

FAIR CENTURY OLD NEXT TUESDAY

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.

FRIDAY & SATURDAY — MAY 20 & 21

Where there's life there's hope... Where there's hope there's laughs! And what happens to him shouldn't happen to Crosby... as King of minor league country... with a female general who pitches major league wool!

PARAMOUNT PRESENTS
BOB HOPE and
SIGNE HASSO - WM. BENDIX
WHERE THERE'S LIFE
with
GEORGE COULOURIS

MONDAY & TUESDAY — MAY 23 & 24

The climax to adventure

in the great new West!

Mary O'Hara's
GREEN GRASS OF WYOMING
TECHNICOLOR
Starring
Peggy CUMMINS - Charles COBURN - Robert ARTHUR
LLOYD NOLAN - BURL IVES - GERALDINE WALL
Directed by LOUIS KING • Produced by ROBERT BASSLER

SPECIAL HOLIDAY MATINEE AT 2 P.M.

SPECIAL MIDNITE SHOW, MON., MAY 23, 12.05

CONDEMNED TO A LIVING DEATH FOR A CRIME HE DID NOT COMMIT!

THE PRISONER OF SHARK ISLAND

starring WARNER BAXTER

as Dr. Samuel A. Mudd with a cast of one thousand

A 20th CENTURY-FOX ENCORE TRIUMPH

WEDNESDAY & THURSDAY — MAY 25 & 26

From The Opening Roar... To The Final Scream... It's The Funniest Picture You've Ever Seen!

PARAMOUNT PRESENTS
JEAN ARTHUR
MARLENE DIETRICH
JOHN LUND in
"A Foreign Affair"
is a funny affair!

MILLARD MITCHELL
Produced by CHARLES BRACKETT
Directed by BILLY WILDER

ALWAYS NEWS AND A CARTOON

Fairs Of Yesterday Are Recalled By 'Old-Timer'

As this is the last issue of The Liberal to be issued prior to the Centennial Fair, we feel that our readers will be particularly interested in the following recollections of an "old-timer" who is one of Richmond Hill's best known citizens and who has been very largely responsible for the success which we are sure the Fair will attain.

While we should like to give him credit for the article he has specially requested that his name not be used. Nevertheless we take this opportunity of expressing thanks on behalf of The Liberal and its readers. — Editor.

The Fair Ground, before the purchase of the present Village Park was a two acre lot on Arnold Street, just west of the Greenholme Apartments, part of which has been incorporated into the school grounds, and the remainder occupied by private houses.

In those days kids were not admitted free, but we used to hang around the gate waiting for one of the ticket-takers, who was very good to youngsters to let us pass in without paying. The bolder of us pushed our way close to the gate, but the shy ones hung back, sometimes waiting until most of the afternoon was over before we were admitted. When we grew a little older, we used to climb the school ground fence, then we were in because panels of the fence between the school lot and the Fair Ground were always taken down and the school property used for exhibiting agriculture implements, buggies and wagons.

At first before a rink was built on the east end of the old Fair Grounds, everything was exhibited in the open air — cattle were tied to fences, sheep and hogs were placed in pens, and poultry was shown in crates. No guarding fences surrounded the horse rings — strange to say, so far as I remember, no one was ever hurt by a horse.

Liquor was sold on the grounds in those early days. We had three hotels in the Village. On Fair Day all the stalls and all the hotel shed room were occupied, besides horses were tied to the fences in the yards behind the hotels, completely filling them. In addition almost every stall, privately owned, housed horses of visitors to the Fair.

Hotels Very Busy
Needless to say the Hotel dining rooms were taxed to the utmost, and besides, before the churches began serving meals on the 24th in 1880, many householders entertained at meals friends who came from the country.

There wasn't much rowdiness, but I remember a fight taking place on Yonge Street between people who were supposed to have a grudge and who posed as somewhat of a bruiser, fighting there. The broken stones of the macadam with which the street was paved offered too ready missiles to some of the more reckless, who threw them regardless of the bystanders. The forehead of one man, I remember seeing, received a nasty gash fully three inches long from a stray rock, but this is the only fight I can recall.

