

Chatting..

with A. H. E.

STORIES AND JOKES about rural telephone lines are slowly becoming extinct, mainly because the party lines themselves are disappearing as more modern and need I add, more private, means of telephone communication replace them. But, ladies and gentlemen, I hereby serve notice that this week I intend to place a little bouquet along with the vase of brickbats levelled at the folksy invention of the Bell Telephone Co.

The bouquet is in the form of a true story—happened just a couple of weeks ago. Apparently a lady who has a party line phone received a call from a radio M.C. asking her to identify a tune they were playing. If she named it correctly she would receive a cash prize of considerable size. Taken by surprise, and finding the tune not too familiar, the long moments ticked by in pregnant silence to almost the time limit. Then suddenly a voice other than her own shouted the name of the tune, and the radio announcer jubilantly congratulated her as a winner. The cheque would be in the mail tomorrow!

NEED I EXPLAIN that the mysterious voice identifying the tune was that of a neighbour and sharer of our lucky lady's party line. The first thing our heroine did after receiving the cheque was to plan a big party at which the honoured guest was her neighbour who helped win the prize. That was once when being on a party line really paid off.

ANOTHER LITTLE item concerning radio holds special interest for me this week. Do you remember Mr. and Mrs. Harold Bickle who lived here while Mr. Bickle was office manager for Smith & Stone Ltd? They lived on Edith St. in the house now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Harold Hutchinson. The Bickle's only child, Joan, was just a wee girl at the time, perhaps around five or six years old.

Since moving to Toronto, and starting almost right away at that early age, Joan showed a distinct flair for dramatics. She made quite a hobby of it, and took training in dramatics. I remember hearing her on the radio in children's programs. It was always a nice little thrill to hear her mentioned in the cast.

Then I picked up the Tely one night last week to read a front page feature on the Youth in Action smash hit production of "Affectionately, Jenny", on their Saturday radio show. Joan Bickle played the starring role. Joan must be about 15 now, and gives promise of becoming a fine actress. In the words of a Telegram reporter "Joan Bickle played an appealing Jenny. The 25-minute comedy kept the rapt attention of the young studio audience, a feat far more seasoned performers have found difficult to attain". The play itself was by Patricia Joudry whose hits to date include Teach Me How to Cry, Family of People, The Sand Castle, and Three Rings for Michelle. It is not at all unlikely that we'll be seeing Joan on TV one of these days.

GOING FROM THE sublime to the ridiculous, to phrase it extravagantly—I must tell you what a weighty problem looms before friend husband in the not-too-distant future. Reaching for his cigarette package after dinner the other day he opened it. It was a fresh pack. He pulled out a small white card from the wrapping, scanned it rapidly, and uttered a loud mban. "What on earth's the matter?" I asked, with more than a slight edge of anxiety to my voice.

Head in his hands he replied in tones of utter dejection. "It's a notice to say they're changing their package design. It's going to be in colour!"

Well, I can hear you say, what's so bad about that? Simply this. For 10 these sixteen years he has used the Sweet Cap packages for a memo, neat supreme. Those big white spaces on it, you know. In fact that was the big reason he'd never even try any other brand. Whipping out his cigarette package and scribbling madly on it whenever a news tip presented itself whether at home or at business or social gathering, has become a standard subject for good-natured kidding. And those little news-items that sometimes never hit the pages of the Herald are much more often due to loss of cigarette box than loss of memory.

So now you understand his consternation. The Sweet Caps company have done him wrong. Wonder what he'll do when the cartons change. Maybe he'll get really professional and sport a little black book and pencil. One thing I know is that it will present one less complication in my housekeeping routine. The right rule has been—never throw out an empty cigarette package without first checking on the black book, scribbling on it. A lot of those who have lost the name of

FARM NEWS

4-H Homemaking Club Has Achievement Day

J. E. W.
With the Fairview School, Lowville, as its setting, the winter Achievement Day for Halton County 4-H Homemaking Clubs was an interesting event on Saturday, February 2nd.

Under the leadership of the County Home Economist, Mrs. Mabel Borgstrom, twelve clubs in the county have been studying for the past four months "Cotton Accessories for the Club Girl's Bedroom," and ninety members completed the project at Achievement Day. Displayed in the school auditorium were their ready-made dresses, scarves, bedspreads, chair pads, and waste baskets.

