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Varied Opportunities Are Offered By Night Classes At Thornhill High School

by Doris M. FitzGerald

About two hundred men and women are enjoying some pleasant, and little publicized, "night life" in Thornhill, and on a recent Wednesday evening we set out to see what they were doing.

A few steps inside the north entrance to Thornhill High School we found room 24. "Just walk in," Principal A. S. Elson had advised, "it is sometimes too noisy for a knock to be heard," so we pushed open the door of the Metal Shop. Our first impressions were

blurred by drilling sounds, and intermittent flashes of brilliant blue-white light, but Mr. Richard Takimoto, the instructor, courteously explained the men with goggles were practicing oxy-acetylene welding, the one with the tank-like metal mask was arc welding and those in the quieter area of the large room were working at metal lathes. Some of the students, he said, were beginners; some already employed, were taking this opportunity to improve their skills; and one was a maintenance man anxious to keep abreast of new methods. The machine shop course, held on Wednesday evenings, covers many topics, the least technical to name being safety regulations, forging, soldering and lathe work.

Mr. Takimoto who is also a member of the day school staff, holds a B.A. degree from McMaster, and a B. Ed. from the Ontario College of Education, and taught at Collingwood Collegiate Institute before coming to Thornhill.

Woodwork Shop
The well equipped woodworking shop across the hall is used only on Monday evenings so we missed seeing this class in action, but learned from Mr. George Lester that it is composed largely of business men who are taking up carpentry as a hobby. Last year one woman ventured into the realm of sawdust and shavings. Tables and small pieces of furniture are current projects, and two men who plan to build their own homes are studying stair and rafter work, by constructing scale models.

A cabinet maker, Mr. Lester, spent seven and a half years making fine furniture for well known Toronto firms and had also had considerable experience in house-building before attending Ontario College of Education. He is a member of the day school staff as well.

Classes
Walking down the wide corridor past the beautiful paintings given to the High School by local artist Fred S. Haines, O.S.A., R.C.A., we sought room 109, and were disappointed to find that the art class also meets on Monday evenings. This enthusiastic group of novices, and students with some previous training, is studying oil painting under Mr. Gustav Weisman, who said, "as it is a winter session we are doing still life and compositional studies but members are encouraged to bring sketches they have made, and wish to elaborate on, and build in to paintings." "The purpose of the course," he added, "is to further a total understanding of the art of painting in all its forms. We chose oils as a medium because they give students a sense of dealing with substance". Mr. Weisman dispelled our notion that oil painting was an expensive hobby. Actually it costs less than many other activities because equipment for a beginner can be bought for about \$10.00.

This is Mr. Weisman's second season at the Night School. He is an instructor at, and also a graduate of, the Ontario College of Art, a member of the Ontario Society of Artists, the Canadian Group of Painters, and the Canadian Society of Painters in Water Color.

Business Course
Consulting a plan of the school we took the stairs to the second floor and through glass panels in the doors caught glimpses of the book-keeping, shorthand, and typing, classes at work, heads bent over note books, fingers flying over typewriter keys. Reluctant to be a disturbing influence we did not enter but talked with the teachers later.

Mrs. Gladys Spence said that some of her students use the bookkeeping course as a stepping stone to University Extension work in accountancy, some are striving to advance in daytime positions by obtaining individual help. Operators of small businesses, and Church and Club treasurers also find the course a boon.

Mrs. Spence, a graduate of the University of Toronto in English and History, and in Commerce, teaches bookkeeping business correspondence, and economics, at the Thornhill High School, and has been conducting the Monday and Wednesday evening classes in bookkeeping for the past three years.

Remarking on the steadily mounting interest in commercial subjects, Mr. Wm. Freeman said that whether in business or not nearly everyone finds it an asset to be able to type. He teaches the touch system, stressing accuracy before speed, and his pupils ranging from sixteen to sixtyish, are at varying stages of advancement. He had not asked the present class how they would use this new aptitude, but in previous years there have always been business, or would-be business people, and a sprinkling of wives who wanted to be able to type their husbands' theses' or to help them in other ways.

