

Our "professional" into her 5th year

By HAL BLAINE

She put on a pair of skates at age 4 and never looked back.

Being a professional figure skating teacher was then her fate.

That's Marion Knott, 24, teaching "pro" at the Richmond Hill Figure Skating Club. She's starting her fifth year here.

Born and raised at Leaside, she was taken along to the skating club by her mother who skated for fun.

Now Marion is teaching that same class for housewives that her mother attended. The class is still getting a lot of response.

"You get used to it," she says of the skating teacher's schedule. Much of the time she starts at 7 o'clock in the morning and finishes at 10:30 at night.

"Of course, you're not teaching continually all day during those hours. I get home," she says.

Her husband of two years, is a high school sweetheart.

"That's why he understands this crazy business . . . the hours. He knew what he was in for."

He's a sales manager at Toronto Eaton Centre.

Besides Richmond Hill and Leaside clubs, Marion also teaches at Pine Point and Markham.

Her first year of teaching was at St. Catharines. Then came Richmond Hill. After first putting on skates she wobbled for three years. Then lessons started at age 8.

At the Leaside club until age 11, her parents joined the Granite Club. She then had more ice time and it was more beneficial to skate there.

Her professional teacher was Osborne Colson, top Canadian professional mainly known for choreography.

She kept taking lessons with him at Leaside and skating at Granite.

COMPETITION EXPENSIVE
Her teacher's interest may have had something to do with the direction she took.

But the reasons she gives for becoming a teacher are different. Competition is very expensive and time consuming, while you have to focus on just one area of skating.

Unless you feel you are likely to be among the top five in Canada, you have to put in a tremendous effort without the prospect of winning, she says.

She's more interested in choreography and the artistic aspect of skating.

You don't have time for that if you're in competition. And choreography is not nearly as time consuming.

Mrs. Knott studied music for years,



MARION KNOTT

earning her Grade 8 in piano and Grade 2 in theory.

That's proved very helpful to her in teaching where she produces music for programming and shows.

You have to know music to some degree to effectively do the selecting and splicing required.

Her skating teacher worked in the summer for many years at the Banff School of Fine Arts in Alberta.

She went to Banff with him each summer for seven years.

There she was also taught by Don Jackson, world champion in 1962 but never an Olympic competitor. He's still teaching, is in skate manufacturing, and is still the greatest free skater around, she says.

FAVORED TEACHING
Mrs. Knott never really leaned toward competition, but found herself always gearing toward teaching. She studied jazz and ballet for seven years, most of it at Banff.

Now because of that training she's teaching off-ice conditioning in the Richmond Hill figure skating summer school that's been running for three years now.

She also coached skaters last summer, also at the Richmond Hill new arena. The summer program ran seven weeks this year, with two test days.

Each year it has been getting larger and larger. This year there was a large number of skaters and good test results, she says.

Mrs. Knott didn't have a great deal of trouble fitting in her high school education, even though she missed most morning classes from Grade 11 on.

She got by with the help of the occasional tutor. It was a lot of work but she kept passing and pulled through.

The Liberal Section C community news

Wednesday, November 2, 1977

R. Hill skating club coming into its own

The Richmond Hill Figure Skating Club is beginning to earn recognition in the Metro Toronto area, says Marion Knott, five-year teaching "pro" here.

The club has to face a highly competitive type of climate in the surrounding area, "but we're building up to that", she says.

"Membership is about what it was last year. It's not dropping as it has at a number of clubs. We've gotten around that somehow."

Richmond Hill this year will be the host club Jan. 14 to the winter testing for all of the Metro area. This will be a big and exciting event.

Recently a Sunday clinic for junior coaches was held with more than 100 attending.

These people are senior skaters who take a course so they can teach the national badges, the basics system for beginning skaters, says Mrs. Knott.

The club again will be holding an annual fun day March 4 as was done last year so successfully.

Fun day has something for each child. They compete among themselves on their own level. There are six different levels.

It's less expensive and better enjoyed than the usual annual figure skating show, she says.

The club this year, as usual, will have two test days.

The Richmond Hill club also operates off-season schools. Actually, nowadays in figure skating, activities go year-round except for a June break.

This year the club has split up the former large classes in teaching sessions.

With fewer skaters on the ice at once, there is more attention and skating for each youngster. They're not crowded in to save money.

"In the intermediate we have 30 to 40 at a time, which is great," says the "pro".
The Richmond Hill club has been

rebuilding ever since the Thornhill club opened three years ago. A lot of skaters were lost to the new club.

The roster of good skaters is getting built up. A fine young skater, Debbie Godfrey, 12, is entering pre-novice ladies' singles competition.

Debbie has to enter the sub-sectionals first. If she qualifies as is hoped, she will be in sectional competition the first weekend of December at the Ice Galaxy Club, Scarborough.

But for the skaters who won't enter the very tough sectionals, there is local inter-club competition.

This is for those in five neighboring clubs who want to compete, but not on a very large scale. Richmond Hill has always done well in this competition.

The inter-club is at Stouffville on Feb. 12 this year.

