

Thornhill and District News

TELEPHONE AV. 5-2331

"The Liberal" is always pleased to publish items of interest contributed by its readers in the Thornhill area Our representative in Thornhill is Mrs. Margaret McLean, who may be reached by phoning AV. 5-2331.

James D. McGhee B. of M. Winner



Thornhill winner of a second-phase Bank of Montreal Canada Centennial Scholarship, worth \$1,500 a year for three years' study at the University of Toronto, is James D. McGhee, 140 Centre Street, seen at a presentation luncheon. The young Thornhill student, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. D. McGhee, received a certificate marking the award from Dr. F. E. W. Wetmore, associate dean of arts at U. of T. and chairman of the B. of M.'s national scholarship selection committee, left. The luncheon was given by Edward A. Royce, deputy general manager in charge of the bank's Ontario division, right. James is among 16 brilliant students across Canada selected from the 48 winners of \$750 awards in 1960 for first-year university study. Second-phase winners will be financed to graduation by the B. of M. Then, in 1964, eight will be selected for three-year post-graduate fellowships. Ultimately, in 1967, two major awards of \$5,000 each will be made for further study, commemorating the 100th anniversary of Canadian confederation and the 150th anniversary of the B. of M.'s establishment in 1817.

Thornhill Notes

What with the bewildering rush of Christmas and New Year's preparations your hearts are full, it is with a heavy heart that we wish you all the compliments of the season, mainly because her columns of deathless prose are written a full week before you read them. So all I can hope now is that your greeting of the New Year wasn't too enthusiastic and that by now you have fully recovered. And the very best to you all in the coming year.

And apropos of this, it is to be hoped that all the greetings and prayers for "Peace on earth, good will towards men" will be translated into positive action by all and sundry in the days to come, else they become nothing but empty phrases.

The 1st Thornhill Brownies enrolled seven new Brownies in their pack last month, holding enrollment ceremonies on December 5th, 12th and 19th. The seven new Brownies are Sally Brown, Louise Duder, Mary Goodwin, Susan Horn, Karen McCaskill, Elizabeth Smith and Barbara Jeffrey. The pack's main activity last month was preparing a fine collection of gift wrapped toys, clothing and food for a needy family near Brampton. This was delivered on December 20th and the girls' fine effort was much appreciated.

Parliament
Ian Calvert, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. S. Calvert of 111 Highland Park Avenue spent last week, from December 26th to 30th attending the Older Boys Parliament at the University of Western Ontario. A grade 10 student at Thornhill High School, Ian has been active in the Sunday school and young people's group at Thornhill Baptist Church and is now vice-president of the young peoples group there. Ian is active in other fields as well and in the recent campaign held at Thornhill High School he sold a grand total of 240 chocolate bars. As well as canvassing his own neighbourhood, he sold the bars at two factories and outside the G.E.M. Store until they told him to cease and desist.

As a result of all this hard work he won a prize of \$35.00 for selling the most chocolate bars and was happily able to use this prize money to finance his trip to the Older Boys Parliament. No-one seems to be able to tell me just what this parliament is or what it does, but I will get this information from Ian and tell you all about it next week.

Baptist Church
Dr. and Mrs. Minton C. Johnston of Thornhill Baptist Church held a party for all the young people of the church at their home on Saturday evening, December 30th. The young people enjoyed an evening of fun and lots of good food.

Dr. and Mrs. Johnston enjoyed a quiet family Christmas at their home with son Alan and wife from Oakville, son Howard and his wife from Toronto, and son Leslie home from McMaster University for the holidays.

Christmas At The House Of Concord
(By Margaret McLean)
The thirty-eight boys in residence at the Salvation Army's House of Concord began their Christmas celebrations early this year, with a turkey dinner and Christmas Party on December 12th. Guests for the evening were Commissioner and Mrs. W. W. Booth and Col. and Mrs. C. Ecott. Col. Ecott is head of the Salvation Army Correctional Services for Canada and Bermuda.

