

## Hurricane Victims in Woodbridge Trailer Camp

While winter holds the Hurricane Hazel disaster area in its icy grip, flood victims are weathering the storm in the comparative comfort of homes and trailers throughout the Toronto district.

There is still ample time to see the damage suffered when the hurricane and flood roared down six of Metropolitan Toronto's river valleys.

It will be months before human hands can complete the destruction of the hundreds of condemned homes and clean up the miles of damaged property—a quarter million dollar mop-up project.

Winter has painted a deceptively innocent landscape portrait of the Woodbridge valley. Even homes resting on top of one another look natural in the setting. But on the hill above them, families in an emergency housing unit in the fair grounds find themselves anxiously at the half-way mark between the hurricane night of October 15th and the June 1st deadline when they must be in other quarters.

Apart from the uncertainty of the future, these families are happy and comfortable. The live in 30 Government trailers and a large three-winged ranch house. The trailers are furnished to sleep six persons. The ranch house has 28 tastefully decorated 2 and 3 bedroom apartments.

Families eat in a large dining hall resembling a moderate priced Northern Ontario lodge. Trim waitresses serve a choice of menu at three full course meals daily. Grow-ups pay 25 cents, children three for a quarter.

Crawley McCracken, largest caterer in the country, provide 24 hour chef service and operate on a non profit basis as a contribution. The Dominion Government subsidizes the difference between their cost and the modest family bill.

The Woodbridge flood victims pay \$45 a month for rent, heat and light. Their laundry problem was solved when Canadian Westinghouse came to the rescue with a completely equipped laundry of washing machines, automatic dryers, irons and ironing boards. The machinery is in steady use from near day break to late at night. Regular service goes with the installation so that no housewife suffers disappointment when her turn comes round in the weekly schedule. Westinghouse also gave refrigerators to churches in the area assisting in the emergency.

Some families are not waiting for "E Day" (Evacuation Day) June 1st, but will be in other quarters by the end of the month. Some are awaiting completion of a housing survey on the edge of the village. Those planning to rent homes may leave Woodbridge as there is nothing available within their reach. Trailer people will go farther afield as there are no trailer parks in the area since Hazel liquidated their Fundale Trailer Park.

According to officials, the dollars that Woodbridge victims are able to save through this well organized ef-

fort, will help establish new homes and rebuild their lives. Some had only recently arrived from Great Britain. Some were newly married and expecting families.

The eldest couple, the Robert Edwards, were separated in the hurricane. Mr. Edwards, ill and shaken, took temporary shelter in a son's crowded home. Mrs. Edwards, also suffering from shock, went miles distant to a daughter's. A two-room apartment in the housing unit brought them together again while they await an extension to another daughter's home in North Bay. On a wall of their apartment a plaque reads: "Have you prayed about it?" Mrs. Edwards says every victim of the hurricane "must have prayed about it" judging by the help that descended from all directions. The support ceased suffering and brought promises of more green years to people badly shaken the night Hurricane Hazel came charging down their valley, collapsing homes like matchsticks and isolating destitute families from the outside world.

Rev. J. A. Hodgson, First United Church minister at Woodbridge, gave such outstanding leadership in the emergency that the reeve and council appointed him supervisor of the housing unit, and helped him set up an office in his church hall. Recalling the disaster with his solemn Ladies Aid he said "It's today I lived at its best that makes the future and one can do anything for one day."

### LIMEHOUSE

#### AGRICULTURE FILLS LIFE'S BASIC NEEDS

Mrs. F. Anderson, district convener of agriculture and Canadian industries for the Women's Institute, spoke to members of Limehouse W.I. at their February 3rd meeting.

Though not raised on a farm as a girl, Mrs. Anderson said she had always felt the farm is a happy place and a place of security. Agriculture is an occupation which fulfills three basic needs in life, she said, work, recreation and worship.

Mrs. A. W. Benton was hostess and 15 members and 4 guests attended. President Mrs. Ed Sanford was in the chair.

Mrs. Sam Gasby was delegated to carry on with the school gardens. A letter of thanks was read for a food parcel sent to England and several letters for fruit boxes and plants sent to local people. Mrs. William Gordon, who recently met with an unfortunate accident, was remembered with a card.

