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Ontario Naturalists

The quiet folk are gathering in Richmond Hill this week . . . the peaceful, the serene and the gentle folk . . . the members of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists . . .

The Ontario Naturalists are going to be the guests of our Town — and Richmond Hill is honoured to receive them.

Being a "Naturalist" is just what the name implies.

All you need is a natural and wholesome way of looking at, and enjoying life. Naturalists savour even the most infinitesimal works of God and nature — and no item of life in any shape or form goes unnoticed.

They know the beauty of the dew-sweet petals of an opening wild flower with the first rays of the morning sun caressing it — the glad song of a thrush as it "stands guard" near its nest — the headlong rush of a small animal in a windswept field of grass as it scurries

to or from its nest — Being a "Naturalist" — it seems to us — is the most natural and gracious way of living. It is a way of interpreting life; for these people who touch the stars and commune with outer space, in their deep search for nature's meaning — or dig deep into the earth's mysterious confines searching out its past (predicting too its future); or ponder on such everyday marvels as a turgent waterfall or babbling brook — these people have found the secret . . . that nature in her quiet, dominant way, sets the most profound tenures of our existence.

We welcome the Federation of Ontario Naturalists to Richmond Hill — and we hope that some of their serenity and joy will remain among us when they have gone back to their own private haunts by "shady nook" or woodland glen — when their annual gathering is concluded.

The Policeman

"Most of the time, perhaps he's just a fellow in a uniform who waves you through a busy intersection — but then suddenly one day he is also the man whose fast, skilled hands on an inhalator brings your baby boy back from the shadows of death.

"He's the fellow who gave you a parking ticket that day you didn't see the sign — but he's also the one who pulled your parents out of their burning, smashed-up car.

"He's the fellow who spoke a bit gruffly the time you went through the stoplight — but he's also the genial friendly guardian the kids look forward to seeing at the school crossing every day.

"He's the embarrassed, nervous bachelor who helped bring your first-born into the world during that night-

marish ride to the hospital. "He's the Good Samaritan who knows first-hand of the hardships in your town, the broken families — and who digs down into his thin wallet for the price of a hot meal for the youngsters left without neighbours.

"He's the bearer of sad tidings when tragedy comes, the untangler of traffic in blizzards, the Solomon who settles squabbles between neighbours.

"He's the head of a family, who walked into a darkened warehouse the other night and dutifully let the men back in the shadows fire the first shot.

"It's comforting to know, as we sit in our easy chairs on a wet, stormy evening, that over 20,000 Canadians like him have been willing to pin on a badge and agree to make our troubles their careers."

— Speaking Personally —

HERE AND THERE IN THE SCHOOLS
 (By Jane Fort Manning)

By Jane Fort Manning
 The clerical work following the creation of the Vaughan Township School Area and the School Area of the Township of Markham is really speeding along at a hectic rate say those involved in setting up new bookkeeping systems.

Supervising Principal, Business Administrator, and Secretary-Treasurer of the Board of Markham, is Mr. E. J. Sand, and he tells me he's been so busy with hospitalization, pension, tax and other changes in the salary setups he's hardly been able to get into the classrooms since the beginning of the year for supervisory work.

And to top it off there's been the opening of a new school under his jurisdiction!

It's the Clarke-Elgin School just off Henderson Ave. (The attractive school is surrounded by trees, something unusual in this bulldozing day.) The pupils have had to be moved from portables and "make-do" classrooms in the Thornhill United Church.

It is really a change about, isn't it? For its usually the Church and its Sunday School which is held in a public school, when a new ministry is begun in a neighbourhood, and not school in the Church.

Vaughan Staff Busy
 Vaughan's new Superintendent Mr. A. Gibson has hardly had time to settle as he's only been on the job since the beginning of the month. However, as former school inspector for part of Vaughan township he is at least familiar with his surroundings.

But Mr. Norman Jackman, the new Vaughan secretary-treasurer of the board has had to start from scratch to work his way through the bills, salaries, benefit payments, etc. of the Vaughan side of the former T. S. A. No. 1 the Union School Sections, and the 14 rural school sections which form the new area.

And what a pile of account books and sheafs of paper he has to plow through to get his information.

On Thursday evening I had to go to the basement of the Municipal Offices with Mr. Jackman to get some information to finish my tax report for the school section of which I was formerly secretary-treasurer. I saw a four foot high pile of vari-coloured and vari-formed account books (and as vari-system I presume). And to the side strewn on the floor were bundles in odd shapes and sizes which contained the receipts, checks and invoices from the year's work which the township auditor had examined a few weeks ago.

One couldn't help but feel, however, that the shopping bags and the bundles, some tied with a piece of baling twine, all represented

labours of love for the school sections in Vaughan.

Many of the secretary-treasurers had no doubt gone to the same school, some had had parents, or grandparents, who walked up the concessions and the rural roads to the same "little red schoolhouse," and many have children who are attending the same school and had a very special interest in its welfare because of that.

