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Chickens, Shoelaces At Arena

BY JIM IRVING

If you happen to be in the vicinity of Richmond Hill Arena within the next few weeks and see a parade of small chickens, clowns and shoelaces around the place, don't rush off and sign the pledge.

There's no need for any sudden alarms, or renewing of New Year's resolutions to swear off, the sight will be strictly a legitimate one.

That is, it's legitimate for the members of Richmond Hill Skating Club, who are now up to the top eyelets of their skating boots in practising, polishing and putting in order their many acts and numbers for their winter skating carnival.

The one-night event, which will feature some 180 members of the club, will be presented March 20 at the arena.

Special guest star for the affair has still to be chosen, but carnival officials are negotiating with some of Canada's best-known names in the figure skating world.

However, getting names for the occasion is not expected to be too big a problem. The club has always come through in fine style, and the last two guests it had for its carnival in 1962, stayed on to become the club professionals.

"It's been very enjoyable too, especially when you have the skaters as we do here," said Mrs. Elinor Kell, a member of Toronto Cricket and Skating Club, who two years ago was one of the

guest artists, along with fellow club pro Phil McCordick.

Mrs. Kell, who teaches at the club four days a week, said several of the skaters were showing promise, and in the recent Canadian Figure Skating Association tests held here, almost 100 percent of the students came through.

"Usually, you're doing well if 50 percent are successful," Mrs. Kell said.

Right now, Mrs. Kell's and Mr. McCordick's sessions with their pupils serve a double purpose. Besides the upcoming carnival, another set of tests as set down by the CFSA, will be held.

This year's show, which will have three themes, a circus, a barn-raising and a shoemaker's shop is the second one staged by Mrs. Kell.

She did one last year in Stouffville and describes it as a time of "letting your imagination run wild, when everything becomes alive."

So animated does it become in fact that such things as the aforementioned chickens, clowns and shoelaces, play a prominent part in the proceedings, with skaters from three years and up, giving them a zesty kind of life not usually experienced by ordinary members of that rare fraternity.

Costumes are rented for the most part, but the ones that can't be obtained that way are made by the mothers of the performers.

"The children love this sort of thing," (the carnival) said Mrs. R. Stanfield, chair-

man, "And I guess the parents could find a lot of other things they could do instead, but we find we get caught up in the spirit of the thing."

Among the other things the parents get caught up in are the properties, lights and decorations.

It's all voluntary, as has been just about everything else about the club since it was first organized by Mrs. Rita Hall, present club secretary, and about a half-dozen others in the kitchen of the Hall home 10 years ago.

"They decided Richmond Hill should have a club," said President Mrs. Marion Spence in recalling how it all happened. "So they dug into the grocery money to get a campaign underway."

"There was a lot of hamburger eaten that week."

Besides being secretary, Mrs. Hall is also the club representative to the CFSA. Other members of the executive are: Mrs. A. Craine, past-president; Mrs. Ron Taylor, vice-president; Mrs. G. Francis, supervisor; Mrs. C. Brenzell, treasurer; Mrs. P. Shubaly, music.

There's a lot less hamburger connected with the operation now, but there's still lots of work throughout the year, carnivals or no, and the parents contribute some long hours to what might be called putting the children through their "patches."

However, they might be encouraged by Mrs. Kell's remarks about the success of their own children, and the success of the sport in the past few years.

"It's one sport that you don't have to have that particular talent to enjoy," said Mrs. Kell. "You can have fun skating no matter how good you are."

"I think that's why we're growing in popularity all the time."

Visitors to the arena, March 20, will be able to see for themselves just what Mrs. Kell means.

R. H. Council Briefs

Monday night Richmond Hill Council dealt with the following business:

Paid tribute to the late Sir Winston Churchill by observing a period of silence at the opening of the session. Mayor Tom Broadhurst commented that "every level of democratic government owes a great debt to Sir Winston".

