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Founded December 1856
Fisherville Church
Centennial Oct. 21

Fisherville United Church is celebrating its centennial with special services at 2.30 o'clock on Sunday afternoon, October 21.

Fisherville was established as a parish in 1856 but its history goes back to an earlier date. Although the present building is the first church in the community, it is known that prior to its construction, worship services were held in the various homes in the district. In 1855 a building committee was named and they met in Cherry's Hotel to discuss the business of church construction.

Fisherville Church was established on December 11, 1856, as Fisherville Presbyterian Church. The original copy of the 100-year-old Constitution of the Church occupies an honoured place on its walls providing in 12 short paragraphs the conduct of the Church in all matters of organization and faith.

Fisherville in 1856 was a centre of interest, having a grist-mill which was second in size to that at Thornhill. The mill was situated on the west branch of the Don River on the property now occupied by the Connaught Medical Research Laboratories. The property was originally part of the old Fisher estate. When the laboratories acquired the property in 1915, the mill pond, the mill and the miller's house stood as they were in the Fisherville of a century ago. However, in the spring of 1915, floods carried out the dam and the old mill was dismantled. The miller's house was placed in good repair and used by the Connaught Laboratories as a residence for many years. During the last world war the house was remodelled, providing a number of laboratory rooms in which typhus fever vaccine was prepared. This vaccine was urgently required for the armed services and was part of the war work of the laboratories. The miller's house is still in use for laboratory purposes.

The Church was erected on the north side of what is now known as Steele's Avenue West. The building as it stands today is the original structure, built of white

stone and bears over the doorway the inscription "Fisherville Presbyterian Church, 1856." Opposite the Church when it was erected was a blacksmith's shop and a row of three cottages with Cherry's Hotel at the corner of the concession road, now Dufferin Street. The hotel remained as a landmark until 1945 when the property was acquired by the University of Toronto in connection with the extension of the work of the Connaught Laboratories.

One of the founders of the church was Mr. John Brack, who continued his interest in the church for many years. In providing services, arrangements were made with the minister of York Mills Presbyterian Church to serve the congregation. This arrangement continued for a number of years.

The exterior was made of rough cast material which has been maintained throughout the century. At first the church was heated by box stoves with two rows of pipes. Specially Designed Pews The high back pews had boarded ends. When first built, there was a door on each pew, but these were later removed. While worshippers found the fancy narrow ledge on the back of each pew most uncomfortable for their necks, it was a means of assuring better attention to the sermon and fewer worshippers dozing off to sleep.

At one time there were two doors on the little outer vestibule of the church, one on the east side and the other on the west end. These were later closed off and a centre door was added.

Add Bell It was a number of years after the church was built that the bell was added. John Wanless, Toronto jeweller, made and presented the bell to the congregation and was instrumental in having the belfry constructed.

Bible Classes Bible classes were held in the woodshed at the north end of the church. One class sat among the wood. Two Sunday School rooms are now in this portion of the building.

Choir There was no choir until the early 1890's at which time the organ was purchased. Ruth Cherry, who afterwards became Mrs. Thomas Hultse, was the first organist. Her son, A. Hultse, is a prominent lawyer in Aurora. Miss Cherry was married in Fisherville Church and the reception afterwards was held across the road at her father's hotel.

There were no hymn books used in the early days of the church, the congregation used the Psalm Book instead. The Precursor sat in the congregation directly in front of the minister and used a tuning fork to achieve the proper key for the congregation to sing the praise.

The pulpit at first was very high, but it was replaced later with one of more suitable height by the minister in 1865. This action resulted in several senior members leaving the church to attend services in Thornhill.

Dedication At the Dedication Service in 1856, three services were held on Sunday, and a soiree, which turned out to be a very grand occasion with many in attendance was held during the week.

Among the faithful members of early days can be found the names of Brack, Troyer, Bowes, Baxter, Riddell, Poole, Dalziel, Snider, Conacher and Allan. Mr. Cherry, the proprietor of the hotel that once stood across the road from the church, made a habit of closing his hotel on week days whenever a service was held in the church.

Families in the community for years buried their dead in the small cemetery north of the church, but time proved it to be an unsuitable burial ground, and a few years ago quite a number were disinterred and reburied in Maple.

The history of the church can be divided into two periods, from 1856 to 1915, a period of 60 years and from 1915 to the present. In the first period, the church was served by ordained ministers throughout the years until 1900. With more persons living in the neighbouring centres and the disappearance of Fisherville as a community, the church attendance was insufficient to support a permanent minister and the Home Mission Board of the Presbyterian Church provided services with student ministers. Finally, about 1910, the services were discontinued and for the remaining five years of the first period, the church remained closed.

