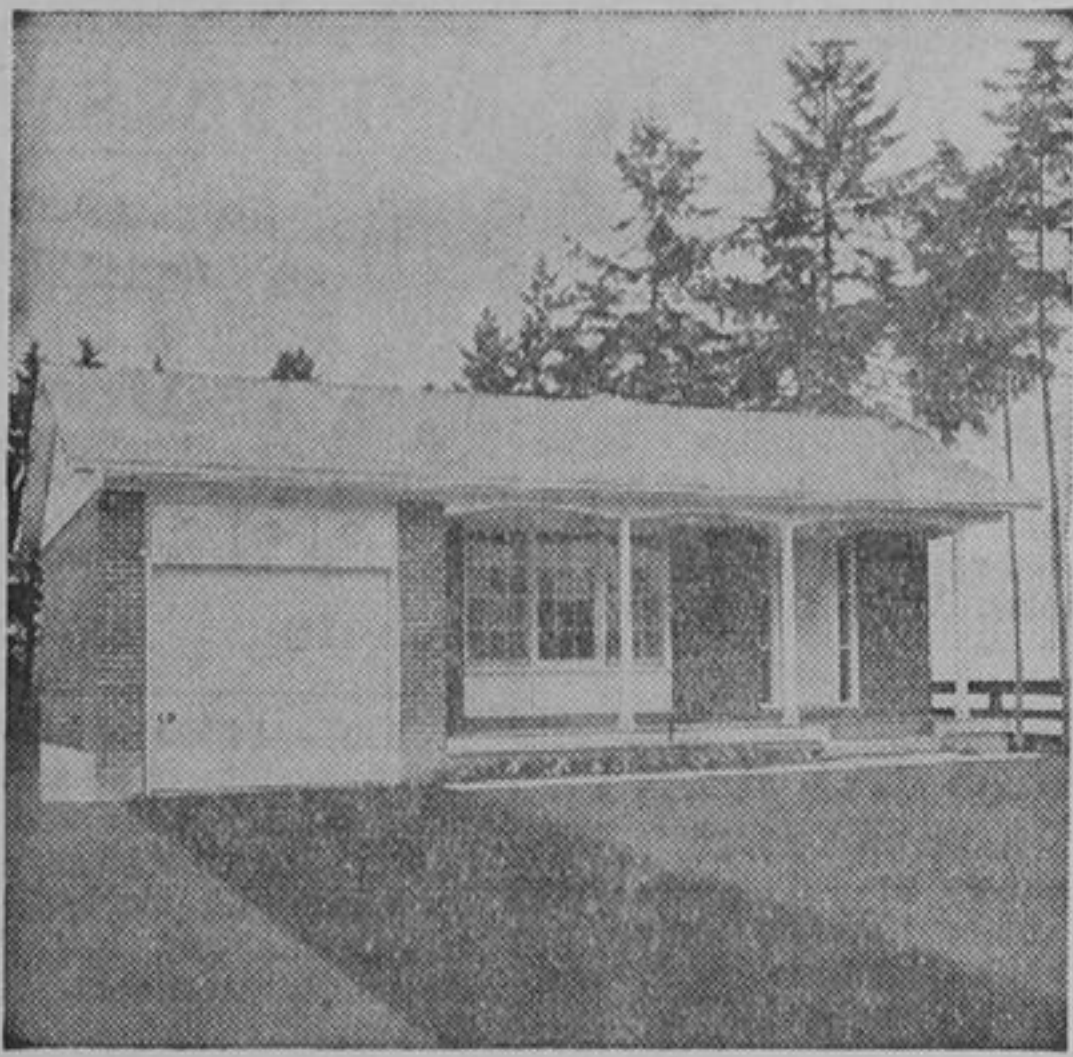


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Harry Simpkins Early Life In Thornhill

(By Doris M. Fitzgerald)

When we asked Mr. Harry Simpkins if he remembered anything about the Thornhill Old Boys Re-union in September, 1910 he replied, "Oh yes, but I was just a small boy then. I loved music and was much more interested in the Toronto harpist and his big instrument than in the visiting old-timers. After the festivities in the grounds of the Thornhill Mineral Springs were over, the harpist began to play on Yonge St., in the middle of the village, and soon drew a crowd who sang old songs with him until early morning. I stayed for a while and got a good spanking at home for being out so late."

