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**Chatting . . .**

with M. H. E.

• **ONE NICE ADVANTAGE** — well perhaps we should say, ONE of the nice advantages of writing a column is that one can sit out in the sun on an April afternoon, and feel smugly conscientious as we push our pencil. It's work too, but we must admit, it doesn't distract one nearly as much from the beauties of spring, as pushing a lawnmower, for instance. We know we shouldn't comment on the weather in the column, because we write it a week before you read it — and we can sound sadly out of date by that time. Anything can happen to the weather in a week — even snow. . . . But today, ah, today — this is the kind of day to inspire the poets. We're sitting beside our dozen or so sun-drenched hyacinths. The first spring flowers give us more pleasure than any in the weeks that follow. And the leaves are uncurling in the April sun — the birds are singing — the bees and butterflies have discovered our few blooms — to say nothing of the kids who have discovered the neighbour's rhubarb patch — ah yes . . . it's spring . . .

• **AND WITH SPRING**, most people's thoughts turn garden-wise, so we think you might be interested in an article mentioning a Georgetown lady, which appeared in this month's Ladies Home Journal. It's about roses, and the writer says "anyone can grow THESE roses" — "these" she refers to some varieties that won't Canadian winterkill, and our town's Miss Isabella Preston, whose home is on Market St. is responsible for two of the hardest and prettiest varieties.

Miss Preston, who moved here in 1948, is world-famous in the field of plant breeding. Her work with lilies particularly, is renowned all over the world. But until we read this article in the journal, we had not realized she had extended her talents in to the field of rose-culture as well.

English trained specialist, Miss Preston came out to Canada in 1912. She worked with the late Prof. Crow at the OAC in Guelph. During the First World War, her work was mainly with vegetable breeding, but even then lilies claimed her interest, and while at the OAC one lily she "crossed" there, and named the George C. Creelman, is still famous.

After being with the OAC for nine years, Miss Preston joined the horticulture staff at the Central Experimental Farm, Ottawa, and began intensive work in the developing of hardy shrubs and hybrid lilies. Three of her best roses which continue to be staunch, tried and true varieties today, she named Mohawk, the U. P. Hedrick and Orinda.

• **REMEMBER THESE ROSES** are shrub roses. That is to say, the individual flowers are not so spectacularly beautiful as the hybrid teas. But they are extremely hardy plants, and the foliage, as well as the flowers, is quite useful in ornamental gardening.

For instance, the Mohawk rose has a purplish red flower and small green leathery leaves. It grows quickly into a very ornamental shrub of rounded dwarf proportions. On the other hand, the Orinda makes a large shrub, up to six feet tall. It

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is useful near the back of a shrubby and holds its foliage until late in the autumn. The spicy fragrant flowers are medium in size, deep cream and semi-double. They almost completely cover the bush during the two weeks of bloom . . .

Different again, is the U. P. Hendrick. Its stems are reddish brown, winter, but hidden by the good dark green foliage the rest of the year. It is a vigorous bush, and the flowers are large, single and pink. Most nurseries have a supply of these varieties. . . . Incidentally, just a tip on indoor flower arrangements, for which shrub rose blooms are much admired. The branches should be cut when the bloom has just started to show color. Crush the stems with a hammer for an inch or more and immerse quickly in lukewarm water. This will prevent the petals from falling so quickly and the leaves from wilting.

• **AFTER MISS PRESTON** RETIRED from the Experimental farm in 1947, she spent a year in England before coming to Georgetown. Now she is enjoying the fruits of her labours, so to speak. Her main interest still lies in her garden. She has even more incentive with rake and hoe than the rest of us flower lovers, because many of her flowers are from her own seedlings, including lilies, rose and lilacs.

• **TODAY WE'VE** just come back from driving some of the choir down to Milton to compete in the Musical Festival. . . . Happened to be there when the adjudicator, Mr. Laughton Bird, director of music for the South Peel Board of Education, had a warm word of praise for the festival. He said each year the standards are higher, and he attributed this to the support and interest of the citizens of the county.

When we saw the cup being presented to the winning choir, the thought occurred to us that it would be nice for the members of winning choirs to have individual mementoes of the occasion. Perhaps little pins, crests, or even ribbons for each one. There is an idea which might merit the consideration of some organization.

• **A GEORGETOWNER** who has become quite well known in the daily newspaper field, spent last Saturday in town with Mr. and Mrs. Wilfrid Ford, renewing old acquaintance with people, and with familiar landmarks. Eric Knowles, who is managing editor of the Star Phoenix in Saskatoon, spent his boyhood and youth in Georgetown. After graduating from Georgetown High School, he started his newspaper career as a reporter with the Hamilton Spectator. It is about 23 years since he last visited his home town. Needless to say, he could hardly believe all the changes that have occurred.

• **WHICH BRINGS** to mind again the new subdivisions, so here are a few more names of families on Byron Street, to help bring you up to date: Mr. and Mrs. John H. Clarke, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Spurline, Mr. and Mrs. Ed McDermid, Mr. and Mrs. Wilbert F. Pringle, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Burley, Mr. and Mrs. Leonard G. Burns and Mr. and Mrs. Rene Martin.

