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RICHVALE NEWS
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Home & School
 All three schools, Ross Doan, Richvale, and Charles Howitt, were represented by their home and school associations at the annual meeting of the York-Simcoe Home and School Council Thursday evening. Representing Ross Doan School was the president, Mrs. J. T. Williams, and treasurer, Mrs. Earl Lambert; Richvale School, executive member Mrs. J. Taylor; and Charles Howitt, the president, Mrs. Les Markle and the secretary, Mrs. Allan Pollock. The meeting, preceded by a banquet for the first time, and held at the Summit View Restaurant, was attended by 75 delegates from the 50 associations within the York-Simcoe Council area. The President, Mrs. Olga Kayes, was in the chair. A lively, thought-provoking discussion on Family Living grew out of a panel discussion on the premise: "What changing patterns in Family Life are of the greatest significance?" and "What are the values which we, as parents, think should be preserved?"

Panelists were Mr. Kudelka, Dr. Margaret Arkistal, Mrs. Margaret and Mr. Patterson, Mrs. Outbridge of the Family Court, was chairman for the panel.

The new executive, installed by Past-president Mrs. Toogood, now District President, include: President, Mrs. Olga Kayes; Vice-presidents: Mrs. Kajola, Frank Wolfe, Mrs. Blackley, Mrs. William Acton, Mrs. Halo, and Mr. Archibald; Mrs. Keeley and Mrs. Sproule; Secretary, Mrs. Jacques; and Treasurer, Mrs. Woolnough.

Some 30 girls who have been attending the craft classes at Richvale Chapel on Friday evenings, have taken the first part of a home nursing course which has been given in conjunction with the craft. These classes will be resumed in October. A party is being held to wind up the year.

Euchre
 Last Tuesday night, in the community hall the 1st Richvale Scout and Cub Mothers held a euchre in support of their work. Prizes were: Ladies 1st, Mrs. F. Butler; 2nd, Mrs. Arbon; consolation, Mrs. Graham; men's 1st, Gordon Smith; 2nd, Mrs. J. Smith; consolation, Ben Brazier. Draws were won: 1st, Hamper of groceries donated by the Scouts and Cubs; 2nd, Knight, 2nd, Donated by Bryant's Hardware, Mrs. Brenner; 3rd, donated by Western Tire and Supply, Jim Bonner. Share the Wealth prize was won by Mrs. Cheney.

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Chinchillas and Hamsters Next Door
 by Loraine Porter

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Henke of High Oak Ranch, my new neighbors in Jefferson, came to Canada two years ago from Hamburg, Germany, to establish a chinchilla ranch.

"We bought a pair of chinchillas when we first arrived," Mr. Henke told me. "Now we have seven," his attractive wife, Eve, added.

Since Frank Henke and his wife moved to Jefferson a few months ago, a baby chinchilla has made her appearance. I dropped over to see the new arrival, and what a fluffy little darling she is! — not at all nervous of meeting strangers either.

"Baby chinchillas are born with their eyes open," Mr. Henke told me. "And they have teeth and fur."

Within a few hours after birth this surprising young youngster next door was running around on the bare wire floor. In a day or so it was nibbling at food. However, both chinchilla parents are responsible folk and give much care to their new baby.

Frank Henke's interest in animals began when he was a child back in Hamburg, Germany. But it was in April, 1955, when Mr. and Mrs. Henke arrived in Canada to look for a suitable place to start their chinchilla ranch. In early summer of 1957 they bought a home and two acres on the Jefferson townline. Down cellar, in their round wire cages about 24" high, the chinchillas set up housekeeping, and are settling down very nicely to rural life. Being naturally clean, and having no body odor, they are suitable for indoor raising.

Chinchillas require a dry atmosphere and not too much heat as they originally flourished in the semi-arid regions of the Andes in Peru, Bolivia, Chile and Argentina.

They belong to the rodent family, but the cuddly chinchillas I saw next door reminded me of bunny with their whiskers and light soft fur. But chinchilla fur stands straight up.

"One of the reasons their fur is so valuable is the fact that from a single root come as many as 60 hairs," Mr. Henke told me. "And the fur can never be truly imitated because of the variations in shades of color from the top to the roots." Mr. Henke showed me the underfur part of the hair, which is an attractive bluish-grey color.

"Density and length of fur is important too," he pointed out. "Also, it is necessary to have an evenly colored coat that is not streaky or blotchy."

It seems that chinchillas like sandbaths, and Frank Henke showed me the use for their baths. The little animals make bathing fun; they roll in the fine sand and do a lot of kicking. Then they proudly fluff their fur and separate the hairs.

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