

The Richmond Theatre

Richmond Hill, Ontario

York County's Newest and Most Modern Playhouse

NOW OPEN

Shows daily, Monday through Friday at 7 and 9 p.m.

Doors open at 6:30 p.m.

Saturday: Matinee at 2 p.m. Doors open at 1:45 p.m.

Continuous Show Sat. from 5 p.m. Doors open 4:45 p.m.

Thurs., Dec. 30 — Opening Night

Opening — "Al" Savage, well known Radio Personality — Master of Ceremonies.

Show commences at 7:45 p.m. — Doors open 7:30 p.m.

We regret that due to the limited number of tickets available for the First Show, many will be unable to purchase tickets.

To accommodate those who otherwise might be disappointed we have arranged to run another complete program starting at 10 p.m.

Box office for second show will open at 9:50 p.m.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY — DEC. 31, JAN. 1

WHEREVER HE SANG
HIS LOVE SONGS...
there was a broken
heart — and an
unforgettable memory!



I wonder who's kissing her now
Technicolor!

20th CENTURY-FOX

STARRING
JUNE HAVER · MARK STEVENS

with
ARTHA STEWART · REGINALD GARDINER
Honore Aubert · William Frawley · Gene Nelson
Truman Bradley · George Cleveland
Produced by LLOYD BACON Produced by GEORGE JESSEL

CARTOON - NEWS

Year's Eve — Midnight Show at 12:05

By Popular Demand!
The Champion Musical of Them All!



TYRONE POWER · ALICE FAYE
DON AMECHE · ETHEL MERMAN

MONDAY, TUESDAY — JAN 3 and 4

The Foxes of Harrow

Starring
REX HARRISON · MAUREEN O'HARA

CARTOONS — SHORTS — NEWS

Application For Race Track At Thornhill Heard Before Ontario Municipal Board

The application of the Township of Vaughan before the Ontario Municipal Board for the approval of a By-law which would permit a race track on the Franceschini Farm at the corner of Steele's Avenue and Yonge, came on for hearing on the afternoon of December 20th.

Owing to some confusion as to the time of the hearing, a delegation of Thornhill and township residents appeared in the morning, and in the afternoon, Mr. Neil and Mr. Jackson were the only residents who were present. Mr. LeMay, of the Toronto and York County Planning Board, told the Board that he had received no notification of the proposed race track and considered that his Board should have an opportunity of giving careful consideration to the possible effects a race track would have on the over-all planning of the Board. Mr. Neil stated that many people in the Village and those living in close proximity to the proposed track were greatly concerned with the problems that would follow in the wake of a race track such as the undesirable hang-ons usually found around race tracks and the effect upon the area as a residential district.

The residents of Jacques Avenue were represented by Mr. West who stated that while they appreciated that a race track would be no asset to the district, nevertheless the race track promoter's offer to supply water to Jacques Avenue was a tempting one inasmuch as some of the residents of Jacques Avenue were required to carry water for a distance of a mile. Well sinking has up to the present been unsuccessful. Consequently he regarded the project as a definite advantage to the residents. Chicago race track interests are behind the project. A Mr. Lathers,

a Chicago promoter, outlined the plans for the track. He stated that he had promoted similar tracks in the States and that it would be used for trotting races and there would be approximately forty-two days a year of racing at night. He stated that he was willing to enter into any guarantee required by the Township Council for water on Jacques Avenue.

It is interesting to note that in a press dispatch from Chicago, dated December 19th, betting on harness races in the U.S.A. in 1948 increased 41% and that the State of Illinois, where the Chicago promoter established tracks, was second in the amount of attendance and betting. Total receipts from the tracks in Illinois totalled \$26,121,990.

The Board ordered that the hearing be postponed until Friday, January 7th, at 2 p.m., at which time the Board would require a satisfactory guarantee that if the Board approved of the By-law the race track promoter would carry out his obligation as to water. The Chairman of the Board also made it quite plain that a hearing would be given to anybody who had any objections to the track.

Mr. LeMay of the Toronto and York Planning Board has extended an invitation to the Village Trustees to be present at a meeting of the Planning Board on Tuesday, January 4th, when the question of the effect of a race track will receive consideration.

It appears that very few people in the Village of Thornhill were aware that this application was coming on before the Municipal Board and it was quite by accident that it became known. For some years rumours have been afloat of such a project, but it never got beyond the rumour stage.

