

# Youth Quest Stressed Meaning Of Commonwealth

By JANET THOMSON

I was lucky to be one of a group of young people from Canada, the United Kingdom, Malta and Gibraltar who made up the 1963 Commonwealth Youth Quest. During the two summer months we travelled together through Britain, flew together to Malta for the gayest and also the most spiritually moving week of our tour before we Canadians said goodbye to the new friends we had come to know so well, and sailed for home in the Empress of Canada.

Why was this tour called a quest and not just a tour? Under the leadership of Major Fred Ney, who 18 years ago founded the Commonwealth Youth Quest we had both an immediate and long term purpose and aim. My brother who was a "Questor" five years ago also appreciated the fact that the quest took place under exceptional circumstances. Although it is not a religious movement and is open to all creeds it was of definite spiritual value. Our contacts were arranged with a view to our appreciating more fully the meaning of our Commonwealth today as well as bringing home to us the historical roots and great events of our past.

We Canadians, 20 in number, first met in Ottawa where in the grounds of Government House before Governor General Vanier we made the pledge of all questors, "... my aim is peace, brotherhood and understanding.

... The fact that the Governor General was made an honourable questor and right then and there changed his tie for the Commonwealth Youth one was most appreciated. He told us that with the questors' aims before us we were "ambassadors for Canada".

### Attractive Uniforms

We all wore a uniform of wine-coloured blazers with grey trousers or skirts (white for special occasions). Our shoulder flash read in gold, "Commonwealth Youth Movement" and on our breast pocket was embroidered the name of our country. We were 35 altogether this year. (When John went there were 100 questors coming as well from India, Pakistan and more remote areas.) With such distinct uniforms, which, incidentally we were all very proud of, it was no little wonder we were continually being stopped and asked "What is the Commonwealth Youth Movement?" "Who founded it?" and similar basic questions.

After our initial two days in Ottawa during which the British High Commissioner Viscount Amory had us for lunch and we toured the capital, we sailed from Montreal on the Empress of Canada. In Liverpool we were welcomed by the other questors and very quickly got to know each other, although the Maltese were at first quite shy. With thoughts of Malta ahead of us we

managed to learn a few useful expressions, but found after numerous exasperating efforts that Maltese is a very difficult language to speak and quite impossible to write.

After landing in Liverpool we travelled in a horseshoe through Britain stopping for several days at Carlisle, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Lincoln and London. Going by bus most of the time we were able to see the countryside and scenery very well indeed, which needless to say impressed us all tremendously. The weather was a great surprise ... it hardly rained at all!

### Billeted With Families

In every town we visited some of the questors would be billeted with families, and so in leisurely after-dinner conversations we became very aware of what English and Scottish life was actually like. Our hosts warm welcome made us feel personally that this was one of the very great advantages of our quest. We were given scrumptious meals ... and endless cups of tea at all possible times of the day and night, including one in the morning in bed as a waker-upper.

A typical daily programme began with a scramble to arrive at our appointed meeting place ... sometimes as early as 7:30 a.m.! Punctuality was keenly stressed. If you didn't make the rendezvous you were left on your own initiative to "catch up". A

reception by the Lord Mayor of the town was usually the first thing in the morning (while he was still presumably not too busy), and after his official welcome he usually mingled informally with us over coffee and cookies. We would then be taken to see particular buildings, factories or sites important or unique in the city. Through the connections Major Ney has made through the years we were privileged to meet well-informed and public spirited people and did things that would be hard to do travelling on one's own.

At the end of each stay fond goodbyes and usually "three cheers for the hosts" came from the departing bus load. It was amazing what close friends we made.

A marvellous week in the fascinating city of London was followed by our flight to Malta for one of the hottest and most glorious weeks I'll spend for a long time. Because of the heat we were given lots of free time in which to enjoy the company of wonderful hosts. They took us to dances; parties had been arranged; and we swam to cool off on the gorgeous beaches. The people are very tanned and are lovely to look at, except that as they get older the poorer people tend to get a little fat, presumably from the starchy foods which are in the Maltese diet.

Historically Malta is very ancient. Some of the buildings (actually underground) are

up to 4,000 years old. Maltese is said to be the oldest spoken language—maybe that has something to do with its complexity! Luckily for us nearly everyone speaks perfect English.