Then the present park was purchased — it has been added to twice and is now possibly three times its original area. To reach it from Yonge Street, Lorne Avenue was opened. A rink was built on the eastern end of the ground close to Church Street, which was torn down when the present curling rink was erected.

The ground at one time boasted a race track one-third of a mile in circumference, and there were some very good trotting heats. A low picket fence at one time ran around the inside of the track.

Good Weather The Rule
At one time a grand stand stood just south of the bowling green, close to the northern fence. It had no roof. Under it sewing and fancy work and other easily movable articles were shown. There were repeated criticisms that the same articles came to the Fair year after year; but one year the weather man stepped in and it rained a great part of the day, the floor of the grandstand was far from rain proof and much of the ladies' exhibits were never shown again at this or any other fair — the rain fixed that. In the one hundred years of the operation of the Fair the Board has had to cope with rainy weather on only three or four days; one 24th, however, there was a flurry of snow. We'll have a mighty good Fair this year if the weather is propitious, so if you have any pull with the weather man, use it for the Fair.

The new park, even though it was surrounded by a high board fence was easily accessible to us kids, for we could either climb the fence or crawl under it where the boards did not quite reach the ground. Of course, the modern kid wouldn't do such a thing — at any rate he does not have to, he is admitted free.

Cattle were tied to the fence in the new park at first and pigs and sheep were shown in movable pens. The rinks as they were built were used showing ladies' handwork, etc., as well as school exhibits.

Churches Staged Concerts
We had no midway for a long time, maybe it was just as well. The advent of the first Merry-Go-Round

Building Permits Issued For 1949 Double Last Year

Indicative of the rapid growth of Richmond Hill are figures recently released by Village Clerk Russell Lynett.

Up to the present date in 1948, he states, seventeen building permits totalling \$50,000 had been issued by his office.

For the same period this year twenty-six permits have been issued with a total value of \$105,000. Figures also reveal ownership changes amounting to over ten per cent of the property in the village. Since the assessment roll was returned to the municipal office on October 1st last year, and up to April 30th this year, seventy-four changes in ownership have been recorded. As there were 680 taxpayers recorded on the original roll this indicates an ownership change of over ten per cent.

Vellore Jr. Farmers Successful As Actors

The Junior Farmers and Junior Institute should be very grateful to the members of the Junior Farmers who have worked so hard at the presentation of the play "A Pair of Countr Kids," for through their efforts at least \$500. will be turned over to those organizations this year.

The play has been named as one of the best ever presented in many localities and its success has been due to the excellent way in which each player has portrayed his or her part and the co-operation which has been displayed.

Since last December the young actors have spent at least two nights a week in practise or presentation. "A Pair of Country Kids" has already been presented twenty-five times, and two more engagements have yet to be filled. At least five places had to be refused due to the busy season.

The final presentation of the season will be given in Vellore Hall on Wednesday, June 1st, and it is hoped that a bumper attendance will make the last show a real success. There will be entertainment between acts and refreshments will be provided.

Building In Vaughan Keeps Rapid Growth

New construction in Vaughan Township continues at an unprecedented rate, according to figures released by H. C. H. Miller, township building inspector, and slightly exceeded those of last year to the same date.

71 building permits were issued to the end of April, totalling \$311,100.

The figures by months are as follows:
January \$12,200
February \$64,625
March \$91,600
April \$142,675

Fair Parade Details

The Parade on the morning of Fair Day, Tuesday, May 24, 1949, will assemble at the High School at 10:30 o'clock and will proceed from there to Benson Avenue, then to Yonge Street, south to Markham Road, to Church Street along to the Fair Grounds. It will be led by the Queen's York Ranger Band, which is one of the outstanding bands of the City of Toronto.

A conveyance will be provided for the entrants for the Period Dress Competitions.

The entrants in the Decorated Bicycle Contest will assemble at the High School, but the entrants for the Decorated Tricycle and the Decorated Dolls' Carriages will assemble at the Post Office — this, because the children in the two latter contests are likely to be small, and might find the walk from the High School rather long. The prizes for the Bicycles, Tricycles and Doll's Carriages will be for each of these contests — \$2.00, \$1.00, 50 cents, and 25 cents to all other entrants.

Mr. J. S. McNair, who is the Honorary President, and has a Past President and has been an enthusiastic member of the Society will open the Fair at one o'clock.

