

Thornhill and District News

TELEPHONE AV. 5-2331

"The Liberal" is always pleased to publish items of interest contributed by its readers in the Thornhill area. Our representative in Thornhill is Mrs. Margaret McLean, who may be reached by phoning AV. 5-2331.

Silver Linings

by Elizabeth Kelson

...It is remarkable how the family pets become so much a part of the families who own them. Children instinctively love pets, and it is the most charming thing in the world to watch a small child's delight in playing with a puppy or a kitten. Even adults pat and cherish, feed and scold them. Their antics provide a means of family fun. Who hasn't seen a pup chasing his tail or a kitten playing with a ball of yarn or a piece of crumpled paper.

Tropical fish are a source of endless wonder, as they seem to swim forever about in their crystal tanks with bottoms arranged to look like a miniature ocean floor with shells and bits of seaweed. Many homes boast of a sweet singer like the canary and others prefer the knowing budgies, perhaps the reason lies in their delicate and beautiful coloring. Cats and dogs, fish and birds are the most popular pets judging by the number of homes that have at least one or more of them.

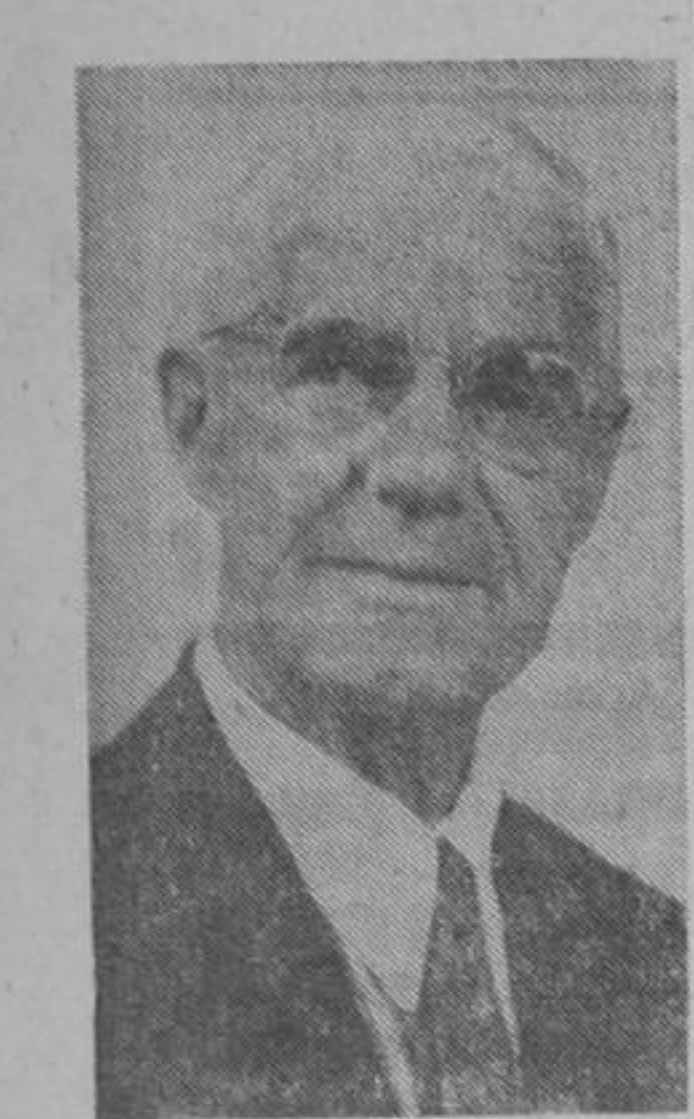
Farm children are used to a greater variety of pets. The very animals that are the backbone of the farm come to be regarded with love and affection. The favorite horse, pony, cow, goat or sheep usually come in for a lot of admiring attention. Even the barnyard fowl — the goose, duck or hen are part of the show. Most children like young things like themselves, baby chicks, lambs, calves, colts and pigs. The means by which this natural affection for living things is encouraged is by allowing to feed and care for pets and feel responsible for their welfare. Association with pets teaches them many things. They learn to be kind and companionable to those that depend on them for care and affection.