Mr. Freeman, a graduate of Victoria College, has been with the Board for six years, and before joining the staffs of Thornhill High and Night Schools, taught for two years at Richmond Hill High School.

Some members of Mrs. K. Ruffman's class in Pitman's shorthand are stenographers wishing to better their positions, and some are married women planning to re-enter the business world. As no two work at the same speed she deals with them individually, allotting drills and smoothing out difficulties, each Monday and Wednesday evening.

Mrs. Ruffman began as a teacher of music at Richmond Hill High, switched to shorthand, and taught for one year at Richmond Hill, and one at Shaw's before

joining the night staff at Thornhill.

Dressmaking and Millinery
The dressmaking and millinery classes always popular with women are held in the big, well lit Home Economics Department at the end of the upper hall. Around the village we have encountered some smart costumes and hats which the wearers proudly admitted, were by-products of these courses. Now we had a chance to see others in the making. A pattern was spread out on a length of woollen goods on the cutting table, machines were whirring, dresses were being tried on and fitted, and a zipper was being adjusted, under the supervision of Mrs. C. H. Sanderson who conducts the course in Advanced Dressmaking each Monday and Wednesday evening. These women were working intently on everything from slacks to afternoon frocks.

An experienced dressmaker who rather specialized in weddings, Mrs. Sanderson also teaches two evenings a week at Richmond Hill and has been on the Thornhill staff for four years.

The class for beginning dressmakers is held on Monday evenings only. "I ask my students to strive for quality in dressmaking, that is, good fit, good finish and good material," said Mrs. J. H. Malboeuf. "Their first projects are first a plain wool skirt, then a simple blouse without set-in sleeves, and after that a cotton dress."

A graduate of Davis Hill Fanning Trade High School for Girls, Mrs. Malboeuf had seven years practical experience in a custom-made shop in Boston, Mass., before coming to Canada, and has been teaching night classes at both Richmond Hill, and Thornhill for the past two years.

A new hat is said to have a tonic effect on any woman and it was apparent that the happy group gathered informally around Mrs. Scott Ferguson, loved making them too. They were covering buckram shapes with seasonal materials; will learn to block felts, and later to make spring straws which will probably look as if they should carry a high price tag.

Mrs. Ferguson who has been teaching millinery on Wednesday evenings in Thornhill since the school opened, also teaches in Richmond Hill. A graduate of Greenwood Technical day school classes she has had experience with leading stores and manufacturers in Toronto, and as a designer for exclusive hat shops.

The complete tour did not take long but gave us time to admire anew the splendid four year old High School building whose excellent facilities have been available, since the beginning, to adults as well as teenagers. We saw young people, and many "not so young" learning or perfecting, skills which will help them in the business world, or develop into satisfying creative hobbies. And we heard these students described by members of the uniformly pleasant, and highly qualified staff "as stimulating to teach because of their interest and enthusiasm."

From Mr. A. S. Elson, Principal of both the day and night schools we obtained some further particulars. Evening classes began on October 5th and after a short recess at Christmas will continue until March 9th. Some are held once, some twice a week, on Mondays and Wednesdays, from 7.30 to 9.30. For those who live in the school area the fee for a 20 week course in all except oil painting is \$7.00. For those outside the area it is \$10.00. The art class, having the smallest enrolment cost more but a few additional members would help to bring the cost down. The fees cover the school board's responsibility for the expenses of the courses which are subsidized by a grant from the Department of Education. Basic English and Physical Education for women were dropped this year because there were not enough registrations to merit continuation of the classes, but new subjects will be introduced from time to time when sufficient people express a wish to take them. "We are not a vocational school," commented Principa Elson, "but do give a statement at the end of a course listing the projects completed and skills achieved and in the commercial courses, the degree of proficiency attained in each subject."

Whitchurch Twp. Relief Is High

Members of Whitchurch Twp. Council lashed out at the personnel in charge of unemployment insurance relief benefits at its last regular meeting. The Bureau is located in the Federal Building, Main Street, Newmarket. Two township residents were recently denied insurance relief and have since applied for welfare assistance from the municipality.

Clerk John Crawford informed Council that \$3,000 was being paid out monthly in welfare relief by the township. The total welfare costs for 1959 amounted to \$36,000. This figure included the winter relief payments of \$9,000.

