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S'side Home & School Welfare Group Report

The following report of the Summerside Home and School Welfare Group was submitted by the retiring president, Mrs. Creel MacArthur at the annual meeting on Tuesday evening, in the High School:

"It is my privilege and pleasure to review the work of our organization for our third year. The first activity of our new year usually is the participation in the business of transporting the pupils to the Music Festival, and 1948 was no exception, unless it was that the bulk of the task was done by the Home and School. Mrs. Allison MacLean and her committee spent several days making arrangements for the two buses and 30 private cars to be on hand at the proper time to transport some 200 children to the Festival. Those competing did very well and were a credit to the town and their teachers.

"With many projects in mind for the future our organization then launched forth on a money-making spree. The spending came later. May was a strenuous month with a Rummage Sale and a Dance. All members co-operated splendidly in both ventures and gave their time willingly. The dance, held in the High School Auditorium was one of the most delightful affairs of its kind. The hall was beautifully decorated, the music excellent and the financial results very gratifying.

"The responsibilities entailed were shared by a great many members but I feel I must make mention of Mrs. Holman, our secretary, who was in charge of the invitations, both the printing and the issuing; of Miss Bowness whose committee of teachers and parents made hundreds of sandwiches; of Mrs. Ahearn for engaging the orchestra; of Mrs. MacLean, Mrs. Walker and husbands who took charge of the canteen; and Mrs. Horne, Mr. Murphy and others who looked after many details.

"At the school closing in June the prizes donated by the group to pupils from Grades 1 to 8, showing marked improvement during the year were selected by Mrs. Eric MacKay and Mrs. T. A. Campbell. The choosing of suitable books for these grades takes time and careful thought. I wish to commend the committee for their selections.

"Although we held no meetings in July and August we kept an eagle eye on the school for news of the House Economics Department due to open in the Fall. By the time we held our September meeting, Miss MacNeill was supervising a most attractive model department. Gladly we made a contribution of \$375.00 to the trustees to be used for sewing machines and any other equipment still required. When the official opening took place in November, we were proud to have had a small part in establishing a Home Economics Department in our school. We appreciate the action of the School Board in instituting this course, and congratulate them on the splendid, well-equipped room they have provided, as well as the success in obtaining a well-qualified and experienced teacher in the person of Miss Ruby MacNeill.

"At our September meeting, Mr. Mercer gave a most interesting talk on the various school activities and outlined several projects he had in mind for the year.

Teacher Shortage Problem

"In October, we heard a comprehensive report on the teacher shortage by Mr. J. A. Stewart Williams, general secretary, P. E. I. Teachers' Federation, who explained the reasons for it, and made some concrete suggestions for remedying the situation. During October we held a successful Tag Day, under the convener'ship of Mrs. Eric MacKay. The gratifying results would not have been obtained without splendid organization and the co-operation of the members in general.

"In place of the meeting for November, it was decided to concentrate our efforts toward making the public aware of Education Week. That week was high-lighted by the remarkable display of projects done by the pupils in our school and by the official opening of the Home Economics Department by our Director of Education, Dr. L. W. Shaw, whose kindly interest and words of encouragement were deeply appreciated by pupils, teachers and parents.

"In an endeavour to make education of vital interest to every parent the P. E. I. Teachers' Federation and the Department of Education arranged that many excellent addresses and newspaper articles were contributed during the week. Mrs. Thane A. Campbell, representing the Home and School Welfare Group, gave a splendid talk on the aims and functions of such a group as ours.

"December brought us hope that the Manual Training or Industrial Arts Course was a possibility. After much discussion on ways and means of equipping such a department, the members decided to try

to obtain the tools by asking for donations from individuals and business firms.

"However, before we started our drive, the Y's Men's Club decided to equip completely a room with such tools as were required. This praiseworthy move on their part has won the admiration and gratitude of us all. Our organization was happy to make a contribution of \$128.00 towards reconditioning work benches for the boys. At this time we also contributed \$50.00 to the Art Department, which is proving itself to be a tremendous success. The children love it and the work of some of the pupils show that real talent is being given a chance to develop.

"At our January meeting we were pleased to have Chief Justice Campbell as our guest speaker. Many other fathers were present and at the close of the meeting, all inspected the new work-room. During the same month many members attended the film "Who Will Teach Your Child" sponsored by the teachers of the Province.

"In February, we had a most informative discourse on Federal Aid for Education by Mr. James Murphy, President of the P. E. I. Teachers' Federation, and one of the teachers in our school. During the discussion which followed, regret was expressed that more citizens had not been present to learn what the Canadian Federation of Teachers are trying to do for education right across Canada.

Teachers' Brief

"Of interest to all was a resume of the brief presented to the Federal Cabinet during the past winter. It is apparent that the teachers realize the need for more and better teachers, but do the parents? and what are we doing about it? February also saw the home and school in a new role - dramatics. Two one-act comedy plays and a musical program made an excellent evening's entertainment. Miss Estelle Bowness, who conceived the idea, capably directed one of the plays, and Mr. Norman Macdonald, the other. Both were exceptionally well acted and thoroughly enjoyed by the audience. Mr. John Leuty, in presenting a Men's Chorus, provided a musical treat which received favorable comment. To these directors and their casts we extend our grateful appreciation and hope a similar concert will be presented next year. Many members shared in the production of this entertainment - Mrs. Arch. Hopkins took care of the advertising; Mrs. Roy Ahearn, the program; Mr. Hopkins, tickets at the door and usher; Mrs. Allison MacLean, the sale of candy; Dr. H. E. Clark, the properties; Mrs. H. T. Holman, Jr., the tickets; Mrs. Woodside, Mrs. Crockett, many small stage details; and of course all the members sold tickets, and judging by the large audience they were well received by the public.

