

Kaleidoscope

By CATHY WILSON

A tiny flower grew by the side of the road. It had soft blue petals and a yellow centre; but it was easily overlooked by a passerby whose gaze would be quickly caught by the towering, impressive blooms behind.

The dainty, but often unnoticed flower was the Forget-Me-Not. It was quiet and shy and very often hidden, but it was still there waiting to delight a surprised finder with its delicate beauty.

One day, a man who took pleasure in the small but happy things made by God, was strolling along the road, when he stubbed his toe on a large stone.

He looked down, and as he did so, spied the Forget-Me-Not concealed in the lavish garden. Struck by its beauty, he decided to dig a flower bed solely for the Forget-Me-Not, so that all who passed would see its happy flower-face. Soon, however, the man discovered many more of the little blue flowers, until one flower bed was not enough . . .

. . . And now in Richmond Hill we have a nursery school, Thornhaven School, and ARC Industries, all flower beds for the retarded children in York Central District (extending from the CFRB Sideroad to Steeles Avenue).

But flower beds need constant care — water, cultivation and nutrients. And then, of course, new Forget-Me-Nots are always being found and new flower beds must be established for them.

For this reason, the York Central Association for the mentally retarded is embarking this year upon the "Flowers Of Hope" campaign. You should by now have received in the mail a spring-pink envelope containing a small package of flower seeds which, when planted, will grow into bright, brave cosmos.

Also included is a blank cheque and an envelope addressed to the Association. This is your chance to show that you remember the "Forget-Me-Nots."

Your money could not be better spent than in providing funds to make the retarded children as much useful and loved members of the community as any other persons.

Your contributions will be used to keep open the doors of A.R.C. Industries where graduates of Thornhaven School (those 18 and over) receive further training in certain types of assembly work.

Also to be kept in operation by funds contributed to the Association is a nursery school run three mornings a week for children too young to attend Thornhaven.

The school, staffed by one paid staff member plus a group of volunteers, should be operated five mornings a week but, at the moment, the Association just does not have the funds.

Thornhaven School, subsidized by the province, is no worry to the York Central Association. But they do have ambitious plans for a residence for the retarded within the near future.

"People don't realize the need for a residence of this type," said Joseph Dwyer, chairman of the residence committee. "With the advances in medicine today, the life expectation of the retarded is much greater than it used to be. These children grow to adults and very often do not pre-decease their parents. We need a residence with a family type of set-up for them."

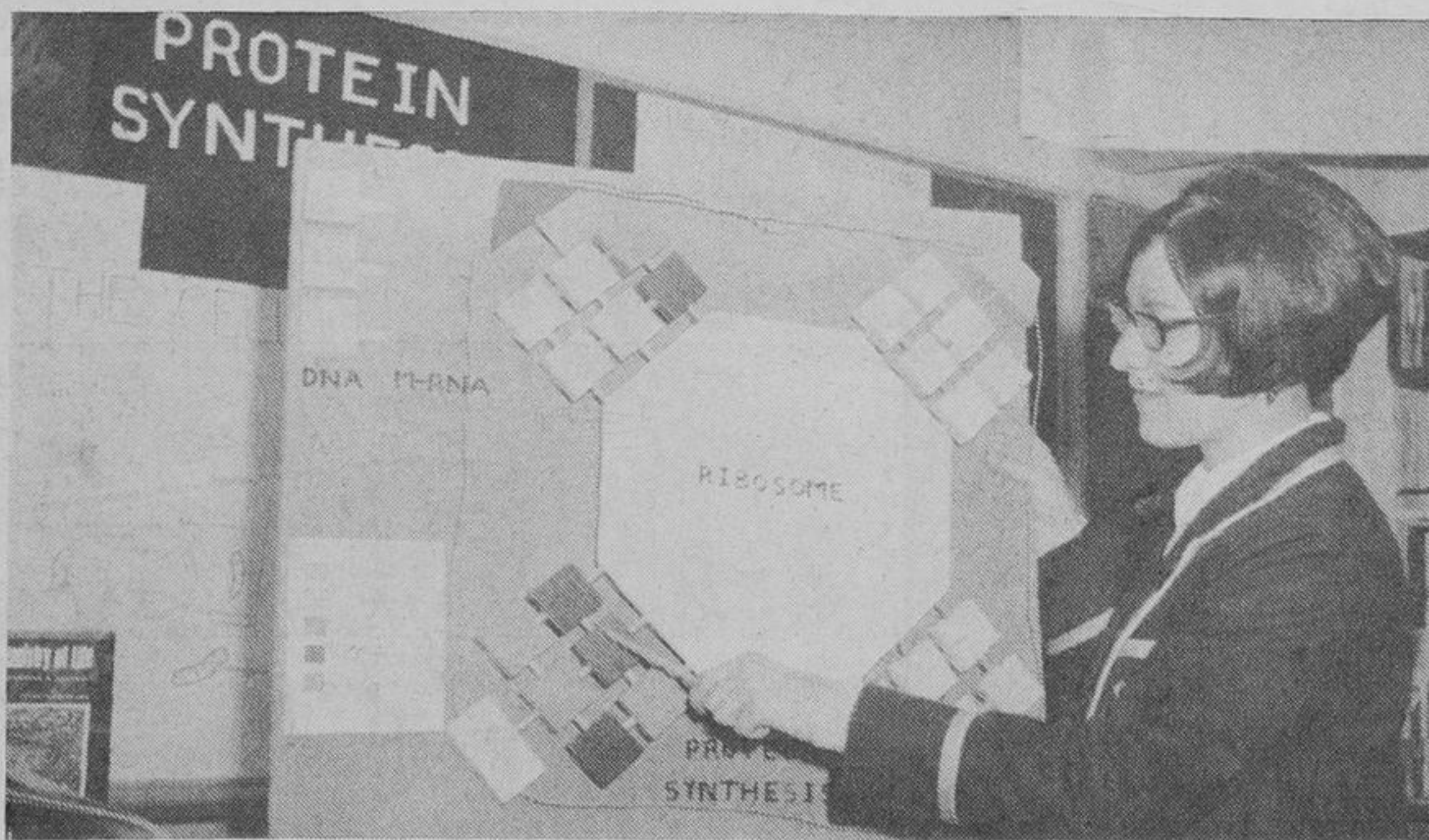
A meeting, open to the public, will be held May 21 at eight o'clock in Thornhaven School to discuss the need for a community residence. A panel discussion will be moderated by Donald Deacon, MLA York Centre. Everyone interested is welcome and urged to attend.

