

Thornhill and District News

TELEPHONE AV. 5-3555

The Liberal is always pleased to publish items of interest contributed by its readers in the Thornhill area
Our representative in Thornhill is Mrs. Donald Snellie, who may be reached by phoning AV. 5-3555.

Thornhill Notes

Socials
Dr. and Mrs. Cameron Hill spent a few days in New York last week.
Mrs. Donald Davidson, Lois and Lee spent the week-end in Buffalo.
Mrs. C. P. Johns has returned home from a vacation to Florida.
Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Finkle and boys are returning home this week-end from a two week vacation to Florida.
Annual School Bazaar
The children and the teachers of Thornhill Public School have been working hard in the past weeks and especially this week preparing for their annual bazaar to be held this Friday, April 18, at the school from 2 to 4 p.m.
There will be leathercraft including wallets and key cases which the children have made, also aprons, which will make a lovely gift for Mothers' Day, and home baking, home made candy, a white elephant table, used books, lovely cut flowers, also a carnival room with games of skill to play, and movies. There will also be a tea room with the boys of grade 8 serving. This bazaar is a co-operative effort, but will be run by the pupils. The proceeds will go toward school projects.
Presbyterian Couples Club
The Couples Club were entertained Saturday evening by the Couples Club of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Weston, at a pot luck supper, after which Thornhill put on a program. Mr. Allan McKechnie led the devotions. Mrs. G. Patterson rendered two lovely solos with Mrs. J. Boyd at the piano. The group also put on a very amusing skit entitled "Good Night Irene" with Mr. Earl Patton, Mrs. A. McKechnie, Mr. Owen Wilson and Mr. Douglas Puddy taking part. Games were led by Mr. and Mrs. Earl Patton.
Young Life Club
The Young Life Club held a swimming party Saturday evening at Northview Heights Collegiate and afterwards were entertained at the home of Peter Willison.
Rite of Baptism
The children receiving the Rite of Baptism Sunday morning were Margaret Joan, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. T. Thompson, George Patrick, son of Mr. and Mrs. K. Vandermay; Kimberly Ruth, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Arnot and Mark Edward, son of

Footlights 3 Act Play Highly Dramatic Piece

by Doris M. FitzGerald
In real life two murders, and an attempted third, would be almost too much to bear in a few short hours. In the world of the theatre, however, they only contribute to an exciting and entertaining evening. From Carmichael, for instance, used this theme, plus a tender romance, and a generous interlarding of humour, when he wrote "The Night Is My Enemy," the play presented by the Footlights Club of Thornhill, in Trinity Anglican Church Hall, on the evenings of April 8th and 9th.
An eerie atmosphere was established when the curtain rose on a darkened room, and while an unseen narrator "remembered" the spotlight picked out a gun on the sofa, moved to a lamp on the table, and then to an open window. Tension and mystery increased as the play progressed but the audience was kept in chilled suspense to the very end.
The actors, under the able direction of Betty Priestman, could be described as a ten star cast since each gave a remarkably finished and believable performance.
Joan Iddon, who in the last Footlights play was the witless "Cowslip," brought charm, and delicacy to her part as Roane Shepperley, the blind ward of the Fontaines. Acknowledging her handicap, she wanted desperately to be alone amid sinister happenings, she showed great courage when she felt the stranglers hands about her throat, and presence of mind, when she blew out the lamp, and evaded her attacker in the gloom that was not dark to her. There were some touching little scenes with her admirer, Gerald Clayton, a handsome young barrister (well played by Andrew Hutchinson) in one of which she "sees" his face with her hands, and he describes her as "the girl who sees with her heart."
Frank Baxter, who was also responsible for the intricate and effective lighting, and who had heretofore only played bit parts, gave an exceptional performance as Tommy, the lovable retarded son of Margaret and Hubert Biler, the housekeeper, and her handyman husband. The parts of Margaret and Hubert were slighter than those of Gwen Wojna, and Roger Priestman, usually handle, but they gave of their best.
The relief of laughter was provided by dependable Ruth Collins as Augusta Garvey, the flouncy, gossipy, and somewhat overbearing family friend, and by Elizabeth Jennings, as Tessie the maid, who managed her long role with humour and finesse. Bert Funnell, disguised by a handle bar moustache was excellent as the man from Scotland Yard. Edith Jones, an actress of great experience gave a restrained and sensitive interpretation of Hester Fontaine, the devoted wife, whose unacknowledged fears for her husband's health had prompted their move from London to a sea coast town. Harry Iddon was the plausible Dr. Ora Fontaine, who turned out to be the villain of the piece. In his sick mind he had come to believe that it was merciful to take the lives of the afflicted. He is told that he cannot play "God," and, that in their own way, his victims were happy and beloved. The play ends as he walks toward the edge of the cliff where the crippled girl had met her death.
The one set used throughout the play was well designed for

