

Maple, Concord and Edgeley District News

"The Liberal" is always willing to publish items regarding people and events contributed by its readers in Maple, Concord and Edgeley districts. Our representative in Maple is Mrs. Len Shore ALPine 7-1037; in Edgeley and Sherwood, Mrs. Raymond Stuart, AV. 5-1934; and in Concord, Mrs. Ruth Keffer, 285-6805.

Maple's "Scrooge" Merry Christmas Music Note



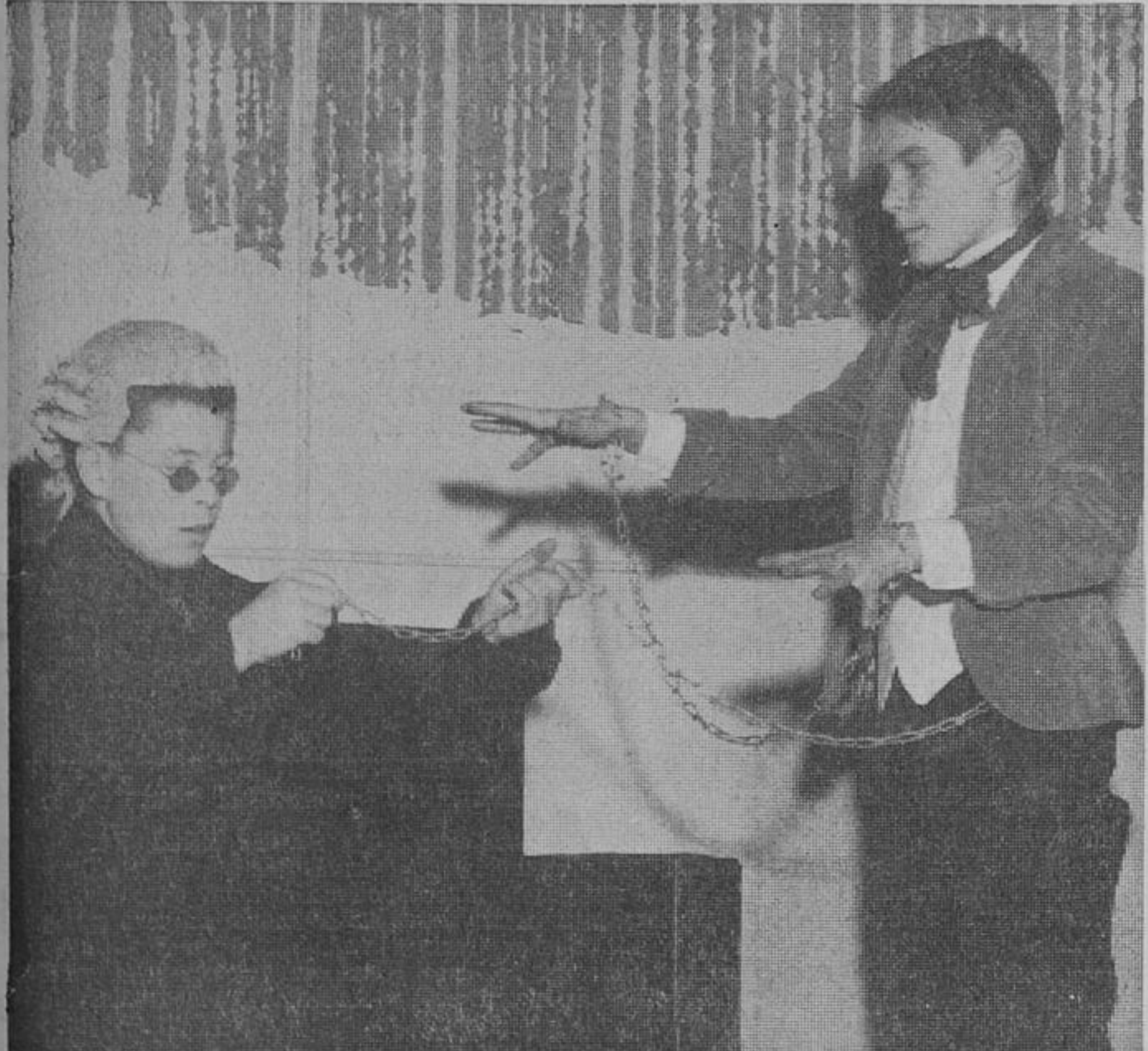
Scrooge (John Thurston) with Lynda Reeds, Joan Earnshaw, Sheena McDonald, Wilma Hoogenboom, R. Shields

