

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. Margaret McLean, who may be reached by phoning AV. 5-2331.

Thornhill Notes

1st Thornhill Guides and Brownies

A meeting of the Group Committee of the 1st Thornhill Guides and Brownies was held at the Thornhill Presbyterian Church on Wednesday, October 21st. A slate of officers was presented to the meeting and upon a motion of acceptance by Mrs. R. Biford, seconded by Mrs. Elizabeth Kelson, they were duly installed. The new President is Mrs. Ken Smith. Her executive consists of Vice President, Mrs. Reg. Allen, Treasurer, Mrs. R. Henderson, Secretary, Mrs. D. McCrae, Social Convener, Mrs. R. Steward.

The group discussed the ever-recurring problem of leaders for the Guides and Brownies, and Mrs. A. Mowder, the new Brown Owl was introduced. Mrs. Peggy Echlin, noted in last week's paper as her Tawny Owl, has been forced to retire, but the group was pleased to meet Mrs. S. Herbert who has taken her place.

The group was reminded that the mother of every Brownie or Guide is automatically a member of the Group Committee, and that the yearly membership fee of \$1.00 is now due. This fee is quite separate from the \$1.00 fee which each Brownie pays each year, and which is used to pay for the group insurance covering the girls in their activities, and for their membership fee.

Both Guides and Brownies have been working for some time to raise a contribution of \$1,500 for the Guide Building Fund and have pretty well reached their quotas. The mothers, however, had never made a contribution to the fund. Donations were asked for and it was voted to send \$10.00 to the Building Fund.

Mrs. P. D. McTaggart-Cowan, the District Commissioner was introduced to the meeting. She thanked Mrs. A. Mowder for her work in organizing the group two years ago, and also thanked the retiring executive and welcomed the new one. Mrs. McTaggart-Cowan announced that the Golden Jubilee bulbs have all been distributed and will be planted shortly. She also made a plea for the mothers to volunteer to help the Guide and Brownie leaders in their work with the girls.

Thornhill United Church
The congregation of Thornhill United Church were glad to learn that the Rev. Hugh R. MacDonald has accepted the call of their church and will take up his duties on November 15th. In the interim, the Rev. A. E. Baker has been taking the services. Rev. Baker, now retired, was formerly the minister at Fairlawn United Church in Toronto.

Under the convensorship of Mrs. Ralph Thompson, all the ladies of the Women's Association have been working particularly hard these past weeks making ready for the Association's Annual Bazaar, to be held at the Church on November 7th. The ladies have been working in their homes and in groups at the Church and from all accounts, have many fine things in store for us. Mrs. K. R. Rose of Toronto, immediate Past President of Dominion Women's Association Council for the United Church of Canada will open the bazaar.

The bazaar will be held in three separate rooms this year, the Children's Fair having a room to present.

The Holy Trinity Girls' Auxiliary held their regular weekly meeting at the Church on Tuesday, October 20th and Mrs. David McLean was on hand to give the girls a dancing lesson, to go toward the earning of their Physical Fitness badges. The meeting was a supper meeting which was

much enjoyed. To live things up, Mrs. C. Tomlin taught some new songs. Plans were discussed for the girls' annual sale of records, to take place this year on Saturday, November 7th at the Church Hall, Brook and Jane Sts. from 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. The records offered will be 45 r.p.m. records off juke boxes - latest hits 29c and older hits 15c. The girls are also selling cans of Planters Peanuts and the proceeds from this as well as the record sale are to be used to help support three mission girls of the Anglican Church. One of these is a Bishop's Messenger in Western Canada, one is a teacher at an Anglican girl's school in India while the third is a nurse in Japan.

