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TESTON

Sunday evening was the fifth Sunday in March and the Y.P.U. was in charge of Miss Jean Robson. The lesson was from Acts 1, 6-14 verses. Edwin Kyle read a poem "The Cross was His Own." Eleanor Heacock gave a reading "Easter Means Life." The topic was taken by Miss Vera Hunter of Leskay who gave a very interesting rendering of her subject "Making Life Count". Sadie Windas contributed a poem. After the closing hymn and benediction a very profitable program came to a close. Mr. Charles Robson was appointed delegate to the Y.P.U. Convention in Aurora this week.

Communion service postponed from the Sunday before was held at the close of the service on Sunday.

Monday was moving day for Albert Rumble who moved to the former Lorne Malloy Farm. Also Mr. Veenhon and family who came over from Holland a few months ago moved to the McNaughton farm lately occupied by Mr. Rumble.

Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Bowen are staying with their daughter Mrs. W. Williamson until their home at Teston is ready for them.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Walker Sr., Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Walker Jr. spent Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Roy Wilson.

Mr. and Mrs. Lorette and family have moved to part of Mr. Mitchell Hadwen's house.

Last Friday and Saturday afternoons church members held a sawing and chopping bee getting a supply of wood ready for the season.

RICHVALE

An important meeting of the Richvale Ratepayers Association will be held in the basement of the school, Spruce Avenue, Stop 22A Yonge St. Tuesday evening, April 9th at 8 p.m.

The inaugural meeting of the re-organized Richvale Ratepayers Association was held in the basement of the school, Spruce Avenue, Stop 22A on Tuesday evening, March 12 when the following were elected to office for the current year: President, W. Adams; 1st Vice-President, J. T. Loftus; Secretary, Jackson Taylor; Treasurer, John Johnson; Auditors, Fred Rose, S. McPherson, A. W. Smith.

NEWTONBROOK

The Women's Association of Newtonbrook United Church is holding a Spring Tea on Thursday, April 4th at 2.30 p.m. in the Sunday School Hall when the Women's Associations from Thornhill and Teston and Maple and the Toronto Centre Presbyterian Women's Association Executive will be guests.

The North York Red Cross Society will hold its next regular meeting on Friday, April 5th at 2.30 p.m. in St. John's Parish Hall, York Mills. The guest speaker will be the outstanding Canadian author, Mazo de la Roche.

The Newtonbrook and Lansing Auxiliaries will visit the Willowdale Auxiliary at their Easter Thanksgiving meeting in Willowdale United Church on Wednesday, April 3rd at 3 p.m. Mrs. A. E. Armstrong will bring a message on the work of Central India.

A very large congregation assembled last Sunday morning in the United Church on the occasion of the Quarterly Communion service. The choir rendered suitable music and the pastor Rev. A. H. Halbert spoke on "Discipleship". Fifteen new members were received into church membership.

Mrs. Harry Smith has been confined to her home through illness for the past week but is making a good recovery.

The ladies of the W.M.S. met in the S.S. Hall last Thursday for a sewing meeting and completed two quilts. One was made for the Red Cross.

The Young People's Union held a social evening last Monday when the members of Lansing Y.P.U. were guests. Miss Mary Douglas, social convener, was in charge. After a happy evening of games, contests, etc. lovely refreshments were served. Nearly sixty were in attendance.

The Newtonbrook Y.P.U. is preparing a play which they hope to present the first week in May.

The Mission Band will meet in the United Church S. S. Hall next Saturday at 2.30 p.m. for their regular meeting. Beautifully colored lantern slides will be shown which all the members will enjoy and musical selections will be given by some of the members. The boys and girls of the community are cordially invited.

Mr. W. T. New, Temperance Secretary of the Newtonbrook United Church Sunday School presented a Silver Cup to Miss Dorothy Hurd, winner in the Senior Class at York County Temperance Federation Oratorical Contest in 1939. Rev. W. A. Whattam of Toronto, Field Secretary for the Ontario Temperance Federation, donated the Cup. The presentation was made during the S. S. session last Sunday morning.

