

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.

Clubhouse Dates Back 1830

(By Doris M. FitzGerald)
The last vestiges of two Yonge St. landmarks will disappear when demolition of the Thornhill Golf Clubhouse is complete. This three storey building, long a

composite of two imposing old dwellings, is being torn down to make way for a large curling rink, viewing lounge, and dining room, which will connect with the locker rooms, lounges and snackbar built by the club in 1961. Originally the clubhouse was a red brick mansion built by Squire Benjamin Thorne, probably before his marriage to Anna Maria Wilcocks in 1830. Thorne who came from Sherborne, Dorset, England to the settlement called Purdy's Mills in 1820, was a brother-in-law and business associate of Wm. Parsons who also settled in the village at this time.

Incidentally the latter house still stands, in good condition, and is owned by the Rev. Minton Johnston of Thornhill Baptist Church. We have been told that the encircling third floor balcony concealed the join between the walls of the Thorne house and the roof of the Mortimer house, and that the brick work was probably covered with stucco during this period of renovation. There were artesian springs on the property and the water, when analysed showed a desirable mineral content, so early in the 1880's Mr. Langstaff opened a health spa called Hawthorn Mineral Springs Residence which drew visitors from across the continent. A family affair it was managed first, by Mr. Langstaff's son-in-law, Mr. R. D. Little from Brooklyn, N.Y., and then by his son Dr. L. G. Langstaff and his wife. In later years the spring water was not stressed but the house continued to be a popular and pleasant place in which to recuperate from an illness, or to spend a restful holiday. The Langstaffs were generous about the use of their grounds. Many Church picnics and socials were held there and many villagers took a regular Sunday afternoon stroll to the springs. Always an energetic and resourceful man, John Langstaff, with the help of friends and neighbours rebuilt the old mill dam into a fine swimming pool and to have it washed out suddenly during a heavy rain storm, Mr. Edwin J. Jackson,

Some members will no doubt regret the loss of these old fashioned amenities, just as older residents will miss the familiar three story landmark, partially hidden by trees. However, there is no denying the fact that today a modern curling rink with six sheets of ice, lounges, dining room, and snack bar facilities, will be very welcome in this area. It will also enable the Golf Club to function on a year round basis instead of only during the golfing season.

(Our thanks to Councillor A. R. Sumner for telling us that the clubhouse was being torn down.)

Thornhill Notes

Presbyterian Church News

Interesting guests at the January 20th morning service at Thornhill Presbyterian Church were Dr. Benjamin Zi, minister at the Chinese Presbyterian Church on Beverley Street, Toronto and some 50 members of the junior, intermediate and senior choirs of his church. The choirs were conducted by Miss Ruth Ma.

Dr. Zi, preaching in English, spoke on the topic "Launch Out into the Deep", stressing the necessity for exploring the depths of Christian experience through prayer, bible study and service. Following the service, the visitors and the Thornhill congregation enjoyed lunch together.

That evening, the Thornhill Choirs, led by Mr. Walter Storchers sang at the Chinese Church and Rev. Evans through an interpreter, preached the sermon. His topic was "We Want to Get Under Your Skin" and his point was that brotherhood is in our blood, not in our skins and that although differences may be preserved, these differences don't mean separation. The Thornhill Choir of course sang in English and the Thornhill people were interested to hear that while they sang in English the members of the Chinese Church sang the same hymns in Chinese.

This is the first of three exchange services planned for this year. The next will be with the Ukrainian Presbyterian Church, and this will be followed by an exchange with the Hungarian Presbyterian Church. Rev. Evans commented that Presbyterians preach the gospel in seven different languages each week in the Toronto area, which will probably be quite a surprise to a lot of people - including the Presbyterians!

The eleventh anniversary of Thornhill Baptist Church was celebrated on Sunday, January 20, with special services in both the morning and evening. The evening service was followed by a reception which features a birthday cake, the eleven candles being blown out by young Janice Cowie.

Members of the senior high fellowship held a toboggan party recently and judging from all reports it was a huge success. Afterwards they warmed up at the home of Mr. and Mrs. O. Jardine, in Richmond Hill with lunch and dancing.

On January 15th, the women's association held their monthly meeting at the home of Mrs. Ken Hall, Westwood Lane, with the north group in charge. Some 35 ladies attended and after a short business meeting, were addressed by Mrs. Nadine Hradsky on "New People and New Canadians". Mrs. Hradsky gave an interesting account of her own experience in becoming a Canadian and outlined graphically the difficulties and problems of New Canadians in adapting themselves to Canadian ways and learning the English language. She pointed out that we as Canadians cannot really cherish our way of life because we have always had our freedom, and expressed the hope that future generations may have the strength and wisdom to retain this freedom.

