

The Liberal

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Public Tenders

This newspaper holds the Richmond Hill Public School Board and Vaughan Township Council in the highest regard. It believes that both bodies conduct their business with a maximum degree of integrity and that the staffs of both bodies rate equally highly. That point is made because of a desire to avoid any shadow of reflection while constructive criticism is being offered.

Both bodies on recent occasions have opened tenders in private. While it is true that facts and figures eventually become public property we suggest that it would be much better to have tenders opened in public — a rule which is now pretty generally followed. At the same time opportunity should be offered to tenderers to be present when theirs and other tenders are opened.

This may appear to be leaning a little backward, but it must be re-

membered that on a number of occasions in recent years criticism has been directed at semi-secret opening of public tenders. Most notable example is that of the Ontario Department of Highways, where a near-scandal resulted and where, in consequence, the utmost publicity and openness now accompanies the opening and examination of tenders.

Tenders, publicly advertised for, are public business. It is well to keep them as far as possible in the open. It is certainly a mistake, and unfair to employees, to have them opened privately by two staff members.

We repeat that there is no shadow of wrong-doing involved. We are jealous of the reputation of well-run public bodies. We believe that every effort should be made, in their interests, to remove even the slightest opportunity of criticism.

The New Police Court

A police court isn't normally the sort of thing over which one gets enthusiastic. But, accepting the fact that such an establishment is a necessary part of today's picture, there is considerable satisfaction in the fact that one is to be established in Richmond Hill in the early part of the coming year. This newspaper has, on more than one occasion, pointed out that citizens of the southern part of York County have been put to considerable and unjustifiable extra expenditure of time and money by having to travel to Newmarket in connection with court cases. The system has been a wasteful one for both police and "customers". Both should save time and money—the latter unfortunately having at times a distinct need for it after the man on the bench has said his piece.

A great deal of credit is due to Mr. James Haggart and members of his 1961 council for consummating the arrangement. The former, it can

now be revealed, has put in a great deal of time in dealing with court officials and others in the Attorney-General's Department. The court did not come into existence voluntarily. It had to be worked for—and worked for hard. Mayor Haggart, in pointing out the need for consideration of the requirements of the growing area, did a first-class job. His council deserves credit also for willing co-operation in readjusting space in the municipal building to provide for court accommodation. That, with a growing staff due to the growth of the town itself, was no easy task.

It should be pointed out again that rent will be paid for space occupied.

It's true that a factory would be more acceptable than a police court. Nevertheless, under the circumstances, there is room for satisfaction that an arrangement which will add to the convenience of at least some citizens, and will be beneficial to local police operations, has been effected.

County System—Benefit or Block?

Is the county system of government worth preserving? It's an ancient and honorable institution which has stood the test of time since Confederation without a change. But therein lies one of its principal shortcomings. Completely inflexible, its structure does not permit it to adjust itself to changing conditions. It can grow only by swallowing and govern only by absorption. Something of an octopus, it tends to ingest whatever good comes into its path and then to create within itself growths which cannot be dislodged — growths which at times become so firmly implanted that they take control.

What the future of the county system will be is hard to tell. It is now under study by the provincial government. From that study may emerge a more flexible pattern, better geared to the times, better adjusted to a province which no longer has the similarity of existence which marked the Ontario of Confederation days.

Yet, whatever its shortcomings, the county system has decided values. It permits cooperation in larger matters which cannot be handled by any

one or two municipalities. The recent action of York County Council which made possible the extension of the Newmarket Hospital and the starting of one at Richmond Hill is a case in point. It will possibly set the stage for unification of police forces within the county, in part if not entirely, which will give the men charged with maintaining the law as good a chance to do their job as the criminal has to carry out his plans. It provides a connecting link whereby problems of several municipalities can be lumped, with an economical and efficient solution being found.

It's easy to call the county a "fifth wheel". In some ways — perhaps too many — it is. But it still has an inherent value — that of providing a meeting place where co-operation can start.

