

# City Woman Enjoys Young Quebec Visitors

For a St. Thomas woman who believes that people have almost forgotten what children are really like, the growing contact and exchange between Quebec and Ontario has become a gratifying experience.

During the summer Mrs. Desmond Hayes of 39 William Street has acted as hostess to four boys and a girl, ranging in age from nine to 14 years, from Quebec. Three of the children were relatives. Her last guest returned home Monday.

Mrs. Hayes said the primary purpose of her personal project was to expose area people to the children and the children themselves to what she describes as "one of the prettiest areas of Ontario." Three of the visitors came from Montreal, while the re-

maining pair were from Chateauguay.

The last visitor from Quebec was a 12-year-old boy who was a complete stranger to Mrs. Hayes. He could speak no English. The children arrived and departed since school dismissed and at times their paths crossed.

One item of interest for her guests was the Elgin County Pioneer Museum. Another delight was the steam locomotive operating at Pinafore Park. Mrs. Hayes recalls there was great enthusiasm around the dinner table concerning the train and the park itself. A highlight of the entire experience was a visit to an area chicken farm.

Their hostess admitted the greatest thrill has been that her house is filled with the sound of laughing children. Her own family is grown up. "I enjoy them, truly enjoy them," said Mrs. Hayes.

"They teach me a lot of things about young life," she continued. "Children have changed".

The success of the venture was furthered by the assistance of local horseman Tom Tarry, who was with the children every day. He taught them all how to ride a horse and introduced them to the responsibility side of animal care.

Mrs. Hayes remarked that her guests — she referred to them as her "little Joe's"—seemed to establish a self-styled communication between

each other and their outside world. She believes this power or skill is inborn in small children.

Ironic as it may seem, her last guests left for their homes prematurely due to the continuing postal strike. When the children lost contact with

home and family, they became worried and then homesick. Mrs. Hayes said she was able to explain the liquor strike to them, but not the postal walkout. "The postman to them is like a policeman, he is always there," she explained.



MRS. DESMOND HAYES