So why not plant "Flowers Of Hope" on May 12, Mother's Day, and the first day of Canadian Retarded Children's Week? Bring hope to the three percent of the population who must not be forgotten. Remember:

"No family is immune. Mental retardation strikes families rich and poor, learned and ignorant. It respects neither class nor race."

Many thanks to Clare Harrington of the York Central Association for mentally retarded for his assistance with information for this column.

*Cathy Wilson is a secondary school student residing in Richmond Hill



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

Lorna Foley, 19, grade 13 student at Langstaff Secondary School, explains the highly complex synthesis of a protein molecule with the help of a model she constructed for the Science Fair held at Bayview Secondary School, April 20.

A Science Happening At Bayview Secondary

By GREG PETERS

The glow of incandescent gases and the hum of electric generators greeted visitors to the first annual science fair at Bayview Secondary School, April 20.

The fair organized by the Bayview Science Club under the direction of science teacher William Denholm, brought together some 30 young researchers from York Central schools to display and demonstrate projects in biology, astronomy, geology, botany and atomic physics.

One of the three rooms devoted to the fair was set aside for electrically operated exhibits. Dennis Burgin and Douglas Craig, grade 12 students at Bayview, were bathed in the yellow glow of sodium vapor ignited by a 5,000 volt charge as they identified the light-wave bands

in a spectroscope. They explained that each gas has a particular light emission and that by identifying the light waves, the composition of even a distant star could be discovered.

Nigel Freeman, grade 9 Richmond Hill High School, explained the intricate theory of harnessing atomic energy with his model of the atomic reactor in use at McMaster University, Hamilton. Nigel also set up a cloud chamber which allows one to see the path of atomic particles as they travel from radioactive needles through a dry ice vapour.

In the geology laboratory, Lorri Sim, 17, of Bayview Secondary prepared mineral samples for slide projection and study. Mineral chips are forced under heat and pressure into a small block which can then be photographed. Science teacher Jan Kjollesdal explained that

the geology course was designed to allow students to become Sunday geologists on weekend trips to the cottage.

Wolfe Dudd, 17 in grade 11 at Bayview, demonstrated how minerals could be identified in the field by means of a portable chemical test kit. By burning the mineral and comparing the colors of residue in a charcoal block against a standard chart, the chemical composition of a mineral may be determined.

Because of a car accident, the science fair had an unplanned exhibit. Students had brought to school three tiny jack rabbits whose mother had been killed and Mr. Kjollesdal used this opportunity to let the students feed the small bundles of fur and gain a sense of the reverence for life.

A junior astronomer, Shirley

Baker, in grade 9 at Langstaff Secondary, displayed an illuminated diagram of the planetary system showing the sizes and distances of the planets in relation to the sun.

The botany room which housed the living collection of ferns and mosses of Peter Reiss, grade 10 at Langstaff, was the quietest area of the fair. Peter explained that he had gathered the mosses near his home and had identified all but a few of the many different types.

As well as building the displays, some of which took up to a month of part time work to complete, most of the students also prepared a detailed report on their project which will form part of their year's work in science.

Agricultural representative for York County A. A. Wall, of

Newmarket, was invited to judge the displays and he awarded the grand championship to 15-year-old Nigel Freeman and the reserve championship to Peter Reiss. First and second standings in different categories went to: Lorna Foley, Wolfe Dudd, Chemistry; Peter Reiss, Robin Sawchyn, Biology; Nigel Freeman, Jim Campbell, Physics and the general class awards went to Dave Langeman and Arlene Reiss.

As staff advisor for the fair at the host school, Mr. Denholm said that plans are already underway to develop the program which will be held in other schools in the York Central area in the coming years. Mr. Denholm added that the winners in the different categories will receive prizes at a future school assembly.



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