



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

### "The Clock Struck Twelve"

Lou Donnelly (left foreground) directs Neil Crowe, Joan Plume, Lucille Urquhart and Flip Forbes (left to right) during a rehearsal of the St. Matthew's Players. Their play "The Clock Struck Twelve" will be presented November 9-10-11th at Our Lady Queen of the World, Roman Catholic Church, Bayview Ave. North. Curtain at 8:30 p.m.

## Angry Ratepayers Protest \$200,000 Drag Strip

An issue which had lain dormant for several months exploded in the face of Markham Township Council last week when it faced a council chamber on Wednesday morning packed with angry ratepayers protesting the licensing of a "drag strip" in Markham Township.

After an hour of wrangling, council backed away from the issue by passing a motion to discuss the matter further in private.

The issue had first been raised when application was made to council in the summer of 1963 for permission to operate the drag strip. No particular opposition was shown to the proposal at that time.

In October of 1963, Reeve Charles Hooper, Deputy-Reeve Stewart Rumble and Clerk Harry Crisp went to St. Thomas and inspected a drag strip there coming back with glowing reports. The idea was presented as a fine thing for young people that it would give them someplace to race their cars instead of on the roads.

In November, Ernie Chapman one of the promoters of the strip appeared before council with a paper bearing names of persons living in the area and reported that his canvass in a three quarter mile radius of the proposed location (Lot 19, Concession 9) had turned up no objectors to it.

Council decided early in December to prepare by-laws which would permit the operating of the drag strip. As there was already a by-law on the books prohibiting racing in the township, a by-law was prepared rescinding this one. A further by-law was prepared permitting motor vehicle racing on only the one particular piece of property.

This by-law was prepared contrary to the advice of the township solicitor who warned that it could be challenged on the grounds that it was for the benefit of one particular person and not the general public.

Councillor Charles Hooper maintained his solitary objection to both the by-laws throughout but received no support from other council members. He felt that many residents were opposed to the strip but had gone along with it because they didn't want to spoil a neighbor's chance of a sale.

At the last meeting in December, council backed down from giving final reading to the two by-laws, however, early in January of this year, third reading was given by-law 2041 which repeals the existing by-law prohibiting racing and by-law 2042 which prohibits it except on Lot 19, Concession 9.

On January 30, licensing and regulating by-laws were passed, and a license fee of \$500 was paid by the promoters. Deputy-Reeve Stewart Rumble warned council at that time that they were "on dangerous ground passing these two by-laws" and that they gave particular privilege to one party and not the general public.

Since that time, little or nothing has been heard of about drag strip operations in the township.

The matter blossomed into prominence two weeks ago when plans were publicized in a Toronto daily for a \$200,000 drag strip with bleachers to accommodate 5,000 spectators, with racing under lights on Wednesday and Friday nights.

Chapman, a drag racer for eight years, reported that there are 107 clubs with about 2,600 racers within a 50 mile radius of Toronto and they expect to have between 500 and 600 cars to race each week.

It was explained that drag racing is a competition between two cars from a standing start. They race a quarter of a mile and speeds are electrically timed. With more than one horsepower to each pound of car (conventional cars have one horsepower to 10 or 12 pounds of weight) the cars go from a standing start to 200 miles per hour in 7 1/2 seconds. Before the brakes are applied a parachute slows the car down to 100 mph.

Cars used for drag racing cost between \$6,000 and \$8,000 and their rear tires, a foot wide, cost \$80 a piece. Top racers use a fuel mixture of alcohol and nitrogen methene which costs \$5 a gallon and each trip burns two gallons of fuel.

Paul Mingay, representing William Burd who has just purchased the lot adjacent to the site of the proposed drag strip insisted that such an operation could not be permitted without an amendment to the township's official plan which zones the land as agricultural.

He produced a letter dated October 22 of this year, signed by the township's building inspector F. J. Fudge, confirming that the land was zoned agricultural.

Any amendment to the official plan, changing the zoning of an area would require special notice to landowners and an OMB hearing if any objections were raised.

AURORA: A draft plan of subdivision for property of Alan J. Cossar between Regency Acres and the Golfgreen Subdivision was turned down by the town council on the advice of Graham Gage of the OMB that the plan was "premature".

Solicitor Lachlan Cattnach, Markham Village, appeared for a group of ratepayers on the 9th Concession and submitted a petition bearing 54 names of people who were opposed to the project. Prior to the recent Toronto story, he said, residents had been under the impression that the dragway was a small operation for the benefit of young people.

He termed the township's new by-law permitting the racing discriminatory and ill advised and felt that both the council and the operators were in a very precarious position. He also wondered if council had been aware of the magnitude of the operation when they gave consent to it.

Reeve Hooper said they were quite aware of it, that the whole thing had been thoroughly investigated. When the matter of congestion and wear and tear on roads consequent to such a large operation was raised, he banded his gavel angrily and said, "Let's not go into that now."

"Why not now?" asked a voice from the audience.