Mrs. Frank Mitchell and little Catherine returned last Friday after spending last week with Rev. and Mrs. A. H. Halbert. They leave this week for Ridgedale, Sask.

A good representation from the United Church attended the Youth Temperance Federation Conference last Wednesday in the Carlton St. United Church, Toronto.

Rev. A. H. Halbert attended the funeral of the late Mr. W. J. McAllister at King last week.

A number from here are attending some of the sessions of the Toronto Conference Branch W.M.S. Annual Meeting and School for Leaders this week in West United Church in Toronto.

Rev. and Mrs. A. H. Halbert attended the funeral service last Tuesday of the Very Rev. T. Albert Moore, D.D., in Howard Park United Church, Toronto.

UNIONVILLE

The final euchre in the enjoyable series conducted by the Veterans was held last Thursday evening. Thirty-eight tables were in play and the following were prize winners: Ladies, Mrs. C. Burr, Miss Myrtle Burr, Miss Carol Trunk, Mrs. Miller; Gents, R. Cunningham, L. Coup-erthwaite, P. Dixon, R. Brillinger. Lucky Draw prizes, Mrs. C. Burr, Mrs. Davison, V. Trunk, D. Claverton, Mrs. Marshall, K. Stotts, Mrs. Summerfeldt; Grand prizes for series, Ladies, Dorothy Shearn; gentlemen, Charles Beckett; Red Cross draw, Bob Scadding. Proceeds for Red Cross draw were \$21.40.

CENTRAL UNITED CHURCH  
Unionville  
Pastor—Rev. A. E. Owen  
10 a.m.—Church School.  
11 a.m.—"The Church is called to a Wider Field."

7 p.m.—The Y.P. Union in charge of this service. Message given by Mr. Nelson Hickson.

EBENEZER UNITED CHURCH  
1.30 p.m.—Church School.  
2.30 p.m.—"The Church is called to a Wider Field."

BIRDS AND SPORT

(By Farley Mowat)

Almost as far back as history goes there are records of the use of birds for sport. Even while man was in the early stages of his evolution he had developed something a little different from the urge to kill for food, something which today we know as the sporting instinct. On the plains of Mongolia the hard living Tartars whose life was a struggle to gain a meagre life from an inhospitable land, had time to discover and perfect the ancient sport of falconry. From the mountain fastness of the Mongolian mountains they captured and trained the young of the great golden eagle. Mounted on their wiry ponies they flew their hunting birds after the hares and foxes of the steppes. Marco Polo tells of the sport in his voyages. In China he found that the highly civilized and refined Manchus were in the habit of indulging their natural instinct for blood in the fascinating sport of falconry. And throughout all Europe and Asia the story was the same. So highly thought of was falconry that in many lands only kings were allowed the privilege of flying hawks. It became almost a religion with the tyrannical Asiatic emperors and through their desire for better birds they actually opened trade with far off Iceland as early as the third century A.D. Amongst the birds that were most adaptable for the sport the great Gyrfalcon of the sub arctic was the finest. The Gyrfalcons speed, his endurance and the fierce urge to kill that dominated its character made it the perfect bird. Because of the inaccessibility of its haunts it became almost a fabulous possession. Icelandic Gyrfalcons were literally worth their weight in gold and there is a story that when King Richard of England was captured and held for ransom the price of his release was a flight of six Gyrfalcons, a ransom that took most of the treasury of England to procure. But while falconry was one of the finest and most thrilling of all sports its fame has become one of hearsay to-day. There are a few enthusiasts who still train their own hawks and hunt in the manner of the Persian Shahs but they are few in number. To-day sport has become the slaying of birds by science. No longer the matching of bird against bird and the prize of life going to the swiftest and the most elusive.

