

# 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.

## Arnold Pioneer Family

(By Doris M. Fitzgerald)  
A century ago Robert Joseph Arnold, a Thornhill farmer, was reeve of Vaughan Township. His term extended from 1861 through 1863, and it is possible that he, and his council, were returned by acclamation at least once, for elections were not popular in those days. There were but five polling booths in Vaughan - one for each ward, but time and distance were less important then. What the voters really disliked was the manner in which the elections were conducted. All votes were recorded orally, either viva voce (orally), by a show of hands, or by inking them in on a list showing the voter's name and address, and the candidate he supported. Inevitably this bred discord within families, and between neighbours of differing political views, and it opened the way for unscrupulous campaigners to obtain support for their party by bribery, intimidation, and even brute force. Though we have never heard of any nefarious practices in connection with elections in Vaughan, we have read about scandalous goings on in other parts of Ontario. One of the more amusing incidents concerned a wagon load of men who sold their votes near the poll for \$5.00, only to discover later that they had been paid with notes from a defunct bank. In 1874 voting

by secret ballot became the law in Ontario, and did much to promote more peaceful elections and to protect the voters from intimidation and bribery. In the years since then women have gained the right to vote, and the franchise has been extended to include all citizens of voting age, whether they own property or not. If Mr. Arnold were alive today he might concede that elections have definitely taken a turn for the better.

One of a family of nine children, Robert Joseph Arnold was related to many of the early settlers in this district. His forbears were United Empire Loyalists from New Jersey who spent some years in New Brunswick before coming to Upper Canada during the regime of Col. John Graves Simcoe. His father Captain John Arnold fought, and was taken prisoner, at the battle of York. His mother was Elizabeth Miles. When Robert J. was 21 years old his father deeded to him lot 29, con. 1, Vaughan which had come to him from James Miles, son of Abner Miles of Richmond Hill. On this farm Robert Arnold later commissioned Job Trott, well known Thornhill stonemason to build a handsome square red brick house. This still remains a landmark on the west side of Yonge St., and is owned by a syndicate who

plan to subdivide the farm. Robert J. Arnold and his wife Sarah Kirkpatrick had five children, Mary Alice who died in infancy, Bertha, John, Annie Cora and Robert. The latter was only two years old when Mr. Arnold died at the age of 44, in 1871. The family circle was again broken in 1885 by the tragic death of twenty four year old Jack Arnold who was shot, in mistake for another man, in the Thornhill Hotel. Two transients were involved. One escaped, and one was caught hiding near the railway station at Concord. Magistrate Isaac Chapman, the Arnolds' next door neighbour was roused from bed to swear out a warrant for his arrest. After Mrs. Arnold died in 1893 at the age of 54, the farm passed to Bertha Arnold and her brother Robert. He sold his share, went out west, became postmaster in Wadena, Sask., and died there not long ago, leaving a son and daughter. Bertha Arnold who was twice married lost her only child Aubrey de Vere Arnold Turquand, and her second husband, George Leigh A. G. McAllum, in the first world war. They are commemorated by a stained glass window and bronze tablet in Holy Trinity Church, Thornhill. She retained her half of the farm and left it, when she died in 1938 to her nephew Arnold Davison. He

sold it during the second world war to the late Charles J. Smith who opened Arnold Ave., through the property.

Annie Cora Arnold married R. J. Davison and they had two children, Grace, Mrs. E. S. Russel, and Arnold. Between 1935-40 Mr. and Mrs. Davison and their family rented the spacious old house in Thornhill and returned to live in the village. The two grandchildren attended Thornhill Public School which is built on the front of the Arnold farm, and made many friends in the district. Now Sally Davison is Mrs. R. M. Crump, the mother of four young sons, and lives in the United States. Robert Russel, also married, lives in Montreal and is a drama critic, lecturer, script writer and producer, who sometimes takes part in TV and radio programs. He has been awarded a Canada Council grant and will soon be leaving for France to study, and to write a book on the theatre. Time and careers play their part in scattering families, and today Robert J. Arnold once prominent as councillor, deputy-reeve, and reeve of Vaughan Township, and as warden of Holy Trinity Church, Thornhill has but one surviving descendant in Ontario - his granddaughter Mrs. Grace Russell of Toronto.



