

Maple, Concord & Edgeley District

"The Liberal" is always willing to publish interesting items regarding people and events contributed by its readers in Maple, Concord & Edgeley districts. Our representative in Maple is Mrs. Len Shore, ALPrie 7-1150; and in Edgeley and Sherwood, Mrs. Raymond Stuart, AV. 5-1934.

Councillor Wilfred G. Keffer

Vaughan Administrator's History Goes Back 150 Years In Township

By Alex Sjöberg
Wilfred Keffer of Maple, Vaughan's congenial councillor, may be said to represent a 150-year slice of township history in terms of agriculture, religion, culture, social and political events.

The Beginning
About 1792 two brothers from Pennsylvania made their way here. They were impressed with the timber stands, agricultural potential, good water and exhilarating climate, and decided to settle. They returned home intending to sell out, pack up and head back immediately but domestic difficulties made this impossible. It was not until 1803 that they reappeared and then with axe and plough and what today would be considered monstrous physical energy started to cultivate 1,400 acres on Lot 13, Concession 3.

prising, too, the Keffer blood is mingled with many of the early families in the township. One of Wilfred's grandmothers was a Snider and the Keffer blood is mingled as well with the Quantz and Osters, to mention only a few of the "old" names. So when scores of voters cast their ballots for Wilfred it was for "cousin" (however far removed now) as well as for ethical government. Further, while Wilfred is United Church, his great-grandfather Adam gave the land for the Zion Lutheran Church just south of Sherwood.

Wilfred was schooled at Concord. In 1917, he married the former Agnes Paterson of Carville and the young couple farmed four years on the Paterson acres, Lot 15, Concession 2. In 1921 a bachelor uncle, Frank, sold Wilfred 75 acres beside his father's 75-acre farm which Wilfred took over, and there the Keffers stayed and raised their family before eventually settling in Maple.

Personal History
Until 1945 when Wilfred undertook to organize the Maple Cattle Breeders' Association the Keffers, like farmers elsewhere in the district, had good and bad years. "I remember in the early 20's we sold barley at \$1.80 per bushel," he said. "Then along came the depression years when prices hit rock bottom and we lost money selling wheat at 33 cents a bushel. Pigs were going at three cents a pound. The 1931-37 period was a 'nip-and-tuck' time. As I used to say: 'I knew where I was going but didn't know how far.' But, he went on, it was also a great time. People were close to one another. They shared their means, their talk and their aspirations. In better times wheat, hogs, sheep and milk brought good prices. The Keffers would market about 1,000 bushels of wheat annually and kept sheep for meat and wool.

Advice
Between 1923 and 1933 Wilfred acted as secretary-treasurer for the Concord Public School Board. "The first time I interviewed the bank manager on board business the banker, who saw how green I was, gave me some advice," he recalled. "When you're handling other people's money," he told me, "assume that everyone is a crook until proven otherwise." Wilfred said he knew the manager meant well but that it was then and is now easier for him to assume the next fellow is honest until proven different. "It might not always be the best policy," he admitted, "but as a general rule it makes for more pleasant living. It seems logical to me to look for the best, not the worst in a fellow." In 1929 the Concord school burned. The board re-built it and that one-room structure is now a six-room school.

Self-Help
An integral part of farm life during the depression years was Radio Farm Forum, indicative of the farmer's effort to improve his lot. Among self-help projects

were a few recently organized United States cattle breeders' associations. "I had to coax Wilfred to come to a neighbour's to listen in on the radio discussions," said Mrs. Keffer, smiling. Wilfred nodded. "She did though, and gave me food for thought." Wilfred did a lot of reading up on cattle breeders' associations and wound up interviewing the Livestock Commission in Toronto. The commission and agricultural reps were heard in favour of this form of co-op, said the farmers would have to do their own promoting but on this basis they could expect co-operation.