### All Night Vigil

Because Malta was the focal point of the 1963 Quest it was there that our most impressive all-night vigil was kept. Three questors at a time came to the church for half an hour, kneeling at the altar lit only by a single candle, there to contemplate silently and pray until the next three made their silent entrance.

On our return to Britain we were given a glimpse of Welsh life at Cardiff before coming to our last stop, Birmingham. From there we finished our quest in grand style by going to Stratford-on-Avon to see Julius Caesar, and lastly attended a service at the much-talked about Coventry Cathedral. In spite of my opinions to the contrary I found the cathedral terribly impressive and enjoyed and admired everything about it.

On August 20 the Canadian members sadly parted from the other questors and sailed for home. We are now joining the generations of questors who told us about their unforgettable summer ... and as a questor I'll remember our motto: "First unto God and then to the Queen".

## Headford News

Mrs. Loren Guild  
R.R. 2, Gornley  
Phone TU. 4-3040

Elisabeth Barker entered the Southern Ontario Ploughing Match held recently near Brooklin and claimed third prize in the class of open stubble ploughing. She was the only girl in that class and she drove a mounted plough. The other competitors used trailer ploughs.

Mr. and Mrs. Idris Hamid welcomed a baby to their family, a sister for Andrew and Sandra. The congregations of the Charge rejoice with them.

Mr. Frank Barker, Manilla, was a guest recently in the home of his brother George Barker and Mrs. Barker.

Mr. and Mrs. C. Lee and family visited with Mrs. Lee's brother Lloyd MacDougall at Brantford. Mr. MacDougall has recently been transferred from the Massey Ferguson plant in Toronto to Brantford. Mrs. Lee was interested to learn that the house her brother bought near Brantford is the same house in which their father lived when he taught in that area.

Headford friends will be glad to know that Mrs. L. F. Bagg who has been a patient in Uxbridge Hospital expects to return to her home very soon.

When euchre parties start can winter be far behind? It seems to be the popular entertainment of many organizations. Headford members are asked to keep in mind the G.H.V.S. branch of the York Central Hospital Auxiliary progressive party to be held in Victoria Square Community Hall, October 28.

Guests in the Guild-Calder home recently were Mrs. Guild's sisters, Mrs. R. O. Jolliffe with her daughters Mrs. D. Findlay and Miss Mary Jolliffe, Rockwood and Mrs. James Neave, Toronto. Mary Jolliffe has completed her contract with the Minneapolis Theatre where she was associated with Tyrone Guthrie in establishing a theatre in the tradition of Stratford. She was with the Stratford theatre from its inception for seven years much of that time working with Mr. Guthrie.

Headford was well represented at Markham Fair, some of the younger junior farmers were particularly busy in the promotion of rural interests.

