

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.

Area No. 1 Inaugural

Roy Bick & A. Parker Returned As Chairmen

Harold F. Skinner, who succeeds Nathan Hicks on the board of trustees for School Area No. 1 Markham-Vaughan for a three year term, was duly sworn in to office at the inaugural meeting Tuesday evening of last week at Thornhill Public School and the first official duty Trustee Skinner performed was the seconding of Trustee Jackson Taylor's motion that Chairman Roy Bick and Vice-Chairman Alan Parker remain in their respective offices for 1959.

Absent due to a business trip to Ottawa was Trustee George Chandler and Chairman Bick advised the members present that the matter of committees for the new year would be deferred until a full quorum was present.

Architects Interviewed
Following the board's usual custom, representatives from three different architectural firms were interviewed. At the conclusion of each informal chat, when the various architects displayed pictures or blueprints of the work they have already accomplished elsewhere, Chairman Bick made it perfectly clear that no decision regarding plans or an architect for a future school in the area has as yet been made but that the board wished to hear from all the architects interested in building schools — in order to assist the board in such a decision at a later date.

Vice Chairman Parker, who for some time now has been advocating in circular (rather than egg-carton) schools, seemed really taken aback with one revolutionary blueprint presented, in which the board viewed "proposed" plans for a "sliding canopy" school. The canopy roof which looked somewhat like the home-made parachutes we made as a child (with weights at each corner so the weight of the cloth would billow out in the breeze) and had a rolled edge for "eaves" drainage.

The architect explained that this canopy was poured (cement) on a specially raised and suitably graded elevation of land, then after the cement had set, the ground beneath and around it was removed (and the canopy's four corners then ascended from the ground at a 63 degree angle) and the school (page Jules

Verne) was built beneath and outside the canopy.

Vice-Chairman Parker drew some hearty chuckles from the group when he asked, "Wouldn't you have a hard time keeping children off the roof?"

After the laughter had died down the smiling architect declared, "I thought I had viewed this plan from every angle — but that is one I had not counted." He stuck to his plan though and said something would be done to alleviate any such procedure as roof climbing.

Board members asked many interesting questions regarding window glazing, single, double or frosted; use of wood rather than cold-looking cement blocks for interiors of schools; heating by coal gas or electric; what to lay on floors for minimum of maintenance.

Several points of interest were disclosed: (1) Schools get grants on double-glazing but not on heating. (2) Coal is the cheapest fuel but requires larger maintenance staff. (3) It costs no more for wood finish on an interior such as the striking example used in the Vaughan Township Municipal building, according to at least one architect present at the interview. (4) Biggest changes to come to schools lately have come from the Fire Marshal. Even plywood has to be treated for fire-proofing.

The one thing each board member endeavoured to put across was that they want the best quality possible for the least expenditure. Trustee Taylor spoke for all when he said "Maintenance cost has no grant on it. We are therefore interested in reducing maintenance costs."

Oh, Come Let Us Adore Him

by Doris M. FitzGerald

The star of Bethlehem shone high in the chancel of Holy Trinity last Sunday afternoon, and the Church was filled to overflowing for the second annual Epiphany Pageant. The moving and beautiful hour long play was presented to a raptly appreciative audience by a large cast of Church School children and older members of the congregation. The first scene was set in an Indian Residential school in the Northland. After the children had brought in, and trimmed a Christmas tree, their teacher, who was narrator throughout, began to tell them the story of the birth of Christ. While he spoke six little angels appeared in the darkened chancel, and a serene and lovely Mary, with the Babe in her arms, and Joseph at her side came slowly up the aisle. They were followed at intervals by groups of shepherds, the Magi bearing gifts, and children who came to see the Christ child, and all became part of a memorable tableau around the manger.

In the third scene Peter and John were shown paying their taxes to Matthew, the publican, while fishermen mended their nets. Word came that the Master was passing by, and all made haste to follow Him. How well Christ's disciples have spread His Gospel since then was indicated in the last two present day scenes — a medical mission clinic in India, and in Japan. The latter was represented by a group of Japanese in native dress from St. Anne's Church, Toronto, who read from the Bible, and sang "Hark the Herald Angels Sing" in Japanese.

The entire cast returned to join with the congregation in singing "Oh come all ye faithful." At the conclusion of the play only the six little angels remained kneeling around the manger. In the light of the star, while a recorder played softly in the distance "Oh come let us adore Him."

Music and lighting were most effective. The choir sang from the balcony and most of the solos & choruses were unaccompanied.

