

Thornhill and District News

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.

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Thornhill In The Good Old Days

Local Residents Recall Days Of High Snowbanks And Happy Sleighing Parties—

by Doris M. Fitzgerald

"Something that happened in Thornhill in pre-war days? Well, I'm sorry but I can't remember anything very important . . . not just off the bat". It was rather an unfair question to ask over the telephone the day after Christmas but everyone tried to be helpful and the bits of information which they supplied really reveal more clearly than big events the changes that have taken place in the village, which now stands on the threshold of another year of progress.

Mr. Boynton Weldrick is well versed in district doings for he was born on his father's farm at the south-west corner of Yonge St. and the Langstaff side road, and, besides farming himself for years in Thornhill, he has been active in local politics, serving for 4 years as Vaughan township councillor, 8 years as Deputy Reeve, and 5 years (1943-48) as Reeve of Vaughan township, and piling up a record for acclamations. However, he had just come indoors when we telephoned, and his thoughts were about wintery weather. He recalled a particularly heavy snow fall in 1907 or '08 when the Metropolitan Radial line to Thornhill was blocked for a week, and it took a month to clear the line to Newmarket. All the local farmers were called out to dig snow and were paid from 75 to 90 cents a day.

leigh would often swerve south of the highway and cut across the fields to and from Concord," he said. Another resident, who prefers to be unnamed, recalls with nostalgia the wonderful sledding and tobogganing on Yonge Street before the valleys were graded and filled. "You could start at the top of the north hill and be carried almost to the top of the next one (by the Presbyterian Church). Then for a change you could walk or hitch a ride up Morgan's hill and coast down that Traffic? No, there was never any to worry about.

Twelve Foot Drifts Miss Hazel Welsh who grew up on the family farm on the west side of Morgan's hill remembers a year when the snow at Steele's and Yonge, always a bad spot for drifting, was 12 feet deep. All traffic was blocked but she and a group of friends snowshoed over the glistening, unmarked expanse to Newtonbrook and back. After the Metropolitan radial snow plow had been along, a lot of people used to drive and sleigh ride between the rails she said. Sleighbing Parties For Thornhill born Miss Lillian Francis the winter calls to mind many jolly sleighing parties in big sleds warmly packed with straw. There was always the cheerful jingle of bells, and lots of singing as the runners slid over the snow, and at the end of the drive a good hot supper. Often she said four horse teams would bring sleighing parties from the city to attend an entertainment at one of the local churches. Her father, Mr. J. E. Francis, a citizen who needs no introduction, remembers an amusing incident in this connection which took place more than 60 years ago before he moved to Thornhill. He was born on the

Thornhill Notes

Residents of Thornhill will be sad to learn of the sudden passing of Mr. Charles Haime, in Penzance, Cornwall, England. Mr. and Mrs. Haime, together with their sixteen year old son John lived in Thornhill for five years prior to their returning to England in July last. Mr. Haime was engaged in the painting and decorating business while in Thornhill, and very active in the Boy Scout movement, attending the Anglican Church in Thornhill where Mrs. Haime was a member of the church choir.

Xmas Party The W.A. of Holy Trinity Anglican Church held its annual Christmas party in the church hall December 11th. The newly elected president, Mrs. E. Lean, welcomed the members and guests. The church hall having been decorated for a Y.P.A. Christmas dance lent a festive air to the occasion. Rev. and Mrs. W. Askew showed a group of slides of England's beautiful countryside and of Canada's western scenery.

Mrs. W. Lennox thanked Rev. and Mrs. Askew for their lovely films. The members then enjoyed the film "The Littlest Candle That Kneet". Mrs. R. Priestman gave a delightful reading. Many daintily wrapped gifts and a substantial sum of money were received for the two elderly ladies at Strachan House in whom the W.A. has an interest. Mrs. L. Redmond served delicious refreshments to end another lovely Christmas party.

Newtonbrook farm on which the new Newtonbrook Village subdivision is now being built, and he remembers that when a young lad one of such sleighing parties became snow bound, and all had to spend the night at his father's farm.

Mrs. Wilfred Ball whose father, Dr. Nelles, was a Thornhill physician, remembers the annual 12th of July parade in the village in which for several years Miss Wice (an aunt of Mr. Roy Wice) rode a white horse. Then there was the annual garden party of Trinity Church at the Hawthorn Mineral Springs Resort (located in the Thornhill Golf Club) which was practically a village social.

