The Liberal

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J. E. SMITH, Publisher W. S. COOK, Managing Editor Telephone TUrner 4-1105

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Importance Of The Newspaper

This is Newspaper Week, observed once a year at this time by the Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association to remind the public at large of the place of the newspaper in the community and the service it renders thereto.

It has been written that a newspaper is a mirror, reflecting the community in which it circulates. But a good newspaper is a great deal more than that. A good weekly newspaper exposes the wrong and extolls the right. It interprets the affairs of the week for its readers. It keeps them abreast of current developments in every sphere of human activity - economic, social, political and sport.

Equally important is the newspap-

ers' role in the promotion of business. It is the most effective and lowest cost, all things considered, of any medium to reach the mass of the people. In competition with new media, total newspaper advertising lineage has been hitting new highs. Why? Because the newspaper is the medium most sought by the public. People are more interested in what is happening among other people in their community, in other communities, and in other countries than they are in any other topic. The newspaper is the one indispen-

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sable item among the reading matter of most people. Advertisers have a better chance of having their message read when it is printed in a newspaper.

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policy in these words: "This building has been designed and erected by sacrificial gifts; to the Glory of God; for the training and nurture of the young in the Christian Way; for the fellowship of the Household of Faith; and for the service and use of all of our families. In harmony with these purposes we aim to encourage the maximum use of the facilities it provides."

Already nine different youth and children's groups are at work in it in a Christian character-building program. We have two fine mixed classes of older teens keenly interested in the Church, and eagerly seeking meaning and purpose in their lives. Every part of the building is occupied on Sunday morning by our Church School. Here new faces appear each week. A gay "Youth Night" is planned for all our teens, 15 and up for an early date. A recreation committee i at work preparing a program of badminton, ping-pong and other activities. It is truly a place of fellowship and learning.

"Dear Mr. Editor"

New United Church Christian Education Wing

We would like to say a sincere

word of thanks to Mother-of-Six

for her kind words in last week's

"Liberal" about our new Chris-

tian Education Building at Richmond Hill United Church. We

hasten to assure her we hope its

beauty will be more than skin-

deep - that it will serve every

Our Session has declared its

age in our church life.

Dear Mr. Editor:

A grand band of nearly 100 committed men and women are giving faithful leadership in the Christian Education program. We are looking for new recruits in this area.

John Spanner, Chairman, Christian Education Committee

PHONE TU. 4-1105 Thanksgiving

We thank Thee for this day, O Lord, For the daily blessings that you give -The lessons learned from Thy Holy Word, Remain with us and teach us how to live.

We thank Thee, for lov'd ones in the home, The loving friends that warm us to the heart -Our daily work - and wherever we may roam, Give us the grace to always do our part.

We thank Thee, Lord, for this bright lovely land, Canada, from north to south, from east to west, Send forth the power of Thy Almighty Hand, Inspire our leaders to do their very best

In closing, Lord, we thank Thee for this life, The way You make us stretch and grow -For happy times as well as times of strife, No greater blessings will we ever know, - Elizabeth Dale Kelson

justly proud of all that our par- Drugs. Commercial printing as In these days when world unity ticular church represents. Poli-tical affiliations have nothing to ture will be handled by this com-

SERVES

FACTS and FAITH A Weekly Comment On Christian Life And Action - By Calvin H. Chambers -

these divisions.

But lest we should feel that

CHRISTIAN UNITY EXPRESSED AT THE LORD'S TABLE

Christianity is advocating a Several years ago, the World "hodge podge religion", where Council of Churches met in Ev- everyone and everything is mixed anston, Illinois. Many of the del- up, so as to be indistinguishable, egates who attended that great we must point out that Paul did congress, said that the most spir- not mean that in the Christian itually enrichening experience life, all such distinctions vanish. was the Communion service, in Throughout his letters to the earwhich men and women from all ly Churches he constantly recover the world took part. Chris- ognized them. He insisted that a tians from India, Africa, Asia, Christian adhere to the duties of South America, representing dif- citizenship, the proprieties of ferent cultures and various Chris- sex, the functions which belong tian traditions, met together to to home, church and state. When give thanks for the salvation Paul insists that "in Christ" all which is in Jesus Christ. The dis- barriers are broken down, he is tinctions which separated them referring to our relationship to were deep and in many instances God, which ultimately affect our serious. Yet, as they moved slow- relationship to each other. There ly forward to the altar rail, and is no distinction which can be the AURORA : Dominion Office Supknelt alongside other believers, determining factor in our relat- plies and Commercial Press Co. knelt alongside other believers, determining factor in our relat-plies and Commercial Press Co. all barriers of colour, race, dress, ionship to God, except our res- Ltd. are going to locate in Aurlanguage, theological difference, ponse to Jesus Christ. Our relig- ora in the near future it was anseemed to fade into the back- lous denomination had nothing nounced recently. The branch is ground. A deep sense of unity, in to do with our standing before being opened to service the comthe midst of diversity, seized God, even though we may be pany accounts with Sterling hold of everyone.

