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Two Former York Cty. Ag. Reps Died Recently

Two closely associated former York County Agricultural Representatives passed away within a few days of each other recently.
R. J. Rogers of Sharon, who held the office from 1922 to 1928 was laid to rest January 25 following a considerable period of ill health.
The morning of Mr. Rogers' funeral, Professor J. C. Steckley of Don Mills whom he had assisted and succeeded passed away. Professor Steckley was buried from the funeral home at Stouffville on Thursday. He had been in poor health for the past year.
Jack Steckley was appointed representative of the Department of Agriculture in York County in 1911 and pioneered the organizing of the work in this county until he was appointed to the staff of the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph in the fall of 1922. He has been retired for about six years.



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P2-3

York Central Schools

Caretakers, Matrons Get Raise New Salary Schedule Approved

Changes in the salary schedule for caretaking staff in the five schools operated by York Central District High School Board were approved at the board's January meeting.
Effective January 1, 1965, the salary schedule is: head caretakers from a minimum of \$4,700 to a maximum of \$5,300; caretakers, from a minimum of \$3,800 to a maximum \$4,700. Due to the increased minima all head caretakers and caretakers received an adjusting increase of \$100.
Overtime will be paid for at the rate of \$3 per hour, week-end firing will be paid for at the rate of \$4 for oil and \$6 for coal.
Matrons will receive \$1.25 per hour during the probationary period and \$1.50 per hour on a permanent basis. Their hours will be from 8:15 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. with an hour off for lunch. The salary schedule for cafeteria staff, effective January 1, 1965, will be \$50 per week during the probationary period for

managers, with an increase to \$65 per week on permanent appointment. Overtime will be paid for at the rate of \$2.50 per hour.
Assistants will receive \$1.15 per hour during the probationary period and \$1.25 on permanent employment. Overtime will be paid for at the rate of one and a half times the regular salary. Overtime rates will apply only for evening or Saturday functions.
Academic Staff
The superintendent was authorized to employ up to 199 academic staff for the school year 1965-66.
Business Machines
Four IBM printing punch machines will be installed at Bayview Secondary School in the business machines room on an experimental basis for the school year 1965-66 at a total cost of approximately \$215 per month rental.
Conventions
The board approved the following conventions for attend-

ance during 1965; Eastern Business Teachers' Convention, Boston, Massachusetts, April 15-17; National Council of Teachers of Mathematics, Detroit, Michigan, April 21-24; Canadian Association for Health, Physical Education and Recreation, Fredericton, New Brunswick, June 21-23.
School Boundaries
The board confirmed the boundaries as outlined for the school year 1964-65 for 1965-66.
Arrangements to have a teacher work in two different schools were approved when this is of advantage to the program.
Approval in principle was given to bussing students from one school to another for a special subject on the understanding that acceptable administrative arrangements can be made and that the operation is economically feasible.
Special Leave
The board approved the following policy re special leave:
Special leave with pay may be granted to any teacher by the superintendent under the following conditions:
1. For urgent personal business which can be conducted only on a regular school day.
2. For donated service of an exceptional nature to a national organization whose prime objective is service to young people. The donated service must be such that the teacher's position or special talents make him the logical person to carry out the task. Conventions are not included. Work of "service clubs" would not normally qualify.
3. All such leave is to be reported to the management committee and is to be charged to the teacher's sick leave account and shall not exceed three days.
New Libraries
Tentative approval has been received from the Federal-Provincial Municipal Loan Fund on two applications from York Central Board. The first was for \$131,000 to provide increased library facilities and larger and more efficient office and guidance space in the Richmond Hill High School. The amount approved for general legislative grant is \$25,000. Special Ontario government debentures will be issued for \$65,500, regular debentures for \$43,667, and the forgiveness clause if the work is completed by March 1966 will be \$21,833.
Superintendent S. G. Chapman reported that the present library at RHHS contains only 1,000 square feet with room for four or five books per student. The new importance of the library as a resource centre in the school makes it imperative to establish fairly quickly facilities which will provide space for at least 10 books per student, he said. The superintendent reported there is no adequate workroom and no way of setting up a reference area as well as a lending and teaching library. Alterations will be needed to change the existing library classroom to a classroom, existing office space to staff workrooms and complete renovations will be carried out in the cafeteria. Formal application to Richmond Hill council to issue debentures in the amount of \$109,167 for this work is now needed, the superintendent noted.
At Thornhill Secondary, the superintendent described library conditions as hopelessly inadequate to serve a student population of 1,200. Proposed work includes building of a larger library and alterations to the existing library and staff rooms. Tentative approval has been received for this work in the amount of \$87,982, total cost. A special vocational grant of \$27,538 is expected, leaving the board's share at \$60,444. Special Ontario Government debentures will be issued for \$29,750 of this, with a forgiveness of \$9,917 if work is completed by March 1966. Regular debentures will be required for \$20,777. Markham Township will be asked to issue debentures in the amount of \$50,527 for this work at Thornhill Secondary.

Rambling Around

(Continued from Page 2)
whole year and with the large-group instruction being used completely. All the grade X . . . 4 year and grade X . . . five year students (3 classes in each group) are gathered once every six days. The civics course was usually taught as part of the grade X course for six weeks or so. It has been a formal part of the curriculum for only a few years.
"Actually, I don't think there is anything original in what is being done," said Mr. Pitman. "The main advantage is that Arthur Murch, the principal of Langstaff Secondary was willing to take considerable trouble to set up the timetable and both Mr. Murch and Vice-Principal William Ellis have shown great interest in the project and have helped to overcome minor problems as they arise."
Together with the series of speakers, Mr. Pitman has used film and film strips to arouse the students' interest in civics. "The Sceptre and the Mace" was one film used, and this showed the relationship of the Crown to the parliamentary system. A National Film Board picture showing the opening of Parliament was also seen by the students. National film board strips, originally made for citizenship classes have been used to make the course more meaningful.
As for results, Mr. Pitman admits that he doesn't know what will come of it. The "results" which really mean something will only appear five years from now.
"If these young people have some critical respect for the system of government (municipal, provincial or national) under which they find themselves . . . it will be "successful." If they feel impelled to participate . . . vote . . . and even better run for office . . . it will have been "successful." If they can see that government is the way we co-operate to provide services and arrange for the security of all in a way that we could never do as individuals it will have been "successful."
Whether it could be said they will remember the number of men in the House of Commons better than any other . . . I would doubt it."
Mr. Pitman took two years off to become elected as an NDP member of Parliament for Peterboro. He said his experiences in Parliament could be related to his present work. It made him very conscious of the fact that many people did not understand the basic ideas of their free government system. In some cases they did not really know who was responsible for collecting the garbage or sending the children's allowance cheque. Government has become so complex, it's responsibilities so wide spread that many people do not feel they understand or can influence government decisions. The apathy of many people towards the political system which had much to say whether they worked or not, did bother Mr. Pitman. This is particularly evident between elections.
"Also it interests me," he said, "that people become very involved in a new flag but seem little interested in a delay of many more important pieces of legislation."
In summing up, Mr. Pitman said that political experience has proved invaluable in the teaching of civics. "You become interested in the whole process . . . your reading and discussion makes you more aware and you are thrown into contact with very intelligent people from the civil service and from all parties."
Mr. Pitman has been appointed associate registrar and lecturer in history at the new Trent University in Peterboro. Although he regrets leaving the secondary school field, Mr. Pitman feels that in his new post, he will be able to develop contact between the secondary schools and the university. He will finish out the school year at Langstaff and take up his new position next summer.

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