

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 Smellie, who may be reached by phoning AV. 5-3555.

Thornhill District Lions Report Membership Of 74 Has Busy Year

Thornhill District Lions report in a brief summary, a few of the activities which their club completed during the 1952-53 Lion year under the able direction of

Past President Bob. The membership of 74 enjoyed 19 regular meetings and a very successful ladies night at St. Andrews Golf Club. The Father and Issue night was initiated, as were the monthly social post-meeting get-togethers in Toby's Loft.

Two new committees were formed, the Library Committee and the Thornhaven School Committee.

The Easter Seal Campaign was again successfully completed with receipts totalling \$1,378.10.

Under the chairmanship of Ralph Robinson the Health and Welfare Committee carried out many worthy projects, among them: 25 Christmas baskets, new wheelchair and hospital bed, 3 wheel chairs all in use, supplied coal for a family, sent a girl to guide camp, began paying boarding expenses for a retarded child, settled a large debt for two elderly persons, financed a large debt for two elderly persons, financed a child's leg treatment, paid funeral and grave costs for a local resident.

Through the efforts of Lion Tom Jackson and his co-workers, the club added staff rooms, sun-deck and snack bar to the Thornhill Swimming Pool. Particular thanks go to Lions Harry Lak and Hamar Jennings for donating their time to provide the electrical and plumbing requirements.

A very active committee last year was Ted Loughhead's Boys and Girls' Committee. Their projects included: assisting with the Doncaster Teen-Town, purchasing ice time for the local hockey team, contributing \$250.00 to the local ball team, arranging Christmas party for retarded and underprivileged children, making usual donation to Scouts and Guides (about \$350.00), looking after High School scholarships, buying crests for local schools, presenting Thornhill Library with \$100.00 for children's books, very successfully carrying out public speaking contest.

The Safety Committee conducted successful bicycle rodeos. Jim Barr and his sales manager, Harry Lak, had a bang-up bingo season and their efforts, along with those of all who turned out Wednesday nights to help, brought in a net of about \$3,000.

The \$400.00 a month draw spurred ahead to give a nice net of \$5,795.35.

The efforts of the Convention Committee are certainly no secret and with their draws, turkey shoot and suit-a-month \$650.00 was raised.

Many activities and much success were enjoyed by the Thornhill Lions Club and much of the credit for this belongs to Lion Bob and his officers. Fellow Lions say, "Thanks Lion Bob for a good year. Your many hours of hard work for Lionism are appreciated by all."

Need More P.T. Enthusiasts At Thornhill Night Sch.

Classes in Physical Education at Thornhill High School night school, under the direction of Miss I. Rafferty, are being instituted for the first time this year. The other day one of the night class pupils phoned "The Liberal" and asked if we would "impress upon the public that these classes, which average about 35 cents per week (or \$7.00 the season) will absolutely "fold" if more people don't enroll."

The Liberal reader, who is, we feel sure, a very enthusiastic supporter of the one-two-three-bend class — said that so far only seven ladies and one man have enrolled.

There are facilities, in two different classes (not mixed, sorry) for 15 ladies and 15 men. Classes are held on Wednesday night at Thornhill High School. We do hope more people get down to the high school and enroll — for there's going to be eight mighty disappointed people if the classes have to close for lack of attendance.

THORNLEA

Correspondent: Mrs. J. C. Donnelly Phone AV. 5-1777

Home and School News

The first meeting of the Thornlea Home and School Association will be held in the school on Wednesday, October 8, 1953, at 8 p.m. This will take the form of a "Get Acquainted" meeting. Parents will be given the opportunity to get acquainted with the new and old members of the teaching staff as well as with the other parents of the district. Make a point of attending this first meeting of the season and take advantage of the opportunity to meet the staff and members of the Home and School Association.

Mrs. Edward Wood returned last week from a vacation in New York City.

Mrs. Sheehan, No. 7 Highway, was on the sick list last week for a few days.

