

## The Richmond

Richmond Hill, Ontario

THEATRE

Telephone Richmond Hill 500

York County's Newest and Most Modern Playhouse 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 1:30 p.m. Continuous Show Sat. from 5 p.m. Doors open 4:45 p.m.

To-night — Thursday — "Slave Ship"

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An Alison Production  
20th Century-Fox

**News, Shorts**

Monday & Tuesday — January 24 & 25

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THE 'SEA SHOW' YOU MUST SEE!!

## ERROL FLYNN

with RAFAEL SABATINI

### The Sea Hawk

with CLAUDE RAINS

and a cast of thousands including  
BRENDA MARSHALL • DONALD CRISP • FLORA ROBSON  
ALAN HALE • DIRECTED BY MICHAEL CURTIZ

WARNER RE-RELEASE

## Richmond Hill W. I. Celebrates Thirty-Sixth Birthday By Giving Cheque For \$1752.54 To Library

Some seventy-five members and friends of Richmond Hill Women's Institute met on Friday evening in the Municipal Building to celebrate its thirty-sixth anniversary. After all had sung "God Save the King," Mrs. W. Sayers, president, read the Institute Creed. She then welcomed all present and spoke of the history of the Institute over the years, taking as her theme "We cherish the past, we look to the future."

Mrs. Ann McGillivray, in her usual charming manner, soon had all participating in action songs. And after having sung "Three Blind Mice" and "Why Can't My Goose Sing as Well as Thy Goose" with appropriate motions, every one present was ready to enter into the spirit of the evening.

But first came two highlights. The members of the Library Board present: Mrs. R. D. Little, Miss E. Izzard, Miss K. Ball and Mr. G. Yerex, were asked to come forward to receive a cheque for One Thousand, Seven Hundred and Fifty-two Dollars and Fifty-four cents. In asking Mrs. A. L. Phipps to assist in making this presentation, Mrs. Sayers spoke of the many years of service given by the late Mr. A. L. Phipps as librarian. Mrs. Phipps said that this meeting was an outstanding event in the life of our Women's Institute. Not all our hopes and aims have been realized. We had a vision of a Library Building with adequate space for our books, a proper reading room with other facilities which go with a library building. It is to help equip a library room that we are now donating the funds that have been accumulated through the years. Suppers, plays, bridges, and teas have been the means used to raise the money. This money has been very carefully guarded and put out in bonds. Always it was kept as a separate fund. She paid tribute to the older members who had worked so diligently for this fund and also to those who in more recent years had become members and have generously and graciously supported our library fund. Mrs. Phipps felt that having this project had kept the Women's Institute a healthy, happy and progressive organization. She thought we should be thankful to have a Library Room and on the ground floor. There books on travel, history, biography, mythology, as well as fiction and many current magazines are available. She spoke of the well qualified Library Board and the splendid Librarian. Then to Mrs. Little she said — "I speak the unanimous voice of our Institute — and take great pleasure in asking you to accept this cheque, donated to the purpose for which it was raised." Mrs. R. D. Little in accepting the cheque from Mrs. O. L. Wright said that the Library Board could not have undertaken the task of creating a new library in the Municipal Building if they had not had the assurance that this money was available. They hope when the Library is completed to have something tangible to show that the Women's Institute members helped provide.

Miss Collins of the W. I. Department, presented Mrs. Norman Glass and Dr. Lillian Langstaff who were charter members with an Institute Pin. A third charter member, Mrs. R. Cooper, was not able to be present, through illness. Mrs. A. E. Plewman, Mrs. Jerry Smith, Mrs. G. Yerex, Mrs. G. Irwin, Mrs. W. Mylks, and Mrs. R. Edean, faithful members over the years, were also presented with an Institute Pin and Mrs. A. L. Phipps with a history of the Women's Institutes of Ontario — "Fifty Years Achievement" — which is just off the press.

These were each accompanied by a card on which was written a brief sketch of the way in which they had served the Institute. Mrs. Sayers presented Miss Collins with a bouquet of Richmond Hill roses as a slight token of appreciation.

Mrs. P. C. Hill congratulated the Women's Institute on the gift to the Library Board. She said it would be a great lift to them and she knew it represented a tremendous amount of work to raise such a sum.

All present paired off to make a Par's creation from paper plates and ribbons and bows of crepe paper, plus a few pins and great ingenuity. These hats when completed, were modeled before the judges, Mrs. Scott Ferguson, Mrs. J. Smith and Dr. Lillian Langstaff who awarded prizes: first, Mrs. C. Clarke and Miss Barker;

second, Mrs. A. Patton and Mrs. J. Dewsbury; third, Mrs. P. W. Williams and Mrs. W. H. Bury; hon. mention, Mrs. A. Eden and Mrs. Tate.