Mr. Jackman assured me that the old books and papers are to be well-preserved for posterity, or reference. A new, modern filing cabinet will have a separate drawer for each school unit.

High Schools
 Encyclopedia Britannica is presenting each of the three high schools in the York Central District with a set of encyclopedias. Mr. Kurt Swinton, president of the company, informed the board a million dollars worth of his firm's volumes are being placed in high school in Canada. "A million dollars worth of publicity" quipped one trustee as the board accepted the gift.

Richmond Hill Schools
 As mentioned in this column previously, the Richmond Hill Public School Board is backing up itself in the experimental use of visual aids for the classroom. Some interesting work is being started with the "Cineeducator" and an opaque projector. Superintendent Gordon McIntyre, Principal Rose and Principal Gooding have been visiting some Toronto schools to see this equipment demonstrated and will now try it themselves.

However, this is a story in itself so will tell you more about it later.

NEWMARKET: Although approval had been received from the Municipal Board for a million dollar debenture for the new County Home for the Aged, the price is now found to be approximately \$220,000, more and approval for this increase will now have to be sought, Warden William Clark said last week.

"Dear Mr. Editor"

PROTESTS
 A. M. TRAFFIC SNARL

Dear Mr. Editor:-

While this letter is addressed to the Editor, it is particularly directed to the minister and management of the Richmond Hill United Church and to the Richmond Hill Police.

Several Sunday mornings of late, around 10.45 a.m. there have been disgraceful traffic tie-ups at Yonge St. and Centre St. along the south side of the United Church. Sunday, February 7, was the pay-off which prompted this letter.

It would appear that half the congregation of this church, at about the time stated each Sunday, does its level best to park or stop on the street as close as possible to the church, but essentially between Church and Yonge on Centre St., which incidentally is the narrowest section of Centre St.

The net result is that people endeavouring to reach Yonge St. from the east, by the only good thoroughfare available, (Centre St.) are frustrated regularly each Sunday morning.

The situation is hardly excusable since there is lots of off-the-street parking available in the immediate vicinity, well within easy walking distance of the church. Older folks could be let near the church before parking the car.

This Sunday's snarl was nicely circumvented by one police car which was proceeding west on Centre St. toward Yonge when stopped by the traffic. They simply backed into a driveway, turned around, and headed back east. Unfortunately, the others were unable to turn around, even if they had wanted to. On a previous Sunday, when we eventually squeezed through the tie-up and emerged on Yonge St., there was a police car just south of Centre St. apparently unaware of the traffic jam.

We respectfully suggest that parking be banned on both sides of Centre St. during the Sunday morning rush, and that, in the meantime, some attempt to correct the situation be initiated by the church authorities.

G. H. Clelland

ADVENTURE WITH THE SNOWFLAKES

I walked among the snowflakes,
 Just the other day —
 They fell about so thick and fast,
 I couldn't see my way.
 As I walked slow and carefully,
 They brushed across my face,
 I could see so close at hand,
 Their beauty and their grace.
 They brushed across my face,
 In a mighty foaming billow —
 They landed, oh, so gently,
 Like feathers from a pillow —
 On my coat and mitts and hat
 Was spread their blinding treasure —
 They gave — and gave — and gave,
 Their bounty without measure.

