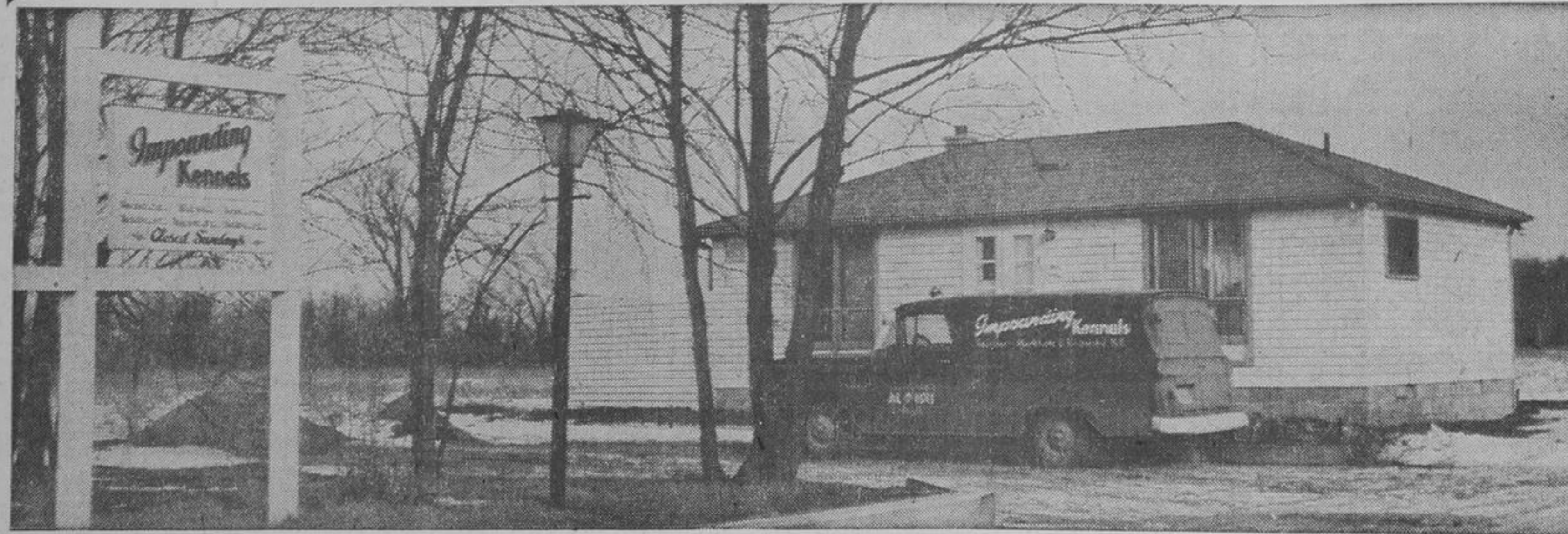


Ron Herd, Rides Herd On 5,000 Canines On A 300 Square Mile Spread



The impounding kennels for Vaughan, Markham and Richmond Hill, shown here, are owned and operated by R. G. Herd. Located on a 10-acre site one half mile south of the King-Vaughan sideroad on Dufferin Street, it is the focal point for strays among the canine population of the three municipalities, estimated at about 5,000.

Dog control officer Ron Herd is planning to build a permanent

BY ALEX SJOBERG

When a slender but wiry, agile mild-mannered Scotchman, well-known Ron Herd, 30, a former teacher and welding engineer cuts loose with "Giz along, lil doggie, git along!" he means it, his Scotch burr notwithstanding. For the dog control officer whose trusty steed happens to be a motorized patrol wagon has one of the biggest "spreads" in this here county, 300 square miles in all, which boasts a herd of about 5,000 dogs. His spread is made up of Vaughan and Markham Townships and Richmond Hill while his home "corral" is a 10-acre plot and modern impounding kennels on the east side of Concession 3 (Dufferin Street), Vaughan, three and one-half miles north of Markham Road. In the past two years Ron has invested \$25,000 in land and kennels and a year from now when his new home will have been built on the site his total investment in the doggy life will be about \$40,000.