Founder Of Lionism Will Visit Richmond Hill Jan. 6th

Richmond Hill Lions' Club are to be specially honored by a visit from Secretary-General Lions International Melvin Jones, founder of Lionism, at their regular meeting on the evening of January 6, which will be held at the Auditorium of the Public School.

The history of Lionism dates back to the year 1914 when Melvin Jones conceived the idea of uniting on the basis of unselfish service business men's clubs in the United States which had no other affiliations. This was a distinct departure from the practice of forming men's clubs primarily for business purposes.

The International Association of Lions Clubs, however, was not founded until 1917, when an organization meeting was held in Chicago, at which some 150 independent clubs were represented. A call was issued at that time for the first annual convention of Lions Clubs. This convention was held in Dallas, Texas, October 9-11, 1917. About fifty clubs were represented. Three years later in 1920 the Association had more than doubled its membership and had extended into Canada. By 1924 the Association had 761 clubs and 36943 members. In 1927 it had extended into Mexico and China, becoming truly international, and the number of clubs had increased to 1810 with a membership of 61000. The expansion and consolidation of Lionism has continued. For a period of six years new Lions Clubs were formed at the rate of one or more a day. There are now nearly 7000 Lions Clubs in Australia, Bermuda, British Honduras, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Netherlands, West Indies, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Nicaragua, Panama, Peru, Sweden, Switzerland, the United States (including Hawaii), Puerto Rico, Alaska and Venezuela with a total membership of over 360,000 of the business and professional men of these countries. The International Association of Lions Clubs has more clubs than has any other service organization. All this has been accomplished in about 30 years through the foresight and organization of this most outstanding figure in Lionism Melvin Jones, a man that every Lion loves and honors.

Many other outstanding Lions will be present at this meeting among whom will be First International Vice

President, Walter C. Fisher, District Secretary, Bruce M. Malcolm; District Governor Stanley Darling; Deputy District Governor A. M. Logan; District Treasurer Gordon Belyea; Member Board of International Relations Dr. P. B. Rynard; Deputy District Governor Walter Coultts (zone 8); Deputy District Governor Dr. Geo. Miller (zone 10) together with many presidents and officers of Lions Clubs. The program committee are busily engaged in making special arrangements for this outstanding event in the history of the Richmond Hill Lions Club. There will be about 300 Lions from many clubs attending this meeting.



NED HILL
Manager of The Richmond Theatre which opens its doors for the first time to-night. Mr. Hill has had connection with the theatre business over a long period of years, and in announcing the opening of The Richmond expresses the wish that it will be a real community house of amusement, a friendly home theatre which will be enjoyed by all the people of the district.

MIDNIGHT SHOW NEW YEAR'S EVE

There will be a midnight show at The Richmond, New Year's eve, commencing at 12:05 with a special program featuring Alexander's Ragtime Band. New Year's day there will be a matinee at 2 p.m. and the regular two shows at night with the regular feature program as advertised.

Two Lives Lost In Tragic Fire

VOLUNTEER BRIGADE QUECHES FIRE WITHIN TEN MINUTES

Less than 10 minutes after the alarm rang out tolling two tragic deaths by fire on Arnold St. last Sunday morning at 8:30 a.m., the Volunteer Fire Brigade roared to a stop before the flaming frame house of Mrs. Louise Clarke, where two children under her care were asphyxiated.

Fire started when little 5-year-old Harold Slater, happily playing with his Christmas money, tripped over the double socket on the Christmas tree lights, causing a spark from a short circuit which ignited the cotton snow, and entire tree within the space of a few seconds. It was while Mrs. Clarke was attempting to phone for help that a flame of fire arose cutting her off from the two boys. When she could not get her call through, she shouted at the two boys to escape through the back door while she herself rushed to the home of a neighbour, John Carlisle, where the phone call was made that summoned the brigade.

The Volunteer Fire Brigade, made up of citizens of Richmond Hill were not called out from a fire hall, on the alert, but from their own homes and beds. All in the space of five minutes, they had to dress, contend with engines grown cold in zero weather, and report at the Town Hall, where Driver Ken Blanchard already had the engine racing. Yet against these odds the men had the hose hooked to the water main and were ready for action within the same period of time allowed a permanent force.