Mr. & Mrs. John Stokes Wed In St. Luke's

Mr. and Mrs. John Stokes are seen following their recent wedding in St. Luke's Roman Catholic Church, Thornhill. The bride is the former Nellie DeLaat, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. M. DeLaat of Richvale. The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. S. Stokes of England. The happy couple are residing in Scarborough.

### Thornhill United

## Induction Service Rev. A. E. Higgins

In an impressive ceremony, Rev. A. E. Higgins, B.A., B.D., was inducted as minister of Thornhill United Church on November 29th.

Following the sermon "Called by God" delivered by Rev. H. Egerton Young, B.A., of Yorkminster United Church, the ritual of induction was conducted by Rev. R. Harold Parr, B.A., minister of Glebe Road United Church and Chairman of the Toronto Centre Presbytery. Rev. Howard J. Veals, B.A., B.Paed., assistant minister of Thornhill United Church, read the Scripture lesson. Rev. Higgins pronounced the benediction.

A native of the Maritime provinces, Rev. Higgins is a graduate of Dalhousie University and Pine Hill Divinity School. After service in the R.C.A.F. he had a pastorate at McKay Road United Church in Ottawa and comes to Thornhill from Victoria, B.C., where he has been minister of First United Church for the past seven years.

Following the induction service, a social reception was held in the auditorium which was attended by some 250 members of the congregation and friends. Rev. and Mrs. Higgins and Rev. and Mrs. Veals formed a receiving line, with Rev. Veals introducing the church members to the new minister. Mr. F. W. Kellam, chairman of the pastoral relations committee, made a speech of welcome to Mr. and Mrs. Higgins. They were also given a short greeting by Rev. Dilwin Evans, minister of Thornhill Presbyterian Church and chairman of the Thornhill-Richmond Hill Ministerial Association. Mrs. H. F. Skinner, president of the Thornhill United Church Women, welcomed Mrs. Higgins on behalf of the ladies of the congregation. Rev. Higgins made a gracious reply, thanking everyone for their good wishes.

Mrs. Higgins, the former Leona Welch, is also a native of the Maritimes. She is the daughter of the late Captain R. E. Welch of the merchant marine and her mother lives now in Halifax. The Higgins have two sons. A married son lives in Ottawa and the other son remains in Victoria. They have one grandchild. No stranger to Ontario, Rev. Higgins expressed himself as happy to be back in this "growing province."

### Thornhill Notes

#### Holy Trinity News

On Sunday evening, December 9th, the Trinity teens and twenties enjoyed a visit from Rev. D. L. Valey, former assistant at Holy Trinity, who showed them interesting pictures taken during his trip to the Holy Land last summer. Mr. Valey is now assistant curate at St. Paul's Church, Bloor St. East, Toronto.

On December 16th at 8 a.m. a joint corporate communion and breakfast will be held for the Men's Association and the young people of the parish. Rev. Fred Jackson of Emmanuel Church, Richvale, will assist in the service. The breakfast program will be given by Mr. William White who will sing and also lead the group in Christmas carols.

At the 11 a.m. service on the 16th, the boys and girls of the parish will present white gifts in the form of food and clothing for needy families. These will be given to the downtown church workers for distribution.

On Sunday evening, December 16th, Rev. H. R. Howden, rector of Holy Trinity will preach at a candlelight service at St. Barnabas Church, Halton, in Toronto.

#### United Church News

Following the induction service on November 29th, Rev. A. I. Higgins preached his first sermon at Thornhill United Church on December 2nd, his topic being "For Your Sakes".

On Sunday December 16th, the white gift service will be held and Rev. Higgins' sermon will be entitled "The Wonderful Name".

