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TRAFALGAR APPROVES FAIRYLAND NORTH POLE, REINDEER, SANTA CLAUS

In a Christmas mood, Trafalgar township council at its meeting January 3 approved a \$100,000 fairyland North Pole with a permanent Santa Claus, to be built three miles west of Oakville on the Queen Elizabeth Way. Address of the project, which will feature live reindeer, a zoo and gardens, will simply be "The North Pole."

The playground would require municipal board sanction as the land is now zoned for agricultural use. William Adams, the Toronto promoter of the project, was told to present his plans to the Oakville-Trafalgar-Beate planning board for consideration. Council itself only approved it in principle.

The North Pole site would comprise 10 acres surrounded by 70 acres of Christmas tree parkland. A 20 acre parking lot with space for 4,000 cars is included, Mr. Adams told council.

Nursery-book characters will be seen in 20 buildings. Featured, of course, is Santa and helpers making toys.

Arrangements with the Department of Lands and Forests for tame animals to roam in the small-scale forest have been completed.

The "North Pole" address has not yet been cleared with the postmaster general, Mr. Adams said. He felt the project would not only increase commercial assessment, but attract many tourists.

Council Harry Sewell commented that "I am sure this project will gain a great deal of publicity for the township."

Mr. Adams plans to ask mayors of neighboring centres to act on a board of governors. A "certain amount" from the sale of souvenirs and toys would be donated to charitable organizations, Mr. Adams explained.

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STUDY BOREALS

In an attempt to learn more about the aurora borealis—the "northern lights" which are expected to put on a peak performance in 1957-58—plans are now being made. Rockets capable of carrying instruments 60 to 600 miles above the earth will be launched from Churchill, Manitoba, and from Alamogordo, New Mexico, says the Reader's Digest.

"Rockoons"—balloons which rise into the stratosphere and then release rockets capable of carrying instruments higher still—will rise from observation stations in Canada, Alaska and Greenland.

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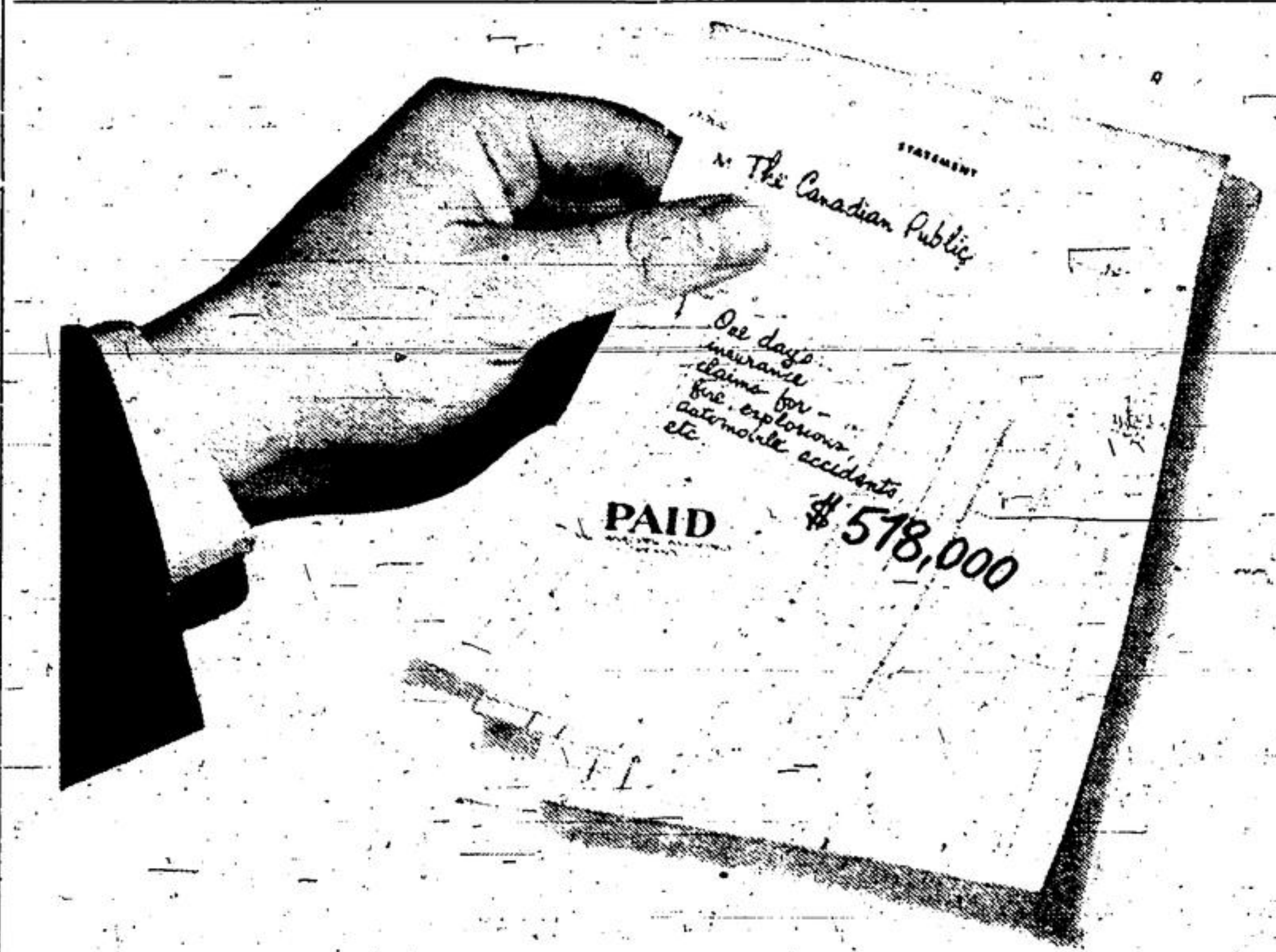
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OBITUARY