Association Launched
The Maple Cattle Breeders' Association was organized in June, 1945 to serve an eight-mile radius. "We set a membership minimum of 100 and got 83," he said. "By the end of the year we had 98 associates and the next year were up to 150."

Now our northernmost boundary is the Manitoba border and the new Central Ontario Cattle Breeders' Association breeds about 100,000 animals a year with an annual financial turnover annually of close to a million dollars. The \$5 service fee, unchanged since 1945, means a tremendous saving to farmers. Wilfred explained that aside from the initial cost of a breeder, it would take at least \$150 a year to look after it. "And think of the time and work the farmer saves by not having to worry about tending to the bull the year round," he finished.

14 Year Career
Wilfred was organizer and president in 1945-46 and in 1948 took over the manager's chair. He retired from full-time duty in 1957 but stayed on as public relations officer until December 1, 1959, a job he liked particularly well. During his days of organizing it was nothing for him to travel 30,000 miles by car some years carrying the association message far and wide. "I've never believed in high-pressure selling," he said thoughtfully. "It always seemed better to attract attention, arouse curiosity and create interest which leaves the initiative to join an organization to the fellow who is to benefit. That way the associate is a better participant." The association will agree that this practical approach has paid off handsomely.

Still Around
Most of the members of that significant meeting in 1944 are still around. They are Roland and Lawrence Keffer, R. J. Darlington, Bruce and Paul Snider, Bert Witly, Wilfred Bowes, Robert Walker and W. J. Orr (who helped Wilfred lay the foundation for the organization), while the Rev. Seymour Cooper, Lutheran pastor, has since passed on. Said Wilfred: "About all we know was that the association was to be non-profit and non-taxable. Aside from that it was a case of the blind leading the blind. But by carefully considering every problem, doing first things first and building on experience we never really had any great difficulty."

New Career
The Keffers built a snug, story-and-a-half brick home in Maple. After retirement Wilfred found spare time beginning to pile up. "Last September some ratepayers asked me to try for council," he said. "I said no. They came back two weeks before nominations and I was persuaded to throw my hat in the ring but I didn't give my nominator and seconder consent to put in my name until the morning of the nomination meeting. I wanted to think about it."

Once into the race Wilfred started out to campaign, patiently knocking on doors on the front concession, introducing himself and asking for support. "I figured the people in the back concessions knew me," he said. "I'd worked for and among and with them for years and if they didn't want me now I didn't think I'd change their minds overnight."

Beside Bruce there are three other Keffer children. Dorothy (Mrs. Harry Walker) and her husband farm 180 acres east of Newmarket. Betty and her husband, Jack McClement, live in Toronto. Son Harold (a realtor) and family reside on No. 7 Highway. There are six grandchildren.

Jeanette Diane Norton Weds D. A. Hawkesworth

By Mrs. Raymond Stuart
In a double ring ceremony in St. Timothy's Anglican Church, Toronto, Jeanette Diane Norton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Clifford Norton of Toronto was united in marriage to Donald Alfred Hawkesworth, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Hawkesworth, R. 1 Maple, Cannon H. H. Marsh performed the ceremony against a background of yellow mums. Mr. John Dedrick of Willowdale played the wedding music.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride wore a white brocade dress which she, herself, fashioned and she carried a bouquet of little red roses and white carnations.

Miss Patricia Lynch was maid of honor and Miss Penny Hawkesworth was bridesmaid. They were gownned alike in green peau de soie and carried bouquets of yellow carnations.

Mr. William Hawkesworth Jr., of R. 1 Maple, was best man for his brother, Mr. Dick Norton, brother of the bride and Mr. Bob Kerr were the ushers.

At the reception held at Pellers at Sheppard and Yonge Streets, the bride's mother received the guests wearing a bluish purple sheath dress and matching coat, a gold hat, and a bouquet of matched flowers. The groom's mother received wearing a blue dress with metallic thread running through it, a matching stole and blue feathered hat and a bouquet of pink carnations.

