

Manor ladies learn to paint

Story and Photos
By Dan O'Reilly

"It's never too late to learn" could be the motto of five residents of Halton Centennial

Manor, who are developing their artistic abilities in an art class held at the Manor on Wednesday mornings. A small corner room of the Pettit House serves as the art

studio for the five aspiring artists, who work under the leadership of Recreation Director Mrs. Peggy Odehnal. The students, all women, range in age from 65 to 90.

The class was organized by Mrs. Odehnal near the end of October. Although the class boasts only five students, Mrs. Odehnal is extremely proud of their progress.

All have ability

"Most of the women have had very little experience in art," she says. At one time a student of the Ontario College of Art, she feels everyone has at least some artistic ability.

As proof of this statement, Mrs. Odehnal uses the example of 90-year-old Mrs. Mary Young, one of her students. Mrs. Young is just discovering that she has a wealth of artistic creativity. "Perhaps, if Mrs. Young had studied art when she was younger, she might have developed into a great artist," suggests Mrs. Odehnal, "everything comes naturally to her, all I have to do is explain something once and she follows through."

Born in Saltfleet Township and a one time resident of the Burlington area, Mrs. Young, whose role in life was that of a housewife, admits wishing she had started painting when she was younger. "I never had the chance before." The lady has high praise for the class, "I could stay in the studio painting all day."

Oils best

The painters are usually restricted to oil painting. "This type of art is probably the most feasible for the residents to attempt," notes Mrs. Odehnal.

Art materials needed for the course are usually provided to the students by their relatives, although the Manor did supply some art equipment. As a sort of return gesture, some of the students have given their finished paintings to their families as gifts. "Some of the Manor staff also offered to buy some of the paintings," Mrs. Odehnal remarked.

Ideas for drawings are supplied through photographs, newspaper clippings, magazine designs, or still life objects, explains the instructor. "Painting landscapes is a favorite pastime with the class. One object they are not particularly fond of drawing is flowers. This is understandable, as flowers are a very difficult object to draw, although they appear to have a simple design," states Mrs. Odehnal.

Patience helps

Patience is a quality that makes a good teacher and Mrs. Odehnal possesses such a virtue, which helps her to explain to the students the uses of light and dark coloring, the right perspective and better ways to improve drawings, in a good-natured way.

All the students of the class appear to be deeply involved in their work. One student, Mrs. Dorothy Cattermull accomplishes her drawings with the use of one hand—her right arm is paralyzed. On the weekends, "The Manor Five" will slip into the studio and paint to their hearts' content, reports Mrs. Odehnal. In fact, as Mrs. Corbett put it, "we hate it when it's dinnertime, as that's the end of the class."



EXHIBITING one of her finished paintings is Mrs. Bertha Corbett, one of the residents of the Halton Centennial Manor who is studying art under Mrs. Peggy Odehnal. —(Staff Photo)

Scotch Block W.I. elects new slate

The Scotch Block Women's Institute held their annual meeting at Ligny Hall with 11 members present. Lunch was put on by the losing side of the attendance contest. In the absence of the president Mrs. J. Irving, Mrs. S. Murray chaired the meeting.

Secretary treasurer Miss Eva Chisholm reported a very successful year. Branch conveners' yearly reports were read and handed in to be sent on to district conveners.

Director's report

Mrs. C. Service, district director, reported that the district annual meeting would be held in Campbellville Presbyterian Church with Nassagaweya Institute acting as hostess on May 24.

Baking contest for squares and fruit loaf, using at least one Ontario fruit will be held with all institutes competing.

Plans were made for the April 27 card party at Ligny Hall. Fifty dollars was donated to the Cancer Society. Members agreed to supply lunch and birthday gifts for one of the monthly parties at the Centennial Manor.

Election

Mrs. C. Service took the chair for election and installation of officers for 1972-73. They were as follows: honorary president, Mrs. C. Service; president, Mrs. J. Irving; first vice president, Mrs. S. Murray; second vice president, Mrs. G. Hume; secretary-treasurer, Miss Eva Chisholm; assistant secretary-treasurer, Mrs. W. Harris; district director, Mrs. C. Service;

—Many from here attended the "Crazy Boat Races" at Georgetown Saturday.

Hornby woman heads Friends of Museum

Space heater causes alarm

Mrs. Irene Saunders of Hornby was named president of the Friends of Halton Museum group, at the annual meeting held Thursday in Milton.

Besides electing new officers, the Friends spent the evening making plans for the annual Summer Festival at the Museum at Kelso, scheduled for June 17 and 18. Several entertainers have already promised to come and more will be welcomed.

Ron Harris of Milton is past president, John McDonald of

Acton vice-president, Mrs. Judy Goebelle of Georgetown secretary, Mrs. Jean Hatherley of Milton treasurer and Mrs. Helen Sovereign of Lowville historian. The Friends report membership currently stands at 60 and more members are welcome, any time.

A flooded space heater at the home of Rene Thibert at 19 King St. Milton was the cause of a fire alarm on Wednesday afternoon, reports Fire Chief A. E. Clement, who says there was little damage.

