

# Thornhill Landmark Insurance Head Office

By DORIS M. FITZGERALD  
The old year ends auspiciously for Thornhill's business section with the announcement that the head office of two insurance companies — the York Fire and Casualty Co., and the Transportation Fire and Casualty Co., has been established at 7699 Yonge Street. This beautifully renovated building adds a touch of elegance to the main street, and the insurance companies will be offering career opportunities to young men and women in the district.

"We've been operating in Toronto for some years," said Warren Bryce the personable young manager, but there is a great concentration of insurance companies in the city. We decided to join our agents in the field, and believe that we can service them as well, or better, from this conveniently situated rural office.

Educated at Upper Canada College

and the University of Toronto, Warren Bryce moved to Thornhill with his parents in 1954. He married Jean Keith and they now have two children and a home in the village. Incidentally Mrs. Bryce is a niece of Bob Keith of Richmond Hill, and of the Thornhill Garden Centre.

When purchased from David McLean the prospective head office consisted of ground floor business premises, with an apartment above so considerable remodelling was necessary to make it a complete unit again.

Great pains were taken to preserve the architectural charm of the exterior. Two large plate glass windows were replaced by tall, shuttered windows. More in keeping with the original design. A double width entrance door with distinctive hand wrought brass handles was installed and the small addition at the south end was given

a pitched roof.

The interior, however, has been completely, and tastefully modernized. The new lobby is panelled with rosewood, and mahogany is effectively used for the same purpose in the spacious offices. Ceilings are of acoustic tile, and the floors will be covered with broad-loom, except in the corridors and wash-rooms where vinyl has been used. Upstairs, work is still proceeding on the large board room, and other offices.

"The electric wiring, plumbing and heating ducts are all new and some partitions were moved so we practically stripped the walls to the framework inside," said Mr. Bryce, who acted as contractor, and at one time had 18 men working on the job. "We uncovered 14 inch hand hewn beams, boards 23 inches wide, and a double floor 18 inches thick. The two European carpenters were especially interested in the mortis-

ed joists, and wooden pegs, a type of construction commonly used long ago in their homeland. We feel now that this building is good for another hundred years," he commented with understandable satisfaction.

The exact age of the attractive edifice has not been determined but it was probably erected in the late eighteen forties when Sutton Richard Frizzell who lived in the present Willard Simpson house at John and Yonge Streets began to divide up his property. In 1854 John Carter sold it for 300 pounds to Dr. John N. Reid who subsequently added the second story. Dr. Reid was a son of Dr. and Mrs. John Reid who came to Thornhill from Ireland in the eighteen thirties, bringing with their family a devout Irish servant girl named Anne Preston. When Mrs. Reid died "Holy Anne" looked after the children, and later kept house

for the young doctor at Yonge and Colborne Streets. No one had any inkling then that Anne would one day become quite famous as the subject of a widely read little book, "An Irish Saint", by Helen E. Bingham.

In 1900 J. E. Francis a rising and respected Thornhill businessman bought the well treed property from the Reid estate and lived there until 1946, when he and his daughter moved to a bungalow. The next owner, David McLean, a young Thornhill man converted the house to a real estate office but put it up for sale this year after purchasing and moving to the Riddell property on the west side of Yonge Street.

At this special season we would like to extend a warm welcome and best wishes for the future to Mr. Bryce, his companies and his staff. May they never have reason to regret the move to Thornhill.

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## Thornhill Public School Children Present Gay Christmas Concert

A lively Christmas concert was put on by the students and staff of Thornhill Public School at Holy Trinity Parish Hall on December 11.

The concert was organized by grades and was opened by the presentation of two dances, a Virginia Reel and "Brother Come and Dance With Me" from Hansel and Gretel by the members of Mrs. Acheson's grade 3 room.

Next came a play by the members of Mrs. McBride's grade 4 class, called "Christmas Symbols" and this was remarkable for the wondrous costumes — for which a vote of thanks goes to a group of devoted mothers.