Percy Simpkins Retires After 37 Years Loyal Service

by Doris M. FitzGerald

Last Tuesday for the first time in 37 years, the doors of Thornhill Public School were not opened by Mr. Percy Simpkins. Genial Percy who took such a pride in keeping the grounds tidy, the classrooms shining clean and warm, retired at the end of June and will be greatly missed. For Mr. Simpkins was more than a custodian, he was an affectionately regarded fixture — a smiling man, dependably on the job while teachers came and went, and more than a generation of pupils passed through the school. Before the enrolment became so large he knew every boy and girl by name. Some of them were children of former scholars, some grandchildren of his own old schoolmates. He was frequently confided in, and consulted about such "small fry" problems as the care of pets. Dogs, cats, rabbits and even snakes were proudly brought for his inspection. A little retinue usually accompanied him on his walks to and from school, the smallest tots clinging to his hands. "He was so good natured and patient," a former pupil at the school remarked. "I never knew him to lose his temper, yet he never had any trouble because we respected him". Speaking for the Area Board Supervising Principal Eilert J. Sand said that he "knew it had been a great satisfaction to both parents and staff to have the services of this kindly honest man for so long. The board very much regrets losing one of his calibre, for it will be hard to replace him both as a man and as a custodian."

Mr. Simpkins was born in Thornhill, and educated in the first Thornhill Public School, which was burnt down shortly before the present school was completed. He was working for the Bowers Co., on Front St., Toronto, when the late J. W. Breakey, one of the school trustees, mentioned that the new school would require a full time caretaker, and suggested that he submit his name. He did, and was accepted. His duties were many and varied because for a long time he did all the painting and decorating, repairs, gardening, and cleaning, as well as shovelling 58 tons of coal a year into the furnace, forty of which were stored outside. This also entailed special trips to the school on Sundays, and at about 11 o'clock each evening, to keep the fire going. When special meetings were held, or the Thornhill Library, which occupied the board room, was open, he had to be on hand to unlock and lock up the building. When the traffic on Yonge St. became so heavy as to cause concern, Percy began to act as crossing guard. Things have been a bit less strenuous since 1953 when the new wing, and oil furnace were added, and he was given a full time assistant.



PERCY SIMPKINS

When Percy started at the school only two rooms were in use. When he retired last June there were 14 classrooms, and because every inch of the basement had been taken up, a small office had been dug out under the front steps, for him and his assistant.

What has Mr. Simpkins been doing since he began his well earned holiday? "Well," he said, "other summers have always been so busy that it seemed funny not

to be at the school, but we spent a lot of time up at my sons cottage at Port Bolster, and enjoyed it very much," and at home we sure do like that lawn furniture. On the day before school closed Mr. and Mrs. Simpkins were honoured by Principal John D. Martin, and the teachers of Thornhill Public School at a luncheon held in the United Church Hall, and at which one of the features was a large cake inscribed "Best wishes Percy" and showing an ideal picture of the old school. Following the luncheon all returned to the school where at a little ceremony an aluminum lounge chair and two matching lawn chairs were presented to Mr. Simpkins by Miss Geraldine Wesley, who expressed on behalf of the staff and pupils, appreciation of his years of obliging service, regret for his departure, and good wishes for the future.

The area custodians also sent a gift to Mr. Simpkins — an attractive metal table, and umbrella, so he has every inducement to sit in his garden and take things easy for a change. Percy is not planning to go away in the winter because of the coal furnace. Being a handy man with tools he expect to do some tinkering in his workshop, perhaps make some things such as wooden garden chairs.

Mr. Simpkins and his English born wife, the former Miss Lillian Bryant, have three children and four grandchildren. Their daughter Irene, now Mrs. Eric Humphries lives in Mt. Dennis, Rita, Mrs. Norman Hedges in Willowdale, and their son John Henry Simpkins, on the Dawes Rd.

New Dentist Has Opened Office

Dr. John Simpson opened a new and modernly equipped dental office yesterday at 661 Yonge Street in Thornhill, just south of the stoplights at No. 7 Highway. A graduate of the Toronto University Dental College in 1958, Dr. Simpson practiced for a year with Dr. A. M. Adams in the east end of Toronto while looking around for a suitable location for his own dental office finally choosing Thornhill.

Dr. Simpson, who is single, lives in Toronto with his parents, where his father is a druggist and is a member of Forest Hill United Church.

Thornhill Notes

Back To School
Well, it's back to school for the kids and back to routine for mother, thank goodness. What a joy to be able to make the beds without routing someone out of them, and how blessed to be able to do the breakfast dishes without having some late riser dirty more just as you are finished. And how thankfully quiet with the screen and the refrigerator doors slamming only at noon and four o'clock instead of every fifteen minutes.

