

Meet Mississauga's First Lady

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WOMEN'S EDITOR

*M. Jones
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Life has been running in cycles for Mississauga's first lady.

It has been only three years since her husband, Mayor Robert Speck was in hospital with a heart attack. At that time, Enid Speck was photographed by Mississauga News reporters as she read the nomination papers on her husband's behalf.

She was wearing a dark dress with a simple set of pearls and looked very elegant.

Last week when she agreed to an interview at their home on First Street, Mississauga, Enid was charming and relaxed in a striped pant suit. Serving coffee in their long living room which was shared by a large, fluffy black and white cat, Mrs. Speck admitted that this was her first newspaper interview.

"Bob has always been the one who was tremendously interested in people. I prefer to stay in the background and help him at home," she explained.

Looking ahead to three more years in the public eye, Mrs. Speck is excited about the prospect of Mississauga becoming a city. She's anxious to watch the outcome of county-wide discussions on regional government.

Her keen interest in the development of Missis-

sauga is only natural. Mrs. Speck is a native, raised on a mixed farm on the old Fifth Line of Clarkson and the daughter of longtime rural residents. Her mother, Mrs. Harry Pattinson still lives on the old homestead and she has a brother and sister in the area as well.

Enid attended Clarkson Public School and was taught by the renowned "Miss Hall" who has since retired. It was in the quiet community of Clarkson that she attended the United Church and was a regular at shows staged by the former dramatic society which drew rave reviews from Toronto newspaper critics.

Enid and Robert, son of Charles Speck, on a neighboring farm, both attended Oakville High School as it was known at the time and married in Clarkson in 1939.

Mrs. Speck, says she is not too involved in community life, has devoted her time to raising her three children and helping her husband with a fruit market he operated on the Lakeshore.

The Speck's have three children. The eldest, John, 28, is married to the former Shirley Anne Dyer of Etobicoke, and employed at Gairdner. Ltd.

Their only daughter, Marilyn, who attended Gordon Graydon has been a flight attendant with Eastern Air-

lines for eight years and youngest son, Paul, 16, is still at Graydon.

It must be a tribute to Mayor Speck that his wife says their lives have seldom been disrupted by politics. There are very few angry calls from taxpayers.

Mrs. Speck is not typical of politician's wives in that she does not belong to a great many organizations. In the past she has worked with the Canadian Cancer Society and was a member of the Kumeetus Club which is a benevolent fund-raising club.

Nor does she race around town engaging in super-market price wars or debating the mini, midi, maxi question. Most of the dresses which she buys in local stores are two inches below her knee in the Queen Elizabeth tradition.

She's loyal to her home town too. Although Lakeview has acquired a reputation for being a "tough" area due to petty crime Mrs. Speck has always enjoyed her neighborhood.

Friendly too. How many wives of public officials invite reporters to drop in anytime for a coffee.

"Don't write too much about me," she called as she got into her green Buick Skylark to pick up her teenager at school and a daughter returning home for a visit.

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SPECK ENID

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MRS. ROBERT W. SPECK