



PLEASANT HOMES

by Elizabeth MacRea Boykin

QUILTS,—AMERICA'S MOST LOVED HANDICRAFT
 Now They are Needed for Use as Well as Beauty—Store-Bought
 Packets are Scarce so American Women Fall Back on Their
 Own Designs

War times bring us down to earth and back to first principles. And that means, in terms of bedding, a return to the coverings our pioneer ancestors relied upon in the early days of American home making,— use of quilts. For with shortages of "boughten" bedding, the luxurious things we enjoyed in an abundant era of peace, we're having to think of warm coverings we can make out of scraps and left-overs. The quilt is first of all a utilitarian thing, and after that a thing of beauty.

To the Scrap Bag
 Even the fancy quilt materials you used to buy in envelopes all cut out and ready to sew are scarce these days, so women are really put back on their own resourcefulness for materials and designs. That will put the scrap bag back into practical use, and it will send many women searching their trunks and closets for warm scraps as well as pretty ones. For in addition to cotton materials, old wool clothes make wondrously warm quilts; we aren't suggesting that you cut up clothes that are good enough for anyone to wear, but many skirts, trousers and such like are too worn in vital spots for future wear, but there are grand big squares of good warm wool fabric that can be cut up and made into a wool quilt, to be lined with wool flannel preferably, or if that isn't available, use a lining of corduroy or plaid gingham. Cotton batting for filling is still available though wool batting is disappearing from store shelves.

Quilts go back a good long way in the history of our home-making. . . back to settlement days of America, back still further in Europe's history and even back to ancient times. It is true, however, that quilts and the art of making them has become a peculiarly American lore, full of romance and honest work and the simple, beautiful design which women make when they pour love and pride into their "home work."

Quilts, as we know them, are the combination of two distinct arts of the needle. . . Patchwork (or applique) and quilting, or the art of combining several layers of cloth and filling joined by intricate, tiny stitches. Both of these methods were known to the ancients, and the idea of combining the two seems to have been claimed by many countries. The ancient Persians made tapestries combining the two methods, and Portuguese missionary monks were said to have introduced the art to Europe when they returned from India. Botticelli experimented with patchwork hangings and, in 1540, Katherine Howard of England (later to become one of Henry VIII numerous Queens) was given a handsome present of 23 quilts from the Royal Household before her marriage.

For the Dowry
 The quilt was a sensible and much-needed item in every household, from the drafty castle to the cold, bleak hotel. It was an important part of every woman's dowry and a constant occupation for her after marriage. With the necessity of keeping guests over-night in the old hard-to-travel days, every household of any size at all must be prepared with many beds for guests, so the housewife had to keep adding to the family supply of coverings. And like women from the very beginning, they were not content to make merely useful covers for their beds,— they must pour into their making all their imagination, love of color and design and pride in fine work.

Thus it is that we have a treasure of American folk art in the quilts of our country. From pre-Revolutionary days down through the years, quilts have been made and saved and have acquired a history and romance all their own. Back in Colonial days, one bride sent her list of requirements to England and along with "4 dozen of good walnut chairs, and a great chair for a chamber, all black walnut" she stated



This attractive old quilt is quite congenial with modern furniture, and especially interesting with a fern mural above the bed. This photograph was taken in the home of Clifford Furst.

ed that she was in need of "108 quilts." But most middle-class housewives made their own, spending their long, lonely evenings at the quilting frame, using the winter time to patch together the beautiful designs they achieved and then in the spring, calling their friends together for a "quilting bee" to carry out the old idea that many hands make light (and beautiful) work.

The Quilting Bee
 The quilting bee was one of the most beloved social events of the 19th century and acquired a lore and polish all its own. The ladies gathered early in the morning and set to work on the quilt with a will. The best of the hostesses' cookery was brought forth for the visiting needlewomen at noon, her pet beaten biscuits, her most succulent home-cured hams, her brilliant jellies and spiced preserves. In fact the quilting bee dinner would make any modern dessert blush for shame. After the dinner, the ladies returned to their work and gossip. Around about four, they all stopped and set out to prepare supper. The men came in from the fields, the children gathered at the back door and in the front yard. And after supper, the quilting party often went on to square dances and group singing. It was quite a day and a lot of work had been done. . . and in tradition for work-with-play carried on.

