

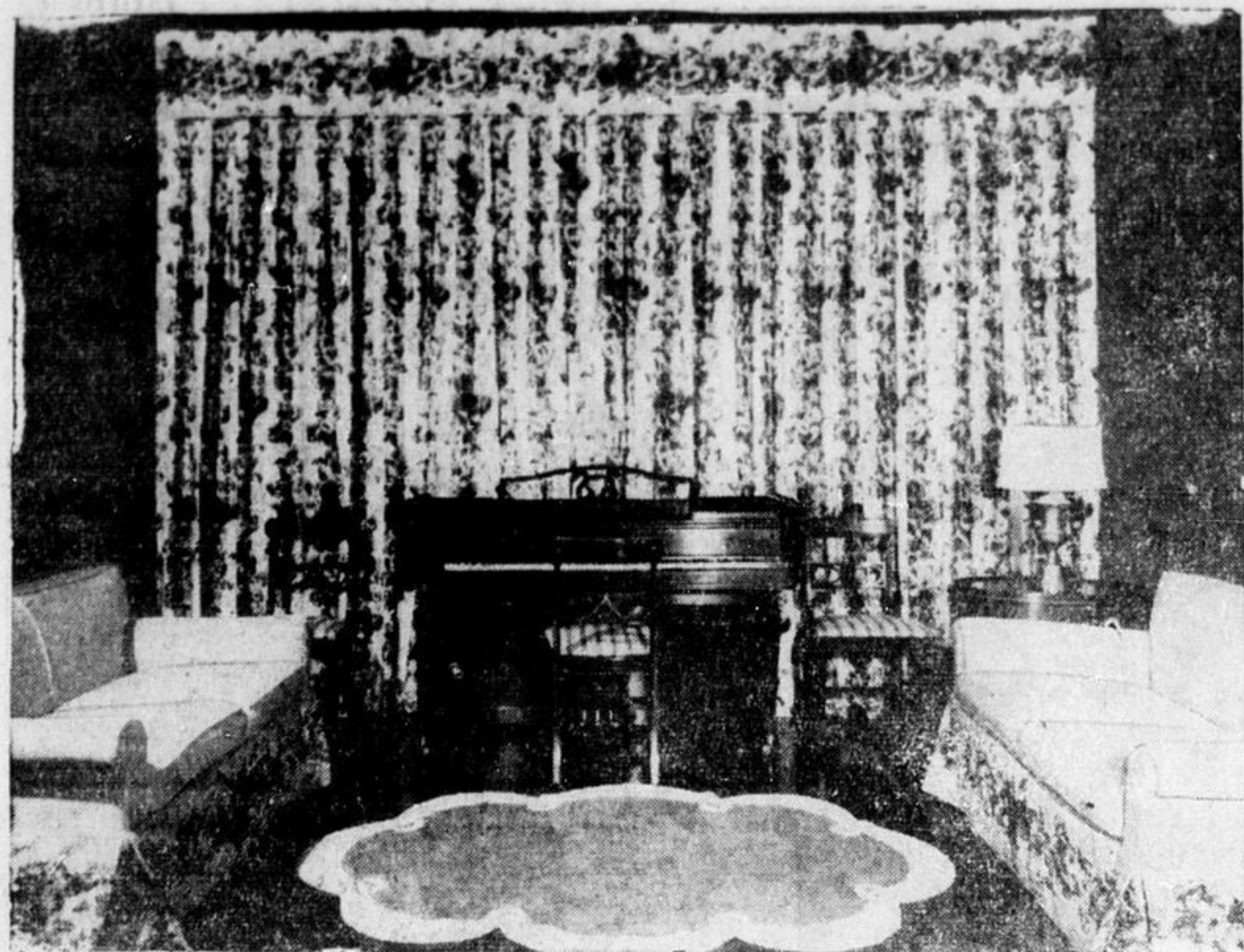


PLEASANT HOMES

by Elizabeth MacRea Boykin

THERE'S MUSIC IN THE AIR

With More People Staying at Home, the Piano Again Becomes the Center of the Family Stage — It Will Have an Important Place on the Morale Front.



