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Rambling Around

by Elizabeth Kelson

THE BEGINNING OF THE CANADIAN RED CROSS SOCIETY

The Canadian Red Cross Society was formed in 1896, although it was at that time known as the Canadian Branch of the British National Society for Aid to the Sick and Wounded in War.

The neutrality of the Canadian Red Cross was recognized in the Spanish American War when aid was offered to both Americans and Spanish. The Americans refused but the Spanish accepted.

At the beginning of the Boer War, General G. S. Rytov, the first president but at that time National Commissioner, accompanied the 2nd Canadian contingent to South Africa along with clothing and medical supplies and \$50,000 which had been collected in Canada.

After 1902, the organization became inactive until 1909 when by Act of the Dominion Parliament, the society obtained its first charter, known as "THE CANADIAN RED CROSS ACT." The Act created a specific Canadian Red Cross Society as a corporate body, in affiliation with the British Red Cross Society.

The International Committee of the Red Cross formally recognized the Canadian Red Cross Society as an independent National Society in November 1927 following Britain's recognition of Canada as an independent nation.

In 1919 the original charter was amended so that the society was authorized to expand its activities to include peacetime work. Now the charter reads "in time of peace or war to assist in the work for the improvement of health, the prevention of disease, and the mitigation of suffering throughout the world." (Mr. Ed. Butlin of Thornhill is president of the Richmond Hill Branch of the Red Cross.)

CRAZY FOODS AND CRAZY CUSTOMS

A study of the history of foods brings forth many unusual episodes and customs. It is said, for instance, that in China, the wealthy host will offer a guest twenty-four or more dishes but always a multiple of four. In Japan, the guest will make a gurgling noise when eating soup or drinking tea to show that it is being enjoyed. We learn that beans were thrown at the Devil by ancient Buddhist priests in Tokyo on Good Luck Day to cast out evil spirits, and that the American Indian placed bowls of corn meal and other foods in the burial mounds of their deceased warriors to provide for their journey to the Happy Hunting Grounds.

Among strange beliefs in connection with the uses of foods, we read that in China, brilliant cakes are made on the fifteenth of each month and eaten to increase studiousness and that the Roman soldier ate pickles to increase his health and strength. Vegetables as an aid in the cure of sickness is frequently mentioned. In rural England, it was a common belief at one time that a potato carried in the pocket was a cure for rheumatism. . . . a belief that spread to America. Doctors of the seventeenth century used the turnip as a remedy in throat infections. The Lapplanders made a broth by stripping the bark from a native pine, grinding it, and boiling it in water. The Russians made a tea out of the pine needles. Among the queer customs mentioned in connection with food is that of the peasants in Czarist Russia, who when preparing herring for dinner would first wash the fish and then drink the water. And a dinner in old Russia is described in which the menu served to the Czar included "herring cheeks, salmon lips, calves' ears, pigeons' tongues and bulls' eyes."

In medieval France when a guest overstayed his welcome, he was served a meal of cold shoulder of mutton indicating that he was no longer welcome. Our expression "giving him the cold shoulder" supposedly had its origin in this custom. In colonial days they say that potatoes were even more of a menace to the waistline than they are now, for the early cookbooks gave recipes for cooking them with butter, sugar, grape juice, dates, lemons, peppers, spices and a frosting of sugar.

It may be interesting to know that butter was accidentally developed in the days when milk was carried around in goatskins. The only way to transport milk was in goatskin containers on the backs of animals, and upon arriving at their destination, lo, they had butter instead of milk, as it had been thoroughly churned during the journey. There have been many uses for butter. Natives of Tibet make a soup of butter and drink from three to five bowls a day. In that country a forty-year old butter is used as medicine. The people in many cold regions where the grease from petroleum is unobtainable or too expensive, have used butter as a lubricant for machinery. As you may know, the first white bread was baked in England by Hugh Paddington, an English miller, because a certain nobleman wanted bread to match his tablecloth. Can you imagine that!

ONCE A TEACHER SAID TO ME

The thing I like most about teachers is their willingness to answer questions. They not only educate their young students but they educate those adult students who come in contact with them. In my high school days I depended mostly on a good memory plus a great deal of written notes. You know the type, just memorizing one fact after another. It seemed years later when I really began to think. My concept of learning has changed. That was due to a teacher who was kind enough to answer this question. "If a student listens well," I asked, "and makes a lot of notes and eventually passes the examinations, does that mean that he or she is a good student?"