entrances and exits, and as authentic a period piece as Victorian wallpaper, pictures, and handsome Victorian furniture, the latter kindly loaned by Mrs. E. J. Ryan, could make it. Mallabar had been able to supply the men with vintage suits, and Norfolk jackets, and the women with appropriate gowns, vastly more becoming than the modern "sacks."
Because of the small cast some familiar faces were missing on stage but most of their owners were helping out elsewhere in the production. Cecil Belyea, an accomplished pianist, played between acts. Frank Jennings assisted Ed Lean, Geoffrey Lowe, and Frank Baxter with the set, Jane McLaren was in charge of props, and Bob Priestman of sound effects. Others to whom the Footlights Club are indebted include Jack Higginson, for make-up, Jo Byford for posters; Betty Ball for programs; Marion Brotherhood and one of her young sons, for painting woodwork on the set; and Peggy Lean for acting as ticket convener.
Because the cast wanted a change from straight comedy Mrs. Priestman spent a good deal of time last summer reading plays. She is to be congratulated upon the choice of a real thriller, and the great success of the production.

Quiet Weekend Markham Twp. Police

Police Chief C. Widenam of Markham Township Police reports township law enforcement officers experienced a quiet weekend.
Grass fires are still a major problem, but the majority of those starting such fires are first obtaining a permit as required by law. Police arrested two men and charged them with drunkenness at the Saturday night "rock'n'roll" dance at the Farmers' Market, Thornhill. Several car accidents were reported over the weekend but they were all of a minor nature.

Ralph Watley Authority Tuberos Begonia Plants

by Doris M. FitzGerald
Like many another ardent gardener Ralph H. Watley likes to read seed catalogues in the drab pre-spring days. In one he noticed the picture and description of an exotic tuberous Begonia. Deciding that this semi-tropical plant would be something new and interesting to grow he ordered a few tubers locally. That was ten years ago, shortly before he and his family moved to Elgin St., Thornhill. Since then he has become a connoisseur of tuberous Begonias, and, always on the look out for newer and better strains, has imported roots from California and Great Britain. He also has a helpful Begonia fancier friend in Toronto, who passes on information, and sometimes orders roots for him when he goes abroad. For a time Mr. Watley won most of the prizes for tuberous Begonias at the Thornhill Horticultural Society shows, but now he says that he is receiving stiff competition from other members, whom he helped to start this fascinating hobby.
Begonias derive their name from Monsieur M. Begon, a French patron of Botany, and their natural habitat is India and South America. Imported from South America in the seventeenth hundreds, they became known as Rex Begonias because they were favoured by European kings, who paid botanists to study them. Originally a foliage plant, the delicate, waxy flower has been developed by cross breeding, and some blossoms now measure as much as seven inches in diameter. Best known varieties include Roseform, Camella, Carnation and Picotee. Some are crested like a cockscomb some flashed with streaks of contrasting color, and some have brilliantly hued edges. All are to be had in nearly every color except blue.
Mr. Watley says that he has found that tuberous Begonias do best in a bed by themselves, as they are avid feeders and cannot compete with trees and shrubs. They are also fragile plants with a maximum height of 12 in., and are easily bruised or broken by the stalks of taller flowers on a windy day. They do well in the shade of a house where they receive no more than three hours of sunlight during the day. After a winter of rest they must be started in the house or greenhouse and planted outdoors when danger of frost is over.
Though Begonias have become a specialty they have by no means limited Mr. Watley's interest in other flowers. When he telephoned, his wife who shares his enthusiasm for gardening, had to call him in from the greenhouse where he was planting snapdragon, carnation, aster, and zinnia seeds.

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Thurs., Fri.
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Anita Ekberg
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Aldo Ray
Cartoon

APRIL 19, 21
Sat., Mon.
BEST THINGS IN LIFE ARE FREE (Cinemascope)
(Technicolor)
Sherry North
Gordon MacRae
MOHAWK (Technicolor)
Scott Brady
Cartoon

APRIL 22, 23
Tues., Wed.
JUBAL (Adult)
(Technicolor)
Glenn Ford
Ernest Borgnine
TEENAGE CRIME WAVE (Adult)
Tommy Cook
Cartoon

CHILDREN UNDER 12 YEARS AGE SHOWS NIGHTLY - 10 PM OR CLEAR

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Thurs., Fri., Sat., April 17, 18, 19
'Don't Go Near The Water'
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Mon., Tues., Wed., April 21, 22, 23
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