Some young people of course went to school of one sort or another in the summer too. One such was Elizabeth Smith, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Smith of 236 John Street who took sewing lessons at the Singer Sewing Centre in Willowdale. With no help at home, Elizabeth, who is 2 years old, made a smart royal blue cotton sailor dress trimmed with white braid. She modelled it in the fashion show held at the end of the course, and won first prize in the "Tween" group (age 10 to 13). And the judging was no bit or miss affair either. Judges were teachers from the North York Board of Education and careful attention was paid to seams, hems, zippers and etc. So Elizabeth's prize, a fitted sewing case, was well won. Congratulations, Elizabeth! Keep it up and you will make a fine helpmeet for some young man in a few short years.

Scout and Cub Auxiliary
Speaking of fashion shows, the mothers of the First Thornhill Cub and Scout Ladies Auxiliary invite you to their Fifth Annual Fashion Show on Wednesday, September 16th at 8:30 p.m. in the United Church. The mothers will model a wide selection of fall fashions supplied by Parkview Fashions in Willowdale. Tickets, at 75c will be available at the door and refreshments will be served.

This is a gala affair that you won't want to miss, so remember, September 16th!

Help Wanted:
The 1st Thornhill Brownie Troop is without a leader. Both Brown Owl, Mrs. C. G. Gibson and her assistant, Mrs. Harrington, have resigned. Brown Owl after eight years service. Unless some volunteers come forward the Troop may not be able to continue. How about you mothers? Some of you must be Guides, and even if you aren't, there's nothing too difficult about the job. Anyone with a real love of children qualifies. The Brownie meetings are held one afternoon a week from 4:30 to 4:45 and if you'd like to help out Guides, they meet in the evenings from seven to nine so the work is not too demanding. After attending two or three meetings of different Companies and with the help of the other leaders, in a week or so you would feel like an old hand. The most important task is helping the Brownies work for their badges and as these are for such things as cooking, sewing, gardening, sports, etc. any homemaker is well equipped to lend a hand. If you can be of any help, call Mrs. MacTaggart-Cowan, the District Commissioner at Ave. 5-1464.

Nursery School
The Thornhill Nursery School is ready to open up for the Fall Term next Monday, September 14th. Well equipped with teachers this year, the school could accommodate more youngsters. The enrollment at present is 23 and they can accommodate 30 children, so if you have a youngster of nursery school age (three to five) call Mrs. Peggy Berg at Ave. 5-1881. If transportation is a worry, Mrs. Berg can tell you who in your neighbourhood has children at the school so you could work out a transportation schedule. The school hours are from nine to twelve, five mornings a week and this year the school is in two lovely rooms at the new Presbyterian Church on Centre Street. An outdoor playground is provided, equipped with a jungle gym, sand boxes, slide, teeter-totter etc.

The Supervisor this year is Mrs. Carlotta Broderick of Richmond Hill who is a graduate of the Institute of Child Study, University of Toronto. Her assistant, Mrs. Woods, is a graduate of the same course and the school is fortunate in having two such fine teachers.

The school is run on co-operative lines with a fee of \$12.00 monthly, and each mother is expected to help out about one morning in each month and assist in the maintenance of the equipment by attending a "painting Bee" or some such, about once a year.

The school also has a parent education group which meets about three times a year and they will be holding a Fall Tea at the end of this month. In case you are not aware of it, nursery schools in this Province are licensed and come under the jurisdiction of the Ontario Department of Health and Welfare. The department sends an inspector to the school once a year to see that standards of cleanliness, safety, fire-protection, etc., are adequate.

Although the school no longer includes a kindergarten as such, the program is one which would interest five year olds too, so if you live in an area where there is no kindergarten, your five-year old might well enjoy a year at the nursery school. Such a year would certainly be a great help in the child's adjustment to Grade school next year, as any primary teacher can tell you.

teaching profession after several years absence and will teach Grade 8 at Thornhill Public School.

Rev. and Mrs. W. E. Askew of Holy Trinity Church returned from their vacation on the West coast last week. They were guests of Mrs. Askew's parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. T. Webb in Victoria and on their return visited Mr. Askew's parents in Moose Jaw.

On Sunday, August 9, Family Service will be held at Holy Trinity Church and there will also be the registration of the children for the Church School.

The regular classes of the Church School will commence a week from Sunday, on September 20th. Further details will be given later.

Rev. C. H. Chambers of Thornhill Presbyterian Church spent last weekend at Lancaster, Ontario, where he addressed the Youth Conference of the Synod of Montreal and Ottawa, three times in all. The theme of the conference was "To Live is Christ". During Rev. Chamber's absence, the guest speaker last Sunday was Rev. Arthur Van Ceters of Philadelphia.

The Dutch church on Centre Street is bustling with activity these days and Rev. Kouwenhoven tells me that the church has 360 members, representing 80 or 90 families. Most of the congregation live in the surrounding communities of Willowdale, Richmond Hill, Downsview, etc. Two morning services are held in English each Sunday, and an afternoon service at 4:30 is held in Dutch.