The teacher leaned back in his chair, looked at me in a rather quizzical fashion. "That depends on the student," he said, "and what he is doing with his listening. You can never be sure that the listener is learning."

"Listening is important," I insisted. "Listening has its place but it is not learning," he answered, "sometimes what is being heard is just going in one ear and out the other." Anxious to pursue the matter further, I asked again, "What about memorizing notes for examinations?"

"Memorizing also has its place but it is not learning," he answered, you must think actively if you want to get anything out of your reading. Memorizing involves very little in the mind of a student, even though he may pass the test. It is more important for a student to think about what he hears or reads. He must let his mind explore with problems of history, science and mathematics and many other subjects. It is the student who explores his subject that has the upper hand in the long run."

Well, that little conversation started me thinking!



YOUR M.P. REPORTS
By John Addison

STOCK TAKING TIME

One of the most important factors in dealing with a subject is to know as much as possible about it and if we are to write on the musical activities in Richmond Hill then we must do an inventory on what we might have on hand.

In an all round musical sense we evidently have hundreds of people interested in music of some sort either actively or as interested side-liners.

We have no orchestra, also a choral society established for some time and another choral group already in the throes of starting within the next few weeks. Then there are the public schools with their very fine choirs being led by some very competent musicians, our high schools have both bands and orchestras in their daily activities.

One of our high school teachers being quite a capable musician, recently composed a piece of orchestral music and had it performed by one of the high schools in the big city.

We have our churches although in this day and age our choirs are somewhat lacking in the presentations as of old. The Lions have established a trumpet band, which I believe was the police band, there are teachers galore locally, some teaching full time and others doing a restricted effort due to other channels of activity such as making a living, etc. We have a music studio and a music shop and there must be numerous individual performers of all ages living in Richmond Hill yet finding themselves doing very little about it either as a recreation or as a hobby.

There was talk recently of forming a conservatory of music here which is admirable enough in thought and there is no reason whatsoever why we couldn't form an association of related arts in order to show, if nothing else, the side of the picture we want to see.

Remember the old saying — UNITED WE STAND, DIVIDED WE SOUND AWFUL. The point is simply this — now you can at least hear about yourselves through the graciousness and oversight of "The Liberal" and all that you have to do is to let this column know what you have in mind or what you might think about in terms of the musical idiom and thus form ourselves into something of a concrete fellowship rather than the abstract wanderings of many bands.

Soon the long winter nights will be upon us and we shall be doomed to the eternal TV sessions which in this day and age is surely a blessing but also it restricts our live activities almost to nothing. So if you have anything musically you would like us to speak about, please skip a couple of TV commercials and drop a line, or PHONE TU. 4-3852.

Discussion has been going on concerning the possible extension of Metropolitan Toronto, I have been to see the Toronto City Planning Director and the Metro Planning Director about this, in order to learn how it might affect the southern parts of York North constituency.

While Metro now ends at Steele's, the Metro Planning Area goes to the King-Vaughan town line and to the Markham-Whitchurch town line. We have been studying future development of Metro with an eye to exploring possibilities for a commuter service in the future. In addition, we have been making other inquiries about commuter services in other parts of the continent to be in a position to make recommendations when the opportunity arises.

Problem in Newmarket
Holland Landing ratepayers have approached me about pollution in the Holland River and I have discussed this problem with authorities in Ottawa. The pollution comes about through the heavy concentration of people in the Newmarket area and the lack of a sewage treatment plant. The town of Newmarket has been ordered by the Ontario Water Resources Commission to build a plant which will overcome pollution. Loans for the work are available through the OWRC and the Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

I have had correspondence with the CMHC in Ottawa in an attempt to assist in a solution to the problem. A very large sum of money is involved. The serious problem facing Newmarket ratepayers is a requirement by CMHC that the plant must be completed by March 31st, 1963 to qualify for a 25% forgiveness clause. It is almost a physical impossibility for financing to be arranged and for construction to be done in such a short time.

I have approached the corporation seeking an extension and have been formally advised that the time limit cannot be changed without an amendment by act of Parliament. Such forgiveness would, of course, mean substantial relief to Newmarket ratepayers.

I shall pursue this further to determine whether it can be brought before Parliament in time to benefit the Newmarket project.

Physical Fitness
Schomburg people have been interested in a grant from the Physical Fitness Council toward Schomburg arena. The grants are made primarily for leadership training and not for facilities. Thus, I have suggested that consideration be given to the establishment of leadership schools for fitness in the area. Such schools are eligible for subsidies under the Act. I am following the matter in the hope something can eventually be done to qualify for a grant.

