

The Liberal



An Independent Weekly: Established 1878

Subscription Rate \$3.50 per year; to United States \$4.50; 10c single copy
Member Audit Bureau of Circulations
Member Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association
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"Authorized as second class mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa"

Thanksgiving 1962

Next Monday is Thanksgiving and most families will mark the occasion with the traditional turkey dinner complete with all the trimmings. Thanksgiving is a North American observance dating back to the landing of the Pilgrim Fathers on the shore of Massachusetts. With a firm belief in God these early settlers took time to thank our Lord for a bountiful harvest.

Shouldn't we in the troubled and uncertain state the world finds itself today take time not only to thank our Creator for the produce of our farms but also for the Christian heritage we as a nation enjoy. Unfortunately, too many of us are prone to take our Christian tradition and freedom of worship for granted.

We can attend the church of our choice without fear of reprisals from a hostile government. No dictatorship forces us into bitter compromises in order to keep our churches

open. Freedom of worship is linked with our historic struggle for parliamentary government and free ballot. The Christian church has been in the forefront of the fight for individual rights and social and economic justice. Society today would have precious little freedom or respect for the dignity of man if it wasn't for the teachings of our Lord and Saviour.

The winds of change are blowing hard through many parts of the world today. We in Canada are not torn by war or revolution or such natural calamities as famine or earthquake.

However, regardless of whatever the future holds for us as a nation, with the effects of automation, nuclear energy, and biological discoveries, let us not lose sight of our Christian heritage and let us at this Thanksgiving 1962 reaffirm our faith in God.

Education Costs Will Triple Next Eight Years

A gloomy forecast for the small homeowner is contained in a statement by the Minister of Education for Alberta, speaking to the Canadian Education Association. The minister A. O. Aalborg said that the cost of education in Canada will almost triple by 1970 to total \$3.6 billion. This, he continued, would represent ten per cent of national personal income.

Mr. Aalborg likened the course of education in Canada to a car climbing a steeply graded mountain road with the engine starting to boil from the strain. He said there are no plateaus ahead in sight where it would be possible to take a breather.

In the years between 1954 and 1961 students in Canadian schools increased in number from 3,000,000 to 4,100,000, according to Mr. Aalborg. The increasing number of babies born each year insures that the number of children requiring an education will continue to grow at an alarming rate from year to year.

A vivid example of the popula-

tion explosion still taking place in Richmond Hill, and which will continue to augment the burden of providing accommodation and teachers by the various school boards, was the statement made at a recent meeting that three homes in a Richmond Hill subdivision contain nineteen children, who will have to be educated. This is more than half a classroom.

The only prospect for relief from increasingly heavy taxation for school purposes the property owner has is a considerably larger assumption of educational costs by higher levels of government. Public, separate and high school boards may also help by cutting costs to the bone, and resisting pressure to add "frills" to buildings and curriculum. We are not advocating elimination of those things which are necessary to provide a good, well-rounded education, but of extras, the total cost of which may well prove more than we can afford in the face of providing education for millions and millions of young Canadians.

"Dear Mr. Editor"

ARE WE PAYING OUR MAYOR TOO MUCH?

Dear Mr. Editor: An item in the metropolitan press recently should give Richmond Hill taxpayers food for serious thought. The news item was dated St. Thomas and stated that city council raised the mayor's salary to \$2,500.00 and the salaries of aldermen to \$550.00.

St. Thomas is a city with a population much larger than Richmond Hill and my interest was aroused in view of the fact that early this year our town council unanimously raised the salary of our mayor to \$4,250. The change was effective January 1st, 1962, and the former salary of our mayor was \$2,500. Richmond Hill taxpayers are understandably concerned with a tax rate which continues to increase year after year and this

concern mounts as we soon will face the responsibility of electing a council for next year.

