Shepherd Fasts Three Days Guarding Dying Pal

Pictured above with Dog Control Officer James Ryan is the year-old silver and black German shepherd which, for three days and as many nights, kept vigil over a dying black Cocker Spaniel, mortally injured by either a hit-and-run car or a train, as told in the following story.
(Photo by Lagerquist)

Among the 250 stray dogs picked up in Vaughan and Markham Townships and Richmond Hill in the past three months, none has so endeared itself to Dog Control Officer James Ryan as a one-year-old black and silver purebred German Shepherd who kept a three-day watch over a fatally injured black Cocker Spaniel.

For three days and as many nights the German Shepherd stood guard, refusing to leave the Spaniel for food or water. By day, when the sun grew hot, he dragged his dying charge into the shade. When it rained he covered his friend's body by standing over it. The long watch began sometime on August 22 and continued until the afternoon of the 25th. The weatherwise will recall that was a period when considerable rain fell, winds were high, nights were cool and thunderstorms frequent.

Stands On Guard

Mr. Ryan tells his story: "On August 25th my office received a phone call from a woman who lives in the vicinity of Nashville. She said there were two dogs in a lonely part of the countryside near the rail line. They had been there three days. Just before she called, touched with curiosity and concern, she filled a bucket with water and approached the two animals. She said when she drew near the German Shepherd placed himself between her and his companion, who was stretched out on the ground. She observed that the little dog was hurt, left the water bucket within easy distance of the pair and hurried to the telephone.

"I reached the scene just as another rainstorm broke and witnessed something I would not have believed otherwise. The Cocker was crying and as the rain began to fall the Shepherd took up a position directly over his friend so that the brunt of the rain fell on its back.

Responded To Talk

"As is my custom on such an occasion, I remained in the jeep several minutes sizing up the situation and figuring out the best approach. When I left the jeep the Shepherd immediately placed himself between me and his companion.

"I began to talk to the fellow, quietly and coaxingly, and slowly he responded, finally allowing me to draw near and pat him. Still talking gently, the next move was to carefully lift the whimpering little Spaniel onto the cab seat. The Shepherd leaped up into the cab without a fuss. Both legs of the injured dog were badly lacerated and the wounds had turned septic. There didn't appear to be any feeling or power in the hind quarters, so I suspected spinal injury. The dog was taken to Dr. Darlington at Woodbridge who said the two rear legs, the pelvis and spine had been broken, by a car or a train.

Deserves Good Home

"There was no chance of saving the poor little fellow, so we put him to sleep. Now the Shepherd is at my kennels, quite recovered from the ordeal, and enjoying life. He deserves a good home and we won't part with him readily. We think he must have been owned by good-hearted people because a dog picks up a feeling of love and loyalty from its human contacts. It may have wandered from home as dogs will. If the owners read this account of his heroism we'll be glad to see them. They certainly have a wonderful dog."

Hill Councillors Talk About Water

Commenting on the recent controversy regarding lack of water supply for people in the Elgin Mills area of Vaughan Township, Reeve F. R. Perkins at Monday night's council meeting said he wished to make it abundantly clear that Richmond Hill has been in no way indifferent to the needs and requests of its good neighbours.

"Contrary to some reports," said Reeve Perkins "we did reply to Vaughan Township's enquiry, and we are still waiting on a report from the Water Resources Commission on our number five well. As soon as this report is received we will be in a position to tell Vaughan whether or not we will have any water supply available to help out the plight of these people."

"We didn't have the answer" said Mayor Haggart "but we certainly replied to the letter." The answer, he said, will have to wait until we know where we stand in regard to the new No. 5 well.

Parks Board Asks Curfew For Parks

"A park is a fine thing until it's next door to you," commented Parks Board Chairman Russell Tilt in asking Richmond Hill Town Council Monday night for co-operation in establishing a nine o'clock curfew in playgrounds and parks. He said the parks board had complaints of noise and activity until near midnight. This is quite unnecessary and undesirable, he said, and the board suggested council regulations requiring a special notice if a park or playground is used after 9 p.m.

