



(Photo by Stuart's Studio)

Everyone Had A "Merry Christmas"

Hard-working members of Richmond Hill's Co-ordinated Welfare Services are shown grouped around one of the 34 baskets of Christmas goodies packed and distributed to needy families in the community on the day before Christmas. Left to right are: Al White, the town's welfare officer, Stuart J. Clement, chairman of the co-ordinated services, Mrs. D. I. Davis, William Mirrlees, Dr. W. R. Bedford, Gordon Bryant and Dr. Dennis Stainer who represent various service clubs in the municipality.

The baskets contained generous quantities of food including a turkey, and toys and gifts for the children.

Sept. School Bd. Plans 16 New Classrooms

Gordon Trussler, chairman of the 1964 Richmond Hill Separate School Board gave a comprehensive report of the board's activities for the year at the annual meeting held December 30 at St. Mary Immaculate School.

Enrolment in the system's four schools now totals 1,065, an increase of 121 over 1963. Official opening of the fourth school, St. Joseph's was held in February, 1964 although the school had been ready for classes in October of 1963.

The board has prepared plans for an eight room addition to the Our Lady Help of Christians School for 1965. They have also proposed an eight room addition to St. Mary Immaculate. There are still details to be worked out for this addition and several major decisions will have to be made by the 1965 board about it.

Mr. Trussler noted that St. Joseph's had been built at a construction cost of \$11.82 per square foot, while St. Mary Im-

maculate a smaller building had cost \$13.65 per square foot. Cost of the addition to St. Mary Immaculate would be lower as there will be only a minimal addition to the heating plant, no gymnasium, etc.

These figures compare very favorably with the latest public school addition in Richmond Hill which Mr. Trussler reported had cost \$17 per square foot. The city of Toronto works on a cost of between \$16 and \$17, he said.

"The board has done an excellent job, carefully screening plans," stated Mr. Trussler "and because of their careful work the costs are low."

The cost of education had also been kept very modest, Mr. Trussler continued. In 1963 the cost had been \$1.47 per day per student in the Richmond Hill separate schools. Costs in the systems in the separate school inspectorate averaged \$1.65.

In 1964, however, the cost had been reduced to \$1.41. Part of the reason for the reduction in costs was because good-sized, centrally located schools had been built.

The mill rate for separate schools in the various local municipalities also compared very favorably with the public school rate. The separate school residential rate in Markham Township was 31.9 in 1964 compared to a public school rate of 33.6. In Thornhill, the separate school mill rate was 44.4 for residential.

In Vaughan Township, the separate school rate was 24, the public school 25.8. In Richmond Hill, the separate and public school rates were almost identical differing by only

3 Seek Seat Tax Exemption - TTC

Every year Vaughan, Markham and Richmond Hill Councils have to apply for exemption of an old seat tax for transportation between Metro's northern limits and this area.

The exemption dates back to 1949 and the days of the old radial electric line that used to serve passengers between Toronto and Bond Lake.

When the Toronto Transit Commission provided for a local bus service, application was made to the Department of Transport for exemption from the tax.

The three municipalities are shareholders in the North York Bus Line which the TTC contracts to operate for them.

Former NDP Member Walter Pitman Associate Registrar At Trent University

Walter Pitman, head of the history department at Langstaff Secondary School has been appointed associate registrar and lecturer in history at the new Trent University in Peterboro.

Mr. Pitman joined the staff of Langstaff in September 1964. He expressed himself as most reluctant to leave the York Central system. "My happiest moments of teaching have been here," he said. "I think the York Central system is the most progressive I've seen."

Mr. Pitman, a graduate of the University of Toronto, began his teaching career at Bathurst Heights Collegiate. While teaching there he also worked for and received his MA. In October he went to Peterboro as head of the history department at Kenner Collegiate and Vocational Institute. Taking a leave of absence in the fall of 1960, he spent the next two years as NDP representative from Peterboro in the federal house, returning to Kenner in 1962.

Although he regrets leaving the secondary school field, Mr. Pitman feels that in his post as associate registrar at Trent he will be able to develop better contact between the secondary schools and the university.

He feels that the main area of challenge in the educational field is in the secondary schools. "The main problem is how to give a quantitative education to the masses of students in the secondary schools today and still give a qualitative education which will encourage good students and give them a

thirst for learning," he stressed.

Much of his enjoyment in the York Central system was because it has the courage to do things differently, to experiment and make an effort to solve problems which many systems are just content to live with, Mr. Pitman said.