Undoubtedly the county system should be reorganized and its "Model T" complex eliminated. But it is to be hoped that whatever solution the provincial government evolves will maintain those qualities which are distinctly worth while in achieving efficiency and economy through unity.

Whose Life Will It Be?

Vaughan Township, it is quite apparent, is on the verge of prohibiting the discharge of firearms in the municipality, except for the extermination of vermin. Considerable publicity has been given to the township's intentions. No adverse reaction has been heard, therefore it must be taken that the move is one which is generally popular. As a matter of fact, what comment there has been is decidedly in favour of the ban.

This newspaper warned years ago that a ban on hunting within Vaughan, Markham, Whitchurch and King Townships was inevitable. It is, in one sense, sorry to see that it is nearing, regretting to see worthwhile outdoor fun spoiled. But it must be conceded that the responsibility for such a ban rests squarely on the shoulders of those who have been completely unmindful of the rights and safety of others. Members of municipal councils have been subjected to rather uncomfortable experiences themselves and have heard, at lurid first hand, of the experiences of others. Therefore they know that there is absolutely no other course open but to prohibit the discharge of

firearms entirely. The whistle of a bullet taught many a young soldier to keep his head down. The rattle of gunshot is having a not incomparable effect on municipal legislators.

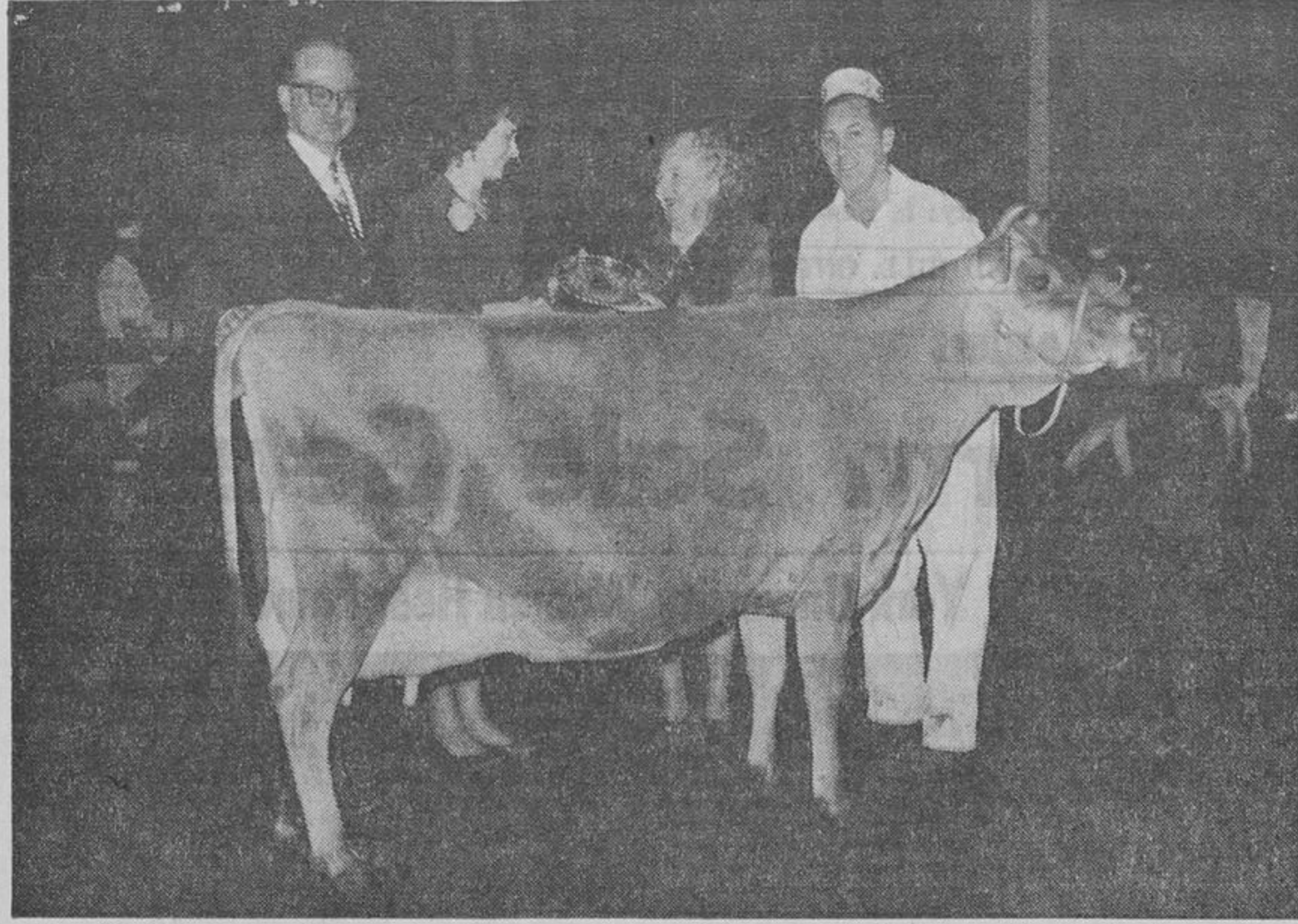
Again, the innocent must suffer. It has been proven beyond any question that those who are responsible for the dangerous situations which have come into existence are not local residents but city transients. A situation in Whitchurch Township on a recent week-end, where people of foreign extraction kept up a steady barrage of fire after sunset, some eighty shots being fired at anything and everything in half an hour, was only a specimen of the sort of thing which is occurring constantly, in all townships.

