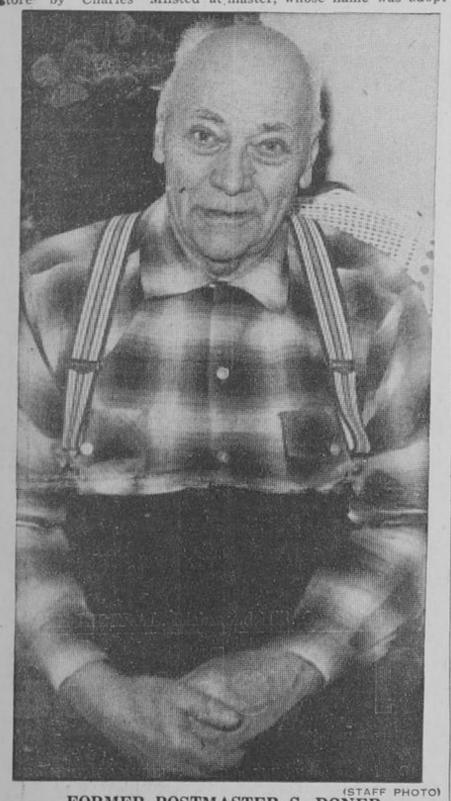


Gormley Post Office Is In 112th Year Of Service

By NEIL CAMPBELL
Each week copies of "the Liberal" are received, sorted and delivered - by one of Ontario's oldest post offices, Gormley Post Office, operated in conjunction with a general store by Charles Milstead at

Don Mills Road and the Gormley Town Line, has been serving residents of the area since 1851. First postmaster was James Gormley, a combination school teacher, magistrate and postmaster, whose name was adopted

by the community and by the post office department. According to post office records, the community was known as Gormley's Corners from 1851 to 1857, and simply as Gormley thereafter.



FORMER POSTMASTER S. DONER (STAFF PHOTO)

Mr. Gormley remained as postmaster until 1876. Other nineteenth century postmasters were Richard Lewis (1877-1883) and Colin McKenzie (1883-1904). Oldtimers in the community say the first post office burned down sometime before the turn of the century, although there are no records of such a fire and nobody is sure when it happened. Robert Johnson was postmaster from 1904 until 1910.

During the term of C. H. Keys (1910-1915) the first rural delivery out of Gormley began. First "mailman" was Ed Leary, who, at 90, still lives in Whitechurch Township.

Mr. Leary recalls his days as a mailman with a remarkable degree of clarity. He covered a route which took him along the Gormley Townline, north on Concession 3, east on the Vandorf Sideroad and south on Concession 4.

"In the old days we had a mail cart," Mr. Leary remembers, with help from his daughters Audrey and Marie. "Inside it was like a regular post office with pigeon holes for each delivery."

"In the summer it ran on wheels. In the winter, we took off the wheels and put on runners to get through the snow."

"There were 50 or 60 boxes on my route," Mr. Leary says. "Then the White Rose and Vandorf post offices were closed and the route grew."

Today Gormley's two rural routes serve well over 600 homes! Forty families pick up their mail at the post office.

Later, Mr. Leary streamlined mail delivery in the area with the purchase of a Model T. Au-



ED LEARY, FIRST MAILMAN (STAFF PHOTO)

reary recalls that purchase of a car brought with it a great deal of social prestige.

Miss Leary recalls that she offered to chip in to help pay for the family's first car. Her father, of course, handled the purchase by himself.

Mr Leary was mailman to the residents of the area from 1913 until 1921. "Gormley was a prosperous little community then," he recalls. "It was self-contained. People could satisfy all their needs right at home."

"The mail went every day - even Christmas," he says. Successors to C. H. Keys were John W. Wilson (1915-1918) and Ellis J. Webb (1918-1923).

Sam Doner, who took over in 1923, was to remain until 1954, longest of any postmaster for the area. Mr. Leary remembers when Mr. Doner, now 76, was just a "young fella".

Mr. Doner was 37 when he took over the store in 1923. "At that time," he remembers, "we were still getting the mail off the old Toronto Radial car. There were about 270 boxes on our rural routes then."

It was while Mr. Doner was postmaster that the combined store and post office burned down for the second time, on May 7, 1935. The Doners were only closed for two weeks before they went back into business in a garage next door to the store building.