BY TOBY SHORE
 "Christmas! Bah! Humbug!" scoffs Scrooge as he gloats over his money in his counting room as his clerk, Bob, strives to warm his shivering bones over a flickering candle.
 So it was the ageless story of Dickens "Christmas Carol," adapted into an operetta "Scrooge's Christmas," by Theodosia Paynter, music by G. A. Grant-Schaefer, that came to life so brightly on the stage of Maple Community Hall, December 16 and 18, with the cast of grade 8 pupils in Ross Kennedy's class, George Bailey Public School.

Many of the parents families and friends in the overflow audiences, had long lost count of the times they had encountered "Scrooge" at this season of the year; for some of the smaller members, it was their first introduction to this story that surprised them, made them laugh, sing along and indeed startle them at times.
 Scrooge as played by John Thurston, enacted the part of the miserly, miserable, skinflint in a most creditable manner.
 He convincingly portrayed his many moods, — anger, disgust, sarcasm, incredulity and fright and then following his mellowing he was near gaiety at times

wistful and finally almost human. John held his character in restraint, not allowing him to switch over too soon or too completely.
 The part of the timorous and chilled clerk, Bob, was well done by Steve Shore, — his mannerisms and general appearance fitted into the scene. Whether he was speaking or busily humped over his account books with furtive attempts to warm himself by chafing his hands or in desperation hesitatingly trying to lift a coal to add to his brazier, he was always the meek poor clerk who somehow managed to contain the Christmas spirit.
 The operetta was in two

acts.
 In the many lively and spirited songs and dances which were interposed throughout act one, the Carollers and Ragamuffins, in their fitting costumes of the period, made this "Christmas Carol" a bright and swiftly moving delight.
 Paul Plunkett as Fred, the jaunty, easy-going nephew of Scrooge, was resplendent in his bright attire and although impatiently dismissed by his disgruntled uncle, who refuses to join his nephew for festivities, he keeps his hearty manner in his seasonal exchanges with Bob.
 Later in his meagre but joyous home surroundings, Bob greets his family at the festive board. The story book Mrs. Cratchit, come to life in her 'twice-turned' be-ribbed gown and ruffled cap, Shelley James as Mrs. C. fussed over her brood like a mother hen but was most vehement in her disapproval of husband Bob's boss Scrooge.
 The Cratchit children were boisterous and hearty enjoying their Christmas dinner and Tiny Tim (Ken Rumble) joined in too adding "God bless us everyone!"
 With a not too suspended gasp from the little folk in the audience, the opening scene with Scrooge, confronted with the ghost of Jacob Marley, was well staged and well lighted to bring out the eeriness of Marley (Rod Shields) in his white shroud, dragging heavy chains.
 While a white spot-light showed up the quaking Scrooge in his bed, an infra red light picked up the ghostly shroud making it fluorescent.
 In an excellent voice of doom tone, Jacob admonishes Scrooge and warns him to mend his ways or he too will become a restless spirit, with no peace and always the torture of remorse. Finally Scrooge has his eyes opened and promises to honor Christmas in his heart and keep it all the year.
 Throughout various scenes, dances were performed such as the "Grottesque Dance", by the Festive Ghouls, and the Three Ghosts to the moaning and clanging of chains off stage eerily move about the stage.
 These dances and the Ragamuffins were choreographed by Jean Cringan who instructed and taught the dancers.
 The make-up, which was fantastic and greatly in keeping with the characters portrayed, was done by Phyl McMillan. She had a limited to non-existent supply of make-up materials but with the outcome no one would have guessed it.
 Jan Myers and her helpers of many mothers come up with attic surprises along with assistance from Malabar Costumers and the greatly appreciated knowledgeable aid of the Curtain Club of Richmond Hill.
 Spot lighting was in the capable hands of Reg Rouse. The stage lighting was handled by novice Greg Shore who acquitted himself nobly in his first endeavour.
 That well-worn phrase — "above and beyond the call of duty," is becoming synonymous with the mention of the extra curricular duties of the supervisor of music