The vogue for small vertical pianos suggests graceful room arrangements. Here the piano is set in front of a wide window draped in flowered chintz. The two sofas are drawn up to face each other conversationally and to seat an intimate audience

Music will be one of the last things to be affected by war rationing, because of its important place in the morale programme. One expert called our attention to news from the Russian front of brass bands that accompanied the Germans... when these were no longer practical, the Nazi troops dug out their harmonicas. Often they found them useful for signalling too, and gradually harmonicas have begun to appear also among the Russian troops. The need for cheerful tunes in that bleak scene is very moving we thought.

The piano manufacturers have not yet had any order for curtailment we're told, though they expect of course to be affected by the availability of various materials. But their need of metals involves very small amounts and, though imported woods will doubtless be scarce and may eventually be unobtainable, there are plenty of fine American woods that are entirely satisfactory. Plastic and glass pianos have been made but so far most experts regard wood as best for tones. There appears to be enough ivory and ebony for keys in stock for the time being and when that supply is exhausted, various substitutes can be used for this purpose. Copper for winding base strings can be replaced with other metals which were formerly used and a substitution will have to be made for brass hardware. Actually there is a good stock of pianos on hand in the warehouses of both retailers and wholesalers so that a shortage wouldn't be felt for many months even though manufacture should be entirely stopped which is not expected. Business has been good and there's no indication of a slump yet.

For Home Fun

Pianos in war time will, it is thought, enjoy a new era of popularity. People will undoubtedly stay at home more and that will mean more need for home entertainment. Besides, with no automobiles and less to spend money on, more of those war time wages will go for such home things as pianos.

As for news about styles and models, there's not anything revolutionary to report—after all this isn't a year for novelties. Most of the manufacturers we talked to predicted a continued de-

mand for the small pianos such as the vertical and the modern spinet. There is still a satisfactory selection of styles in pianos, including both traditional and modern designs. The piano should be placed thoughtfully in order to make the most of it from both decorative and practical view. Usually it's most graceful to get the long straight side of a grand parallel to the wall. Some of the new grands have both sides curved which makes them fit into rooms more easily. When placing a grand or spinet, we like it arranged so that the player's back doesn't face the room. The upright or vertical piano needs some frame of wall around it and should never be set caty-cornered. In the well-built or properly insulated house, it doesn't hurt to place the piano against an outside wall or even before a window when that seems the best place. Don't have it too close to a radiator, however.

In the Musical Family In the room where there is no fireplace, the piano makes an interesting focal point for the furniture arrangement. In the really musical household the piano should be made much of. A handsome grand can go right in the centre of the room, for instance, on an oval rug, with the chairs arranged around the wall, making a perfect setting for intimate concerts. Often the dining room can be adapted for a music room, especially when the piano on your mind is an upright.

If the piano is really used, then don't set ornaments, vases, photographs, sculpture and the like on it. But an antique square piano, an old spinet or melodian, kept for sentimental or antiquarian interest often makes a charming place to display objects d'art. But the piano that's seriously used should be kept pretty clear for action. If you have an old upright, set it into an alcove made by book shelves—or else set it against an interesting wall hanging or against a many panelled screen. If it's to go in a game room or nursery, why not paint it and decorate it with amusing designs. If it is to be used in a modern room, you might take off the old finish and bleach it.

In arranging a room with a piano, don't forget to provide good light, preferably a three way indirect lamp

placed so that both keyboard and music are properly illuminated. Have a music cabinet, a bookcase or magazine stand at hand to hold music. Don't neglect the comfort of the audience. Place the chairs and sofas in the rooms in such a way that everything doesn't have to be shifted and pulled from here to there in order to see and hear pleasantly. (Released by Consolidated News Features, Inc.)