Funeral at Hornby For Mrs. J. Switzer

Seriously ill for the past three years, Mrs. Joseph Cowan Switzer, 67, was buried in St. Stephen's Cemetery, Hornby, Wednesday, December 22, following a funeral service in the church conducted by Rev. J. E. Maxwell.

Mrs. Switzer died in Acton, December 19. She was the former Rhoda Pfeilla Ingram, daughter of Fred Ingram and Mary Price and was born near Hornby. She attended Pingrove School. Since her marriage in 1906, she and her husband had lived at their farm on the 10th Line near Norval. She was a member of St. Stephen's Anglican Church.

She leaves her husband and a family of seven children: Mary, Mrs. Douglas Ismond, Norval; Jean, Mrs. Frank Whitnee, Georgetown; Irene, Mrs. J. E. Bloom, Malton; Arnold of Streetsville; Marjorie, Mrs. Lloyd Fisher, Georgetown; Fred of Norval; and Dotis, Mrs. Ter Brown, Limehouse. She also leaves twelve grandchildren, and three sisters, Mrs. Lindsay Neelands (Birdie) and Mrs. Wilbert McCurdy (Merle) of Oakville and Mrs. Harry Robertson (Bernice) of Brampton. She was predeceased by a sister, Gertrude, and a brother who died in infancy.

Five nephews and a neighbour acted as pallbearers at the funeral, Wilbert McCurdy, Streetsville, Reg. Neelands, Hamilton, Harold Robertson, Brampton, Johnston Neelands and Fred Robertson, Hornby and Charles Early, Norval. Flower bearers were Jack Humphrey, M. Guy Wilson, Bert Gilbert, Arthur May, John Verlis, Harold Early, Edgar May and Hunter, Arnott.

PROFESSOR'S WIFE

I am a retired psychoanalyst, but my friends come anyway to me for advice, without expense, naturally. The other day my friend George came to me to cry on my shoulder about his marital troubles.

"What is the matter, George?" I asked.

"Oh, it's awful," he sighed. "In the morning when I wake up, my wife asks for money. When I come home to lunch, she asks for money. When I get back from work in the evening, she asks for money, and even the last thing at night she asks me for money."

"For goodness' sake," I said full of pity, "what is your wife doing with all that money?"

"I don't know," replied George. "I don't give her any."

NO GIFT

"Johnny, who on earth gave you that black eye?"

"Nobody gave it to me, Mom; I really had to fight for it."

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Chronicles of

Ginger Farm

Written Specially for the Acton Free Press by Gwendoline P. Clarke

Well now, I suppose I must bear myself away from the book I am reading long enough to get this column done—and then I shall return to my book without delay. What book? It is called "Doctor to the Islands" by Tom and Lydia Davis. The "islands" being the Cook Islands in the South Seas. It is a true narrative giving the experience of Dr. Davis and his wife during a seven-year stay at Rarotoga, the largest one in the Cook group of islands, where Dr. Davis was appointed as Medical Officer of Health. It gives striking examples of what happens when man-made intervention upsets the balance of nature.