No wonder Stephen Foster wrote a gay song about "Aunt Dinah" and her party. . . a song we love to sing to this day.

The ladies had quite a lot to say about themselves at these bees. And, if the feminists cringe at such strictly female, domestic goings-on (somehow your strict feminist seems to always resent the innocent fun that women can have in performing home tasks happily and well), they can be reassured by remembering that the great Susan B. Anthony made her first women's rights speech at a quilting bee!

Quilt Names
 The names of quilt patterns are among some of the most magical and musical of our folklore. Yet today in the Tennessee and Kentucky mountains, where folks live much the same as their fathers and grandfathers, the

names and patterns persist, handed down from generation to generation. Every type of nomenclature is used, referring to flowers, the bible, the heavens, historical events, political figures and funny sayings. — "The Five Point Star," the "Pine Tree," the "Temperance Tree," "The Union," the "Confederate Rose," the "Garden of Eden," "The Bouncing Betty," . . . and the "Snail's Trail" and the "Toad in a Puddle." Fruits, flowers, birds, every type of design is formalized and found in the quilts and often wealth is determined by the number of quilts a lady owns. . . in fact the first thing a mountaintop homemaker might show you is her pile of quilts, often ceiling high, which she and her daughters have made themselves. The Smithsonian Institute has a thrilling collection of American quilts, and the WPA Index of Design has recorded an invaluable group of original designs.

All in all a quilt, like a garden, is a lovable thing, and deserving of good care. The popularity of quilts, quite aside from their beauty, has always had a lot to do with their ability to snap back into puffy shape after many launderings. Wash your quilts in the electric washer (alone, please) and never wring or whirl. Adjust the wet quilt in the line, matching corners carefully and allow it to drip dry. And of course you will never touch it with an iron. After each washing, however, it is a good idea to check the quilting stitches and quickly repair any little places that are coming unraveled.

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Form Necessary in All New Leases or Charges

The rentals administration of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board point out that form "R.C. 40" is important to all tenants and landlords. Severe penalties for failure to complete this form will be made, the administration warns. Form "R.C. 40" is a statement required of all landlords making or renewing leases after April 25th, 1942, when the lease involves a change of tenants, change of rental or change in services, equipment or accommodation supplied by him. The caution follows information that some people have failed to comply with the law in this regard. The lease may be oral or written.

Asking for voluntary co-operation before legal action is taken, officers of the rentals administration at the North Bay Regional Office said that it is important that these statements be filed since they assure that the tenant will know the maximum rental and the services which are to be supplied by the landlord.

"With rentals second only to food in the average Canadian's budget it is vitally important that ceiling levels be maintained," officials stressed. R.C. 40 records the lawful maximum rental as well as the services, equipment and other details which were supplied thereto and also gives particulars of the rental and services provided for in the new lease or renewed lease.

The copy of the completed statement must be given to the tenant at the time of the making of the lease. An other copy must be forwarded to the North Bay regional rentals office within ten days. It must be filed whether the lease is written or oral.

Globe and Mail:— On the home front there are fewer more serious problems than that of juvenile delinquency. All agencies must bend their best efforts to cut the growth of this increasing peril.