Long time village residents Mr. and Mrs. James Fisher enjoy square dancing and used to attend Friday square dances for 150 to 200 people in the ballroom of Hughes which later became Findlay's Hotel. The callers were the late Major Dean and Frank Smith. This picturesque old frame hotel which was burned to the ground in 1950, was operated for many years by owner Saunders Findlay and his wife, and lastly by Nelson, Mr. and Mrs. Saunders Findlay's son and his wife, Mr. Talbert Findlay ran the barber shop in the hotel and was for a long time the only barber in Thornhill. Perhaps because she was so busy with boarders and meals, Mrs. Talbert Findlay says she cannot recall anything special about the hotel. However, we remember that on a cold winter day 24 years ago we ate our first meal in Thornhill, and a very appetizing one, in the hotel dining room which was cozily heated with a stove.

Miss Jean Brillinger recalled a little incident in connection with the paving of No. 7 Highway which happened when she was a small child, and still amuses our first Miss Jean the youngest of Mr. and Mrs. A. Brillinger's 8 children was born after the family moved from Concord to the house now owned by druggist Hal Harley. Mr. Brillinger, a blacksmith, opened a garage at the south end of Findlay's hotel, and his two youngest sons became proficient drivers at a very early age. When the work of paving No. 7 began in 1925 or '26 the boys were pressed into service to drive gravel trucks. Cyril Andrew was so small and slight that he had to be propped up behind the wheel of the truck. When Mr. Wice noticed him going by he shouted "Watch out, here comes Barney Oldfield", and the nickname Barney has stuck to this day.

Langstaff Correspondent: Mrs. M. J. Roy AV. 5-2806 Mark Vaun Women's Institute Members of the Mark Vaun W.I. are reminded that the January meeting will be held on the second Thursday, January 8, as the first Thursday falls on New Year's Day. The meeting will be held at the home of Mrs. E. Lepore, 1205 Highway, and the roll call will be "Suggestions for Increasing Traffic Safety."

Langstaff Baptist Church News The next regular meeting of the Evening Mission Circle will be held on January 8th in the church. The annual Watch Night Service will be held in the church on New Year's Eve at 8 o'clock. An interesting program has been planned including films, and refreshments will be served after 12 o'clock. Barbara Glassey, Garden Avenue, was 11 years of age on December 24th. Barbara celebrated her birthday on Friday, December 26th, and entertained some of her young friends at a theatre party at the Richmond where they saw "Peter Pan."

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. R. Crawford, Doncrest Road, on the birth of a son, December 16th. Mr. J. Honor, Morgan Drive, returned home from hospital on December 23rd. Birthday greetings to Lawrence Drew, Fairview Avenue, who celebrates his birthday on Sunday, January 4th. Christmas has come and gone for another year, and the children will be kept busy and amused until the newness of the toys and games wears off. Every year at Christmas, we are besieged from all sides with the thought that Christmas has become too commercialized and that with each succeeding year the true meaning of Christmas diminishes. We fared well at our house, but the best gift of all was not something to wear or use, but a word of mouth offering from our four year old daughter. Tearing around the house on a shiny new tricycle, she came to an abrupt stop and pricked the shining bubble of happiness with the words "This Christmas is not as nice as last year's." With a sinking heart and hesitating voice, I put forth the necessary query of "Why not?"

"Because the manger was not as nice as last year's", came the solemn reply. With renewed faith, we look forward to the New Year, and wish for all our readers the best of health and happiness. P.S. Item 1—Christmas List for 1959 — 1 beautiful Manger!

RICHVALE NEWS

CORRESPONDENT: MRS. E. E. SPEARS, 17 Roosevelt Drive Phone AV. 5-3116

As the festive season is in full swing, there is nothing to report from organized groups in the area.

The neighbourhood has turned its energy into decorating homes and entertaining families and friends.

The outside lighting is beautiful this year with multi-coloured effects from spotlights and coloured bulbs highlighting houses, bushes and trees.

Social Activities Mr. and Mrs. Frank Price are holding "Open House" on New Year's Day at their home on Westwood Lane from 7 p.m. The occasion also celebrates Mrs. E. J. Ryan's birthday, who is Mrs. Price's mother.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Baker, Westwood Lane, are having a New Year's Eve party for their neighbours and friends.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Weir, Maryvale Cres., are having a cocktail party preceding the New Year's Eve dance at the Uplands Golf Club. Their guests include Mr. and Mrs. Allan Peck, Mr. and Mrs. Les Markle, Mr. and Mrs. Dave Wood, Mr. and Mrs. H. B. Morningstar and Mr. and Mrs. Edward Spears.