Some of the early ministers were the Rev. Robert Monteith,

the Rev. William Laidlaw, and the Rev. Robert Gray. A number of prominent ministers served the congregation as students including the Rev. Robert Cochrane, Home Mission Secretary and later Moderator. The second period of 40 years commenced with the re-opening of the church in 1915, as a result of the interest of several members of the Connaught Laboratories which had commenced its work in the old Fisher property.

Mr. William Fenton, a member of the Department of Health of Ontario was associated with the church in connection with the work of the Connaught Laboratories. Mr. Fenton re-opened the church and with the assistance of Mr. James Sherman, a member of the Connaught staff, and later with the assistance of Mr. Albert Double, superintendent of the Laboratories, made arrangements for a Sunday school and later for regular services. The church building and grounds were in great need of repair. These three members undertook to place new cement piers under the building as the old posts had rotted away.

The roof was reshingled and the interior was painted. Between the period of 1915 and 1925 the work was continued with volunteer leadership. It was during this period that the Rev. Mr. Lorraine gave leadership to the congregation and it is pleasing that he will be the speaker at the centenary celebration.

In 1925, the congregation voted in favour of church union and entered the United Church of Canada. Through the co-operation of the neighbouring churches services were provided for varying periods by the ministers of Fairbanks Church, Thornhill, Downsview and now, Newtonbrook United Church. One of those who contributed most richly to the church was the Rev. Ray McCleary, now at Woodgreen United Church, whose great work in the east end of downtown Toronto is so well known. A number of retired ministers for varying periods in recent years also served the church. Among these were the Rev. Thomas Laidlaw, the Rev. W. S. Mark, and the Rev. Clark Logan. Among the many students who assisted in the services were Donovan Jones, Albert Daynard, Ben Morewood, Ernest E. Best, Miss Eunice Pyfron, Ewart Maden, and Charles Wole. The members are deeply indebted to the Rev. Mr. Kelly, Minister of Newtonbrook Church who for the past four years has been minister of the church.

On this occasion, it is fitting that we should remember the work of Mr. William Fenton, Mr. James Sherman and his wife, and Mr. Albert Double who made possible the re-opening of the church in 1915, for without them it is doubtful that we would have the privilege of recording the one hundredth anniversary.

Of the ladies, Mrs. James Sherman has been a member from the re-opening in 1915 and with a small group of faithful workers, which constituted the Women's Association, has been responsible for the Sunday School and for the continuance of the Church's work through many difficult times.

The value of the witness at Fisherville Church during the century of its history cannot be estimated. At no time was the church supported by a large congregation. It has continued through the years as evidence of the hope and faith of a small group of men and women who desired to see the Church of Christ maintained in the community. It is impossible for us to know the hundreds of lives that have been influenced by the church during these years. Always possessing an active Sunday School, the church has ministered to the community in a way far exceeding its resources. It is an example of a rural church, set in a community that has become a suburban area of Toronto. Becoming suburbanized, unfortunately, the area has not had the benefit of a large increase in population, since a few homes have been built in the immediate area of the church. The officers of the church are the Rev. G. Kelly, minister; C. Stockford, chairman of the Board of Stewards; G. Conway, secretary and T. Watts, treasurer. The president of the Women's Association is Mrs. J. Sherman.

NORTH YORK: Council's refusal to approve an addition of one acre to the Junior High School site on Buntly Lane Ave., at a cost of \$65,000 may lead the Board of Education to take the dispute to the Ontario Municipal Board.

Church News The Temperanceville Church entrance was artistically decorated with the produce brought by the community for the Fred Victor Mission. There were vegetables, fruit, eggs, canned goods, and clothing. The two church standards were filled with glad-toll, zinnias, and autumn leaves. Rev. Victor Wood was in charge of the communion service.

Mrs. Fred Boys, Missionary superintendent was present on Sunday to thrill the children with her story of the Chapel Bell. W.M.S. members are reminded of their invitation to King United Church on Thursday, October 11, at 2.30 p.m.

W.I. The W.I. meeting was held at the home of Mrs. Routledge on October 2. About 25 members and visitors were present. The call was answered by a variety of new materials. The program convener on Canadian Industries, Mrs. W. Turner, gave a talk on the personalities and habits of Canadian people met while on a trip to the Gaspé Peninsula.