A skit "Why Grow Old" enacted by Mrs. J. Pollard and Mrs. W. Horner, brought many laughs as it unfolded so true to life.

A mysterious Richmond Hill's own Barbara Ann entertained with her rollerskate act keeping her audience in roars of laughter as she told of her experiences in trying to get to the W. I. meeting.

After wandering Down by the Old Mill Stream" with Mrs. McGillivray and helping "Peter Rabbit" flick the fly from his ear, all present enjoyed a social half-hour — Mrs. Tate, Mrs. H. Sanderson and Mrs. O. MacKillop being hostesses and Mrs. G. Irwin and Mrs. A. L. Phipps pouring tea.

The next meeting of the Women's Institute will be held on Thursday, February 10th, when a film on Recreation from the Ontario Department of Education will be shown and when all women in the community will be very welcome.

A woman spends the first part of her life looking for a husband and the last part wondering where he is.



W. EDWARD BUTLIN

Well known citizen of Richmond Hill who has been appointed general manager of Republic Finance Corporation Limited, Toronto, it has been announced by Gordon D. Fairley, president of the Company.

Mr. Butlin brings to his new post twenty-seven years business experience in Toronto. For eighteen years with the firm of Hamby, Peaker and Trent members of the Toronto Stock exchange, he was junior partner for seven years of that period. For the past nine years he has been associated with the Industrial Acceptance Corporation and Canadian Acceptance Corporation in the finance field. The Liberal joins with Ed's many friends in this district in extending him best wishes for success in his new undertaking.

## Markham Township Council Asks For Replacement Of Road Supt.

HANDLING OF SNOW-PLOWING IN NEW YEAR'S STORM DISPLEASED COUNCIL

Markham township council in regular session Monday afternoon, unanimously agreed to apply to the Ontario Department of Highways for the replacement of W. L. Clark as road superintendent. The unanimous resolution followed a lengthy discussion of the plowing of the roads over the New Year holiday, and a conference with Road Supt. Clark and Harold Cowie who has been operating the equipment.

The township road superintendent is engaged by the municipality but as half his salary is paid by the provincial department the province must be agreeable and sanction all appointments.

Councillor Harry Barber took the chair to conduct the investigation into the condition of township roads after the New Year's storm, which has given the council members great concern and which was first discussed at the last regular meeting.

Councillor Rae demanded to know whether Mr. Clark was aware that his phone was out of order all New Year's day when the Reeve, members of Council and ratepayers had tried to contact him. The Road Superintendent declared that he had not realized this until Saturday evening.

Councillor Rae then questioned whether the roads had been inspected at all on Saturday, and Clark replied that it had always been the policy not to plough while it was still snowing. Mr. Rae pointed out that in the 6th concession a deep drift blocked the entire road, but with this exception the thoroughfare was clear. If this one drift could have been removed, transportation could have continued without interruption.

Reeve Griffin and Councillor Barber both told how they had attempted to get in touch with Mr. Clark, without success on the morning of New Year's day, but had assumed that the equipment was on the road, until it was brought to their attention that the machines were still in the township shed. After trying to locate some of the other men in the Road Department, the Reeve finally reached Harold Cowie, around 5 o'clock in the evening at his mother's home, who went on the job at once. The old and new graders ploughed all night, but Clark asserted that these machines did not do as much actual work as the plough that went out early in the morning when it had stopped snowing. Rae demanded to know whether the drivers had been asked to stand by for orders, when told by Clark to go home until it had stopped snowing. Mr. Clark asserted that that had been the understanding, but that all had gone out for New Year's dinner.

When Robert Rae enquired as to what the other districts had done during the emergency, it was established that the county ploughs had been out continuously during the storm.

Harold Cowie appeared before the board for questioning and confirmed Mr. Clark's story that the men had been told to go home until it had stopped snowing. He was reporting for duty when he met the men going off duty.

It was the opinion of Reeve Griffin and Council that the men should have been issued orders to be on call. "In an emergency a man should not rely on a policy, but should use his head," commented Robert Rae.

Council decided to take immediate action to apply to the Department of Highways for the replacement of the Road Superintendent, in unanimous resolution by the five members of council.

