

Thornhill and District News

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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.

Parents, Management Comm. Meet

Principal Elson Reminds Parents Of Esprit de Corps At Thornhill

Retracts Terminology But Upholds Intent

More than 60 parents attended a special meeting of the York Central District High School Board Management Committee, chaired by Trustee Eric Axelson, on Thursday night of last week, and Harry Sayers, chairman of the district high school board said, "I am sorry we are not meeting under happier circumstances. I have been a member of the board for the past six years — and until tonight I have never yet seen a member of the public at any meeting of the board. I am sorry to have such an occasion to bring you out." Mr. Sayers was referring to a letter parents had received from Principal A. S. Elson, regarding 39 girl students, which the parents wanted to have explained — and retracted.

Following a lengthy discussion, during which three or four of the parents present commanded the floor to throw bricks in general at the board, the committee, the principal and the teachers, Principal Elson said, "I always felt that there was a good feeling of fellowship between the parents, students and myself and the school staff. If retraction (of the letter) is what you wish, I will retract the terminology of the words — but not the intent."

Principal Elson had written a letter of explanation to the parents, after disciplining 39 girls students for what he took to be insubordination after the girls had signed a suggestion — thereby making it into a petition — asking that changes be made in procedure in the physical education rules. The girls had objected to being "grouped" and receiving marks as a group, instead of as individuals.

Mr. Charles Seath, director of gymnasium classes at Thornhill High School, in speaking to the irate parents in order to explain why group marking was used, said the rules were laid down by the College of Education, and were employed generally throughout the province.

Eric Axelson opened the meeting which was held in the school cafeteria, stating, "As chairman of the management committee I would like to point out that this meeting has been thrown open to the parents and I should like to have any discussion confined to those who are directly involved." He then asked Mr. Sayers, as chairman of the school board, to make the statement the committee had prepared earlier in a closed meeting held in the library of the high school. "The management committee, and those board members present, stand behind and support the principal and teachers and feel that discipline is necessary in this matter."

First parent to explode into wrath after this quietly delivered statement was Mrs. W. Paul who demanded to know, "What disciplinary action was necessary for a suggestion put in the box?"

Mr. Sayers replied it was the unanimous opinion, "This committee and members present felt the action taken by the students was unwelcome. We feel the students should have discussed this with their class teachers and then if the teachers had any complaint they (the students) could take the matter to the parents and they in turn could discuss it with the principal." He said the practice students were complaining about was laid down by the Department of Education and in use at the high school for the past two years. "Does this answer your question?" he enquired of Mrs. Paul, who then asked what Mr. Elson meant by "insubordination."

Native Daughter Of Thornhill Mrs. Wilfred C. L. Ball Mourned

A life long resident of Thornhill, Helen Marguerite Blackwell Ball died on Sunday, February 8, in the Wellesley Hospital. She had been ill for eleven days with a heart condition. The daughter of a well known Thornhill physician, the late Dr. David A. Nelles, Mrs. Ball was born in Homewood Hall, Centre St., attended Thornhill Public School and Richmond Hill High School, and studied music in Toronto. After her marriage to Wilfred C. L. Ball she went to live at Blackwell Farm on Yonge St. In 1955 Mr. and Mrs. Ball celebrated their golden wedding in that house, but a year or two before they had subdivided the farm.

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A quietly capable woman who could always be counted upon, "Daisy" Ball had a host of friends throughout the district and will be greatly missed. Despite a large family she found time to work for both her community and her church. She was for 27 years a trustee of Langstaff Public School and secretary-treasurer of the school board. She was also a life member of Thornhill Women's Institute. A devoted member of Holy Trinity, and an ever helpful neighbour when the church stood on the Yonge St. hill, Mrs. Ball also acted as organist for more than 20 years. She was a member of Holy Trinity W.A. for more than 50 years, and also held office in various other church organizations. Fond of travelling she and her husband had taken several long trips since his retirement. She also enjoyed bridge and was a member of the Thornhill ladies' bowling club.

Surviving besides her husband are two daughters and four sons. Mrs. N. H. Wood (Lottie) of Vancouver, Cyril of Thornhill, Nelles of Oakville, Berkeley of Toronto, Mrs. A. V. Burlton (Isobel) of Willowdale and Duncombe of Thornhill, and 14 grandchildren. Her only brother, Berkley Nelles, died fifteen months ago.