Judging by the St. Thomas news item one reason for our tax increases may be that we treat ourselves to the luxury of too much high priced help. It is notable that St. Thomas City Council made the increase effective next January before which time the electors will have the opportunity of expressing their approval or disapproval. This manner of dealing with council salaries was very different from the action of our town council in bringing a salary increase right after they were elected. I am sure many taxpayers in Richmond Hill will wonder why we pay our mayor \$4,250.00 when the mayor of the city of St. Thomas gets only \$2,500.00. James Grainger, Yonge St. S.

THE MUSIC BOX

Ray Stephens

THE ORCHESTRA STARTS ITS SECOND YEAR

Sunday night, September 23rd, the Richmond Hill Symphony Orchestra started on the second year of musical activity and under the able baton of conductor Arthur Burgin, a most pleasing initial rehearsal was experienced.

At this stage of construction there is still the unknown factor of exact membership since many new faces continually show up to add to the strength of the musical group. In later rehearsals the group will take on form as far as the various chairs of musicianship are concerned, however, there is no lack of willing and capable musicians at present and before long the orchestra will appear in public as a first rate musical organization and one to be proud of.

The continuation of the orchestra is not without problems, even though they be considered as pleasant ones, but when one realizes that in every case each member provides his or her, own instruments even as at last year's concert right down to the expensive timpany and percussion equipment. Mr. Burgin has been more than involved by maintaining a musical library without which there would be no sound, thus no orchestra. The Department of Education with offices on Jarvis Street in Toronto maintains a fairly adequate music library for orchestras such as this and while by no means complete it has been a big help to Mr. Burgin in these stages of operation.

This first rehearsal also saw the first executive take office with Mr. Joseph Rabinowitch as president, George Moseley as the vice-president, Mrs. Beth Harwood as secretary-treasurer, Gerald Longworth as membership chairman and in addition three directors, Mr. George Burgin, Mr. Jack Larkin and Mr. Frank Carr, were elected.

So now the orchestra in its second year of activities is taking shape. With the advent of such cultural activities taking place here in Richmond Hill the major problem facing the future will be a proper place to show off our "wares" and this would mean a concert hall or auditorium suitable for such occasions. Perhaps we too might have our 'Lincoln Centre' as was opened this month in New York City. But then if it took New York that long we must need be patient. The O'Keefe Centre certainly solved major problems in Toronto and in our own comparative way we should also be looking into the future when beautiful parks and concert halls become a way of life and not a taxpayers' nightmare.

Second Thoughts...

by George Mayes

● Yesterday's news is not necessarily dead.

Richmond Hill's "approved in principle" swimming pool is in the hands of a pool committee. Let's do it up right and also appoint a diving board.

"Red" Kelly, Liberal M.P. and (M.L.) says he has taken his skates to Ottawa and hopes to find somewhere to skate. Well, in this case he could go along with Mr. Diefenbaker if he doesn't mind thin ice.

Progress Department

An American doctor has informed a group of 150 G.P.'s in Toronto that they are being replaced by a new type of practitioner, the F.D. or family doctor. That old stocking-stuffer the Gyroscope is being freshly marketed as: The Torque-a-Top — The Amazing Space-age Toy!

Ontario's portable pension plan is being opposed by a religious sect on the grounds that they are against ALL forms of insurance... Wonder how they feel about garbage collection?

Magistrate Hollinrake complains that Richmond Hill's new magistrate's court isn't getting any genuine criminals... It's the lousy bus service!

After all these years of avoiding the kisses of European and Canadian beauties Nate Phillips was finally kissed at the firemen's convention — by an Hawaiian girl... Isn't that a hula-va note?

Maybe Toronto football fans should start to call their de-feetball team the Argo-nots.

Southern Alberta is readying 1200 sheep for a special shipment to Cuba... Looks like Fidel is running out of Russian wool to pull over the Cuban eyes.

Sir Oswald Mosley, after being booed, hissed, and hanged in effigy in Buffalo, says he would be glad to speak in Canada if his reception were as good... And this is one part of Canada that would like to improve Buffalo's "reception".