The happy couple have returned from their honeymoon in North Bay and are at present residing on Oxford Street in Richmond Hill.

Among the out-of-town guests who attended the wedding were Dr. and Mrs. Hoppins of Chicago, the bride's godparents, Stewart Johnson of London, cousin of the bride; Mr. and Mrs. H. Markham of Newmarket, the bride's uncle and aunt; and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Kirby of London, the groom's uncle and aunt.

The former Miss Norton attended the Northern Vocational School from 1954-1956 and at the time of her marriage was employed as a dictaphone typist by the Workmen's Compensation Board in Toronto.

Hawkesworth attended Richmond Hill High School and works for Vaughan Township Road Department.

To Jeanette and Don we extend our warmest best wishes and congratulations and may you forever be happy and blest on life's way.

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Business Meeting Maple Trustees

The Maple Trustees, at their first official 1961 meeting January 20 at the Vaughan Municipal offices appointed a secretary, considered the trustees' honorarium and held a general discussion on various matters relating to village affairs.

The meeting, under Chairman Frank Robson moved that F. C. Jackson serve as secretary of the trustees during the trustees' term of office. The resolution was seconded by Trustee R. Keffer and carried.

On a motion by Trustee J. Hodgson and seconded by R. Keffer, the honorarium was set at \$125.00 per annum effective January 1, 1961, and that for each meeting a trustee fails to attend, the amount of \$5 be deducted from his honorarium.

Topics making up the general discussion included village roads, sidewalks, parks, crossing guards, street lights and drainage. Said Mr. Robson later: "Inasmuch as it was our first official business meeting we devoted some time to familiarizing ourselves with these items."

The matter of the crossing guards was deferred since Vaughan Township Council and the school board are in the process of threshing out this problem.

Hold Annual Meeting Edgeley United Church

Edgeley United Church annual meeting was held recently in the church. A review of the activities of 1960 and reports tendered, as Rev. Harold Davies conducted the meeting, showed the year had been quite satisfactory.

To a representative turn-out, Mr. Davies expressed his appreciation to all who had contributed to the church life and work, particularly the executive and members of the Women's Association, the Sunday School and the choir. The Sunday School was especially commended for the fine work, in many instances providing the church's only contact with the home.

Reporting for the Session, Mr. Davies recorded a membership decrease from 66 to 62. There were no baptisms performed by Edgeley United Church during 1960. There was one marriage and one burial during the year.

The Women's Association and Sunday School both reported bank balances on hand. After the preliminary and legal details were worked out last year, permission was granted by

the official board and York Presbytery to transfer the townline cemetery property to the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

The Stong family, many of them residents in Vaughan Township for generations, had erected in the townline pioneer cemetery last summer a family cairn which was dedicated in June.

The 84th Anniversary Service will be held on September 24. Church officers for 1961 are: Board of Session — Arthur Avery, R. J. Darlington, Alex Hunter, Allen Poole, Percy Usher, Frank Bagg continues as an honorary member of this board.

Committee of Stewards: C. H. Boake, Eldon Fierheller, H. W. Gent, Fred Hendry, C. A. Peelar, Allen Poole, Homer Whitmore, Mr. Peelar continues as church treasurer and Mr. Gent as church secretary.

R. J. Darlington expressed thanks on behalf of the congregation to Rev. and Mrs. Davies for their life and work among them during the year.

Shirley Jones Weds Douglas McInnis, Hope United Church

Hope United Church, banked with chrysanthemums, was the scene, on Saturday, January 7, of a pretty winter wedding, when the Rev. H. W. Davies officiated for the wedding vows of Shirley Elizabeth Jones and Douglas Naish McInnis. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Forest Jones, R. R. 2 Maple; and the

groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Harold C. McInnis of Aurora. Traditional wedding music was played by Mrs. Marlene Best of Newmarket, and vocalist Mrs. Gordon Orr sang "The Wedding Prayer" and "O Perfect Love".

