

Young Canada Club

By DIXIE PATTON

THE PRIZE WINNERS

I had about decided that I had found the lane which has no turning when I was judging the last story contest, there were such piles of letters to read and so many pins to distribute over the country. But everything is cleared away at last and the prizes awarded to Edwin Beingsner, age twelve, Champion, Alta.; Erna Humbke, age eleven, Duhamel, Alta., and David Russell Robinson, age nine, Clair, Sask.

Shall I tell you why I liked these three letters best? Beginning then with Edwin's, tho there were some parts of it I did not like as well as others, all thru it he showed that he had the power to let himself go when writing. You know there are people who, the moment they take up a pen, get as stiff and unnatural as possible. Now Edwin isn't that sort of person.

It was for quite another reason that I fancied the story written by Erna Humbke. It was because Erna showed a very pretty fancy in wanting to be a fairy, and you must know that imagination is also one of the great factors in story writing. I had two reasons for giving a prize to Russell Robinson, the first being that he expresses himself very well for so young a man, and the second that he has a very beautiful idea to express. If the qualities of these three writers could be shaken up together they would make an ideal combination, but as it is they have acquitted themselves very well indeed.

In addition to these prize letters there were several that I liked very much indeed. One of these is the letter by Anna Thiessen, Laird, Sask., which is so quaintly worded; another is by Alberta Johnston, Bruce, Alta., and a very charming little story by Beverly Bryant, Lake MacGregor, Alta. I liked also the letters by Charlotte Lutt, Rouleau, Sask.; Alice May Webb, Skipton, Sask.; Delia Holmberg, Viking, Alta.

DIXIE PATTON.

MY PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

A Prize Winner

There are many things I would like to do and be when I grow up, but best of all I would like to be a naturalist.

I would live in a tent near a lake and have a camera, a field-glass and a boat.

I would watch the deer and learn as much as I could about them. I would watch them when they would come to the lake to drink. I would also watch the beavers cut down trees and make dams and build their houses.

I would like to watch the robins and learn their ways. I would find their nests. And I would also watch the geese and their goslings.

I would make a collection of flowers, like lilies, lady's slippers, ferns, orchids, and other rare flowers.

I like natural history. I like being outside very much.

D. RUSSELL ROBINSON.
Clair, Sask., age 9 years.

WOULD BE A WANDERING FAIRY

As the topic is what we wish to be and do when we are grown up, I will tell you my wish. It is to be a fairy. I would dress with the most beautiful clothes and go to the queen of the fairies and obtain a pair of silver wings and fly to visit many places. I would visit Happy Island, Treasure Isle, Mirror Isle, and the Island of Calm Delights, also Giants' Isle, and would drive the many cruel giants out of the world, and then I would visit the hundreds of islands up in the clouds.

I'd rock on the smoke that goes up from thousands of chimneys and drink the dew-drops that rest on the flowers and grass, and I would make the Elves clean them from dust and insects, and also dress the tree trunks with vines. I would ride in a bluebell, drawn by a white swan down the stream of Crystal Waters, where the little fishes and ducks swim and dive. At night I would sleep in my velvet hammock under a spreading maple tree, where the soft breeze would lull me to sleep.

ALBERTA JOHNSON.
Bruce, Alta., age 13.

A LITTLE NATURE LOVER

I would like to be a school-teacher and live in a little whitewashed cottage in England in the country, with ivy climbing up the house.

I would like my father and mother to live with me.

In my spare time I would like to study birds and squirrels and bring in wild flowers and ferns and see how many I could cultivate.

ALICE MAY WEBB.
Skipton, Sask., age 10 years.

A HOME LOVING GIRL

I would have a little green cottage in among some large trees about three miles from a village, and a little barn with a few horses and a cow. I would like to live in Ontario. I would have a kitten and a puppy and some canaries, my husband and myself. I would do my house-work and after dinner, after I had all my work done, I would sit on my veranda or in a seat under one of the trees and read or sew. Then about four o'clock I would put on my big straw hat or sun bonnet and go to the pasture with the milk pail and take the cow down to the creek and give it some water. Then I would milk it. Then I would go to the house and get supper ready and my husband would come home from his work in the field and we would eat supper. Then I would wash the dishes and feed my canaries, kitten and dog and water my flowers. Then my husband and I would read or talk or sit in the hammock. This is what I would do if I could do what I pleased.

CHARLOTTE LUTT.
Rouleau, Sask., age 11.

A HOUSE IN A TREE

Dear Dixie Patton:—I am a little girl ten years old, and have never been to school. Mother has taught me and my sister.

The way I would like to live is this: I would like to have a house in a tree and be friends with all the birds and animals. I should like to eat nuts and berries, and pears and plums and apples. I would like to be able to climb trees, too.

The inside of my house would be green, pink and white. The floor would be green, with white walls and pink flowers with green leaves and pink border.

There would be a white mat with a pink border and green in the middle. I would like to have a green short dress and green stockings and boots, and a green hat and gloves. But when anybody came to see me I would like to have a pink dress with yellow trimmings and a yellow ribbon.

BEVERLY O. BRYANT.

A YOUNG CARPENTER

When I grow up I will be a carpenter. I will build houses and barns and other things. I will live in a city where there is much carpenter work to do and I will hire men to work for me. I will build a very fine house for myself and for other people and I will earn a lot of money.

Then I will have a certain house to keep all my carpenter tools in, where I make all kinds of things like chairs, tables, bookcases, map cases and teacher's desks. I wish I was big so I could start my carpentering now.

ENAR GRADIN.
Age 12 years.

VISITING STRANGE LANDS

I like to hear best of California. People have said so many things about its nice warm weather and the fruits that grow there. It must be pleasant there, where there is no winter all year long and the sun is shining as warm as it shines here in the hottest day of summer. It is surely pleasant to go there in the summer months when the flowers bloom and the fruits are ripe and one can eat as much fruit as one likes, oranges, apples or peaches. It must be a pleasant ride there. One does not need to heat any stoves. It is surely pleasant there.

ANNA THIESSEN,
Laird, Sask. Age 12 years.

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