

PRICE, WINCHELL A

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PEEL COUNTY - BIOGRAPHY - PRICE

# Personality Profile Of The Week

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For more than 40 years Winchell Addison Price has painted the Canadian scene. Throughout Peel County and the rest of Canada, as well as locales outside of the country, this outstanding painter has created in water colors and oils magnificent works which have evoked the envy of many amateurs and won critical acclaim among a large number of professionals within the world of art.

Since September 1913, Mr. Price has radiated from his recently vacated home on Stavebank Road, Port Credit, to the rustic corners of the local area, Muskoka, the north country, the West, Bermuda and the Bruce. Most of the paintings done at these places have long since joined other masterpieces in collections throughout the world.

Mr. Price's 1966 Exhibition will begin at the Texaco Room of the Port Credit Library on May 2, 1966. Opening the annual social affair and the largest "affaire d'art" of Peel County will be

Margaret S. McCreedy,  
of Macdonald Institute,

University of Guelph. Mr. Price's 1965 Exhibition was adjudged such an outstanding success that selections have already been made on the new crop of paintings which will be the nucleus of the new exhibition.

Following early schooling in Toronto, Dr. and Mrs. Walter Price moved with their young son, Winchell, to what was then a large tract of unbroken land on Stavebank Road overlooking the Credit River. Here the budding young artist developed the yearning and eventually the accomplishment of painting nature as it existed in this area - - along the Credit and back on the farms bordering the Peel County river.

Following his attendance at Riverside and Forest Avenue Public School in Port Credit, young Winchell graduated to Parkdale Collegiate in Toronto where several of the teachers took a particular interest in the artistic accomplishments of the student. Among these was Miss Elizabeth Ferguson, sister of Dr. Gordon Ferguson of Toronto and Mr. Justice R. I. Ferguson of the Ontario Supreme Court. While in attendance at Parkdale, Winchell sold a large number of his first efforts to the teachers who were instrumental in the school acquiring several paintings as outright sales. This proved to be the commencement of the artist's career as a painter. Subsequently, he was to receive recognition throughout the world.

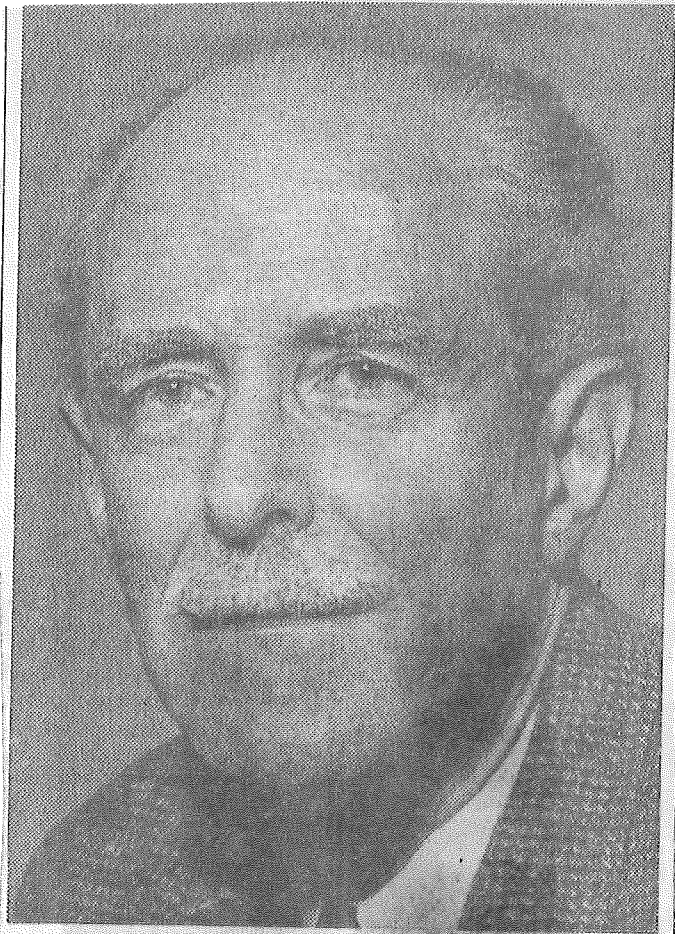
Mr. Price is reticent to discuss modern art except to say it has its place.

