

# SPORT SPOTS

BY RON CRAINE



By the time this column sees the light of day and has gone through the tender ministrations of the linotyper, it'll probably have rained as if rain were going out of style. Right at this particular time you'd almost think it had! Most lawns and gardens are strongly reminiscent of the Texas Panhandle in the Hungry Thirties—it's been quite a long, hot dry spell!

### BIGGEST BEACH IN THE WORLD

This lack of rain is driving us to think back a few years to the longest dry spell we ever experienced. It was back in the days of that ancient altercation known fondly as World War Deuce.

And the dry spell was in the garden spot of the Middle East, the Western Desert. As the desert borders the southern shore of the Mediterranean, it just has to qualify as the world's largest beach. The desert is mostly an infamous sort of place, so it's at least entitled to the distinction of being sort of a king-sized Wasaga Beach.

It's really a fascinating sort of spot—just the ideal place for a vacation to get away from it all. You'll only be plagued by flies, locusts, scorpions and a few dozen assorted charmers of the same ilk.

Nothing to get upset about at all. It has one other redeeming feature; it never, except about once in a hundred years, gets any rainfall. Absolutely charming!

Along with some 200 other nature lovers, who had sojourned in this veritable paradise for the better part of a year or more, we were taken aboard a ship at Suez and headed down the Red Sea bound for the Indian Ocean. Being thoughtful, sensitive types, the government allowed us to chaperone some 1,500 Afrika Korps boys to a new environment. Their former employer had no further use for their services and our bosses were quite concerned about the welfare of their guests.

Well, anyhow, it was hot. This was mainly because the air-conditioning in the luxurious suites on this delightful freighter was suffering a slight malfunction. Almost anybody who was anybody slept out on deck under the stars. Most people seemed to have lost their pyjamas and, as the ladies weren't allowed on this trip, it just didn't seem to matter. And still no rain!

After not seeing or feeling a good genuine rainstorm for many a month and moon, rain was the uppermost thought in every single mind. Well, sir, one night the gay old ship is heaving gently along at a spanking nine knots while some of the passengers were heaving not so gently. Some of us weren't accustomed to these luxury cruises and the water must have upset us a wee mite.

Along about eight or fourteen bells or whatever 3 in the morning is, it began to rain—gently at first then in torrents. Hardier sleepers developed beatific smiles. They thought they were dreaming about this lovely moisture that fell like a balm from the heavens!

In a few seconds everyone was awake, hollering and yelling and revelling in the delicious cooling rain. Two hundred stark-naked, howling dervishes cavorting and sluicing in the rain. It could easily have helped shorten the war!

Imagine the letters these quaint Afrika Korps boys would write to dotting parents. About how the British forces weren't even human but were, in reality, water-worshipping demons!

Maybe these letters helped to soften the morale of the German people and really we were an inadvertent secret weapon!

If and when it ever does rain next, come on out and join the revels, but please bring a bathing suit. We'll have a sort of block rain party and start a whole new trend!

### PLAYGROUNDS BIG BUSINESS

Playgrounds have moved into the big business field in Richmond Hill.

A few years ago an attendance of 650 children per day at all the playgrounds was considered capacity. This year 1,450 moppets a day are making use of the facilities.

To say that the playground staffs are overawed by it all would be an understatement. They're absolutely flabbergasted at the tremendous response. Like good trouper they have rallied to the challenge imposed on them and are turning in a first-class job!

Budgets for playgrounds are probably, almost inevitably, shot to shreds. But the only way to hold the budget line would necessitate the turning away of children, and this will never be done.

Beverly Acres playground seems to be leading the attendance parade, with something like 475 children per day showing up. At the beginning of the playground season some of the supervisors were relatively young and untried. Under the circumstances they've matured in a hurry and gained experience in a great tearing rush. All children attending are enjoying the benefits of a comprehensive program.

