

Elgin Mills And Jefferson News



MRS. J. DOBRZENSKY (LEFT) IS PICTURED WITH HER MOTHER MRS. F. LOBKOWICZ. (Photo by Stuart's Studio)

Czech Grandma Joins Old With New World

BY MARGARET McLEAN
To cross the threshold at 32 Richmond Street, Richmond Hill is to step into a different world. Here, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. L. Dobrzensky and their five children, you will find furnishings from Canadian pioneer days, mingled happily with mementos of the Dobrzensky's native land of Czechoslovakia. An honored guest in the home at present is Mrs. Dobrzensky's 71-year-old mother, Mrs. Frances Lobkowicz who arrived a week ago to visit her daughter, the first time they have seen each other in 16 years. Mrs. Lobkowicz made the long trip alone from her present home in Kremsmunster in upper Austria to Richmond Hill, stopping to spend a week with old friends in Czechoslovakia on the way and travelling through Germany and France to set sail from Le Havre. She was met at Montreal by Mr. Dobrzensky and made the rest of the trip by automobile, enjoying the lovely autumn colors in Quebec and Ontario. Born in Austria, Mrs. Lobkowicz went to live in Czechoslovakia when she married and lived there continuously up until 1958. Three of her four children left that country in 1948, while she stayed on with her youngest daughter. They applied for permission to leave first in 1955, but were unable to go until 1958. Now however, Mrs. Lobkowicz reports that it is much easier to enter and leave the country. With half her family in the new world and half in the old, Mrs. Lobkowicz finds herself torn between the two. One of her children lives in

Vienna, one in Munich, one in Chicago and the other in Richmond Hill. Last year she was able to see her daughter from Chicago for the first time in 12 years, when the American branch of the family was spending some time in Rome. When she leaves Richmond Hill in December, Mrs. Lobkowicz hopes to fly to Chicago and fly from there to board ship in New York. Although she has travelled very little since the war, Mrs. Lobkowicz is something of a seasoned traveller and has visited Africa and Egypt as well as many European countries. She speaks Czechoslovakian, German and French as well as English. In Czechoslovakia she reports that children begin the study of French very early in the primary grades. She learned English in her teens but found few opportunities of using it except during two brief trips to England as a young woman. Yet now, after a lapse of 50 years, she is able to converse in English with seemingly little difficulty. Mrs. Lobkowicz spent a short time in Quebec City on her way here and found the Quebecois had no difficulty understanding her, nor she them. She had started to come to Canada in 1961. Shortly after she left Hamburg, however, the small liner on which she was travelling ran into a heavy storm. Mrs. Lobkowicz was thrown down a flight of stairs and woke up to find herself in a hospital in Ireland. Here she stayed for the next six weeks until she was able to get home

to Austria. Mrs. Lobkowicz brought with her, and has sent to her daughter at various times, many family treasures, small oil and water color portraits of various members of the family, old Czechoslovakian engravings and the like. Hanging in one corner of her daughter's dining room is a small velvet-lined what-not containing a bewildering variety of small knickknacks in china, glass and various metals, each recalling for Mrs. Lobkowicz some small piece of family history. Mr. and Mrs. Dobrzensky have lived in Richmond Hill only four months, coming here from the Province of Quebec. It was while in "La Belle Province" that Mrs. Dobrzensky acquired her interesting collection of Canadiana, including a charming hand-carved statue of the

Virgin Mary. Concerned with agriculture all his life and the former owner of an estate in Czechoslovakia, Mr. Dobrzensky is with Otto Pick and Sons Limited, grain dealers. "But there's nothing interesting about us, we're just poor immigrants," objected Mrs. Lobkowicz. Poor they may be by some standards, but in terms of culture, of family, of traditions and of genuine warmth and friendship, they are rich beyond measure. Richmond Hill is indeed fortunate to have such "poor immigrants" in its midst.

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St. John's Church News
The young married couples met last Friday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. R. Neun where they enjoyed most interesting slides of Russia shown by Professor and Mrs. Angus Bruneau of Waterloo who toured Russia this summer. Rev. T. Robinson attended the ordination service for his brother-in-law, T. W. Smyth, at the Church of the Redeemer, Toronto on Sunday. Next Sunday is lay Sunday and the preacher will be Dr. J. K. Warnica, until recently general practitioner in Owen Sound. There will be no evening service as the young people will be going to Stouffville High School to hear Rev. Duncan Campbell speak on the "Revelation in the Hebrews." On October 28, Rev. Bob Brow will be the speaker at

the prayer meeting and a new film showing the work of the Bible and medical missionary fellowship in India will be shown. Last Sunday was the annual harvest Thanksgiving service and the church was decorated with autumn leaves, vegetables and flowers. There was the traditional home made bread on the communion table. The Sunday school students and teachers took part in the first part of the service. Before the sermon they went into the parish hall with Tom Armstrong of the church army for the classes. The rector spoke on the subject of giving and explained the close relationship between giving and thanksgiving. Mrs. R. Neun sang a solo prior to the offertory hymn. David Whitmore of Eaton's

Interior Decorating Bureau, will be the speaker at the next community club meeting at the school on October 28. Home decoration is always an interesting topic and it is hoped every member will make an effort to come and bring a friend. A reminder to all that the time for the annual community club bazaar is drawing near. (See Coming Events for time and place). This year the ladies are asked to bring good used children's clothing and have the children take any toys not being used to school soon in order that they may be repaired ready for the bazaar. There will be home baking, candy, aprons, Christmas decorations and candles and white elephants. Please contact Mrs. D. McDowell if you will sell a book of tea tickets. The door

prizes are very attractive—the first one will be an electric blanket, the second a floral sheet and pillow case set and the third a teakwood tray. Don't fail to purchase a ticket—you may be a lucky winner. Best wishes for a happy birthday to Melody Duncan and Beth Carson on the 29th. Miss Linda Locke visited her grandparents Mr. and Mrs. McKee in Orillia on Sunday. Mr. and Mrs. A. McFee and family and Mr. and Mrs. W. Costoff and family spent the weekend at Kearney and enjoyed the fine weather. Mr. and Mrs. Darrell Richards who were married recently are now making their home in Richmond Hill. Congratulations to Stephen Kerwin who won the Intramural Richmond Hill High School golf competition on Saturday at the

Sharon Golf Club. J. Kilmes spent the week end with Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Lorke enroute to Fort William. The local hospital auxiliary will meet at the home of the president, Mrs. A. McFee, on October 28 at 10 a.m.

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