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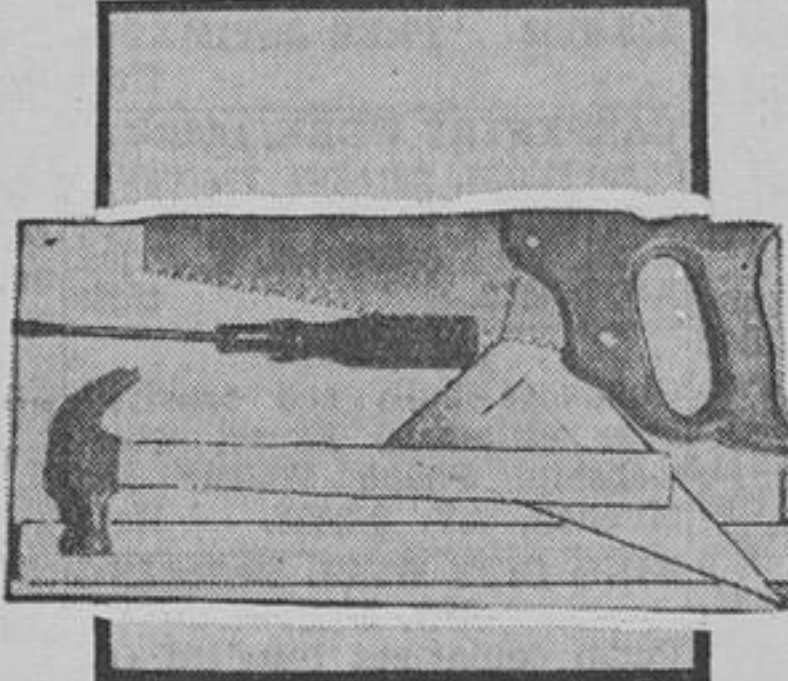
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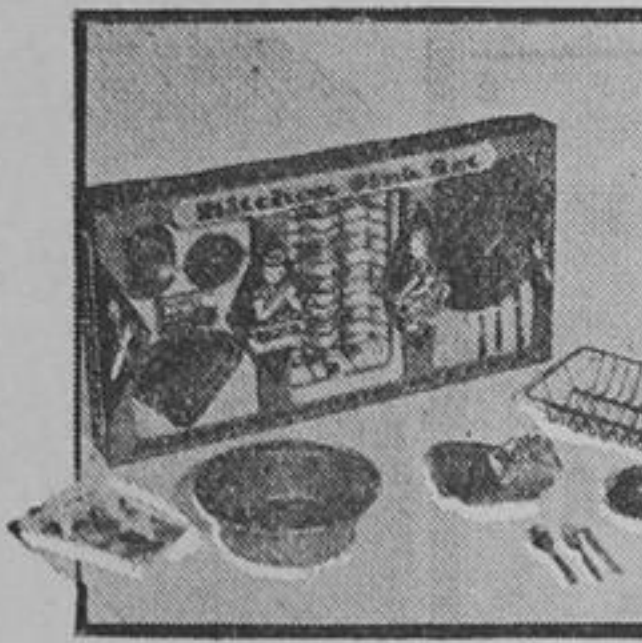
**TOOL SET**  
10" hand saw with plastic handle, 7 1/2" screw driver, 9 1/4" hammer, 12" ruler, pencil and 5 1/2 x 3" square. 77c