Kenneth LeMasurier of Unionville was spokesman for a small group of young men who attended the meeting and were in favor of the drag strip. He presented a

paper which he said contained the names of 100 people who were in favor of it.

The drag strip would bring business to the county he said and would cut down on racing on the highways. People don't understand what drag racing is. There would be no more noise than on Don Mills Road or Highway 7.

Another spokesman for the dragsters said he could see no possible loss of land values to surrounding properties and that the whole thing had been well publicized in local and Toronto papers.

Crux of the situation would appear to fall on the interpretation of the section in Markham Township's official plan where the term agricultural or rural zoning is defined. According to the plan the agricultural zoning would permit "recreational activities such as are NORMALLY found in rural areas as golf clubs and driving ranges swimming pools, private parks, private clubs. . . ."

In a statement to the press following the meeting, Mr. Mingay said that his client, if he found the operation of the dragway bothersome, would definitely take civil action and seek an injunction prohibiting its operation.

## Elgin Mills And Jefferson News

EVENING BRANCH ST. JOHN'S ANGLICAN CHURCH - 884-3008

### Community Club News

David Whitmore of Eaton's Interior decorating service was guest speaker at the October meeting of the Community Club. His many helpful suggestions on home decorating were of great interest to the many ladies present.

Don't forget the annual bazaar on November 7. There will be home baking, toys, white elephants, children's clothing and many other interesting items for sale. Afternoon tea will also be served. Anyone wishing to have articles picked up for this bazaar is asked to call 884-3098 or 884-7178. See coming events for time and place.

Hospital Auxiliary - The hospital auxiliary met

last Wednesday at the home of the president, Mrs. A. McFee. Plans were discussed for a tea and bake sale to be held in February. Anyone wishing to pay her dues is asked to contact Mrs. Terry, 884-3008.

**Church News**  
The evening branch of the WA will meet in the parish hall November 5.

A gospel hootenanny will be held in the parish hall Saturday evening. Stan Ison of the Crusade for Christ will be in charge. All young people are welcome.

Twelve young people enjoyed breakfast in the hall last Sunday after which the rector spoke. Last Wednesday, 22 people

gathered to hear the Rev. Robert Brow of the Bible and Medical Missionary Fellowship speak on the work in Pakistan, India and Nepal. This was the first in a series of monthly mission services. The next will be held on November 16 when the speaker will be Dr. Lionel Gurney of the Red Sea Mission.

**Chitter-Chatter**  
Happy birthday to Geordie Watson, who celebrates his fourth birthday on November 4. Belated birthday greetings to Ray Taylor for November 2.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Hudson of Kingston visited with their niece, Mrs. F. Powell and family, last Sunday.

Sympathy is extended to the family of the late Mrs. William White, who passed away at the Villa Hospital on October 30. For the past nine years Mrs. White has made her home with Percy Jones, Naughton Drive.

Mrs. Henry Bradley had the misfortune of falling and breaking her hip last week and is now a patient in St. Michael's Hospital. We wish her a speedy recovery.

Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hall attended the funeral of Mrs. Hall's aunt, Mrs. E. A. Thompson in Newmarket last Thursday.

Congratulations to Bill Hall, Naughton Drive, who has successfully completed and graduated from a 12 months course in industrial and automation electronics at the Radio College of Canada.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Clarke and family of West Hill spent Sunday with Mrs. D. Cracknell and Walter, Naughton Drive.

Frank Hitchens, Elgin Mills Road, has left to spend the winter months in the sunny south.

Miss Marlene Jones spent a few days last week with her sister, Mrs. Waldo Sieber and family in Paulsboro, New Jersey.

Mrs. Ross Kerwin is making satisfactory progress at home following her recent stay in the Royal Victoria Hospital, Barrie.

Mrs. Lyle Boyle spent a very pleasant evening last Wednesday at the home of Mrs. Ruth Wignall in Markham, where approximately 20 ladies, who were former Markham telephone operators, met to renew acquaintances.

Looking For a Good Used Car? If So, See The Used Cars Column in The Classifieds

### History Teachers Hold Seminar At Thornhill Secondary School

The staff room at Thornhill Secondary School was the scene of a lively lecture and discussion October 27 when a dozen history teachers from York Central secondary schools heard Professor J. C. Cairns of the University of Toronto discuss the development of socialism and nationalism in the 19th century.

This was the third in a series of four in-service training seminars arranged for York Central history teachers.

Also attending the lecture were 14 students from the senior grades, mainly from Thornhill, and even one eager student from grade 10.

Professor Cairns' hour long lecture was listened to with close attention. Following a break for coffee and refreshments, he answered questions for a further 40 minutes.

Calling Marxism "both an ideology and a myth", Professor Cairns expressed the opinion that Marx's greatest contribution was his insight into the importance of the economic factor in the development of man.

"Every economic historian is beholden to him," stated Professor Cairns. "You can see the insights in every text book. He is part and parcel of our western culture."

Fourth and final lecture in the series will be held on November 10 when the topic will be "The Era of Adolph Hitler, 1923 to 1945."

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