Porcupine Strolls Round Streets at New Liskeard

Last week there was some excitement in New Liskeard over the visit to that town of a live but not very lively porcupine. The animal was first noticed in the garden of Mrs. Ed. Fielding. The Porcupine pattered around the garden and eventually left there to proceed very leisurely towards adjacent bush. The porcupine passed within a few feet of Mrs. Fielding without any undue haste or attention. It is an odd fact that in past years porcupines have paid visits to Halesbury, New Liskeard, Cochrane and other towns in the North, but there are mighty few records of porcupines seen near Timmins, though this town is in the heart of the district named after the porcupine. It would appear that though named after the porcupine the Porcupine area has no particular number of porcupines. Indeed, other areas of the North are better supplied with porcupines than is the Porcupine. However, so long as the Porcupine has the gold, it will be able to get along without any material number of porcupine. Of course, some old-timers will insist that the camp was not directly named after the porcupine, but that the district derived its name from the lake—Porcupine Lake—which in turn was so-called, not because of the presence of any porcupines, but because its shape and appearance suggested a large porcupine on the landscape.

Toronto Telegram:— Human nature is what makes the man who holds the whip hand usually crack the whip.

Former Timmins Resident Fined on Hoarding Charges

Had Large Amount of Canned Goods on Hand.

Official memorandum from the Wartime Prices and Trade Board at North Bay says:—

A fine of \$75 and \$7.50 costs, or two months in jail was meted out to Mrs. Celia Pigeon, of Trout Lake, near Sudbury, when she appeared in the Sudbury Police Court Wednesday for sentence. Mrs. Pigeon was convicted the day previous in the same court on a charge of hoarding in violation of the Wartime Prices and Trade Board regulations. Provincial police and an investigator for the W.P.T.B. found 899 tins of canned goods alone, besides large quantities of sugar, lard and butter when her premises were searched on May 12. Mrs. Pigeon paid the fine.

In imposing sentence, Magistrate D. M. Brodie said, "considering the fact that she used up all available coupons when she had the goods on hand, I do not consider that the circumstances would warrant a nominal fine."

Included in the goods found at the hoarder's premises were 37 pounds of butter, 35 pounds of sugar, 290 pounds of lard, 298 tins of milk, 196 tins of grapefruit, 90 tins of green peas, 100 tins of tomatoes, 48 tins of vegetables, 24 tins of wax beans, 65 tins of corn, 32 tins of spinach, 16 tins of beet greens and 20 tins of pineapple.

THE LIFE STORY OF HARRY NIXON, PREMIER OF ONTARIO



Harry Nixon's people were United Empire Loyalists. His farm was pioneered by his grandfather over 100 years ago.



Ontario's premier was born on the farm in April, 1891. He was christened Harry Corwin Nixon and is always called just plain Harry.



He attended the little red school house down the road. Nights, mornings, Saturdays and holidays he helped on the farm.



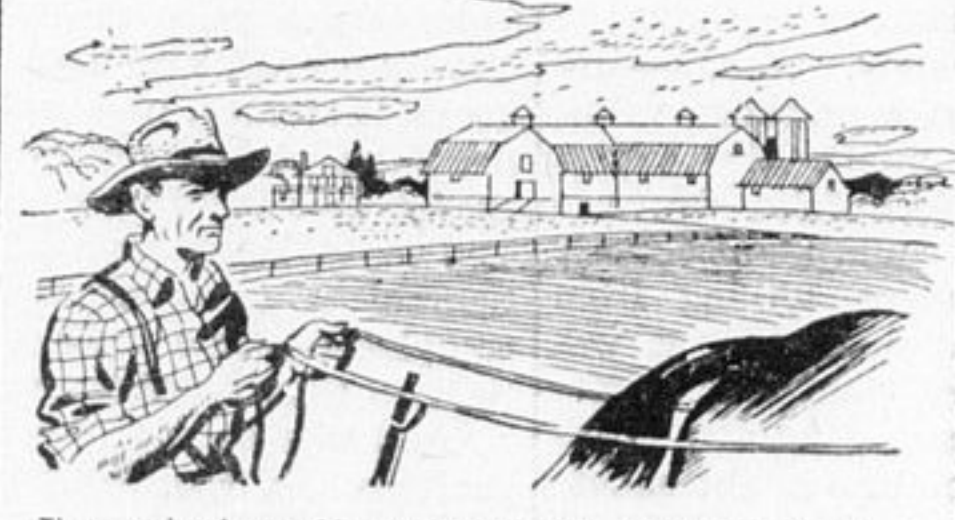
High School in Brantford was an exciting experience to young Nixon, but he worked hard and did well.