Did you know that there is an active badminton club in Thornhill? The Thornhill Badminton Club, membership is 50 at present, plays every Thursday evening in the gym at the Thornhill High School from 8 to 10:30 p.m. The club welcomes new members and if enough join, it might be possible to also play on Tuesday nights. The President of the Club is Bruce Garlick of Willowdale and the Secretary is Norma Hewitt. Anyone interested in joining can call her at AV. 5-4061. The membership fee is \$10.00 including club birds, and the season is from October to the end of May.

Social
Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Law of 9 Oakbank Rd. entertained a group of 28 or 30 people at their home Saturday night, to welcome Rev. J. K. Holland, the new minister at their church, College Street Baptist Church. The Rev. Dr. G. A. Gowan, minister of College Street United Church was also present. The two churches have had joint services during the summer. Among the guests were Rev. and Mrs. C. H. Chambers of Thornhill Presbyterian Church. A lively social evening and a sing song were much enjoyed.

Thornhill Horticultural Society
The October meeting of the Thornhill Horticultural Society was held on Tuesday, October 20th and featured a panel discussion of "What Shall We Grow Next Year?" Mr. Arthur Bone was chairman, Mr. Alan Foster discussed border plantings, Mr. R. Whitley vegetables, Mrs. A. Dolan flowers suitable for arrangements, and Mr. P. Dell, flowering shrubs and trees. Following each speaker, there was a period of discussion and questions from the floor were answered.

The panel was followed by a white elephant sale of horticultural objects, perhaps the most interesting of which were Mrs. H. Spafford's miniature dried arrangements.

There was a small show of vegetables and floral arrangements. Mr. and Mrs. Manning winning the special award with a beautiful arrangement of chrysanthemums.

The following are the results of the show:

Section 1
Class 1. A vase of seasonable flowers; 1st, The Mannings, 2nd, The Healeys, 3rd, Mr. J. Hallawell.

Section 2
Class 2. An Arrangement featuring Chrysanthemums; 1st, The Mannings; 2nd, Mrs. Bishop, 3rd, Mrs. W. L. Brown.

Section 3
Class 3. Summer's Echo, an arrangement of dried materials; 1st, The Mannings; 2nd, The Healeys.

Section 4
Class 4. Autumn Splendour; an arrangement of autumn colours; 1st, Mrs. Brown, 2nd, The Mannings.

Section 5
Class 5. Hallow'en Party; 1st, Mrs. Falls, 2nd, Mrs. Bishop, 3rd, The Mannings.

Section 6
Class 6. "The Last rose of summer"; 1st, Mrs. Brown; 2nd, The Healeys, 3rd, Mr. J. Hallawell.

Section 7
Class 7. 3 apples; 1st, Mr. J. Hallawell; 2nd, Mrs. Falls.

Section 8
Class 8. 3 pears; 1st, Mrs. Falls; 2nd, Mr. F. Teasdale.

Section 9
Class 9. 1 plate A. O. V. fruit; no entry.

Section 10
Class 10. 6 Beets, topped; 1st, Mr. J. Hallawell; 2nd, The Mannings, 3rd, Mr. F. Teasdale.

Section 11
Class 11. 1 ping Brussel Sprouts; 1st, Mrs. Falls; 2nd, Mr. A. Turpenney.

Section 12
Class 12. 1 Cabbage, ballhead; 1st, Mr. A. Turpenney, 2nd, The Mannings, 3rd, Mr. J. Hallawell.

Section 13
Class 13. 1 Cabbage, Savoy; 1st, Mr. A. Turpenney; 2nd, Mrs. Falls, 3rd, Mr. J. Hallawell.

Section 14
Class 14. 6 Carrots, topped; 1st, Mrs. N. Eiloart; 2nd, Mr. J. Hallawell; 3rd, Mrs. Falls.

Section 15
Class 15. 6 Parsnips, topped; 1st, Mr. F. Teasdale; 2nd, Mr. J. Hallawell; 3rd, Mrs. Falls.

Section 16
Class 16. 1 Pumpkin; 1st, The Mannings; 2nd, Mr. J. Hallawell.