"Before the war, it was more of a general store," Mr. Doner says. "We sold tires, hardware, dry goods, and of course groceries. Our new store covered all three floors of the building."

Mr. Doner recalls the earlier days before the store when he lived on a farm on Concession 3. "I remember walking to the post office from the third for the mail."

"When I was young, the general store used to be a place for young fellows to get together," he says. "We used to have foot races around the block - that would be about five miles."

"In the early days, we used to accept farm produce instead of money," he says. "We went down to the St. Lawrence Market to sell vegetables and meat we got that way. I remember getting 60 rabbits one week."

"We used to work long hours to serve the farmers," he says. "The early years of daylight saving time were worse, since there were many who stuck to standard time. We usually stayed open until midnight."



OLD GORMLEY POST OFFICE WAS BURNT IN 1935 (STAFF PHOTO)

Mr. Doner gave up the store in 1953 and the post office in 1954 to the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Charles Milstead.

Post Office service has changed a great deal since Mr. Doner took over in 1923. Gormley is one of a dwindling number of small, rural post offices. The combination post office and store has become a rarity in the southern part of York County.

Mail, which used to be delivered once a day by train or radial car, now arrives twice a day by truck.

Rural Route One which, when Mr. Leary started it had less than 60 boxes, now has 266. Ralph Empringham covers an area which is bounded by Concession 3, Whitechurch, the Gormley Townline, Don Mills Road and extends to a mile and one-quarter north of the Aurora Sideroad.

Rural Route Two, which was started by Jack Lehman now covers 339 boxes. It covers an area bounded by Don Mills Road, John Street, Concession 3, Markham and the Gormley Townline.

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GORMLEY NEWS

CORRESPONDENT: MRS. CHAS. MILSTEAD
Telephone Gormley 5201

Mr. Alvin Farmer attended the Ontario Fur Breeders' Association Fur Show at Breslau and brought home five ribbons from six exhibits. These included one first, one second, one grand championship, and two other prizes.

Mr. Victor Britnell has returned to the University of Waterloo for his final term in Engineering.

Sympathy is expressed to Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Beatty and family in the passing of his mother, Mrs. Robert Beatty. The funeral was on Saturday from the Pipher Funeral Home in Richmond Hill.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Sayers and family and Mrs. Grace Sayers of Richmond Hill had supper on Sunday with Mrs. Beulah Jones.

Mr. and Mrs. Clare Bolender of Bethesda had dinner on Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Elias Elliott. Mr. George Sayers and daughter Ruby had supper on Sunday with the Elliots.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Reesor and family spent several days over New Year's with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Witmer, of Salem, Ohio.

Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Benson and two children spent two weeks' holidays with their parents in Owen Sound and Collingwood.

Mr. Percy Tripp returned to his home in Montreal on Saturday afternoon after spending five weeks with his uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. A. F. Leek.

Mr. Trevor Varley arrived home on Saturday from a three weeks' visit in England.

Mr. Richard Wilcox left Malton on Sunday evening to resume his studies at the University of Halifax, Nova Scotia.

Mrs. Cora McKenzie of Willowdale spent a few days with Mr. and Mrs. Roy Brillinger.