The annual meeting and Christmas party of the Thornhill United Church Women was held at the church on December 4th. The meeting took the form of a dinner, with each unit of the U.C.W. providing for their own table. There was variety and abundance to delight every member. Each lady brought a gift of a pair of socks for boys at the House of Concord.

The program and worship service was conducted by unit 7 and the executive, led by Mrs. D. Davidson. As a prelude to the worship service, the junior choir, under the direction of Mr. Hugh Martin, entertained with special songs and carols. The audience happily joined in the carol singing. Mrs. George Kelson and Mrs. S. Mackay conducted the worship service based on "The Theme is Music".

The speaker for the evening was Mr. L. Love of the tie gift division of Ribbon Fabric Inc. who was introduced by Mrs. H. Skinner. He demonstrated with several colors of satin-tone ribbon and showed how to make several varieties of the pom-pom bow. "In wrapping a parcel for a man" he said, "choose

#### Cavendish Lodge

All the generous Thornhill people who bought tickets on the recent draw held by the Cavendish Lodge of Daughters of England, Willowdale, will be interested to know that the prize winning ticket was No. 1527, held by Mrs. McQuillan of 86 Norton Avenue, Willowdale. Mrs. McQuillan won a picture painted by one of the lodge members. Through the proceeds of this draw and sale of knitting done by lodge members, \$100.00 was donated to the Thornhaven School for Retarded Children in Richmond Hill.

The third in the series of lectures entitled "Impact" at Thornhill Secondary School on December 3, saw an overflow audience (students only) having the program piped into a second room for them. The immensely popular speaker (or performer, I should say) was Sid Dolgay of the well-known folk singers The Travellers. With Mr. Dolgay was another

#### Langstaff and Thornlea News

Correspondent Mrs. B. Lepke Phone Avenue 5-3489

The Young Women's Institute held a successful euchre recently, with the proceeds going to help a local student through university.

The community was saddened last week with the news of the death of Mrs. Edna Charles in Branson Hospital December 7. Mrs. Charles had been a resident of Sussex Avenue for many years. All her family were educated at local schools including Thornhill High School.

Surviving are her husband, Bob, her brother, Mr. Hill, and four sons and three daughters, Casey, Olive, Doreen, Wilfred, Morton, Richard and Frances. Ratepayers Association

The Langstaff Ratepayers Association will hold a general meeting at Thornlea School on Thursday, December 13 at 8 p.m.

Residents are asked to bring their suggestions for recommendations for the Rezoning of this Area.

Mr. Roberts will also report on a recent phone call from Mr. Ferguson, Jobber Manager of B.P. Oil Company in which Mr. Ferguson stated they would not be pressing for permits to install the proposed storage tanks.

Birthday greetings to Harvey Hamblin who celebrates his birthday on December 13.

### Slate Concert Friday

## At Langstaff Church

Parents and friends of Langstaff Baptist Church Sunday School are invited to attend a Christmas program Friday night at 7.30. Each class will be taking part.

Langstaff Baptist Church's Young People's Quiz Team defeated Maple Hill Team in after church Bible Quiz held at Stouffville Christian Youth Centre recently.

Christmas meeting of the Evening Mission Circle was held Tuesday evening at the home of Mrs. A. Spenceley. Gifts were bought and packed to be sent to church missionaries Mr. and Mrs. Petit Clerk in Quebec.

The Women's Afternoon Fellowship held their Christmas meeting Thursday.

Christmas, December 23, will be Christmas Sunday and Award Sunday for Langstaff Baptist Church. Youngsters who have attended Sunday School faithfully will receive their award for the previous year.

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A Note for Fathers Only...

