

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, ALpine 7-1150; in Edgeley and Sherwood, Mrs. Raymond Stuart, AV. 5-1934; and in Concord, Mrs. Ruth Keffer, 285-4040.

Large "Cat-like" Animal Is Seen

Cougar Or Canine Is Big Question Following Vaughan Twp. Sightings

The six members of the Jack Ervin family, who live just south of Maple in Vaughan Township, were surprised and somewhat frightened recently to see what they believed to be a mountain lion roaming about in their back yard. Under ordinary circumstances they wouldn't have given the animal a second look, thinking it to be a dog. However, because of a number of recent happenings in the area, the people, although still sceptical about the existence of a mountain lion in Vaughan Township—three thousand miles from its native habitat in British Columbia—began to wonder if there was a remote possibility of one being in the area.

First reports of a cougar-type animal were received by Canine Control Officer James Ryan about three weeks ago. At that time, the people who reported the animal are said to have become alarmed by large cat-like tracks they had seen in the snow. Mr. Ryan passed off the report as being that of mistaken identity, that is, the people imagining they had stumbled on mountain lion tracks when actually all they had found were those of a large dog. However, a few weeks later, he again heard another report of mountain lion tracks, this time from a source seemingly unrelated to the first.

When the Ervins reported their "find," people in the area who had been aware of the unusual tracks for some weeks, began to think possibly there was something to the mountain lion stories that had been circulating for the last few weeks.

Department is Called Sunday. About 6:30 last Sunday, Mrs. Jack Ervin saw what she described as a dark-brown animal about six feet in length, with a long slender tail and short fur, walking along a frozen creek behind her house. The animal stopped once or twice, then "gracefully" jumped the creek, she said. It was the animal's catlike movements that led her to believe that the animal wasn't a dog. Mr. Ervin immediately called the Department of Lands and Forests at Maple and asked if someone could investigate. However, nobody arrived until about 12:30 the following day. By that time the snow had been sun to melt and the tracks had been spoiled. As a result, Lands and Forests officials were unable to come to a positive conclusion as to the identity of the animal. A hair sample was found, however, and this was taken for identification by Lands and Forests experts.

Bob Trotter of the Department of Lands and Forests who gave "The Liberal" a definite confirmation of the hair being that of a dog, said that his department did not become unduly alarmed about the lion situation because they receive similar reports many times during a year. "We have had dogs, cats, rabbits, bob-cats, even horses, mistaken for mountain lions. But even so, we have to check the reports because it is possible for a mountain lion to be roaming the country. One could escape from a zoo or a circus or could come from any number of places," he said.

Big Dogs Likely. One explanation for the large size of the tracks is that they could have been made by a large dog, a Siberian Mastiff, which lives in the neighbourhood. Jim Ryan, Canine Control Officer, told "The Liberal" that the marks made by this particular breed of dog, one of the largest in the world, could be mistaken for those of a large cat. Another explanation for the animal that the Ervins actually saw is that it could have been and examining the experts a large Great Dane which also lives in the area.

Maple Notes

Perhaps we should alter our usual format? Rather than listing all the Maple folk who are ill, thereby hogging all the space we should just list those who aren't sick and send sympathy and best wishes to those not named—who are indeed the vast majority.

On the same subject—if you should see me cautiously peering round the door when you come to call—I'm leaving there, really or I'm leaving those who aren't sick and send sympathy and best wishes to those not named—who are indeed the vast majority.

Home and School. Perhaps because of so much illness, the attendance at the George Bailey Home and School Association meeting, was regrettably smaller than hoped for, but the enthusiasm shown by the children and parents here made up for it. Major John Young, a physical education instructor, put several students of George Bailey Public School, through their paces as he demonstrated "How to keep physically fit without a gymnasium in the school," with calisthenics. Keeping the boys and girls, really on their toes, Major Young used a form of aptitude test where quick thinking and paying attention to each word and action of the leader, paid off. Some of the

parents were drawn in on some of these "action" demonstrations. "Simon Says" even had a fling.