It is only a matter of time, with the mad performances which are going on in all townships, before a life will be lost. Then, of course, there will be a public outcry. A ban which should have been put on long ago will, following the time-honoured principle of locking the stable door after the horse is stolen, be slapped on without delay.

Whose life will it be?

LIBERAL CLASSIFIEDS Get Results — TU. 4-1105

Don Heads Farms Winner At Royal



Our district was again prominent among prize winners at the Royal Winter Fair. In addition to 1st and 2nd prizes, Don Head Farms won no less than three trophies in the Jersey classes — the Erle Kitchen trophy for Highest Producing Prize Winner; the Ivryn Embleton trophy for Best Udder-

ed Cow; and the Schulman trophy for Best 4-year-old from Canadian Bred Dam. Our picture shows presentation of the last-named trophy by Mrs. Margaret Schulman to Mr. and Mrs. Francis Redelmeier. The prize winning cow is DON HEAD BIJOU HELEN, held by Elmer Pemberton, longtime herdsman at Don Head Farms.

Nature Notes

By Richmond Hill Naturalists

On November 17th, at the Richmond Hill Naturalists' Club, Mr. R. Stanfield gave a concise and instructive talk on wildlife management in Northern Ontario. "North" means north of the transcontinental line where animals are found. In the period from 1930 to 1935 the beaver population was extremely low. There of Ontario's whole population, were closed seasons and trap It is known as the Patricia's, until, by 1940, the population West, from the Severn River had risen to a high density to the Manitoba border, has level. Widespread disease again lowered the numbers in 1951 but it was back to normal in 1956. We learned that the life span of the beaver is rarely above six years. The average family consists of six—two parents, two one-year-old kits, and two present year kits. Once a beaver is two years old it is forced to go out and form a new colony.

All this brings up the question: What kind of mammal population will be established ten years from now? We hope Mr. Stanfield will come back and let us know.

The club had a cool but pleasant field trip to the Botterell Woods on November 9th. Two ruffed grouse were seen, along with the usual cold-weather birds. The Kingfisher is still with us at the creek below the Mill St. Pond; a flock of meadowlarks and also some pine grosbeaks were seen on the 21st. Anyone travelling, across country, from here to Oakville, might quite easily see up to 20 hawks. A shrike and purple finch have also been reported. Rather unusual is the reported appearance of two

Second Thoughts...

by George Mayes

● Proving that yesterday's news is not necessarily dead.