This is all for now. The next report will be from Parliament in Ottawa.

Sincerely,
John Addison

THE MUSIC BOX

Ray Stephens

Conflict: the history of the Korean War, 1950-1953, by Robert Leckie (Putnam). E. J. Kahn called the Korean conflict the "peculiar war", but we have had to wait the traditional decade for satisfactory historical examination of the Korean events, which we are now receiving in the Army and Marine combat histories. Mr. Leckie has provided, from the information of solid histories, and numerous personal narratives, an excellent one-volume history, covering all the necessary points from Korea's background as a constant pawn in large-power struggles to its present day uneasy truce and internal turmoil.

If You Would Be Happy, by Ruth Stout (Doubleday). This 'how to be happy though human' book is better than most. This author has distilled a large amount of personal philosophy into her writing, but offers no pat answers, no formulas. She is content to raise questions of values, standards, and relationships to others, but mainly to one's own self. One chapter entitled with "Humble Joys are Better than None" deals with pleasures presented through the five senses. Others deal with our thoughts and emotions.

Nine Saturdays Make A Year, by David Cameron (Doubleday). Big-time college football has become big business. Author Cameron obviously has considerable inside knowledge of the pressures on coaches from alumni, students, and families. The novel is about one season at Atlantic University in upstate New York. The story of Coach Burke's decline and fall is a modern commentary on one aspect of the American sporting world.

The Young Wife, by David Martin (Macmillan). The Greek community in Australia provides the setting for this novel, and the bride of the title is a Cypriot girl who has emigrated in accordance with the matchmaking custom to marry a husband whom she has never seen. The author paints an interesting picture of the immigrants' loyalties, their connections with the Cypriot struggle for independence, and the problems of adjustment which they face in their new surroundings. The portraits of the Australian professor of archaeology and his wife are closely associated with the Greek community and are an indication of the author's sense of the inward life.

The Birds of Paradise, by Paul Scott (Morrow). This novel, contemporary in tone and theme, is an exercise in memory. The leading character has spent an exotic youth as son of an official in one of the lesser princely states of India, and has had a hard war as a prisoner of the Japanese. To recapture his youth and the less satisfying life which followed the hero, a successful London executive, whiles away a year's sabbatical writing a memoir on an obscure island.

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Book Reviews From The Richmond Hill Public Library

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Convention Travel Outside Ontario

In the early part of this year Richmond Hill Town Council as a general rule decided to restrict convention travel by members of council and town officials to those conventions held within Ontario. Designed as a move to keep the expenditure of public funds on convention travel within manageable limits it was certainly a step in the right direction. However after establishing the policy a majority of the members of council saw fit to turn around and make three exceptions to the rule. Industrial Commissioner Robert Langford was granted permission to attend a convention in the United States, while Building Inspector Jack Hollowell and Police Chief R. P. Robbins were granted permission to attend conventions in Western Canada. Due to personal reasons Mr. Hollowell didn't attend his convention.

At a time when property taxes are at a record high ratepayers expect something more than the illusion of economy in the handling of public funds. If council intends to restrict convention travel to within this province, then it must be prepared to support its own motion. If it doesn't then it should either amend or rescind the present resolution.

The taxpayers of Richmond Hill are entitled to a detailed accounting of convention expenses. Such questions as how much was the 1962 budget figure for conventions? And of this total figure how much has been spent to date are all questions that should be answered. It would also be of interest to know how the 1962 figure compares with convention costs in past years.

The whole matter of convention expenses should be the subject of a thorough investigation and review by council as requested by Councillor John MacDiarmid.

Young men represent a segment of the community's population and have common problems and ideas which differ in many respects from those of the general population. While they make take part in other group activities and frequently do, their own aims cannot be fully developed other than through an organization exclusively for young men.

Though other organizations, having no age barrier, have every right to assume that they do not need self-development as part of their programs, the fact remains that the young man entering community life needs a large amount of civic and business training, both of which involve capabilities that his elders have attained.

Community prestige that stems from long residence and mature wisdom have too often blocked a young man's right to undertake leadership responsibilities. In other organizations, youth is a handicap in the selection for leadership positions. Older and more experienced men are available and are chosen for these positions unless an exceptionally outstanding young man happens to present himself. Young men with latent leadership qualities that need development have little chance in a general organization to win positions where they can get the practical experience they need.

