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ELGIN MILLS

Correspondent: Barbara Jones
Phone Richmond Hill 482

Last Monday night Elgin Mills girls were in fine shape (and we do mean shape) in their smashing new uniforms. Irene Mashinter hit a home run, bringing in two other players. Wednesday night they played an exhibition game with Aurora at the home field. The next league game is on July 4th at Victoria Square.

The young men of Elgin Mills have formed a softball team and are playing at Teston on Thursday.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Jones have had a bumper crop of strawberries, considering weather conditions.

Commander R. H. Stokes-Rees spoke at Chatham on Tuesday night.

Mr. Wm. Espey, Mr. Harry Burns and Mrs. Wm. Burns will celebrate their birthdays together at Mr. Harry Burns home this Saturday night.

Mrs. Sanders (nee Evelyn Kerswill) has opened a tourist home at the corner of Yonge Street and Elgin Side Road east.

Mr. Wright of Richmond Hill has purchased the old Bracken home from Wm. Espey.

EDGELEY

Correspondent: Mrs. W. Maginn,
Phone Maple 57r14

Mr. and Mrs. John Snider and little daughter of Lambton visited Mr. and Mrs. Paul Snider on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. A. Bagg and Mr. and Mrs. J. Keffer and Carole visited Mr. and Mrs. Bill Ross Saturday evening. Joanne Linda, little daughter of Mr. and Mrs. B. Cook, was baptized in Edgeley Church, Sunday. There was a large attendance, it being Rev. Mr. Fockler's last Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. P. Putterbaugh celebrated their silver wedding anniversary on Saturday, June 25th. Over 200 friends and relatives called to offer congratulations. The late Rev. Mr. Robert Young of Stouffville married Mr. and Mrs. Putterbaugh twenty-five years ago.

Edgeley Women's Institute will meet at the home of Mrs. J. Chapman on Thursday, July 7th, at 2 p.m. A good attendance is expected to discuss bus trips.

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From The Hilltop

A COLUMN OF VIEWS AND OBSERVATIONS

(By F. J. Picking)

There's an old "chestnut" about a funeral service where the minister was orating about the good qualities of the deceased. The late, lamented brother, according to the parson, was a model of all the virtues. Finally the widow turned to her son who was sitting beside her and said: "Johnny, run up and make positive it's your father we're burying. I sure can't recognize him by that description."

All of which is a way of suggesting that so often we wait that little bit too long before the good things are said — that some of the tributes which are paid might better be given in life when the subject can realize a degree of satisfaction by knowing that he's held in a certain amount of respect by his fellow citizens. In this week's "Hilltop" I propose to pay a tribute from one newspaperman to another and to a citizen who, I think, has "played the game" with his fellow men.

Why shouldn't I? It has been my pleasure and privilege during recent months to write about citizens past and present — men like Albert Jones, self-respecting pioneer who believes in the doctrine that "by the sweat of thy brow thou shalt eat bread" — community and business-builders like David Hill, and many others.

But in this case it's a little different. There's a tradition held by newspaper men of the old school that a paper is never used to boost the personality or outside interests of its owner. But in this case I propose to bust that tradition wide open. After all, if "Sobbing George" McCullagh, nearly breaking down and weeping over the radio about the hard luck that kept George Drew from seeing his children for five weeks (Veterans of five years overseas please note), can use the Globe and Mail to tell the world what an expert on international affairs he is then why can't something be said in the Richmond Hill Liberal about John Eachern Smith—the subject of my article this week.

A Columnist's Prerogative

Fortunately in this instance, in this particular piece of work for the Liberal, I'm protected by that unwritten law under which a columnist expresses his own opinion of things as he sees them, subject only to the laws of libel and the canons of good taste. Sometimes that law leads to queer contradictions. The paper's official editorials may be flatly opposed by the views of a columnist whose writings appear on the same page. Nevertheless it's a healthy thing for the press and for Canada that such can be the case. If you don't believe me just ask yourself if it would be possible in "Pravda", leading Russian official organ.

So I'm taking full advantage of my position in this particular sphere of the home town paper's activities to say something about Jack Smith, and without his advance knowledge.

When I first started writing for him he knew quite a bit about my background and quite a lot about my attitude towards certain national questions and the active art I had taken in regard to them. He knew, although he never said so, that I was "agin the government" on certain points.

Yet tonight I can say quite truthfully that never, in any way, shape or form, has he attempted to direct my writing to fit in with his personal desires. As a matter of fact, in five weeks out of six, he has never known what was in my column until he saw it in print. You pretty nearly have to be a newspaperman yourself to understand what that means. But, as a rose-grower, as a farmer, as a mechanic, you can appreciate the fact that it takes a

man with a lot of humanity and decency in his system to give the rein to another man in that way.