Cleverly placed and operated floodlights dramatized the entrance of the different groups in the unit Church, and the scenes in the chancel. Costumes were excellent, and those worn by the Magi, and made, incidentally by members of the congregation, were quite outstanding. The children gave endearing performances as angels, Indians, junior shepherds and onlookers. Their elders, many of them experienced actors, played their roles with reverence, and authority, but as is customary in religious presentations the cast will not be named. We would like, however, to mention Mrs. Roger Priestman under whose capable direction the Pageant was so well enacted. Other members of the Footlights Club also deserve thanks for much hard behind the scenes work with the apron stage, lighting, properties, and assisting with the costumes. Because the regular make up artist was ill, Mr. George Gibson, and Mr. Russell kindly came out from Toronto to help, and copied very successfully with the realistic looking beards.

Thornhill Notes

Socials
Mr. and Mrs. R. Vanderburg, Yonge Street, are sending two weeks at Laguna Beach, California.

Dr. and Mrs. Isaac Erb are sending a few months in Arizona. Mrs. James Doran has returned from a trip to Ireland.

Horticultural Society
The first meeting of the Thornhill Horticultural Society for 1959 will be held in the Thornhill Public School on Tuesday, January 20, at 8 p.m. This will be in conjunction with representatives of other societies of the fifteen district of the O.H.A. to choose a district director for 1959.

A well-known local gardener, Mr. Percy Bone, will give a talk on old and new perennials suited to this area. In addition a representative of the O.H.A. will outline the program for their convention at the King Edward Hotel in March, as well as details of the garden tours to the United States and Europe being sponsored by the association.

Those interested in any aspect of indoor or outdoor gardening are reminded that the nominal fee for membership is more than repaid in plant bargains and bonuses, up to the minute information and the fellowship of the gardeners. Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month.

Presbyterian Church News
The Couples Club held a t-boggan party Saturday night at the Thornhill Golf Course and afterward returned to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hartley Stoddard. Devotions were taken by Mr. and Mrs. A. Vanvelzen. The elections of new officers was conducted by Mr. Earl Patton, chairman of the nominating committee. The new executive are past presidents Mr. and Mrs. John MacKay, presidents Mr. and Mrs. James Boyd, vice-presidents Mr. and Mrs. J. Arnott, treasurers Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Boyle, and group leaders Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Sharpe and Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Mullen. Refreshments were served by the social committee.

Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Patterson entertained members of the session and their wives Sunday evening at supper in honour of Mr. and Mrs. Jan Kok, who will be leaving shortly for a two month trip to Holland.

The Young Adults met Sunday evening in the church. Dennis Robinson led the worship service. Rev. Chambers led in a discussion on "What Do Christian Scientists Really Believe?"

United Church News
The General W.A. of the United Church held their January meeting Thursday afternoon in the narthex with Mrs. Leonard May, the retiring president, in charge. Devotions were conducted by Mrs. E. Meuser.

The new executive for 1959-1960 were installed by Dr. Eddy, as follows: past president, Mrs. L. May; president, Mrs. Ralph Thompson; 1st vice-president, Mrs. Tom Barrow; 2nd vice-president, Mrs. Percy Bone; recording secretary, Mrs. Douglas Simpson; corresponding secretary, Mrs. G. Mickleborough; treasurer, Mrs. Frank May; press secretary, Mrs. Len Short; pianist, Mrs. Donald Gunn; devotions secretary, Mrs. E. Meuser; parsonage committee, Mrs. Harold Ross and Miss Lillian Francis; flower convenors, Mrs. Len Riley and Mrs. Allan Martindale; Christian citizenship, Mrs. Empringham and Mrs. F. Kellam. The new leaders for the seven groups were also installed: Group 1, Mrs. M. Veaving; Group 2, Mrs. Don Smellie; Group 3, Mrs. James Rice; Group 4, Mrs. Neilson Gage; Group 5, Mrs. M.

Clarke; Group 6, Mrs. I. Ford; and Group 7, Mrs. Richard Jeffrey. Following a short business period conducted by the new president, Mrs. Thompson, a social hour followed.

The Afternoon Auxiliary of the W.M.S. met Tuesday afternoon in the narthex. Mrs. Ralph Whately, the president, was in charge of the meeting. The devotional was taken by Miss M. Anderson. Dr. Eddy installed four new officers: Mrs. Robert Gibson, vice-president for younger groups; Mrs. T. Condon, Christian Citizenship secretary; Mrs. J. Michell, Missionary Monthly pianist; and Mrs. R. E. Findlay, organist.

The annual reports were given by the various secretaries. This was followed by Mrs. I. Ford giving a message from the United States and Hawaii.

A social hour followed with refreshments being served by Mrs. Condon and Mrs. Ford.