Four years of more hard work at Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph, proved Harry Nixon a studious and determined man and earned him the B.S.A. degree.



He returned to the farm, his chosen life work. On October 28, 1914, he married Alice Jackson, a Guelph girl who had graduated from MacDonald Hall.



Those who know Harry Nixon well, know him to be a man of sound business judgment as well as a successful "dirt farmer"



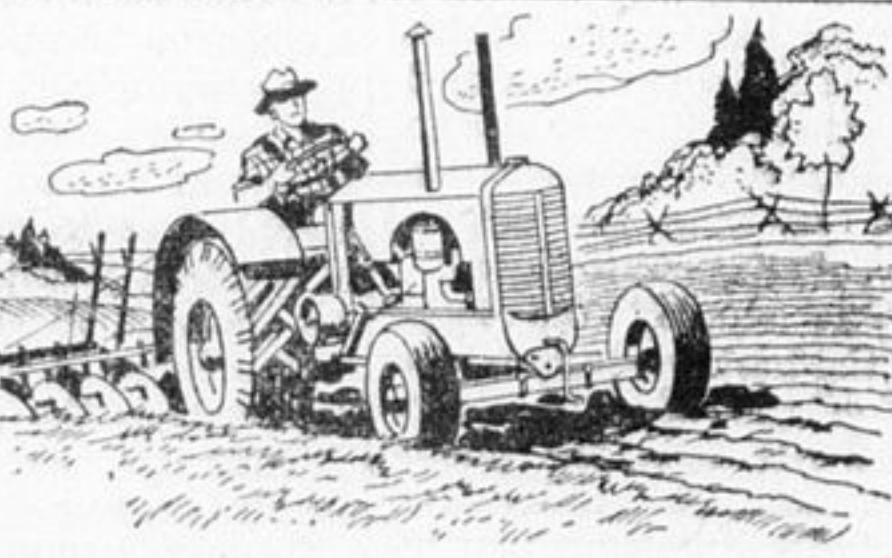
Working in his own quiet way, Nixon's qualities of leadership earned him a seat in the Ontario house in 1919.



At 28, Harry Nixon was the youngest Cabinet Minister in Canada.



The Nixon family are church-goers. They attend the United Church of St. George.



Harry Nixon has been a member of the legislature for Brant continuously since 1919, but farming is his occupation and he works at it.



Equally at home in a neighbor's drawing room or in his barn, it is said he has reached many important decisions while milking, a job he truly enjoys.



Whether at the farm or at the Parliament Buildings, he likes to relax in his shirt sleeves at the end of a busy day.



Nixon's quietly efficient ways and original thinking earned him a high place in government councils. At 45 he was many times Acting Prime Minister.



On April 30, 1943, an enthusiastic Liberal Convention made Harry Nixon leader of the party. He was then sworn in as Prime Minister. Now he wants his appointment confirmed by the people.