For instance there were many large mango and chestnut trees on the island which were always left standing even though younger trees were cut down. Then in 1935 along came a Government agricultural "expert." He had previously worked in South Africa and was under the impression that the same agricultural principles should apply to both countries. So he ordered the huge old trees to be cut down on the ground that their great spreading roots were draining nourishment from the soil.

The natives did as they were told although they knew that the tree roots shrank and moved in the tropical storms, loosening the soil better than a plough could have done, while shade from the trees gave shelter to the "low crops." The trees were destroyed and as a result the crops were alternately bleached by the sun and washed out by the rain. Then came the order to prune the orange trees.

That, too, was a grave mistake as, according to Dr. Davis, in this region of tropical hurricanes, nature does her own pruning and the trees survive, whereas the trees that were pruned with clippers died within a few weeks.

The story of the island is, of course, fascinating from a medical standpoint as one follows the hard but successful struggles of the young doctor against ignorance, lack of sanitation and witchcraft.

So, if you really want a fascinating and informative book to read try "Doctor to the Islands" written in a style that is humorous and easy to read.

Another book, that should be particularly interesting to people from England is "Royal Chef" being the experiences of the Royal Chef at Buckingham Palace from the latter part of Queen Victoria's reign to that of George V and later as chef for the late Queen Mary after she became Queen Mother.

Well, for the first time this winter the fields are covered with snow. Just a light fall around here—but I imagine there is considerably more up beyond the hills. My "what a time we had last week getting around on the ice. Partner isn't too good at keeping his balance and I am even worse so we make a good

Books Review

Television Really Explained

We watch our television sets more these cold winter evenings than we do in the summer when we can be outside or travelling. Some might say the program don't appeal to you, it might be valuable for the mechanic of the house to read Television Really Explained, a new book here in the library.

It gives the history of television, and talks about color television and accessories. It gets somewhat technical. We're sure anyone who reads even part of the book will have a better understanding of the workings of his set.

Anybody who enjoyed The Many Splendored Thing, a library book, "Han Suyin" will want to read a feature story on her in the December Holiday magazine. Do borrow it from someone if you can, for you'll want to know about this wonderful and attractive woman who is a doctor, writer, mother and wife. The beautiful story she wrote is true. It was her romance with a war correspondent in China. She's now married to an Englishman and completely busy all day long.

About 15 per cent of Canada's total labor force is directly employed in agriculture and about 10 per cent is directly employed in manufacturing.

However, Partner has a pair of "creepers" that he keeps for just such an emergency. Without them there are times when he would hardly be able to get up the hill from the barn, even with the help of ashes.

Many times we have thought we would like an oil-burning furnace instead of coal, but as Partner says "What would he do without ashes in slippery weather?" Not only for ourselves but for the cows and cars too. Every day Partner goes out with his ash-pail before the truck comes in for the milk. After breakfast he starts out again, spreading ashes for the cows from the barn to the trough, and from the driving shed to where I must walk to back the car out of the shed. He also uses quite a bit of salt.

And then, after all his trouble the cows come out to drink and what do they do? Start fighting, no less! Just as I was going for the milk the stupid things, heads together, pushing each other around on the ice, slipping and sliding all over the place. Then a few of the others come along and joined in the fray. It reminded me of the scrap at Maple Leaf Gardens on Christmas night! I was sure there would be a few broken legs between them so I did my best to stop the rough-house but not before two of them went down on their knees. However, they managed to survive without injury.

As for me I had my own troubles in trying to keep right-side-up. I put on shoes and rubbers and they held but not before they were over the whole works. What added charm to my attractive footwear was the fact that one sock was bright blue with red tops and the other light grey. They were the only ones in my mending basket that didn't need darning. Fortunately, no one came along the road when I was getting the mail from the box!

Apart from the ice I had a wonderful time last week. Spent nearly a whole day gathering up old Christmas cards in answer to the appeal for such cards to be left at Honeydew Restaurants in Toronto. (The time limit is past now.) Then I went to work on a whole lot of papers and magazines for the Boy Scouts. After awhile we shall be able to move around at Ginger Farm!

H. S. HOLDEN

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Thanking you so much, Yours sincerely Mrs. S. A. McKay, Toronto



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