

**Malton**

# Her remarkable quilts record an almost-forgotten history

By JO ANN STEVENSON  
Times Staff Writer

"Malton is the forgotten corner of Mississauga," says Annie May Johnston, "except at tax time." Annie May should know. She's been a Malton resident for most of her ninety years. To keep herself busy, she preserves Malton's history in her paintings and on quilts.

Her beautiful work was displayed recently at the Burnhamthorpe Public School at Mississauga Memory Days, where Annie May was guest of honor.

"To see all those bright, beaming eyes was

something I'll always remember," said Annie May, who has preserved a zest for a life of all sorts. Her wild overgrown perennial garden spills over with color and variety. In the winter, this talent for creativity spills off onto canvas and quilts.

"My father's farm was 100 acres on the south-east corner of Derry Rd. & Airport Rd. which is now the International Centre."

The Johnston homestead, built in 1851 and demolished in 1969, is now Reid Paper. The only building of pioneer Malton that still stands is the old Village Hall behind the Post Office. "They'll get it

soon, no doubt," said Annie May. She may be right, the building is condemned.

One of the quilts displayed at the school was of twenty churches in the area. All but one, Malton Trinity, has been destroyed and they will celebrate their 25th anniversary on June 18.

"Malton would still be mud roads and backhouses if it weren't for Mary Fix, former reeve of Toronto Township. She came out to open the firehall and noticed how few old Malton residents were in attendance. She drove to the old town to see for herself and saw the discrepancy

between the facilities in the new town and with us. We had plumbing in no time after that."

When Annie May was 15, she began working on quilts under orders from her mother. The resulting quilt, which she calls a crazy quilt, filled her with such pride, she embroidered Christmas 1906 in the centre to make it memorable and has quilted ever since.

"Each piece I make is different. I enjoy using everything leftover to create a fresh design." Plenty of quilts have been sent to church bazaars and to Red Cross workers. All of the proceeds Annie has made from quilting she has donated to church work but now she keeps the quilts for displays.

In 1967 Annie May was introduced to liquid embroidery, a technique that allows the painting of scenes onto quilts. The results have been local historical quilts with great beauty as well as valuable content for the Malton community.

Of the literally hundreds of quilts Annie makes, it is hard to choose a favorite.

Each is unique. They have been displayed in Malton library and the Brampton art gallery. Pictures of the quilts were shown in issues of the Canadian Quilter and will be included soon in a U.S. tour.

The first prize winner in a quilting contest and the Calathumpian parades held in Malton until the first world war eliminated the young men that supported the parades are two of the many epics she tells in pictures.

The homes and churches that played a part in Annie's life are all recorded and birds and flowers that have known her augment the patterns she designs.

Annie May Johnston reflects the times she has known and her cheerful outlook points to the future with optimism.

Her quilts harness the past. All of Mississauga can use them to steady their ride to the future.



Annie May Johnston was guest of honor at Mississauga Memory Days, an event planned by Burnhamthorpe Public School recently. Three of her two hundred quilts are shown. In the left, a quilt of twenty churches from the Malton area complete with dates of construction and destruction. Centre is a traditional quilt called the log cabin which belongs to a series of three. On the right is a quilt of familiar scenes from Annie's 90 years in Malton including the Calathumpian Parades held in Malton until the first world war depleted the men.



## Wanted: Teens who like horses

weekday morning heading for the stables. It's a full day of fun, so don't forget to pack a lunch!

If you can combine your riding ability with an interest in children, the Peel YM/YWCA Riding Camp

(located at the Halton School of Equitation) may be just the place for you this summer.

Call The Volunteer Centre of Peel ... 275-4299.

Saddles and singsons are what's up for this summer... and plenty of smiles too. As the Peel YM/YWCA Riding Camp for Children gets underway, more opportunities for teenage volunteers are opening up.

Crafts, games and swimming are all part of the fun, with a special focus on horsemanship. In each one of these activities, the volunteer will assist a counsellor with a group of eight children.

Volunteers must be 15 or older, have a thorough knowledge of horses and know the basics of riding and grooming. Orientation and camp training will be provided prior to the July 3 starting date.

The camp runs until Aug. 25 and students may volunteer for one or more two-week sessions. Helpers can join with campers on buses which will leave many of the Peel public schools each

## Early babies have problems

Over half the babies who weigh less than two-and-a-half pounds at birth have respiratory distress syndrome, severe lung disorder very rare in full-term infants, according to the Lung Association. The Lung Association also cautions that cigarette smoking by pregnant women is one of the causes of lung disorders in tiny babies.

Preemie babies with lungs too small and underdeveloped need help to face the life-giving task of exchanging oxygen for carbon dioxide to keep them alive, but every year thousands still die.



## Wedding

James G. and Dorothy Houston of Don Mills Ontario wish to announce the marriage of their daughter, Susan Janice to Michael Murray Kimberley, son of Arthur S. and Maureen Kimberley of Beamsville Ontario. The marriage took place May 27, at First Baptist Church in Beamsville. The groom is a professor of geology at Erindale College and the bride is a graduate geologist. They will live in Mississauga following a honeymoon tour of England and continental Europe.

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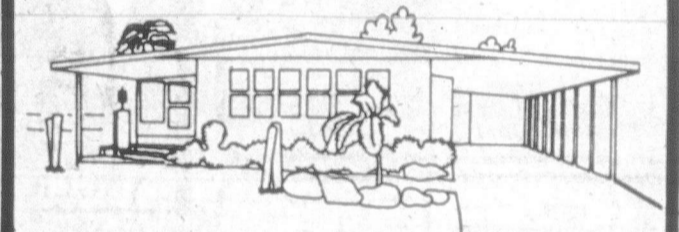
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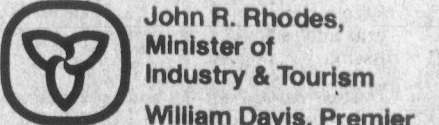
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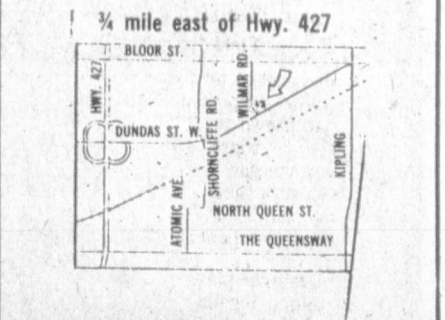
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