

# Seek Solution Of Abandoned Cemeteries

by Mona Robertson

On a tombstone in a neglected private cemetery in Markham Township is a weather-washed carving of two clasped hands, one, that of a woman, the other apparently depicting the hand of the kind Shepherd . . . under the picture are the words, almost obliterated in part by time and wear, "In Memory of Elizabeth, 1814 - 1884," and below this inscription reads, "The winter of trouble is past — The storms of affliction are o'er" — And around the recumbent stone tall grass and milkweeds blow in the summer breezes, threatening to bury the stone and destroy all trace that "Elizabeth" ever walked about the quiet countryside and laughed or wept as she went about her daily work one hundred years ago.

In Markham Township alone, there are twelve known private cemeteries that have fallen into disuse and ruin. And because there are those who realize the indignity and desecration that has come to these lands once marked as hallowed, a committee has now been formed to investigate conditions and present a report to Markham Township Council to see what can be done to remedy these sadly neglected estates. Deputy-reeve Wilfred Dean, Chairman of Markham Township Property Committee and Messrs. Charles Boynton, Willard Simpson and Charles Rodick have already toured the concessions and "The Liberal" spent a good part of another day with the deputy-reeve taking pictures and tramping in and out of what appeared to be pastures and scrub



The picture shown above shows a "better" section of the Reformed Church cemetery, with Mr. Dean holding the scroll top of (any) one of the three stones seen in the picture. Another cemetery visited, on the Ninth Concession, was in a neglected corner of an open field, one acre in size. It must have been a beautiful place at one time — for on three sides are rolling green farmlands — but now the field stones which were used by the pioneers, with dates and names to mark the resting place of loved ones, are strewn among gravel and rocks and cattle have apparently wandered in and out among the graves breaking up the marble markers — because there is no fence. Here, too, of course, weeds and wild fruit trees were growing — and the only flowers flaunting their colourful heads were bright blue chicory and marigold, growing wild.

"Christian Reesor, Born Lancaster Co. Pa., August 26, A.D. 1747 and died Mar. 26, 1806 — also Fanny wife of the above, Died 1818," read a stone in the family burial plot of the Reesor family on the 10th Concession. This private cemetery has not fallen into ruin — yet. Situated high on a hill on what has been for the past 25 years the Saurer farm, the Reesor burial plot was cared for by Fred Reesor and his grandchildren, until his recent death. "This cemetery has been well taken care of until Mr. Frank Reesor died," Mrs. Saurer told us. It has noble monuments enclosed in a picturesque pedestal railing and we felt it would be desecration indeed if it fell into decay at last as others we had viewed had done.

Miss Jean Grant, Yongehurst Road, Richvale, won at the first show, "2nd Open Female" with her Boxer entry, "Moonlight Haven of Blossomlea", and captured the prize for "Best Opposite Sex, Female" with "Ch. Chatava of Blossomlea". Winner of "Best Male" was "Ch. Baron of Blossomlea", bred and sold as a puppy by Miss Grant. On "Labour Day, 'Moonlight Haven" was winner of "1st Open and Winners Female".

program could be initiated in Markham Township to carry out a clean-up-straighten-up program in all the little forgotten burial grounds in the township. Mr. Dean, who has a meeting scheduled with Mr. J. R. McAlister, Provincial Cemetery Inspector, says that the best plan would be to cut down all weeds and trees and place the time-titled stones flat, also, broken stones would be patched and mended and their dignity and meaning restore as much as possible. But it should not be left to strangers — to re-beautify these little plots — family descendants, if there are any left, should remember their ancestors and help with the repairs and upkeep.

# Modern Hardware Store Couple Hidden Four Years Official Opening Oct. 1st

HOURS SPENT IN KLEENEX BOX IN BASEMENT MOTHER DIDN'T KNOW

Another story in our series "The People We Know" FOR FOUR YEARS a Jewish couple were hidden in the basement of a Dutch pharmacy. In the fourth year the pharmacist himself joined the couple in hiding. Before that happened he had had to sell his clothes to be able to buy the food to feed the couple who were in hiding. Sometimes they were without fuel for warmth. Money was often useless and necessities could only be obtained by bartering. Faked identity papers, false passports, false identity cards and ration permits were also all part of the plot which kept one Jewish couple out of the hands of the Nazis for four long years to achieve final safety at the hands of the British when they entered Holland and defeated the Germans.

This is the first time the story has been told in print, and is exclusive to "The Liberal". Why should it be told in "The Liberal"? Well, there are two very good reasons. Readers are already aware that your reporter has a nose for searching out the unusual human interest stories of Richmond Hill and the surrounding countryside. Readers have enjoyed many such reports in the past few weeks and it is clear that many others still lie hidden beneath the surface of many an ordinary resident's life. The other is that this pharmacist is now in business here.

Ministerial Training School For Sunday School Teachers

A six weeks training course for Church School teachers is being held in Thornhill Presbyterian Church from September 8th to October 13th. This series is sponsored by the Thornhill-Richmond Hill Ministerial Association.

