

## McConaghy H & S "Fun Fair" Night To Be Held 28th

The McConaghy Home and School Association's annual "Fun Fair" on Friday, April 28, from 7-9 p.m. will offer a bang-up "Old Curiosity Shop" atmosphere. There will be sales attractions to meet everyone's taste, with economy the key-note, and door prizes.

Publicity Director Mrs. R. Weeks said there will be a variety of booths including a bead shop, jewel box, and a White Elephant bursting with articles both utilitarian and decorative. There will be bingo, a puzzle room and a games room.

Last year's successful fair brought in sufficient funds to provide curtains for the auditorium. This year, while the ladies say they haven't decided how all the proceeds are to be spent, they report that there is a need for more books in the children's library.

Associated members and interested persons who have not yet had the opportunity to donate articles for the good cause can arrange to do so by calling Mrs. Weeks at TU. 4-4792.

## Driver Learners Will Be Required To Undergo Test

Driving "beginners" may have a lot more to do to obtain their temporary permits, William Neal of Richmond Hill, issuer of motor vehicle licenses, has told "The Liberal".

The new Driver's Handbook, issued by the Ontario Department of Transport, contains the following regulation for the first time: "Before you may be issued a temporary instruction permit, you must pass a three-part instruction permit, you must pass a three-part examination consisting of a vision test, a sign recognition test, and a written or oral test on the rules of the road and safe driving practices. Your temporary instruction permit allows you to drive when a licensed driver is in the front seat with you."

Instructions have been issued by the department, says Mr. Neal, that the new regulation is not to be applied until instructions are received. At present learner permits are issued on request without any tests.

## Unique Musical Organization Flourishes In Richmond Hill



Prominent members of the Richmond Hill Music Theory and History Club are pictured here. The story of their unique activities follows. This group was captured by the camera during the recent "Parents' Day." Its members are, from the left: William Pro-

maine, editor; Barbara Lentine, president; Miss Ruth Garson, honorary chairman; Geraldine Bruce, treasurer; Janice James, telephone convener; Janice Grainger, secretary. — Photo by Barbour

By Alex Sjoberg

A unique children's club, the only one of its kind in the country, is flourishing in Richmond Hill. It's devoted to learning as much as possible about the origin and development of musical instruments. An excellent example of what can be done to tap creativeness in young people, its hobbycraft activities may well result in producing artist-craftsmen of note.

The 14-member Music Theory and History Club (M.T.H.) was the brainchild of Miss Ruth Garson, 428 South Fernleigh Drive, teacher of piano, theory and voice. "The children are really quite remarkable," she said. "They now have their own newspaper, make use of a bulletin board, have their own badges and are doing extremely interesting work with plasticine, cardboard, wood, and in drawing. Each project deals with a musical theme and reflects intelligence, versatility and imagination."

If the parents of the enthusiastic club members had any idea that their offspring might be frittering away their time in innocuous pursuits, their doubts were dispelled recently when they turned out for "Parents' Day," staged at Miss Garson's home.

William Promaine, 12, showed a bust of Beethoven and also contributed a hobbycraft stand. Robert Freeman, 10, contributed a bass fiddle plaque while Catherine Bruce, 11, entered a harp, flute and saxophone wrought from play-dough, and an intriguing work in bas-relief titled "Bach's Study Third Dimension Portrait." Monica Reincke, 13, showed a miniature baby grand complete with painted, exposed string section and a moveable lid. Janice Grainger, 11, & Judith Dodson, 9, created miniature violins while Barbara Lentine, 14, showed a salt-and-flour metronome. Another member, Jane Dean, 10, revealed first rate im-

aginative powers by cutting out a box in the likeness of the lower section of a piano and affixing a little golden slipper to the pedal.

The club members made their own ribbon-badges which identify them as a group when they tour museums and other points of interest in their search for, and study of, musical-instrument lore. Their mimeographed one-page newspaper, THE MUSIC MONITOR, is edited by William Promaine. The initial edition explains that the name "Music Monitor" is exactly what the club aims to be, a music reporter. It will seek to report concerts of interest to be performed locally or in Toronto, carry items about up and coming established pianists and pianoforte competitions, and have a show column listing the musical movies to come or being shown on TV and in the theatre.

The paper invited those interested to contribute music cartoons (which must be drawn on onion-skin paper), and says it will endeavour to initiate a "Miss I. J. J." type column, but dealing with problems related to musical instruments, not heart problems. It will give what coverage can be managed to the music of other lands and what musicians in those countries are doing. "The club has no end of confidence," said Miss Garson, unwittingly voicing the understatement of the year.

Club members gather one Sunday afternoon a month at Miss Garson's home where they mix cookies and pop with business. They study, add to, re-arrange and discuss bulletin board items and composers and discuss their scrap books in which, week after week, they enter anything which they feel is of importance to their pursuit of club knowledge. Each month 25 cents per member is contributed to a pool for the season's finale, music night, when they attend a theatre and dine and prizes are awarded for the best scrapbooks.

History

They learn how music got started in the long ago and how instruments came into being. They point out there are three ways of making music, by beating on, plucking at or blowing into any thing, and that all instruments are variations of these methods. They learn to identify countries, customs and cultures by way of instruments. Musical recordings encourage or sharpen musical appreciation. One Sunday afternoon, for example, was given over to listening to Leonard Bernstein's orchestra via tele-

vision, and to a discussion of the program. Another Sunday they visited the Royal Ontario Museum to examine old harpsichords, clavichords, spinets and violins.