Mrs. P. B. Whitehead and her two daughters, of 5 Colborne Street returned the last week in August from a summer spent at Barmby-on-the-moor, Yorkshire, England, with Mrs. Whitehead's parents. They spent ten days in London and did all the sights there like regular trippers. This was Mrs. Whitehead's seventh crossing and the trip home on the Ivernia was enlivened by the presence of our Governor, Brigadier General Vanier, who was given much fan-fare at Montreal, and the well-known television personality, Frank Willis. Another startling event of the trip was that while passing through the Straits of Belle Isle, through a flotilla of icebergs, the temperature was 26 degrees and when they landed at Quebec two days later, it was 95 degrees!

Friends of Mrs. Robert Jarvis of 106 Arnold Avenue will be sorry to learn that Mrs. Jarvis mother, Mrs. A. Tester is a patient at Branson Hospital, the result of a broken hip caused by a fall. Mrs. Tester who is 82 years of age, is progressing favourably however, although she expects to be at the Branson for two or three more weeks and then at the St. John's Convalescent Hospital for a time.

Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Cordon of Elgin Street left this week to live in Rockford, Illinois, where Mr. Cordon's work has taken him. Rockford is about 90 miles from Chicago.

Before she left, Mrs. Cordon was entertained at a luncheon party held at the Four Winds by Mrs. J. D. Honsberger. Among the guests were Mrs. E. A. Percival, Mrs. R. T. Tamblin, Mrs. R. W. Masters, Miss Kay McMurrich, and Mrs. R. H. Whately, all of Elgin Street.

Horticultural Society
Whether or not the members of the Thornhill Horticultural Show are just all terribly wicked, I don't just know, but in any event, they are getting no rest. After putting on their extensive show last month they are diving right into their fall program with the regular monthly meeting at Thornhill Public School on Tuesday, September 15th at 8 p.m. As well as an interesting speaker, there will be a small flower show.

Members and friends might also like to attend the flower show being held by the Garden Club of Toronto at Edwards Gardens, on Saturday, September 19th from 1-9 p.m. This show will be mainly specimen blooms and anyone wishing further information about submitting entries may contact Mr. Allan Sumner, Ave. 5-1338.

The well-known florists, Weal and Cullen are having a flower festival at their centre on Sheppard Ave. East on September 11 and 12 from 10-3 p.m. This show will feature arrangements and anyone wishing to submit entries should contact the sponsors. There will also be demonstrations and lectures as well as refreshments and a lucky draw. See what I mean? These horticulturalists are BUSY people!

Home and School Area Council
On Thursday last, Mrs. Wm. Kotela of 44 Uplands Ave. was hostess to a meeting of the York Simcoe Area Council of the Ontario Home and School Association, which she is the President. Twenty-four members and observers attended the Council meeting, coming from such points as Gormley, Keswick, Unionville, Newmarket and Richmond Hill, as well as Thornhill. Plans are in progress for the annual Workshop to be held on October 1st. The place of the Workshop has been changed to Thornhill Presbyterian Church which Rev. Chambers kindly offered to the Council as they could not get adequate accommodation elsewhere. The Workshop is designed to advise and help executive members of the local Home and School Associations in the proper running of their Association and they are usually well attended. Plans were also made at the meeting for the publication of the Bulletin which had been dropped this past year or so.

Award \$152,550 School Contract

The contract for building an eight room school on a site at Clark and Elgin Streets in Doncaster was signed by Chairman Roy Bick on behalf of the Board of School Area 1, Markham and Vaughan, and the contractor awarded the tender, Mr. W. J. Lee, Tuesday evening of last week. Present were the architects, Mr. Matsui and Mr. Hindeman. The signing took place following the regular board meeting in Langstaff Public School.

Mr. Lee's bid was low among nine tenders received with a figure of \$152,550.00. The high bid was for \$181,900.00.

The Ontario Municipal Board has approved a \$160,000.00 debenture issue for the school and the Department of Education has given final approval.

The complete cost of the new public school is estimated to be \$230,673.20. Broken down this is as follows: Contract, \$152,550; architect's fees \$9,153; contingencies \$4,577; furniture, \$9,600; and the site \$54,793.00.

Prior to completion of the school, pupils will attend classes in the Thornhill United Church. Notices have already been sent to parents of children who will be expected to come to the United Church.

Chas. Howitt Addition
Work is progressing on the Charles Howitt addition. Children residing in the Boyle Subdivision who are slated to attend the Charles Howitt School on the completion of the addition, will attend Langstaff Public School as formerly this fall. Teachers for all the schools have been hired but Supervising Principal E. J. Sand did not hazard a guess as to what the opening enrollment might be except to say all known pupils had been placed.