The largely attended funeral service in Holy Trinity Church was conducted by the Rev. W. E. Askeew on Wednesday afternoon, February 11, and interment took place in the church cemetery. Pallbearers were Morgan Boyle, W. L. Schafer, Willard Simpson, Richard Jeffrey, George Rowsell and Peter Tobias.

Obviously referred to an apology from the principal.

Mr. Elson, who was present during this discussion, then came forward and addressed the parent in a most sincere manner, which impressed his audience to the point where they withheld murmuring or verbal retaliation, at least until he had finished his statement and sat down. Principal Elson said, "There are two or three things I should say. First of all, in any school there are two distinct groups — with a line dividing them — there is the Students' Council with students' activities supervised by the teachers, and the Teachers' Federation, which goes under the Department of Education. Students have free choice of action within the limits teachers feel are adequate. The suggestion box is for the student governing force, the petition (which concerned teaching procedure) was placed in there."

"The suggestion box was removed by a member of the student council who took it to a teacher and said, this has nothing to do with student government. It reached my desk."

Now there is a line of demarcation which is distinct and definite. This action by the students was done without experience with the Department of Education. I saw something that was clear to me but may not be clear to you — they did not go to their teacher. There is not a member of my staff who is not willing to discuss any requests on any subject with them."

All a teacher has to say is, "I think this is the way it should be done," Mr. Elson continued. "If the student doesn't agree he may take it up with his parents — who may come to the school to discuss it. But, if any student discusses teaching skills and methods with Student Council, then don't know how you could expect any of us to run a school."

"I felt when I disciplined the students it was the parents' right to know I had done so and because I thought the students were stepping out of line I said, 'that is a type of insubordination,' the only punishment was an apology required. I then said an apology was repeated if it would be considered 'unbearable insubordination.' Now if you or I as a parent see something we think is not as it should be, you and I both have the right to right it. I presume I could have been just as severely reprimanded if I had dealt with the situation and not notified the parents."

Principal Elson reminded the

parents of the esprit de corps which has existed in Thornhill High School between students and staff and said, "I am a human being and I have to make quick and sudden decisions. I have absolutely no animosity to any of those girls. I am proud of every student in Thornhill and it is up to you ladies and gentlemen to understand there is by no means any question of dislike of any one of the students concerned. If as principal I cannot have your confidence when I am endeavouring to run a good school, how do you expect me to do it?"

Mr. Seath then explained at length that the system in use, (group point system) for P.T. classes, was set by the College of Education and had been used by him in each school where he had taught physical training. He said it was evolved to promote group interest and participation and was quite acceptable to the boys in the P.T. classes.

Mrs. S. Rasmussen, one of the mothers objected to the girls being treated as children, instead of adults. She stated their petition should still be investigated further, but concluded her verbal part of the heated evening by stating, "We will tell the girls they must also go along with the rules and meet the teachers half way."

Obviously disturbed by the many recriminations which had been hurled directly at the high school board during the evening, Mr. Sayers pointed out that high school board members were appointed, not elected, and went so far as to say that he will resign at the end of his 1959 term of office. He said being a board member was a thankless task.

Mrs. H. Gottschalk said her daughter had been told by her not to apologize and what about that, to which Mr. Sayers replied, "I do not think apologies are necessary now."

On a query of what was to be done about the letter, Mr. Axelson suggested, "burn it and forget it," but a retraction of the letter was asked for.

Principal Elson then rose to say, "I thought I was doing the right thing in notifying the parents — but if the terminology of my letter is causing all this disturbance, I retract the terminology of the letter but not the intent."

The meeting was then adjourned, but parents were told they were to attend a special meeting of the high school board on Tuesday night of this week.

Nancy Lou Cooper Bride Of Bruce W. Stevens

Miss Nancy Lou Cooper, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Cooper of Willowdale, was married Saturday, February 14, at 5 p.m. in Thornhill Presbyterian Church to Mr. Bruce W. Stevens, son of Mr. and Mrs. Claude Stevens of Willowdale. Rev. Calvin Chambers officiated. The soloist was Mrs. D. Frehr and the organist Mr. Vernon MacDonald. Given in marriage by her father, the bride wore a white full-length gown of brocade satin with a Chantilly lace top. Her finger-tip veil was held in place by a bridal coronet of orange blossoms and she carried a cascade of pink roses. Miss Marilyn Cooper of Calgary, Alberta, sister of the bride was maid of honor. The bridesmaids were Miss Ann Ireland and Mrs. John Glenney, sister of the bride. The flower girl was Diane Sharpless, cousin of the bride. The attendants were all dressed alike in dresses of pale pink Italian brocade satin, with matching handbags. They carried hand-shaped cascades of yellow and pink baby roses. The best man was John Glenney and the ushers were Douglas Cooper and Cecil Stevens.

