

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.

Churches At Christmas

(By Margaret I. McLean)

Christmas celebrations in the churches of Thornhill begin well before December 25, as Cubs and Scouts, C.G.I.T. and Sunday school children all begin holding their annual "Christmas Party". Although the old-fashioned Christmas concert of yesterday is apparently no more, many other types of celebrations have taken its place.

At Thornhill Presbyterian Church, the earliest celebration was held on December 10th when the children of the church, the four to seven year olds, under the direction of their leaders, Mrs. Hugh Anderson, Mrs. G. Culley and Mrs. J. Boyd, entertained their mothers with the presentation of the Christmas story in pageant form.

On the 13th, the Cubs and Scouts held their Christmas party at Thornhill Presbyterian Church and, in keeping with the generous spirit of Christmas, instead of exchanging gifts among themselves, each brought a gift to be distributed to needy children by Evangel Hall in Toronto.

In the same spirit, the Presbyterians entertained a group of 35 underprivileged children from downtown Toronto on Saturday afternoon, December 15th. After meeting at the church, the group spent the afternoon skating and tobogganing, returning to the church for a delicious supper and gift-giving. The girl explorers were entertained by their leaders, Mrs. G. Cook and Mrs. Pickthal, at a Christmas party at Mrs. Cook's home on Clarkehaven Drive, on December 17th.

The congregation of Thornhill Presbyterian Church also contributed generously to the gift campaign of the Canadian Mental Health Association and in the past three weeks filled two large boxes with gifts for mental patients.

The morning of December 16th, white gift services were held in all the Thornhill churches. In churches beau-

tifully decorated for the occasion, Sunday school children all came forward and left their white wrapped gifts of food, clothing and toys for needy children. White gifts collected at the Presbyterian church went to the Presbyterian church's downtown mission, Evangel Hall. From Holy Trinity Church, the gifts went to the Downtown Church Workers' Association for distribution while gifts given at Thornhill Baptist Church went to New Canadian Missions in downtown Toronto.

At the Presbyterian, Baptist and United churches, the Canadian Girls in Training conducted their annual vespers service, a candlelight service of worship, on the evening of December 16th. Similar services are held on the same night all across Canada.

At the service at Thornhill Presbyterian Church, the C.G.I.T. presented "The Littlest Angel". Those taking part were Rosemary Clow, Jane Henry, Rachel Cooper, Barbara Mowat, Anne Tanguy, Janice MacKay, Glenda Evans, Linda Evans and Dianne Surridge. The girls were directed by their leaders, Mrs. J. MacKay and Mrs. J. Walford, while Mr. Walter Stothers was at the organ.

From this point, the churches will continue with various types of Christmas celebrations and services.

Following his sermon on December 16th on "The Wonderful Name", Rev. A. L. Higgins of Thornhill United Church will preach on December 23rd on the topic "The Excluded Redeemer". A Christmas Eve service will be held at the United Church beginning at 11:15 with both the junior and senior choirs taking part. The members of the Hi-C and the Y.P.U. have invited everyone in the congregation to their Christmas tree ball on December 31st. The program will feature music refreshments and Santa Claus. The New Year's watch night service will be held on December 31st at

11:30 p.m. At Holy Trinity Church, the usual morning prayer service will be held at 11 a.m. on December 23, and at 5 p.m. there will be the nine lesson carol service. The lessons narrating the Christmas story will be read by members of the various parish organizations. Special Christmas music will be presented by the choir under the leadership of the organist and choir master, Mrs. Ralph Markham, while the congregation will join in singing the familiar carols.

The rector's Christmas message will be delivered at the 11:30 p.m. service on Christmas Eve when Holy Communion will also be offered. On Christmas Day, Holy Communion will be offered at 8 a.m. and again at the family service at 11 a.m. when Christmas anthems will be sung. The beautiful church decorations at Holy Trinity are the work of the altar guild, under the direction of Mrs. C. F. Snowdon.

At Thornhill Presbyterian Church, the junior and senior choirs will present a traditional carol service at 7 p.m. At the 11 a.m. service, Rev. Evans will continue his series of advent sermons on the theme "The Faith and Christmas". The topic on December 16th was "Yes, This Is For Keeps". On December 23rd it will be entitled "He Means Business". At the Christmas Day service, Mr. Evans' sermon will be entitled "I Give In". This will be a family service held at 10 a.m.

At Thornhill Baptist Church, Christmas celebrations started on December 15th when the Sunday school Christmas party was held. Dessert and beverages were served, following which each of the classes presented a Christmas skit. Each child was rewarded by a gift from Santa. On December 14th the couples club held their Christmas banquet at the Summit View Restaurant at Richmond Hill.

At 7 p.m. on December 23,

there will be a choir and candlelight service where carols and special Christmas music will be presented under the direction of the organist and choir leader, Mrs. Cameron Andrew. There will be no Christmas Day service.

