

## Richmond Hill And Thornhill Big Women's Institute Branches

(Continued from page 1)  
Hicks said "I would like to thank each and every branch for the very sincere welcome I received visiting them during the past three years. It is something I will always remember and I shall treasure the friendships which I have made. This year I was able to visit every branch in the district but one. I was happy to organize the Mark-van Branch, first as a Homemaking Club in August, 1950, and then as an Institute in April of this year and I welcome the new branch into the district."

Mrs. Hicks reported that she had attended the Area Convention and as vice-president had conducted one of the sessions. She mentioned that East York District W.I. had sent over \$300.00 to the Manitoba Relief Fund as well as making other donations and was contributing to a Scholarship Fund. Richmond Hill and Markham had entered the Tweedsmuir History Book Competition and she was proud to report that both had received Honourable Mention.

She passed on an invitation from the Historical Society of Ontario to all the branches of the "Four Yorks" to a picnic to be held on Saturday, June 16, at Sharon Temple, the oldest public building in York County.

In closing, Mrs. Hicks paid tribute to Miss Atkinson as "a truly wonderful secretary who left nothing undone. My sincere thanks also to the vice-presidents and assistant secretary, and last but not least to my own branch, Bethesda, for sending me to represent them to the district for a period of years thus giving me the opportunity to serve as president of the district. My sincere wish is that it may go forward in all its endeavours."

**First Report**  
First of the District Conventions to give her annual report was Mrs. A. Armstrong of Wexford, summarizing the work done by the Agriculture and Canadian Industries Committees. Richmond Hill at the Trade Fair had displayed bulletins available from the Department of Agriculture and had taken the names of persons interested in receiving them. Members of Markham branch had won \$17.00 in prizes at the Fall Fair there. Thornhill's convener had given an interesting paper on the history of agriculture and Mark-van submitted a copy of its meeting's paper on rose culture.

Mrs. J. Snider read the Citizenship and Education report for Mrs. M. L. Jarvis of Victoria Square. Several talks on citizenship had been given by Mrs. C. Hicks. Papers given included such subjects as the Canadian Provinces and other countries, the United Empire Loyalists and some of those available from Mr. John Fisher. The Supervisor of Nurses of the Health Unit had spoken on its development.

Community Activities report was given by Mrs. E. Graham of Markham. Thornhill Branch had, among other things, furnished the Swimming Pool First Aid Room and Richmond Hill had worked with the Business Women's Club in providing a summer playground in the park. Another branch had given a radio to Sunnybrook Hospital, and all remembered the sick, needy or bereaved.

In the Historical Research and Current Events report, considerable mention was made of Richmond Hill's Tweedsmuir History's series of articles on pioneer history and its museum project. Thornhill Branch heard an interesting account of its first 48 years at a recent meeting and Mark-van were given an up-to-date account of the Langstaff Recreational Committee's efforts towards developing Boyle Park, and providing recreational facilities and a community hall.

Home Economics and Health convenors had arranged particularly interesting meetings and included demonstrations on interior decorating, wardrobe planning, nutrition, etc. The reports revealed that home economics was considered to include art, literature and hobbies.

Miss Dorothy Gribble, district director of Langstaff Junior W.I. last year gave a report. She attended with the newly elected president Miss Shirley Thompson. A membership of 17 took part in a wide variety of activities which include debating, bowling, skating, swimming, a successful bazaar. Donations were made to the Save the Children Fund and Manitoba Relief, the Scholarship Fund and towards providing community sports equipment. Two members attended the previous District Annual Meeting and the Guelph Rally.

The only resolution received by the convener, Mrs. A. Toogood of Unionville was submitted by Mark-van Branch and recommended that boxes of soap products show the weight of contents. The meeting accepted the resolution for presentation at the next Convention.

The late Mrs. J. Smith of Richmond Hill was among those remembered during the period of silent prayer.

Mrs. G. Kelly of Buttonville and Mrs. E. Graham of Markham, district delegates to the Guelph Rally passed on much interesting material and many helpful suggestions in connection with Historical Research and Community Activities. Pointers on keeping records were to strive for neatness and legibility, to date everything, have durable book covers and to use thin blank paper between pages to preserve print.

**Midland Speaker**  
Speaking at the Rally, Mr. W. H. Cranston of the Midland Free Press said "90% of the museums in Ontario are attics where people put the things they don't know what to do with. The basic importance of what was originally our rural

nation is in danger of being lost and forgotten in the transition to industrialization. No nation is worthy of a future which does not appreciate and venerate its past." Miss I. Hodges in her talk stressed courtesy and advised "Never lose your temper. Your branch is judged by you." John Blow asked "What are you doing in your community for the older people, the adolescents, the new Canadians and the unfortunates?" The Women's Institute should be a part of the motor in the community; it should be a spark plug but not the motor and the gasoline too."