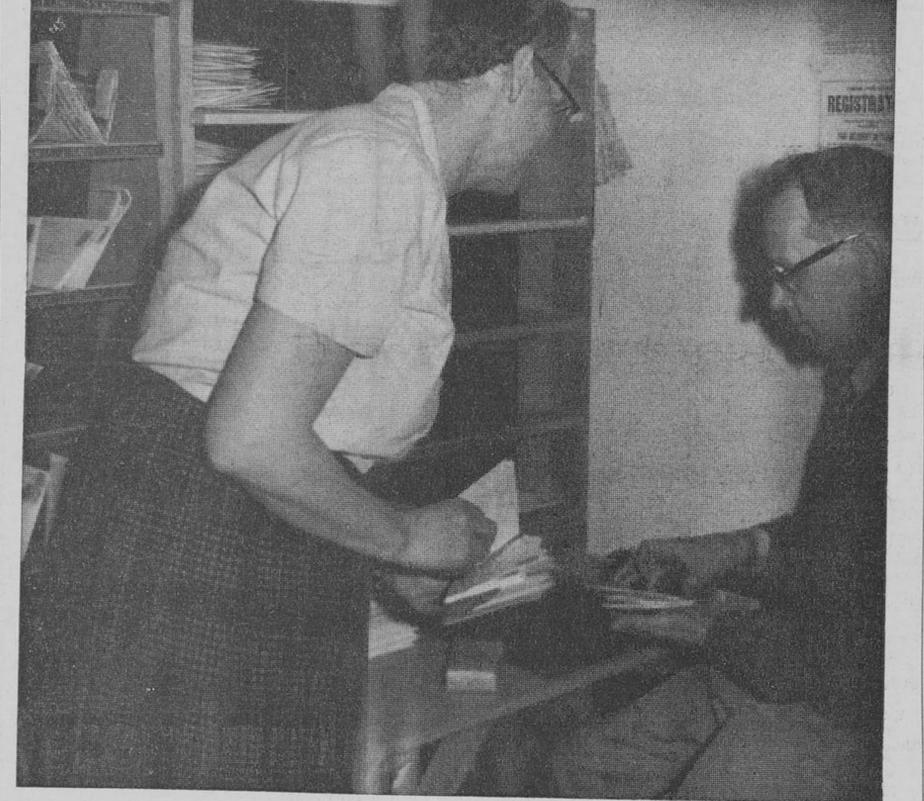
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Liebeck and family of Collingwood spent New Year's with her parents, Bishop and Mrs. Alvin Winger.

Mr. Harry Kruse spent the New Year's holiday with relatives near Niagara Falls, New York.

Mrs. J. Bond spent a few days with Mr. and Mrs. Wally Bond of Richmond Hill.

Mr. and Mrs. John Bruce and Sharon spent New Year's with her brother-in-law and sister, Mr. and Mrs. Stan Brown of Keswick.

Mrs. D. V. Nicklin has moved



POSTMASTER CHARLES MILSTEAD AND MRS. MILSTEAD SORT MAIL FOR GORMLEY AREA (STAFF PHOTO)

HOT WATER

WHEN YOU NEED IT AUTOMATICALLY

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Level Impaired Count Against Metro Driver

Richmond Hill Police report a quiet week in the traffic department, with only one minor accident, and a charge of impaired driving.

John Smart, 1404 Willowdale Estates, Willowdale, was remanded in Richmond Hill Police Court Tuesday morning on a charge of impaired driving. The charge was laid after police stopped Smart early Sunday morning at Yonge and Centre Streets.

An accident early Saturday morning resulted in about \$600 damage.

Involved in the accident were Bruce R. Morton, Markham Township, and Dr. Richard L. Lukeman, 372 Markham Road, Richmond Hill.

Damage to the Morton vehicle was \$450, to the Lukeman auto about \$150, police said.

Martha Hall

Mrs. Martha Jane Hall, one of Richmond Hill's oldest residents, died suddenly at her home on Tuesday of last week. She was 96.

Death was attributed to a heart attack. She had been living with a daughter, Mrs. E. J. Gamble, for the past two years.

Born in Arthur, Ontario, in 1866, she was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph C. Lundy, pioneers of Peel County. Moving to Brampton with her parents when one year old, Martha Jane Lundy married Alfred Evans Hall in 1888, residing in Brampton until 1905, then moving to Toronto.

In 1915 Mrs. Hall came to Richmond Hill, residing here ever since. She was a member of Richmond Hill United Church.

Surviving Mrs. Hall are six daughters, Sadie (Mrs. Alex McKay), Annie (Mrs. Harold Reid), Violet (Mrs. Edwin J. Gamble), Maude (Mrs. H. C. Murphy), Ruth (Mrs. D. Goulding), all of Richmond Hill, and Nina (Mrs. P. Large), Calgary, and by Ernest and Alfred of Richmond Hill.

Mrs. Hall is also survived by 19 grandchildren, 43 great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandchild. She was predeceased by a son, William, and by her husband, Alfred.

Funeral service was conducted by Rev. Charles G. Higginson in the Wright and Taylor Chapel of the Pipher Funeral Home. Burial was in Richmond Hill Cemetery, beside her late husband. Pallbearers were Peter Large, Lloyd Reid, Robert Reid, Ted Gamble, Robert Hall and Jack Hall.