The clerk pointed out that many unemployed persons were required to wait three and four weeks for insurance benefits that should only require a period of nine days. "They're all theorists and not practical," he said. "They don't care if a man starves to death," he continued.

District Council Cancer Society Workshop Held

Workshop Number One - for District Council No. 12 of the Canadian Cancer Society is a genuine success story.

Over one hundred and fifty interested workers of the Society gathered at Christ Church, Brampton, on Wednesday, November 18th to review and widen their knowledge of the inner workings of the Society. The Units of Aurora, Brampton, South Peel, North Halton, South Halton, and Richmond Hill and the Branches of Cooksville, Streetsville, Stouffville, Woodbridge, Thornhill Markham, Maple and Unionville, all part of District No. 12, were represented.

Mrs. G. Purves, Unionville, Council President, welcomed the guests. Mrs. Kischell, President of the Brampton Unit brought greetings from her Unit. Mr. Maurice Grimes, Executive Director of Ontario Division, explained the purpose of the meeting and introduced the leaders:

Women's Services - Mrs. F. Roastman, Ontario Division Chairman.

Education and Publicity - Mrs. A. Bowman, Ontario Publicity Chairman and Mrs. Ingmundsen, Council Education Chairman.

Campaign - Mr. J. Barnicki - Ontario Division Campaign Chairman.

Extension - Mr. Fred Kime, London, Co-chairman of Extension for Ontario.

Finance - Mr. J. de Pencier, Treasurer of Ontario Division.

Lively discussions, questions asked and answered in the various sections all added up to make a very interesting session. After considerable discussion, it was decided unanimously, that the area of Richmond Hill should have two Units. Likewise, it was agreed that Aurora should also have two Units. Further extension work is to be carried out in Dufferin County. Extension Chairman F. Wilcox of Brampton hopes to have this work completed early in the new year.

Mrs. H. Minns, chairman of the nominating committee, presented slate of officers for 1960. The enthusiasm and interest shown in all phases of the Workshop left no doubt that it had been a most rewarding experience for all of us.



BY-LAW ENFORCEMENT — Children of untaxed parents cost the town \$80,000 in extra classrooms this year — \$25,000 for teachers' salaries, amortization of capital debt, etc. I support the employment of a By-law Enforcement Officer to put teeth into our Zoning By-laws.

COUNTY TAXES — We paid the County \$103,790 in taxes this year. I will try to see we get value for them by Council direction to our County representatives.

WARD SYSTEM — I support a Ward System of voting to assure every area of adequate representation and to encourage candidates from every area to offer themselves for election.

PARKS — Heavily populated areas have no parks within reasonable access for the smaller children because previous councils took parkland for schools. Suitable park land must be provided near these homes.

On Saturday, December 5th
VOTE

BROADHURST
FOR
COUNCILLOR

Broadhurst T. X

FOR CARS OR INFORMATION PHONE
Turner 4-3627 Turner 4-968

LET'S SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT AND LET'S HAVE THE FIGURES RIGHT!

It had been my hope that the municipal election in Richmond Hill this year would be fought, as elections in Richmond Hill usually are fought, hard but cleanly.

Unfortunately certain statements have been made in this year's campaign which I cannot let go unchallenged.

As you know, I have served on the Municipal Council for nine years, seven as Councillor, one as Deputy-reeve and for the last year as Reeve. I am seeking a second term as Reeve for 1960.

As you also know, I am being opposed by a member of the 1959 Council. It is the privilege of any man or woman who is legally qualified to seek office. Contests are good business. They help guarantee the best possible local government.

They provide the opportunity for electors to get the facts about their civic government and to decide whether they want a change or not. But there is one important thing —when facts and figures are given to the voters they should be correct.

My opponent, on the front page of "The Liberal" of November 5th, is quoted as saying that "In my opinion errors and blunders costing us between \$300,000 and \$400,000 is a direct result of poor engineering, and we cannot afford to take further chances."

In a circular letter this week he has also said "\$400,000 down the drain! Yes, that is what the disappearing Crosby sewer and the Beverley Acres drainage scheme will cost us before we're through."