The nomination committee has been working towards filling the executive posts for 1962-63 and have been successful to a point. However, if you are one who is personally interested in the home and school association, from an executive standpoint, and would like to serve, contact Secretary Jean Salmon, 60 Lancer Drive.

We hear Doug Conroy had a happy 9th birthday on March 8, when he and some friends took in a movie and party. March 11th was shared as a birthday date by Chris Moore and Peter Beecham as was March 12th by Jim Timms and Greg Shore. Robin Brock will be celebrating his birthday on March 18. Now that Roy Crook will be taking things VERY easy for the next few weeks, he is suggesting a phone extension to be put by his bed. He says "it will save Marg extra steps" but we know—she figures the paces as he demonstrated local doings via a three way line better now that he's off the town's main beat—where he always seemed to know what was going on about as soon as it happened.

Edgeley Socials

On March 1, Edgeley Women's Institute held a meeting at the home of Mrs. R. Stewart. Roll Call, "What annoys you most at public meetings?" The majority of members indicated that others chattering in the audience while the speaker was addressing them was most annoying.

A request was read from York Manor Home Auxiliary for cotton scraps, beads, buttons, old used Christmas cards and odd shaped bottles. Members decided to make a collection and send the items to York Manor.

Home Again. Mr. and Mrs. C. H. Boake and Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Naylor flew home last week after a ten-day holiday in Arizona. Mrs. Joanne Butt is also home again after a brief visit in Orangeville. While away she fell and broke her wrist. Members of the Bodker family are recuperating after having the flu and Barbara and Greta are also improving after their bout with the measles.

Meeting Notice Is Demanded. Vaughan's School Board Procedure Said Correct.

Meetings of Vaughan Township School Area Board were being held in accordance with provincial legislation and also in accordance with their own regulations, trustees decided these meetings, it was emphasized, were open to both press and public except when matters dealing with land purchases in their earlier stages, and matters affecting personnel, were being dealt with.

Experiment With Removal Of Iron In Edgeley Water.

Langstaff and Thornlea News. Correspondent Mrs. B. Lepke. Boyle Park Hockey. Boyle Park was the scene of a wild and woolly hockey game on Thursday last.

CARRVILLE. Correspondent Mrs. Bert Middleton. Rev. H. J. Veals was in charge of the service at Carrville United Church Sunday.

Concord Socials. Father & Son Banquet. The Concord Cubs' annual father and son banquet was held at Maple Community Hall on March 7th.

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in the film is employed by the authority. Although the presentation was produced by professionals, all the camera work was done by Ernest Hultay, of Downsview, who is employed by the authority as a technical assistant.

The film was shot over a 18 month period and depicts the life of a pioneer family on the Stong farm near Edgeley. Most of the buildings in the village are shown in the film. The authority plans to provide the film to schools and other groups and also show it at meetings and fall fairs.

Public notice, sufficient in advance of the School Board Meeting, pursuant to Section 42 (1) of the School's Administration Act, R.S.O., 1960, Chapter 361, and the amendments thereto. You are further requested not to hold any School Board Meeting at any time without giving such public notice sufficient in advance of each meeting. "M. Gerald Huntley by his solicitors, Atwell and Stone."

Solicitors Give Answer. Mr. Kaiser said that he had discussed the letter with the board's solicitors and had been told that the procedure which was followed was perfectly correct. "Each and every one in the township knows when and where the regular board meetings are held as covered by the by-law," said Mr. Kaiser. He reported that the solicitors had told him that no further notice was necessary unless the board was moving its meetings, both as to place and time, in an effort to keep them as secret as possible.

"This board has never, and we are not trying to, keep anything from the ratepayers," said Mr. Kaiser. The board unanimously adopted a resolution to write to the Atwell and Stone legal firm advising that the matter had been referred to its solicitors, who had advised it that its present procedure was in accordance with the act.

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