Toronto's by-law against nose-blowing on the street is being held up until police have the authority to demand the name of anyone caught blowing their nose improperly. . . . And police records are going to show the names of an awful lot of people named "Snuff".

A newly-opened sewage disposal plant in Lakeview will masquerade under the name of a Water Pollution Control Centre. . . . Well, a rose by any other name still smells as. . . sweet?

It took British scientists 25 days, with a microphone deep in the North Sea, to learn that the love-calls of the herring consists of "Peep-Peep". . . . Both "peeps" were presumably from the male. The female either doesn't answer or she is hard of hearing.

Scarboro residents drawing welfare assistance for more than a year will receive an extra \$5 or \$10 this Christmas. . . . From "Seniority Claus"?

Ontario's minister of lands and forests says that some campers in the provincial parks are complaining about the lack of electricity, showers and laundromats. . . . And no fallout shelters, either!

One of the topics discussed during a seven-day telephone-talkathon by U. of T. students was: Is chastity its own punishment? . . . It looks like the kids have discovered a fate worse than a fate worse than death.

Etobicoke's Dry forces have formed a Civil Liberties committee to protest the results of the recent liquor plebiscite. . . . Civil Liberties?

Thousands of sea gulls have taken over North York's rat-infested garbage dump and the rats are either starving or leaving. "But," a report says, "North York is by no means free of rats. There were 101 complaints last month." . . . One thing we can't stand is smart rats.

Three "Soap-Box Corners" have been set aside for Toronto's open-air orators; but this seemingly democratic gesture has a catch to it — they'll have to supply their own soap-boxes. . . . And trying to talk from the top of a detergent-carton should make for some mighty short speeches.

Last Saturday Northminster United Church Couples Club held a dinner at Summit View with a view to having a race with the stork, was forced to stop in a service station to have her B.A. by. . . .

County's Warden Wants Interview Over Courthouse

In a letter written to the Attorney-General of Ontario some time ago, York County Council declared its strong objection to being forced to share in the cost of the projected Toronto courthouse, to occupy the site presently occupied by the University Avenue Armouries. The building is estimated to cost over thirteen million dollars. While York County, under present plans, would be expected to pay a large amount towards cost, it would not own any part of the building in its own right, title belonging to Metro.

County council advanced many objections, chief among them being the expense and inconvenience for York County citizens and lawyers. They would have to travel considerable extra distances, through heavy traffic, at their own expense, to have their cases heard. Warden J. V. Fry of York County has now asked Attorney-General Keelo Roberts for an interview to explain why York County wants its own courthouse. The matter will be aired again when York County Council holds its final 1961 meetings on December 12th and 13th, and it is expected that Warden Fry may have a report to make at that time.

UXBRIDGE TWP.: Reeve Earl Dowdwell has been re-elected, defeating Isaac Catherwood, former welfare officer who was dismissed by council, by 520 to 279.

Suggest "Hands Off" Policy

Rabies Hazard On Increase—MOH

The slowly increasing hazard of rabies infection in wild life and some domestic animals should not be under-rated by town and country folk in the County of York, warns Dr. Robert M. King, Medical Officer of Health for the county. Since January 1 this year, 14 positive cases of rabies have been reported in York County. Similar large numbers have been reported in neighbouring town and country folk in the counties. Simeon had had 23 rabid animals, Dufferin 16 rabid animals, Ontario County 5 rabid animals.

Haviest infection has been revealed in the fox population with skunks a close second. Haviest casualties in domestic animals have been farm cattle with dogs and cats next.

This represents a seriously growing risk of human infection on the farm and in the urban areas. The risk increases where pet animals may be allowed to run at large and possibly lack annual anti-rabies vaccination. Young children and young adults should be warned by their parents and teachers to observe a "hands off" policy in regard to stray dogs and cats. Carcasses of small animals that may be discovered on walks or hikes in the country should not be handled. In the event of unwitting exposure to possible infection, the family physician should be immediately consulted to determine whether anti-rabies vaccine is required to prevent possible fatal illness.