QUEER ARITHMETIC!

Even with the cost of the repairs to the Crosby Sewer, the total amount spent on it, including original construction and repairs, was \$60,000. The Beverley Acres drainage project has not yet been constructed. Therefore it seems a little early to talk about "blunders" in connection with it.

The total cost of the two projects, including construction and repairs, is estimated at \$308,000. So where has \$400,000, as claimed, gone "down the drain"?

I ask you, voters, how my opponent's statements about "blunders" costing between \$300,000 and \$400,000 can be reconciled with the fact that the total cost of the two projects is \$308,000. Queer arithmetic, isn't it? And, may I suggest, indicative of a \$100,000 blunder on his part.

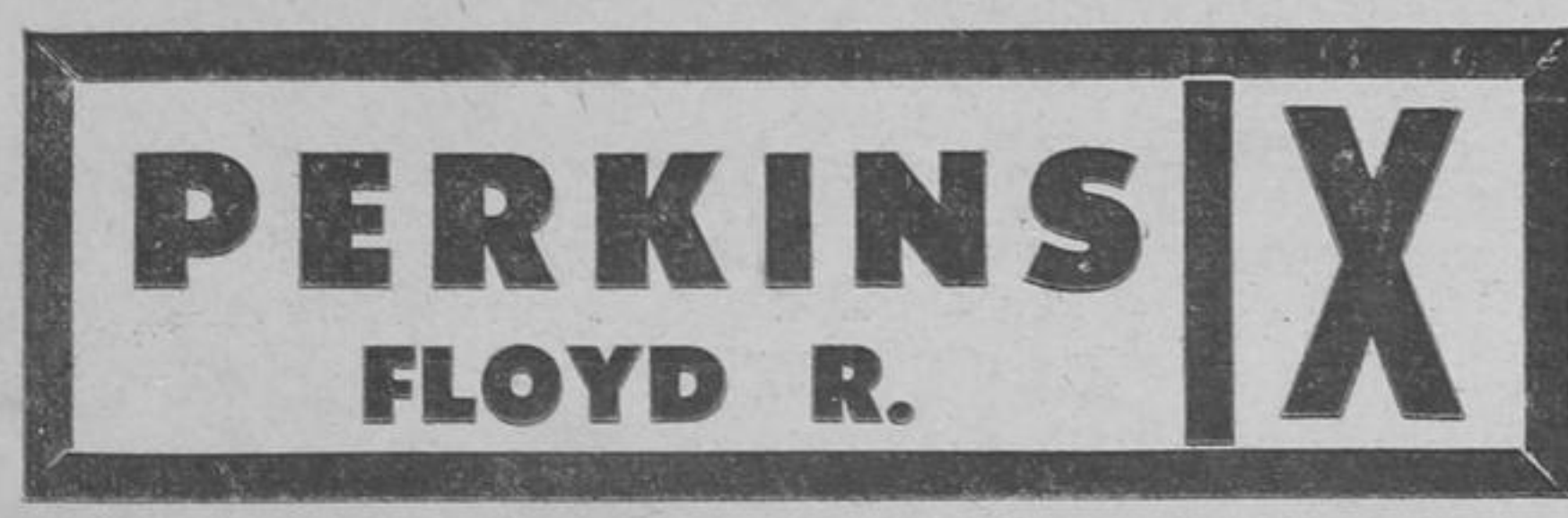
Following the 1959 breaks in the Crosby sewer a probe committee was appointed and I was named as chairman. The report of that committee was made to Town Council on August 4th. One of the recommendations made in that report was that the matter should be turned over to the town's solicitor to see if anything could be recovered from the contractors or the engineers. On September 24th the solicitor reported to Town Council that he could find no evidence to warrant legal action to reclaim losses either from the contractor or the engineers.

THE FACTS AND FIGURES THAT I AM GIVING YOU CAN BE VERIFIED BY REFERENCE TO THE OFFICIAL RECORDS OF THE TOWN.

And has my opponent told you that he, who is now criticizing the report of the probe committee, voted in favour of its adoption when it was unanimously adopted by the Town Council?

Floyd R. Perkins
REEVE OF RICHMOND HILL

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