Given in marriage by her father, the radiant bride wore a floor length gown of white lace over satin, with sequins accenting the neckline and tiered back featuring the lace. Her elbow-length veil fell from a tiara, and her bouquet was of red roses and white mums.

Mrs. Mae Roberts, as her sister's matron of honour, and Mrs. June Jones, bridesmaid, wore pale mauve frocks and carried cascade bouquets of yellow mums. Junior bridesmaid, Miss Brenda Jones and Miss Darlene Jones, the flower girl, wore pale blue and pink, respectively, and carried matching bouquets.

Mr. David Fines of Toronto, the bride's cousin, was best man, and the ushers were Peter Jones and Garry Kwasnitza. A reception was held for 122 guests at the Maple Community Hall. Mrs. Jones received her guests in a teal blue sheath with black accessories, and an orchid corsage. She was assisted by the groom's mother, Mrs. McInnis, who chose a royal blue brocade with pink accessories and orchid corsage for her son's wedding.

After a honeymoon trip to Timmins, Ontario, the young people will reside at Maple.

Maple Notes

The boys just mentioned that they hadn't been tobogganing as yet this winter - all that cold but so little white stuff!

Annual Sunday School Meeting
On Monday evening, January 23, the annual meeting of Maple United Church Sunday School was held in the church parlour.

The nominating committee of the Rev. Harold Davies, Mr. Morley Kinnee, Mr. Norman Payne and Mrs. Frances Reid, presented the new slate of officers for 1961 - as follows.

General superintendent, Mr. Norman Lund; Treasurer, Mr. Lloyd Palmer; Assistant treasurer, Mrs. Lloyd Palmer; Department Superintendents: Senior Department, Mr. Warren Baillie; Junior Department, Mrs. J. Pile; Primary Department, Miss Elizabeth Jackson; Responsibility of Nursery department, Mrs. A. Bowes and Mrs. W. Baillie; Cradle Roll Superintendent, Mrs. D. Murchison; pre-school department, Mrs. Bruce Davies; Infant nursery department, Mrs. Bob McIntyre, Representative to the official and joint board of the church, Mrs. N. Woods.

Tribute was paid to Mr. Morley Kinnee for his long and faithful service as officer and General Superintendent. It was Mr. Kinnee's wish that he retire from this position. He stated that he had held some office in the Sunday School for forty-four years with thirty-one of them as General Superintendent.

Plans are underway to hold a teachers training course in the near future.

The Sunday School is planning to hold its Anniversary Service, February 14 at the regular S. S. hours in the Religious Education room. During the church service on that date, the Installation Service of the officers of the Sunday School will be held.

Birthday Congratulations
On January 29 little Kevin McDermott was 12 months - one whole whole year old. Celebrating along with Kevin was brother Stephen who is 10 and sister Jacklyn who is 5.

From Toronto, Grandfather - Mr. John Regan, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Regan (uncle and aunt) cousin Douglas and (uncle), Mr. John Regan Jr. all came along to make it a "really big" day. Share and Share Alike

Is this togetherness? When Audrey Magee's sister and family dropped in one evening recently they left a little "bug" behind and young Billy Magee promptly picked it up - Yes as you now he is 'over the chicken pox' and doing nicely, thank you!

Another January 29 Birthday
David Birch was 10 on January 9 and no doubt by then Mom, Aileen Birch, had figured out a wonderful way to celebrate same.

The Maple United Church W.A. were the guests of Major McCorquodale of the House of Concord, on their regular meeting night, Tuesday, January 24.

Following a short business meeting at the Church, the ladies then went by car to the House of Concord where they were received into the Chapel. At an earlier date Major McCorquodale had been a guest speaker at a W. A. meeting and then had outlined the work of this particular group of Salvation Army workers among these boys and young men who needed special guidance to become worthwhile, responsible citizens.