Mrs. Hill's grade 5 class participated in choral speaking which was beautifully done. The piece was entitled "The Boy Who Laughed at Santa Claus" by Oden Nash. Starring roles were taken by Mary Goodwin as Santa, Dean Moffat as the boy who laughed and Douglas Charlton as the Jack-in-the-box the boy was

turned into.

Mrs. Harrison's grade 6 class performed in a play entitled "A Real Canadian Christmas". Leading roles were played by Kenneth Moore and Anne Clark. The play told how the customs and traditions of newcomers to Canada are combined with Canadian customs.

Mr. Olver's enthusiastic grade 7 class presented three skits. The first was entitled "The Real Reason the South Lost the Civil War"; the second was a take-off entitled "The Queens-Trio" and the final one was a comedy entitled "The Tidy Bugs vs. the Litterbugs".

"A Day of Pleasant Bread" was the title of a play presented by the grade 8 class which is taught jointly by Mrs. Littlejohn and Mr. Urquhart. The main roles in this were taken by Peter Law, Susan Herbert, Gary Synowicki, Jill Stewart, Jennifer McIntosh and Chris Sills — whose Scottish accent just about brought down the house every time he opened his mouth!

## 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.

## Community Happenings In Thornhill

**Thornhill Secondary School**  
The gymnasium-auditorium of Thornhill Secondary School echoed to unaccustomed treble voices on December 19 when the children of the staff members were entertained at a Christmas party. Some 40 youngsters attended and were thrilled to play on the trampolines and with other equipment which the physical education department had set out for their enjoyment. And so the parents could enjoy themselves, a group of senior students were on hand to look after the children and organize games for them.

Santa Claus of course

put in an appearance and distributed toys from his throne on the stage. And if his voice and inflections were those of a well-known teacher of history, no one appeared to notice. (And I'll bet Mr. Foley enjoyed it more than the kids did). As the ladies had thoughtfully come bearing delicious casseroles and what-have-you a buffet lunch was enjoyed in the cafeteria. This was followed by a sing-song and the gathering broke up about 7:30.

On December 20, an assembly was held for the entire student body (how they packed them

in, I don't know). Santa Claus put in an appearance here too although not to distribute toys. Carol singing was much enjoyed as was a musical selection sung by Mr. A. Anderson who has been doing considerable supply teaching at the school. To the tune of "The 12 Days of Christmas" Mr. Anderson sang "The 12 Days of Football", the lyrics of which were composed by Mr. Seath, head of the phys. ed. department, and which included the names of each member of the football team.

Another number which was well received was composed by Mr. Seath and Mrs. O'Shea jointly and went to the tune of "It Must Be Santa". Master of ceremonies was Ted MacGhee. Mr. Murch opened the assembly and Principal Elson spoke a few words on closing, while Mr. Foley gave a Christmas message to the students.

**Guest speaker was Mrs. Harold Jackson**, chairman of the finance committee of the Toronto Centre Presbytery of the U.C.W. Mrs. Jackson told of just what is done with the funds turned in by each group of the U.C.W. and where the money is spent.

Special guests for the evening were the Bell Ringers of Richmond Hill. This is a new musical ensemble whose members perform on bells. It is directed by Mrs. Vera Diamond, and this marked the group's first public appearance. Their numbers were much enjoyed by the ladies.

Mrs. Norma Martin was in charge of the evening which was very well attended.