Vaughan Township Planning Board has agreed with the board following a meeting on August 10, that it would be wise for the trustees to seek a new school site on Carrville Road West, prior to the dissolution of the area. Public School Inspector Mr. J. C. Gibson will meet with the board shortly to discuss certain aspects of the dissolution of the area. Mr. Gibson is to be referee during the proceedings.

Windows Broken
During the summer over \$400. has been spent for glass for replacement of windows in the various area schools. Mr. Sand pointed out such costs ultimately hit the taxpayer.

Dangerous Crossing
Chairman Bick said the board was worried about the C.N.R. crossing on Green Lane. Visibility on both sides of the railroad

is so poor, he said, the school bus operator has instructions to get out of the bus before crossing to be sure the way is clear. A letter has been sent the Markham Township Council and C.N.R. officials pointing out the dangerous crossing.

Highland Park
Correspondent: MRS. D. R. DARLEY 84 Highland Park Blvd. AV. 5-2719

Once again the summer holidays are over and many sad faces appeared back at school on Tuesday to commence a new term of learning. Mrs. Burke who has been well known to many of us as a teacher of Grade 1 at Henderson Avenue School will be the Kindergarten teacher for this term. Patricia Radford of 83 Highland Park Blvd, is back home after undergoing surgery in the Hospital for Sick Children. Patricia had an extra kidney which had to be removed but she is doing well and was able to return to school on schedule.

Mrs. N. Lingman of 85 Highland Park Blvd, was taken to hospital on Sunday, September 6th for the arrival of a baby boy. The baby was a couple of months premature but weighed approximately 5 lbs. and mother and baby are quite well. Dad and brother Gregory are better now too.

Mr. and Mrs. K. Sandford of 86 Highland Park Blvd. have just returned from an enjoyable vacation at Lake Simcoe and Mr. Sandford joined the ranks back to school on Tuesday - to teach. Miss June Lahonen of 24 Woodward Avenue has announced her engagement to Mr. Douglas Sherman. June will be married on Saturday, September 26th at 3 o'clock in the Thornhill United Church and the wedding reception will be held at her parent's home.

Doncaster
Correspondent: David Barbour Henderson Ave. Phone AV. 5-3205

Socials
Birthday greetings go to Kim Martin, 124 Clarke Ave., who was three years old on Saturday, September 5. On Labour Day, the F. Aimone family, of 28 Proctor Ave., returned from their cottage on a little island near Timagami after spending an enjoyable summer here. With them for the past two weeks were neighbourhood guests, Brian Dale and Harry Morrison.

A mishap with a happy ending resulted when Brian Dale, 14 years old, became lost in the dense brush surrounding the cottage, while hunting with Terry Aimone and Harry Morrison. Because the water surrounding the island had dried up he unsuspectingly wandered off. It was five hours and two miles later that he was reunited with his companions and other searchers. Mr. and Mrs. J. Barbour, 24 Henderson Ave., spent the long week-end enjoying themselves at Wasaga Beach. Birthday wishes are extended to Richard Martin, Spruce wood Drive, who was three years old on Wednesday, September 2. A trousseau tea for Miss Joanna Iselin was held at the home of Mrs. Lennox, Proctor Ave., on Wednesday, September 2, with approximately 40 guests in attendance.

The first general meeting of the home and school will be held at the school on Wednesday, September 16, at 8.15 p.m. It is hoped to have a speaker from the CBC to discuss "The Impact of New TV Teaching Aids". If any members have Canada Packers labels collected towards our coffee urn, bring them along to the meeting. We have a two month extension, so please keep saving them. We hope as many parents as possible will come and parents of new pupils will be especially welcome to meet our new principal and teachers. Come and meet the old ones again. Let us give our support to these men and women who work so hard for our children and make this meeting a record first night.

THORNLEA

Correspondent: Mrs. B. Lepky Phone AV. 5-3489

Mr. Guy Frazer, Bayview Ave., entered the Western Hospital on Thursday, September 3. We are sorry to hear that Mrs. Rootes is suffering from a virus infection in her throat and is confined to her bed. We hope she will soon be up and around again. Last week during the intense heat a truck load of tar paper caught fire and burned on Don Mills Road, north of No. 7. Although no one was hurt the firemen had difficulty controlling the blaze. It is hoped that the most modern equipment obtainable is on hand for emergencies such as this.

Home & School News
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The first executive meeting of the season was held on Wednesday, September 9.

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