

# Personality Profile Of The Week

Peel Biography - Betty Clarkson

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When Betty Clarkson moves to a new district she can't rest until she learns about the early days in the community. The mother of two daughters, one married and the other entering her second year at the University of Western Ontario. Betty Clarkson has written both short, fictional stories and historical articles for many years. Growing up, one of five children on a farm near Paris, Ont., many of her short stories are based on memories of her farm childhood.

Graduating from the University of Toronto with her degree in physical education, she taught in Toronto and Ottawa before her marriage, but writing and history have become her real loves.

Although Betty Clarkson is modest concerning her writing she has won two thirds, one second and an honorable mention in I.O.D.E. competitions.

Two of her short stories were read by John Dranie, over C.B.C. radio. One, Rabbits, an adult story, tells of the heartbreak and devastation a child feels, when some of her pet rabbits, having bred too whole heartedly, must be destroyed.

## Current Project

Currently Mrs. Clarkson says she is having a wonderful time. She is working on a centennial project, a 50,000 word history of this district, every school child will receive one of these hard-cover books to mark Canada's 100th birthday.

Betty Clarkson states that the entire history of this area from the Humber River to the head of Lake Ontario centres around Port Credit. The natural harbor was the place where travellers sought rest and shelter from stormy Lake Ontario.

The village of Clarkson is named after Mr. Clarkson's great-great-uncle, an early settler in this district.

When the Clarkson's moved to Lorne Park 12 years ago, they didn't know of this connection, it was through Betty Clarkson's eagerness to find out about the early days that led to the discovery.

She and her husband, Hillary, co-authored an article for the York Pioneer, an historical periodical published by the York Pioneer and Historical Society.

Joshua Clarkson . . . a Man on the Move. Joshua Clarkson, Hillary Clarkson's great great grandfather, judging by old petitions, was certainly a land speculator.

At one time he owned a great deal of land where the Queen Elizabeth Highway is now situated. He apparently travelled between his farm in Markham and his brother Warren's farm, in what is now Clarkson. The house and barn on Warren's farm are still standing and in good condition today.



Betty Clarkson

Feeling strongly, as she does about the early days in a district, Betty Clarkson has this to say, "I would like to see in every local library, pictures and folklore of the early beginnings of that community, and important and interesting events through the following years so that future generations will know something of the foundations they are building on.

To accomplish this, everyone in the community, young and old, should pass on to local historical societies and public libraries, historical material handed down to them from parents and grandparents, instead of destroying it as so often happens.

Three years ago, Betty Clarkson was one of the founders of the Mississauga Historical Society.

## Participate

Mrs. Clarkson believes that every person who is able should take part in some community project. Over the years she has been associated with a number of local endeavors, along with her writing and historical research.

She was a volunteer, visiting patients at the Lakeshore Psychiatric Hospital for a number of years. She was one of the volunteers, preparing pictures for hanging, and also doing the hanging, during the early years of The Art Loan Society, sponsored by the University Woman's Club.

Friends of the Clarkson's no doubt look forward to Christmas when they receive cards made by Mrs. Clarkson, the story of the family is there, in the cards she has silk-screened over the years. A new baby—a new house—a summer trip, have all been subjects for cards at Christmas time.