Without an organization of their own, the majority of young men do not join other organizations. Many leaders have been lost because their abilities and capabilities have been allowed to lie dormant.

The junior chamber of commerce is an organization that needs young men; but, more important, young men need the junior chamber.

— Peter Pfennig, President
Richmond Hill Junior Chamber of Commerce

Guest Editorial

Just what is the junior chamber of commerce? The junior chamber of commerce is an international organization. To my way of thinking all other organizations, including ours, are based on the premise that there is greater power for accomplishment in unified effort rather than in individual effort. This is merely practicing the age-old adage: "United we stand, divided we fall".

If the junior chamber is like any other organization in this respect why join it? It has a large membership, so surely there must be some attraction. There is! But this particular attraction is better termed a distinction in that ours is a nationally and internationally recognized organization exclusively for YOUNG men. This means that the membership, leadership and direction of the organization from the top-ranking national officer to the newly inducted member, is confined to young men.

The junior chamber was once defined: "A supplementary educational organization wherein the young men of any community may join together in friendly spirit to inculcate civic consciousness into membership by means of active participation in constructive projects which will improve the community, the region, the nation and the world".

By this definition a dual purpose is indicated. Firstly there is the improvement and development of the community through the organized effort of its young men and secondly the improvement and development of the individual member and the training for civic and business leadership.

This then, presents the picture of a truly unique organization in that it was designed to meet the needs of the young man. No community is over-organized or even adequately organized if no provision is made for the training of its young men and the utilization of their abilities to the betterment of the community.

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"Dear Mr. Editor" County Assumes Bayview Avenue May 1 Next Year

WANTS INVESTIGATION CONVENTION EXPENSES

Dear Mr. Editor:
I was very interested to read in last week's issue of "The Liberal" that Councillor John MacDiarmid asked town council for an accounting of convention expenses.

I quite appreciate that a mayor, reeve or councillor gives a great deal of time in public service and a convention trip at public expense may in some way help compensate them for their sacrifice. I know too that the practice can grow to startling proportions and get quite out of hand. I have heard of wives and families accompanying mayors and officials at public expense and I think this is a very dangerous practice. I do not know that it ever has happened in Richmond Hill and I hope that it never will, but the way to avoid abuses is just what Councillor MacDiarmid has asked for and that is a strict accounting.

Municipal taxes today are a real problem for most ratepayers and the ever-increasing levy is causing real concern to a great many people. It is just one more increase year after year and many are asking where it is going to stop.

In many homes it is quite a problem to scrape up the money to meet tax payments, and no one is going to feel very happy if there are any unnecessary expenditures. If a mayor, councillor or town official travels across Canada to the United States or abroad we want some pretty convincing argument that the expenditure will bring some positive benefit to the taxpayers of Richmond Hill.

Thanks, Councillor MacDiarmid, we will be most interested to know what attended what conventions this year and how much it cost the taxpayers.

Walter Scudis,
295 Blue Grass Blvd.
NEW RESIDENTS APPRECIATE WELCOME WAGON
Dear Mr. Editor,
We wish to voice a word of appreciation to the president and members of the Welcome Wagon.

We were pleasantly surprised, when on answering a knock at the door, to see the friendly hostess with her gaily decorated basket.

We found the basket to contain gifts of welcome, pamphlets and other items conducive to making us acquainted with your town and its interests.

To everyone affiliated with the Wagon, its kindly hostess and staff we say thank you.

From personal knowledge we would say that your friendliness and courtesy would be highly appreciated by all newcomers to your town.

Mr. and Mrs. Carl Ryan,
Apt. 6,
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County Assumes Bayview Avenue May 1 Next Year

York County will take over Bayview Avenue, Bathurst Street, Don Mills Road and Egypt Sideroad, Richmond Hill Council was told Monday night.

Takeover date will be May 1, 1963. The Toronto and York Roads Commission are expected to take over Bayview, Bathurst, and Don Mills from the county.

Proposed improvements of Bayview which would follow the takeover were also discussed by council.

Indications are that a four-mile section of Bayview will be widened after the takeover.

Cost of the expected widening would be \$574,000.

Mayor James Haggart criticized plans for widening the street. "Our credit won't stand the added cost. We haven't got the money to pave four lanes. Two lanes are adequate. We don't want to make the same mistake we made with Markham Road."

A tax levy of three-quarters of a mill for three years would pay for the construction.

Deputy-reeve Tom Broadhurst supported Mayor Haggart's criticism while Councillor Alex Campbell supported the widening plans.