As an instance of this he explained that the greater number of subjects now on the curriculum makes the five day week difficult to live with and short periods make it difficult for teachers to teach a lesson effectively. At Langstaff this problem has been tackled by the institution of a six day cycle with periods of over 40 minutes. Thus while day one of a student's time table may come on Monday of one week, the next week it will come on Tuesday.

Few other systems, Mr. Pitman pointed out, have taken the steps to help new teachers which York Central has, such as the master teachers, in-

struction of a mill. The 1964 rate of 16.18, however, was a drop of 3.49 mills from the 1963 separate school rate. Mr. Trussler noted, something which few other separate or public school boards could report.

This had been done in spite of an additional expense of \$6,500 for books, pencils and work materials which had formerly been paid for by the students.

The Roberts plan had been beneficial to the system in that it permitted the board to charge tuition fees to taxpayers in surrounding communities whose children were receiving the benefit

of a Roman Catholic education but had formerly paid taxes to public school systems.

Teaching staff had increased from 31 to 38 and a primary assistant, and supervisors in mathematics, music and sports had been acquired. The mathematics supervisor, Jack Hotrum had been termed by an official of the Department of Education as one of the best men on the continent in the demonstration of the new mathematics, reported Mr. Trussler. "We are honored to have him on our staff," he said.

Under the direction of Separate School Inspector F. M. Weiss a start had been made in 1961-62 on ungraded primary classes in Our Lady Help of Christians School. This was continued in 1963 and last year was introduced also at St. Joseph's, and will be fully implemented this coming year.

This system divides the work of the first three grades into nine units and children are allowed to progress through them at their own speed. They can arrive at the grade 4 level in from two to four years.

An opportunity class is now in operation to give special help to slow learners or to students who have difficulty adjusting or finding their own level.

Mrs. Majorie Gleason, the secretary-treasurer, gave the financial report which indicated a total revenue of \$313,563 up to November 30 and expenditures of \$311,183 for the year.

NEWMARKET: Secretary of the 127th Battalion group for some time, Horace George Ushall died at Sunnybrook Hospital December 19. He was in his 70th year.

Jack Taylor came out on top with 77 votes and will sit on the new board for a two year term. He was a representative of the rural areas of Markham and Vaughan on the old Richmond Hill Board and chairman of the rural separate school board last year.

Mrs. Marjorie Gleason, a member of the Richmond Hill Board for almost 10 years and its secretary-treasurer for several years (unpaid), will also serve for two year term.

Third highest with 74 votes was Bob Steele, a member of the Richmond Hill Board for the past two years. Both he and Gordon Trussler, who had 70 votes will sit on the board for two years.

The next four successful candidates, Conrad Thompson with 68 votes, William Henderson 67, Patrick Ottaway 62 and John Pennyfather 53, will sit on the board for one year.

Mr. Thompson, a member of the Richmond Hill Board for several years was chairman of the plant operation and maintenance committee, served as treasurer in 1963 and was chairman of the assessment and insurance committee in 1964.

William Henderson was out of town but had sent a letter to the business administrator saying he was willing to accept office. He has been on the Richmond Hill Board since 1959. Patrick Ottaway, a resident of Markham Township has had no previous school board experience but is a member of the board. John Pennyfather also has had no previous school board experience but felt that in view of the forthcoming school construction, his lifelong experience in the construction field would be of benefit to the new board.

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Should Convention Expense Be Limited?

"You should try one, Mr. Reeve, you might like it," Mayor Tom Broadhurst humorously suggested to Reeve Donald Plaxton at Monday night's Richmond Hill Council meeting.

The Reeve had questioned whether some limit on expenses for councillors attending conventions should not be set. "I suggest we pick a few good ones and limit attendance to them," he said.

The question was raised when council was considering attendance at the town and village section of the Ontario Municipal Association, scheduled for January 29 and 30 in Delhi.

Replying to a suggestion by the Reeve that some councillors go to conventions only because they enjoy a social atmosphere, the mayor countered that this convention was not a social gathering. "It is that part of the OMB which most closely concerns us. It gives us an opportunity to broaden our horizons and to meet people with similar problems. There are a maximum of four conventions in the year where there could be involvement."

Authorization was given for any councillors desiring to attend this convention to do so.



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Elect Sept. School Bd.