Bus Life

Ron has a contract with the three municipalities to keep dogs under control and in the past 24 months appears to have done a sterling job on behalf of the taxpayers. In Richmond Hill, where canines once ran wild, playing havoc with garbage cans and largely contributing to nocturnal confusion, the canine nuisance has been drastically curtailed. Last year 1033 dogs were impounded, 389 in Vaughan, 325 in Markham and 319 in The Hill. In 1960 a total of 634 complaints were answered and 27,000 miles of patrol carried out. In Richmond Hill the number of registered dogs now stand at about 700, down from 1200 a few years back. Each of the two townships claim approximately 1500 registered dogs. Ron estimates that in the three municipalities there might be another

1,000 mutts of all descriptions and pedigree still unregistered. He is keeping his eye peeled for them

In The Hill itself last year 64 "dog at large" charges were laid with 53 convictions resulting. These figures testify to Ron's industriousness and gives weight to his contention that unless you're prepared to lead a dog's life the control profession is not your cup of tea.

Laws

Municipal law requires that every dog be tagged, restricted to its owner's property and kept under control. Failure to comply with this law can result in a penalty anywhere up to \$50, depending on the circumstances and the manner in which a dog owner hauled into court impresses the magistrate. Ron says he doesn't enjoy prosecuting anyone, and his fingers were not crossed when he said this nor was his tongue in his cheek. "We only prosecute when we feel it is the only way the owner can be induced to keep his dog home," he said. The court itself is not unreasonable. Any owner tagged with a summons has a 50-50 chance of having his or her fine waived if he or she will take the trouble to appear before the the cad and offer a reasonable explanation. One magistrate (who shall be nameless) who is fond of dogs and kindly disposed toward the harassed parent who inadvertently falls foul of the law by trying unsuccessfully to control the children and family pet at the same time will give accused a hefty 75-25 chance to be proved blameless.

Average

On a year-round basis, the kennels will have 30 dogs on hand at any given time. When a mutt is impounded the owner has three days in which to claim and pay a \$5 pound-fee. If the same dog outwits his owner and

is impounded two or three times the owner usually receives official "greetings" from the court

invitation to come along and prove he should not be clipped for \$15, which is the amount of the average fine.

Occupational Hazard

One hazard of operating a kennel is emotional. "Dogs are appealing creatures," Ron says. "It's pretty hard not to become attached to a cur, and if no one claims it, the dog is in due course put to sleep, and this isn't a pleasant task, believe me." Good dogs, those above average in pedigree or intelligence or general personality, if not claimed, may be kept on for as long as 12 weeks until a home is found. "As a rule good dogs can always be placed," he said.

Not Resentful

Do people resent a dog control officer? Ron claims not, although naturally there are exceptions to this as to every rule. "Generally people know we have a job to do and that we don't lay a charge just out of spite. We stretch the law whenever we can. We'll often chase a dog to his home, warn the owner, and forget about it." Ron said too there is a rather widespread belief in some quarters that the municipality employs a special treasurer just to count the loot accruing from fines. "But fines fall far short of the money expended on dog control," Ron told us, adding: "And remember, a municipality receives only a small percentage of fines levied within its boundaries."

It now looks as if the three municipalities, Markham and Vaughan Townships and Richmond Hill, will appoint Ron and his assistant as by-law enforcement officers insofar as they pertain to the domesticated carnivorous mammal (Canis familiar-

is).

Busy Christmas

Ron said he was kept mighty busy the week before and after Christmas this year. "We found homes for 40 dogs and as many cats," he said. German Shepherds and Beagles are most in demand, incidentally.

There are about 100 schools in Ron's territory. Ron sent out a letter to each principal, asking that he be notified when strays showed up at the school yards. "The phone rang right merrily for quite a while," he reminisced, "and thanks to the co-operation from our principals we were able to greatly improve the dog situation."

That dog control is a full-time business is indicated by the fact that Ron and his assistant do about 100 miles of patrol every day. His assistant, 40-year-old Jim Ryan, a cheerful Irishman in Ron believes, a real catch. "Jim" has had many years experience as a control officer in the old country," he pointed out, "and he's amassed a considerable veterinary knowledge as well."