**POLYTHENE BASKET**  
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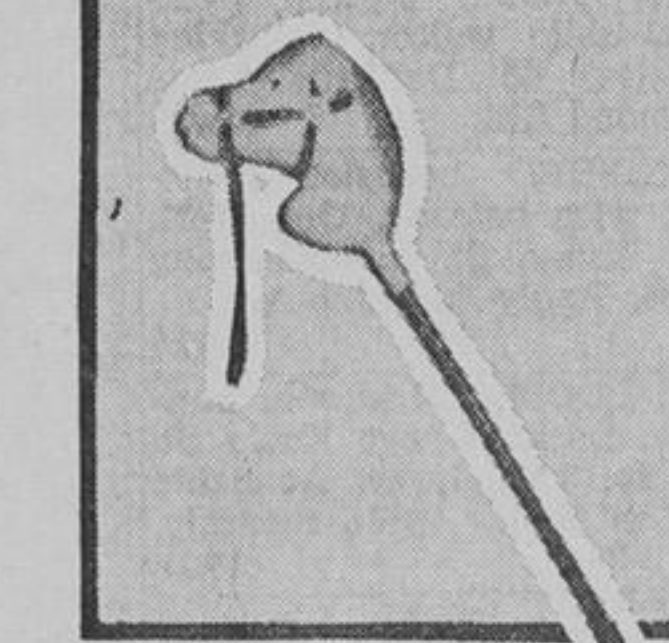
**PLASTIC GIRL DOLL**  
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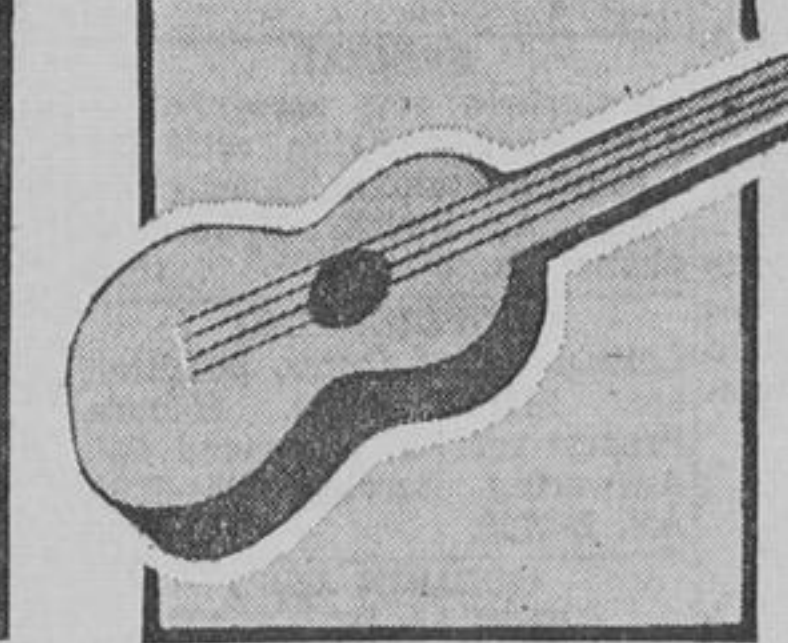
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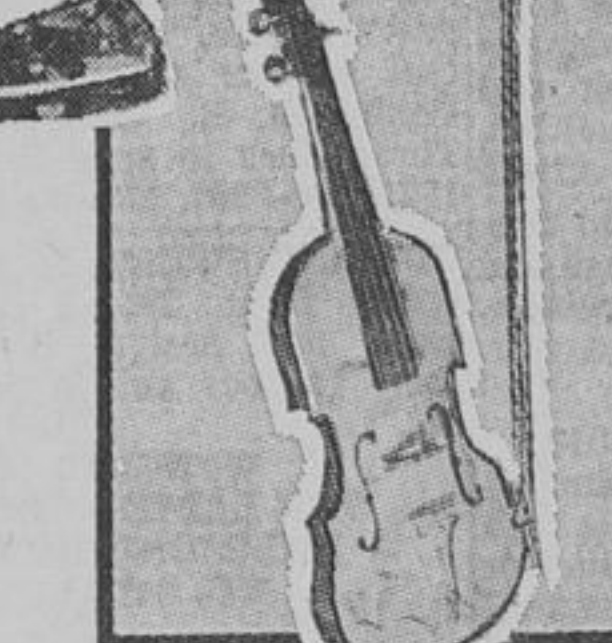
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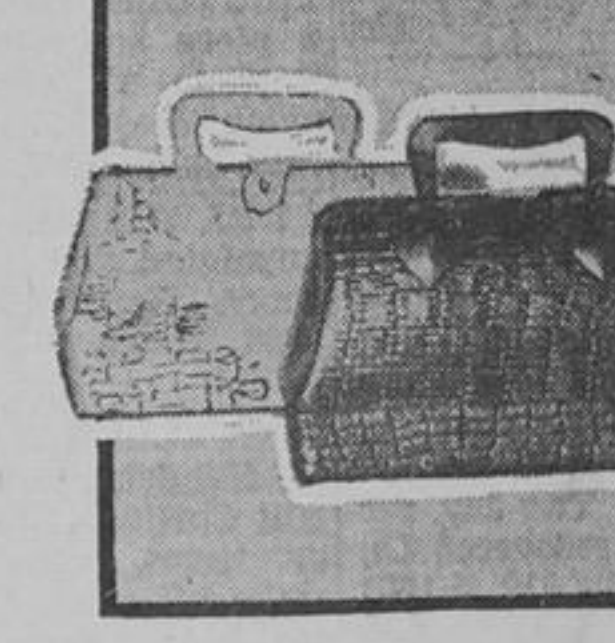
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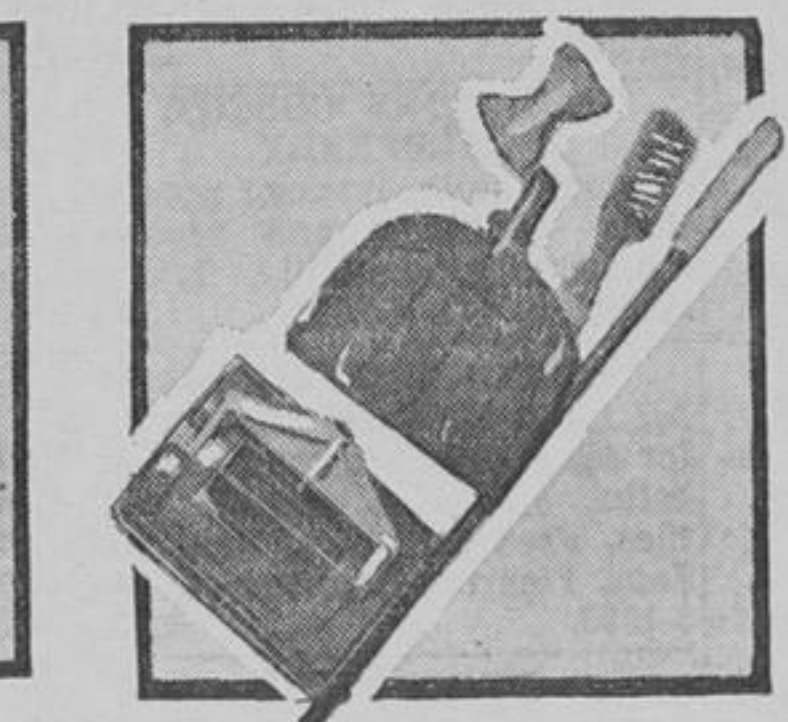
**BAKING SET**  
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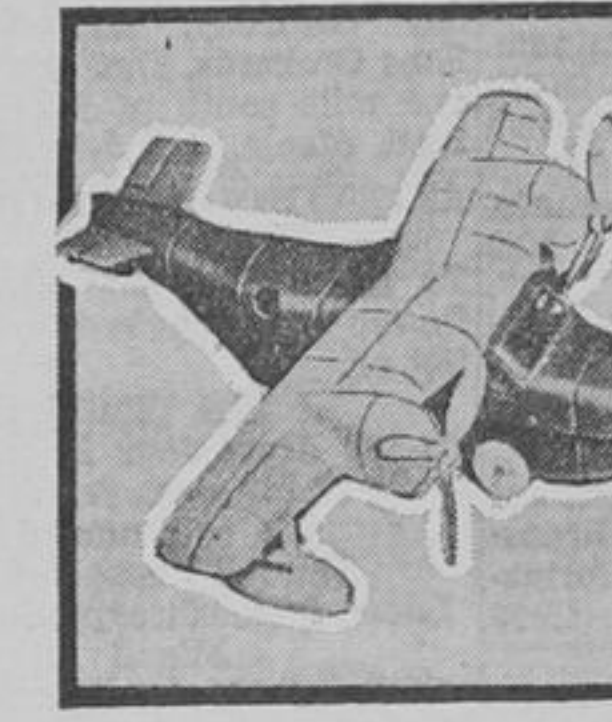
**ANIMAL SLATE SET**  
Size 17x10" with chalk and sponge eraser in shape of animal figure. 77c



