

## Joyce Beaton

### Prejudice runs deep

At a public meeting not long ago a public relations man for a large corporation made the insinuation, not once but twice, that problems within the company were because of "the little gal at head office" or "a housewife they hire to do the job."

The women in his audience were surprised at the first remark and annoyed by his second. The corporation has an equal number of men and women employees and yet it popped into his head both times to blame the problems on the women, insinuating "What can you expect from women?"

#### He's a good guy

Voicing my dismay to a male friend I was quickly assured "he's really a nice guy and I'm sure he didn't mean it the way it sounded." I'm sure he didn't either, but that's usually the case with many instances of hidden prejudices. Most of the time if we stopped to think we wouldn't make such discriminatory statements.

I'm sure you've heard the saying "Prejudice is learned at the mother's knee, or similar low joints." Well, prejudice is deeply ingrained in most of us.

In the American south some white people hate the blacks so much they can taste it. If asked to tell of one specific instance where one particular black man has been cause for this hatred, it's sometimes difficult to get a straight answer.

The black freedom movement can be in many ways equated with that of women's struggle. Some of the prejudices run very deep. Some of the reasons are very shallow.

#### Militant blacks

As with the black movement it was the militant faction, not the Martin Luther Kings, that brought the problem sharply into focus. I met a member of the Black Power movement while at a Human Rights

Conference in New York in 1968. He was a Canadian, much to my surprise (just as some men are surprised when the women in their household begin to make waves), and he was of the opinion that if talk failed there would be a bloody uprising.

At the workshop following a young white man told honestly of his feeling toward the blacks. "If a black person is coming toward me on the street I don't know why, but I feel threatened. Sometimes I cross the street."

#### Women are people

Prejudices toward women are far more subtle. They come out in remarks such as "Women are too emotional to hold down an important job," or "There's no point training a woman for promotion when they only work until they get pregnant."

Any remark that lumps people together in groups according to religion, color, race or sex is dangerous. People are individuals. Blacks don't necessarily have good rhythm, Italians aren't guaranteed to be good lovers and not all Christians are stuffy. Neither are all women flighty and disorganized.

#### Militant women

Not all women are working until the time they become pregnant. Sometimes women become pregnant to release themselves from a boring, no-future-type job. Becoming pregnant is a socially respectful thing to do. Fighting for your rights for promotion and equal pay is considered "unladylike" and pushy.

Parts of the women's movement have become militant. Some women feel so strangled in their home situation they are leaving it all behind them. We're in the midst of a revolution, whether we acknowledge it or not.

It's time we all examined our prejudices.



ROCKING HAPPILY in a tiny chair at Milton District Hospital is Jody Reid of Milton. The young patient dashed for the rocker just after it was presented to the hospital on Saturday by Mrs. Becky Tonner of the Milton and District Kinettes. The group in the past has also given the pediatrics ward a high chair and a playpen.

—Keep abreast of sports happenings in Milton with The Champion's sports section.

### Step into the past

## Women visit Bronte Creek Park

An attractive June day presented ideal conditions for the Nelson Women's Institute picnic to the Bronte Creek Provincial Park. Nineteen were welcomed by Mary McBean, Visitor Service Coordinator, at the former H. Inglehart-Stewart homestead, off 25 Highway, presently used as the park office.

Two films pertaining to the park were shown and the first commentator, George Atkins outlined its origin, planned procedure, and progress to date. He explained the 2,000 acre area is to serve the needs of those living in this densely urbanized and fast growing belt between Toronto and Hamilton. It will, hopefully, provide the visitor with a relaxed atmosphere, enjoyment of leisure, and a chance to view farm life in its various phases as it was in the early

1900s. All were quick to discern the voice of the second commentator, Gordon Breckon, who tells of early life on his father's farm, that of Henry Breckon. All the while the group absorbed this information, pictures flashed showing the beauty, wildlife, construction, and change of the parkland.

The group then drove to a picnic shelter on the former Pickett farm. A short business session took place and it was decided to cancel the Institute July 15 outing to Halton Museum. By this time all were ready and hungry to devour the assorted quantity of food supplied by the ladies. Because of the distance between the picnic area and the home to next visit, a number rode in a horse drawn seat-wagon, which acts as a jitney service, winding its

way through the meadows to the restored home of Henry Breckon, the demonstration farm.

Some members could readily recall the days when this cluster of farms produced bumper crops of fruits and grains and which formed a part of a prosperous rural community. One member in particular, Mrs. H. Burkholder, a longtime resident, viewed her farm on Burloak Rd., which is now a part of the Park complex.

Olden days For some entering the Henry Breckon home, it was a delightful experience for it meant reminiscing of older days when hospitality reigned and good times were spent within its walls. Although not quite complete, the house is restored as nearly as possible to its original condition and

its furnishings typical of that era. It is pleasing to visit and a credit to those responsible for the project. Hostesses in traditional costume served refreshment.

All returned home feeling a sense of pride for the preservation of the area. Although still in its infancy, the master plan is designed to grow and exist for people of all walks in life.

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**About the town**  
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Joe Shields and his son Joe Jr. from Glasgow, Scotland are presently vacationing at the home of Joe's brother and sister-in-law Tom and Jean Shields, 540 Churchill Ave. We hope they are enjoying their stay in Milton.

Happy birthday wishes go to Joan Coulson and her daughter Dianna, 290 Pine St. Joan celebrated her birthday on June 26 and Dianna celebrated her birthday on June 25.

Many happy returns of the day are wished for Frank Thompson of Thomas St. who celebrates his birthday today (Wednesday) July 2.

R. M. Clements was honored on Thursday, June 26 at Harmony Court Apartments on the occasion of his 91st birthday.

The celebration was also to pay tribute to Mr. Clements for his generous donation of a piano to Harmony Court.

Mrs. Riddell spoke on behalf of the tenants and Fannie Alexander played the piano for the birthday song. A tea party followed with the tenants attending.

Best wishes go to Doug McCann of Woodward Ave. who celebrates his birthday on Sunday, July 6.

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**Obituary**

## Ruby Morton

Ruby Astella Morton of 40 Ontario St., Milton, died June 9 at Milton District Hospital following a lengthy illness. She was 67 years of age, the wife of the late William George Morton.

Born at Norwood, Ont. July 31, 1907, Mrs. Morton was the daughter of the late Margaret and Thomas Patterson. She and Mr. Morton were married November 20, 1926 at Norwood and had six children, 24 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Her children, five sons and one daughter are Russell of R. R. 4, Acton; Harold of Hornby; Ralph of Oakville; Everett of Hamilton; Jim of Milton and Margaret (Mrs. Leonard St. John) of Hornby.

One of six children, her brothers are Otis Patterson, Havelock and Floyd, Detroit Michigan. Gordon and Earl pre-deceased her. Her sister Mary Hadley lives at Richmond Hill.

Mrs. Morton received her formal education at Norwood public and high schools. She was a past member of the Halton Centennial Manor Auxiliary, Snowball Women's Institute and was the clerk with Emmanuel Baptist Church.

She was very active in the Baptist church all her life and especially enjoyed working with children in the church.

Her funeral was from Emmanuel Church June 12. Pastor Dr. J. Armstrong officiated. Interment was at Milton Evergreen Cemetery. Pallbearers were her sons and son-in-law Leonard St. John.

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