No novice in his field, Mr. Ryan, born and raised in Ireland, had three years in the P.D.S.A. Veterinary Technical College, Ilford, England. He has received training in zoology, large and small animal husbandry, animal hygiene, emergency treatment and first aid, and domestic animal psychology and welfare. This training was followed by five years practical experience at veterinary technical work in the field for the P.D.S.A. in clinics and hospitals, with two additional years in the Lane organization in public relations work. Mr. and Mrs. Ryan live in Willowdale, coming to this district about two years ago. Impounding kennels operator Ron Herd said: "Is it gratifying to get a man like Mr. Ryan?"

Ron himself started life at St. Andrews, Fife, Scotland and by the time he landed in the Western Hemisphere a brief 468 years after Columbus - he had been a school teacher, and mastered the welding and engineering. In fact he was with a prominent firm of engineers in Toronto for 3 years before coming to Richmond Hill. He saved his money, invested it in his land and kennels and feels he made a good move. He is married to the former Noretta Lentz of Peterborough, Ontario, who retired from her position as teller with the Canadian Bank of Commerce, Yonge Street, to take over office work at the point.

Annual Vestry Meeting of St. Mary's Anglican Church

The annual vestry meeting of St. Mary's Anglican Church was held Monday, January 30, at 8:15 p.m., with a good turn-out of members in Wrixon Hall. After opening prayers by the Rector, Mr. A. W. G. Farwell, Vestry Clerk, read the minutes of the last meeting. Reports were heard from the Churchwardens, the Finance Chairman, the Treasurer and the summing up of the year's accomplishments by the Rector.

Rectors' Warden: Mr. H. C. Peacock; People's Warden: Mr. E. M. Ashkanase; Warden Emeritus: Mr. Harry Stanford; Treasurer: Mr. J. D. Brodick; Envelope Secretary: Mr. H. C. Montgomery; Rector's appointee to the Advisory Council: Messrs. W. E. N. Mann, G. L. Lewis and H. C. Smith; Vestry elected three members to the Council: Messrs. W. F. Lennox, S. F. Tinker and W. J. Lennox; Lay Delegates to Synod: Mrs. R. D. Little, Messrs. R. D. Crampton and J. A. Hewitt; Alternates: Messrs. D. M. Fries and W. D. Ross; the Chairman of the Advisory Council Committee are: Finance, Mr. R. D. Little; Stewardship, Mr. J. D. Ashworth; Missions: Mrs. A. M. Loughridge; Parish Life, Mr. L. T. Wainwright; Building and Maintenance: Mr. D. C. Smith; Planning & Development: Mr. J. M. Langton; Hall rental: Mr. J. Y. Lepper; Board of Christian Education: Mr. G. D. McCartney; Auditors for 1961: Messrs. R. G. Britnell and R. T. Hutchison; Appointees to York Deanery Great Chapter: Dr. R. H. Painter, Dr. W. R. Bedford, Mr. S. K. Appleby, Mr. J. McRae and Mr. J. C. Orme.

Dedication Services

At Brown's Corners United Church the building project is being readied for opening ceremonies which will take place on three consecutive Sundays in February. The program is as follows: Feb. 12—11:30 a.m.—Rev. Roy Webster, B.A., B.D., pres. of Toronto conference. 7:30 p.m.—Rev. E. A. Currey, former pastor on Victoria Square charge. 8:30 p.m.—Fellowship hour in Christian Education Room, everyone welcome. Feb. 19—11:30 a.m.—Dr. A. F. Binnington; Holy Communion and Reception of New Members. 7:30 p.m.—Youth Service — Y.P.U. in charge, with all available candidates for the ministry (York Presbytery) in attendance. Special guests from neighborhood church Y.P.U.s organizations, social hour. Feb. 26—11:30 a.m.—Rev. Morrison Sellar, B.A., B.D., of Owen Sound.

Mr. Gordon Hood Passes

Mr. Doug. Hood received word on Thursday of last week of the sudden passing of his younger brother, Mr. Gordon Hood of Williamsburg, N.Y. The community extends sincere sympathy to all members of the Hood family at this time. This is the second loss in Mr. Hood's immediate family since last December when the death of Miss Edith Hood, a sister, occurred.