John Thurston and Rod Shields



J. Thurston, Sharon Amos, Penny Aubertin

for Vaughan Township Hugh Martin and the assistant supervisor Bob Richardson.
Many Weeks of Rehearsal
 To ensure a worth while project such as a Christmas concert, Mr. Kennedy realized many weeks of practice and rehearsals were required.
 Since it was to be an operetta, music was an important ingredient and thus these music men became involved; Mr. Martin creating the spirit and tone while Mr. Richardson accompanied and lent support at the piano.
 The amount of effort and time spent to give Maple community a fine night of entertainment surely paid off.
 The introduction to Act 1, was seeing outside Scrooge's office by carollers and chorus, "Ring the Bells".
 Around the campfire the Ragamuffins shivered as they sang "Our Bones are Cold". They all combine to sing "God Rest you Merry, Gentlemen" before Scrooge shoos them off.
 "Come, This Yuletide Night," is sung by the angels who visit Scrooge who in turn joins in.
 When Jacob Marley is implored by his former partner to give him peace, (and finally repents) they sang accompanied by the ghosts, "Ghosts".
 The grocery lads and shopping lasses sang "Christmas Errands".
 Outside Bob Cratchit's home, carollers and chorus gaily sang "Oh, Christmas Tree," and later Bob, Mrs. Cratchit and family extol the wonders of "The Goodly Goose." — whose end has come!
 Supported by his crutch, and a stomach full of goose, Tiny Tim sang of himself and family in "God Bless us Every One!"
 The chorus joined the Little Chef in singing "Hey and a Ho!", then "Blind Man's Buff" and the finale with entire cast "Ring the Bells".
 In covering the most ambitious portion of the program first surely doesn't mean it was meant to be placed first in importance or enjoyment.
 This audience no doubt remembering other school concert efforts where nearly every Johnnie or Jane sang a little song or recital, found themselves in for a surprise and a treat. The staff had indeed arranged a versatile program.
 The two grade one rooms with their teachers Mrs. Doris Tilt and Mrs. Miriam Wilson, combined to present the well known fairy tale, "Pussy Cat, Pussycat" in the form of a musical play.
 Helen Johnson, grade 5 was the narrator, filling in expected scenes for the audience.
 There were over 60 children in this cast, — a few drop outs because of illness. The "Pussy Cat" on Monday night was engagingly played by Jo-Anne Sara who was a last minute replacement as was Elaine Ellis Wednesday night.
 During the pussy cats' visit to London to see the queen, she saw many wondrous sights. At the palace gate, the royal guards stood stiff and straight in uniforms of red, gold and black and their high black hats the king's tailors, cooks in chef's hats and all the men who swab the palace floors!
 The resplendent heralds with their golden trumpets announced the arrival of the king and queen, regal in their majestic royal long robed costumes and crowns. This royal pair was played by Jane McCarthy and Garry Michels.
 Each group came front and centre to sing of the chores they carried out at the palace where Pussy-Cat had visited.
 Mrs. Tilt and Mrs. Wilson would like to add their grateful thanks to the mothers who turned costume designers and this made the effort such a success.
 Grade 2 pupils with their teacher Miss Dona Wyckoff presented "Mrs. Santa's Christmas Gift". The pupils were divided into a chorus and a group of Santa's elves.
 The chorus, with big red bows sang "Ho ho ho, who wouldn't go, up on the house tops and down through the chimney with good St. Nick." — just as if they surely would.
 The elves wore red jackets and tasseled hats, with long black stockings and tired as they were after helping make Santa's toys, they wanted something special for Mrs. Santa who had been so good to them all year. They had a watch for Santa, that really ticked but for Mrs. Santa, "what to do, what to do," finally realizing all the cleaning up to be done — they made that as a completed chore as their gift to

Edgeley Socials

Mrs. R. J. Darlington will be the hostess for a regular meeting of the Edgeley Women's Institute on January 9 at 2 p.m.
 The Edgeley Branch members are sponsoring a short course in copper tooling on January 6 and 7 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days, at the home of Mrs. J. W. Dalziel. Ladies in the community who wish to take the course, please get in touch with either Mrs. George Snider, Mrs. Frank Locke or Mrs. Chas. Agnew and she will tell you what equipment to bring to the classes. Each lady is asked to bring her lunch.
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The Week's Happenings In Maple

