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In The Spotlight

(Continued from Page 2)
leave them to express their own feelings on the subject", then turning to her students she added, "If you want to start, start; if you haven't got an idea I'll just keep talking till you get one." Every child had already put the first swop of color across the paper.

Sometimes Mrs. Walker supply teaches in North York High Schools, and this, she feels, is a good change of pace, and keeps her ideas fresh. She is very impressed with the art curriculum which now includes many craft projects. "I am staggered by the talent of these children" she said, and added rather wistfully. "I didn't particularly enjoy art as a child."

"I used to have lessons from a famous Saskatchewan artist who lived to draw grain elevators. I got so sick of sitting in railway sidings drawing the wretched things", she recalled. It was after majoring in art at the University of Saskatchewan, and a summer at the School of Fine Arts in Banff, that she developed this great feeling for nature that she expresses so well in her art. "Another of my 'things', is that I hate to waste anything, and don't believe in buying a lot of expensive materials. Friends knowing of this are always giving me odds and ends."

"For example, I have had great fun with an old wallpaper sample book, by using pages of it as background for my silk-screen prints. This one of a calladium was hung at a centennial exhibition, next to an A. Y. Jackson, and it amused me to think of my old wallpaper hanging in such a revered position!" she said and pointed out that it had been returned with the glass broken. No doubt it won't go to waste!

Mrs. Walker's three children are not avid artists but will occasionally join in a "fun project", and there are always plenty of those going on in the Walker household. The children agree that the most fun of all, is looking after the artist's very live models... the two ponies, the six guinea hens, the three ducks, and the two very inspiring geese.

Interested in tropical fish? The Willowdale Aquarium Society's next meeting will be on April 10, at the North York Library at eight o'clock.



Nature Notes

Team Studies Black Fly Control

Dr. D. M. Davies, professor of zoology at McMaster University was guest speaker at the March of color and carbon dioxide concentrations in feeding and biting and egg-laying behavior provided excellent interest material for the lecture.

Dr. Davies mentioned many aspects of study in his own laboratory and at Algonquin Park to supplement the slides. Numerous questions were posed to him from the audience about a group of insects which continue to give us all some personal concern.

The recent field trip to the Maple Research Station of the Department of Lands and Forests was an informative one. Members were shown how to identify different trees in winter and noted extensive damage done to many trees by mice. Dozens of smaller trees had been entirely girdled by mice chewing the bark off underneath the snow.

John Griffiths, the leader, demonstrated the increment borer which is an instrument used to tell the age of a tree. Killdeer, grackles, redwinged blackbirds and robins arrived in this area around March 19. Song sparrows are singing but they have not arrived in large numbers as yet. Watch for new arrivals each day. Meadowlarks, Savannah sparrows and vesper sparrows will be migrating very soon.

Former York Central Teacher W. Pitman, OEA Head

Head of the history department at Langstaff Secondary School in the school year 1964-65, Walter Pitman, MA was recently elected president of the 13,000-member Ontario Education Association.

Mr. Pitman previously taught at Bathurst Heights Collegiate in Toronto and came to the York Central system from Peterborough where he taught from 1956 to 1964. He left York Central in 1965 to accept the post of assistant registrar at Trent University, Peterboro.

In 1960 he was elected to the House of Commons from Peterboro, the first to be elected under the NDP label. Subsequently, he was twice defeated in bids for re-election but last October was elected to the Ontario Legislature to represent Peterboro.

Along with Stephen Lewis, Mr. Pitman is education critic for the New Democratic Party and concerns himself with education at all levels, from kindergarten to universities.

Mr. Pitman is concerned about two central issues in Ontario education, the consolidation of over 1,500 school boards into 90 boards of education and the training of teachers.

With respect to the consolidation, Mr. Pitman believes larger units of education are needed but is critical of the timing of the plan — a month after last October's provincial election. "It disregarded the whole concept of democracy," he said. "You must allow people to make the decisions."

With respect to the move to place teachers' colleges in the universities, Mr. Pitman feels this is "fraught with dangers as well as opportunities. We must not create a second-class university system," he warned.

Mr. Pitman believes the OEA must become more influential in Ontario's educational system.

"We could become a force for upgrading the standards of education and I would like to see us play a more active role in assisting and reacting to the Department of Education," he said.