As he grew up Harry Simpkins found useful outlets for his musical talent. He joined the choir of Holy Trinity Anglican Church, and became a trumpet player in the Thornhill Band. He recalled that there were about 23 men in the band which was conducted by Tom Griffiths, an Aurora foundryman. They had no uniforms but wore dark military caps, and drove around the country in a two horse van to play at picnics, at places like Vellore, Teston, Victoria Square and York

Mills. On Saturday evenings they gave concerts in Thornhill, on a platform in front of the building now owned by Murray Motors. Those were busy nights in the village. Horses and bugles would be tied to hitching posts and fences on both sides of the road while farmers and their families chatted with friends on the board walk, did business in the general stores, the hotels, saddlery, shoemaker, milliner and blacksmith shops, or listened to "Marching Through Georgia", and other lively tunes offered by the local musicians. Harry Simpkins believes that he and his brother Percy, who played the alto horn, and a friend, Fred Chambers, now of Toronto, who played the trumpet, are the only surviving members of this popular band.

We wondered if Mr. Simpkins remembered the old village fire engine which used to be kept at the back of Victoria Hall. "Yes," he said, "as soon as the bell on the Thornhill Hotel sounded a fire alarm, men rushed to drag the engine out, and to fill the tank from the big cistern located near the weigh scales, just south of the corner of Centre and Yonge Sts. It took six men

on each side to operate the pumps. When I last saw it about 40 years ago it was being pulled by a team of horses down by the river. I guess some farmer was using it to draw water for his stock."

Mr. Simpkins can now be classed as an old-timer himself, not because of age but because he was born, and educated in Thornhill, before the era of city commuting began. His father, John Simpkins, came to Canada from Suffolk, England, as a young man and found work with Mr. Anthony Bowes of Concord. Then he met, and married, an English girl from Birmingham, and they raised a family of four sons and three daughters of whom only he, and Percy, retired custodian of Thornhill Public School are now living.

Harry Simpkins farmed for a period, worked for 16 years for the ladies golf club, and was sexton of Holy Trinity Anglican Church for three years. Latterly he has been employed by the village, and takes great pride in his work around the park in the summer. When passing the tennis courts one day we noticed him carefully surveying a particularly fine flower bed in which vandals

had been busy. The heads of a number of giant marigolds had been nipped off and thrown against the high fence where they lodged in the wire mesh like golden snowballs. "It just seems as if some people do not want things to look nice," he said rather sadly. "Here we have a lovely park, free for all to enjoy, but branches are broken from the trees and shrubs, flower beds are trampled and destroyed, and the grass is littered with refuse." Regrettably we both agreed that though Thornhill has never been more prosperous, nor better off for educational, and recreational facilities, there is a strange lack of civic pride, and good manners on the part of some adults, and young people. Besides the wanton damage in the park, the main streets have never been so untidily strewn with cigarette boxes, tissues, newspapers, candy wrappers, and, deliberately smashed pop bottles. And it would be worse if business men did not continually pile up rubbish discarded on their premises by residents, who would not think of throwing it on their own grounds. Paul Sawyer and Harry Simpkins collect a truckload of such trash

every Saturday morning, but they have many other duties to perform around the village, and they cannot cope with the myriad scattered shards of glass which are danger to small children walking to school, and ruin-

ous to bicycle, and motor car tires.