Elections for the newly-organized Board of the Combined Roman Catholic Separate Schools of the Townships of Markham and Vaughan and the Town of Richmond Hill No. 1 were held during the same evening.

The early part of the meeting was chaired by Gordon Trussler, 1964 chairman of the Richmond Hill Separate School Board whose report of the board's work in 1964 appears above. George Yates, a former trustee and board chairman, was nominated to chair the balance of the meeting and conducted the nominations and election. Mr. Yates is now the separate school representative on the district high school board.

A total of twelve trustees was nominated, two of whom declined. Standing for election were Bob Steele, Gordon Trussler, Patrick Ottaway, Conrad

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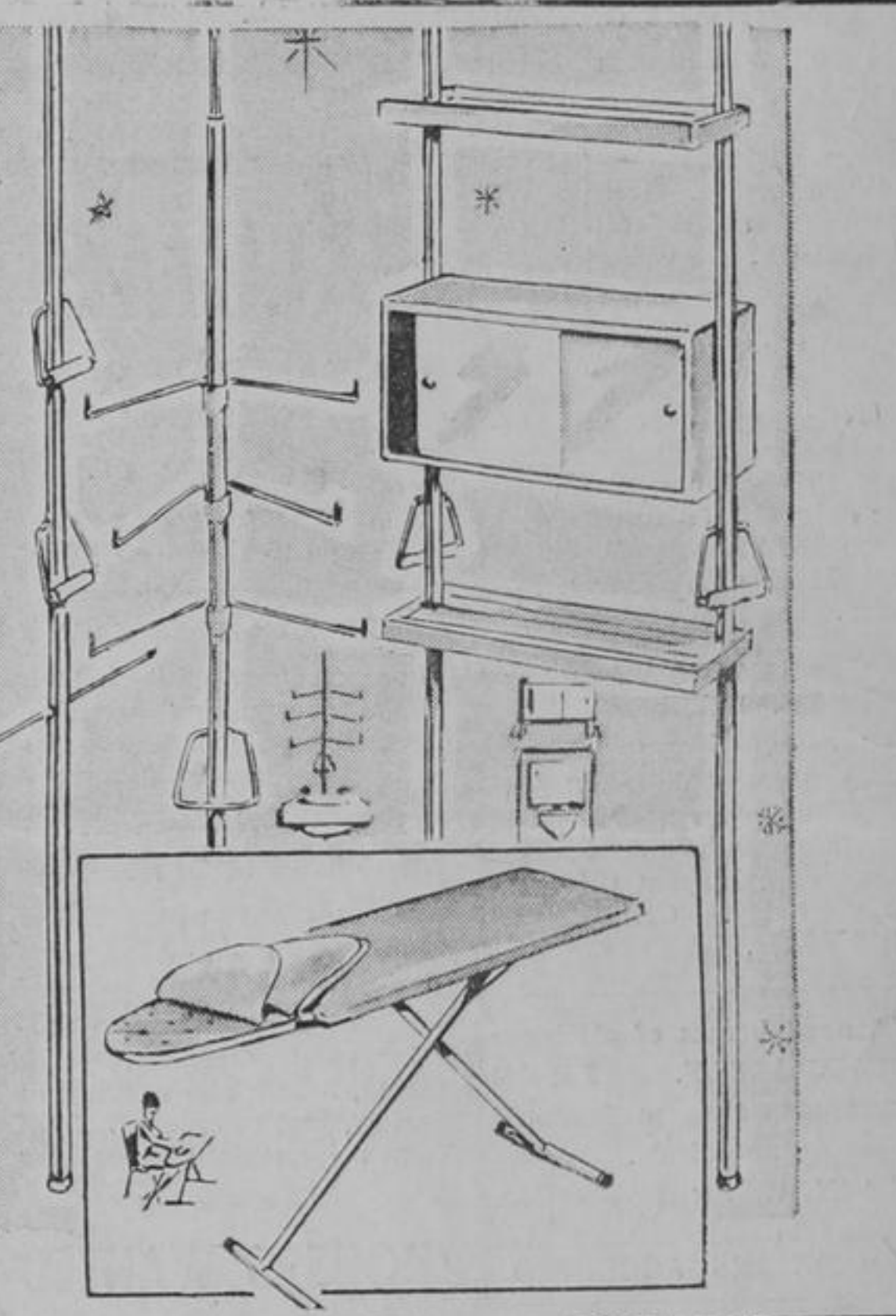
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