"there is neither Jew nor Gentile, there is neither bond nor free, there is neither male nor faunwise, barbarian or Scythian, blockade to fellowship. for ye are all one in Christ Jesus". It is the fact of Christ, and our personal response to Him, which creates the sense of spiritual unity.

to destroy the significance of is merely incidental.

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is occupying the minds of our do with our status in the King- pany. statesmen, as they seek to bring dom of God. Physical distinctions peace to a troubled and divided have no bearing on this subject. humanity, the Church has an op- Whether we are educated in the portunity to point to the unity best university of the land, or which Christ makes possible. In have not gone beyond grade most churches, last Sunday was school matters little to God. Nacelebrated as World Communion tional origin has nothing to do Sunday. This was one way in with our salavation, since Gd has which we gave visible witness to made of one blood all nations of the unity which already exists men. The gospel teaches that the between those who confess Christ only thing that really matters is as Lord. Paul, in his great letter whether we are "in Christ". It is to the Galations, reminds us that union with Him, through faith, that makes all other distinctions unimportant in the light of etermale; there is neither wise nor ing our ordinary divisions nity. Christ saves us from mak-

Thus when the Christian approaches the Lord's Table with feelings of superiority, he does not realize how inconsistent this is to the meaning and purpose The divisions which separate of the Gospel. Christ came to humanity today are many and di- break flown barriers, to heal verse. The Christian gospel says | wounds of division, to pour in the that none of them need be a bar- oil and wine of Christian love, to rier to fellowship. Paul lived in make us members one of another. a day when mankind knew the The love of Christ, which has frustrating effects of disunity, in overcome all human barriers, spite of the superficial unity of says that all these differences the Roman Empire. The Jew and are insignificant. To acknowledge the Greek represented religious them important is a denial of the barriers. The slave and the free fundamental meaning of the constituted economic and politi- Church. When we place Christ cal divisions. The male and fe- first in our lives, we begin to male represented physical ob- see each other through His eyes. stacles. The wise and the unwise, Spiritual vision sees beyond the intellectual distinctions. The bar- externals. It sees to the heart of barian and the Scythian, national things, where faith in Christ, and barriers. Paul believed, that the love for the things of His kinglove of Christ was great enough dom, are all important. All else

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Over Hill, Over Dale by Cicely Thomson

Backstage is a fascinating place. Here you see the ropes that move the scenery. You discover personalities that play the parts . . . the hows and whys of the things that the public see. So, having been backstage with the police the other day I invited myself backstage with the Richmond Hill Fire Department this week.

Twenty-eight years ago young Alf Stong, now our fire chief, was lured by the excitement of fire fighting. He has been active ever since, first under Mr. Mills, then under Bert Cook from whom he took over in 1951. In July 1958 he became the first and, so far, the only full time member of the town fire department.

Many of the 17 other men who form the Richmond Hill volunteer fire brigade are veteran firefighters, including our town clerk, Russell Lynett, (or Curly if you are an old timer) who has been following fires for 16 years. Four of the 17 are employed in Mill's greenhouse, three work for the town, three are travelling salesmen and four who work in Toronto are available only for weekends and nights.

There are no regular shifts. The fire number, TU. 4-1323, rings in four homes, one of which is always manned. A switch is flipped at once that rings a buzzer in 18 homes. From Bill Neal's store on Yonge Street someone runs to ring the fire bell at the McConaghy Public School, to summon volunteers who may be away from home. Incidentally their wives have never, so far as we know, voiced any objection to their men working as volunteer firemen, though sometimes they cannot hide their worry.

A general meeting is held once a month at the fire hall and four men at a time assigned to daytime duty at the hall. They meet in the recreation room which though not large is comfortably fixed up and boasts a T.V. set and is the scene of a certain amount of card playing at night.

We have two nice bright red shiny fire trucks which besides the men we see hanging on all over them as they scream through the streets, have what seems an enormous amount of equipment stashed away . . . of hose 1,200 feet of 21/2 inch plus 600 feet of 11/2 and 300 of booster hose which is a bit heavier than garden hose . . . of ladders the larger newer truck, bought in 1956, carries a 45 foot aluminum extension ladder, a 24 foot wooden ditto and a 20 foot roof ladder (hooks to catch the top of a roof) as well as shorter ladders for use inside buildings (into attics, etc.) The 1946 truck carries a 35 foot aluminum extension ladder and a 12 foot roof ladder. Both trucks have auxiliary pumps too, which means they can use a pond, cistern or creek for extra water although one truck carries 500 gallons and the other 200. The department also has a resuscitator.

Of course the town itself has an urban water system, but our fire department is also on call in Markham from Steeles Ave. north to the Gormley side road and east to the second. For additional help in Richmond Hill, Aurora is generally called (and they call us); in Markham, Unionville is called. About seven years ago, when we were also answering Vaughan calls, 50 fires a year would be usual, but the alarms have been increasing until 168 calls have been answered to date this

Fire protection costs money . . . how are the costs worked out? Markham I learned pays a standby fee of \$500 plus \$100 per fire, \$25 going to the town and \$75 to the firemen. In the Hill upkeep is supprted by local taxation and \$5.00 per man per fire is also paid.