Reeve Verne Griffin presided and all members attended the meeting. W. R. Groskurth presented estimates for culverts, road and street signs. He quoted reflector lights at the low figures of \$3.50 apiece for road signs and 90c for street signs. Councillor Wicks suggested that effort be made to identify No. 7 Highway and some of the more important subdivisions.

Of special interest, from the correspondence read by Clerk Hoover was an invitation by the Ontario Government to send one or more police constables to the Toronto Armouries for a six weeks course in the newest methods in police training.

The National Lumber Company to be located at Steele's Ave. and Yonge St. had made a verbal agreement to make a capital investment in a water supply system that would be of benefit to the immediate area. Reeve Griffin thought that any further expense should be born by that section of Markham Township which would stand to gain by the installation of the system. The Lumber Company should also contribute towards the road improvement in the new district that will open up.

Regarding road improvements in the Township, Reeve Griffin stated that the municipality had not the time nor the equipment to attend to all the work required on the side roads, and found it necessary to put some of the repairs in the hands of contractors. He suggested that when a price be given on road mending, it be given in such a way that it be acceptable to a contractor. The problem of supplying fill for road culverts has become acute, he explained, since with the rapid growth of the community, so many new ones were required. Even though the culverts in some case were privately paid for, the cost of labour and providing gravel for fill was becoming prohibitive.

## From The Hilltop

A COLUMN OF VIEWS AND OBSERVATIONS

(By F. J. Pickings)

"What is Richmond Hill's biggest industry?"

I asked seven people that question last week. The answers ranged all the way from the jocular one given by Clive Bettles, who promptly said — "Bettles' Coffee Shop, of course," to "The Hydro, I guess." One individual even named a store on Yonge Street which, in order to obviate local jealousies, had better be nameless.

Not until I asked the seventh person did I get the correct answer. Yet the industry in question is one which brings in the better part of a million dollars to the Hill every year. Doesn't that seem to give some point to my contention of last week — that at times (and I include myself) we don't see what is going on right under our own noses?

What is this big industry? It's one which makes Richmond Hill certainly the second, if not the first, in its field in the Dominion — the growing of roses.

Brampton, it is true, has its big producer, the Dale Estate, with its four hundred employees, but, in addition to roses, many other flowers are grown. It's just a question whether or not Richmond Hill is Canada's largest rose growing centre but it is the spot where the largest number of roses exclusively is grown.

I started out to write a story about rose growing. The proper way to get the facts seemed to be to go to the three big local growers — H. J. Mills, Ltd., Bedford Park Floral Co., Ltd., and Richmond Roses, Ltd. Before a long and interesting tour had ended a lot of preconceived ideas had been knocked out of my head and, on top of that, I found that PEOPLE — that ever-interesting subject — were beginning to push roses into the background.

All of which is another way of saying that I uncovered a story of employer-employee relations that would make many a larger company, with its personnel department, its endeavour to avoid a heavy labour turnover, its dozen and one schemes for keeping employees happy and efficient, green with envy.

It seems that when you start with roses as a way of earning a living you stay with roses. Unions are unknown in the Hill's rose-growing establishments — so are strikes. The "drifter" — the man who works for a few months before getting itchy feet — is rare. Periods of employment of twenty and twenty-five years are common. Take, for instance, Jim Ellis of H. J. Mills, Ltd. Jim, a grower with that company, has been on the payroll since 1913. John Beresford, chief shipper for the Bedford Park Floral Company, and assistant to the manager, has been a member of the staff for twenty-seven years. Other instances of long service are numerous. Home-owners, tax-payers, solid and self-respecting citizens, these men form a population backbone that means much to the community in which they live.

How is all this achieved? Apparently, as I saw it, not by any complicated labour codes but simply by straightforward and friendly man-to-man relationships and respect of human rights. Simple — but it seems to work.

### A Big Factor

Richmond Hill's rose growers form an important part of their community. Well over one hundred men are

employed in the three establishments. Most of them are heads of families. Taking the generally accepted figure of four to the family of every wage-earner, it is easy to calculate that practically one-fifth of the population of Richmond Hill is directly dependent on roses. The effect on local stores and other businesses shouldn't be hard to figure, especially when it is realized that the annual payroll of those whose vocation is growing roses in Richmond Hill amounts to nearly a quarter of a million dollars.