Twenty Years Ago

from the Porcupine Advance Files

Twenty years ago there were specially important matters before the Timmins town council at its regular meeting. For this reason it may not be amiss to mention those present at the meeting. The mayor, Dr. J. A. McInnis was in the chair, and the councillors present were:—J. H. Bacon, E. L. Longmore, E. S. Noble, L. S. Newton, T. F. King and J. E. Morin. A. S. Carter, principal of the public school addressed the council in regard to the public library, urging the council to assist in getting it started as soon as possible. The first step necessary, he pointed out, was the appointment by the council of three members for the library board. The public school board had three members to appoint and the separate school board two. "As soon as these members are appointed," said Mr. Carter, "the mayor will call a meeting of the board and the installing of the library will be proceeded with." The council re-appointed the three selected by council in 1921, the mayor and Councillors Longmore and King, to act as the council's representatives on the public library board. With this, the next step was to have the public school nominate their appointees and then call the public library board together. It is interesting to recall that with all the work given by Mr. Carter and others it was two years before the public library was actually in operation. Patrons of the public library to-day owe a debt of gratitude to Mr. Carter and those supporting him for the persistence with which they upheld the plan for a public library in Timmins. The amount of benefit and enjoyment given to the people of Timmins by the public library here can not be measured in money, but certainly it is safe to say that the library has been worth double its cost. Another important matter before the town council was the question of the annexation of Mattagam Heights to the town of Timmins. Councillor Longmore suggested that the town should not be in a hurry about the matter. He pointed out that just the minute the town annexed the area there would be requests for water-works, sewers, roads, etc., and he felt the town could not finance these works at the time. Dr. McInnis said that the Mattagam people fully understood and agreed that they would have to wait for certain improvements. They wanted police protection, fire protection, water for the summer, street lights, and some other minor benefits that the town could give all right. Councillor Longmore replied that as soon as they were taken into the town they would have certain improvements that they would naturally insist upon and he did not see how the town could finance their needs on top of the present heavy demands upon the municipality. He also pointed out that the amount of taxes from the Mattagam area would not meet the requirements they had. Councillors King and Newton were impressed by the value to the town of having Mattagam Heights inside the municipality so that control could be exercised in regard to health, fire protection and other matters that affected the town. When the motion for the annexation was put to the council, all the members voted for the resolution, except Councillor Longmore. It must be admitted that while Mattagam people were much less insistent upon expenditures than some other parts of the town annexed at various times, the truth of Mr. Longmore's

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contention was proven in this case as well as in other instances. It was also announced at the council meeting that the Railway and Municipal Board had finally passed on the annexation of the Hollinger townsite to the town. In reference to the Hollinger townsite Fire Chief Borland told the council that the new section had the very best hydrant protection in town. It is also worthy of note at this time that the council at its meeting twenty years ago authorized provision for assistance to several widows in town who were finding difficulty in making sufficient to support their families. It was also decided to have more rigid enforcement of the milk by-law so as to better safeguard the children from the menace of impure milk.

The report in The Advance of Feb. 15th, 1922, showed that the campaign for funds for the St. Anthony's R.C. Church had resulted in \$28,000.00 being secured. The team captained by A. Courtemanche carried off the honours as the best canvassers. The objective aimed at was nearly doubled, this being made possible by the donation of \$10,000 by N. A. Timmins, president of the Hollinger Consolidated Gold Mines. The church here was named in honour of Mr. Timmins' patron saint, St. Anthony.

Harley Township Lady Starts on Her 85th Year

The North Land has often been described as a young man's country, but some recent incidents suggest that it is also an old people's country. One such illustration is given by the fact that an early settler of Harley township, near New Liskeard, last week celebrated her 84th birthday. Mrs. H. R. Baker, the lady in question, enters her 85th year in good health and strength. She came to the Temiskaming area in 1901. She celebrated her birthday last week by entertaining the other members of the Women's Institute to a very pleasing party, at which a nicely-decorated birthday cake was among the special features.

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