With respect to his three roles as teacher, politician and OEA president, Mr. Pitman stated "I will depend on the charity of others in being accused of conflict of interest, but I don't think there will be any."

Since his election to the Legislature, he has dropped his tasks as assistant registrar and director of part-time studies at Trent University, but still teaches Canadian history as an assistant professor.

Rambling Around

(Continued from Page 2)
Phillips and David Smith has the role of the Duke of Cumberland.

"This is a sort of travel in time story," said Mr. Clifton, "a very romantic one too."

"Berkeley Square" is the story of a young American who inherits a house in England. He goes over to claim his inheritance and while exploring the premises he comes across a packet of old letters written by his great grandfather in 1784.

The letters were written to and from a girl named Kate whom he intended to marry. Peter Standish also finds a diary which records many of the incidents in the life of the young man. He is fascinated by the period represented by the letters, the relatives and especially the girl named Kate.

Standish feels that he would like to go back to this period in time. He feels that he knows all the details of their every day life and all the ways in which a young man would speak and act in the 18th century. The young man of the letters was an inventor and being of a curious nature was very anxious to see what the world would be like in 200 years time.

So Peter Standish arranged to change places with the inventor.

How would a 20th century man react in the old world atmosphere of Berkeley Square? This you will see if you take a chance on this exciting play. Don't forget the dates, April 18, 19, and 20 at the Richmond Hill High School Auditorium.

To Study Shakespeare By Visit To Stratford

One hundred and fifty grade 8 pupils and 10 teachers from Crosby Heights Senior Public School will be attending a matinee performance in Stratford on June 19.

They will be seeing a performance of Romeo and Juliet. Richmond Hill Public School Board March 28 agreed to pay the cost of transportation to Stratford of \$255 for buses. Admission to the Stratford Festival Theatre will be \$480, or \$3 per person. The students and teachers concerned will pay the cost of the admission tickets.

Superintendent Gordon McIntyre noted that although not all grade 8 pupils will be on the excursion, there would be no major expense to the board for supply staff. English is taught by the home room teachers, he reported, and these would be going along. The other members of the staff are willing to fill the gap for the day, he said.

Some trustees expressed concern about seeing that the young people reached their homes on return to Richmond Hill, since there is a possibility that the buses will not return by 9 pm. However, the superintendent believed that provision for this would be made in the planning stages.

NEWMARKET: Holland Valley Conservation Authority last week signed the contract documents to initiate construction for the rehabilitation of a reservoir and dam at Concession 2 of East Gwillimbury on the Holland River. McKay Excavating of Downsview was awarded the contract under the direction of Canadian Mitchell and Associates, Consulting Engineers.

The Home Economics Club can be proud of its successful fashion show, March 6. Staff advisor is Miss Martha Elliott.

Linda Cole, Simplicity Pattern Company representative, conducted the show free of charge. The models were supplied by the club.

Colleen Fraser, who took a Vicki Jenkinson course last year, was in charge of getting the models ready and Susan Dalton looked after the decorations.

According to Colleen it was a good show. The girls modelled the latest spring numbers, jump suits, formals, hipsters and culottes. There were quite a few mix and match sets. The event takes place every fall and spring.

Kathy Bowman reports that the Georgian Bay finals in gymnastics will take place April 6. The girls' event will be held at Bayview Secondary School.

THE THORNHILL TRANSMITTER
Charlie Zinkhan from Thornhill Secondary reports that the production of "J.B." by Archibald MacLeish was quite successful. Charlie credits the fine coaching of Robert Beatty, staff advisor and coach of the drama club for its success.

Maybe it was because Shayne and Jackson were there, Friday, March 15, that an ordinary school dance turned out to be the biggest ever held at Thornhill Secondary.

Get primed for the famed Health's-A-Poppin Revue which is coming up in the third week of April.

THE BAYVIEW BROADCASTER
Jeff Parisi says he's short of news this time. Exams! However he would like to say that the fashion show sponsored by the merchants of Richmond Heights Plaza came off well.

The Gamma Sigma Fraternity had its annual dance at Casa Loma, March 30. And KAP is still on the move.

No news from Langstaff or Woodbridge this week. News of high school events, clubs and other activities related to the York Central system is welcome in this column once a month.



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