"Libraries, adults and visual education play an ever-increasing part in the general education of today, and it was fitting that one of our evenings be devoted to them. Mr. Bramwell Chandler, Director of P. E. I. Libraries and Adult Education for the Province, addressed our March meeting, stressing the importance of adequate libraries in schools, the value of films in teaching and the possibilities of adult education.

"The past year has brought about the fulfillment of some of our main ambitions for our school. Since we organized just three years ago there have been vast improvements which we hoped for but knew could not be instituted by such a group as ours. Nevertheless, we do feel a glow of satisfaction in the thought that we may have, in some small way, contributed morally and financially to their beginnings.

"We have been most fortunate in many ways: First, in having a School Board, who saw the need of a Supervisor in our school; Secondly, in having in that Supervisor a man deeply interested and completely absorbed in improving the standard of education here; Thirdly, in having a School Board that would act in putting into practice to a large extent, many improvements recommended by that Supervisor. Great credit is due Mr. Clarence Mercer, who has been responsible for these tremendous changes. Undaunted by lack of space and lack of money to carry out some of his ideas, he has persevered to the point where he now has the school set up as an example for others. The three new

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departments opened this year, namely the Home Economics, Industrial Arts and the Art Department are evidences of his vision and initiative. "During the year we saw two splendid exhibitions of work done by the pupils, one in November of special projects from each classroom and drawings from the Art Room; and just recently the Handicrafts Exhibit of many and varied articles made by pupils of all three new departments, as well as many interesting pieces of hand work from all over the county. "We were all very happy to have Dr. Shaw with us again on this occasion to approve and encourage

Continued on page 15

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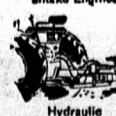
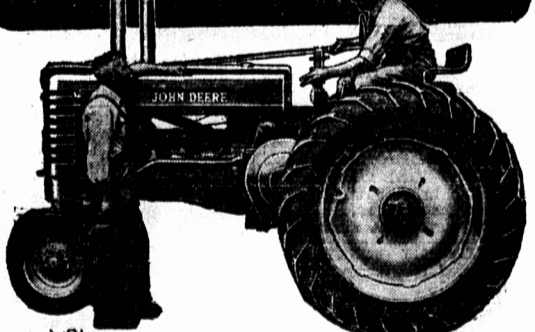
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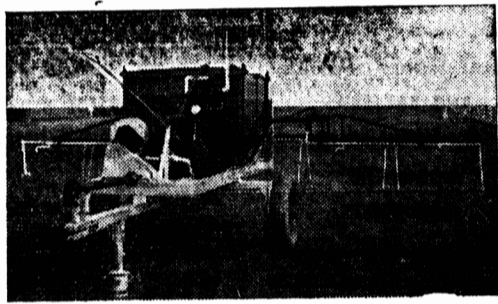
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Funeral Service For Accident Victims

Death is always tragic, but is still more of a tragedy when it takes away two beloved children of one family. Recently Abram's Village was plunged into mourning by the accidental death of three of its young boys.

Two brothers Joseph and John Peter, sons of Mr. and Mrs. Glorice N. Gallant, accompanied by their cousin, Ralph, oldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Sylvère DesRoches, all of Abram's Village but who were then employed in St. John, were returning after having visited friends in Chipman, near St. John, N.B. on Saturday, April 2. They had decided to rest in their car until daylight before continuing on their way. They were found the next morning, all three asphyxiated in the car.

Their bodies were taken to Egmont Bay, their native parish, to be buried in the St. James cemetery.

The funeral service was sung by Rev. Father Charles Gallant, who had been a friend of the deceased. Rev. Father J.N. Poirier acted as deacon, and Rev. Father Leonard MacDonald, of Wellington Parish, as sub-deacon. Rev. Father Buote of Mont Carmel acted as master of ceremonies. Ralph DesRoches, 26 years of age, and Joseph Gallant, 26, were veterans of the last war. They were accompanied by the Canadian Legion who granted them military honors. John Peter, only 20 years of age, hadn't had to fight for his country but the numerous prayers which his friends offered for him witnessed the

esteem in which he was held.

The pallbearers for Ralph DesRoches were, Frank DesRoches, Uric, Octave and Louis Gallant, Leo J. T. and Timon Arsenault, all veterans.

The pallbearers for Joseph Gallant were, John Peter and Peter Gallant, Joseph J. B. Alyre and Robert Arsenault, and Syrus Gallant, also veterans.

For John Peter Gallant, the pallbearers were his three cousins, Alfred, Norman and Edgar Gallant, and three friends, Timon, Nazaire and Syl Arsenault.

The Gallant brothers leave to mourn, besides their sorrowing parents, five sisters and seven brothers. Mrs. Augustine Rickar (Madelene) of Montreal; Mrs. Theodore Arsenault (Irene) of Egmont Bay; Mrs. Clarence Hoache (Brigitte) of Richmond; Mrs. Alfred Drapeau (Rita) of Ottawa; Therese, now employed in St. John; Alberie, Armand and Norbert, all three employed in St. John; Augustine, of Abram's Village; Leo, of Newfoundland; and Joseph on the homestead.

Ralph DesRoches was the oldest of the family and besides his parents leaves to mourn, five sisters, Nora, Margaret, Melanie, Ann-Marie and Therese, all at home, and four brothers, Nazaire, now in Hamilton, Ont.; Arthur and Douglas, of St. John, and Joseph, at home.

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