North York has decided it won't have any sidewalks on a street known as Moccasin Trail... Sort of like Toronto's John St., eh?

An economist from the University of British Columbia says the Canadian dollar will likely remain cheaper than the U.S. dollar for 40 years... Unless, in 40 years, the Canadian dollar IS the U.S. dollar.

Rambling Around

by Elizabeth Kelson

DIRECTOR FOR THE CANADIAN BUREAU FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF MUSIC — DICK EDMUNDS

Richard Edmunds, 72 Centre Street West Richmond Hill, is certainly no stranger to "The Liberal." His name has been associated with cultural activities in the district for the past 24 years. He is manager of the music department of the Canadian National Exhibition.

He began his church choir work in 1902. He was associated with Gitz Rice in 1916, and organized the Toronto Boulevard Singers in Toronto in 1933. He has directed choirs in St. Timothy's Anglican, and Chalmers Presbyterian Church. He has been baritone soloist for Woodgreen United Church and the St. James Bond Church of the Messiah. He was choir director in St. Mary's Anglican Church from 1939 to 1940. His vast experience in the world of music was put to good use when he took charge of the Richmond Hill Choral Society 1940 to 1941 and he has directed the York Choralists from 1958 to the present time.

Mr. Edmunds has also been known for his interest in the Scouting movement and in the Lions Club activities. He was Scoutmaster of the Richmond Hill Boy Scout Troop from 1939 to 1940. He became Assistant District Commissioner of the York Central District Boy Scouts Association from 1941 to 1950. Following this he was the district commissioner of the South Lake Simcoe District from 1951 to 1952. He joined the Richmond Hill Lions in 1931 and he became district governor in 1951.

Mr. Edmunds joined the Canadian Bureau for the Advancement of Music in 1953. He explained that the bureau was organized to promote music for its value to the individual and the community. The work of the bureau is to assist in forming choral and orchestral work in schools and was one of the main factors, years ago, in having music made part of the school curriculum.

"Ever since I joined the bureau, this has been a part of our work," said Mr. Edmunds. "It is through our efforts that the Province of New Brunswick agreed to make music a credit in matriculation examination."

It is Mr. Edmund's opinion that in many cases the home and school associations do not take enough interest in the music program of the school. Music is one of the real outlets for people; gives them a means of self-expression second to none. But only through the weight of public opinion can music reach the importance it deserves.

In conclusion Mr. Edmunds said, "Parents must also be interested to have their children participate in music. If a child is studying music, certain set times should be laid down for practice. Both parents and child must be in agreement on the time, and then the parent must see to it that it is carried out. In addition, parents should be sure practice does not become drudgery. It is better to have two short practices a day, rather than one long one." (Next week, Mr. Edmunds will explain the activities of the bureau.)

THANKSGIVING

"Let us come before his presence with thanksgiving,"... Psalm 95:2. How ancient these words are, but even so they still apply in the twentieth century. Thankfulness to a Supreme Being for life's benefits was a primary institution of man, and it was told in the literature and religious creed of every race. The act of giving thanks to God lifts us into a right relationship with life. We recognize a Power greater than we are and yet not separate from us; a Power that bestows abundantly according to our belief and acceptance. On the National day of Thanksgiving, let us turn our thoughts to God and say with the poet: "Guardian, Guide and Stay, Thy word our law, Thy paths, our chosen way."

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Pamphlet Tells Of Early Pioneer Coach Lines

(By M. J. Dawson)
"Hurrah for a cheap ride. Palmer's Bus Line not to be beaten! The subscriber, thanking the public for past patronage announces that he has reduced the fares on his bus line to and from Toronto, and that no pains will be spared to accommodate the public either in carrying passengers or parcels and that my drivers are ever ready to attend to the errands of patrons. This Bus leaves Elgin Corners and Richmond Hill every morning (Sundays excepted), and returns from Toronto in the afternoon."