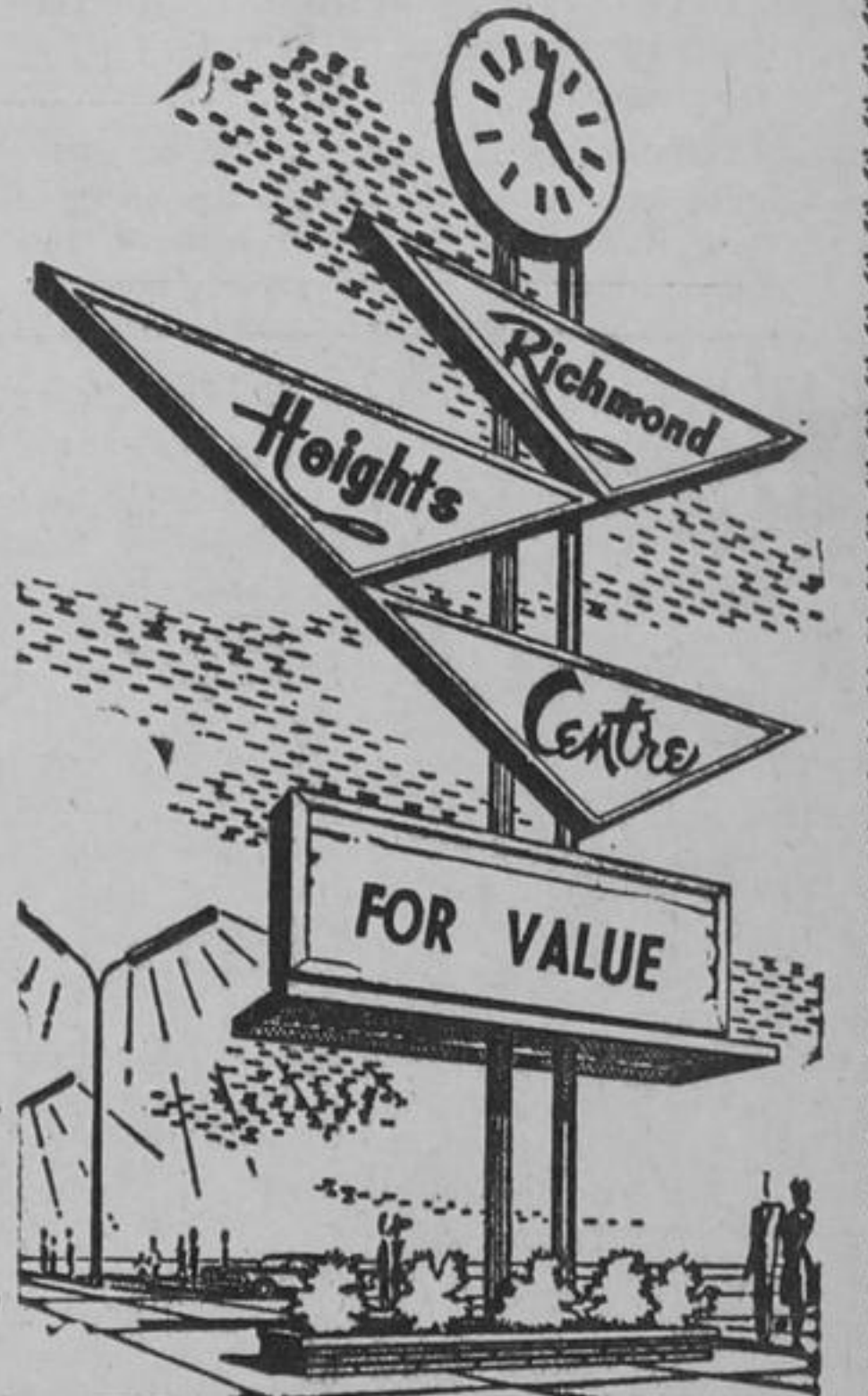
Mr. Simpkins is a long time member of Thornhill Orange Lodge, and of the Ancient Order of Foresters which used to have a local lodge. He and his wife who

was formerly Verna Pickering of Willowdale, have three married children, Thelma, Mrs. G. Chambers, and Eva, Mrs. Walter Hughes, of Thornhill, and William, of Willowdale, and seven grandchildren.

SANTA CLAUS PARADE SAT. DEC. 8th

10 A.M.

West on Markham Road, North on Yonge To The Richmond Heights Centre



BE SURE TO VISIT SANTA IN HIS HOUSE IN THE MALL
 12 NOON TO 9 P.M. DAILY

CHRISTMAS STORE HOURS
 Remember All Stores Will Be Open From 9 a.m. To 9 p.m. Starting Monday, December 10th Two Weeks Before Christmas.

CHILDREN Don't Forget To Write To Santa And Deposit Your Letter In Santa's Mail Boxes Conveniently Located At The Centre.
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RICHMOND HEIGHTS CENTRE

Thornhill Secondary Series

Native Writers Portray Feeling Of Loneliness

In the third of a series of lectures entitled "Impact" senior students of Thornhill Secondary School had as their guest speaker on November 14th, Mr. Robert Weaver, special programs organizer for the CBC. He is in charge of the CBC's Wednesday Night which introduces new young writers onto the air and is editor of Tamarack Review which prints the work of both established professional writers and newcomers. George Lamming, the West Indian writer who spoke to the students last spring has called him the father of his new book about Canada.

In discussing Canadian writing and writers, Mr. Weaver called Gabrielle Roy's latest book "Hidden Mountain" an investigation of Canadian loneliness and expressed the opinion that most Canadian writers portrayed this feeling of loneliness. It was much more common even in poetry he felt, in such writers as E. J. Pratt, Morley Callaghan, Brian Moore, Hugh Garner and John Burt Foster, all, in writing of Canada, seemed to feel it was a lonely place to be. Several of the students could not understand why these writers felt Canada lonely and were compelled to write of loneliness. Mr. Weaver gave the opinion that Canadian society was "staggeringly materialistic much

more so than the States" and that possibly because of this the writers felt cut off from any real spiritual feeling.