WELL DIGGING AND CLEANING WELL TILE FOR SALE All Kinds of Compressor Work

Rudy Kloosterman AX. 3-6131

Ted DeBoer AT. 2-5677

Thornhill Reformed Church

by Doris M. FitzGerald

The Canadian Reformed Church of Toronto has bought, and taken possession of, the former Thornhill United Church building, a happy circumstance which insures that this historic edifice will continue to be used for religious services.

The Canadian Reformed Church is very similar in faith to the Presbyterian. The Thornhill congregation is comprised of about 100 Dutch families from Willowdale and North York, who for the past three years have been using the Masonic Temple at Yonge and Eglinton, Toronto.

Two services are now being held each Sunday in Thornhill, one at 10:30 a.m. in English, and one at 4:30 p.m., mostly in Dutch, for the benefit of members who have not yet mastered the English language.

Plans have been made to renovate the buildings by degrees, and the work of painting the interior of the Church, and parish hall is to be begun this week. The only changes in the furnishings have been to install a centre pulpit, and to move some pews from the gallery down into the body of the Church.

A consistory composed of six elders, three deacons, and a secretary, together with a six member board of management, and a treasurer, conduct the affairs of the Church and the pastor is the Rev. Francois Kouwenhoven, who was "called" from Holland by the congregation, three years ago. Mr. Kouwenhoven was born near Rotterdam and, following public school, attended the classical gymnasium, the Theological Seminar of the Dutch Reformed Church, and Leyden University where he specialized in languages, History and languages, both ancient and modern are his hobbies and he can speak and read at least eleven languages, Dutch, English, German, French, Hebrew, Greek, Latin, Egyptian, Arabic, Aramaic, and Assyrian.



Rev. Francois Kouwenhoven

In the 12 years previous to coming to Canada, the Rev. Mr. Kouwenhoven had held four pastorates in Holland. He and his wife and their four children, George, Pernel, Benny and Francois, are living at 88 Newton Dr., Willowdale.

Expert Drug Service

Max Factor Cosmetics View-Master Reels Vitamins Prescription Service

Thornhill Pharmacy C. E. STONEBURG, Chemist & Druggist AV. 5-2503 Yonge St. Thornhill

Judy's Childrens Wear

36 Leventdale Road (opp. Loblaw's) RICHMOND HILL AV. 5-4631

Featuring Dr. Denton's sleepers, Gay Togs suede overalls, etc., etc. Mark 'n Judy coats, snow suits, 3-piece sets, etc. Tempo Togs dresses.

LADIES . . .

Join Thornhill Self Improvement Club FIGURE, WALKING, MODELLING, GROOMING, MAKE-UP, HAIR STYLING, COLOR, WARDROBE TUESDAY EVENINGS STARTING OCTOBER 14 AV. 5-3954

MAMMOTH BAZAAR

AT York Farmers Market, Thornhill ON THURSDAY, OCTOBER 16 3-9 P.M. In aid of Thornhaven School for Retarded Children Draw on portable television Set, other prizes and free school child's bicycle HULA-HOOP CONTEST OPEN TO ALL AGES 7 P.M. DRAW OF TICKETS BY WALLY CROUTER AT 8 P.M.

More than 1,240,000 PERSONAL LOANS since 1936

Who may obtain a Personal Loan? Anyone of good character who has a regular income and can meet the monthly deposits.

How to obtain a Loan At any branch of The Canadian Bank of Commerce.

What does a Loan cost you? Six per cent per year deducted in advance.

How do you repay? Equal monthly deposits, as you earn . . . at any one of our nearly 800 branches.

Insurance Protection Life insurance pays off the balance of your loan if you die.