# Dog Exhibitors Win Many Awards

Dog exhibitors of Richmond Hill district were especially successful in winning canine honors at the all-breed Dog Show, Canadian National Exhibition. Awarded "First in Lightweight Open Class" was "Tipsey", a 2½ year old Border Collie, owned by Mr. Ross Flemming, Essex Avenue, Richmond Hill. In the Lightweight Grand Challenge, Tipsey was also successful in securing second place, winning in all a trophy, a silver tray, and the two cash awards.

# Wedding

MORTSON-CURTIS The Thornhill Baptist Church, Newmarket, was decorated with white gladioli, ferns and tapered candles for the wedding of (Gertrude) Joan Curtis, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clarence A. Curtis, and Cecil James Mortson, son of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Mortson, of Queensville.

# CGIT Doings

Richmond Hill United "hurch Every year C. G. I. T. groups York County are invited to ad 2 representatives to Provincial Camp which is held at Port Erse, Lake Erie. The Camp is led Cagrina from the words nadian Girls In Training and girls spend much time in ancil hours discussing C.G.I.T. programmes and offering suggestions for improvement. Girls ated from all areas in Ontario e are fortunate in having a of York County's representaes from our own Richmond Hill partment. Crystal Bowyer has

NEWMARKET: Mrs. Vincent Hodgins of Newmarket reports she has a two-bloom Easter lily growing among her petunias . . . and this is September? NEWMARKET: Miss Geraldine Millard, one of the last surviving members of an pioneer family died at her home on Church St. Newmarket, August 23. AURORA: One of the highest service awards given by the Royal Life Saving Society was presented to Horace Kendall of Aurora by Lord Louis Mountbatten, grand president of the society — in recognition of 17 years of outstanding service. For the 17 years Mr. Kendall has taught at St. Andrew's the school has led Canada in issuing life saving awards. STOUFFVILLE: The value of a farm pond in a dry year was the secret behind the bumper tomato crop at the Whitmore farm. At the end of July when the small tomato plants were "giving up", Gib Whitmore rented equipment, poured an inch of water over five acres of crops and the results were wonderful. He had the best crop in years.

they would have to get safely back to the pharmacy by a certain time because of the curfew imposed on the whole population by the Germans. Stole Bread — Shot Those were terrible days. As Peter relates, there were times when you would look out of a window and see police chasing a man. Catching him, they would shoot him there and then in public and in cold blood. Later it would be learned the man shot had committed the crime of stealing bread for a starving family. There were many scares and the strain was terrific all through the years. During the last year of the war, the Nazis became desperate for labour and took the entire male population on whom they could lay hands where the men were sufficiently able bodied. They were taken off to labour camps to step up the German war effort.

Eludes Arrest Peter eluded arrest and joined the Jewish couple in hiding in his own house. Now life was even more of a strain. His mother once visited the house without ever knowing these people were hidden there. Not even a mother could be trusted with such information. An innocent passing on of the facts to a friend might lead to discovery. Thus they lived until the Allied Victory and Germans un-conditional surrender. The couple had survived through four years of being hidden and had escaped numerous times as the Germans searched. They left the house to build a new life for themselves . . . the lives they owe to Peter.

Commissioned in Army Peter went to England and joined the Expeditionary Force as an M.T. Instructor attaining the rank of Captain. He served in Glasgow & on Salisbury Plains and other historical centres until sent back to Holland to help with the army there. Finally on demobilization he returned to his home and rebuilt his business. He sold out in 1953 & decided to emigrate to Canada. Naturally after arrival here, he always wanted to strike out for himself but first he had to enter as an apprentice. He served with the Drug Training Company while his wife worked for Simpson's. They have now been naturalized as Canadians.

Obtains Licence In 1956 Peter sat for the Ontario College of Pharmacy Examinations for his Canadian Licence in Pharmacy and obtained this without difficulty. Peter and his wife have since adopted two Canadian orphans, Patricia Iris, aged 11, and Marguerite Rose, aged 9, since they have no children of their own.

With the last few days he has achieved his ambition and established the fine new pharmacy on the Allencourt Shopping Plaza. Because such a large business requires more than one, Peter has entered into partnership with a young man called William (Bill) Lazenby. Bill lives at 433 North Taylor Mills Drive, Beverley Acres, Richmond Hill. Born at Kingston Ontario he was educated at Belleville. He attended the College of Pharmacy of the University of Toronto and graduated in 1957. He worked for G. Tamlyn's until he joined in partnership with Peter.

Marries Customer Bill met his wife as a customer in 1951 and they were married in 1952. He says that his own success in college he owes to his wife Evelyn who was a constant source of encouragement and inspiration. They have a little girl of two Carolynne. Bills wife has a story of her own too. She returned to Germany in 1938 on a visit to her parents who were Germans. Could Not Leave With the outbreak of World War II Evelyn found she was not able to leave the country. She

Barbers Winter Coat Money began to run short, and later still what money there was became useless being of no value. Peter had to slowly and little by little part with all his precious possessions to feed himself and his wife and the couple they had aided and hidden. Came a bad winter nearing the end of the war when even their warm winter coats had to be given away in exchange for food with which to feed the Jewish couple. Rations were often meagre too — half a loaf of bread and some old potatoes. When they went out in winter,

was forced to remain and to report at first daily and later twice weekly to the police. Later her parents were able to ship her to the Alps to attend a boarding school. Her father worked for the Allied occupational forces having no sympathy with the Nazis. She finally returned to Canada in 1948. Peter and Bill met originally through mutual pharmacist friends and are now close friends as well as co-partners and managers of the store. Peter has held another ambition since he was 20 years of age. He has fulfilled this ambition too — to own an MG sports car. His hobbies are amateur movies, antiques and guns. He has one of the finest collections of antique guns to be seen anywhere. He likes Canada enormously. Says that too many Canadians don't realize "how good their country is".