From now until next Tuesday, May 24th, Agricultural Society directors and officers will doubtless be keeping their radios turned on and listening to the pros, for bad weather is now the only thing that can react against the success of the Centennial Fair on that date.

Months of hard work and planning are reaching their culmination and, given favourable conditions, the event should far exceed, in size and character, any of the successful functions of previous years.

The day will commence with a parade which will leave the High School at 10:30, directed by Parade Marshal A. Rice, and led by the Queen's York Rangers Band. Many decorated trucks, floats and cars are expected to participate.

Prizes will be given for the best man's period dress, the best woman's period dress and also for decorated bicycles, tricycles and doll carriages. The period costumes will be judged at the band stand at three in the afternoon, while others will be judged at the band stand immediately after the parade.

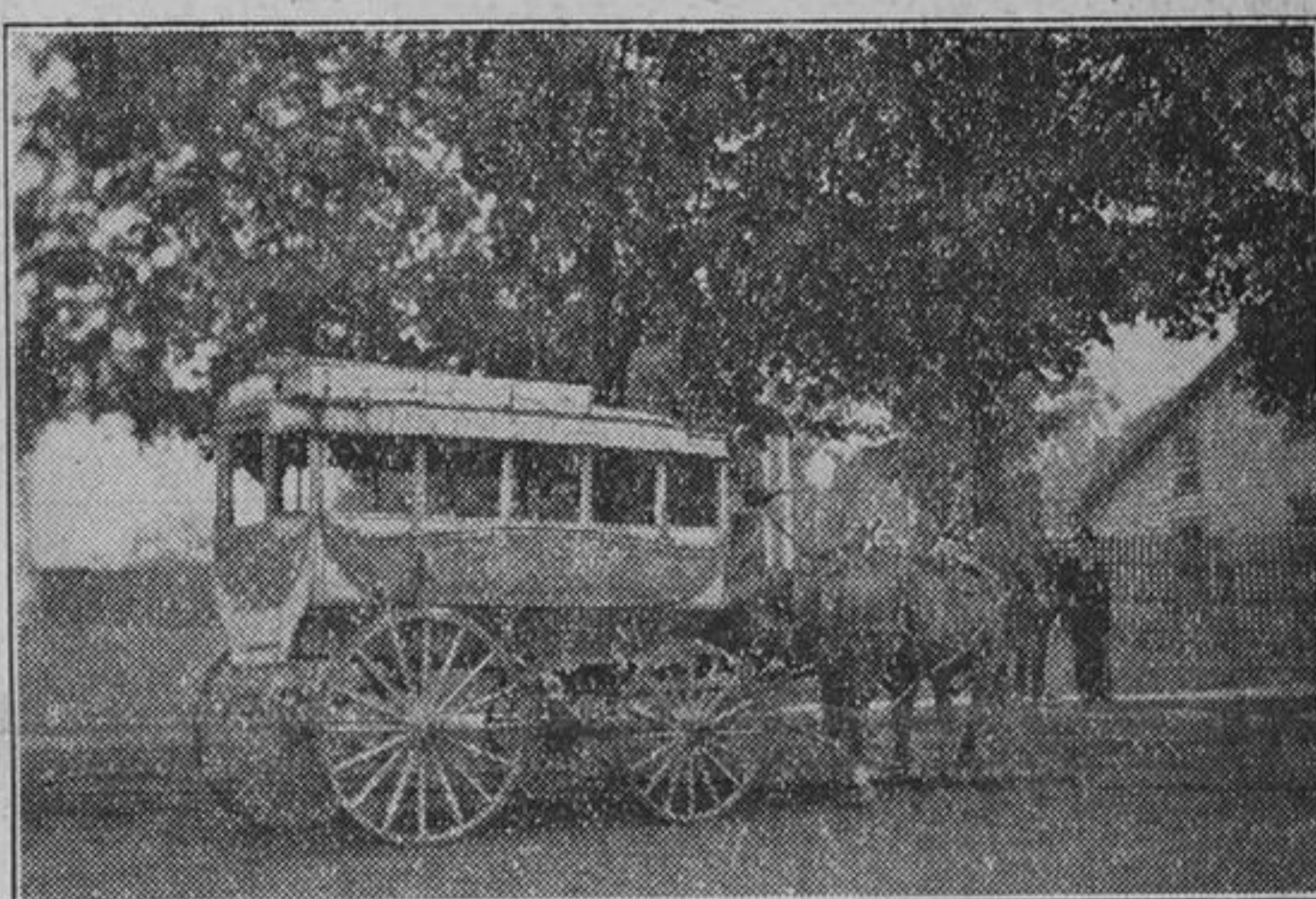
A Dance will be held in the Arena in the evening, with Leo Paxton's orchestra providing the music.