On December 30th, the members of the new senior high fellowship will put on a play "Under Orders", directed by their leaders, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Hall. The play, dealing with the mission of church people, was written by Rev. Minton Johnston and presented last July for the Baptist Jubilee celebrations at the Triennial Assembly of the Baptist Federation of Canada held in Calgary. There will also be a New Year's Eve service at 11 p.m. St. Luke's Roman Catholic Church, Christmas will be celebrated by a midnight mass on Christmas Eve and the singing of a High Mass by the children's choir. On Christmas Day there will be the usual two morning masses. From 11:30 to noon there will be a programme of special Christmas carols sung by the children's choir. The choir will also give a concert and play in the auditorium of St. Luke's Separate School on the morning of December 21. The primary classes will also put on small plays. Christmas parties are to be held December 20 in the individual classrooms.

So, by the time the New Year rolls in, Christmas will have been well and truly celebrated in all the Thornhill churches. It would be impossible to praise too highly those who put in all the many hours of work and worry entailed in these Christmas festivities. Although their rewards will be in the main intangible, they will know their work is appreciated by the moistened eye and the catch in the throat of every parent who watched the children go forward with innocent heart to present their whitest of gifts, or tell in childish treble the story of man's eternal hope for "Peace on Earth".

Members of the senior high fellowship were guests for supper at the home of their leaders, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Hall recently. Some of the members are busily practising for the play which they will present in the church on Sunday evening, December 30. The play "Under Orders" was written by the minister, Dr. Minton Johnston, and specially presented to the delegates at the annual meeting of the Baptist Federation of Canada in Calgary, last July.

As the Christmas season is with all of us your correspondent would like to take this time to wish all of you a Merry Christmas. Any news you may have I will be very pleased to put it in the paper.

Christmas Parties

On December 10, 1st Richvale Brownie and Guide mothers held a pot luck supper at the home of Mrs. B. Houston, Birch Ave. All the mothers read the Guide prayer and Mrs. R. Miller gave the blessing before the supper. Mrs. J. Fitchett read the treasurer's report and Mrs. M. McDermott gave the president's report. Guide leader, acting captain Miss C. Miller reported on making a merry Christmas for a young child at the True Blue and Orange Home. During the evening there was an exchange of gifts and later an auction sale with articles left over from the bazaar. Towards the end of the evening, Mr. B. Houston showed films of their tour through Europe, such places as Switzerland, France, Rome and England were shown. There were 18 mothers and six leaders present. The next regular meeting will be held on February 11 at 8:30 p.m. at 131 Spruce.

On December 11 the 1st Richvale Brownies held their annual Christmas party. There were 18 mothers present and the Brownies sang Christmas carols. Gifts were exchanged and refreshments were served by the Brownies.

December 15 East Richvale Ratepayers held their annual Christmas party for the children of the area. There were over 150 children. Clowns and a bunny rabbit helped to make the party a success. Carols were sung and Santa arrived to distribute the gifts. Refreshments were served. Everyone enjoyed themselves. Scene of the party was the auditorium of the 16th Avenue School.

Mrs. Kay Kirk, formerly of Spruce Street, Richvale, now of Barrie attended the pot luck supper held by the 1st Richvale Guide and Brownie Mothers at the home of Mrs. B. Houston.

Friends and neighbours of Mrs. Kay Reynolds wish her a Merry Christmas. Mrs. Reynolds is still in Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto. We wish her a speedy recovery and hope that she will be with her family during the Christmas holiday.

Mrs. S. Bartlett, 16th Ave, would like to purchase a Guide uniform in good condition. Her phone number is AV. 5-2935.

CANADIAN CANCER SOCIETY Richmond Hill Unit

FACT FOR THE WEEK: The newsletter of the Canadian Cancer Society, "Progress Against Cancer", will keep you abreast of the latest activities of this humanitarian organization. To receive regular issues, apply to your local unit of the Society.

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Thornhill Notes

Baptist Church News

The annual meeting of the women's auxiliary of Thornhill Baptist Church was held on November 20 at the home of Mrs. C. Lawson, Richmond Hill. A large number of members heard interesting reports from the group leaders telling of the work accomplished during the past year. Except for two outside speakers, the ladies had arranged and produced all other programs themselves.

The president, Mrs. R. Jardine, said she had received great personal blessing and encouragement during her first year in office. Two big projects had been undertaken, the new carpeting for the church which was put down for Easter and paid for largely by talent money, and the cook book which was nearing completion. It was hoped to have it on sale at the next meeting. There were some areas in service to others where Mrs. Jardine felt the ladies could do better. She stated that she was looking forward to another year of fellowship and service in the W.A. As the officers are elected for a two year term, the executive remains largely the same for another year.

Following the business session, Mrs. W. Smoak told of her trip to Europe and delighted the ladies with many beautiful slides. They saw some very fine pictures of the French Riviera, including Monaco, the Alps, and many well-known places in Rome, Paris and London. Mrs. Smoak also displayed many souvenirs of her trip.

The refreshments which closed the meeting were served by members of the North group, under the leadership of Mrs. W. Cook.