The morning programme consisted of judging, when each girl "placed" classes of four dresser scarves and four chair pads. In one class she was required to support her judgment by giving oral reasons to one of the Home Economists. Each member also planned for a theoretical bedroom by selecting, from samples provided, materials which are considered suitable for bedroom accessories.

The judging programme was followed by remarks from visiting Home Economists, giving correct placings and reasons for the classes. Those assisting were: Miss Lora Durbin from Dufferin and Grey counties; Miss Frances Lampman from Victoria, Peterborough, and Durham; and Miss Charlotte Grierson, newly appointed member of the Home Economics service staff.

Following the luncheon interval, many parents and other visitors arrived to show their interest in Homemaking Club work and to observe the afternoon programme of exhibits, demonstrations, and skits presented by the clubs on the topic of the unit, "Cotton Accessories for the club girl's bedroom." Exhibits were shown by Ashgrove Snappy Snippers; The Dublin Eight; Lowville Sewing Societies; Omagh Cotton Queens; Seven Sewers of Scotch Block; and the Seventh Line Societies of Stewarttown—with commentators Sandry Tindale, Margaret Nightingale, Jane Clements, Joan Peterson, Audrey Brown, and Mabel Greig, respectively.

Belles of Ballinacraig members Marie Mitchell and Joan Law, demonstrated the topic by showing a "before and after" treatment of a scale model bedroom. Hornby Cotton Pickers gave their presentation as a skit, with all members, Martha May, Evelyn McKay, Pat McKay, Brenda Robertson, Ruth Mason, and Carol McCarron taking part, each showing the accessories she had made.

Helen and Hertha Brucker, and Audrey Peacock, from the Thimblettes gave a demonstration on various techniques required in bedroom accessories. The Nelson Jolly Sew and Sews, in a typical tenn-age "Slumber Party" brought out the value of Homemaking Clubs in teaching girls to redecorate and care for their own bedroom. Norma Murray and Ruth Wilson of the Norval Cotton Queens exhibited their club members' accessories, describing the rooms in which each would be used and lastly, the Palermo Sewettes, represented by Margaret Atkins, Cecelia Carter and Carolyn Young, with commentary in rhyme, and effective use of the flannelgraph, showed how to decorate bedrooms with different exposures, using warm and cool color schemes and following approved rules for the arrangement of furniture, pictures and dresser articles.

During the afternoon Mrs. Geo. Somerville, District President of Halton Women's Institutes, brought greetings from her organization and spoke encouragingly of the work of the 4-H Homemaking Clubs.

The programme was brought to a close with the presentation of crests, spoons and certificates. Each new club member received her 4-H Homemaking Club Crest; all members and leaders received the silver Homemaking Club spoon, and Certificates of Achievement were awarded for each two units completed.

County Honours, for six units completed, went to Diane Wrigg, a new system in the keeping of news notes.

A LITTLE NEWS note that fell to the Chatting Column this week was in connection with the C.N.R. Station agent John Elliott tells us that a week ago Wednesday, the biggest hydro transformer ever made in Canada was shipped from the Canadian General Electric plant in Guelph to St. Hubert, Quebec, via C.N.R. of course. It will be used in connection with the St. Lawrence Seaway.

In order to ship it, the railway had to use a special type of flat car with two sets of trucks on each end, giving the transformer the support of 16 wheels in all. Also giving moral support to the special piece of equipment were many C.N.R. officials on board the same train to make sure nothing happened to it. The exact value of the transformer is not available, but an idea of its cost can be had by looking at the name of

glesworth of Ashgrove, and Marie and Muriel Curtis, of Omagh; provincial honours, for twelve units, to Shirley Downs of Hornby, and Heatherane Hayward, of Omagh.

Halton County's spring project for 4-H Homemaking Clubs will be "the club girl stands on guard," for which the leaders' training school will be held in the Department of Agriculture office, Milton, on February 19th and 20th. Co-operating in this training school will be the Halton County Health Unit, and the Trafalgar township Police department.

Programme for the winter of 1957-58, decided by vote at Achievement Day, will be a food unit, "Meat in the Menu."

4-H Homemaking Clubs are supervised by the Extension Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, and membership is open to all rural girls between the ages of 12 and 26. Those interested in organizing or joining clubs should contact the county home economist, or agricultural representative at the Department of Agriculture office, in Milton.

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