanked the members for their loyalty and good work during the year and asked the rector to take the chair for the election of officers. He offered his cordial commendation of the year's splendid work by a small group of real workers with the welfare of their church and community at heart. He mentioned especially their new venture of sending a bale to Spirit River, Alberta, and read a letter of appreciation and description of Christmas activities from Rev. Roy Haddon of that parish.

The treasurer's report, read by Mrs. William Korzack, showed an excellent year's work with splendid returns. Mrs. J. R. Williams gave the report on sick visiting and gifts to the sick. Refreshments were served after the business meeting.

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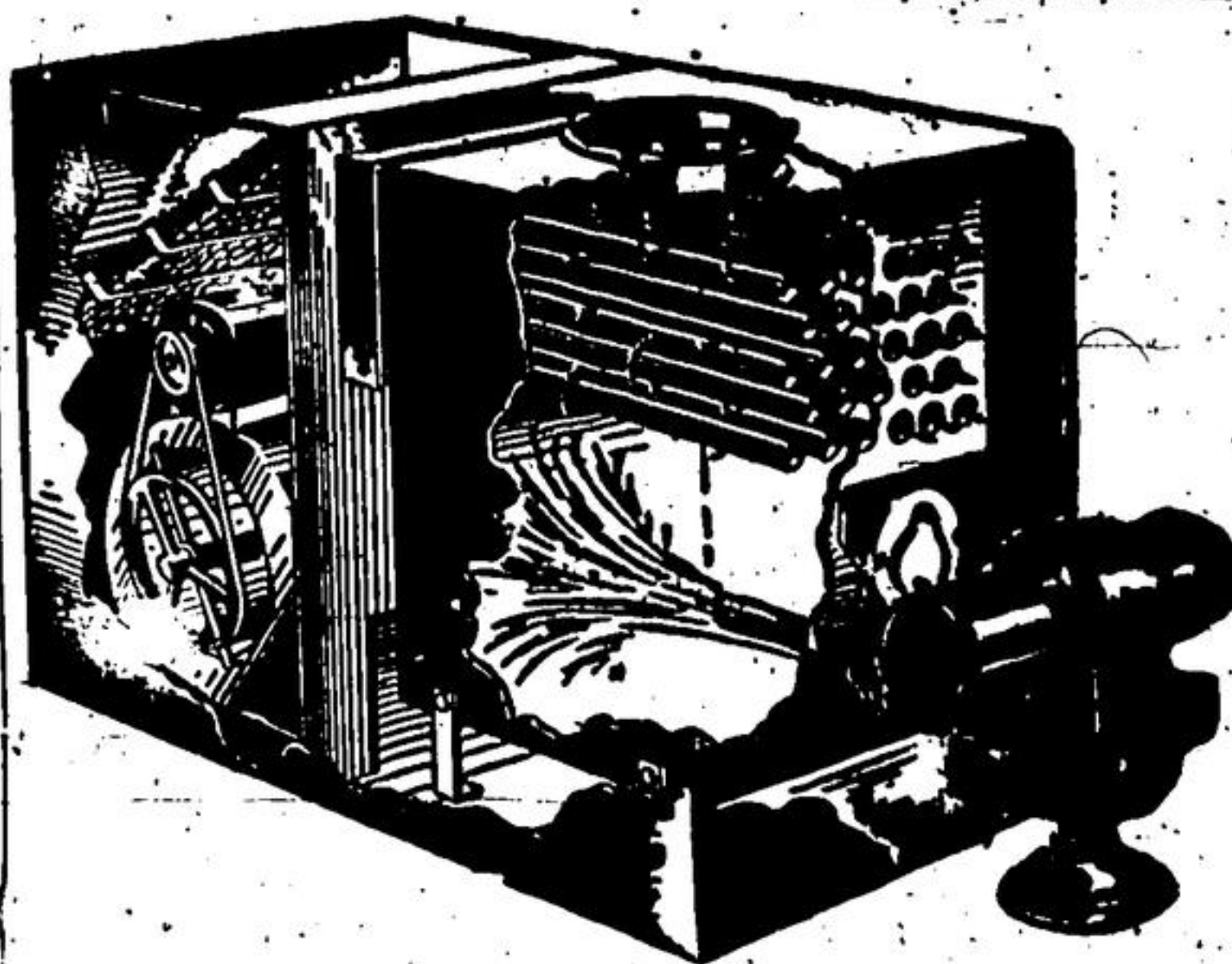
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The frail, one-man craft streaked around the six-mile course... skidding past the markers at 60 miles an hour. The crowd strained forward as one Canadian boat crumpled rounding a turn. The fleet swept into the stretch and past the finish... a Canadian among the winners.

Ice-boating is returning to thrill Canadians. The skill and speed involved in it appeals to our sense of sportsmanship. And together skill and sportsmanship keep our opportunities for work and play in Canada... unlimited.



The Dominion Open Ice-Boat Championships were started in 1940 by the Royal Hamilton Yacht Club, and are contested every year.