The chief feels that with the increase in fires it would be a good thing to have four full-time firemen on day duty at the hall, while the volunteer system continues to answer the night calls.

What are our main fire causes locally? Space heaters and dirty chimneys. Very rigid hydro inspection on new construction and public education on defective wiring have largely removed that cause.

But the mistreated space heater, most of which are in the township, into which pieces of paper are dropped to light it, which is clogged and corroded with dirt, is a real fire offender.

Then I asked Mr. Stong a very foolish question. "How many major fires do you have a year?" He gently replied that maybe there would be four in a year, but that of course any fire could become a major fire. And how terribly true and tragic and thought-provoking that is.

While the fire department have worked on their system of alarms to speed up getting to the scene of a fire, we are the ones who have it in our power to see that fire doesn't have a place to start. The musts for our homes are removal of basement rubbish, particularly cardboard boxes and papers. We must check our fuse box and never use more than 15 amps in our houses, or we are in danger of overheating the wires. We must check frayed cords. We can treat our Christmas trees with an inexpensive spray bought at the drug store, and must keep them in a pail of water. We can keep baking soda handy in the kitchen (it creates carbon dioxide) as a fire extinguisher. We can hook up the garden hose in the basement. We can check with the department before lighting a grass fire (80 calls were answered last spring) and for people in town the department will burn off the grass if they are asked.

We reviewed precautions that may mean life or death. And Mr. Stong could not have been more emphatic as he stressed, "Never leave children alone at any time of the year" and my mind rushed to the accounts of tragedy in our newspapers . . . 'just stepped across to the neighbour' . . . 'only out far a few minutes' . . . and the unforgettable horror for the mother and the frantic horror for the helpless little victims.

What should we do if there is a fire at night? Close the door to the stairway if there is one. Close the doors to the rooms. Stuff a blanket or rug across the bottom of the door. Get out the window if you can, otherwise get on the floor, never stand up, there is always about two inches of air at floor level.

No matter how small the fire, get everyone out of the house, call the fire department and then, and only then, try to fight the fire yourself.

Gas and smoke kill more than flame itself. In the apartment house fire last spring on Yonge St. at Arnold three of the firemen were "pretty badly smoked up" and were really sick. Mr. Stong himself couldn't speak for a week, poisoned by gas and smoke he had to use oxygen out of the tank to get his breath.

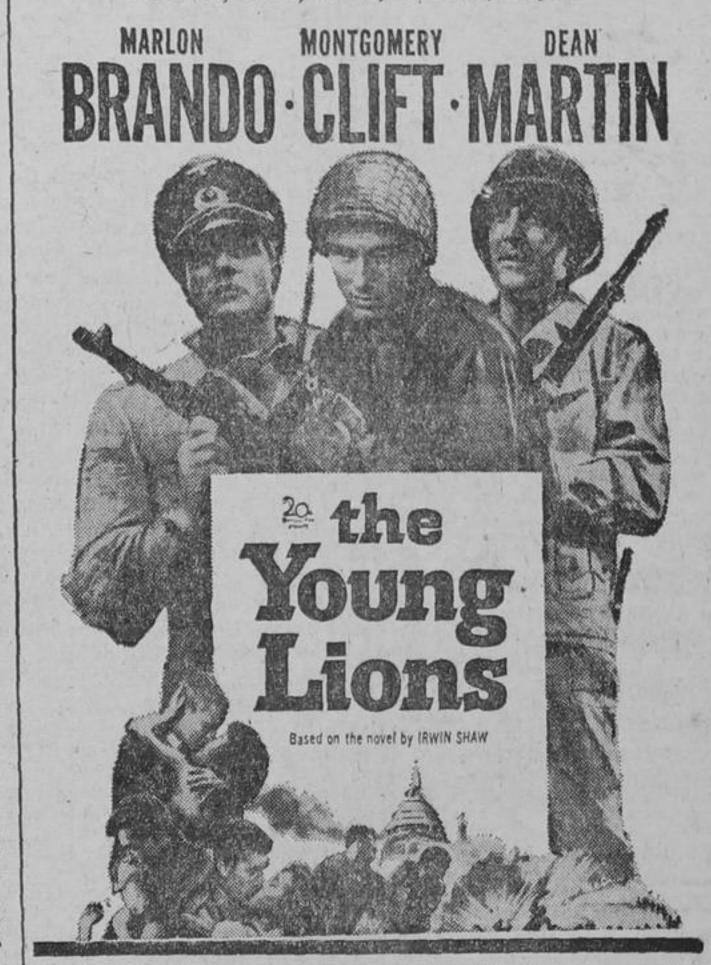
A regular program of fire inspection is being undertaken now, starting with the business premises, but continuing to the homes where smoke pipes from furnace to chimney are checked (they can become rusty), electrical systems for overloading, basements for rubbish, oily rags and mops (which should be in closed metal containers), inflammable liquids (which should be stored outside).

We can do our best to keep the Fire Prevention week slogan all year round, "Don't give fire a place to start"; we can also put our our trust in our fire de-

Will. dutario

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