There are six teaching professionals at the Richmond Hill Figure Skating Club. Four are women and two are men, one a dance professional.

One "pro" is a local club product, Lynda Taylor, who skated a year with the Ice Capades and came back two years ago. She also teaches at Oak Ridges Club.

Louise Loriaux, new this year, skated with Mrs. Knott at Banff. They had the same teacher for several years.

Louise competed for several years, then joined an ice show. She toured in Mexico and California as a soloist. She is just back from a tour in Taiwan.

The Richmond Hill club is now several weeks into winter season activities, but skaters are encouraged to join anytime during the year.

"They join right up to the end of January. In fact, after Christmas seems to be the big time for a lot to join. That's when many people think of new things to do," says Mrs. Knott.

Although some clubs impose age limits, Richmond Hill has none.

It's best to start at age 3 or 4 but the majority start at age 5 and 6. Others keep joining at later ages.



186 Steeles Ave., Thornhill

"Handsome" homes

By MERILYN McKELVEY
(Tenth in a series)

Scattered throughout the Town of Markham there remains a number of handsome houses built by gentlemen farmers in the early part of the 1800's. While many were built of wood or stone, some of the most interesting houses are those built of brick.

Cricklewood, at 54 Wild Cherry Lane is one such brick house and it was discussed in this series of articles on August 19. There are two other brick houses built in the same Georgian style in the Thornhill area. At 186 Steeles Avenue is a house possibly built in the 1820's. The crown grant to this property which extended from Yonge Street to Bayview Avenue, was granted to William Ladner Wilson in 1795.

However it is William Robinson's name which appears in the early directories of the Township as owning the eastern half of the lot, at least by 1837, and so it is believed that the house was built by Robinson.

A farmer, Robinson was appointed a lieutenant in the First Regiment of York Militia in 1818 and he continued to farm this area until at least 1878.

In 1939, Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Macdonnell purchased the property and their restoration of the house was featured in House and Gardens in 1945.

The wall between the two typical small parlours was removed to

create a 30 foot living room and a dining room and library were formed from a bedroom and a storeroom. The kitchen was extensively modernized and a washroom was added. The Macdonnell family still own the house.

At 288 John Street, next to the Thornhill Community Centre, is another Georgian style brick house. Now owned by the Town of Markham, this house was built by John Welsh, a farmer, probably in the late 1840's.

William Welsh, probably John's son, born in 1848 and married to Susan Morgan in 1876, had assumed the property by 1878.

The three houses are very similar in design, featuring the Georgian characteristics of symmetry, harmonious proportions and little exterior decoration.

The red brick is complemented by yellow brick which appears over the windows, in bands around the houses and at the corners.

In the central bay of the first storey in all the houses is the main entrance. The doorways are recessed and surrounded by rectangular transoms and side lights.

Additions have been made to Cricklewood and the Robinson House but they do not detract from these houses' overall appearance.

A decorated verandah with a tent roof was removed from the front of the Robinson House and traces of the roofline are still visible in the brick.

Note system helps teachers find kids

By MILLIE STEWART

The note system inaugurated by the Block Parent Organization is working very well in the schools.

Using the note system, a parent will contact the school either by a note sent with another child or by calling the school on the first day a child is absent.

If the school has not been notified of a child's absence, they will then try to locate the parents to check on the child.

Failure to locate either parent or guardian and gain knowledge of the

child, will result in immediate action being taken to determine the whereabouts of the child.

If ultimately, this means notifying the authorities, this will be done.

Therefore, if a child should be missing, a search will commence early in the day, instead of several hours later when the child fails to return from school.

The schools are finding it much easier to keep track of attendance with the note system in operation. They are also finding the contact with the parents to be of benefit to all.

Bridge winners

Cleta Dieken 727-5789

Wednesday, October 19 — North-South: Rose Morrell and Grace Saunders; Edith and Herbert Hobson; Cora

Gillham and Betty Hull. East-West: Hank Sharp and Sherry Vogan; Cleta Dieken and Ann Jansen; Marie Ryan and Lil Thompson.

Friday, October 21 — North-South: Steve and Bonnie Heller; Wendy and John Hunter; Edith Hobson and Aleda McBride.

East-West: George Payment and Victor Cronshaw; Sandy Jenkinson and Cleta Dieken; Joan and Wylene Byers.

Observers: Kevin Semple, Glen Roemer, Blair Atkins, Lorne Atkins, Jeff Rowen and Stephen Parker.

Artist: Kevin Semple, Blair Atkins and Lorne Atkins.

Collectors: Neil Jones.

Musicians: Neil Jones. The pack also visited the Richmond Hill Fire Department last week.

Monday, October 24 — Swiss Team Winners: Gerry Browning, Stewart Cole, John and Wendy Hunter; Rose Morrell, Grace Saunders, Edith Windsor and Mable Howe; Omar Khamissa, George Newton, Ron Dicke and Florence Laundry; Geoff Parker, Bev Jones, Victor Cronshaw and Richard Charlebois.

For information or partners call Ann Payment 727-3873. Coming events are Friday, Nov. 4, Swiss Teams and Nov. 7 is a No Zero Game.