This brief history of the sport of falconry serves to introduce a discussion of sport to-day. There are few outdoor men who have not at some time or other experienced the thrill and excitement of an early morning hunt through the fields and the sudden explosion as a pheasant or quail rockets into the crisp autumn air. It is to these men that this article is dedicated. To every man who has fired a gun at wild life and who knows and appreciates the subtle code of unwritten laws that we call sportsmanship. This is an appeal for understanding of the condition that to-day menaces the sport of antiquity.

Unfortunately there are a large body of hunters who are so utterly selfish and so completely oblivious to the rights of others that they have threatened the whole sport of hunting with a sudden end that will have unforeseen and disastrous effects not only on the hunter but on the economics of agriculture and through agriculture, all humanity. This is not the ravings of an idealist. I am an enthusiastic hunter as any man or boy in the country but a close contact with the facts of biology make it completely obvious that the wild life of this country is in the most dangerous state that it has ever been.

For instance take the duck situation. In 1855 hunters in the Western plains shot wagonloads of ducks and geese daily without appreciably diminishing the numbers of wild fowl. A bag of three hundred ducks was not the exception but the rule in those days. And as the country opened up the breeding grounds

became restricted these men still expected to kill the same numbers of birds. The result may well be a repetition of the passenger pigeon, extinction for many species of ducks. Then in 1920 when ducks were at a precariously low ebb there came the great drought and for ten years there was no water on the nesting sites of millions of ducks. The dreaded duck disease carried off tens of thousands of water fowl of all kinds. And still the hunting went on without respite. Finally against the wishes of many hunters and of the makers of ammunition and guns, the United States and Canadian Governments got together and formed a treaty whereby all hunting seasons for North America would be regulated in accordance with the abundance of the birds. In theory this was a wonderful step but despite the tireless and heart-breaking work of its organizers, the wealthy and politically powerful industrial owners plus the cooperation of many hunters who had been blinded to the state of things by very competent propaganda have managed to frustrate to a certain extent the carrying out of the conservationists policy.

The amazing thing is that both the industrialists and the hunters could be so short sighted. It must be apparent to any thinking man that one cannot go on depleting the breeding stock of any species indefinitely without the inevitable result of reducing the species to such a low point that it succumbs to natural conditions and disappears. In theory the only way to preserve for posterity and even for ourselves, the birds which our sport depends on, is to kill only the surplus birds and leave the breeding stock unchanged. This is the job of every man and woman in the fraternity of hunters.

Without dealing at all with the economic danger of destroying what is known as 'nature's balance' it should be obvious to the hunter that the perpetuation of his hunting depends not on somebody else but on each individual sportsman. If every man who hunts was to obey the laws laid down by the government, which are actually much too lenient for comfort, and refrain from game hogging, the difference in the numbers of game birds would become apparent in the space of one season. The true sportsman does not need to be told. He shoots his birds flying, and the thrill of getting a bird in flight is incomparable with the meagre thrill of the pot hunter who murders the bird as it sits, who gives it no chance to escape. The true sportsman takes only a few birds at a time. He obeys the hunting laws. And the fact that he plays the game gives him infinitely more pleasure than the man who shoots ten times the number of birds by pot shooting, can ever have. The sportsman does not need to be told but the other man must be convinced that he is responsible for the life or death of a species that biologically are as complex and as deserving of life as the species we call man. Those who know the facts and who still continue with their policy of "get the birds and never mind how you do it", will some day have to answer to posterity for wilfully and blindly depriving the world of living creatures that are not only beautiful but vitally important to our welfare.

Every man must be his own game warden.

LOCAL NOTES

Migration is in full swing. In the last week reports have come in from local observers with increasing frequency. Amongst the spring birds that have arrived are Killdeer, Robin, Song Sparrow, Sharp-tailed Hawk, Pintail, Green-winged Teal, Hooded Merganser, Phoebe and Red-winged Black bird.

Additional notes report Meadow-larks from Richmond Hill (John Curzon) Glaucous Gulls at Toronto and a Loon seen near Sunnyside.

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