Council members were in sympathy with the suggestion of the parks board chairman but were uncertain as to the most effective means of combatting the abuses. Councillor Al. White, who has been active in the recreation program, moved that the suggestion be considered by the administrative committee.

During the discussion Chairman Tilt said that while parks and playgrounds are necessary and very desirable, it is unfortunately true that people who live close to the playground areas have to put up with a great deal.

Looking Backward..

(World changes actually started in Richmond Hill, the man said)

In the annals of history eleven years is less than the flicker of an eyelid but in the light of the remarkable transformation of Richmond Hill a person returning to the municipality after an absence which began January 1, 1950 would be hard put to realize so much has been accomplished in so few years.

A new era has been ushered in since then and the spectacular promises of it have recently (again) been pointed up by a Russian spaceman's half-million mile journey around our dusty old planet. Among other things, the smug have been robbed of one of their sayings delivered in a maddeningly patronizing tone: "Take it easy; no one is getting off this world."

Gone are the quiet vales and the peaceful sweep of stream-touched trees and the drowsy fields which in the last few years have given way to bustling subdivisions and thriving shopping plazas housing and servicing an additional 15,000 citizens. A decade ago the population stood at about 2,500. . .

One "old-timer," not yet quite 40, speaks wistfully of what to him is already a bygone 'age.' "Richmond Hill was a quiet, nice, friendly satisfying town," he said. "Now it is all strangeness," He adds gloomily: "The whole blooming mess of change the world over started about the time 'The Hill' began to stir. Ten or eleven years ago." His voice waxed bitter. "You can't tell that Richmond Hill was just a part of world change. Hang it all, Richmond Hill STARTED it all!"

If this is true, Ronald George Saul, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Saul of Elgin Mills must take a good part of the praise or blame for subsequent developments depending on your point of view. Because on January 1, 1950. Ronald became 'The Hill's New Year baby and without realizing it was already coiled to give the ball of change a resounding kick. Ronald weighed in at seven pounds, including his grin and the thirsty-eyed look of that generation.

That same month Dr. Helen S. Hogg of the David Dunlap Observatory, one of Canada's half-dozen female professional astronomers, received the Annie Jump Cannon prize of the American Astronomical Society for her outstanding contributions to the science. Dr. Hogg's specialty was that branch of astronomy dealing with the mysteries of the co-called variable stars in the far-distant globular clusters.

Today man-made stars wheel endlessly about in space and pretty soon special space craft will carry streamers reading: "Just married! Honeymooning on the Moon!" despite the firm conviction of a local lass that despite all manner of progress it still will be more romantic to honeymoon 'under' the moon.

Eleven years ago, while some persons kept their eyes fixed on the stars and babies like Ronald unwittingly moulded the forces of the future, most men had their feet planted firmly on the ground of our whirling cinder. Markham Township Council, for example, was concerned with planning a new road in Elmwood Park Crescent on the 'Hill's' southern boundary.

East Vaughan Ratepayers' Association wrote township council asking why the school rate for S.S. No. 24 (Richvale' had not dropped for the past five years despite the influx of residents and the acceleration of the local building program.

Maple Lions sponsored a dental survey and the 'Hill' council said local skating and playground facilities for the children would be improved.

The good citizens of Stouffville had paid up all their previous year's taxes with the exception of less than $100 and municipal guardians elsewhere in the district were piously hoping readers in all municipalities would take note.

Public school teachers asked for a minimum salary of $1,800.

Local Tenderer Is Given Award

With everything else being equal, local business men who are taxpayers should get the business of the board when purchases were being made, declared Trustee Mrs. Barbara Langstaff at the last meeting of York Central District High School Board. That principle, she emphasized, should even be carried out when differences in prices on tenders submitted to the board were small.