Under the steady direction of Fire Chief Herbert Cook, the men assisted by neighbours, worked together as a single unit. As they strove to reach the suffocating children behind the crumbling walls, they went far beyond the call of duty and the action demanded by their training. If their own children had been trapped inside, they could not have attempted the break through with as little thought to self. Believing the youngsters were in the second story, Chief Cook with three of the men climbed the ladder and all risked their weight on the gutted floor while they searched the rooms. Then a hole was chopped through the side of the house in five minutes time in an effort to reach the spot where the children were thought to be huddled. With the danger of fire checked, the men were able to enter the smoke-filled rooms, but could breathe only by crawling on the floor where the smoke was less dense. For several minutes their smarting eyes could detect nothing in the haze. Then crouched by the kitchen window they found little Harold Slater, a few feet from the doorway he was trying to find. John Blyth was discovered shortly afterwards, tucked in bed, his head under a pillow.

Mrs. Clarke, who hoped one day to adopt Harold Slater officially, is prostrated with grief at the home of her neighbours, Mr. and Mrs. John Carlisle. A children's nurse for over 25 years, with experience in handling handicapped children, Mrs. Clarke is well qualified to run a nursery. Her small home is privately operated, however, and is not under the jurisdiction of the Children's Aid Society. The children under her care, with the exception of John Blyth, who was crippled, were healthy, normal children. The three little boys home for Christmas vacation are John Sealey, 10, Larry Davidson, 12 and Larry Malone 7. All went to school in the Village and formed a part of the community, enjoying the Boy Scout and Cub activities. They are anxious to return.

Funeral service for Harold Slater was held Wednesday morning, December 29th at St. Mary's Anglican Church with Rev. W. F. Wrixon officiating, and for John Blyth, whose father was killed overseas, at St. John's, Norway, with Rev. C. B. Brethen officiating.

PUBLIC LIBRARY TO BE TEMPORARILY CLOSED

The Public Library Board wishes to notify all borrowers that the Library room will be closed until further notice. Those who now have books in their possession are asked to keep them carefully until the new room is completed.

As the Library fund is still under-subscribed it is suggested that those interested begin the New Year by sending a donation to the Board.

Before a greeting card reaches the public, 160 separate approvals are required by Hallmark, world's largest greeting card publisher.

The Richmond Theatre To Be Officially Opened To-Night

To-night at 8 p.m. "The Richmond" Richmond Hill's long-awaited theatre throws open its doors to the public. Tonight marks the climax of over two years careful planning and building and this new, modern, fireproof theatre will fulfil a long-felt need of the community," said Ned Hill, Richmond manager.

The building, which also houses offices of "The Liberal" and Robt Simpson Co. Ltd., together with a printing plant in the basement, is complete in every respect. Advantage has been taken of the sloping site to provide an easy ramp to the floor of the auditorium and at the same time give perfect visibility of the screen from every seat.

An unusual feature of the theatre will be a photo-mural applied to the walls of the lobby. This mural has been developed from a wide selection of old and recent photographs, submitted by the local citizens, showing scenes of interest to the community.

Another unusual feature is the manager's office which is located at the projection room level and has a large window overlooking the screen; thus the manager may give personal supervision to the operation of the pictures, at all times.

Careful study has been given to the acoustic properties of the auditorium. The sound-absorbing mater-

ial used is sprayed asbestos, a process developed during the war for the navy and now used for the first time on the North American continent in a theatre.

"The Richmond" is a completely fireproof building; the walls and floors are of concrete and tile and the roof is enclosed with steel roofing on steel trusses. The heating and ventilating system is completely modern and will provide a constant change of air for the greater comfort of the patrons.

Projection and sound equipment are the last word in perfection and will give the very best possible reproduction of sound pictures.

Widely spaced and deeply upholstered chairs and lavish use of carpeting give the auditorium a sense of luxury unsurpassed in any modern theatre. A small refreshment bar is included in the lobby for the convenience of patrons.

It has been the aim of the owners from the start of the project to make the theatre a truly community affair. The exterior has no flashing lights and does not shout for attention. The approach to the theatre is informal and friendly with space provided for shrubbery and vines. By the same token the interior is finished in soft, quiet colours, the interest resting in the contrasting textures of surfaces.

Banquet Honors Champion Potato And Wheat Growers

COUNTY COUNCIL GOLD WRIST WATCH AWARDED TO HERB JONES OF VAUGHAN TWP.