Golf Ace Off To New Mexico

Brian Wilcox, son of Mr. and Mrs. G. R. Wilcox, Vista View Drive, Thornhill, and a member of Thornhill Golf Club won the Canadian Junior Golf Championship in 1962, and has been steadily gaining international recognition as a brilliant young golfer. Recently he was offered a resident scholarship at New Mexico State University, situated at Las Cruces on the Rio Grande River.

There is a fine new 18 hole golf course in the university park and the prospect of being able to play at all seasons and of possibly becoming a member of New Mexico State University Golf Team, made the invitation irresistible.

Brian, until last week, a grade 13 student at Thornhill Secondary School, left by air on January 23, to register for the spring semester in general arts, majoring in mathematics.

His bags were packed with warm weather clothes, his ears ringing with warm wishes from friends, and his mind filled with determination to do himself and Canada proud as a student, golfer and ambassador of good will.

at the end it comes to the same thing.

"All things whatsoever you would that men should do to you, do you even so to them; for this is the law of the prophets" (Matthew 7:12). Lunch and a time of fellowship closed the meeting.

Horticultural Society

In spite of the cold, a well attended meeting of the horticultural society was held at the United Church on January 15th with the new president, Mrs. H. A. Harris presiding. Secretary for 1963 is Mrs. E. Boyden and Mrs. P. Whitehead is the treasurer.

Speaker of the evening was Mr. A. Raab from the White Rose Nursery on No. 7 Highway at Unionville. Mr. Raab spoke on the propagation of plants by means of seeds, layering, cuttings, bulbs, grafting and budding. A lively question period followed. A draw was then held for the lovely begonias and coleus plants donated by Mr. Ernie Kohler. The meeting closed with tea and cookies served by the gentlemen of the executive.

Over 100 members of the society attended the annual Christmas banquet which was held in Holy Trinity Church. Mrs. Harris was convener of the banquet, assisted by Mrs. Welt and Mrs. Whatley. High point of the evening was the presentation of awards for the highest number of points accumulated by members at the various shows held throughout the year.

The T. Eaton Trophy in the flower section was carried off by the Mannings, who also had the highest points in the decorative class, in the special class, and for roses. First in the vegetable and fruit section was Mrs. Thompson. The Percy Bone Rose Bowl was won by Mr. T. Pheasant and the president's prize was won by the Stothers.

Top prize winners among the juniors were Stephanie Hayes and John Bishop. The entertainment at this meeting was taken care of by Mr. Ernie Kohler who showed pictures taken on his European tour, and accompanied them with an entertaining and amusing commentary.

Women's Institute

The monthly meeting of the Women's Institute was held at the home of Mrs. Bert Heslop, Yonge Street, on January 17th. The president, Mrs. Sinclair was in the chair and greeted the 14 members and two visitors present. Visitors were Mrs. Escott from England and Mrs. Johnson from Willowdale.

At the conclusion of the brief business meeting, Mrs. C. Cooper gave a very interesting talk on economics and health and Mrs. Heslop read two poems on health. Discussion took place about the next meeting which is to be held in the Presbyterian Church on February 21st. Built around historical events, the meeting will be in charge of Mrs. H. Mizen. This will also be the group's 61st birthday meeting.

C.W.L. News

The Catholic Women's League of St. Luke's met at the school on January 22nd with the president, Mrs. V. DeMarco presiding. Father Crossland gave a short speech of welcome. During the brief business meeting, the members were reminded that through the C.W.L. Archdiocesan Council, complete scholarships are available for worthy students which would carry them right through university.

The highlight of the evening

was the first round in the CWL's annual oratorical contest. Eight students from St. Luke's participated and the winners were, for the boys, John Fruhwirth, whose subject was "What Life Will Be Like in the Year 2,000"; and for the girls, Kelly Burkhardt who spoke on "What a Catholic Education Means to Me". Judges were Mrs. A. Noble, second vice-president of the Archdiocesan Council, Mrs. M. Cameron of Richmond Hill, and Mrs. K. Baxter of St. Paschal's, Willowdale. The two winners will compete again at the regional contest to be held February 24th at St. Mary Immaculate School in Richmond Hill. The ladies were also reminded

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CARL E. HILL, M.D., M.O.H.

of the annual Valentine dance

to be held at the school on Saturday, February 16th. Convenor Mrs. Tina Brunott is already busy on the arrangements so we will expect to hear more of this soon.

Holy Trinity News

Mr. N. B. Terrett, provincial executive commissioner was the speaker at the district Scout committee conference which was held at Holy Trinity Parish Hall on January 22.

After hearing his address, the conference broke up for group sessions covering the following: group chairmen and vice chairmen, group treasurers, secretaries and badge secretaries, camp chairmen, property, transportation and public relations.

Advance preparations are now being made for the Anglican Conference which will be held in Toronto from August 13 to 23. More than 1,000 delegates are expected. The bishop, a priest and a layman from each of the 340 dioceses throughout the world will be attending.