The reception was held at the Willowdale Presbyterian Church where the mother of the bride received in a gown of sapphire blue brocade satin. The mother of the groom wore a gown of sand crepe. The couple left on a trip to the southern states and will reside in Toronto.

Local Protestant Churches Sponsor Womens' World Day Of Prayer

The Women's World Day of Prayer held Friday, February 13, at the local Baptist Church was very well attended. Mrs. H. Elson opened the meeting. Those taking part in the service were: from the Anglican Church, Mrs. Skipper; Presbyterian Church, Mrs. Williamson; United Church, Mrs. H. Craig; and Langstaff Baptist church, Mrs. Carter; Thornhill Baptist, Miss G. Stevens. Other ladies in the congregation offered special prayers.

The speaker was Dr. Ilo Bennett, a former medical missionary in India, with the Canadian Baptist Mission. Dr. Bennett spoke of the growing independence of the native churches and how they are helping themselves. They still need financial assistance for their hospitals and clinics, as the majority of patients are too poor to pay anything. She also spoke of the desperate plight of refugees in such places as Hong Kong and Korea and other places in the far east.

Mrs. Gordon Patterson rendered a very appropriate solo with Mrs. Arthur Lennie at the organ.

The collection from these meetings goes to the Women's Inter-Church Council for the spread of Christian literature.

PICKERING: A total of \$25,913 was awarded a 17-year-old Pickering Township girl and her father in a damages suit resulting from an accident two years ago when Carolyn Webb was struck by a car driven by an Ajax man.

Correspondent: Mrs. J. C. Donnelly
Phone AV. 5-1777
Mr. and Mrs. Milton Sherman, Master Feeders Farm, returned home on Friday from a three week vacation in Florida.

Enjoying The Sun



Dr. I. H. Erb of Thornhill is shown above being interviewed by the Master of Ceremonies at the annual Canadian Winter Visitor program at Mesa, Arizona. Dr. and Mrs. Erb left for Arizona early in the year and will vacation in the Valley of the Sun until late March, when they will return to their home at 147 Centre Street, Thornhill.

Thornhill Notes

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Napier have returned from a holiday in Florida.

Mr. and Mrs. W. J. W. Lennox, Arnold Ave., spent several weeks with their son, William Lennox and his family, formerly of Thornhill, now living at East Riverside, outside of St. John, New Brunswick. En route home, Mrs. Lennox visited her daughter, Mrs. Locke, at Williamsburg, where she fell and broke her leg and is now confined to hospital there.

Mr. and Mrs. Wally Crouter and family returned from a vacation to Florida.

1st Thornhill Cubs and Scouts
The Cub and Scout Mothers Auxiliary of 1st Thornhill met Tuesday afternoon in the United Church board room for the February meeting. Mrs. Bill Lambert, the president, was in charge of the meeting. Final plans were discussed for the father and son banquet to be held Friday, March 6.

Valentine Bridge
The Valentine dessert bridge convened by the Guide and Brownie Group Committee on February 14 at the Thornhill Public School was a huge success in spite of the weather. The social convenor was Mrs. William Laycock and the gaily decorated red and white tables and dessert were indeed a pleasure. Several guides were responsible for the Valentine drawings. The soloist for the little Brownies greeting the guests as they came in were Susan Henderson and Elizabeth Laycock.

The guides who assisted with the serving were Carol Martin, Lynn and Sharon Surret, Janet Alcock, Elaine Elvidge, and Louise Langman. The guides who helped distribute the many prizes were Jane Brown, Lyn Tanquity, Kathy Percival, Jill Whitehead and Loreta Woolley.

Members of the executive who worked so hard to make this party the success it was were Mrs. Reg. Allin, Mrs. Bob Gibson, Mrs. Alex Henderson and Mrs. Arthur Mollard.

