

a v.i.p. and me

(very interesting person)

By KATHLEEN A. HICKS

BOYD, MABEL

FEB. 6/74



M. News Feb. 6/74 Pg. N2.

MABEL BOYD:

Founder: Mississauga Girls Hockey League
Coach and Manager — hockey and baseball
Organizer of Girls' Baseball

ME: You have been associated with hockey and baseball for a number of years now. When did you make your debut on the sports scene?

MRS. BOYD: When I was 12 years old and lived in Alderwood, I started playing baseball; we won the championship that year. I played for Norm Lawson in the Lakeshore League and we played against Mimico, Long Branch and New Toronto that first year. Then I played on two more teams following that and we played at Sunnyside ball park. I played baseball right up until I got married. We lived in Islington then, and when we moved out here, my kids started to play, and I joined a senior team that played at the Dixie ball park, where the Ontario Department of Highways office is. An old coach of mine was coaching the team from Alderwood; it was my mistake to go down there. When he saw me he asked me if I would play again. They didn't have a junior league, so I started up the juniors. We had that for quite a few years and that came down; then I was at Huron Park and we had a league going there. We had four teams and brought in six, and then it sort of petered out. Then I started a league up in Burnhamthorpe and I had that for five or six years; it's still going, but I no longer have anything to do with it. When we first started up, we used to make the uniforms. Four years ago, we had about 158 girls and the mothers used to help make the uniforms up. We started out calling it the Friendship Game. We had seven teams going and we put teams into Port Credit. They invited us to play one year, and we got into that league the next year, and we won it every year except one. One year, my team won three trophies. All the time I was working with the girls, I played with the Dixie Ladies Baseball team. We won the championship last year. I play first base; I was manager this year, but I coached before that.

ME: Being so sportsminded, when did the idea for a girls hockey league come to you, and how did you go about establishing it?

MRS. BOYD: Well, we had the baseball going at Huron Park

in 1963, and some of the girls were wanting to play hockey, so I spoke to Jerry Love at the Recreation and Parks Department, and he said, if you get a certain number of girls, the township will see that you get some ice time and you can start that way. So I started to ask around town how many girls wanted to play. Jim Brueles of Erindale got the ice and the sponsor for us which was St. Lawrence Cement. We got sweaters and socks and what have you. We had 12 girls to make up a team and I helped coach. We played Barrie, Brampton, Agincourt and Ajax; any place we could play we played. The one who really helped me most in hockey was Dorothy Brown; she worked unceasingly on behalf of the girls during her six years on the executive — she was my right arm.

ME: How much has the league grown since its inception?

MRS. BOYD: We now have 11 teams — 171 girls have registered. We have eight junior house league teams; there are divisions of 8-to 11-year-olds and 12-to 18-year-olds. I was always the president and the treasurer and secretary during the first years. Now we have a Board of Directors, committees and conveners. I was registrar in 1972-'73 and this year I am the treasurer.

ME: Did you work on the constitution and by-laws for the Mississauga Girls Hockey League when it was officially recognized in 1968?

MRS. BOYD: Yes, I did — the original one which was first put out in '68. Mr. Dennis McKee and Mrs. Brown worked on it with me.

ME: The Mississauga Girls Hockey League (M.G.H.L.) functions under the administration of the Recreation Committee and Community Centres Board. Just what does this board contribute toward the M.G.H.L.'s stabilization?

MRS. BOYD: We send a representative to their general meetings, so there is that communication. But we hold our own meetings and work on our own. We keep in contact so the committee members know what we are doing at all times.

ME: How do you find the co-operation from the main body of the Mississauga Hockey League?

MRS. BOYD: We have a very good communication now.

Mrs. Del Black, last year's president, did a tremendous job in cementing relationships with the M.H.L. We get ice time and referees supplied for games only by the M.H.L. We pay for our own ice time for practices and we pay for the referees for exhibition games. The Mississauga Hockey League gets the gate receipts from the girls games and this goes to pay for the ice time and the referees. So we are a body onto our own. Mrs. Nebbs was a real worker for the girls' side, and Mrs. Hamsen I know pulled many strings to get us more ice time. It was in the '69-'70 season that the M.H.L. first included the girls in the regular schedule of one hour a week, and that was our first break to play on home ice; we used to play on an outdoor rink at Erindale and then we practiced and played at Nobleton arena. Now we get three and a half hours a week, but again the game for girls has become popular and we could use more ice time; we are looking forward to some new arenas.

ME: At the present time you are supplied with referees by the M.H.L. Have any of the girls expressed an interest in taking up this end of hockey?

MRS. BOYD: There are a few girls who referee now. Michele Boileau is one who referees the young girls on Saturdays. I refereed an exhibition game last Saturday. Jennifer Hamilton and Susan Briton referee; but Michele, I think, is the only one who has taken a course and gets paid. One thing I feel about the M.H.L. referees is that they are not very hard on the girls; they let them get away with too much. I think they should be more strict and penalize them as they do the boys. If the girls are a little rough, they should pull them off; they shouldn't be lenient with them because they are girls.

ME: What kind of girls do you find want to play hockey — tomboys, sportsminded, skate enthusiasts?

MRS. BOYD: I guess you could class them as sportsminded: some girls play because their parents want them to have the exercise; others have joined because they want to skate; some play with their brothers and they want to show them they can do just as good; some of them are natural born hockey players, they are really good. I used to play on the

Feel Good, Mabel, Boyd,