Mr. Weaver felt that the Canada Council has been a great force in developing Canadian culture, keeping many play societies in existence and encouraging Canadian writers. "Any really good manuscript gets published," he stated. The publishing business was in good shape in Canada, he felt, although magazine publishing was not in such good condition largely as a result of advertising competition with TV.

There is little place in TV for beginning writers, Mr. Weaver felt. A one and a half hour play costs something like \$50,000.00 and even a half hour drama costs \$25,000.00 to produce. Consequently the producers must feel sure that it will come off before they can invest this amount of money in it.

The students appeared interested in hearing Mr. Weaver and had several questions for him. It is not quite clear however whether these lectures are for the benefit of the students or the staff as much of Mr. Weaver's time was taken up justifying his statements to members of the staff.

"Dear Mr. Editor"

(Continued From Page 2) p.m., and some at the noon hour. In two areas we have permission to teach from 8 a.m. to 9 a.m.

We must remember we do have permission to teach at 5 p.m. but this poses two problems. The first is the lapse of time after school closes, which means pupils would have to leave school and return later. Then the time for teaching, one hour to 6 p.m., would not allow the number of students to be taught. We only teach eight in a class which limits each school to 16 children. A restriction of this nature also cuts the teachers' income considerably and makes it impossible to take reasonable care of the extra work involved in class work.

Why should the use of one room in the school interfere with the work of the grade teachers in Richmond Hill when the schools in Toronto and all the surrounding municipalities of Metro consider piano classes to be a great asset to school music and make ample provision for the required time?

We still hope the trustees will reverse their decision and at this time of elections interested parents should ask prospective new trustees to state their opinions on this very worthwhile activity.

We believe these classes to be in the best interests of children. It is a wonderful way to introduce a child to music, and although some go ahead with lessons from private teachers after the two years of class

work, many go into other branches of music. Many class pupils will be found in school orchestras and bands. The instruction received in classes helps them very much in going ahead in this way.

We ask the help of all parents in requesting the board to change this rule.

Thank you, Mr. Editor, for opening your columns for this letter.

Yours sincerely,
 R. Edmunds
 Director
 Canadian Bureau for the Advancement of Music.

Printing

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Thornhill Notes

(Continued From Page 4) sive euchre. High lady was Mrs. Crane of Willowdale with Mrs. Patton of Richmond Hill, second. High gent was Mr. J. Robinson with Mr. Frank Harrison runner-up. The quilt completed recently by some of the ladies of the branch was shown and three books of raffle tickets were sold on it. The quilt is in the sunflower pattern, pale yellow with brown centres and the draw will be held some time in February. The group hopes to raise \$100 on the quilt and by this means and small parties, will raise the money to continue the good work of their branch in the Thornhill area.

Guest speaker at the December 3 meeting of the Thornhill Branch of the hospital auxiliary will be Miss Winnifred Shooter, secretary of the auxiliary section of the Ontario Hospital Association. Miss Shooter will discuss the general organization of auxiliaries and their history and functions. In honour of the festive season, light refreshments will be served. The meeting, as usual, will be held at Holy Trinity Church parish hall at 10 a.m.

At their November 7th meeting, the group heard an informative talk on hospital auxiliaries in relation to hospitals given by Miss Jean Masten, former superintendent of nurses at the Sick Children's Hospital and now a member of the auxiliary of that hospital. From her own experience, an auxiliary has a very important part to play in the making of a good hospital. Miss Masten assured those present. Auxiliary members are often able to supply the tender loving care which a busy nurse often just doesn't have time to give.

Richvale News

Correspondent
 Mrs. Anne Hewitt
 78, 16th Ave.
 TU. 4-7645

The 1st Langstaff Cubs and Scouts Mothers held their meeting at the home of Mrs. Helen Sands, Maryvale Cres. There were 30 mothers present for the pot luck supper. Business in regards to the bazaar was brought up to date. Games were played.

Brownies News
 First Richvale Brownie and Guide Mothers' Committee held their bazaar on November 17, and it was a great success. They would wish to thank all of the mothers who so willingly donated gifts for all of the tables. The next meeting will be at the home of Mrs. B. Houston. This will be in the form of a pot luck supper, with Christmas gift exchange. The time is seven o'clock and they would like to see all the mothers out.

Eleven new Brownies were enrolled at 1st Richvale on November 13. These new Brownies were Pat Norris, Marita Vimanif, Wendy Purvis, Debby Smith, Barbara Cliff, Wendy Ross, Cathy Wood, Maggy Lynn Stephen, Joy Headline, Candy Hartley and Cathy Robertson.