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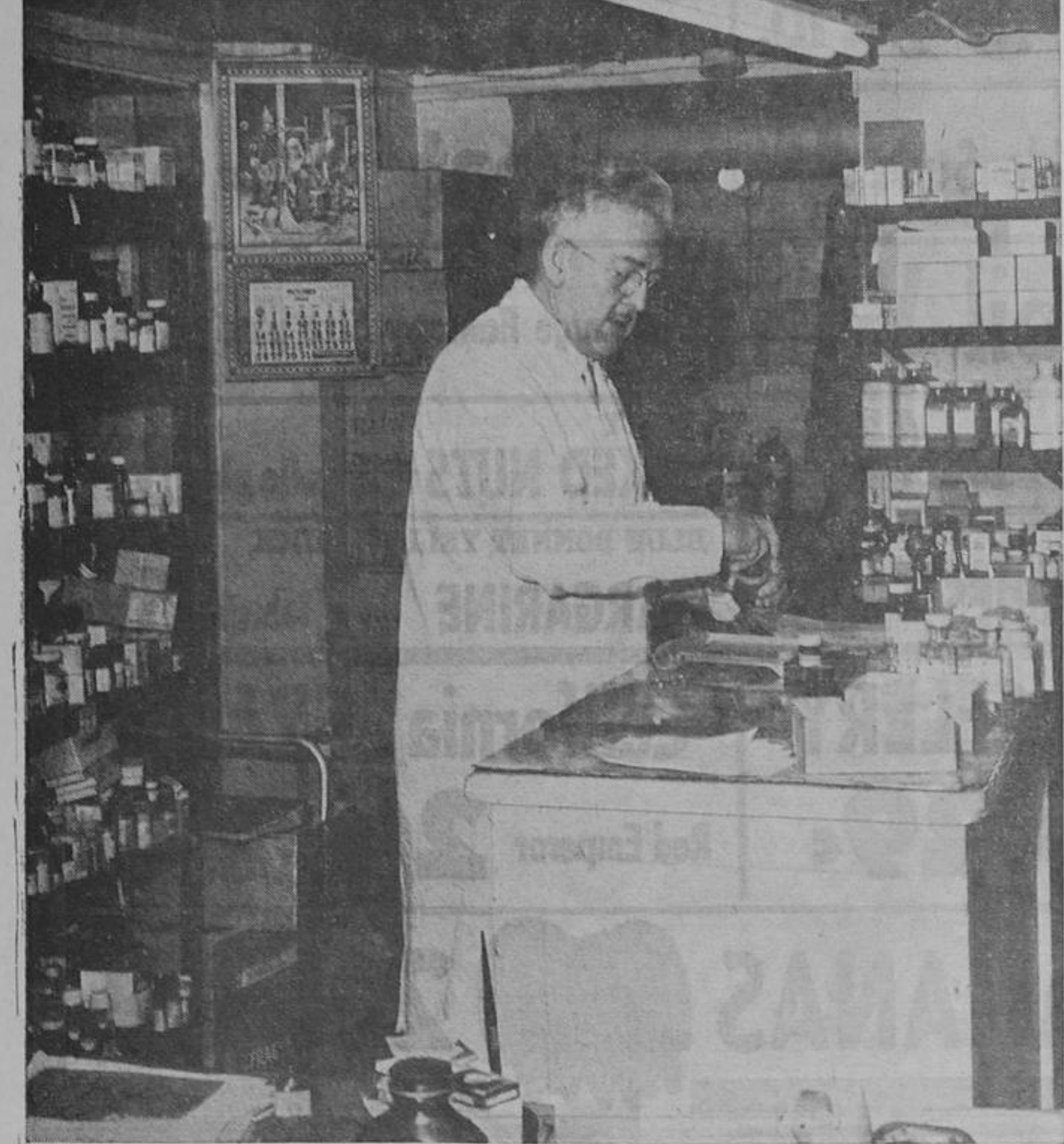
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**Tight Quarters**

Pharmacist Lee Sproule at present works in extremely tight quarters in the basement of the York County Hospital at Newmarket. Success of the current County of York United Hospitals campaign will enable him to have newer, more adequate space and equipment. The appeal also will enable construction of a new hospital at Richmond Hill.

**V.O.N.**  
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