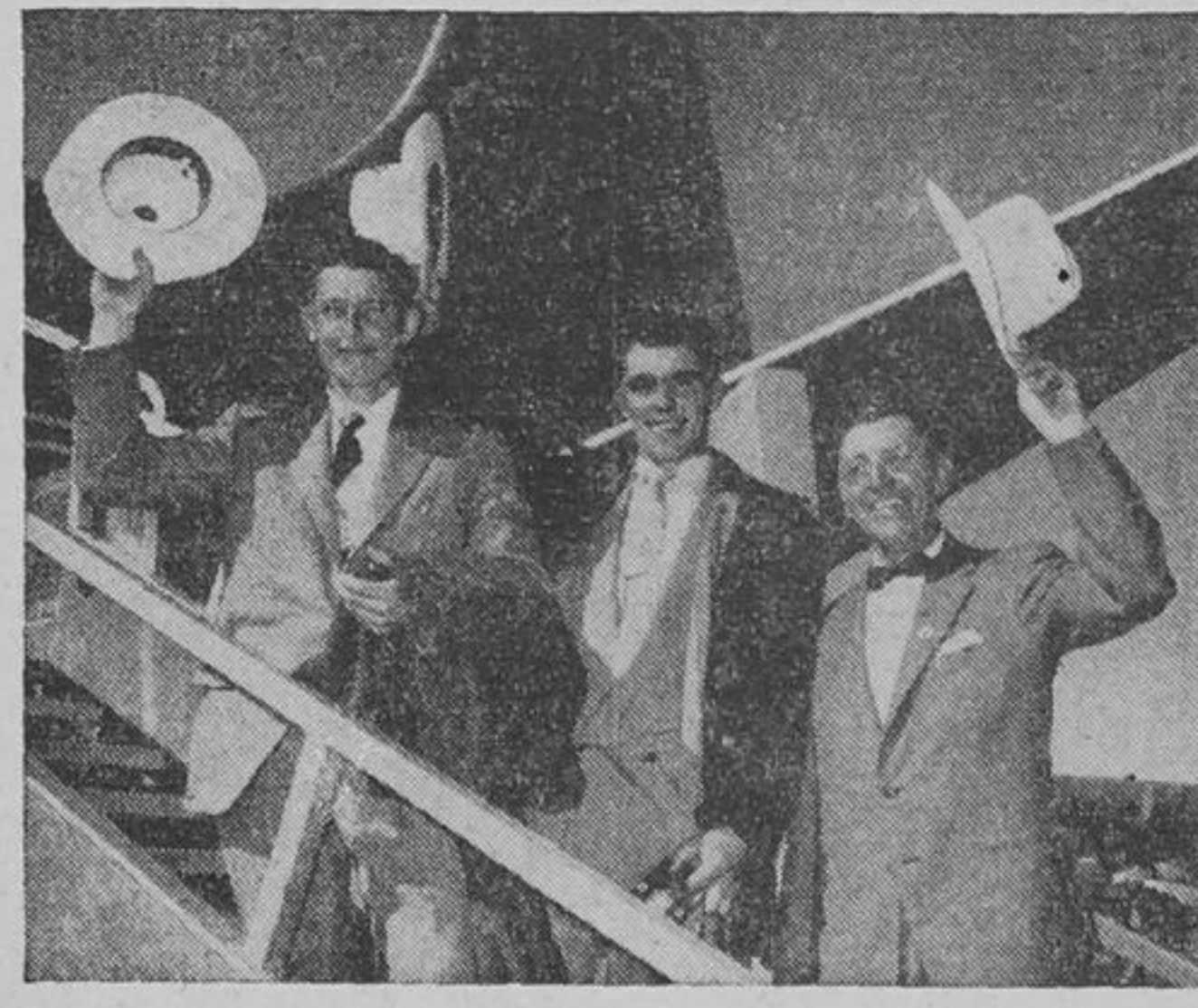
The plowing match for which the W.I. will have a booth as well as supply the box lunches is to be held on October 16, on the 2nd concession north of Temperanceville. The W.A. will sponsor the noon and evening meal and the church Sunday school rooms.

Personals Mr. and Mrs. Emerson Jennings and boys motored from Essex to attend the funeral of Mrs. Harvey Folliott, after which they spent the Thanksgiving week-end with relatives. Mrs. Roy Folliott was also at the funeral.

Mr. and Mrs. Eddie Wilson spent the week-end with Mr. and Mrs. Howard Clark.

MARKHAM: A Pickering Township youth was thrown 80 feet into a field last week when his motorcycle collided head-on with a truck on No. 7 Highway about a mile east of Markham village. Harold Burkholder, 17, had his left leg amputated at East General Hospital. He also suffered severe head injuries and a broken arm. His condition was described as critical.

The crash disabled the brakes and steering mechanism of the truck, causing it to career 100 ft. along the highway, but the driver, Herbert Jarvis, was unhurt.



Over the clouds to England to compete for the world champion plowman title go these members of the Canadian team (l to r) Robert Timbers, 29, of Stouffville, Ont., and Edwin Demman, 23, of Portage la Prairie, Man., with their team manager, Russell Bellhart of Bruce Station, Ont., former president of the Ontario Plowman's Association.