Three Ring Circus

The main reason for the Fair's existence — the Horse and Cattle shows — will provide a regular three ring circus. A very lengthy list of events is scheduled and is listed in detail in the Society's programme. Many special trophies and prizes are to be competed for. No less than thirty-two events are open for horse and pony owners. A special class for Guernsey calves is being sponsored by the York Simcoe Guernsey Breeders Association and the York County Jersey Club will hold its sixth annual show in co-operation with the Fair.

All in all, it looks as if Richmond Hill citizens need not travel far from home to find their fun on May 24th.

To Take Part In Centennial Fair Parade



Veteran of many fairs in years long before many present Richmond Hill residents were born is the ancient vehicle pictured above. It will appear again in the parade which is to open the Centennial Fair on May 24th. From 1870 to 1895, before the radial line and the present bus system were dreamed of, it served as Richmond Hill's means of communication with Toronto, to which it made daily trips.

Immediate Attention Necessary To Assessment, Planning Problems Reeve Griffin Tells Councillors

Immediate attention to problems such as assessment and planning, in order to avoid heavy and unnecessary expenses and "messes" in the future was urged upon Markham Township Council by Reeve Vern Griffin at the regular meeting held on May 16th.

Recording himself as strongly against the present system of assessment, which he describes as "dictatorial and unequal," Reeve Griffin urged consultation with experts in order to provide the installation of a system which would lead to proper, equalized assessments. He was authorized by Council to investigate the situation and report back.

Council also authorized the Reeve to investigate a concrete scheme for town planning and to report back. The township already has had consultations with Dr. Faludi, town planning consultant, who has offered to prepare a master plan of the township, on a two year basis, at a reasonable cost. It was pointed out to council that unless immediate steps were taken the growth of population in the township would create conditions which it would be both costly and difficult to remedy in a few years.

Property Purchase Urged
Immediate action leading to the acquisition of property for township purposes was urged by the Reeve, who pointed out that the rapidly increasing values of land would force extra expenditures on the township in the future unless action was taken at once to provide a site for future township buildings.

An offer of \$2,050 for the old township hall was considered by council, which considered the amount insufficient and made a counter proposal of \$2,500, cash, or \$2,250, cash with the privilege of using the hall four times yearly.

Widening and improvement of Elgin Street, south of Thornhill, which had been objected to by certain property owners at previous meetings, was discussed at length. It was decided that the easterly extension of the street should be proceeded with and that this part should be 66 feet wide. Action to acquire necessary land will be proceeded with, falling which expropriation will be considered.

Maple Creek Lodge Sold By George Dowe To Toronto Horseman

Maple Creek Lodge, well known entertainment centre at Elgin Side Road and Bathurst Streets, has been sold by owner, George P. Dowe to George Kellough, well-known horseman of Toronto.

Mr. Kellough will not operate the Lodge as a commercial proposition but will make his home and keep his horses there. In addition to the Lodge he has bought one hundred and ten acres.

Mr. Dowe is retaining the south farm, running through to Dufferin Street, and intends to continue making his home in the district. He is, he reports, busy with his electrical equipment business at Richvale which is employing sixty-five hands at the present time.

Mention Of Old Coin Produces Older One

Mention in a recent issue of The Liberal of an Upper Canada half-penny dated 1820 found on the Neill farm at Jefferson brought a quick response from O. Mallory of Lennox Avenue, Richmond Hill.

Mr. Mallory has sent in a similar coin, but dated 1812, which was ploughed up in his garden on Lennox Avenue, which was originally part of the homestead of the Palmer family.

The 137 year old coin is in a fair state of preservation.