Markham Reeve To Seek Commissioner's Chair

Markham Township Reeve Wilfred Dean indicated Monday afternoon he would seek one of the two commissioners' chairs on York County Council.

Mr. Dean gave this reason in declining appointment as chairman of the township's road committee.

Commissioners for Warden in 1962 were Reeve Floyd Perkins of Richmond Hill, and Reeve Albert Rutherford of Vaughan Township. Both will again sit on county council in 1963.

Councillor Charles Hoover was named chairman of the roads committee, council's busiest committee. All councillors belong to it.

Other committees, with the chairman listed first are: water and sanitation, Allan Sumner and Charles Hooper; police and fire, Charles Hooper and S. T. Rumble; finance administration, Charles Hoover and S. T. Rumble; and parks and property, S. T. Rumble, Allan Sumner and Charles Hoover.

Council also re-appointed Charles Clifford and Everett Harper to the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority.

Reeve Wilfred Dean and Deputy Reeve Charles Hooper were appointed by council as a committee to meet with representatives of Markham Village, Stouffville and Richmond Hill to discuss appointment of a representative to the Metropolitan Toronto Planning Board.

Council gave no official direction to Mr. Dean and Mr. Hoover on supporting a particular candidate for the job.

Mr. Hooper suggested ex-reeve Vern Griffin of Unionville as a possible candidate, acceptable to all municipalities.

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Choose New Flag For Centennial On Aurora Paper

Last week's edition of the Aurora Banner carried the paper's fourth new masthead in the paper's 104 year history.

The type chosen is Clarendon, which is now enjoying a revival in its use throughout the United Kingdom, United States and Canada. Also included during the centennial year of 1963 only is the Aurora centennial cut, which runs in the centre of the masthead.

Clarendon is the style of type in vogue 100 years ago, when both Aurora and the Banner were founded.

The first Banner masthead was in Old English (like today's Liberal masthead). For several decades, the name also included "York County Advertiser" or "York County General Advertiser".

In the centre is a crest with a globe showing Canada, with an Indian and canoe on one side and a settler with a wheel of industry on the other.

Nature Notes

By Richmond Hill Naturalists

Winter does bring magic with its cold weather, especially if you have a feeding tray outside your window. What a picture to see on Christmas morning - male cardinals with their brilliant red plumage, with their equally beautiful but more subdued-colored females sitting in a snow-covered tree, sparkling in the winter sun; then a dazzling flash of blue as the jay settles on the feeding tray for his morning breakfast. Possibly you wish the blue jay wouldn't be so greedy and consume so much food but you have noticed how many starlings and sparrows he keeps away? The black-capped chick-a-dee is the most daring. He isn't afraid of the blue jays—he simply slips in and grabs a choice sunflower seed before the more clumsy jay can get turned around to chase him away. He isn't afraid of the bossy song sparrows either and, while he feeds, he keeps merrily singing "chick-a-dee" and makes all who hear him happy also. The blue jay also helps to take care of the smaller birds. Only last week several birds were feeding at a tray when they heard the jay's warning scream. In a flash they were all scurrying to a nearby hedge and all was silent. Within a short time a Cooper's hawk swooped over the garden but, thanks to the jay, he didn't get a meal that time.

December 29th was the all-America's sixty-second bird census for this area. The morning temperature was 30, with blustery snowflurries and a 20-mile wind. A combination that seems to have swept all the birds away except at feeding stations. Just another instance to prove how much birds depend on these trays for food during adverse weather conditions. The wind died down to 10 miles in the early afternoon, a cold front moved in and the sun shone at short intervals and this change brought forth better counting in the field.

This year the number of observers was 51 as compared to last year's 39. The total species noted was 30 as compared to last year's 44. The house sparrows increased markedly, also the cardinals and American gold-finches. For the first time we added the common grackle to our list. All hawks were in a lower count and no gulls nor golden-crowned kinglets were reported.

It will be interesting to look forward to the full report and to note what birds have decreased or increased. Last year, from the census report, it was proven that our bluebird was a mere 18 per cent of normal expectations. It is to be hoped that this will show an improvement for 1962.

The first meeting of the Naturalists in 1963 will be held in the public library on January 18th at 8 p.m. sharp. Dr. Carl Atwood will be the speaker and his subject will deal with ornithology. Dr. Atwood is a noted photographer and will illustrate his talk with his own pictures.

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