The young farmers won the right to represent Canada at the fourth annual Plowing Match (the plowmen's Olympics) being held at Shillingford, near Oxford, England, on October 12. Timbers and Demman captured first and third places, respectively, in the Esso Silver Plow contest at the 1955 International Plowing Match

at Blytheswood, near Leamington, Ont. Their overseas trip is sponsored by Imperial Oil. As well as competing, the Canadian team will participate in ceremonies in connection with the unveiling of a cairn by the Duke of Gloucester, uncle of Queen Elizabeth, to mark the centenary of the founding of the world match. The cairn will include stones from the 14 competing countries. Each stone will be engraved with the name of the country of origin. Similar cairns have been unveiled at Cobourg, Ont., site of the first world's plowing match in 1953 and at Upsala, Sweden. Following the match the overseas plowmen will tour England, including a visit to the Queen's farm at Windsor.

LANGSTAFF NEWS

CORRESPONDENT: MRS. M. J. ROY
Phone Avenue 5-2806

The annual grade one Mother's Tea was held on Wednesday, September 26. This is in charge of the Home and School Association and is held so that the mothers of the first graders can have an opportunity to meet and talk with the teacher. About 30 of the mothers availed themselves of this opportunity and the afternoon was very successful.

Scout Group Committee The monthly meeting of the 1st Langstaff Boy Scouts Group Committee was held at the home of Norm Whitfield, Roosevelt Dr. on Monday, October 1. Final arrangements were made for the Rearing School which will be held on October 10 and 11 at the Lions Hall, Richmond Hill. Plans were made for the annual Apple Day to be held later in the month. A social night will be held on November 20 at the Charles Howitt School.

Baptist Church News There was a good attendance at Sunday School last Sunday. Mr. Silks spoke to the Bible Class. Pastor Don orrie of the Keele-dale Baptist Church took charge of the morning service and preached the sermon. Mr. Hiltz was preaching at Keele-dale in the morning but returned for the regular Sunday evening service. The Young Peoples group had a very good turnout at the Weirer Roast held last week and all had an enjoyable time.

October 5, Evangelist Don Holiday and song leader George

Shuttleworth will be at Langstaff from Friday, October 26 through Sunday, November 4, excepting Monday, October 29, to conduct the 28th Annual Anniversary Services of the church.

Langstaff Art Club This is the name chosen for a new group which has been formed for beginners in oil painting. The group will meet every Wednesday afternoon from 2 to 4 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Aston, No. 7 Highway, who is the teacher of the group. A few more members could be accommodated and anyone interested may contact Mrs. Aston at AV. 5-2803.

Personals Belated birthday greetings to Stephen Campbell, Boyle Drive, who entertained several of his friends last Saturday to celebrate his fifth birthday. Birthday congratulations to Mrs. E. Lepkey, No. 7 Highway, who celebrated her birthday on Sunday, September 30, also to Mrs. Oscar Brodie who celebrates this week.

Many Langstaff residents were saddened to hear of the death of Mrs. Mary Doner, mother of Mrs. May Clayton, formerly of Langstaff, and the sympathy of the community is extended to Mrs. Clayton and other members of the family.

Mrs. Mott, No. 7 Highway, has been on the sick list this week end. We wish her a speedy recovery.

TEMPERANCEVILLE NEWS

CORRESPONDENT: MRS. ED. PAXTON, R. R. 3, KING
Phone TU. 4-3059

Mr. George Umehara spent Thanksgiving with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Umehara. Miss Joan Hare was a guest of her sister, Mrs. Robert Turner and family over the week-end. Mr. and Mrs. Ray Jennings had a very enjoyable trip to Manitoulin Island recently.

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CARS ARE MY LINE
By Bud Lauria

One of the first laws of the white man in North America forbade the selling of liquor to the Indians. However, there were in those days, as in these, citizens who were more interested in quick profit than in community welfare.

Some citizens used to ride out to the frontier with bottles of booze hidden in the long leggings that were popular at the time. It was from this practice that the word "bootlegging" arose.

It's still used in connection with liquor. And it has cropped up recently in the automobile business as well. A car bootlegger, in case you don't know, sells new cars but is not franchised to do so by a manufacturer.

His new cars look like the same cars you can buy from a dealer who is franchised. But there's an important difference.

Very often, in fact usually, the car bootlegger has no service facilities to check over the new car before it's sold. All new cars do need thorough checking before they're sold. You buy blind when you buy from a bootlegger.

If the bootlegger has no service garage, or only minor service facilities, he's not interested in winning your continued confidence so you'll come back for tune-ups, oil changes and repairs. In fact, once he's sold the car he never wants to see you again.

You can imagine what kind of monkey business this leads to.

The bootlegger may offer you the manufacturer's warranty, or he may offer you his usual used-car warranty that often has no many holes in it that it should be used in the confetti business rather than the car business.

Whatever the lures offered and however large the big type in his ads, the fact remains that once you're off his lot the bootlegger has no interest, really, in how your car operates.

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