Mr. and Mrs. Ross Clark, Denham Drive, will be attending the Air Force dance on New Year's Eve at the Hunt Club, Eglington Ave. where Mr. Clark will play the bass fiddle in the orchestra. Mr. Ross Clark's brother, Bernard is the bandmaster for the air force.

The young Clarks, David and Ronald, are carrying on the musical tradition of the family. They played their trumpets at the Thornhill United Church Sunday school concert. Their selections were "Abide With Me" and "Blue Bells of Scotland."

St. Barnabas Church was well attended when they produced "The Christmas Story" with the result that 250 gifts were sent to the Indian Mission at James Bay in time for Christmas. The carol service was also very well attended and was lovely to hear. Nine men of the congregation each read a lesson.

The Bible Class party was held

on Friday, December 26, at St. Mary's parish hall in Richmond Hill. They joined with St. Gabriel's for the event.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bowley and family, Roosevelt Drive, spent the holidays in Fonthill, home of Mr. Bowley's parents. Welcome home to Mr. and Mrs. Clyde Lewis, Roosevelt Dr., who returned from California after having a wonderful visit with their son Don and his wife.

Mr. and Mrs. Ken Hall, Westwood Lane, celebrated Christmas at their relatives' home in Cobourg. Recently the Halls took part in Blythwood Road Baptist Church Christmas pageant. Mrs. Hall was helping to direct, with Robbie and Lynn taking active parts in the music and drama. The church was decorated in turquoise and gold, with brackets of candles in all the windows.

Mr. and Mrs. Wally Ellis, Westwood Lane, had a party on Saturday, December 27, to entertain their friends at the holiday season.

Mrs. Grace Dunleavy and Mr. and Mrs. John Crispo spent Christmas Eve at the home of Mrs. Dunleavy's mother, Mrs. MacMillan in Port Perry. A speedy recovery is wished for Mrs. MacMillan who is in hospital suffering from pneumonia.

Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Boddy of North Bay, and their children Marilyn and Kim spent the Christmas weekend with Mr. and Mrs. John Donaldson, Carville Road.

On Christmas night, after spending a most enjoyable Christmas day at his home on Carville Road, Mr. Ed. Rowdon sustained a sprained muscle in his head and is confined to bed. His friends and neighbours join in wishing him a swift recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Depean of London, Ontario, spent Christmas with the Jackson Taylors. Sincere sympathy is extended to Mr. and Mrs. George Smith, 16th Avenue in the loss of their aunt, Mrs. Euphemia Hodgson. The funeral was held from Markdale on Monday.

The Cecil Turnbulls had a happy family gathering on Christmas Day. Mrs. Turnbull's parents, Mr. and Mrs. George Baker of Toronto, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Clarkson, Mr. Turnbull's mother and stepfather, Mr. and Mrs. Glen Turnbull and baby Paul, and Mr. and Mrs. William Sim (nee Turnbull) and baby Billy, enjoyed the Christmas dinner and later on Mr. and Mrs. Jack Turnbull of Weston, and Mr. and Mrs. Wally Turnbull of Thistleton with son David and daughter Mrs. Campbell, and her husband, Mr. Tom Campbell, dropped in to join the family circle.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Ben Kachuk (Richvale Pharmacy) on the arrival of their infant daughter Beth Elaine, born just in time for Christmas, December 23.

Richvale senior room held a box social and skating party on the last day of school before the Christmas recess. The rink was in fine shape thanks to the vigilant efforts of Messrs. Bill Norris, Fred Allen, and Principal Peter Kurita who have worked hard to get the rink going while the weather was good.

The First Richvale Brownies and Cubs visited the York Manor in Newmarket on Sunday evening, December 21, for their annual carol singing, which was greatly enjoyed by the guests. They had been looking forward all day to the children coming. This is almost a tradition now for the Richvale Brownies and Cubs to go up to York Manor before Christmas. This is their tenth year. On each occasion each gentleman and lady receives a little gift from the children.