Committees are being set up in every parish of this diocese to make preparations for the great event. On Sunday, August 18, Right Reverend Richard Enrich, Bishop of Michigan will speak at Holy Trinity, Thornhill.

The parish guild's annual card party, announced last week for February 26 has been changed to February 19. The AYPA will be holding a pancake supper on the 26th. I understand this is usually quite a hilarious event, so hope to tell you more about it later on.

Speaking to Harry Lak, chairman of the bingo committee of the Thornhill Lions Club, he tells me the Lions are losing money on the bingos this year - which means the public is winning it. Each year they start out with a jackpot of \$300. The first night they call 52 numbers and if there is no winner by then, the jackpot is carried over until the next week when 53 numbers are called and \$25.00 is added to the jackpot. Most recent jackpot winner was Mrs. Alan Woolley of 7569 Yonge Street. Mrs. Woolley works at Mac's cigar store on Yonge St. and her many friends were pleased to hear that she had won \$475.00. Mr. Lak says they have been lucky in that for the most part the jackpot winners have been local people and old faithfuls who come out week after week.

Attendance at recent bingos hasn't been too good, however, and Mr. Lak advises that they need a turnout of 375 people just to make \$100. He feels the weather has had something to do with it and would like all prospective bingo players to know that they have brought pressure on the right places and have had the heat boosted in the building (the Farmers' Market) and that last week there

were no complaints about the cold.

Mr. Lak has been chairman of the bingo committee for the past six years. This year his committee consists of Ed Butlin, Dick Stewart, Ted Loughheed and Charlie Clifford. All members of the club are on a duty roster and each Wednesday night, twelve members help out. So here's a local effort well worth your support. The Wednesday night bingos are the Lions and all proceeds are used in their community work. Let's get out and give them a hand. You will find a warm welcome - both literally and figuratively - each Wednesday night at the North York Farmers' Market.

Social Notes

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wright of 26 Shasta Drive, along with three year old Kathy and two year old Eric spent Christmas and New Years at Fort Myers Beach, near St. Petersburg, Fla. They drove down arriving the day before Christmas and found it the warmest spot on the continent - 86 degrees. The weather remained delightfully warm throughout their stay and the whole family revelled in the lovely beach and water, and acquired a good tan in the process.

Mr. and Mrs. B. P. Roberts spent the Christmas and New Year holidays at the home of Mrs. Roberts' parents, Mr. and Mrs. G. W. Brooks at Bracebridge.

And Johnny Gall, son of Mr. and Mrs. J. C. Gall of 33 Kirk Drive spent a week-end recently in the Branson Hospital. He came home minus his tonsils and is by now, I expect, busily back at the kindergarten class of Woodland School.

Mr. and Mrs. Alan Tutty of 27 Shasta Drive spent a week in Winnipeg recently where they visited Mrs. Tutty's sister, Mrs. Harry Gillis.

Most of the social life of our fair village was concentrated around the high school last week. The annual parents' nights were held January 17 and 22. And the white rabbit in Alice in Wonderland had nothing on the harried parents as they scurried around from room to room making appointments to get their five minutes worth with their child's teachers. The trick was to get your appointments made within a reasonable time of each other, so you would not be there all night, but at the same time long enough between each one that you didn't skid to a halt outside the door and be too out of breath to speak. The appointments all made, the parents then seated themselves outside the door of the room and waited their turn. And what a sad looking bunch of people they were too. It seemed to me they all looked cowed and apprehensive, poor souls. Could it be that their

own high school memories

were largely of ghastly struggles with French and Algebra too? Anyways, things seemed to be quite well organized with the monitors outside each door knocking smartly to advise the parents that their time was up. And I'm sure, too, that any teacher will look more kindly on a student after having met his parents, and knowing that they showed enough interest in their child's progress to spend an evening inquiring about it.

Then on Thursday night, January 24, another group of parents, those with children in grade 8 this year, met at the high school to hear about the various alternatives the high school has to offer their children.

United Church News

The annual congregational meeting of Thornhill United Church has been called for February 3 after the evening service. Elders will be elected at this meeting and all members are urged to attend.

The Pulpit was occupied on January 27 by Rev. A. L. Day, B.A., B. Sc. Rev. Day returned recently from mission work in Hong Kong.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper was observed on January 17 and at the same service, 31 new members were welcomed into the church. These were: Mr. and Mrs. N. H. Breithaupt, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Harvey, Mrs. A. J. Higgins, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Hunter with sons John and Paul, Mr. and Mrs. F. Field, Mr. and Mrs. John Galbraith, Mr. and Mrs. H. King, Mr. Robert Lemire, Mr. and Mrs. M. Matyas, Mr. and Mrs. Robert F. Moore, Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Taylor, Mrs. E. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. Ross Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. John Weideman, Mr. and Mrs. F. R. Winter and Mr. and Mrs. W. R. Wybrow. These were all transfers from other churches.

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