Personal Loans are made for: an automobile, medical or dental bills, home furnishings, consolidation of debts, taxes, travel, school fees

Or for any other worthwhile purpose

THE CANADIAN BANK OF COMMERCE THERE'S A BRANCH NEAR YOU

Richmond Hill Branch — J. K. Clarke - Manager Bayview Plaza Branch — Murray Cass - Manager

Initiation Day — Thornhill High



A few of the Grade 9 students initiated at Thornhill High School last week are seen above. From left to right: Joan Forester, Susan Fielding, Nicky Higgs, Peter Voigt and Jim McTaggart-Cowan. Following a day of "ragging" for senior students' whimsical needs, such as book-totin' and boot polishing all Grade 9 students went into the high school auditorium where they appeared before a Grade 13

"jury" and received such penalties as having to sing before a critical audience or playing "catch" with a raw egg! At the end of the court session all Grade 9's had to toss their shoes into one gigantic pile and at the word "Dismissed!" spent many long minutes trying to find their shoes in the resulting melee.

— Photo by Barbour

Thornhill Notes

Dr. and Mrs. Stanley Glen of Elizabeth Street, entertained 110 students of Knox College and the University of Toronto at a corn roast Thursday evening, October 2. Also attending were Professor and Mrs. W. D. Haye, Professor and Mrs. A. K. Andrews, Professor and Mrs. A. Paris, Professor and Mrs. D. W. Wade and Rev. and Mrs. Neil Smith. The grounds were gaily decorated with Japanese lanterns and the happy group consumed 20 dozen ears of corn, bags of marshmallows and gallons of coffee. Games and singing closed the evening.

2nd Thornhill Brownies Congratulations to Elizabeth Smith, John Street, who at her last meeting as a Brownie of the 2nd Thornhill Pack, received her signaller's badge, her 14th proficiency badge, the greatest number ever earned by any Brownie in the 2nd Thornhill Pack. At the same meeting Wendy Williston received her skiers, writers and athletes badges.

October 2 saw the Investitures of Sixers and Secondors of the 2nd Thornhill Brownies. The new Sixers are: Elvies, Sharon Morgan; Fairies, Wendy Williston; Gnomes, Judy Allin; and Pixies, Penny Scully. The corresponding Secondors are Linda Brain, Patry Chambers, Diane Ziegler and Marilyn Hunter.

Betsy Sumner and Jennifer Sumner received their Golden Bars. Both have earned their skaters' badge and Betsy will also receive her swimmers this week.

Cubs The Cubs of the 1st Thornhill Cub Pack along with Akela Roly Curtin, Bagheera Antonacci and Baloo MacDonough and several fathers enjoyed a delightful hike across fields and valleys west of Upland Golf Course Saturday afternoon, October 4. The happy group carried their sappers in knapsacks, which they cooked over campfires. The boys enjoyed a game of touch rugby. Later they returned home tired but happy after their outing.

Nursery School Tea The October Tea of the Thornhill Nursery School was held on Wednesday, October 1, at the home of Mrs. H. S. Rogers, Riverside Blvd. The elections were held and the 1953-1954 executive is as follows: Past president, Mrs. R. I. P. Cameron; president, Mrs. H. S. Rogers; vice-president, Mrs. G. S. Maynard; secretary, Mrs. E. W. Duder; treasurer, Mrs. C. E. Springer; volunteer convener, Mrs. N. R. Drouillard; parent education convener, Mrs. P. A. Townsend; Carter; equipment convener, Mrs. R. L. Robinson; telephone convener, Mrs. G. Brain.

Anyone interested in enrolling

WILSON'S ESSO SERVICE STATION CHASSIS LUBRICATION & MINOR REPAIRS

Yonge and Arnold AV. 5-1641 Thornhill

La Grove Crafts Woolshop

Hand woven and knitted articles. Orders taken for heavy Sweaters. Corner of Thornhill and No. 7 Highway

Thanksgiving Supper

The Thanksgiving supper held Friday, October 3, at Thornhill Baptist Church was a huge success. The supper was served by the social committee of the W.A. under the convensorship of Mrs. Wm. Rasmussen and the hall was beautifully decorated with fall fruit and flowers.

Following supper, Mrs. H. Ellam led in a short devotional period and coloured pictures of Mrs. Barber's recent trip to Europe were shown.