Five new Brownies were enrolled on November 20 at 1st Richvale. These girls were Mary Bowden, Gall England, Margaret Jean Broom, Debby Godeman and Debbie Hewitt.

Ratepayers
 The Northolt Ratepayers' Committee are approaching the school board in regards to the drainage at the school. They would like immediate action taken.

Winner
 On November 17, Mrs. Shuttleworth was shopping. On her way out of the store she was stopped by John Sprague and two hostesses, Mrs. Shuttleworth had one of the products, so her groceries were paid for by CHUM.

On November 16 Mrs. Shuttleworth was lucky in winning two prizes at the North York Veterans' dance.

Mr. and Mrs. Leo Murray and Mrs. Dorothy Furness were visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Hewitt.

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Levendale Meat Market
 6 Levendale Rd. Richmond Heights Centre
 South Block - TU. 4-5801

LEAN SIDE BACON lb. 59c
 LOIN PORK CHOPS lb. 65c

ALL STEAKS

SIRLOIN, T-BONE lb. 65c
 PORTERHOUSE, ROUND lb. 65c

And For Your Home Freezer
 HIND QUARTER BEEF lb. 49c
 (Custom Cut and Wrapped)

CHICKEN 2 1/2 - 3 lb. avg. lb. 35c
 LEG of LAMB - - - lb. 35c

LEAN MINCED BEEF 3 lbs. 99c

What are THE FACTS BEHIND THE FIGURES

at "MY BANK" TO 3 MILLION CANADIANS
B of M

Here is a concise summary in layman's language of how the B of M stood at the year-end on October 31st, 1962

WHAT WE HAVE:

- CASH: The B of M has cash in its vaults and money on deposit with the Bank of Canada and other banks amounting to **\$ 520,065,342**
- CHEQUES and other items in transit—representing the net amount of the moneys moving between branches of the Bank and into the B of M from other banks on account of customers' transactions . . . **112,094,335**
- INVESTMENTS: The B of M maintains a strong liquid position through investments in high-grade government bonds which have a ready market. Listed on the Bank's books at amortized value, they amount to . . . **742,197,080**
- The B of M has other investments—including a diversified list of high-quality short-term issues. These investments are carried at . . . **226,832,563**
- CALL LOANS: The B of M has call loans which are fully protected by quickly saleable securities. These loans amount to . . . **218,548,259**
- QUICKLY AVAILABLE RESOURCES: The resources listed above cover 47.8% of all that the Bank owes to the public. These "quick assets" amount to . . . **\$1,819,737,579**
- LOANS: During the year, many millions of dollars have been lent to business and industrial enterprises for production of every kind—to farmers, fishermen, oilmen, miners, lumbermen and ranchers—to citizens in all walks of life, and to community organizations and provincial and municipal governments. These loans amount to . . . **\$1,825,682,590**
- MORTGAGES and hypothecs insured under the National Housing Act, 1954—representing advances to homebuilders . . . **224,644,086**
- BANK BUILDINGS: In hamlets, villages, towns and large cities from coast to coast the B of M serves its customers at 900 offices. The value of the buildings owned by the Bank, together with furniture and equipment, is shown on its books at . . . **65,878,133**
- OTHER ASSETS: These chiefly represent liabilities of customers for commitments made by the Bank on their behalf, covering foreign and domestic trade transactions . . . **79,222,188**
- TOTAL RESOURCES WHICH THE B OF M HAS TO MEET ITS OBLIGATIONS . . . **\$4,015,164,576**

WHAT WE OWE:

- DEPOSITS: While many business firms, manufacturers, merchants, farmers and people in every type of business have substantial deposits with the B of M, about half of the money on deposit with the Bank is the savings of private citizens. The total of all deposits is . . . **\$3,712,565,329**
- OTHER LIABILITIES: Miscellaneous items, representing mainly commitments undertaken by the Bank on behalf of customers in their foreign and domestic trade transactions . . . **90,467,309**
- TOTAL OF WHAT THE B OF M OWES ITS DEPOSITORS AND OTHERS . . . **\$3,803,032,638**
- TO PAY ALL IT OWES, THE B OF M HAS TOTAL RESOURCES, AS SHOWN ON THE LEFT SIDE OF THIS STATEMENT, AMOUNTING TO . . . **\$4,015,164,576**
- WHICH MEANS THAT THE B OF M HAS RESOURCES, OVER AND ABOVE WHAT IT OWES, AMOUNTING TO . . . **\$ 212,131,938**

This figure of \$212,131,938 is made up of money subscribed by the shareholders and, to some extent, of earnings which have from time to time been ploughed back into the business to broaden the Bank's services and to give added protection for the depositors.

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