Cancer Benefit Success

There were more than 18 tables of players at Buttonville W.I. Hall on Monday evening of last week, when community members and friends met for the 10th annual benefit for the Cancer Society Gift Cupboard, sponsored by Buttonville W.I. members. After an evening of close play, there were four prizes awarded to ladies euchre players because of a triple tie for second place — winners were Mrs. Jamieson, Mrs. Russell Boyington, Miss Mary Rodick and Mrs. J. Dewsbury. Winning gentlemen were Messrs. Mart Styromo, A. Brown and W. J. Muirhead, with lucky draw prizes awarded to Mr. Almsed, Joe Robinson, Mr. Douglas Hood and Mr. Wm. Middleton. Bridge winners were Mrs. S. Ingimundsen, Mrs. Clark Young, Messrs. C. Young and S. Ingimundsen. The committee in charge wishes to thank all those who contributed to the success of the evening, either by donating prizes or through other assistance. Proceeds for the local work of the Cancer Society exceeded \$68.00.

Buttontville

Correspondent:

Mrs. F. H. Leaf
R. R. 2 Gormley
Phone AXminster 3-6188

Jack Stephenson's brother Ken and his wife of Saskatoon were guests at the Norman Reid's home last week-end. Mrs. Wm. Rodick, Mrs. W. W. Miller, Mrs. H. Steffler, Mrs. W. Turner, Miss Mary Rodick and Mrs. F. H. Leaf attended York Presbytery at Aurora on Wednesday of last week. Skating parties at Buttonville School will be held on alternate Friday evenings and Saturday afternoons, and the Parents' Club members will be on hand to supervise and to sell hotdogs, etc. Last Friday evening Mrs. Venus, Mrs. Simms and Mrs. Woods were in charge. Saturday afternoon of this week will be the next party. Lynda Leaf returned Tuesday of last week from a brief holiday in New York City, reporting more snow than she had ever seen in her life.

Information On Education!

By Public Relations Committee of Richmond Hill Public School Board
O. M. MacKillop Memorial School
The O. M. MacKillop Memorial School was the third public school built in Richmond Hill, and is named after a very fine gentleman and former Public School Inspector. When completed this school consisted of 10 rooms, with an enrollment of 282 pupils. Within a year the growing school population necessitated the building of an additional 6 rooms, and today a further 4 classrooms and a general purpose room are being added. This new addition is at the front of the school and included in the architects plans is a mural for the outside entrance wall. The board decided to give the chil-

Dismiss Assault Case

Vaughan Township Police had several cases in the Newmarket Court on January 30, including those of Allan Dragasius, 35, and Allan Hrylor, 29, two Toronto bailiffs charged with assaulting Mrs. Lydia Domski of Scarborough on November 29 when they repossessed her car. Mrs. Domski said that the bailiffs forced their way into her home, refused to identify themselves because, they said, they had the authority to "do anything we like," followed her when she jumped into her car and sped away and pummeled her on the steps of a church in Thornhill. "I went there because I thought they were respecting sacred ground," she told the court. She denied to Bruce Ralph, counsel for accused that on November 28 after the car had been repossessed and taken to a service yard that her boy friend had gone to the yard and under threat of violence forced the attendants to hand over the keys. The bailiffs said they went to the Domski residence, identified themselves and asked her to come to some financial terms on the money outstanding against the car. They said she agreed but first had to take her son to the doctor. They followed her car in theirs, they said, and she led them a runabout chase ending at the church where they took possession of the car. They denied having molested her. When the crown told the court that in view of all the evidence it would not avail itself of the privilege of summing up its case, Magistrate O. S. Hollinrake dismissed the charges against the bailiffs.

Remand

James Bears of Aurora, charged with escaping custody and disturbing the peace as well as careless driving felt he needed a bit of time to prepare himself for a court session, asked for and received a remand. He will come up February 10.

