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J. E. SMITH, Editor and Publisher
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Rambling Around

BY ELIZABETH KELSON

RECREATION FOR THE COMMUNITY

Jean R. Thomson, Recreation Director for the Hill Mrs. Malcolm F. Thomson who lives at 109 Yonge St. North, Richmond Hill, is one of the town's busy and useful women. To direct recreation measures for a community like Richmond Hill is no small undertaking but Jean Thomson is well equipped for this sort of work. Her school life has been extensive. She attended a boarding school until matriculation; graduated from Margaret Eaton School of Physical Education (which was later affiliated with the University of Toronto). To further her physical education training, she attended the University of Rochester for several years. Following that she took courses at the University of Toronto; Columbia University in New York City and finally the University of Western Ontario, in London. She had 10 years teaching experience of physical education in Rochester.

Mrs. Thomson explained that the Department of Education's Community Programs Branch requires potential recreation directors who wish to qualify for a provincial certificate to take a three year course at the University of Western Ontario consisting of both a correspondence course and attendance at a seminar held there. Her teaching experience and educational background qualified her to enter a special one year course offered to university graduates. Besides Mrs. Thomson, three young men were accepted.

"I was very fortunate to pass the course as it was a stiff one," she said. By so doing, she qualified for the permanent "A" provincial recreational director's certificate. There are several types of certificates issued, some on a provisional basis and some receivable after a duration. Every director in the business is working towards the "A" grade. This is only acquired after three years of directorship plus the qualifying courses at Western University. At the moment there are just two other women besides Mrs. Thomson who hold the "A" certificate. One is from Northern Ontario and the other from Hamilton. There are some 300 people employed in recreation in the province and about 90 of their directors are men with the exception of three women. About 45% have this permanent "A" certificate and the balance are working toward it. The possession of an "A" certificate brings an increased salary grant to the municipality.

Mrs. Thomson declares that the days are never long enough to do all that she wants to do. She reads a great deal and enjoys the theatre plus any form of ballet. She still likes swimming which she first taught to others at the age of 14. She also plays bridge. Along with her hobbies she belongs to many associations. She attends the Richmond Hill United Church; is a member of the Richmond Hill Branch of the I.O.D.E.; an honorary member of Beta Sigma Phi since June, 1963. She was instrumental in founding the Richmond Hill Branch of the Victorian Order of Nurses, and was president of its board for three years. She is still the director. She is a member of the Unionville Curling Club; the Carlton Club of Toronto, and the Richmond Hill Curling Club. These last she has resigned from because of her activities as recreation director.

Mrs. Thomson's philosophy regarding the importance of recreation is simply this. She believes that every man and woman and child in every community should (if they wish) have available at a cost within their means a choice of worthwhile activities.

"This in my opinion," said Mrs. Thomson, "is the basis of a satisfactory and full life... though this Utopian situation is not always possible. The need for recreation in any community is based on our increased pace of living due to the social and industrial changes which have created more leisure time. What people do with their leisure time has become the concern of all governments and I believe that a satisfied taxpayer is a happy citizen!"

To this end, the province makes certain grants to municipalities organized for recreational activities under specific legislation. Worthwhile use of leisure time is its purpose. Its aims are to give citizens of any age a sense of satisfaction and accomplishment. The program should encompass all ages, be active and passive, social or athletic. This, of course, depends on personal interests. However with financial limitations in this particular area the funds are largely diverted to youth groups and senior citizens.

It is also the purpose of the recreation committee to assist any group in the organization and maintenance of a worthwhile activity, both in an advisory capacity and where application is made for municipal financial assistance; also to be conversant with the entire situation to speak for or against requests. Mrs. Thomson is required to train a staff of playground leaders, usually 20 or 25 teenagers who handle the six areas that she directs. Her other duties are to give daily supervision, plan the program, do all the buying and conduct regular staff meetings. She also compiles the brochure on recreation and looks after its distribution; issues all permits for the use of municipal playing areas and sees that they are in good condition; store, repair, distribute and collect all equipment bought with municipal funds; also arrange with the school boards for accommodation for various activities; compile budget figures and be able to substantiate them and to assist all or any group with their budget requests and financial problems. It is also essential that Mrs. Thomson be aware of all possible grants given by the provincial government either in money or equipment... also to acquire sponsors and trophies for groups in need, if and when possible. The recreation director, when invited, has spoken at gatherings and has given out trophies to winning teams. She also handles the required publicity.

The recreation committee is appointed yearly. It has seven members. They are: Chairman William Ruttle, Ray Gemmill, Councillor Tom Murphy, Councillor Al White, Mrs. William Turner, Mrs. M. E. Williams and Ron Craine. (Two of the members are always from the sitting council.)