The 1st Richvale Brownie Christmas party held in Richvale School with their mothers as special guest, on December 17. Was a great success with all kinds of refreshments, and a gift for everyone present.

Mr. and Mrs. Len Baker from Owen Sound, and Mrs. Ellen Davies of Newmarket, were Christmas guests of the Ed Rowdons. A very Happy New Year to all our readers from your correspondents.

CARRVILLE

Correspondent: Mrs. Bert Middleton Telephone Maple 130R3

Christmas Service Sunday, December 21, was the Christmas service at Carrville, with a large congregation in attendance to celebrate the birth of Christ many long years ago.

Dr. Eddy was in charge of the service and his Christmas message was "The Simple Gospel of Christmas". The Carrville girls' choir sang two anthems, "Away in a Manger", and "Silent Night."

Dr. Eddy had prepared a special Christmas calendar with a very lovely and meaningful Christmas message to all.

The Sunday School children and the teachers went out at their own expense to have a Christmas gathering. Mr. Bert Middleton read the Christmas story taken from Matthew, then Christmas carols were sung. Santa arrived to add to the occasion and distributed gifts to the children and some of the books given to the younger classes from the Sunday school. Dr. Eddy after the service joined the children and teachers, along with some of the parents, and presented the older class with their books.

Misses Mary George and Dorothy Baker distributed bags of Christmas treats to the children, generously supplied by the young people.

The W.A. had placed Christmas flowers in the church and later they were sent to the Villa" to be enjoyed by the patients.

A very Happy New Year to All.

HEADFORD NEWS

CORRESPONDENT: MRS. H. ACREMAN R. R. 4 Gormley - Phone Turner 4-2236

It was joyous news to hear that Mrs. Frazer came through her operation successfully on Saturday morning last and is resting comfortably. Of course it is too bad not to be able to spend Christmas with one's own folk; but it would be a nice gesture to send a card. Mrs. Frazer's hospital address is Room 1201, Western Hospital, Toronto. What courage! — School concert on Thursday night — hospital Friday — operation Saturday! Mrs. Joyce and Mrs. Acreman joined a good number of howlers of the Richmond Rollers League for luncheon at the Richmond Grill on Thursday last before the game, at which the prizes were distributed.

A goodly number of parents and friends turned out for the annual concert and Christmas tree of S. S. 3 last Thursday evening. Proceedings opened with "The Queen" to the accompaniment of the Rhythm Band followed by folk dancing, recitations and dialogues. A quite ambitious play was presented appreciably under extreme difficulties. The two leading male characters were absent; and so Mrs. Frazer pressed into service John Rumble and Terry Morrison, two pupils of last year who are now attending High School, to read the parts of the absent actors. Everything then was fine. Genial old Santa Claus dropped in with his bag full of presents and the youngsters went home happily to enjoy the longest Christmas vacation in years.

School will reopen on January 5; the annual school meeting being held at one o'clock on the afternoon of December 31. Please Three days of day — one o'clock. Come on out and learn how your school is operated.

The day following the school concert, the weather took "a turn for the worse", to use a medical term weatherwise. Bitter cold and high wind kept attendance rather small for the Sunday School concert on Friday evening. A well presented Pageant of the Nativity, written by Mrs. Cummer Lee brought into one act all the pupils of the Sunday School. Several of the choir members joined in the carols which formed a background for the tableaux. The Tyro boys had an amusing presentation of the Night before Christmas, with Albert Leek as jolly old St. Nick. Three senior girls presented "Three Old Maids of Lee". Two amusing skits, written and directed by Mrs. Ben Terry took care of the teachers and Bible class members, and provoked quite a few chuckles. A film strip "Taro's

gift" was presented by Mrs. Freeman Barker, with a running commentary.

Santa made a hurried call at the end of the program — hurried, because it was too cold to leave the reindeer standing.

Elisabeth Barker, wearing a blue gown, was bridesmaid for her cousin Evelyn Stong, at the nuptials on Saturday at Richmond Hill United Church.

Mr. Melvin Wellman and Mrs. Willem Wellman invited Mrs. Acreman to go with them to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Boynton at Thornhill on Saturday afternoon last, for the celebration of their fortieth anniversary. There were exquisite gifts of flowers and other items, and the guest list was quite lengthy. Mr. and Mrs. Boynton were former residents of our community, and at one time attended Headford Church.

William and Merrill Johnson had as supper guests on Saturday evening, Jean and Grant Morley.