It was mentioned that York County Council had for the first time granted the District \$50.00 towards its work and appreciation was expressed.

Miss J. McBride conducted the election of officers and announcement was then made of District Directors and their formal ratification. These were the final items before luncheon, deliciously prepared and served by the two entertaining branches. The afternoon session began with community singing and the announcement of the Quilt Contest winner which was Bethesda Branch.

**Afternoon Speaker**  
Guest speaker at the afternoon session was Mrs. W. M. Marjoribanks, vice-president of the Toronto Branch of the United Nations Association. She gave an amusing and fascinating account of her impressions and experiences with the Canadian delegation to the United Nations Headquarters at Flushing Meadows, New York.

Because there must be unanimity among the "Big Five" and Russia has used the power of veto over 45 times, blocking the fulfillment of such important measures as atomic control and the setting up of an international police force, the United Nations' efforts have been less effective than they could be. Mrs. Marjoribanks said. The General Assembly with its 60 members representing 60 countries, the last being Indonesia, has been likened to the nearest thing to Tennyson's "Parliament of Man" the world has ever known. She found the 60 flags of the nations which form a circle on the driveway to the Assembly Hall, a thrilling sight. Her word picture of the interior of the building, of the broadcasting, televising and walkie-talkie arrangements, made it all very clear and interesting to the ladies. She brought near to them a realization of the tremendous amount of work done by the various committees on behalf of children, refugees, education, science and culture.

Dr. Brock Chisholm, the Canadian Director General of the World Health Organization claims that with the help of the International Red Cross, the governments of the world could wipe out tuberculosis. The food and agricultural organization has the job of arranging for shipment of surpluses to countries in need. The newest set-up is U.N.K.R.A., the United Nations Korean Rehabilitation Association. To date \$2,000,000.00 is required to rehabilitate the Koreans affected by the war in their country. Mrs. Marjoribanks said the pathetic thing is that was never settle anything.

She explained that the organizations to which she belonged was organized to educate public opinion in support of the United Nations and the Toronto Branch has reading matter available which it is glad to supply on request. It is an international organization with associations in 35 countries of the world. There are 23 branches in prosperous and the only one in Canada, Toronto being the most Canada with a women's branch. There are 60,000 members in Britain and only 3,500 in Canada, indicating how little most Canadians were affected by the last war and how indifferent to a future one. "Women should be working for peace" she claimed. "We should go down on our knees and pray for peace, and when we get up we should do something to fight war. Instead of waiting to put all our energies into another war effort, I would like to see us raise a Victory Loan for Peace."

Mrs. C. Hicks, retiring district president, in thanking the speaker, assured her that she had given the Institute members food for serious thought.

**Mrs. Brumwell Speaks**  
Mrs. R. Brumwell of Victoria Square spoke of the York hospitalization plan sponsored by the York Co-operative Medical Services and urged the members to investigate its benefits. She told also of the Township Federation and Consumers Branch formed at Markham.

Miss I. McBride, representative from the Department of Agriculture Women's Institute Branch explained the projects offered for the coming season and conducted the voting. The following were chosen: 1. Women and their Health. 2. Home Crafts Workshop. 3. Parliamentary Procedure. The Workshop occupies 18 days and is opened with an exhibition prepared by the Royal Ontario Museum. It was also decided that a course in mental health, "We Call It Human Nature" be included as an extra feature.

Miss Hunt, Junior Director, gave a detailed and informative account

of last year's activities and the future plans for the girls clubs. 120 girls attended the Newmarket Achievement Day and displayed the results of the instruction received in cooking, dressmaking, etc. The spring programme will include "The Club Girls Stand Guard," a course dealing with safety rules, health, traffic regulations, physical and mental health, hobbies and occupation for spare time.

Following an enjoyable musical interlude provided by the Lakeview Branch, Mrs. A. E. Kennedy, Provincial Board Member, reported on her year's work and passed on much of the valuable information she had acquired.

A visiting Scottish Institute member, Mrs. Sidey, was presented and expressed her pleasure at being present. Mrs. C. Hicks then introduced Mrs. G. Francey, the newly elected district president, whom she said was well known to most of the ladies, as she had been district secretary for a number of years. Mrs. Francey made a gracious speech of acceptance of the presidency and thanked the hostesses and all those who had taken part in the programme.

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