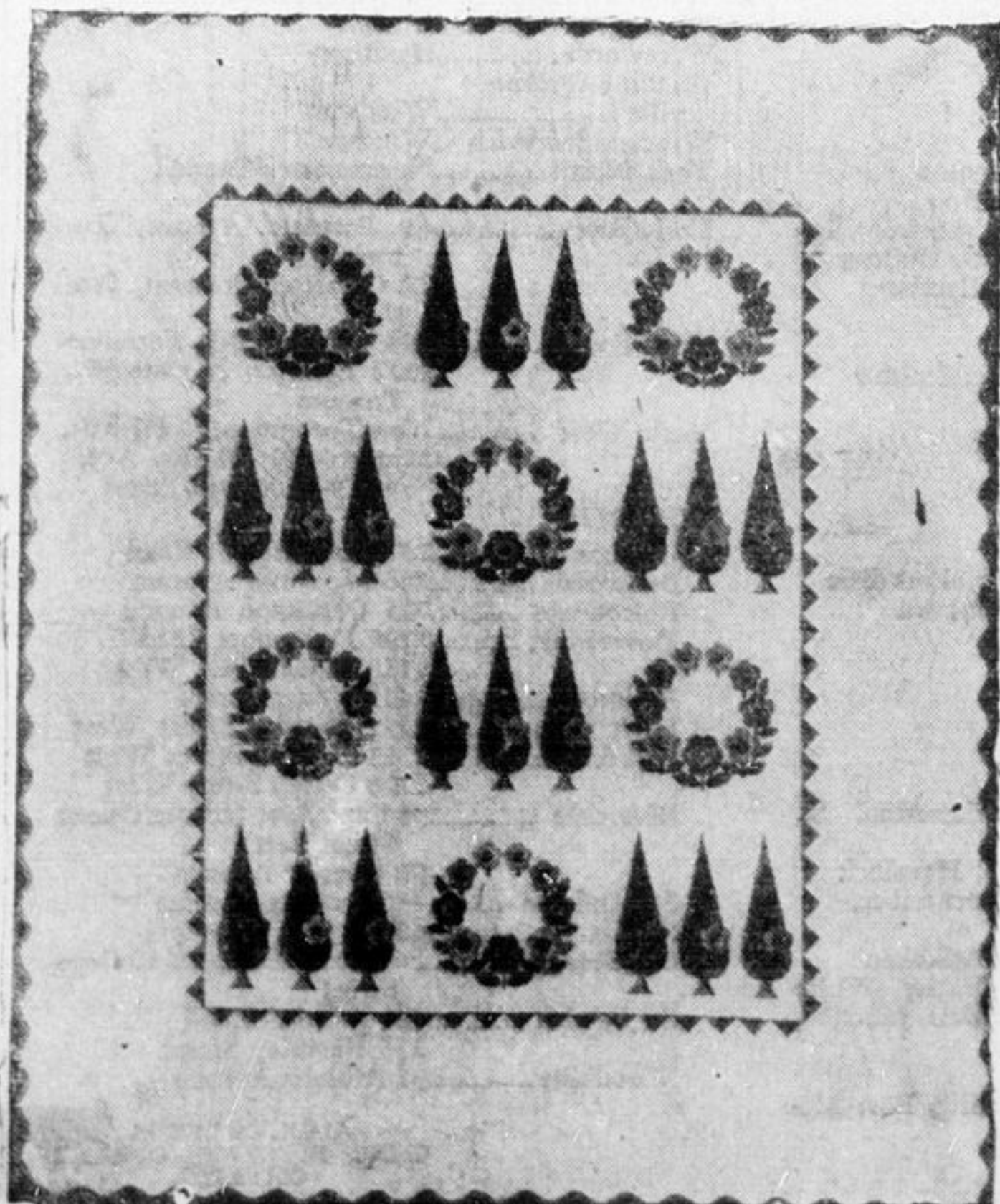
The Nixon family is "in uniform." Son Jackson, R.C.A.F., was killed in action over Germany; Katherine, R.C.A.F. W.D., is overseas; Margaret is doing confidential work at Ottawa. Both daughters married service men Bob (14) is working on the farm.



Mrs. Nixon is a friendly, motherly woman; a gracious hostess and sympathetic counsel. She is well liked wherever she goes.



Premier Nixon is a steady-driving statesman; a courageous thinker who has the will to get things done. His long administrative experience and level-headedness will ensure Progress and Unity in Government for Ontario.



This pine tree quilt is one of the loveliest designs we have ever seen, and challenges the artistry of needlewomen.

KEEP NIXON AT THE WHEEL FOR PROGRESS AND UNITY
VOTE LIBERAL AUGUST 4TH
ISSUED BY THE ONTARIO LIBERAL ASSOCIATION

Brunette for Cochrane South