Clean Newspapering

But it's as a newspaper man that I want to pay a particular tribute to him.

Let's put it this way. Find me a man or a woman who, in the weeks before the election, wasn't disgusted and fed up with our Toronto papers — all three of them — in their treatment of election news. There are some, of course, but publishers of the Queen City's newspapers would, I think, be astonished to learn what resentment they have created by their partisan departures from the true function of a paper — reporting the news.

Day after day I have compared their stories. Except for the date-line you couldn't believe that they were reporting the same event or the same speech. They spent their time wrangling as to whether four hundred or four thousand welcomed Mr. St. Laurent at Quebec. They argued as to whether six "paid hecklers" or scores of "interested citizens" raised questions at George Drew's Belleville meeting. Day after day they slanted or distorted the news to their own political leanings. They forgot the cardinal principle that the primary function of a newspaper is to report the event as it happened and, if comment has to be made and editorial opinion expressed, that the proper place to do so is in the editorial column. They forgot, too, that Canadians in general are perfectly able to make up their own minds and that, given the facts, they could reach a reasonably sound conclusion.

I am not singling out any one paper or party organ. They were all as bad as each other and they have left in my mind and, I am positive, in the minds of many citizens a disgust that the so-called "power of the press" could be used as loosely and partisanly as it has been employed during recent weeks. They have forgotten that with that power also goes a responsibility — the responsibility of providing their readers with the true, unbiased news.

Mistake Not Made

Jack Smith has not made that mistake. During the election weeks his columns have been free from political colouration. Newsworthy events have been reported — political advertising has been carried in its proper place — the advertising columns. His paper has maintained its proper function — that of a recorder of local news — and has not been utilized as a means of getting him back to Ottawa. In plain English, candidate for re-election though he may have been, he has continued to give his subscribers that for which they pay him, the record of this area's activities.

For that — as one newspaperman to another — I take off my hat to him, believing that the readers of this column will join me.

All this is written the night before the election. Tomorrow at this time Jack Smith may still be North York's representative at Ottawa or the desire for a change may have swept him and others aside. Whatever happens — and this is going into print regardless — I'd like to be on record as telling readers of the Liberal that while Jack Smith's paper can't be stacked up against the Globe and Mail, the Telegram, the Star, for size or dollars, it has a publisher who has maintained the best principles of journalism.

The community which has a publisher like that in control of its local press is lucky.

St. John's Buses Stay For Summer

The free bus which has been taking children to Sunday School each Sunday morning at St. John's (Anglican) Church, Oak Ridges, will be continued during July and August for adults who may wish to attend Church at 11.15 a.m.

It has often been said that lack of transport facilities have made it almost impossible for many to attend church in this district. Consequently it is hoped that every advantage will be taken of this opportunity.

If the number using the bus warrants it, it is hoped to make the arrangement permanent; but this will of course depend upon the reception accorded this effort.

Langdon's Bus coming from King will, if signalled, pick up church people along King side road, proceeding north on Yonge to reach C. F.R.B. side road at 10.45 a.m. It will then circle Wilcox Lake via North (Windmill) Road stopping at Jackson's Woolley's and Brittain's Stores; thence to Yonge St. and south to St. John's Church at Jefferson.

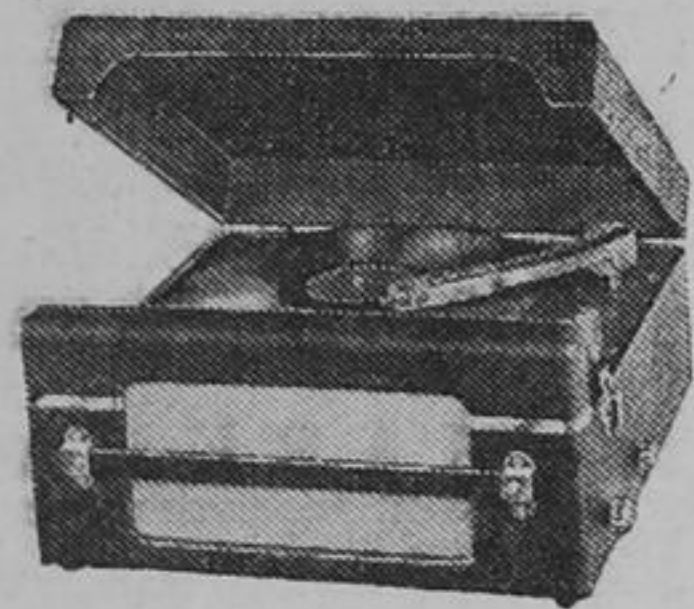
A return trip will be made after the service. It is hoped that parents will bring their children to church with them.

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