"Our program would not function at all," she declared, "if it were not for the tireless efforts of 150 to 200 volunteers. I couldn't begin to name them, for the list is much too long. Speaking of training these willing workers, whom we appreciate very much, the hockey men run a course for coaches and the baseball group do the same. I run a course for playground leaders but most of them are paid and are not on a voluntary basis."

The committee's most recent undertakings are: improvements to the town park, new steel football and soccer goal posts, players benches, adding to and re-painting bleachers, and extending the baseball screens, etc.

Flashback

In Years Gone By

Items gleaned from files of "The Liberal", the home paper of this district since 1878.

Long before Richmond Hill existed in Toronto, then York had become a village and acquired a name, the two miles immediately to the south of the present village was known as Black Ash Swamp. It had been surveyed into lots and subsequently was opened for settlement. For many years these lots and the town of Little York could be reached only over a corduroy bridge nearly a mile in length which sometimes floated in the rainy seasons over the mud and ooze of the swamp.

One day in the latter part of August, 1814 on a farm on lot 38 of Markham Township there was a party of four men engaged in cutting and binding oats in a field. When the work was completed a neighbour who was assisting invited the other three men to his home for refreshments. One of the men was the owner of the farm where the work was being done, another was a Frenchman named Bulger, and the other was a hired man named Betts. Following the refreshments a contest of strength was suggested for that was the only way our ancestors had to while away the tedium of the moment. Two young farmers in the prime of manhood were born athletes and they were called upon to wage a wrestling bout. The wrestling match resulted in the defeat of the owner. A war of words ensued irritating still more the rising temper of the defeated athlete. A threat to shoot met a daring defiance. The ever ready rifle was brought out. The other two men serious fled for protection. The young athlete who won also sought safety in flight. While clearing a low fence, he got the fatal bullet in his side.

The perpetrator of the terrible crime was arrested by Constable Dye and brought before James Fulton, Esquire. Squire Fulton was our first Justice of the Peace. After a careful investigation he committed the accused to the general

On the way the prisoner had to pass his home and he requested the privilege of going in for something he needed. Once inside he locked the door, leaving the constable on the outside. For some time he was successful in holding the fort. The constable called for assistance from a detachment of soldiers on their way from York to Penetanguishene, then the northern headquarters for the army. Dye included some of the soldiers to make a charge on the dwelling. They entered the door, with fixed bayonets and captured the prisoner. At the assizes the accused was found guilty by Chief Justice Scott on a Saturday afternoon and sentenced to be hanged on the following Monday. The scaffold was a most primitive affair erected on the street in front of the local jail. All executions were in public and thousands flocked to witness them from a sort of morbid curiosity.

On Monday the doomed man was requested to mount the scaffold to pay his debt to society. Apparently not liking the look of the arrangement above him he refused to do so. The late Rev. John Strahan, Bishop of Toronto, the prison chaplain, tried to induce the young man to go up by mounting the ladder several times himself. Sheriff Ridout finally got four strong men to carry the accused to the platform where in a few minutes he paid the penalty for his terrible crime. The condemned man's wife immediately after the execution claimed his body and brought him to the farm where he was buried in the garden a few rods from Yonge St. The farm later fell into the hands of Mr. Thos. Harris, builder. At that time the sunken burial spot without headstone or marker had become a nest for this. Less than eighty years ago, the owner erected a large work shop over it to hide it from the public eye.

Second Thoughts...

by George Mayes

● Yesterday's news is not necessarily dead.

And one bad thing about our huge wheat sales to Russia is that all the "housewives" on those hokey TV commercials may have to go back to baking with "hard-wheat" flour... And we'll have to put up with them all over again!

A Bayview restaurant has opened a children's dining room, featuring a special children's menu for the youngsters at Beverley Acres School. "The Liberal" reports: A typical menu last Friday was fish and chips, ice cream and milk. Ughoo! That's a children's menu all right!

Toronto canvassers for the United Appeal have been promised that Metro police won't tag their cars with parking tickets... BUT if they do get a ticket, it will be fixed! The police promiser evidently expects some of the force will be unable to make the sacrifice and treat cars with a UA sticker as a "You, too!"

Students at York University were told that it could ultimately cost them \$240 a day to play hockey... Unless they're playing hockey to learn to play hockey.

Succulent steaks of "Kobe Beef" from the famous staggering steers of Japan will soon be available here. These cattle, which literally lead a lush life, are lavished with "tender" care by the Kobe farmers. They are given tasty concentrated feeds, daily massages, and rations of beer and even whiskey to keep them contented and toothsome. But there's one big hiccup in their happiness -- they have to be a steer to get the treatment!

And, on learning that Canadian breweries are developing an "Instant" beer, we didn't need any second thoughts to suggest that Japan would be one good place for them to send it to. Who needs it? We're still waiting for them to develop an instant waiter.