A thankoffering for the new Baptistry was taken with the amount received exceeding all expectations. Rev. Buck closed the meeting with prayer.

Thornhill Home and School is holding an exhibition hobby night at its next meeting on Thursday, October 16. Time is 8:15 p.m., and those taking part in spinning, weaving, pottery-making, leather carving and bird carving are professionals.

Holy Trinity Anglican The Girls Auxiliary was entertained Saturday evening by the Girls Auxiliary of St. Mary's Anglican Church of Richmond Hill at a weller roast with games and a sing song following.

United Church Sunday, October 5, was Communion Sunday with several new members joining the church, who are as follows: Mr. and Mrs. William Hoile and Phyllis Hoile of Nobleton, Miss Carolyn Lane, Mrs. G. J. Mickleborough, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Sinclair, Dr. A. A. Smith and Mrs. George Stephenson and Miss Muriel Stephenson.

The ladies of the W.A. held a bazaar meeting Tuesday evening, September 30, to further their plans for the Hollyherry Fair and Tea to be held November 1 at the United Church. There will be 21 booths gaily decorated with holly. Something new has been added this year, the men of the church will participate in a cake baking contest and there will also be baby sitting service.

Presbyterian Church The choir of the church took a special service Monday evening of last week at Evangel Hall, the Presbyterian Mission in Toronto, which conducts services nightly for men. Rev. Chambers gave the message and will be taking the 15th service in the month for the following year.

The Men's Club held its first fall meeting Thursday evening of last week. Following supper served by the men's social committee, the election of new officers was held. They are: past president, Mr. James Boyd; president, Mr. Gerald Cully; vice-president, Mr. Vanvelzen; and committee members, Mr. O. Wilson, Mr. D. Puddy, Mr. E. Cummings, Mr. W. Sharpe and Mr. N. Busch.

A film, "Dedicated Men" was shown and Mr. G. Patterson closed the meeting with prayer. Sunday, October 5, was Communion Sunday, with two new members joining the church, Miss Myrna Hunt and Miss Anna Ireland.

Baptist Church The Women's Mission Circle held its Thankoffering meeting on October 1 in the Sunday school hall with Miss Gladys Stevens presiding. Mrs. H. Ellam led the devotional period continuing the study of the men of the Bible.

Prayers for Missionaries and their families were given by Mrs. A. Kent and Mrs. Twine. A thanksgiving prayer was read by Mr. Vanvelzen and the Link and Visitor. The guest speaker was Miss Taylor of Toronto, a home missionary who told of her very interesting experiences at Eastwood Rd. Baptist Church in Hamilton. Miss Taylor is now working as a social worker at Beverly St. Baptist in Toronto. A social hour followed.

The work on the extension of the Sunday School is progressing well at the Chapel, and it is hoped to be able to use the extra facilities in a couple of weeks.

LIBERAL CLASSIFIEDS BRING RESULTS PHONE TU. 4-1104

Large Turnout Enjoys Holy Trinity "Autumn Fete"

by Doris FitzGerald

"Why don't you do this more often?" a guest was heard to remark as she chatted with helpers at the well attended Snack Luncheon and Sale held by the W.A. of Holy Trinity Church, Thornhill, last Friday. Called an "Autumn Fete", the pleasant affair had more the atmosphere of a summer garden party. This was something to achieve indoors, but Mrs. W. E. Askew, Mrs. Roger Priestman and their hardworking committee (including some husbands) succeeded in creating a very realistic and delightful setting in which to lunch and shop.

There were garden chairs, tables and umbrellas, artificial grass, a bird bath with live goldfish in it, a beautiful blue budgie who thoroughly enjoyed the proceedings and a profusion of lovely flowers and branches gathered in the nick of time before the frost.