—Reserve Saturday, June 10 for the Tommy Hunter show and dance at the arena.



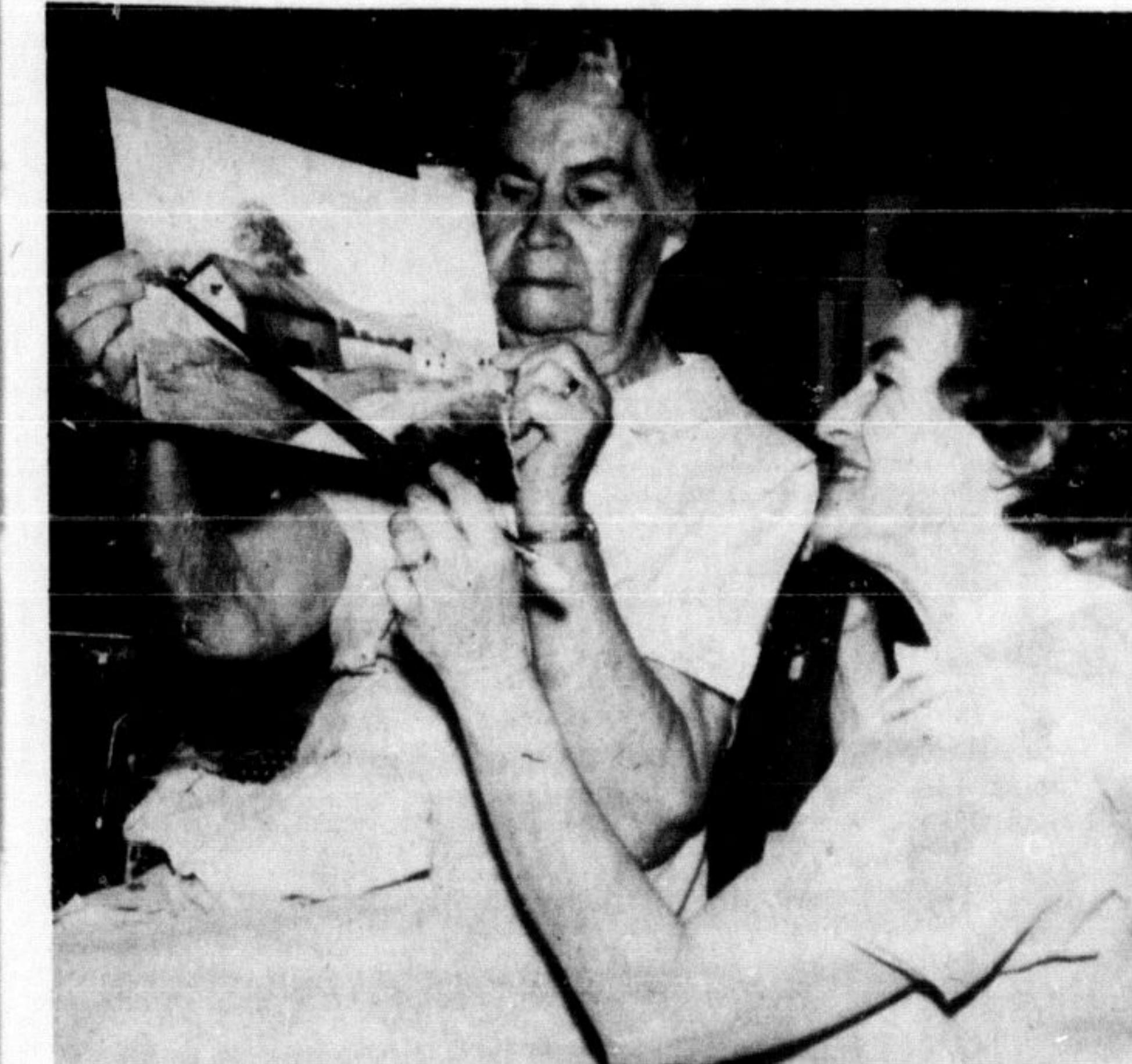
QUIETLY WORKING in their paint studio are the students of an art class at the Halton Centennial Manor. The class is held in a small room of the Pettit House on Wednesday mornings, under the leadership of Recreation Director Mrs. Peggy Odehnal. —(Staff Photo)



PROUD MARY keeps on painting. At the age of 90, Mrs. Mary Young has discovered she's a natural painter. Art instructor Mrs. Peggy Odehnal says Mrs. Young might have been a great painter, if she had studied art earlier in life. The painting on the left is a design of Fort Gary in Winnipeg. The second painting is a landscape scene. —(Staff Photo)



MRS. DOROTHY CATERMULL has good reason to display her flower painting. The lady only has the use of her left arm but her paintings are as good as the rest of the class. —(Staff Photo)



FIRMLY HOLDING her painting is Mrs. Margaret Gow, while art instructor Mrs. Peggy Odehnal explains the good and bad points of her creation. —(Staff Photo)

—This is Chamber of Commerce week.

—Creeks ran full of water last week as rains combined with spring runoff to produce floods.

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