## Teams Enter 2 Tourneys

At a meeting of the Richmond Hill Minor Ball Association last week it was decided to send teams to the North York and Preston softball tournaments. This, it is hoped, will broaden and improve the calibre of minor softball in Richmond Hill.

The North York tournament will be held August 3 and is for teams in the pee-wee age groupings. Preston will hold a squirt age tournament on August 5.

Players from all teams in the R.H.M.B.A. who can qualify age-wise will be given an opportunity to catch a berth on one of these teams. Dates of try-outs and practices have not yet been finalized but information regarding these teams will be passed along as soon as possible.

## Coming Sporting Events

Monday July 22nd, Richmond Hill Minor Ball Association Juvenile League - Double header game time 6:45 p.m. Town Park, Richmond Hill.

Thursday, July 25th, Metro Major Fastball League. Gazzola & Allen vs Dynes Jewellers. Game time 8:15 p.m. Town Park, Richmond Hill.

## Many Pass Red Cross Swimming Tests At Camp Richildaca, Kettleby

Swimming examinations were held at Camp Richildaca, Kettleby, July 12th. The examinations included Red Cross beginner, junior, intermediate and Royal Life Saving Society Award in junior artificial respiration and elementary certificate.

Successful campers in Red Cross were: David Milne, Terry Neal, Francis Bloss, Lorna Waters, Fred Trant, Stuart Gray, Robin Tully, Eddie Bennett, Peter Queen, John Roblin, Glen Sharp, Elaine Welt, Doug MacLeod, Nora Calvert, Donna Percival, Heather Barker, Ann Cansdale, Robert Dixon, Nonie Farwell, Janet Thornhill, Susan Yates, Norma Cleary, Martha Edwards, Patricia King, John Neal, Gary Ellis, Terry Hutchinson, Nancy Higginson, Jane Gamble, Richard Montgomery, Gail Roberts, Claire Tucker, Kate Rounthwaite, Elizabeth Bone, Elizabeth Hill.

After a two hour examination practical and a written test the following campers received their awards in junior artificial respiration: Jimmy Best, Ian Schofield, Michael Trusler, Terry Hutchinson, Gayle Roberts, Richard Lynn, Elizabeth Hill, Judy Ainslie, Mary Evans, Mike Del Grande, Kate Rounthwaite, Mary Corkill, Jim Del Grande, Nancy Higginson, Barbara Hayes, Helen Payne, Caroline Allison, Jane Gamble, Scott Raymond, Susan McLaughlin, Marlene Moss, Cathy Beaton, Richard Montgomery, Elaine Hassard, Donna Pellick, Randy McMinn, Roy Hunter, Frank Tucker, Steve Harrington, Vic Winterburn, Heather Davidson, Elaine Welt, Lorraine Raymond, Hilary Kenyon, B. Thomas, Pat Fagan, Peggy Burridge, Barbara Jeffery, Beverlee Ritchie, Fran-

cois Bloss, Charlene Brenzall, Pamela Whitehead, Susan Thompson.