As a result a local tenderer, Norman Bone, won the contract for the new fence at the Bayview High School. The difference in his quotation and that of two others was only small and the board agreed with Mrs. Langstaff.

Lowest tender was $6,489.25. Next was $6,559.63. The Bone figure was $6,589.80.

LIBERAL CLASSIFIEDS
GET RESULTS
Phone TU. 4-1105
or AV. 5-3316

McDonald Marks Quarter-century

Council, Staff & Friends Honour Township Clerk

Vaughan Township's Clerk-Treasurer, James M. McDonald, and Mrs. McDonald, were feted by the administrative staff and council last Thursday evening and Friday afternoon commemorating Mr. McDonald's 25 years of service with the township

The Friday evening "surprise party" at the Uplands Golf Club, was attended by 80 persons, staff members and their wives or husbands, with Police and Fire Chief Jim Davidson acting as master of ceremonies. Also on hand were members of the township's legal and engineering consultant firms.

Mrs. June Wells presented Mrs. McDonald with a bouquet of roses, and Deputy-Clerk F. G. (Ted) Jackman, on behalf of the entire staff, presented her husband with a 30.30 Winchester rifle. Mr. McDonald noted that henceforth he would not have to borrow a rifle for his annual hunting expedition. The dinner, speeches and gifts were follo ed by a dance.

On Friday afternoon, councillors and reeves, past and present, their wives, the full complement of staffers in the municipal building, and old friends, filled the council chambers for the second reception. The St. Andrews Presbyterian W.A. served a buffet lunch with all the trimmings.

Reeve A. H. Rutherford told the assembly: "It's a great pleasure for me to welcome you all on this occasion. Since 1936, when Jim first came to the township as clerk-treasurer, Vaughan has undergone tremendous changes. Where once we had seven township employees we now have more than 50." Throughout the years, he said, Mr. McDonald had been consistent in his contribution and throughout the years had always been ready to assist wherever he could, often beyond the call of duty.

The presentations followed the buffet lunch. Mr. Robert Scott, reeve in 1936, the year of Mr. McDonald's appointment, tendered an inscribed silver tray and silver tea set to the clerk-treasurer and his wife. Councillor Ruth McConkey, on behalf of council, presented Mr. McDonald with a pair of gold cuff links.

Included among the guests were former Reeves John Perry and Mrs. Perry, James Robson, who served as councillor, deputy-reeve and reeve, Mr. Charles Miller of the Vaughan Township planning board and Mrs. Miller, and Mr. Norman Morton of Thornhill, township auditor for the last 31 years.

Stouffville Growing Fast

Figures for the first municipality in the area to be reported on as a result of the recent census have been given to "The Liberal" by Mrs. Connie Matthews, census commissioner for the area.

They cover Richmond Hill's close neighbour, Stouffville. In the 1956 "baby" census that municipality had 2,307 residents. Its 1961 count revealed it as having a population of 3,-159 - an increase of 852 or 36.9 per cent.

LIBERAL CLASSIFIEDS
GET RESULTS
Phone TU. 4-1105
or AV. 5-3316

Public School Books Bought By H.S. Board For Backward Pupils

A question as to the academic standing of some pupils entering high schools was raised at York Central District High School Board's last meeting, although it was emphasized that "transferees" were involved.

A request for authorization of the purchase of public school books was at the bottom of the situation. Asked for by a principal were arithmetic books for grades six, seven and eight. It was explained that the capabilities of some pupils were so low that it was necessary for teachers to go back over their work with them on the public school level.

"It's a sorry commentary on the type of pupils we are getting in high school," said High School Board Chairman Axelson.

Take Advantage
Of This Special
Double Offer-Bond's Tailored-To-Measure
36 Anniversary Sale
EXTRA TROUSERS ONLY 36c
THIS IS THE SMART TIME TO
Buy And Save Dollars
BOND CLOTHES
In The Mall Richmond Heights Centre