Councillor Walter Scudds recalled that when the North Yonge bus service was extended to Elgin Mills last August, for a six month trial period, a report on the operation was to have been presented at the end of three months. Since this interim report has not been received he asked the town's transportation committee to investigate and report.

Councillor Scudds also reported he had attended a workshop at Delhi last Saturday. He said he learned of the proposed new duties of the committee of adjustment. "If these are proclaimed, and there are some people who are working against it, I will ask council to enlarge the committee of adjustment to take in a couple of members of planning board."

Agreed to support the Canadian Federation of Mayors and Reeves in protesting proposed raise in rates by the Bell Telephone Company, at a cost not to exceed one cent per capita.

Received a budget recommendation of \$3,250 from the industrial and development committee. The budget provides for \$500 membership in the Metropolitan Toronto Industrial Commission, \$2,000 for public relations, \$2,000 for an information brochure which could be easily brought up to date each year, and \$500 for office supplies.

Approved a recommendation that a record of commercial and industrial inquiries be kept and

those of a non-confidential nature be submitted to the industrial and commercial committee at each meeting.

The works committee reported having received a brief concerning wage increases for its hourly paid employees in order to bring their wages more in line with neighboring townships. The works committee had decided to study the brief and present their proposals to the employees at a meeting to be arranged at a later date.

Approved an agreement with Mr. and Mrs. Walter Murray for the construction of a sanitary sewer from the arena to Roseview Avenue through their property.

Reeve Floyd Perkins told council the sewer had been installed 10 years ago, with permission to cross their property being granted by the Murrays without compensation. However, no formal agreement had been signed at the time and he felt that as the only member of that year's council on this year's council that an agreement should be signed to protect both parties' interests.

Instructed the clerk to write to Jerry Tessier of 155 Walmer Road, Toronto, who is interested in opening an establishment, catering in the main to the youth of Richmond Hill, suggesting this appears to be more within the realm of the recreation committee. However if he wishes to make a short and concise presentation to council he will be heard. "The establishment" would involve young people in such activities as drama, music, dances, etc., the letter said.

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Member Photo M.L.S.

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Prof. E. Rathe Addresses York Central French Teachers' Meet

A dozen modern language District High Schools and many students formed an instant audience for Professor Edward Rathe at Bayview Secondary School January 27.

A professor at Victoria College, University of Toronto, Mr. Rathe discussed the philosophy and work of the distinguished French novelist Andre Malraux.

Termining him an intellectual of the left, Professor Rathe noted that Malraux was interested in the external actions of men and as well as being a novelist was a journalist and a historian. A competent archeologist, he spent several years in China and Indo-China taking part in archeological explorations.

Bearing out his philosophy that man can only escape from the inanities of his existence by direct action, Malraux was active in China during the overthrow of Chiang Kai Chek, took part in the Spanish civil war on the side of the Loyalists and during the occupation of France played an important and dangerous role in the resistance. At the present time, he is Minister of Cultural Affairs in the De Gaulle government.

While Malraux's novels appear to be mainly descriptions of movement and action, they contain all sorts of dramatic and ironic nuances, Professor Rathe said. Malraux sees mankind as essentially solitary, adrift in an irrational world, without God yet constantly seeking communication and fraternity.

For those interested in a more comprehensive understanding of this "humanist of the 20th century" Professor Rathe recommended the reading of "Malraux and the Tragic Imagination", by Frohock.

Professor Rathe's address was delivered entirely in French, and the question period which followed was also conducted in French. One of the questioners asked if Professor Rathe felt it was due to Malraux's influence that France had recognized Communist China. Professor Rathe felt however that Malraux would have been too much engrossed in his work as minister of cultural affairs to have had much to do with it. Britain had recognized China some time previously and De Gaulle was obviously intent on pursuing a course independent of the United States in any event, he said.