Section 17
Class 17. 1 Squash; 1st, Mr. A. Turpenney; 2nd, Mrs. Falls; 3rd, The Mannings.

Section 18
Class 18. Collection of late vegetables; 1st, Mrs. Falls, 2nd, Mr. A. Turpenney; 3rd, Mrs. Falls.

Section 19
Class 19. Special award, decorative classing, The Mannings.

The annual tea of the Thornhill Nursery School was held on Wednesday, October 21 at the home of the president, Mrs. James Kearns, Kirk Drive Thornhill. The mothers were greeted by Mrs. Kearns who introduced them to the nursery staff members, Mrs. Carlotta Brodrick and Mrs. Dorothy Woods, and to the members of the executive. Tea was poured by Mrs. Robert Fairfield, a past president of the school, and excellent refreshments were served under the convensorship of Mrs. Doreen Rose. A display of the children's art work was seen and appreciated by more than 30 mothers attending the tea.

New toys which had been bought to augment the well supplied toy shelves at the new school, now located in the Thornhill Presbyterian Church were also displayed. There are a few vacancies still left, and anyone interested in enrolling their child contact Mrs. Berg at AV. 5-1881 or Mrs. Kearns at AV. 5-1498.

same neighbourhood was the fresh water spring on Mr. Samuel Francis' Farm on the east side of Yonge St. For a time Mr. Francis' son Bill used to sell the water in 5-gallon bottles to offices in Toronto. Mr. C. T. Heintzman bought the Francis Farm in 1931, and this year it was sold to a syndicate.

Warren Maxim, the American who introduced two inch drilled wells in Ontario, drilled the first deep well in Thornhill for Tom Hughes of Hughes Hotel (later Findlays) on the east side of Yonge Street, in the early 1900s. He taught the art to Frank Harrison's father, and to Mattie Pegg, who in turn passed their knowledge on to others. As a lad, Frank Harrison learned the business from his father and now, with 55 years experience behind him, must be the Dean of Ontario well drillers. Born and raised in Vaughton township he has lived in Thornhill since 1915.

Another with a long record is W. E. (Bill) Francis who retired six years ago after 30 years of well drilling. Dick Challenger first

worked with the late Mattie Pegg — has been on his own since the end of the last war. Others who brought water for local residents were the late Dave Blanchard of Richmond Hill, John F. Ellacott, and Bruce Findlay.

At first the drilling was done by horsepower — a patient Dobbin plodding in a circle turned the drum of the machine, then in 1920 gasoline engines came in to use.

The deepest well that Frank Harrison ever drilled was 225 feet, on a Vaughan Township farm. Challenger who has gone to 190 feet at Langstaff says that depths vary from 60 to 200 feet in the Thornhill area, and 115 feet is about the average. We venture to add that many more wells have been drilled in the past 10 years than in the previous fifty.

Village water will fortunately not put these two good drillers out of business but they will have to go further afield. "It will be more like it was before the war," said Dick Challenger. "Then most of our work was on farms, and took us even north to Penetang."

In 1946 a story quickly made the rounds of Thornhill evoking amusement, and surprise, at the "ignorance of city folks". It concerned the owner of a newly acquired lot who reportedly asked where to make arrangements about being connected to the water main.

At that time residents neither contemplated nor wanted municipal water. Those who had spent a good deal on drilled wells, electric pumps and pressure systems, had no desire to scrap a satisfactory investment; and those who managed with big rain water cisterns, and a daily bucket or two of drinking water from a neighbour's drilled well, were "agin" anything that would raise the taxes. However times have changed, and so have sentiments. After thirteen years of unprecedented growth the village has become too large to be properly serviced by private wells, especially as some of the newer residents have not been successful in obtaining good ones. Of great importance too, is the need of a more adequate volume of water for fire protection. And so 1959 will mark for many in this area, the passing of the household pump.