Bill's principal hobby is stamp collecting and he will be glad to discuss philately with any other fans who care to give him a call. The store is 40 by 60 feet and is modernly equipped. The display of goods is set out for customers' convenience on all metal fittings which are adjustable. An acoustic ceiling is installed with the decorations in pastel shades of beige and sandalwood. Apart from all kinds of medical equipment and stocks, the store offers a wide range of fancy goods, toys gifts, cards and magazines, newspapers, baby, women's and men's needs in the fields of toilet equipment beauty etc., including a complete cosmetics line, as well as candies and ice cream. And thus another story is told of the wonderful people who serve Richmond Hill. And yet the story is only half told. How can the fears, the trials, the day to day, hour to hour strain of such experiences as here related ever be put down on paper. We can only touch the fringe of it. But it is good to know that such people live among us, and free of such fears.

LOST BE IT A LOST ARTICLE YOU SEEK OR... SOME SERVICES TO HIRE TRY A... NEWSPAPER AD FOR SOME DOGSONE FAST RESULTS!

WHITCHURCH: The Official Plan for the municipality was approved recently by Whitechurch Planning Board and Council, with one dissenting member of the Board, A. C. Marsh stating he had reservations and would be more in favour of a Master Plan which would not require the consent of the Minister of Planning if altered.

# Continental School of Ballet

Teachers: Miss Maria Horvath Miss Catherine Doby

## CLASSICAL & MODERN BALLET CHARACTER & TAP DANCING

Special Kindergarten Classes and Ladies' Exercises. Individual attention is given to each pupil. You are welcome to watch classes or take a free trial lesson.

Registration and Classes begin September 14, 1959 From 4 to 7 p.m. West Room Wrixon Hall ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH Richmond Hill

1959	1960
TORONTO - LONDON 11 HOURS 55 MINUTES	TORONTO - LONDON 7 HOURS 15 MINUTES
MONTREAL - PARIS 21 HOURS 20 MINUTES	MONTREAL - PARIS 7 HOURS
VANCOUVER - MONTREAL 8 HOURS 25 MINUTES	VANCOUVER - MONTREAL 17 HOURS
VANCOUVER - MONTREAL 5 HOURS	

TRANS-CANADA AIR LINES

MONTREAL — Eastern and Western Canada will be less than five hours apart early next year when Trans-Canada Air Lines takes delivery of the first of six ordered 127-passenger, 560-mile-an-hour Douglas DC-8 jetliners. The aircraft will go into service on trans-continental and trans-Atlantic routes, cutting present flying times by more than one-third. The first of the Rolls-Royce-powered DC-8s, pictured here, flew at Long Beach, Calif., on July 23. Inset is a photograph of TCA's first passenger aircraft, a 10-passenger, 200-mile-an-hour Lockheed Electra, purchased in 1937 and used on trans-continental air service. The Electra was only 50 feet in length, while the DC-8 stretches 149 feet from nose to tail. The two are shown here in comparative size. The DC-8 consumes more fuel in taxiing and take-off than the Electra was capable of carrying. (TCA PHOTO)

# "Dear Mr. Editor"

Too Many Ignore Stop Signs

Dear Mr. Editor:

The editorial that appeared in your paper September 3, 1959, "Especially for Motorists" is most commendable and timely. I am sure the fine sentiments so ably expressed will be greatly appreciated by your readers.

In this connection may I voice concern for the safety of youngsters and oldsters in our neighborhood. Some time ago a stop sign was erected at the intersection of Lynett Crescent and Windhurst Gate. Only a very few of our esteemed and respected citizens obey the stop sign.

Since the demerit point system was adopted in Ontario, and since falling to obey a stop sign will add three points to the driving record of a motorist, it would take only four convictions to accumulate twelve points which would bring suspension of the privilege of driving. The point system was designed to protect pedestrians and careful motorists from the negligent, irresponsible drivers who abuse the privilege. Such as those who deliberately disregard and ignore the sign at the intersection I have mentioned.

By copy of this letter to the local chief of police I am drawing their attention to a very serious situation they could correct. There are some resident cars on Lynett Crescent that NEVER stop at the sign. These same cars are observed daily making reckless left turns with no regard for CHILDREN, bicyclists or other vehicles. One particular car, which NEVER stops, has narrowly missed crashing two neighbor cars.

I am sure the responsible citizens of our community will thank you for your effort, and may I express my personal thanks for this space in your paper.

Owen C. Good  
448 Lynett Crescent,  
Richmond Hill, Ont.