After enjoying their turkey dinner, the boys took part in carol singing and enjoyed a varied program in the gymnasium. Mr. James Lake entertained them with a half hour magic program "Gospel Magic" and a musical ensemble provided several musical numbers.

Several gifts were presented to the House, a most practical and well received one being from the British American Oil Company who contributed a compressor and a hydraulic lift to be used to expand the training provided by the service station training program of the House. The presentation was made by Mr. J. H. Hoyle.

The Arrow Greasing Company contributed greasing equipment for the service station training program also. On behalf of the North York Kiwanis Club, Mr. W. Telley presented the boys with a fine new television set. This was most welcome as the House had been renting a set since their old one broke down last September and the boys do enjoy watching T.V.

Mr. H. D. Macpherson from Downtown Rotary Club was on hand for the party and confirmed the intention of the club to provide the House of Concord with the nucleus for a herd of pure Guernsey cows, and milking equipment to go with it. Four cows have already been received with six more to follow. This will expand the cattle program of the House which up until now had consisted in the management of about 25 beef cattle and the keeping of the House in being.

Vocational Training
Along with the extensive chicken raising project, the cattle raising and service station programs are the commencement of more specialized work with the boys at the House, an attempt to reach them on a vocational basis. The service station program is carried on in a cement block, two car garage which was built entirely by the boys under supervision of a member of the maintenance staff.

Graduation
Another highlight of the evening was the graduation from the House of seven boys, leaving only 38 now in residence. At the close of the evening, the boys were given candy and other Christmas treats, and a

Will Aid H. & S. With Rinks

Consider Michigan Plan In Markham School Area

At their regular monthly meeting on December 14th, members of the Board of Trustees of U.S.A. No. 1, Markham, heard Trustee Frost's report on the Ontario Research Council on Education which he had attended, with Supervising Principal Sand, on December 9th. Principal speaker was Dr. Rushton, administrator and supervisor of the public and high school system at Royal Oak, Michigan, who gave a report on "Program Teaching" as followed in Royal Oak Schools for the past two years. This system makes use of a text book which makes a short statement, underneath which is a question about the statement and a blank space for the child to fill in the answer. The correct answer is shown on another section of the page which the child is instructed to keep covered as he works his way down through the page. Dr. Rushton stated that the system, used from grade 8 up, showed that pupils learned from 25 to 50% more quickly. Its principal advantage appeared to be that each child goes ahead at his own rate and the teacher has more time to devote to the child who is having difficulty.

"Would these texts be similar to the instruction aid sheet we have in our high schools?" enquired Chairman Parker. Mr. Sand replied that they differed in that the units of instruction were smaller.

"This is something we might consider," said Trustee Frost. "I would like to see a meeting of Mr. Sand and the other principals so this could be tried in a small way, with reports from the teachers." He noted however, that nothing could be done immediately as there was not yet enough information on the learning from slow learners, those being taught without and that slow learners were learning more quickly with TV. Trustee Frost felt on the whole that the research on this matter had been very inconclusive.

The last report given to the convention had been by Dr. Barrett of Toronto on his experience in substituting the size of classes. The experiment had been carried out at North Toronto Collegiate where history was taught to a particular class and the size of the class was gradually increased until it became in effect a lecture room. The test indicated that apparently the children did not learn any less quickly because of the size of the class. However, both Trustee Frost and Mr. Sand felt that the results of just one test were not worth much attention.

Oral French
Trustee Frost reported that Miss France, the teacher of oral French, has received her letter of permission and it is now being processed.