Elizabeth Dale Kelson

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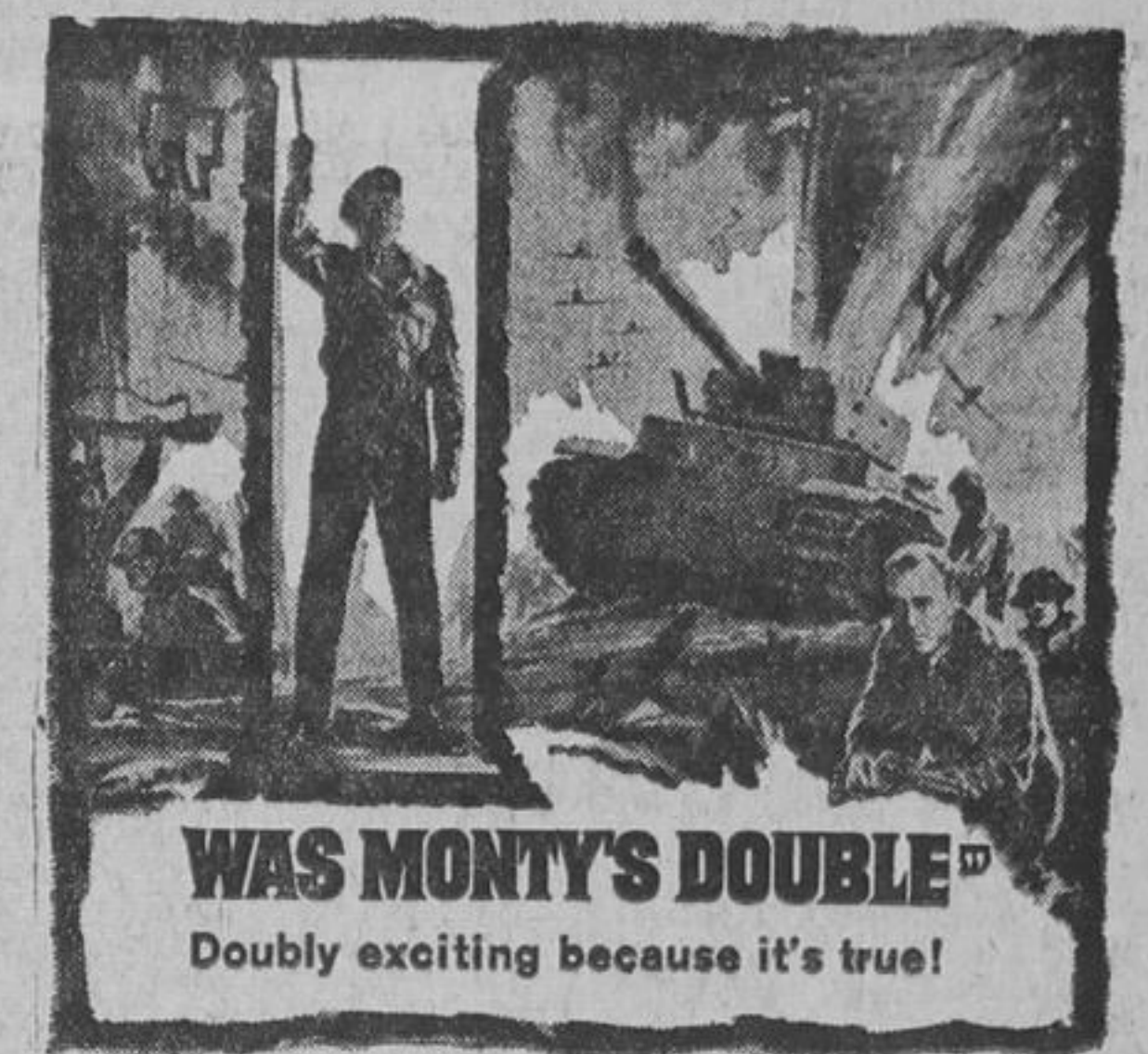
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Ken Watson On Curling

Greater The Weight — Higher The Swing



ARNOLD RICHARDSON REGULATES WEIGHT IN BACKSWING

(Canada's "Mr. Curling", Ken Watson of Winnipeg, is covering the Canadian Curling scene for "The Liberal". This is another in a series of 20 articles.)

One of the most insistent questions of those that have been hauled relentlessly at the writer over the past years, and more particularly since the year he had the audacity to write a book on the finer points of the roaring game, is, "How high should the rock be at the top of the backswing?" To my mind the answer should be obviously simple. The greater the weight — the higher the swing!

But there is always some questioner around who disagrees. He says, "What about Garnet Campbell and your brother, Grant. They both have high backswings even for a draw shot!" At first this question was bothersome until the realization dawned that both players preferred to use long slides and they slid further before releasing draws and guards. In each case the slide was used to check the momentum of the stone until it was moving at the desired speed. This type of delivery is more difficult to perfect because it requires excellent balance during the slide and a great deal of practice.

Then there is another factor that can govern the height of the backswing. This, too, has been introduced with the long slide delivery. It is leg drive — or a push-off from the back with the right foot by snapping the knee straight to get firm propulsion. A high backswing is not required for a fast rock if leg drive is used to help the momentum.

Our model for today is Vice-Skip of the current Canadian Champions, Arnold Richardson prefers to regulate the weight he wants to play by the height of

his swing. In this case his rock is not too far above the ice because he is delivering an in-turn draw. A detailed study of this excellent action shot will be worth the time if you want to get a few helpful hints. (1) The pendulum motion of the swing with the handle of the stone hanging on the fingers is clearly shown. (2) The importance of the index finger in bearing a good portion of the weight of the stone is evident. (3) The last two fingers of the right hand are only cradling the handle and are kept out of any control of the swing. (4) Observe the position of the right foot and particularly the placing of the foot on the back of the hack. (5) Take a close look at the left foot and left arm action. Notice that both have been extended well to the left to counterbalance the weight of the stone without pulling the body off line. (6) Watch the position of the head and the concentration of Arnold's eyes on the target at the opposite end of the ice. Finally, (7) The angle of the broom straw pointing away from the body as well as forward and up off the ice is a point I cannot emphasize too strongly for those who prefer the sliding delivery. More about this important part of the swing later.

Next: Swing that stone!

MARKHAM: Despite the rugged winter weather work is progressing steadily at the Markham Sewage disposal plant with polyethylene covering being used to keep out the weather.

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