"I somehow do not believe that the so-called 'daubs' on canvases which make up the sum-total of many young artists' creative endeavors will last throughout the years," Mr. Price says. "They undoubtedly fill a need for expression in this fast-moving day and age. In a number of instances the colors used are vibrant and appealing. But I fear for the survival of the works that are merely expressionistic and do not reveal the many years' training a real artist must undergo to manipulate color, composition, figure and all the other attributes which make up the qualifications which an artist must possess to adequately express any subject he sets his brush to.

Following his graduation from collegiate in Toronto, Mr. Price went on to study at the Ontario College of Art where he was instructed by such eminent men of the art world as Fred S. Haines, R.C.A., a giant of landscape painting, Robert Holmes, R.C.A., a specialist in flower painting, Yvonne McC. Hausser, R.C.A., great still-life painter, J. W. Beatty, R.C.A. and G. A. Reid, R.C.A., the latter well-known as the dean of Canadian art until his death in the nineteen forties.

During the summers Mr. Price studied at the Port Hope school of Art under J. W. Beatty. "So far as I am concerned Mr. Beatty was one of the outstanding teachers of landscape art in the world," says Mr. Price. "He was a hard task-master but in the small class at Port Hope we learned the rudiments of our craft thoroughly. I only regret that more young Canadians cannot have the opportunity of studying under this great man. J. W. Beatty died in October, 1941. One of his great canvases "The Beech Woods" is in the permanent collection of the Toronto Art Gallery.

From Port Hope Mr. Price went on to acquire unequalled publicity for a young man newly-entering his trade. The late Augustus Bridie, former art and music critic of the Toronto Star called Price "one of the great poetic painters of the century". He likened his spring pictures to "the music of Debussy". For many years the young painter's works were in so great a demand that he could not keep up with it.



### **Winchell Addison Price**

In 1941 Mr. Price was elected a member of the Ontario Society of Artists and in 1948 an associate member of the Royal Canadian Academy of Artists.

For ten years Mr. Price travelled and ceased to care about the market. The point of exhaustion had been reached. And then, following a prolonged rest, while still painting as the mood struck him, he again began to paint for the public, resulting in his 1965 Exhibition, which has been acclaimed as one of the greatest exhibits by a Canadian artist since the Group of Seven heyday during the Twenties.

At one time Mr. Price worked in a studio he rented from Lauren Harris, R.C.A. at No. 7 Severn Street, Toronto. At that time such eminent artists as Harris, A. Y. Jackson, J. W. Beatty, Thoreau MacDonald, R.C.A. and Curtis Williams, R.C.A. were painting in the same building. This building had become well-known as the Group of Seven headquarters, and was to continue to hold the spotlight. In it great men painted, men such as Tom Thomson, Arthur Lismer, G.

H. MacDonald, and others.

It is not to be wondered at that Winchell Price followed the lead set by his illustrious predecessors in the transfer to canvas of all the greatness of the Canadian outdoor scene. Gradually he developed his own style and it featured the heavens in all its changing glory, the formations of clouds, the beauties of nature and the excitement of Spring with its subtle gradations of color and the rebirth of life.

It is not unusual that his Spring and cloud paintings are the first to be acquired during an exhibition. For his attention to detail is something that simply is not done any more. To look at a Price spring work is to enjoy an experience similar to listening to a great symphony or watching a ballet.

Winchell Price believes in Peel County and Port Credit as a vital area. Despite the encouragement by friends from distant places to follow the "trend" to move away from the home of his childhood, he has successfully resisted all suggestions and will continue to paint locally, part-time at least.