Holy Trinity Anglican News
A special "Choral Hour" will be held Sunday evening, February 22, at 7 p.m. instead of the regular evening service. There will be no sermon and special choral music has been prepared by members of the choir, and organ selections by the organist, Cyril Devey. Among the works to be presented will be the dramatic setting of the words of Psalm 137, "By Babylon's Way" by Charles Gounod, Mrs. W. Tomlin and Mrs. V. Rutby will also sing.

The members of Holy Trinity Parish Guild would like to express their appreciation to all those who supported and gave donations to their opportunity sale and afternoon tea on Saturday, February 7. Mrs. Elaine Ackerhurst was the convener and Mrs. Doreen Marks convened the tea tables.

Presbyterian Church News
The Couples Club met Saturday evening at the Sunday School with 17 couples being present. The new president, Mr. James Boyd was in charge of the meeting. Devotions were conducted by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Penrose. The speaker was Mr. Harry Percy, Deputation Secretary for the Sudan Interior Mission who brought a very challenging message. An excellent film, "Breaking the Bands Asunder", was shown. This was followed by games led by Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Culey. Refreshments were served by group 2.

The guest speaker Sunday, February 15, was Rev. E. L. Simmonds, M.A., principal of Toronto Bible College.

Rev. Chambers was the guest speaker at the 10th Annual Winter Conference of the young people of the West Toronto Presbytery held in Woodbridge the

1st Thornhill Scout News

Scouts met in the Thornhill United Church Monday evening. After the opening service the Scouts went into their various groups of Tenderfooting, how to make camp beds, how to tie different knots, and how to measure distances with the Scout staff.

A few games were then played by the Scouts and leaders. Lowering of the flag and the Lord's Prayer brought this meeting to a close.

The Cubs met Tuesday evening in the Thornhill United Church. After the opening service, the Akela entered the names of boys who are taking part in the hobby

show. There will be 30 entries from the 1st Thornhill Cubs. These hobbies will also be shown at the father and son banquet on March 6. Meeting closed with the Grand Hymn.

Group 3 of th W.A. Thornhill United Church will hold a coffee party and bake sale on Friday, February 27, from 10.30 a.m. until 12 noon. There will also be a party for the children, with lemonade and cookies, also baby-sitting service.

DEPT. OF HEALTH
TWP. OF NORTH YORK
The Light Touch Is Best

Too much play supervision is almost worse than none. Children need practice making decisions. It's not up to them to decide when to go to bed, but they can decide when dolly sleeps. Youthful imaginations are like birds. They thrive best unaged. Provide materials, encouragement, praise. Let your youngster supply the ideas.

CARL E. HILL, M.D., M.O.H.

DONCASTER
Correspondent: David Barbour, Henderson Ave., Phone AV. 5-5205

Birthday congratulations go out to David Kindness of Henderson Ave., who was four years old on February 12th.

Mrs. Cyr and son, of Morgan Ave., are home from the hospital. Gloria Gain, 26 Henderson Ave., entered Branson Hospital on February 11 for the removal of her tonsils. She was back home on February 13.

Birthday greetings are in order for Darlene Haley, Clarke Ave., who was two years old on February 10th.

Ethel Coulson and Jean Trimble so far hold the highest score for the last week of the Doncaster community ladies club eucure marathon, with 79. The finale will come up on Monday, February 23 at Thornhill School, with all proceeds of the marathon and progressive for the burned out Bonnici family. Time 8 p.m. sharp.

Bonnici's Back
The Bonnici family expect to be back in their home which was gutted by fire on December 29th by the end of February.

Wedding
TAYLOR-KERRIGAN
Fairlawn United Church, Toronto, was the scene of a quiet wedding on Friday, February 6th, 1959, when Eleanor, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Kerrigan, No. 7 Highway, was united in marriage to Douglas Taylor of Toronto. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Mr. Turnbull.

The bride wore a black and pink tweed dressmaker suit with pink accessories, with a corsage of red roses and carnations. Miss Lois Dey, maid of honor wore a baby blue suit with white accessories and a corsage of white carnations. The groom was attended by David Noble of Toronto. Mrs. Kerrigan wore a gown of gray crepe with a corsage of white carnations.

Mr. and Mrs. Taylor left on a short honeymoon trip to Stratford. They will make their home in Richvale.

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TU. 4-2213

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