Mrs. James Noble was in charge of the meeting and Miss Winnifred Ivens gave the motto, "My country is the world, my countrymen mankind." Historical research and current events were dealt with by Mrs. S. Kirkpatrick, who told of a surprise party given for the Stuart Wrights

### SILVER WOOD

#### MR. SKUCE SHOWS HIS PICTURES OF EUROPE

Mr. and Mrs. L. Skuce of Milton came to the Silver-Wood Women's Institute Thursday evening, the meeting being held in the Stone School on the 7th line. Mr. Skuce showed pictures taken on his European trip three years ago; they were beautiful and much appreciated by a large audience.

Mrs. R. R. Corbett, the president welcomed 17 members and many visitors from Limehouse and the neighbourhood. The roll call "A teacher I remember best" was answered by all. There were fond and humorous remembrances, and this roll call was quite a feature of the evening.

A donation from a neighbour Mrs. Shaer was gratefully received, the hand-tooled leather purse being raffled was on display, plans were made for the making of another layette for the Children's Aid Society, and a coat-rack for small children at the school was planned. An afternoon euchre was arranged in aid of the Ceylon project, and a committee chosen for the birthday euchre to be held in March.

The convener, Mrs. George Henderson then took charge of the meeting and after welcoming all visitors she called on Mrs. Marchington for current events. Mrs. D. Lindsay for the flower of the month, the Violet, and Mrs. E. Batkin for the motto "Every privilege carries responsibility." Mrs. Henderson introduced Mr. Skuce and everyone enjoyed the account of travelling on the continent, in England and Ireland. Lunch was served by the committee in charge, Mrs. Ed Sanford spoke a few words on behalf of the Limehouse visitors. The next meeting of the Silver-Wood W.I. is to be held at the home of Mrs. E. L. Miller.

#### WINS PRIZE FOR BEST EVENING BAG

Mrs. Ern Batkin of Georgetown well known for her work in the Arts and Crafts of Georgetown, was awarded first prize for her evening bag entry and also won an honourable award for her place mat sets, at the third annual exhibition of Canadian Hand Weaving held in London this month. The judges were Karen Bulow, internationally known weaver of Montreal, Quebec, Helen Keeler of Blair, Ontario, and Elizabeth Bangan Day of Walford, Ont.

A prize winner at each of the three exhibitions this is the first year that Mrs. Batkin has won two awards. Her prize winning pieces will be exhibited along with those of the other winners, in Edmonton by the Department of Economic Affairs of Alberta, in cooperation with the Edmonton Weavers and Potters' Guild.

before they moved to Toronto. Reporting on home economics, Mrs. Jack Roughley told of a new handbag called turfa. She accompanied at the piano for a solo by Mrs. E. Karn.

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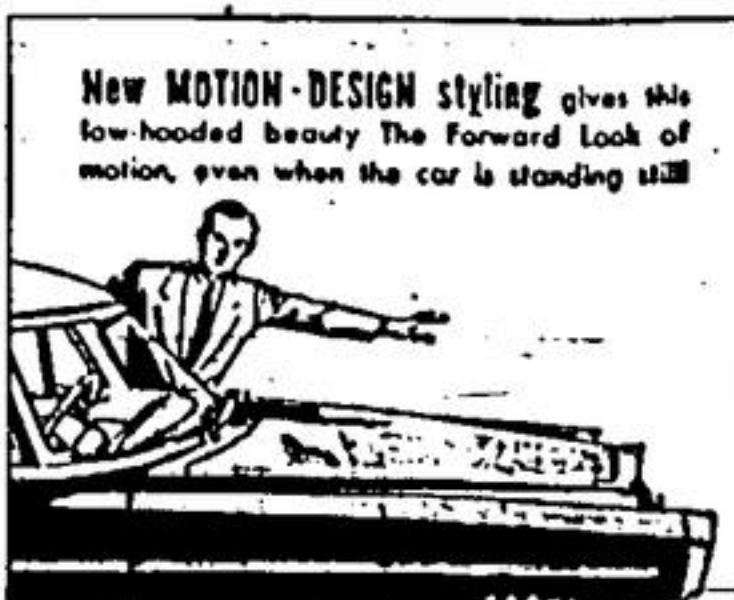
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