Professor Rathe's lecture was the second in a series of Professional development seminars arranged by York Central language teacher. The program was

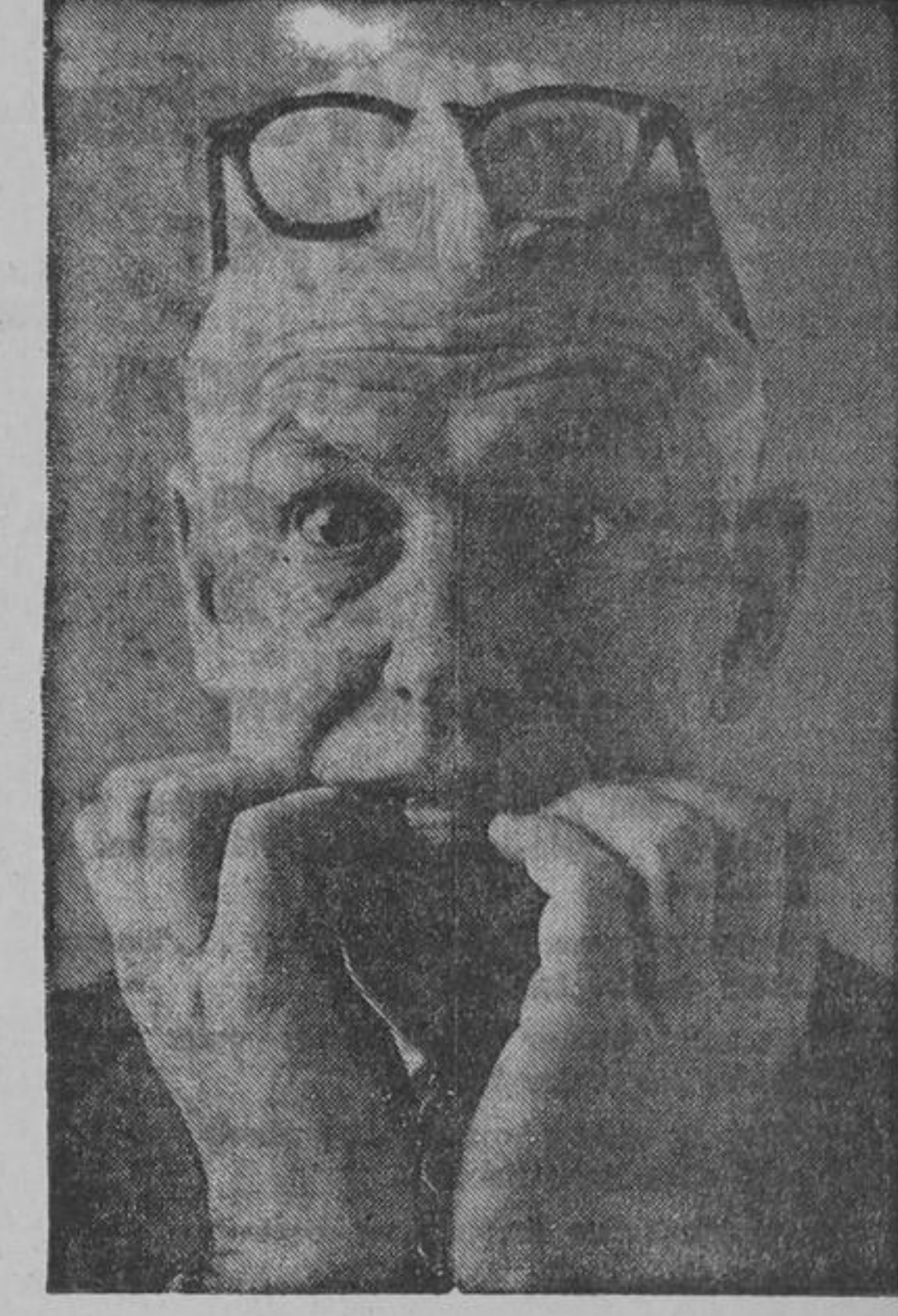
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