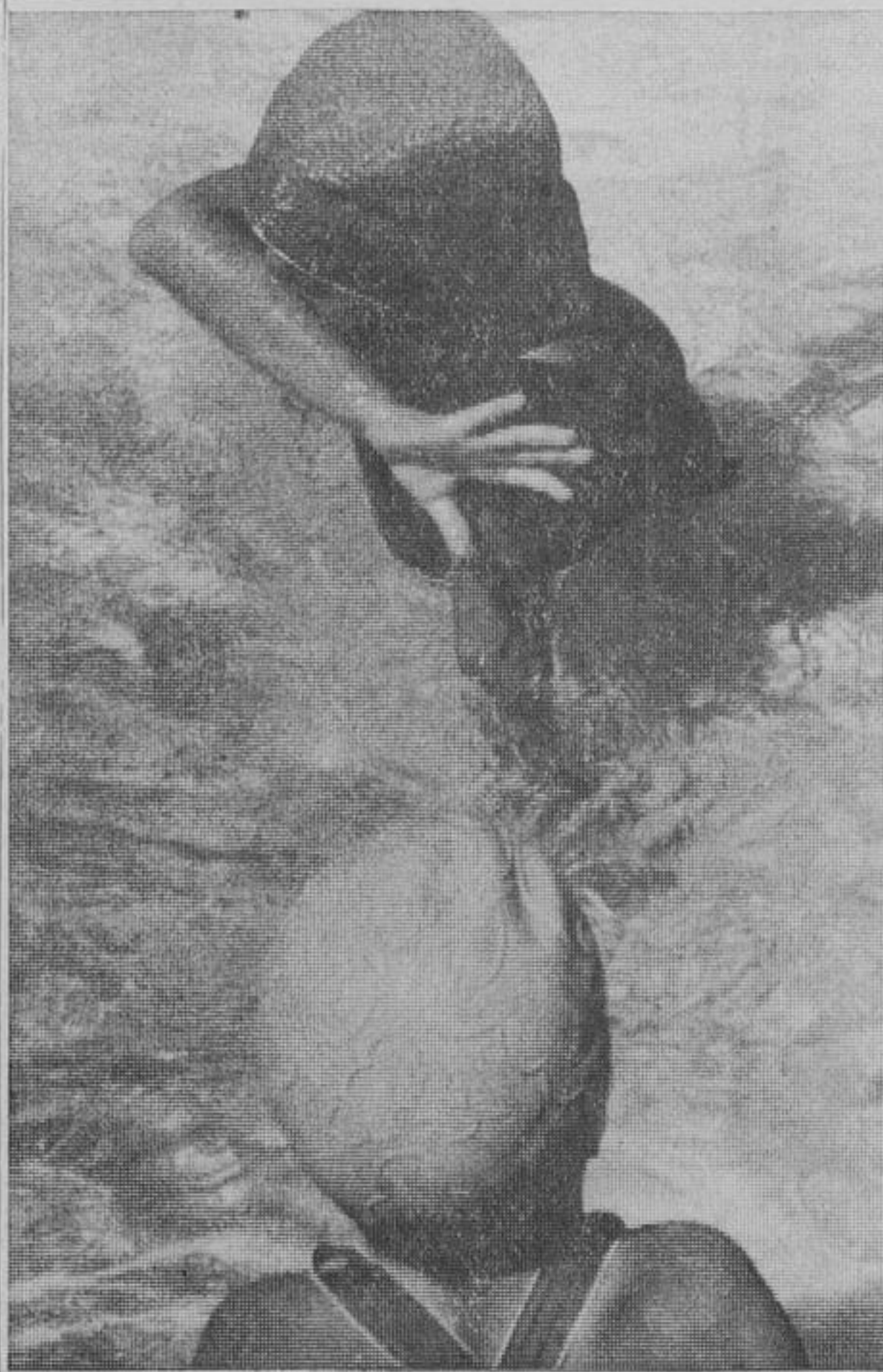
Successful campers in Royal Life Saving Society elementary certificate were: Susan Thompson, Richard Montgomery, Roy Hunter, Ian Schofield, Christie Clark, Shirley Tucker, Pam Whitehead, Susan McLaughlin, Holly Jackson.

## Visitors Take All

Winners at the Richmond Hill Lawn Bowling Club district tournament, July 10, were: 1st for three wins, H. Mort, St. John's Norway, Toronto; 2nd for three wins, M. Freeman, Agincourt; high for two wins, Don Bacon, Stouffville; high for one win, Bill Walton, Agincourt. The next district tournament will be played here on July 24. Games start at 1:30 p.m.



# DISTRICT SPORTS NEWS



## Hill Tads Learn To Swim

First step in water safety of any description is familiarity with the element. At right, Red Cross swim instructor Pat Vlassof of Thornhill teaches young Richmond Hill learn-to-swimmers a few basic pointers and gets them used to the Thornhill Pool where 300 Hill elementary students are taking Red Cross instruction. At left, one youngster shows another the wrong way to clear water from the eyes; don't rub them but blink away the water to avoid irritation.