Carol Singing
 The municipal office staff joined in carol singing with the pupils of grade 7, George Bailey Public School, Maple, on the morning of December 18, 19 and 20, from 8:30 to 9 a.m.
 Under the spirited direction of the Vaughan Township Music Supervisor Hugh Martin and accompanied by the Assistant Supervisor Bob Richardson, this happy carol singing has become an annual event.
 Along with the traditional carols, Mr. Martin interjected some popular Christmas songs tuned to the school children but brought the staff and visitors in on "rounds" and divided groups and choruses.
 It's indeed the right and a most delightful way to start the pre-festive day.
 Thursday morning, presentations were made to Mr. Martin, and to Mr. Richardson by two grade 8 pupils John Thurston and Steve Shore as tokens of appreciation for the leadership given the pupils throughout the whole year, but more especially for the personal interest they have shown to pupils and staff alike. *****

Teacher Swamped by Former Pupils
 When word got around that Mr. McPhail was in the principal's office, his former grade 7 pupils (now in grade 8) made a beeline for him to say hello.
 For this first school term, the boys and girls have been most concerned over the former George Bailey school teacher and his wife, who both suffered severe injuries in a car accident near Lindsay, just a week before school started in the fall.
 By way of getting back into the swim of things, Merrell McPhail spent a few hours in the class room in which he will take over duties in the new year.
 His wife, Donna McPhail, is also on the staff of Vaughan Area School Board and will be teaching in the newly added classroom at Jefferson School, Yonge Street in January.
 Needless to say, it is not only those attending the school who are delighted with the news of Merrill and Donna McPhail's return, but the many who followed their progress with prayers for a speedy recovery, who have added their welcome back good wishes. *****

Reception of Interest
 At the recent reception held to formally announce the building of the enclosed double-rink minor league hockey arena, by Doublinck Arenas Ltd., at Jane Street and Highway 7, it was interesting to learn of this the world's first such building to obtain energy for light, heat and refrigeration from a total energy plant fueled by natural gas.
 Also it was of interest to know there would be a rink available for Vaughan residents nearer to Maple but the one point of interest for yours truly was the fact that this reception was held at Murray House, Steeles Avenue, near Bathurst.
 During the months this building was in the process of construction, I had followed its progress until it was completed.
 The architecture is of that new school that is most intriguing to me and at last, I had the opportunity to enter and see for himself. Having wandered around peering here and there — I wasn't in the least disappointed and above and beyond that, the terrific snack foods served were hmmm good. Piping hot — (and some cold hors d'oeuvres special Jewish recipes the likes of which I've heard but never sampled.)
 All in all, an interesting reception! *****

Thanks For Gifts
 Many thanks for putting the notice in "The Liberal" re mental health gifts in the November 21 issue, says Margaret Martin. "Could you please thank those who responded to the requests for gifts on behalf of York County Mental Health Association? The Maple response was very generous and the gifts very useful and acceptable," she said.
 St. Stephen's Church and Sunday school presented their gifts on Advent Sunday, December 1.
 White Cross volunteers sorted and wrapped the gifts and the patients in York County will all be remembered at Christmas. *****

Maple United Church
 The white gift service was held in the education building December 15 with Norman Lund in charge.
 John Jackson supplied Christmas music and was pianist for the singing of hymns.
 Robert Baillie read the scripture. Musical numbers were sung by Nancy Jean Yake, and Mary Brock, and the primary department. They were led by Brian Thurston and accompanied by Mrs. W. Woods. Norman Lund told the story, "If I had not come."
 Mr. Lund, who is retiring as general superintendent after many active years thanked all for their help. He asked for the same continuing support of his successor.
 Later the white gifts were received for families in need. *****

Maple Women's Institute
 The Christmas Women's Institute meeting was held at the home of Mrs. W. Noble with Mrs. Harris in the chair. Three minutes of silence were observed in memory of Mrs. E. Kyle, a beloved former president and Mrs. I. Watson, a former member.
 Mrs. H. Jackson read Mrs. N. Payne's report of the board meeting. Carols were sung with Mrs. Noble at the piano. Mrs. Williams read a splendid article on the Christmas theme and how it affects our lives. It

United Church Women
 Maple United Church Women met December 17 in the church parlour to finish off the year's work with an enjoyable pot luck supper.
 A Christmas candle lighting service followed, led by Mrs. L. Palmer, reading Scriptures. Mrs. Kyer and Mrs. H. Jackson; lighting the candles Mrs. B. Weese, Mrs. M. Walker and Mrs. R. Sherman. Mrs. Jones-Whitney was pianist.

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