"Tocsin B" Exercise
Mr. Stone, as chairman of the health and recreation committee, brought to the board several recommendations arising out of the recent "Tocsin B" exercise. These were: that teachers be supplied with the two pamphlets "Eleven Steps to Survival" and "Your Basement Fallout Shelter" (these have been ordered but not yet received); that each school be equipped with a battery-operated transistor radio, that if a warning should allow 30 minutes, all students and personnel should go home, if the warning allowed less than ten minutes the students should take shelter either under their desks or in the hall, whichever was considered safest; that the teachers and maintenance staff should be trained in the handling of the fire protection equipment now in the schools; that the principals should meet and discuss plans; and that any plan of action decided upon should be reviewed with E.M.O. headquarters in Newmarket.

Will Aid Parents
Mr. Stone emphasized that any plans of the school should be in accordance with the plans of the individual homes and with York County officials. When a plan had been worked out by the principals, they would notify the parents. Trustee Stone made a formal motion that pending the drafting of a plan, each of the schools be equipped with a transistor radio, and this motion was carried. It was noted that such a radio could be used in the classroom if required at any time.

Trustee Stone also drew attention to a pamphlet received from the milk foundation detailing the facts about the Strontium 90 content of milk. It was stated, no higher than in several products and milk contains less Strontium 90 than several other foods, notably green vegetables. It was a convenient product for testing, however, and because of this the impression had been built up in the minds of the public that it contained more Strontium 90 than other foods.

The board noted that the physical education equipment had been received and was in use where possible. The Henderson Avenue Home and School Association had ordered additional equipment for their school, eight small mats, two large ones and a bench. A letter is being sent to the association thanking them for this equipment.

Will Aid Rinks
Discussion took place relative to the granting of \$50.00 to any home and school association requesting it for the construction of a skating rink. Trustee Frost

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Rambling Around

By Elizabeth Kelson
SILENCE AND PANDEMONIUM

Many people sit up to watch the gala New Year celebration at Times Square in New York City, on their television screens. They can hear the cheering, the horns tooting, and watch the confetti flying about in the air. Happy New Year, it's 1962! And in the same city and many other cities of the United States and Canada, another crowd greets the New Year. It is a smaller crowd who sits with bowed heads while the minister prays for the New Year to usher in a new era of peace. These two ways of greeting the New Year are repeated everywhere. Both of these customs date back thousands of years. In some ancient countries, people rushed into the streets on New Year's Day to dance and shout; in others, they went into their temples to ask their gods' blessings. The pagan New Year was one of the "Times Square" celebrations . . . a noisy street carnival in honor of Janus, god of the beginning of things. The Jewish New Year was one of the quiet ones . . . a day of prayer and fasting. From the pagan Romans we have taken the name of our first month and our boisterous New Year's Eve. From the Jews . . . Christians took the silence of the Watch Night Service. The real difference is what they assume about God's hearing. Janus was an all too human god . . . impressed by loud applause. The God of the Jews hears best when we are silent.

WHAT DID YOU DO WITH LAST YEAR'S CARDS?

Christmas, Easter, Valentines, Birthday, Get Well and Anniversary cards have become a part of our culture. They represent an attitude of giving to, and considering the other person by means of a beautiful card. The card is only a piece of specially treated paper but the artist has transformed it into a thing of beauty and the poet has put the inexpressible into thoughts. It is evident that we cannot go on collecting and keeping all these cards or you could soon paper a wall with them. By the time I decide what to do with them, institutions are writing to the paper begging people not to send anymore because they are swamped with them. So in order to extract the most from them, I cut them up. The plain white parts of the cards serve to make my daily grocery lists, the artistic parts I use for book marks. How pleasant it is to open a book and discover a card that instantly brings to mind the thoughts of the one who sent it. I may send you to the telephone or make you sit down and write a quick note. The verses, I put into my cook book and other books that are in frequent use. The "Cheery Hello" and the "Chin Up" message can well be the start of a good day.