## Newmarket And District Soccer

Aurora First 7, Richmond Hill 1; Newmarket Firsts 5, Newmarket Seconds 0; Maple 9, Etobicoke Seconds 0; Newmarket Firsts 17, Aurora Seconds 1; Aurora Firsts 7, Uxbridge 2; Richmond Hill 3, Etobicoke Firsts 0; Midland 0, Barrie 0; Orillia 1, Newmarket Seconds 0.

	P	W	L	T	P
Newmarket I	10	9	1	0	18
Maple	10	9	1	0	18
Aurora I	10	8	2	0	16
Richmond Hill	10	6	3	1	13
Uxbridge	10	5	3	2	12
Barrie	9	5	3	1	11
Midland	10	3	5	2	8
Etobicoke I	10	3	6	1	7
Orillia	9	3	6	0	6
Etobicoke II	10	2	8	0	4
Newmarket II	10	1	8	1	3
Aurora II	10	1	9	0	2

## Jewellers, Aurora Split Week's Bill

The game in the eleventh inning. Hill is a replacement for the injured Jim Patton and is a backstop of no mean ability.

Last Thursday night Dynes turned the tables by defeating Aurora 4-0 in Richmond Hill. Ray Judd was the winning pitcher and gave up only 4 hits while striking out 16. Gary Nolan took the loss for Aurora and was tagged for eight hits. He was credited with one strikeout.

Don McKnight, Aurora right fielder, showed why he is rated one of the most consistent hitters in the league. McKnight pounded out two singles to account for half the Aurora hits. Catcher Skeeter Hill poked another single for Aurora while shortstop Dave Harvey connected for a double in the fourth inning.

Skip DeGeer led off the first inning for the Jewellers and banded out a single. He was scored easily on a hard hit single by shortstop Neb Geyman.

The Jewellers added the second run in the sixth inning. Ray Judd hit into a fielder's choice to force Garry Smith at second. Judd stole second and

scored on a double by Geyman to register his second R.B.I. of the game.

De Geer led off the eighth inning with his second single of the game. Garry Smith found a pitch to his liking and drove it over the left field fence to add two more runs to the Jeweller tally.

The defensive play of shortstop Dave Harvey was equally matched by Dynes' Neb Geyman. Both players gave an outstanding performance in the art of playing this vital position and neither man has anything to concede to the other.

Sil Steffan caught a steady, heady game for the Jewellers. Ken Coultis has an injured hand but Steffan filled in admirably and proved that he is still a better than average

receiver. Frank Hughes, the Jewellers new first baseman showed that he knew his way around the initial sack and contributed a double as his share of the hitting honours.

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## Kents Have Bad Week

Woeful is the only word to describe the Clothiers' fate last week. They took it on the chin twice, at home and in Galt.

They met the powerful Dobby's Sports in Richmond Hill on Tuesday of last week. By the time the smoke and flame had died out Kent Clothiers had taken a 17-4 pasting from the Willowdale team. It was the most humiliating loss yet for the Kent Kids and errors paved the way for several of the Dobby runs.

On Wednesday night they went to Galt. Galt started a young pitcher named Bob Kitzman. He used his own special brand of dippy doodle magic to

come up with a no-hit, no-run game. His team mates gave him superb support and won the game by an 8-0 count.

Coach Joe Cormack called a special practice for Sunday last but was outgassed by the weather as the drought finally broke. With O.A.S.A. playdown time fast approaching the Clothiers seem to need practice to sharpen up. Despite plenty of action this year they seem jittery and tense. The tension is paying off with errors and the errors are becoming

opposition runs. Here's hoping they can soon get untracked and shake off the error bug-a-boo that is presently plaguing them!

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