Parliament's first order of business is the setting up of a trusteeship over the warring maritime unions, unless, as setting-up exercise, it has to set up a trusteeship over the warring Social Credit party.

The O.P.P. now has a troop of motorcycle constables performing a musical ride similar to that of the R.C.M.P. (So how do they hear the music?) The mechanized minions expect to find their steeds much less tiring than horses -- on the other hand, their audiences will find their performances "exhausting."

Question of the Week -- With everyone in Britain talking about the Denning Report, could you say that the Christine and John affair was a conversation piece?

"Dear Mr. Editor"

SUCCESSFUL BALL SEASON Dear Mr. Editor: The Richmond Hill Minor Ball Association deserves a very large thank you for a very successful and rewarding season. All parents should appreciate the time and effort that went towards the youth of the community. Those concerned: the executive, convenors, umpires, coaches and all who helped out in any way, gave their time and effort freely and with much enjoyment. I am sure next season the association will provide another successful summer. The calibre of ball is getting better each year. There is no thrill like seeing the expression on a boy's face when he has played well and this happens more often when his parents are watching. So parents, whether it be ball, hockey or any other sport, don't send your child -- take him -- And see the game. Thank you. Jack Duncan, 44 Pemberton Road

Have You Read These?

By Richmond Hill Public Library Board

This week we wish to inform our patrons about some of the periodicals which have been added to our collection in the past few weeks. These are not new magazines, but the library has now been able to expand its subscription list by a few titles:

The Financial Post: Canada's national weekly of business, investments and public affairs (Toronto). This weekly Canadian newspaper is well known in the business field, especially in the Toronto area, and we are pleased that we can now provide it in the library. This paper is noted for its special articles on business trends, its EP Reports... and its survey of the Weekly Quotations. Careers and Opportunities are given full display.

High Fidelity: The magazine for music listeners (Great Barrington, Mass.). With the advent of a record collection in the library, it seemed imperative to have a companion piece in literature of music, and High Fidelity is our choice. This monthly, handsome periodical has regular features on music and musicians plus a large section of reviews of recordings. The advertising (mostly in related fields) will be of interest to the home do-it-yourself man in radio, hi-fi, tape, and stereo sound.

Ontario Homes and Living (Toronto). With the death of Canadian Homes and Gardens last year, a new consumer magazine was born in the form of Ontario Homes and Living. This large, glossy monthly is a publication of the big American publishing in this field but with a definite Canadian slant. It has sections on Cooking, Gardening, Travel, as well as the articles on redecorating, remodeling and new ideas for home design.

Scientific American (New York). A very old and well respected authority in the general field of science and development (Established 1845). Each issue is devoted to a special theme, with regular departments each month. The September issue features technology and economic development. The topics discussed are population, food, water, energy, minerals, education, as well as special sections on Nigeria, India, Brazil and the U.S. South.

Canadian Welfare: Published six times a year by the Canadian Welfare Council (Ottawa). This is a small, but important publication in the field of social welfare for the layman as well as the professional worker. The importance in our society today of the child, the aged, the homeless, and the unemployed, have turned us to greater study and sincerity in our attempt to overcome these problems. Book reviews in this field are a regular feature of this magazine.

Commonweal: A weekly review of public affairs, literature and the arts (New York). This slim weekly magazine has gained a wide reputation among the intellectual group as a special contribution to human understanding. While it is mainly American in tone and scope, it is an important periodical for us in Canada.

All of the periodicals noted above are indexed in either the Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature or the Canadian Index to Periodicals, which are carried by the library. The magazines are available for home use on a library card and are loaned for a period of two weeks, the same as books. Newspapers are not circulated outside of the library.

LIBRARY HOURS: Monday to Friday, 9-9 Saturday, 9-6 Closed Wednesday

AURORA: This town will take over Yonge Street as a connecting link if the highways department opens an entrance directly into Aurora Shopping Centre. The conditional decision came at a town council-department of highways joint meeting. The highways department has been anxious for the town to take over the road in the "connecting link".

BUSINESSMEN'S LUNCHEON Monday to Saturday 12 noon to 2:30 p.m. Special Rates Wedding Receptions and Banquets

Sample Menu: Half Fried Spring Chicken Juice or Dinner Soup Mashed Potato Vegetables Trifle Pudding with Golden Sauce Hot Rolls and Butter Coffee \$2.25

Banquet Menu Sent Upon Request

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Compulsory Registration

Only 58 percent of eligible voters in York North riding went to the polls in last week's provincial election. This was considerably lower than the percentage for the entire province, which was far from being satisfactory.

In spite of perfect weather conditions, general apathy on the part of the public towards the vital part that a provincial government plays in the life of each and every one of us kept hundreds of thousands of people from using the right to vote which is the fundamental basis of democracy.