Water for the Markham section of the village is being brought from a well on the 4th concession, and the H. A. Babcock Co. Ltd., Toronto, has already laid the mains on all but Elgin St. The work there should be completed by the end of November, now that easements across the various properties have been obtained. In this regard, Mr. Davison of the Babcock company stressed that the engineers were reluctant to disturb trees and shrubs, but inevitably some have to be removed. A definite line must be established and adhered to, in order that the mains can be accurately located for repairs, and also so that they will not interfere with other underground facilities such as power cables, and storm sewers. Incidentally when digging on No. 7 Highway between Yonge and Bayview, a Babcock shovel uncovered an old wooden bridge which had been filled over, in the hollow.

The well on the Carrville sidewalk will supply the Vaughan half of Thornhill, and the James Holiday Construction Co., Oakville, has contracted to lay the mains by November 28. Recently the huge power shovel dug a trench 288 feet long on the north side of Centre St., in three and a half hours. Usually however progress is slowed by the presence of buried telephone and power cables, gas mains and storm sewers, in the vicinity of which digging must be done by manual labour.

Our dependable drilled wells with their abundant yield of pure, cool water have ranked high among the prizes and blessings of rural life and can't be discarded without regret. Some residents will continue to use them but the majority have agreed to share the flow from the big township wells. Those already connected to mains seem quite satisfied with the arrangement and very relieved to be able to forget the mechanical difficulties pertaining to electric pumps, worn leathers and corroded screens.

To the pioneers this facile distribution would be unbelievable. They toted water from the Don, and its many little tributaries, often using wooden human neck yokes from which two pails could be suspended. A dug well near the house with a windlass to raise and lower the bucket was a big step forward. By the time hand pumps came into use the streams were beginning to dwindle, and the water table to fall, owing to the wholesale cutting down of trees, whose roots are natural storers of water. Part of the fame of "Holy Ann" Preston, our local "character", stems from the legend that she prayed that water might rise in the dry well of her employer, Dr. Reed, and the next morning the pail came up splashing. Dryness was a recurrent problem in summer, but after the mill ponds on either side of Yonge Street went out, many dug wells became useless.

There are a few springs in the area which have been more enduring. One in particular enjoyed a certain prestige for a quarter of a century. It flowed on land which had earlier belonged to Squire Benjamin Thome, John Langstaff, enterprising son of the settler for whom Langstaff is named, bought the estate, rebuilt the fire-ravaged house and had the water analyzed. The History of York County, published in 1885 gives the following description. "The mineral spring in connection with Mr. Langstaff's present property has only recently been utilized, its health giving and healing properties being found to be quite as remarkable as those Bethesda waters which have such a celebrated name over on the continent The spring has quite a reputation and many invalids are tempted thither to test the peculiar properties of the waters. Mr. R. D. Little of Brooklyn, N.Y., son-in-law of Mr. Langstaff has charge of the Hawthorn Mineral Spring Residence, the name by which it is known, and every accommodation is afforded for guests and visitors." The residence is now the Thornhill Golf Club House, and unheralded, the spring continues to function.

An example of the differing types of water to be found in the

Villagers To Say Goodbye To Wells, Household Pumps Have Come Long Way "Bucket" Days By Don

by Doris M. FitzGerald

In 1946 a story quickly made the rounds of Thornhill evoking amusement, and surprise, at the "ignorance of city folks". It concerned the owner of a newly acquired lot who reportedly asked where to make arrangements about being connected to the water main.

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CORPORATION OF THE TOWNSHIP OF MARKHAM
TAKE NOTICE that the Court of Revision hearings for the Corporation of the Township of Markham will be held on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday, and Monday, the 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th, and 9th days of November, 1959, at 10:00 o'clock a.m. at the Municipal Building in the Council Chambers, Buttonville, Ontario, for the purpose of hearing appeals made against the Assessment Roll.
DATED this 22nd day of October, 1959.
H. C. T. CRISP, Clerk,
Township of Markham

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