PLEASE NOTE:— Fri. Last Complete Show 8:30 p.m. Saturday Continuous from 6:00 p.m. Last Complete Show 8:30 p.m. Saturday Matinee Dec. 9, 2 p.m. Only

"THE LITTLE SHEPHERD OF KINGDOM COME"

Enjoy Sunday Movies Sunday, December 10, Continuous from 5:30 p.m.

ALSO MON., TUES., DECEMBER 11-12 FRANK SINATRA SHIRLEY MAE MAC LAINÉ

MAURICE CHEVALIER LOUIS JOURDAN

PLEASE NOTE, Sunday, Due to the Length of Our Feature Presentation, Last Showing of "Can Can" at 8:45 p.m.

Wed., Thurs., Dec. 13-14

CIRCLE OF DECEPTION Plus

SNIPER'S RIDGE Plus

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Acclamation \$2,000 Gift

Breakdown of Expenses Shows Election Saving

Following the statement in last week's "Liberal" that \$2,000 had been saved because of Richmond Hill acclamations which resulted in no elections being held, some citizens expressed curiosity as to how the amount could run that high. Members of the municipal staff provided the answer.

Salaries for the election, covering deputy returning officers, poll clerks, poll constables and caretakers at the public schools would cost \$1,075.

Twenty-two of what is known as "poll packages" would be required. These contain the somewhat extensive kit required at each of the polling stations. Their cost runs to \$150.92. With no elections being run this year, the supply purchased will be carried over to next year.

Election officials' certificates, miscellaneous supplies, ballot papers, cost \$270.34. Again, these will be available for another year.

Advertising of advance polls and polling stations, required by law, would total \$467.04. The total of those items is \$1,936.30 — not such a long way from the \$2,000 which it was claimed would be saved.

In addition, work of repairing ballot boxes and booths is not included. This has already been done but, again, will not have to be done next year. Not included, either, are the inevitable "sundries" which always run into a few dollars. No allowance is made for the time of civic employees — the actual cash outlay on the election itself only being taken into consideration.

The election a year ago cost approximately \$4,600 but a considerable number of questions appeared on ballots. These had to be advertised, resulting in an outlay some \$600 above normal.

The \$2,000 spent on the election, whether actual polling takes place or not, is eaten up by the voters' list — now a big affair with Richmond Hill's over 16,000 population — proclamations, legal advertisements and matters of that kind which, acclamations or no acclamations, have to be looked after. Those items are the cost of democracy — democracy which sees every eligible voter to vote for the candidate of his choice and not just

Christmas Gatherings

Start At Summit View

The approach of Christmas is beginning to bring seasonal banquet business to Summit View Gardens Restaurant, Richmond Hill. Manager Lloyd Reid reported that the first one booked was for Skyline Farms, Kettleby, which will be held on Thursday, December 7th, with 70 present.

Other functions held at Summit View included a Willowdale Gospel Tabernacle gathering last week. On November 29th the York County Holstein Club had a banquet at which 40 persons were present. On November 30th the Women Teachers Federation of Ontario held a dinner.

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Richmond Theatre

Continuous Daily from 7 p.m. (6 p.m. on Saturdays) Saturday, Children's Matinee 2 p.m.

Fri., Sat., Dec. 8-9

It's JIMMIE RODGERS as the KENTUCKY MOUNTAIN KIDI

The LITTLE SHEPHERD OF KINGDOM COME

At last the beloved adventure... in CINEMASCOPE and COLOR by DE LUKE

Plus

JIMMIE RODGERS LUANA CHILL ROGERS PATTEN WILLS

LINDA HUTCHINGS

Plus

BELL-BOTTOMED LAVERNE

Plus

Watch Your Stern

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