The late Thomas L. Kennedy, one-time premier of Ontario, in his memoirs wrote, "When I was a boy, everyone voted except the infirm and the sick. There was no such thing as a sixty or seventy or eighty percent vote. It was always just about one hundred percent."

"People voted because they wanted to," he said. "To them it was important to cast a ballot. Somewhere along the line we have slipped, and I think

the poor turnout at elections these days is a reflection of public indifference and apathy."

Wholeheartedly we agree with Mr. Kennedy. The apathy and indifference quite evident in the recent election is most regrettable, and some day we will pay for our lack of interest. Poor government will be our inevitable reward. The lesson of history is that public indifference breeds something much less than the best in government.

Prompted by the very evident lack of interest exhibited by electors in seeing that their names appear on the lists of voters, Ontario's Chief Election Officer Roderick Lewis has proposed that compulsory registration of citizens for provincial elections be introduced. He also proposed that a penalty be imposed on citizens who failed to register under a compulsory system.

It is a sad commentary on our times when the idea of compulsory participation in elections is given even passing consideration.

Vandalism

Although cases of vandalism are isolated in this area at present, there has still been enough wanton damage to merit a mention.

Recently a local service station was broken into with the probable intent of theft but in the process of the search for loot, the would-be thieves wrecked the place... parts were strewn about, soft drink bottles smashed and the place left in a shambles.

During the summer, a Vaughan couple on vacation returned to find their home ransacked and partly destroyed by a subsequent fire.

At the end of the school term last June, police reported a portable school in Thornhill had been violently wrecked, ink splattered from top to bottom and desks and equipment broken or upset.

Another Vaughan school reported

finding eggs smeared on inside walls. Several Richmond Hill youths were caught in the act of firing property near the Summit Golf Club last month.

These were all unnecessary acts of a particularly thoughtless nature that were costly and stupid; they accomplished nothing except an expensive waste of money and great inconvenience to the parties concerned. In most cases the guilty have gone undetected.

What possibly could be the gain from such acts?

In the society in which we live we are taught to respect other people's property.

Perhaps if those responsible had to shoulder the cost of restitution and bear the brunt of public scorn for such stupid acts, they would think twice.

Congratulations To Dynes

Whether or not they go "all the way" this season, members of the Dynes Jewellers softball team have set themselves up for a goodly share of applause from Richmond Hill.

It's been a long season but the Russ "Casey" Cripps managed and coached team has won a lot of fans as well as thrust the name of Richmond Hill into many parts of this province.

It's a difficult task to be "up" for every game especially when you just get one foe disposed of just in time to face another.

Vern Dynes' boys have been doing it all season and the record indicates they've become very adept at it. In the OASA finals four of their opponents—Brampton, Chester Cleaners, Owen Sound and Peterborough—found it an impossibility to even cross the plate let alone come close to winning.

This means eight shut-out games in a row for whip-armed Ray Judd who once in a while collapses to the extent he allows maybe two or three hits.

Of course, Ray will probably be the first one to admit a pitcher is only one of eight other key fellows on field.

It still requires a team effort to go as far as Dynes' have gone this season and do it so well.

It also takes a great deal of coaching and worrying and this is where Mr. Cripps makes his entrance. From all reports, "Casey", as he is referred to, never lacks for energy and certainly adds colour and spark from his position behind the bench and behind third base.

Another vital element of course has been "Mr. Joe Fan" who has proven time and again has picked the team up with prolonged outbursts of cheering.

The Dynes' squad can't win them all but sometimes that little difference can be made up by a host of cheering support from the fans.

It's been a great ball season and congratulations go to everyone connected with the team including: Sponsor Vern Dynes, Manager and Coach Russ Cripps, Jim Gregory, Skip DeGeer, Ray Judd, Bill Robson, Chico Fernandez, Stan Thornton, Gary Smith, Stan Williamson, Matt Kinnari, Tony Cento, Frank Hughes, Neb Gayman, Brent Selvage, Ken Coultas and Sil Steffan.

The Late Wilfred Dean

A sense of great loss was experienced by residents of Markham Township last week when Reeve Wilfred Dean passed away suddenly following a heart attack.

A member of a family which had taken a prominent part in Thornhill Village for three generations, Mr. Dean carried out his public duties with diligence and self-sacrifice, with the welfare of the greatest number of people always firmly in mind.

Mr. Dean has given his municipi-

pality distinguished service over a long period of time in political, fraternal and church affairs. His terms of office on the village trustees, the York Central District High School Board, and the township and vicinity councils have meant great personal sacrifice of time and ability.

"The Liberal" joins with the people of Markham Township and his many friends from the entire county in extending sincere sympathy to Mrs. Dean and her family in their sad bereavement.