On this occasion the ladies were divided up into groups and taken on a tour of the building conducted by some of the boys, who took great pleasure and pride in showing them their "home."

It was most evident to all in attendance that everything possible was being done to show these boys that with proper environment, right teachings and above all the interest shown in them as individuals, they could and would be able to stand up on their own two feet and be a welcome and accepted member of our society.

Many of these lads between

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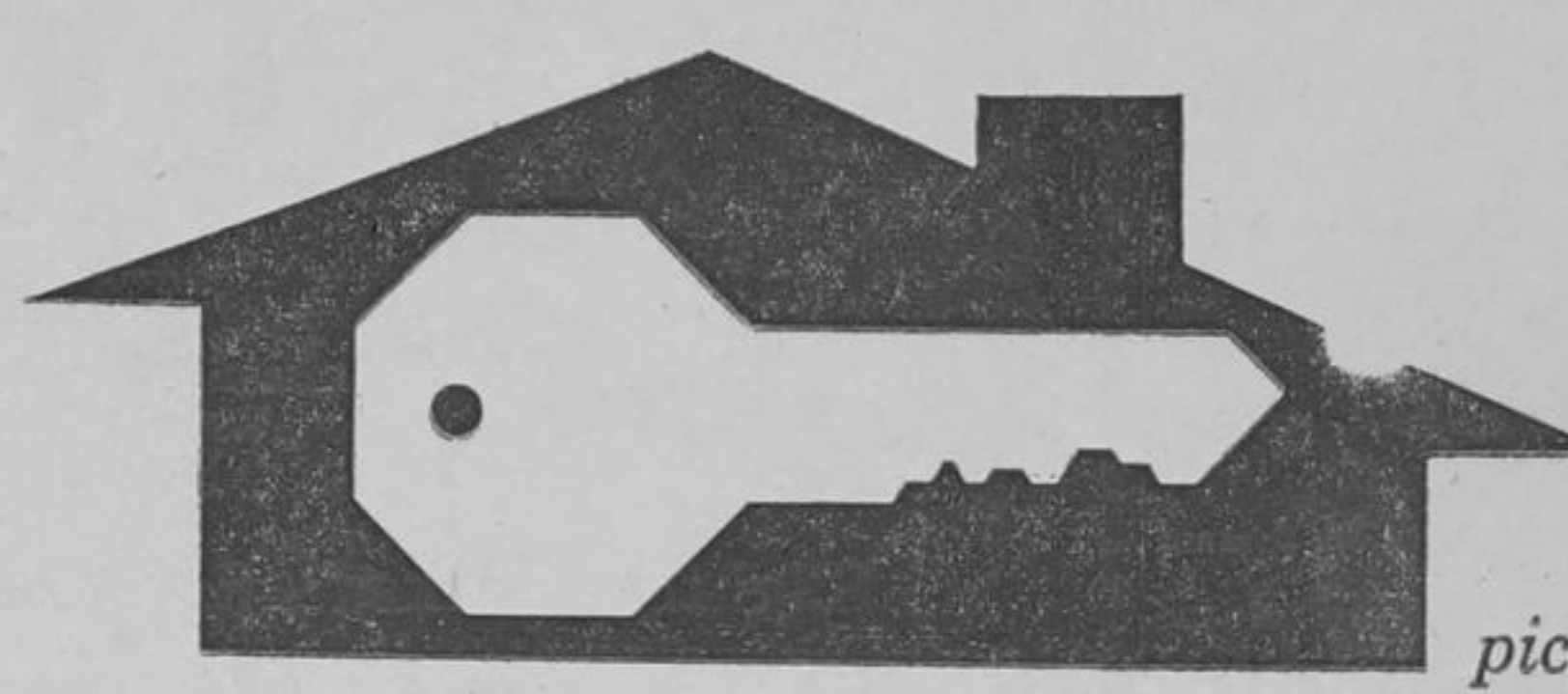
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