HELPMATE INFORMATION COMMUNITY CALENDAR

883-2234

November

883-2234

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
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| | | | 2 Adult Education Seminar "Marriage enrichment". St. Gabriel's Church. 8 p.m. Hospital Auxiliary, Richmond Heights Branch annual dessert bridge. Richmond Hill Golf Club. 1.30 p.m. Parent Concern group. 8-10 p.m. 884-3503. | 3 Richvale Writers' Club. Richvale Community Centre. 8 p.m. 884-0855. Recreation Club for disabled adults. Joseph A. Gibson school, Maple. 6.30 p.m. Soccer team rummage sale. Richmond Heights Plaza. Next to Mr. Donut. 6-10 p.m. Air cadets, Legion building. 7 p.m. Organic Garden. Gallanough Library. 8 p.m. | 4 St. Matthews Church annual bazaar. 7-9 p.m. Dessert court, baking, knitting, aprons, toys, etc. Fall Face-Off Dance. Maple Minor Hockey Assn. 8.30-1 a.m. Maple Community Hall. 832-1057. Soccer team rummage sale. Richmond Heights Plaza, next to Mr. Donut. 6-10 p.m. | 5 Kinettes rummage sale. St. Gabriel's. 10 a.m.-noon. Cabaret Night. Richvale Community Centre. 8.30 p.m. R.H. Young Naturalists meeting. Main library auditorium. 10 a.m. Soccer team rummage sale continues. Monte Carlo & dance. Thornhill Community Centre. 8.30 p.m. |
| 6 Craft Show at Thornhill Community Centre. Sponsored by 8th Thornhill Parents Comm. Brownies, Beavers, Cubs & Scouts. 889-9702. York Philharmonic Choir performing "The Prodigal Son". Richmond Hill United Church. 7.30 p.m. | 7 Consumer mobile centre. At Hillcrest Mall until Nov. 18. Art Exhibit by Joan Rason and Janet Waterhouse. Main library. All month. | 8 Brass rubbing. Thornhill Community Centre Library. 8 p.m. 1st Langstaff Beavers, Cubs, Scouts, Ladies Auxiliary bake and plant sale. Charles Howitt School Library. 1-4 p.m. Concord Golden Era Club euchre. Concord Community Centre. 8 p.m. Fall luncheon & home sewing fashion show. Bayview Country Club. Noon. Mothers Break. R.H. United. 9.30-11 a.m. 884-6153. | 9 Adult Education Seminar "Marriage Enrichment". St. Gabriel's Church. 8 p.m. Parent Concern Group meeting. 8-10 p.m. 884-3503. | 10 Coffee House. York Central Assn. for Mentally Retarded. 8 p.m. St. Mary's Immaculate. Recreation for disabled adults. Maple. 6.30 p.m. 4th R.H. Cub-Scout parent meeting. St. Mary's Anglican. 7.45 p.m. R.H. United Church bazaar & luncheon. 10.30-3 p.m. 884-1301. Herbs discussed at Gallanough Library. 8 p.m. | 11 Richmond Hill midget hockey dance. St. Mary Immaculate. 8.30 p.m. Dress optional. Thornhill Minor Hockey Assn. fall dance & English pub night. Thornhill Community Centre. 8 p.m. 889-7291. | 12 St. Mary's Anglican Christmas bazaar. Noon-3 p.m. Happy Holidays bazaar & tea. 2 p.m. Maple United. Bazaar. Holy Redeemer School, 111 Aspenwood Dr. 10-3 p.m. Bazaar. Hillcrest Mall. York Central Assn. for Mentally Retarded. |
| 13 | 14 Consumer Mobile Centre. Hillcrest Mall. Until Nov. 18. Art exhibit by Joan Rason and Janet Waterhouse. Richmond Hill Library. All month. | 15 "Workshop On Nursing Homes". 9.30 a.m. to 3.30 p.m. Holy Trinity Parish Hall, Thornhill. Hospital auxiliary, Thornhill Branch. Dessert card party. Thornhill Community Centre. 7.30 p.m. Mother's Break at R.H. United Church. 9.30 a.m. - 11 a.m. Babysitting. 884-6153. | 16 Adult Education seminar "Marriage Enrichment". St. Gabriel's Church. 8 p.m. Parent Concern Group. 8-10 p.m. 884-3503. Maple Library Travel Program. "Hawaii". 8 p.m. Free. | 17 Recreation club for disabled adults. Joseph A. Gibson public school, Maple. 6.30 p.m. Transportation provided. Rotary Club Film Night. Bayview Secondary School. 8 p.m. Air Cadets. Legion Building. 7 p.m. | 18 York Central Hospital Gift Shop annual sale. | 19 Union Villa Christmas Bazaar. 2-4.30 p.m. 297-2150. Thornhill Lions fall frolic & elimination draw. Thornhill Comm. Centre. 8.30 p.m. Christmas Bazaar. St. Mary Immaculate. 10 a.m.-2 p.m. St. Paul's Oak Ridges, Bazaar. 2-4.30 p.m. St. Gabriel's Holyberry Bazaar. 11 a.m.-3 p.m. 884-3694. |