Arnold Family Has Interesting History

by Doris M. FitzGerald

Similar street names are to be found in many early Ontario villages and towns especially if they were visited by old time notables such as the Duke of Richmond, Lord Elgin and Sir John Colborne. Thornhill and Richmond Hill have one name in common which has been particularly associated with this district since Crown Grant days. Arnold Ave. in Thornhill runs through the former farm of the late Robert Joseph Arnold who was Reeve of Vaughan Township in 1861-2-3, and Arnold Street and Arnold Crescent in Richmond Hill were opened on land which had belonged to his brother, John R. Arnold, whose home there was known as the Hermitage. These men and their brother Abner were among the descendants of John Arnold, a United Empire Loyalist from New Jersey, who settled first in New Brunswick, then made the long and difficult trip to Upper Canada with a number of other Loyalist families when Simcoe was appointed Governor in 1792. He received a Crown Grant on the 3rd Concession, Markham, and later acquired lot 27 on the Markham side of Yonge Street.

During the war of 1812 John Arnold served as a captain in the York Militia and was taken prisoner at the old fort on April 27, 1813. Also captured at the same time was his 73 year old uncle, Captain John Willson, J.P., whose Crown Grant, lot 30, concession 1 Vaughan, now lies in the centre of the village, the northern boundary being No. 7 Highway west.

We do not know whether Abner, John R., and Robert Joseph were sons or grandsons of Captain John Arnold but have been told that all the family took a keen and active interest in the building of Holy Trinity Church, Thornhill. Between 1825-70 Abner operated a saw mill, built for his father by Rowland Burr, in what is now Doncaster. He lived near the mill but later built the house on Yonge St. presently owned by the E. V. Graingers. John R. married Martha Milbourne, a granddaughter of Jordan Post, former New England clock maker, for whom Jordan St. in Toronto is named, and she inherited a farm at Yonge and John Sts., Thornhill, which had belonged to him. The John R. Arnolds later moved to Richmond Hill where they gave the land for St. Mary's Anglican Church and it is said that the name for the church was chosen by Mrs. Arnold. The Thornhill farm was rented for a number of years, and finally bought by the late James Pearson, who sold the John St. frontage for subdivision after the last war.

When Robert Joseph Arnold and Miss Sarah Kirkpatrick of Meadville, Pa. were married in 1848 they received as a wedding gift one of the first farms cleared on Yonge St., lot 29, Vaughan Township. The donor was James Miles, a relative of the bridegroom who had obtained it years before from the original Crown Grantee Asa Johnston. Robert Arnold commissioned Job Trotter, Thornhill stonemason to build the handsome brick house which still stands in spacious grounds. It has not belonged to the Arnolds for a long time but in 1935 Mrs. R. J. Davison, a daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Arnold, rented it and lived there with her family for 5 years. More recently it was used as a nursing home. Now its future seems uncertain for this property together with the adjoining farm, which was the old Chapman Crown Grant have been sold by their last owner Mr. George S. Spring to a syndicate for the proposed Spring Valley subdivision. Though the large

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1st Thornhill Scouts

Scouts held their first meeting of the new year on Monday, January 5th, in the Thornhill United Church. The meeting consisted of a belated Christmas party. Fun and games were had by all the Scouts.

Refreshments were served and provided by the Ladies' Auxiliary. Cub Scouts held their first meeting of the new year on Tuesday, January 6th in the United Church. The sixes received their colours. Bagheera (Mrs. Antonauci) lead the boys and helped them in their signalling. The Pack is getting boys.

A few games were played and the Pack did some exercises. The meeting closed with the Grand Howl.

Happy Scouting and Cubbing.

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CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY
Richmond Hill Unit
FACT FOR THE WEEK:
... There has been a significant decrease in male mortality from cancer of the mouth for the period of 1941 - 1953. ... Significant decreases for both sexes are evident in deaths from cancer of the stomach. ... Mortality from cancer of uterus also shows significant decrease in the same period.

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Wars Of Rising School Costs
"The Russians have decided that they don't have to outfight us to win," Dr. R. W. B. Jackson told members of the Henderson Avenue Home and School Association on Monday evening, January 12. The Russians and their satellite countries, Dr. Jackson felt, were now confident that they could gain their ends by out-educating and out-producing the Western nations; this was one of the factors in the present "crisis in education" which the distinguished Director of Research at the Ontario College of Education put before parents at the regular monthly meeting of the Home and School Association.

The increase in the school population in Ontario was a major source of concern to educators, said Dr. Jackson. The number of pupils in public school had gone up from 539,000 in 1946 to over a million in September of 1958; and the next twelve years would almost certainly see a further increase of another half million. The high school population had also doubled over the same period, and the end was not in sight. This was in large measure due to the increase in the Ontario birth rate, which had been rising steadily since 1946. Last year's total of 160,000 births was both the greatest total and the largest increase over a preceding year which had yet been recorded. These children, the speaker pointed out, would not affect public school enrollments for five or six years, and would not reach high schools until another twelve or fourteen years had passed.