Meeting in the basement of the Presbyterian Church, Newmarket, last Monday evening over 125 rural folk enjoyed the annual banquet sponsored by the York County Crop Improvement Association for their 500 Bushel Potato Club and 50 Bushel Wheat Club. These figures represent the goal for the contestants and in the former contest five recorded higher yields while in the latter all but three surpassed the fifty bushel mark with twelve members recording over sixty bushel yields.

Following the appetizing dinner served by the ladies further enjoyment was administered by the professional entertainer, Ted Rust, from Toronto who conducted numerous very humorous incidents with Pat, his dummy, in outstanding ventriloquist style. Canada's Edgar Bergen was indeed appreciated and served to appropriately precede further humorous remarks of the guest speaker W. D. Tolton, of the Ontario Agricultural College Staff, Guelph, who was introduced by the chairman and association president, Murray Macklin of Agincourt.

The speaker's remarks were centred around the responsibilities of our farmers to make themselves recognized as a body, to organize to direct "so called surpluses" to a very real market in the starving people of the world, and to accept the fact that we as citizens and workers are far from perfect "Efficiency is the necessity" he said.

W. M. Cockburn, Agricultural Representative presided as chairman for the presentation of prizes, calling on representative figures in the group to aid him.

In the 500 Bushel Potato Club Herb

Jones of Maple led the total yield competition with 532 bushels per acre and received a gold wrist watch donated by the Agricultural Committee of the County Council. He was second high in all-round score and fourth in marketable score. In second place on yield was Ivan McLaughlin of Stouffville. In third was Clifford Wallwork of Ballantrae who won the marketable class and was highest in all-round score. Selby Evans of Quesneville was in fourth place in yield and third in Marketable. Everton Goode of Quesneville was second in highest marketable potatoes. Certificates of merit were presented to these five contestants for exceeding the 500 bushel goal in yield.

Following a brief introduction by W. H. Waddell, Wheat Specialist, O. A.C., Mr. J. D. Lanthier, Manager of Leitcherof Farm, presented the prizes to members of the 500 Bushel Wheat Club on behalf of the Maple Leaf Milling Company. Obtaining a record yield for our county Mr. D. J. Davidson of Belhaven recorded a yield of 68.9 bushels per acre followed by Eugene Lemon of Stouffville with 67.5 and the Estate of Levi Weddel with 66.5. The next three winners were Norman Payne of Maple, Russell Boynton of Woodbridge and Charles Miles of Milliken.

A very interesting auction of the exhibited half bushels of potatoes was conducted by Mr. Earl Grose of the United Co-operatives of Ontario who obtained some spirited bidding to receive the high of \$4.00 for the half bushel lot. The five exhibits totalled \$16.25 which is to be donated to the very needy United Emergency Fund for Britain.

First Junior Farmer Folk School Held At Thornhill

Last Thursday evening in Lawrence Memorial Hall, Thornhill, representative members of all local Junior Farmer groups in York County gathered to participate in the first folk school ever held for this group. The purpose of this school was to develop interest in this work with the idea of holding more of these gatherings to develop leaders in the art so they may return and give of their knowledge to their local clubs.

Acting upon a suggestion by Mr. Norman Lindsay, Supervisor, Community Programme, Department of Education the county junior farmers invited these young people to this central point. Enough to form square dance sets gathered to enjoy this evening of instruction and fellowship under guidance of Miss Helen Bryans, of the College of Education assisted by Mrs. Charlesworth of the Humberstone Collegiat Staff.

The instruction of Miss Bryans was excellent and the co-operation she received from her piano player, Miss Evelyn Follett, helped so much in

the demonstrations. By use of a hand microphone Miss Bryans was able to easily control the entire group even in the most detailed instructions. The evening began with a promenade and several limbering up steps and followed with square and barn dancing. A breather provided an excellent session for community singing led by Norm Lindsay and in the final round the mode of "Sing Your Way Home" and "God Save the King" was an inspiration. The applause following County President Bill Mitchell's words of thanks was enough in itself to show clearly the juniors thrived on this type of evening.

It is the hope that more of these evenings may follow with perhaps a wind-up festival at some central point with various counties participating. A committee was elected with one representative from each local group. These are: Jim Kitchen from Schomberg; Vic Johnston from Sharon; Les Smith from Vondorf; Norm Tyndall from Victoria Square; Andy McClure from Vellore and Ray Ingelton from Unionville.