

'Memorable' describes Mabel Crouch

By JEAN NAUTA
My first recollection of Mabel Crouch was that of a gentle, smiling dowager behind the lectern at Stouffville United Church.

Mabel was a lady, and true to her upbringing as a doctor's daughter, she maintained her aristocratic grace. Mabel had come to the area against her wishes when her husband, Stanley Stuart Crouch purchased a piece of property at the corner of Bethesda Road and the

7th Concession, (McCowan Road). The good doctor, one of the earliest orthodontists, wished to build a house at this location where he could 'semi-retire' and putter around. Mabel had her grand piano, her enthusiasm to learn a new piece

of classical music; her crochet work that resulted in place mats from discarded cotton yarns; and her strawberry patch. Over and above this, she had a fantastic memory. Perhaps it might concern the little girl ironing dolly clothes on the Sabbath, or the many syllabled king of a foreign land and his strange-sounding courtiers. There was no end to the amusing repertoire of this sharp mind.

In the '60s, Lemonville United Church claimed Stuart and Mabel Crouch.

Mabel began playing the organ for Sunday services. Soon she became the accompanist for a handful of mothers who enjoyed singing together.

The good doctor was soon to christen this group 'The Lemonville Ladies,' and 'wifey' played an important role in the choice of their music.

It was at this time we first heard about 'Auntie Grace' McPaul, a once-famous opera singer. She had owned the family landmark home called 'Lorne Villa' in Seaford. 'Auntie Grace'

had sung such numbers as 'I Have A Bonnet Trimmed With Blue.' Of course, we learned it too.

During one session of the Lemonville Vacation Bible School, it was noticeable that Mabel was pre-occupied with something other than the Bible songs the children were singing. There was that big old home, very empty and lonely up in Seaford. If only Mabel could convince the banker to extend a loan to her, she could purchase the 'grand old beauty' from the estate and go there to live. If she could just make all the necessary financial arrangements, she might just spring this on the good doctor as a surprise.

This was the beginning of a whole new life for Mabel. At age 70, she became a business woman. With some remodelling input from her husband and the help of a local carpenter, Mabel turned the house into five self-contained apartments.

Soon she found tenants among the seniors of the town, and with this success, was inspired to

renovate the 'Coach House' which, in itself, was no modest piece of architecture.

It was handily adapted to make two comfortable apartments and was later sold to a tenant so the Lady of the Big House could have less to manage.

There, Mabel lived in Apartment No. 5 of Lorne Villa; busy with the concerns of her tenants, her tea parties and her church organizations.

It was only during the last year of her life that Mabel moved up into the front apartments looking out on Main Street where she had enjoyed so many childhood holidays, and from where she could keep in contact with the happenings of the town.

In Lorne Villa, Mabel was the heart of the home.

She is often quoted in Lemonville for her saying: "Man is the head of the house, but woman is the heart of the home."

Mabel was the one with the fantastic memory. But it was she who made an indelible mark on the memories of her friends in Stouffville.

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New immigration stand will ease Ontario crunch

By RENE SOETENS
MP Ontario Riding
Immigration to Canada is the single issue that creates more work and phone calls than any other to date, at least in Ontario Riding.

Nationally, it has received much attention because of the supposed numbers of refugees 'streaming' into our country. However, in Ontario Riding, the activity is created by those trying to immigrate legally.

Barbara McDougall, Minister of Employment and Immigration, has announced Canada's intentions for immigration in 1989.

We have established a level of close to 160,000 immigrants to be admitted this year, up about 25,000 from 1988.

Immigrants are categorized and the number admitted are as follows:

Family reunification, 57,000; government assisted refugees, 13,000; privately sponsored refugees, 10,000; other refugees, 7,000; humanitarian, 6,000; selected skilled workers and families, 52,000; business, 13,000; retirees, 2,000.

Immigration, by its very nature, is a slow process that is not helped by the sheer volume of applicants.

Since most of the work is done at the Immigration Office in the foreign country, communication is difficult. Finally, a proper security clearance is required. This alone takes about six months.

What doesn't help is the number of line-jumpers landing here, claiming to be refugees. Of the 85,000 currently in the system, 34,000 arrived in the last six months, with another 10,600 the previous six months.

Obviously, this influx affects the Immigration Office's ability to deal with those who want to immigrate to Canada legally.

The Minister, in announcing the Government's plan to deal with the refugee claimant, made it clear: "no general amnesty will be allowed!"

The Government has allocated \$100 million to deal with the refugee backlog. We have established a panel that will determine which cases have a credible basis for a refugee claim.

Those determined to be credible will be processed for admission if they meet the health and criminality requirements.

Those whose claims are judged not to be credible will face removal from Canada. They can leave voluntarily or be escorted out, whichever they choose.

The backlog could take up to two years. In the meantime, the claimant will be allowed to work, which was not the case in the past. This should remove many from the welfare rolls as they will be allowed to support themselves.

Finally, the new Immigration Bill is now in force and the flood of supposed refugees has dropped dramatically. This suggests that many who arrived here the weeks and months before the Bill came into force, aren't refugees either.

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