VISION OF A WINTER SNOWFALL

Up to now, we haven't had any real snowfall, but it wouldn't surprise me a bit if tomorrow we were all transported into a winter wonderland. Can't you see it now? Soft, billowy snowflakes silently filling the air on their way from the dark frowning skies. The whole neighborhood of field, garden and rooftop being clothed in white, and the snow that is caught fast in the twigs and hollows of trees will seem like myriads of diamonds flung there in prodigal confusion. When that happens, the earth becomes a picture of surprising beauty, and as the world becomes quieter and quieter before the Power of Nature that brings the snow, man is made to stand still for a time. He looks out and sees that the grime and ugliness which he and his kind have helped to create is gone. Perhaps tomorrow all will be coated with grime and ugliness again, but for the moment, man is being made glad. As he gazes at his world garbed in pristine loveliness, the Peace of God steals into his soul. And he is glad!

C.G.I.T. Xmas Vesper Service Held At Thornhill Baptist Church

The National Canadian Girls in Training Christmas Vesper Service was held in Thornhill Baptist Church December 24th. During December this Vesper service was carried out by the Canadian Girls in Training in churches from the farthest Newfoundland outpost to the remotest British Columbia inlet. It has become a symbol of the national strength and unity of the C.G.I.T. movement, which now numbers over 50,000.

Girls wearing the white middie and navy skirts of the C.G.I.T. uniform use a special order of service for the occasion prepared by the National C.G.I.T. Committee. The Explorers joined with the C.G.I.T. in this service. The story, "The Messenger," was written by the Rev. Minton C. Johnston, pastor of Thornhill Baptist Church, and was read by him during the service. The Vesper service is becoming an annual event in more and more congregations and communities.

The C.G.I.T. initiation ceremony of the Thornhill Baptist group will be held on January 5th at 7 o'clock in the Sunday School Hall. Members and friends of the church are invited to join with the girls for this very interesting ceremony.

The B.Y.P.U. held a very successful Toboggan Party on the hills at the Thornhill Golf Club on December 20th. Refreshments were served at the home of the president, Joanne Wilson, where the group enjoyed games and dancing.

Crestwood Rd. News

Correspondent
Mrs. Fred St. John
75 Crestwood Road
Willowdale
Telephone AV. 5-3443

School News
Powell Road Home and School Association held their regular monthly meeting on December 18. President Miller opened the meeting. Angelo Di-Vicenzo was master of ceremonies. Mrs. Snary's grade 6 played the records, led by Mr. Linfield.

Mr. McRobert's grade 7 and 8 put on the nativity play, Mary being Judy Graham and Joseph, Bobby Higgs. The three kings were Peter Webster, Gordon Salt, Bob Pettick. Three shepherds were Barry St. John, Larry Peters and Peter Zepp, and angels were Phyllis St. John, Heather Barrett, Jo-Ann Oastyk, Melodee Bradbeer, Louise Shuster. All joined in the singing of "White Shepherds Watched", etc.

Mrs. A. St. John presented Mrs. McIntosh with a gift from all her friends at Powell Road. She taught at the school for ten years and is now at Thornhill Public School.

Parents and children joined in singing Christmas carols, after which refreshments were served by the social convener, Mrs. Fran. Geno and Mrs. O. St. John.

Neighbourhood Notes
Mr. Bernie Salt, Crestwood Road just returned from Ottawa after taking a special Civil Defence course.

Brownie News
4th Thornhill Brownies went Christmas carol singing on December 21 to several of the older folks' homes, afterwards to the home of Mrs. Rogers, Brown Owl, for cookies, hot chocolate and to exchange gifts.

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Debra Fox, Glen Cameron Ave., celebrated her 17th birthday on December 27th.

Mary Bonnici of Morgan Ave. celebrated her 7th birthday, on December 22.

Mr. Frank Baxter flew to his parents home in Montreal, with his family, on a Christmas visit which lasted from December 22 to the 27th.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Mizen of Sprucewood Dr., were hosts to their sons and daughters and their families at Christmas.

All are distantly with the exception of Charles Mizen and his wife and two children who are from Chesley Lake.

On New Year's the Senior Mizens with daughter Ada Rowe went back to Chesley Lake, with Charles to be his guest for New Year's.

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