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## Rambling Around

(Continued from Page 2)

**THE PATTEN OF LITTLE FEET AT FOUR WINDS**  
Four Winds is a private profit-making day care nursery in Thornhill. It is housed in an attractive Thornhill home on Heintzman's Lane, once owned by Miss Lillian Francis. The rooms are spacious and the ceilings are high. The house is well kept and clean from basement to attic.

I visited Four Winds one afternoon. It was 2 pm and rest time for the children who were lying or sitting on canvas cots. Those who were awake stared at me curiously as I walked about the nursery with supervisor Mrs. A. Smolski and manageress Mrs. Beryl Houghton.

Beryl Houghton is a striking woman. Her eyes are dark and flashing and she radiates vitality. She originally came from Jamaica and is of Spanish descent. She has been a Canadian for 21 years and for 16 of these has been involved in the care of children and young people.

Last summer, Mrs. Houghton took over the house on Heintzman's Lane and converted it into a day care nursery. The official opening was last September. She started with three children. There are now 26.

Nineteen children come for full time care and the rest come for half a day. They are mainly the children of working mothers and their ages are from two years to five.

Mrs. Smolski, the supervisor, is licensed by the province. She is a linguist and a kindergarten expert. The staff numbers seven and this includes a full time cook and housekeeper. "I like to employ as many fully trained people as possible," said Mrs. Houghton.

Mrs. Houghton's day begins before 7 am. She picks up a number of children and brings them to the nursery. The mothers who can, bring their own children. Children who attend kindergarten in the public school are picked up at noon by Mrs. Houghton or one of the staff.

**A TYPICAL DAY'S ROUTINE**  
From 7 am to 9 am, the children play with blocks, dolls and building materials. At the end of playtime, they are encouraged to pick up the toys and put them away in the room which houses miniature kitchen furniture, refrigerator, stove, sink, cupboard and ironing board. The rudiments of housekeeping begin even at their tender age.

There are frequent breaks for singing, painting with water colors and finger painting. From 10 to 10.15 am, it is juice and cookie time. Following that, the smallest children play with blocks and crayons while Mrs. Smolski conducts storytime for the older children. After lunch, the children are supervised in the hall while the rooms are dusted and aired for the rest period which lasts for two hours. At 3 pm, more washroom routine, juice and cookies.

The health of the children is observed daily. Any deviation from the norm is reported to the parents.

If the weather is good, the children are bundled up and taken outside in the yard to play. If the weather is not suitable, there will be more supervised playtime with modelling, art or crayon work. Shortly after four, mothers arrive to take the children home.

**A GREAT NEED FOR DAY CARE NURSERIES**  
Mrs. Houghton believes there is such a need and she has made a small attempt to fill it. Mothers do work and are happier when their children are receiving either full or part time care in a supervised nursery.

It also helps mothers who are coping with several small children at home. By using the part time service they can obtain the needed change and rest. Mrs. Houghton believes that the separation makes for a better parent-child relationship.

In Four Winds, there is a graduated program geared to the child's needs and it is consistent. It helps to challenge the active child and stir up the more passive ones. "We give them all plenty of affection and don't push them," she said.

Many of the children's art projects hang on the walls of the nursery for everyone to admire. The rest are put in individual shopping bags. (Each child has one with his name on it.) Nature study and music and singing round up a day that is always brimful of change.

Mrs. Houghton has great plans for the Four Winds. She showed me the large upstairs rooms earmarked for schoolrooms. "We may even teach them a little French," she said.

## 500 High School Teachers Attend Professional Development Meet

Several York Central High School teachers played a prominent part in the professional development conference held February 17 at the Inn-on-the-Park, Toronto, by District 31 of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Confederation.

R. P. McDonald, master teacher of English in York Central schools chaired a panel discussion on the future of grade 13. Panel members were Principal Duncan Green of Malvern Collegiate, Toronto, Dr. Robin Harris principal of Innes College, U of T, Dr. Gerald B. Maher, principal of Don Mills Collegiate and Bascom St. John, chairman of policy and development of the Department of Education.

Lars Thompson, head of the English department at Langstaff Secondary School, this year's president of District 31, chaired a seminar on the effect of mass media on education. The speaker here was M. LaFontaine, of Toronto Education Centre library.

A seminar on what business and industry expect from students was chaired by Miss Ruth Kinsella, co-ordinator of guidance for the York South Regional Education Committee. Speakers at this seminar were Bruce Barrett, personnel manager of the Prudential Insurance Company and Arthur Pigott, executive director of the Canadian Scholarship Trust Foundation.

During the afternoon, Mr. McDonald continued as chairman of the second session on the grade 13 problem and Dr. J. W. McCallum, director of psychological services for the York South Regional Education Committee chaired a seminar on mental health of the teacher. This was addressed by Donald Sinclair, executive director of the Canadian Mental Health Association.

The technical director of Bayview Secondary School, Donald Frise chaired a discussion on experimental combined technological courses which was led by Bruce Renton, technical co-ordinator of the Ottawa Collegiate Institute Board.

Other seminars discussed colleges of applied arts and technology, and computers and education. Guest speaker at the luncheon was Donald H. Maclaren of Air Canada.

Other York Central teachers on the executive of District 31 are Past President Eugene Lazar and Treasurer Don Anderson of Thornhill Secondary, Salary Chairman Doug Booth of Richmond Hill High and Marc Everard of Bayview Secondary. Special guests at the conference were 24 students from the Ontario College of Education who are currently engaged in practice teaching in the schools of District 31.

Some 500 teachers in York and Simcoe Counties attended the professional development day and through the generosity of the school boards concerned, suffered no loss in salary, the cost of which was \$20,000 for the day.

### Suggest Mechanical Fitness Certificates

(Continued From Page 2)  
been in for repairs the night before at a Gormley garage, and also showed him the mechanical fitness given him at the time of purchase, which listed 10 faulty items on the car.  
Ian Shaw, a mechanic, who examined the car, said the lights and brakes were defective and the left tie rod was bent. He repaired "two or three" items and then took the car for a road test, after which he termed it "okay".  
Coroner F. D. Cruikshank and Whitchurch Police Chief Fred Mason both commented on the fitness certificate, which Dr. Cruikshank said was more an "unfitness" certificate.  
Chief Mason, in suggesting new legislation on the certificates, said that, by listing the defects, the dealer seemed to be absolved of any liability in cars he sold.  
In his address to the jury, Dr. Cruikshank said the fitness certificate could be used to deceive used car buyers, and the dealer by marking it unfit had saved himself from a criminal charge.  
"Maybe the jury will see fit to recommend that unfit vehicles not be sold to the public," Dr. Cruikshank said.  
Members of the jury were, Stephen Rose, Robert Kennedy, Jacobus Systems, Arnold Reinkie and Kenneth Ponting.

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