SOMETHING WANTED? THROUGH "THE LIBERAL" CLASSIFIEDS

PHONE TUrner 4-1188

Vaughan Council Will Seek Solution Keele Street Crossing

Something will be done by Vaughan Township Council to satisfy the 60-member George Bailey Home and School Association that school children in Maple will receive adequate protection crossing the intersection of Keele Street, Richmond and Maple Roads. Mrs. Jack House and Mrs. W. A. Stevenson, representing the association, appeared before council Monday in the wake of a long explanatory letter to council which detailed the long drawn out controversy. Council agreed that the matter of guards, stop lights and signs would be dealt with in committee, and if, in the meantime, association members would ascertain the number of children crossing the three street points daily that something might be ironed out by next meeting. The association said 1960 correspondence with Toronto and York Roads Commission and the Ontario Department of Transport had resolved nothing. Neither had the 1960 council. The Department of Transport, for example, would not go along with a reduced speed limit in the school area because a survey showed that a 12-inch object could be seen 300 feet either way. Said the association: "Figures of this sort are of no importance since we are concerned not with adults or 12 inch objects but with carefree and often irresponsible children who are prone to dart out without regard to whom or what is coming." Deputy-revee Jesse Bryson thought that council would have to study each solution presented carefully. For example, if the township sanctioned guards at Maple at between \$60 and \$80 per month each, where might not the precedent end? Council did not want one plan for Maple and others for the rest of the township. Did the association have any ideas? The answer: Didn't council have some? The association admitted that the township officials could not resolve the vexing situation merely by passing a by-law or establishing guards. Mrs. Stevenson said: "Our children need instructions in safety. We want to meet council half way."

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Further Negotiations Langstaff Interchange

Vaughan Township Council will negotiate further with the Department of Highways before accepting the department's proposal in regards to the interchange proposed for Highway 7 and Yonge Street at Langstaff. Council will seek a more equitable financial settlement to relocate township mains, for the Boyle Park area, property desired by the department, and will discuss the projection of Fairview Avenue north through farm land to Pearson Avenue. Council is strongly of the opinion that area children must be provided with safe access to the Langstaff School, and that extending Fairview Avenue as suggested to Pearson Avenue, this problem will be solved. The price being offered for the Boyle Park area is considered too little. The former council felt that the township should receive no less than \$9,000.00 and the present council can be expected to negotiate for as much. At the same time, council at its January 30 meeting decided to defer its application to the Ontario Municipal Board for approval for the debenturing of the township's share of the cost of the re-location of the watermain at Yonge Street and Langstaff Sideroad pending further study of the proposed purchase of Boyle Park. The interchange is to be part of the proposed Highway 404. The township will have to take up the mains and re-locate them further to the west side of Yonge, on an angle. Vaughan feels that it should get a little more than has been offered to cover the cost of extra mains which will be needed. The department is willing to pay only for the present footage of mains. Said Waterworks Committee Chairman Ruth McConkey: "No matter how the wind blows, the interchange is going to cost us some money but we want it to cost as little as possible."

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PHONE TUrner 4-1188

Bayview High School News

For the students at Bayview High School there were four BIG firsts associated with the opening of their spacious new auditorium this past week - the first Assembly, the first Presentation, the first Athletic night and the first dance. For the builders of Bayview High School the past week has been a nightmarish game of musical chairs. Chucked one of the workmen. "First they squeezed us out of the auditorium for their first Assembly last Wednesday which saw some third grade eleven students receive Certificates. Then we slipped back in to iron out some kinks in the heating system but they pulled an end run on us and flowed back in for their first three basketball games at home which they followed up with their first big dance. Then we got in, then the girls got in, then the girls got in, then the girls' cheerleading team got in, then we got in and now the parents are coming for a parent-teacher meeting at eight p.m. Wednesday - well then we can't hope to beat so we'll join them."

First Parent-Teacher Night At Bayview High School

"Modern living is getting so complicated that more and more responsibility for education is devolving on the parents," said Principal Howard L. Eubank, B.A., B. Paed., today at Bayview High School commenting on the first Parent-Teacher meeting being held there this evening. Mr. Eubank frankly admitted that the Parents' night had been "squeezed in" optimistically against a tight builders' schedule to enable parents the earliest possible opportunity to discuss education problems of mutual interest with the teachers. The parents are scheduled to meet the principal and teachers at eight p.m. today in the spacious new auditorium which came into regular service this week. Following the welcome to the parents and the introduction of his teaching staff, principal Eubank planned to review "Pupil progress at Bayview High School" and "Guidance Services." Parents are then expected to sit in their children's home-room with the home-room teacher where opportunity will be provided for the discussion of problems arising out of the class as a group. Said Mr. Eubank: "I hope the teachers will give the parents a professional slant on school problems and that the parents will give the teachers some indication on how the parents can help alleviate some of the problems facing the teaching staff."

Refreshments in the Cafeteria

Refreshments in the cafeteria after a tour of the building were planned to wind up the evening and give the parents an opportunity to meet individual teachers.

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