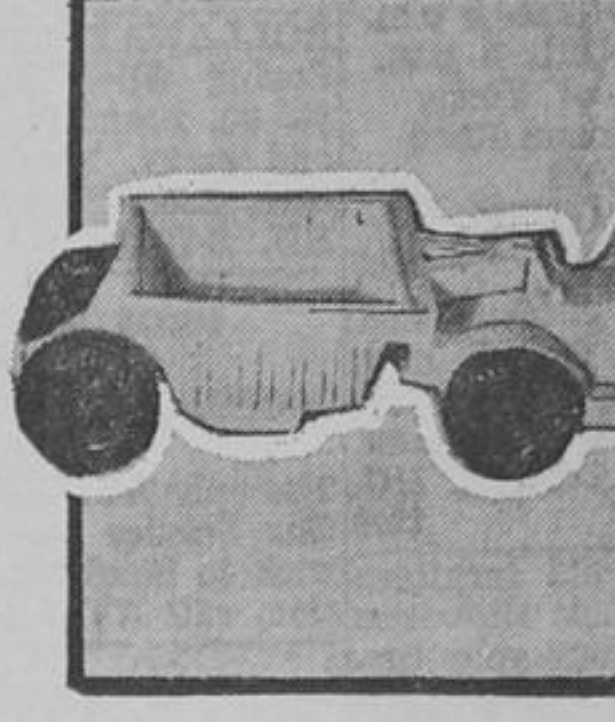
**PLASTIC NEGRO MAMMY DOLL**  
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