For the first time in the memory of your correspondent, now almost 30 years, Christmas service at Headford was not held in the church, but in the Sunday school room. However, what it lacked in surroundings, was compensated for by good numbers. Charlie Barker's beautiful creche was there, as was also his mother's lovely arrangement with a special treat in their two presentations — they are to be congratulated along with their leader, Mrs. Stewart Rumble. And we were very happy to welcome the family of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Burton who have newly come to live in the house formerly occupied by the Ray Burtons.

We are sorry to hear Mr. Freeman Barker is "under the weather", but trust he will quickly recover. He is very much missed in Sunday School. Glad to hear Fred Lee is now able to be up and rested, ready to enjoy the festive season with his family. How nice to have birthday in the holiday season! We wish many happy returns to David Terry for December 27; to John Rumble, and to Stewart Rumble, December 31. Belated greetings also to Lorraine Acreman, celebrating on December 21.

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New Year's Messages From Local Clergy

by Rev. Calvin H. Chambers
Thornhill Presbyterian Church

Is it wise for man to trust the future? There are many who would say "no". "Trust no future however pleasant", writes Longfellow. "The past is like a funeral gone, the future comes like an unwelcome guest", writes another. In Kitty Foyle, by Morley, cynicism reaches a high peak in the words, "the enemies of the future are always the nicest people". These statements reflect the thinking and the feeling of vast numbers of people today, as they contemplate the coming New Year. There is a dread, a fear, a reluctance to face what the coming days may offer.

But there are those who have found a sense of deep security in the midst of all the uncertainty of the future. Lincoln Steffens in his autobiography has a line which bespeaks the conviction of the Christian, "I have been over into the future and it works". The Christian believes in the future, because our God is the "same, yesterday, today and forever". What we have found God to be in the past and in the present, we know He will be in the years which lie ahead. Our Christian faith works — already we share in the triumphs of God. The foundations of the earth may crumble; man may destroy himself and this planet by atomic warfare, but the Christian believes that nothing can permanently frustrate the purposes of God. We look longingly to the future, hoping for that "glorious re-appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ." Whatever the future holds, we know that God is in the future. His light has invaded our world in Jesus Christ, and already we share in the Life of the Ages.

It is my prayer that you may know this certainty. It is born of faith. Where there is no faith in the future, there is no power in the present. Commit your life to the Living God who holds all things in His hands, and you will enter this New Year with radiant hope which no trial or sorrow or disappointment can destroy.

by Rev. Earl B. Eddy
Thornhill United Church

In ancient mythology Janus was the god of beginnings, doorways, and gates. So we have named the first month of the New Year January, after him, the beginning of 1959.

Janus had one advantage over all the other gods of Rome: he had two heads! So that, without even turning his head, he could look both ways at once to watch those who were coming in, and those who were going out.

You and I should do the same today: we should look back over the old year that is going out, and look forward in respect to the New Year that is coming in. Not to hallow the past, but simply to be grateful for its blessings and profit by its mistakes! Not to be fearful of the future, but simply to see it in perspective, that we may write on the clean, white pages, only what is vital, beneficent and true.

by Rev. Wm. E. Askew,
Rector of Holy Trinity Church, Thornhill

A HAPPY NEW YEAR! That is the greeting we are hearing and saying frequently these days. What do we mean by it? I suppose we mean a happy holiday on January 1. But surely more is implied. We are wishing a year in which the person is happy and that means not only good health and prosperity but also a sense of fulfillment and accomplishment.

We are fortunate in having time broken up into years because each year comes to us as a fresh start in life. We begin each year with high resolve and although some of our resolutions may not last very long before they are broken and forgotten at least we do aspire to a new kind of life.

As you make your resolutions for 1959 I would like to suggest something for you to bear in mind. Frequently people say to me such things as — "I should read my Bible more", "I really must go to church more frequently", "One of these days I would like to do something worthwhile while in my church and community". When they say this I feel they are just saying something without too much thought of really putting it into practice.

Each one of us has the same number of hours in the day and months in the year and sometimes many more years in life than the greatest of God's saints. The difference lies in the way we use time. Haven't you found that you can find the time to do the things you really desire? So let us during 1959 resolve to deepen the spiritual part of our lives by really taking the time to attend worship, to read and study the scriptures and to be active in the church of our choice. I can assure you that will mean for you and yours a Happy 1959.

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