Along with all the other churches in the area, Thornhill United Church was the scene of much Christmas activity almost all of December. The lovely C.G.I.T. Vesper Christmas Service was held on December 15 White Gift Sunday was also observed on December 15. On December 22 at 9:30 a.m., a family service was held, with the regular Christmas service being held at 11 a.m. At the evening service on December 22 there were "carols in the candlelight" — a programme of Christmas carols and music by the choir. A Christmas Communion service was held on December 24 at 11:15 p.m. On December 14, the couples club held their annual Christmas dinner and social evening and on the evening of December 8, the members of the Young People's Union wrapped gifts for mental patients.

readings were given by Janis Quilty and Linda Evans. This was followed by prayer led by Mrs. Blair, Mrs. Blair and Mrs. Anderson also joined to tell "A Story". For the actual candlelighting service, the first candlelighter was Diane Surridge, the second Glenda Evans and the third, Milly Clow.

On December 22, members of the Presbyterians and the young people's group went about singing Christmas carols for shut-ins in the congregation. On Christmas day, a family service was held at 10 a.m., with the children invited to bring with them to the service, their favourite gift.

Team standing at the close of the season was as follows: Matinees 34; Sweet Caps 29; Belvedere 28; Cameos 25; Black Cats 27 and Exports 22. Bowling will recommence on January 7.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. E. Olver of Westwood Lane who received an early Christmas present on December 12 with the arrival of a 9 lb. 2 oz. baby boy, born at the York County Hospital, Newmarket. Mr. Olver teaches the grade 7 class at Thornhill Public School.

And best wishes and hopes for a speedy recovery to Mr. R. C. Urquhart, principal of Thornhill Public School who underwent surgery at the Branson Hospital on December 18 and had the unhappy experience of spending Christmas in hospital.

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## Santa Arrives At T'Hill Lions Club

(Continued From Page 1)  
the piano and Glen Cooper on drums with an assist from Lion Eilert Sand and his violin — and it's a moot point as to who enjoyed the music more, the children or Mr. Sand!

Finally, after his cue, the opening bars of "Here Comes Santa Claus", had been repeated several times, Santa did appear, and a right jolly old elf he was, bearing a striking resemblance to Lion Willard Simpson. Santa patted all the children on the head as he made his way up the aisle, stopping to speak to all the little ones. He was finally seated on the steps leading up to the stage and began the important work of the evening — distributing presents. Santa was assisted by Lions Dennis Moore and Harold Keffer and within a very short while, every youngster had received a nicely wrapped present and a very well stuffed Christmas stocking. Of course they didn't stay wrapped very long, as eager little fingers were quick to discard the bright wrappings and enjoy their present.

All but one little tyke — dressed in a bright red sweater, torn jeans and running shoes, he was about four years old, and wandered around with his present tightly clasped under one arm, his stocking under the other, needing no other excitement than just to carry them. He was finally coaxed into opening his parcel which revealed a handsome toy truck. Still he refused to remove it from its plastic wrapping and after gazing at it, speechless, for some time, put it under his arm and stood waiting to be taken home, his happiness complete.