A woodland scene belonging to the Footlights Club made an attractive backdrop for the long buffet table, laden with mouth watering

selection of stuffed rolls, relishes, salads, small cakes and tarts prepared by Mrs. J.N.C. Hill and her committee. Coffee was poured by Mrs. W. E. Askew, Mrs. G. Howe (president of the W.A.), Mrs. S. Tobias, and Mr. R. Healey. The sale of home baking and preserves, convened by Mrs. L. T. Redman and Mrs. W. J. Lemnox was brisk and complete. Mrs. Healey and her assistant did well with the silent auction, and gifts, and Mr. Roger Priestman took orders for a number of attractive Christmas cards. Chances on two quilts were sold by Mrs. H. Iddon and Mr. R. Jennings. The draws have not yet taken place, so names of winners will be announced later in the Liberal.

General convensors of the successful fete were Mrs. Gordon Davie and Mrs. McTaggart-Cowan. Proceeds will go towards the Holy Trinity Exhibition — a scholarship held by Mr. Charles Ledger, a Divinity student at Wycliffe, who assists at Holy Trinity Church during the winter.

From Concentration Camp To Thornhill

by Doris M. FitzGerald

During the four years that we have been in and out of Thornhill Cleaners and Tailoring, on business, our conversation has been confined to casual subjects like the weather. The proprietor speaks good English, but with a little accent, so the last time we asked, "Where did you come from, Mr. Singer?" "From Poland." "Well, however did you find your way here?" "Ah, it would use a lot of paper to write that," he said, his eyes taking on a sad and far-away look. We discovered that Samuel Singer had lived through tragic years, still painful to recall, and had survived certain cruel events of Hitler's regime, which the world in general would gladly forget. However, he did give a brief outline of the happenings which brought him to Canada.

An only child, he was born at Turka, near Lvov, Poland, and at 14 began a three year apprenticeship to a tailor, without pay. This was followed from 1935 to 1937 by his stint of compulsory training in the Polish Army. He was working at his trade in Crocow, and had just been married, when the war broke out in September 1939, and he was mobilized in a matter of a few weeks.

West Poland was occupied by the Germans, and east Poland by the Russians, and the Polish army fell to pieces. He was working in a munitions factory when seized by the Gestapo and put in the first of several concentration camps. Between 1942 and 1944 he was in Skarzysko camp where he worked from dawn to dark as a tailor. Then in 1944 a mass movement of prisoners was made by train, from Skarzysko to Bergen Belsen. Eleven thousand started out, but only 6,000 arrived at Belsen, the others having died, or been put to death on the way. At Belsen Mr. Singer was set to work cleaning railway stations and the camp. His daily ration of food was one bowl of soup, and 250 grams of bread (about one slice) and his weight dropped from a normal 160 pounds to 85.

During all these years he had had no word of his family, so when the prisoners were liberated by the British Army, at the end of the war, his first thought was to return to Poland. He had had no money in his pocket since 1941 but everything was free for the moment & he reached Turka safely, and was

finally reunited with his wife Esther. She had been hidden for two years by Christian neighbours, then, when the situation became too dangerous, she joined the army of resistance in the hills. There was no trace however of his father, mother, grandfather, aunts, uncles, cousins and friends. Of the 8,000 Jews who had been living in the ghetto at Turka at the beginning of the war only 42 were left. Samuel and Esther Singer went to the UNRRA camp for displaced persons, near Vienna, Austria, and their oldest child was born there in 1947. He worked at tailoring for their food and lodging until 1948, when a delegation from the Canadian Government came to the camp in search of skilled workmen. He registered, and was accepted, and the family was brought to Toronto that year. The Jewish congress found them accommodation and loaned them money, and through the Needleworkers Union Mr. Singer obtained a job as sample maker in a garment factory. After work he and his wife attended classes in English. In 1954 through his brother-in-law, who was acquainted with Mr. Robert, the landlord, Mr. Singer heard of the store for rent in Thornhill, and decided to establish his own business. It is a decision that he has never regretted he says happily. "I like my customers and have been well received in the village, and I am proud to be a Canadian citizen with a settled home at last." The Singers live in the Bathurst-Sheppard area, and now have three children, Sonia, Regina and Shawn.