Miss Garson's background lends itself to the purpose and success of the organization. Born and schooled in Montreal, she is a product of McGill Conservatory. Her mother had considerable operatic experience in England and wanted her daughter to take up singing and piano. Circumstances led to an emphasis on music, to the point Miss Garson took first honors in McGill Conservatory exams in the intermediate grade. A year later, at age 14, she took her theory and again took the Canadian "first" and went into the senior grade where she achieved first class honours. She studied voice with Mme. Pauline Donaldson (famous operatic singer who sang with the great Caruso), joined the Dominion Opera Guild, and participated in such operas as Carmen, Cavalleria Rusticana, Le Coq d'Or and Così fan Tutti, which was staged in Montreal's Her Majesty's Theatre.

While she favours Chopin she early determined she would never allow personal preference to influence her pupils. Her father, she recalls, was rather strict and she vowed that she would be as mellow as possible with children she knew she would be teaching. Her teaching career began after she took her Associate at the Dominion College of Music. She has many years experience as pianist for ballet studios. She has

played with the Montreal Symphony Orchestra Chopin Evening. Every two years she gives a concert for pupils who have something to offer.

As a piano teacher she prefers not to make up her mind about a would-be pianist until the child has received instruction for some time. "Often a parent, with the best of intentions, wrongly assumes that the child is a potential artist when in fact the girl or boy is better advised to look for artistic expression in some other field," she said. "There is no point in wasting a child's time or a parent's money."

She is nothing if not practical. For instance, members of the club have actually taken apart her piano. "If you're going to drive a car it doesn't hurt to understand its mechanics," she said. The same principle holds true for students of music. At the moment, the class is concerned with learning all about wind instruments.

And just as she wants students and club members to know what it is that makes any instrument "tick," so she believes they must be given all the information possible about the various composers. "If they know their composer, his general outlook, eccentricities and preferences, they are in a better position to properly interpret his music," she insists.

Miss Garson, as an interpreter of music, instruments and composers, theory and technique, is making a meritorious contribution to a better understanding of musical art.

## DONCASTER NEWS

CORRESPONDENT — DAVID BARBOUR  
Henderson Avenue — Avenue 5-2505

### Hockey Banquet

The Thornhill and District Hockey Club father and son banquet is to take place at the Holy Trinity Anglican Church in Thornhill, on Thursday, May 4.

The church caterers will prepare and serve the hot beef dinner at about 6:45 but those attending are urged to be on hand in lots of time.

After the feast, the financial report will be presented along with a brief summation of the year's activity and look at the future. This is to be followed by movies. The presentations of the awards to the top teams and individuals will conclude both the programme of the evening and the club's 1960-61 hockey activities.

### Community Centre

At long-last a cloud of optimism appears in the horizon concerning a sensible community centre development, in the Doncaster Highland Park area.

This stems from the committee of local residents, of the two communities and municipal leaders, which has been appointed by the Township of Markham, in February of this year.

The committee has seven members and is made up of Reeve W. R. Dean and Councillor A. R. Camner of Markham, Mr. Wm. Menzies, Glen Cameron Ave., and Mr. Ian Brown, of Clarke Ave. Mrs. E. R. Axelson, Mr. R. E. Briggs and Mr. C. R. S. Armstrong all of Highland Park.

At present the group, is seeking a suitable location that could qualify under the Community Centres Act.

Birthday greetings go out to Marcia Henderson, Morgan Ave., who celebrated her 12th birthday on April 19.

Birthday wishes are in order for Steven Peck, of Morgan Ave., who celebrated his birthday on April 19. He was five years old.

Monday, May 8 is the date of the next Doncaster Community Ladies Club Charm Class which follows their regular monthly meeting. It is held at the Woodland Public School and the to, ic for the month is to be a continuation of make-up, which had been the first item in the informative series.

In the euchre marathon, which the ladies club is holding, in aid of the 1st Thornhill Girl Guide Company, the following results

are available; in the bridge competition Mr. C. Dickenson is high for the second week of play. Highest score to date in the euchre was turned in by Richard and David Barbour with an 85. D. Barbour is playing in place of R. Barbour's original partner, Joseph LeRuez.

### White Cross Tea

You can support the work of the Canadian Mental Health Association by attending the White Cross Tea and Bake Sale at the "Log House," 166 John St. in Thornhill. The authentic pioneer home, of the Neils, is of course, an attraction in itself.

The date of this novel tea and bake sale is Saturday, April 29 and it will continue from 2 to 5 p.m.

Donations of baked goods for this event is being sought, if you would like to make something, you are asked to leave it at Barbour's General Store on Saturday morning.

AURORA — Prenatal instruction classes for expectant mothers will begin again here, in Richmond Hill and Newmarket soon.

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## TENDERS

Will be received by North York Veterans' Social Club, 6321 Yonge Street, B.A. 1-0122, for the remodelling of the interior of the building, to include panelling, ceilings, wiring and floors. Lowest or any tender not necessarily accepted.

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## HAVE YOU HEARD THIS ONE?

Two 'beatniks' were loafing away the day in the tropics dangling their feet in the water when a crocodile swam up and bit off a foot of one of the beatniks. "Man, an alligator just bit off one of my feet," said the beatnik.

"Which one?" said his friend.

"How should I know," said the first beatnik. "I can't tell one of these 'gators from the other."

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