The ladies of St. John's Baptist Church congregation in Richmond Hill joined with the Thornhill ladies in Thornhill Baptist Church in special service of prayer on December 7. The prayer program was of a special significance since their Baptist sisters around the world were uniting in a similar service on the same day.

The message this year was written by Dr. Marion Bates, a vice-president of the Baptist World Alliance and the Dean of Women at McMaster University.

Members of the senior high fellowship were guests for supper at the home of their leaders, Mr. and Mrs. Ken Hall recently. Some of the members are busily practising for the play which they will present in the church on Sunday evening, December 30. The play "Under Orders" was written by the minister, Dr. Minton Johnston, and specially presented to the delegates at the annual meeting of the Baptist Federation of Canada in Calgary, last July.

Holy Trinity News

The annual Christmas party of the Holy Trinity WA was held in the parish hall on December 13. Mrs. W. E. Askew, wife of the former rector showed interesting colored slides taken during a trip to Austria and Switzerland last summer. Mrs. H. V. Andrews gave a Christmas reading. Also contributing to the enjoyable program were Mrs. R. W. Markham, the church organist who played a piano solo, and an octet of members who sang Christmas carols.

Rev. H. R. Howden introduced the newly elected and appointed officers for 1963. These are: Honorary president Mrs. H. R. Howden, president Mrs. C. P. Stowe, first vice-president Mrs. J. A. Shaw, second vice-president, Mrs. S. S. Tobias, corresponding secretary Mrs. R. B. Priestman, recording secretary Mrs. F. Jennings, treasurer Mrs. G. Davie, educational secretary Mrs. H. V. Andrews, Little Helpers secretary Mrs. F. H. Baxter, social service Mrs. J. Shaw, Dorcas Mrs. G. G. Wishart, living message Miss L. Wakely, hostess convener Mrs. W. Barry, Strachan Houses Mrs. A. Tomlinson, J. A. leaders are Mrs. R. E. Priestman and Mrs. R. Tyson, and Mrs. J. Trow will be the leader of the G.A. Rectors representatives will be Mrs. G. A. Howes and Mrs. G. Leacock.

Mrs. H. Rosewell poured tea and several guests were welcomed during the social hour.

The Thornhill Women's Institute held their December meeting in the form of a Christmas party at the Town Inn, Richmond Hill, on December 13. The president, Mrs. C. Sinclair, opened the meeting with greetings and a welcome to the 18 members and three visitors present. After the singing of the Institute grace, the ladies sat down at a long table beautifully decorated for the occasion and were served a very tasty Christmas dinner of roast turkey with all the trimmings.

Following the dinner, entertainment was provided by Mrs. H. Mizen and Mrs. T. Findlay who led the group in singing carols. Mrs. Findlay accompanying them on the piano. Mrs. C. Thompson read a memorial verse for the late Mrs. H. Carroll who passed away recently. Roll call was answered by presentation of a gift for cancer shut-in patients. The motto for the day was "Be Kind to all the Strangers Within Your Gates", most appropriate for the Christmas season.

Mrs. Mizen then had the ladies doing some quiz games on Christmas carols which were a little tricky but much enjoyed. Mrs. Thompson, acting as Santa distributed small parcels to all the members and guests. The Town Inn presented each lady

with a red or yellow rose, a 1963 calendar and a pencil. The party closed with all good wishes to everyone for the holiday, and the singing of the Queen.

The next meeting will be at the home of Mrs. Heslop, on Yonge Street, on January 17.

Presbyterian Church News

The annual meeting of the women's missionary society of Thornhill Baptist Church was held at the home of Mrs. R. Camsell, 30 Drevery Avenue, Willowdale on December 11. Devotions were taken by Mrs. I. Nixon and the Christmas story was read from the study book by Mrs. H. Harper. The prayer was given by the president, Mrs. A. McClumpha.

The election of officers for 1963 was conducted by Rev. D. T. Evans with the following ladies elected, honorary president Mrs. H. Mizen, president Mrs. A. McClumpha, vice-president Mrs. P. Williamson, secretary Mrs. R. Camsell, treasurer Mrs. M. Diamond, church secretary Mrs. H. Mizen, home helpers Mrs. Jan Kok, supply secretaries Mrs. I. Nixon and Mrs. F. Porter.

The meeting closed with refreshments served by Mrs. Jan Kok and Mrs. Diamond. During the past year the ladies filled a mission bale with baby clothes, including two quilts. Everyone who attended the annual tea held in July brought an item of clothing as admission, and these helped to fill the bale. The clothing was taken to Knox Church for distribution in the mission fields.

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50th Milestone
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Hodston, 51 Longbridge Ave., celebrated their golden wedding anniversary November 20. They received letters and telegrams from the Governor-General of Canada, Prime Minister John Diefenbaker, and Frank McGee, MP for York Scarborough.

Township of Markham PROCLAMATION BOXING DAY

It is hereby proclaimed that WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1962 will be observed as BOXING DAY for the Township of Markham. Citizens are hereby requested to govern themselves accordingly.

H.C.T. CRISP Clerk W. R. DEAN Reeve

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