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which carried the mail from the local post office to the exhibition grounds.

The Palmer House owned and operated by the same John Palmer and a regular stagecoach stop, stood on the corner of Yonge and Arnold Streets. Wm. Harrison, Richmond Hill historian of the late nineteenth century, describes this hotel as "built with an old-fashioned fireplace with its capacious chimneys, wide-brick jams and broad stone hearth. The landlord, anxious to please, would, as an encouragement to each new arrival with his long iron poker give an extra poke to the back-log and look with self satisfaction on the great blaze. The cheery fireplace was the 'news depot' of those days, where markets and events past and passing were discussed, interspersed with personal experience of 'roughing it in the bush' by the neighbors." The frame hotel of 1876 was later replaced by a brick building now housing stores and apartments.

The bill was printed by The Herald, predecessor of "The Liberal" which dates back to July 1, 1878. The first newspaper published in Richmond Hill was the York Ridings Gazette on June 12, 1857. Later the same year, under new ownership the name was changed to "British Tribune". In March, 1858, the plant again changed hands, and the paper came out as the "Commonwealth". A year later, it became "The York Herald." From 1863 to 1865 publication was suspended, although the job printing department continued to operate. "The Herald" expired in the early part of 1878.

The Ford publication, which features this handbill, contains an interesting story of stagecoaching and its importance in the development of our country. Written by Marsh Jeanneret and Eleanor Harman. "No Faster Than A Horse" says in part of stagecoaching:

Stagecoaching was more than a name attached to the closed carriages that travelled between the urban centres in pioneer days. It described a highly complicated and well-organized system of posting houses at regular intervals

along every route being served, where fresh teams of horses had to be ready to be "hitched in" the moment that the posting horn from the incoming stage could be heard.

Driving a four-horse team from the top of a weaving stagecoach was no job for weaklings, and the men who held the reins were for the most part a rugged, hard-bitten lot.

Quoting people who had of necessity used this means of transportation the writers describe a stagecoach as "a mighty heavy, clumsy convenience, hung on leather springs, and looking for all the world as if elephants alone could move it along."

One reason why the stagecoaches were not sprung to give a softer ride was that the roads of the day would have bounced lighter vehicles into the ditch or have catapulted top-side passengers to the ground before they had travelled half a mile.

Stagecoach travel was a necessary evil, unpleasant at the best of seasons. But in the spring, when the snow melted and the frost was coming out of the ground, comfort was at its lowest and a new adventure lay in store at every hollow in the road. This was the terrible time of year when it was too late for sleighs and too early for wheeled vehicles of any kind.

Concluding, the writers say "The traveller who pulls off the road to rest beside any main highway today may just possibly hear the clatter of galloping hoofs and the rattle of coach wheels as he drowns off. And if the time of day is right, he may even hear the piercing note of a post-horn blown to warn the hostler at the next post-house down the road to have a fresh team of horses ready for the approaching stagecoach."

We wonder what the ghostly drivers and passengers of these phantom coaches think of the smooth surface, the wide expanses, the easy grades and the teeming traffic of Yonge Street in 1962.

HURRAH FOR A CHEAP RIDE
PALMER'S BUS LINE
NOT TO BE BEATEN!
THE SUBSCRIBER, THANKING THE PUBLIC FOR PAST PATRONAGE ANNOUNCES THAT HE HAS
REDUCED THE FARES TO AND FROM TORONTO,
And that no pains will be spared to accommodate the public either in carrying passengers or parcels, and that my drivers are ever ready to attend to the errands of patrons. This Bus leaves Elgin Corners and Richmond Hill every morning (Sundays excepted), and returns from Toronto in the afternoon.
GOING TO TORONTO: Leaves Elgin Corners 7:15 a.m., Richmond Hill 7:30 a.m., Arrives in Toronto 10:15 a.m.
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