Big indeed are the figures which make this branch of floriculture the Hill's biggest industry. From the retailers all across the Dominion who buy Richmond Hill roses for resale to their customers came six hundred and seventy-five thousand dollars in 1948. And, you householders who fuss and fume over that annual coal bill — how would you like to have put up the hundred thousand dollars which forms the yearly coal bill of the three Richmond Hill rose growing concerns? And how would you like to have the buy the 14 miles of wire which it takes for supports for the bushes in one house — and one house only — of the H. J. Mills Company? Or the 21,000 feet of lumber for benches which the same house requires? Or the sixty-six big watering faucets for the same house? Then remember that that is only one greenhouse of the sixteen operated by that company — two of them 450 feet long and 50 feet wide. The mathematically minded can do their own computing of the total square footage of glass — the amount of paint required — the tonnage of fertilizers, and so on.

### All Across Canada

There are over 40,000 bushes in the houses of the Bedford Park Floral Company alone and, in 1948, that organization shipped out over one million roses. Where did they all go?

From Halifax to Vancouver, said Paul Angle, Managing Director of the company.

"Vancouver," said I in amazement, recalling all those highly coloured and enticing advertisements published by railway companies and travel bureaux. "Why, I thought that they grew roses 'out there in February." Bang went one of those preconceived ideas of mine when I learned that, in pre-American-dollar-conservation days, B.C., the much-touted Pacific province, imported its roses from Oregon. Today, thanks to the so-called "austerity" programme, Richmond Hill gets some part of the business.

"The prairie provinces take fifty per cent of our output," James Pollard, Managing Director of H. J. Mills, Ltd., told me. This veteran of the 71st Battery in the First Great War, who has been with his company for twenty-nine years, placed Montreal as the biggest customer city, Toronto second, with Winnipeg, Regina, Edmonton, all important rose-buying centres. Incidentally, another war veteran, this time of the second "scrap" is taking an active part in the firm's affairs. He is Harold Mills, son of the founder of the company.

If you had asked me yesterday when most roses were bought and sold chances are I would have told you quite confidently that of course Christmas would head the list, with

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### CORONER'S INQUEST FINDS MISS L. CLARKE FREE OF ALL BLAME IN CHRISTMAS FIRE

At the inquest held Tuesday, January 18th, the jury, after careful investigation agreed upon the following statement of finding: — "We the jury find that Harold Slater and John Blyth met their death, Sunday morning, December 26th between 8 and 8:30 a.m. at 48 Arnold St., Richmond Hill. Harold Slater and John Blyth met their death by asphyxiation and burns. Their death was caused by a fire which destroyed their home on 48 Arnold St. We the jury absolve Miss Clarke from any blame in this matter and we feel that Miss Clarke did everything in her power to save the children. We would also like to commend the Fire Department for their courageous work." Foreman: Alan White; jurors: Frank Barker, George Agar, Leonard Clement and Charles Graham.

### HOLSTEIN CLUB MET TUESDAY

The annual meeting of the York County Holstein Club, one of the largest and most active agricultural organizations of its kind was held in the Masonic Hall at Richmond Hill on Tuesday, January 18th at 10:30. The morning session featured the reports of the various officers including the salesman who has handled a record number of sales during 1948. The association provided a lunch as usual at noon when everyone had an opportunity to get acquainted before proceeding with the election and addresses that featured the afternoon programme. J. M. Fraser of Streetsville, President of the Canadian Holstein Friesian Association brought greetings from the parent organization and was followed by the guest speaker, F. E. Wolfe, B.S.A., Agricultural Advisor of the C.P.R. Mr. Wolfe was formerly Assistant Professor of the Animal Husbandry at the Ontario Agricultural College.

## Crop Improvement Assoc. To Hold Annual Meeting

COUNTY SEED FAIR TO BE HELD IN NEWMARKET

One of the most enthusiastic organizations throughout Ontario, the Crop Improvement Association was only organized about ten years ago and the York County branch which has been very active is holding its annual meeting in the board room of the Agricultural Representative's Office at Newmarket on Tuesday, January 25th. On two occasions recently this group has overflowed their proposed meeting place so their secretary, W. M. Cockburn says he will have another hall ready if the walls in his quarters begin to bulge. Commencing with a draw at 10:30, these meetings now have a reputation of starting on time. There will be interesting discussions of the results of the various high-yield crop

competitions which have been sponsored by the Association in recent years with husking corn added to the list this year.

Guest speaker will be Dr. G. P. McRostie, Professor of Field Husbandry and head of that department at the O.A.C., Guelph. It is anticipated there will be a number of questions pertaining to some of the newer cash crops and President M. C. Macklin of Agincourt is looking forward to a large attendance. Plans will also be launched for the annual County Seed Fair which is to be held in Newmarket this year for the first time. A Bacon Show is being planned in connection with the seed fair when it is hoped to have bacon carcasses in competition from every township.

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