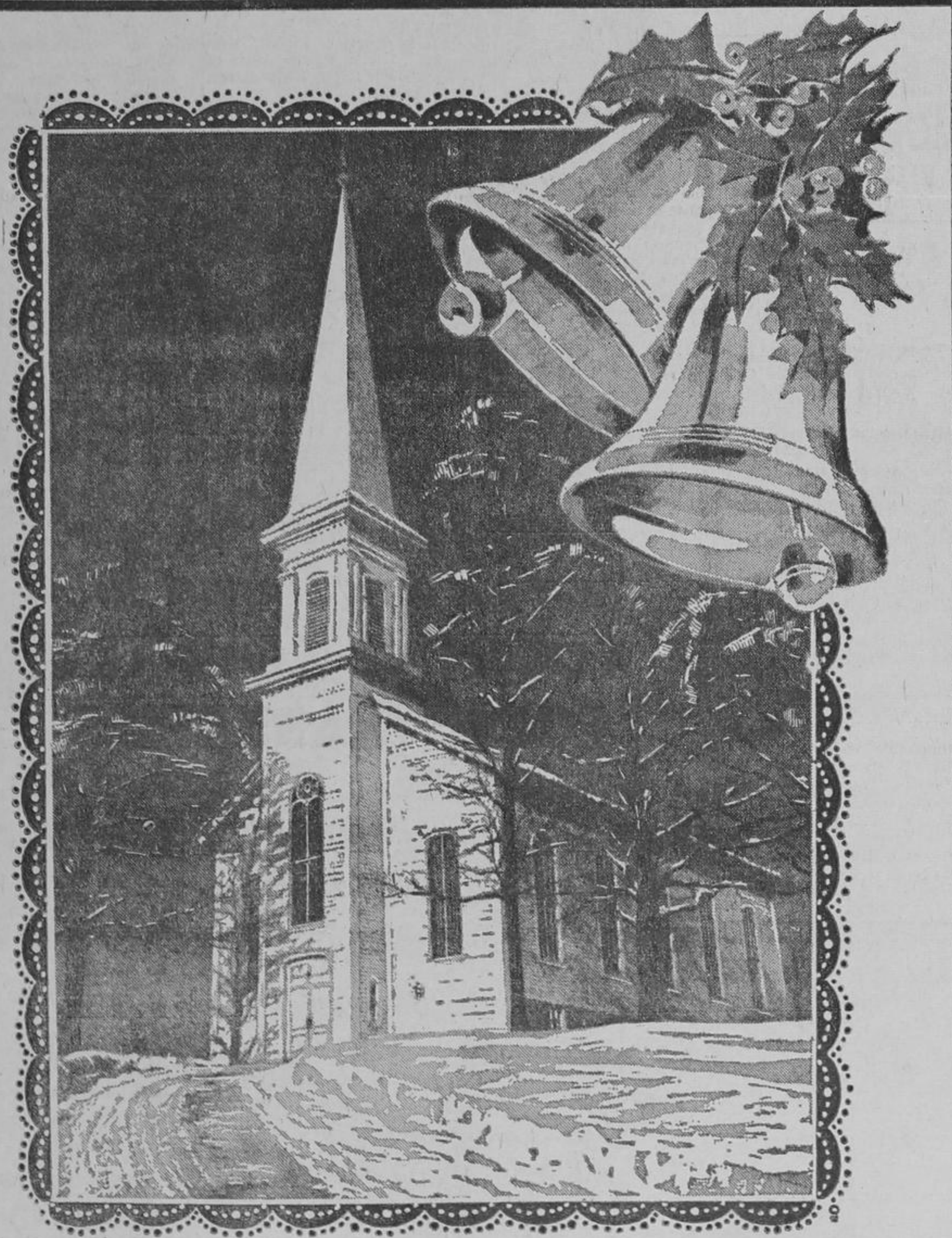
The Lions appeared to enjoy the whole business just about as much as did the children. Lion Jack Benham had entered into the spirit of the occasion whole-heartedly and sported a bright red vest, figured with white spots, together with a gay felt bow tie made in the shape of holly leaves and decorated with red berries. Lion Bob Roberts was also very dashing in a red vest.

The meal was catered for by the ladies of the Holy Trinity Parish Guild — and I'm sure if they spread around just how capably the Lions managed the serving and clearing away, there will be a lot of Lions pressed into service at home.

## Notice to Creditors and others

IN THE ESTATE of LORAL MABEL HORD, late of the Township of Markham, in the County of York, Widow.  
ALL PERSONS having claims against the Estate of Loral Mabel Hord, late of the Township of Markham, in the County of York, Widow, Deceased, who died on or about the 5th day of May, 1963, are hereby notified to send to the undersigned Administrator of the Estate and Effects of the said Deceased on or before the 9th day of January, 1964, full particulars of their claims. Immediately after the said date, the Administrator will distribute the assets of the said deceased having regard only to such claims of which he shall then have notice.  
DATED at Markham, this 6th day of December, 1963.

ROSS HORD, Administrator  
By his Solicitors,  
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