Not only was the school population increasing; the cost of education, like the cost of everything else, had also gone up. In the ten years from 1946 to 1958, public school costs had increased from \$95 to \$212 per pupil, while high school costs over the same ten years had risen from \$206 to \$457 per pupil.

The situation at the higher levels — high school and university — was aggravated by the fact that a much greater proportion than ever before of our children go on farther with their education. Where two generations ago a few years of elementary school was all that was needed by the majority, now high school graduation was coming to be the minimum standard. The universities, said Dr. Jackson, were expecting a five-fold increase in enrollment within the next fifteen years.

Dr. Jackson could see no way of avoiding this, unless we were prepared to give up a democratic way of life. We must have, he maintained, a higher level of education for all, or we will end up with a few highly educated people running things.

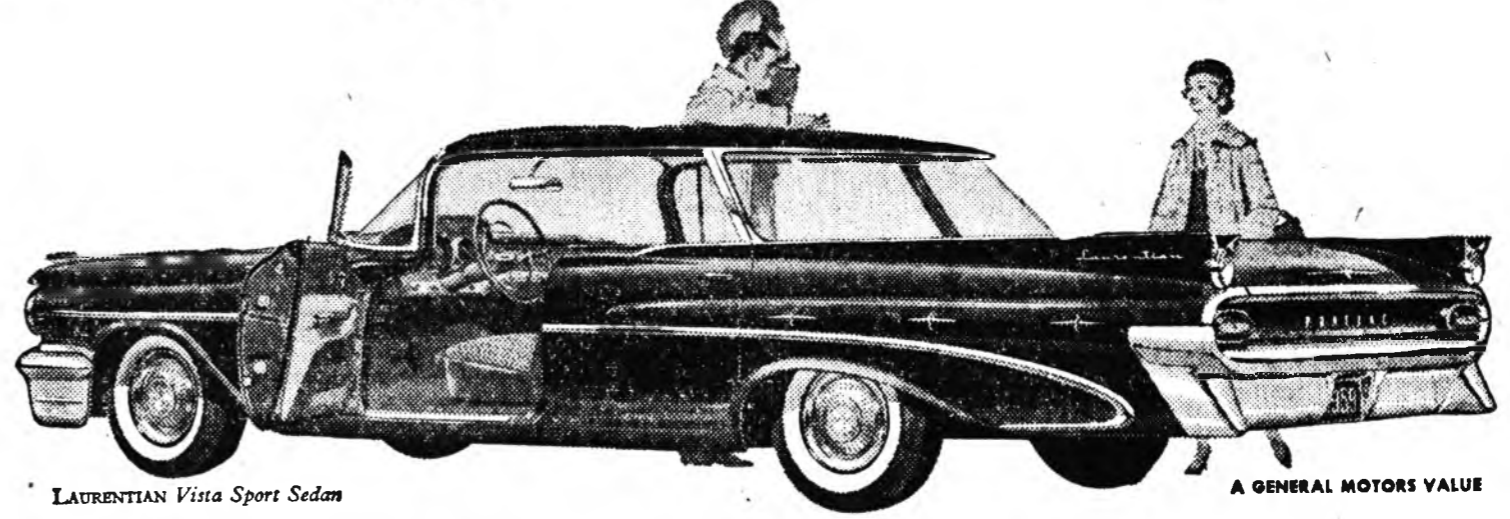
Education—Battle Front?
In speaking of the Russians, Dr. Jackson felt that the real battle was on the education front. The Russians and Chinese were pinning their whole faith on education, and we could not take the chance that they were wrong. Meanwhile, three-fourths of our ablest children never finished high school. This, Dr. Jackson said, was "just selling ourselves down the river." We must spot the bright ones and make sure they get all the education they can absorb. Dr. Jackson felt that the whole attitude of our society towards work and education would have to change. He wondered if we could retain all our creature comforts and still win out.

Graduates Attend
Ten members of the graduating class of Henderson Avenue School were present at the meeting, and were presented with their graduation pins by the president of the Association, Mrs. Gage.

H.S. Executive Meet
The executive committee of the Home and School met briefly at the close of the general meeting. It was decided to hold a Benefit Film Show at Henderson Avenue School, on Saturday afternoon, January 24, from 2 to 4 p.m.

A number of children's films will be shown, and the proceeds are to go to the Bonnici family, who recently lost their home and possessions through fire.

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