**FARM NEWS**

**SCOTTISH JUNIOR VISITS IN HALTON**

**J. E. W.**  
In keeping with the policy of recent years in arranging exchange visits, a party of four Scottish Juniors arrived in Ontario on April 18th. They are members of the Scottish Young Farmers' Clubs and will remain in Ontario for three months.

Halton was honoured in having a brief visit from Miss Helen Neilson, of Strathaven, Lanarkshire. During her stay in Halton, Miss Neilson was the guest of Donna and Robert Marshall, and also of Freda and Stuart McFadden. She also attended meetings, of both the Milton and Palermo Juniors. It was our privilege to meet this charming Scottish lass at the latter meeting, which was held at the home of Marie Marshall, on Thursday evening of last week. Miss Neilson who is a graduate of the Glasgow Domestic Science College, now assists on her father's farm of 320 acres. This is a mixed farm concentrating on winter milk production. On the Neilson farm they carry approximately 150 head of pure bred Ayrshires, and have a yearly turnover of between four and five hundred sheep. Miss Neilson has played an active part in the Scottish Young Farmers' Club over the past 4½ years, and at the present time is secretary of the Avondale and District Young Farmers' Club. In 1954 she was a member of the Scottish International Dairy team which participated at the International Competition held at the Royal Show at Windsor. We intimate she is charming, and frankly that word does not do her justice — she has only to converse with her for a few moments to realize she is a talented young lady in every sense of the word. Halton will always be happy to entertain more Scottish young ladies of the calibre of Helen Neilson.

**MAY 23rd HOLIDAY**

Victoria Day this year will be advanced a day to May 23rd, making a Monday holiday in accordance with a policy inaugurated last year by the federal government.

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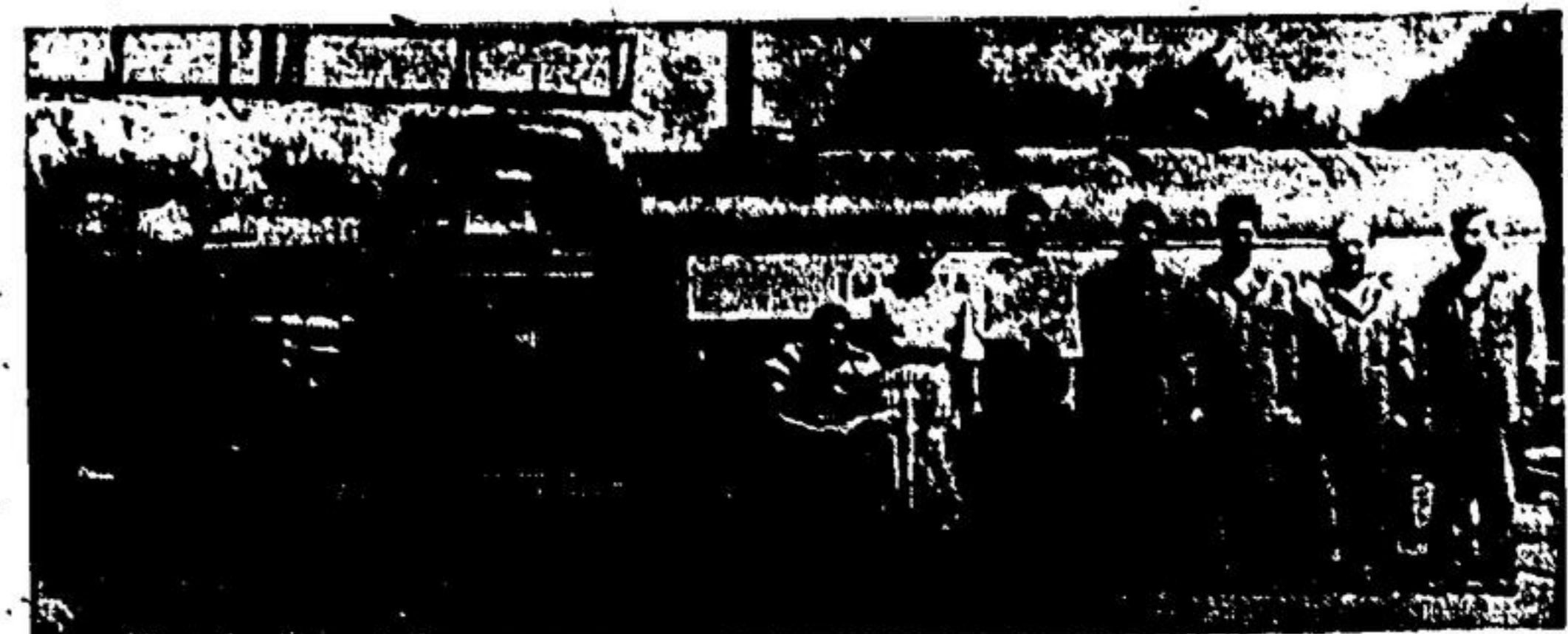
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