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## Letters to the Editors

### SNOWMOBILES MENACE TO WILDLIFE AT POLISH PARK

Dear Mr. Editor:

I am writing to express my deep concern about the rapidly rising level of audio pollution produced by snowmobiles in the Mill Pond and Polish Park areas of Richmond Hill.

Not only does the roar of snowmobiles awaken our children at all hours but it is also affecting the wildlife in the Polish Park. Consumption of seeds at our bird feeding station has declined precipitously indicating that the local bird population has suffered a disastrous decline. The wild bunny rabbits, which used to delight our children, have all but disappeared and even the squirrels are beginning to leave. This is the classical pattern of ecological disaster.

Let's ban snowmobiles from the Polish Park and keep it for people! DR. SIDNEY VAN DEN BERGH 343 Sugar Maple Lane, Richmond Hill.

### ARNOLD STREET AND CRESCENT

Dear Mr. Editor:

In regard to the proposal to change the name of Arnold Street to Arnold Crescent, I had supposed that this matter would be considered by the town council and residents given the opportunity of expressing their views. However, we are now informed that the matter will be considered by a judge in Toronto.

There is undoubtedly some confusion due to some houses on the two streets having duplicate numbers. A simple remedy would be to number the few houses on the Crescent so as to be consecutive to those on Arnold Street. Then all houses up to a certain number would be on Arnold Street and those with higher numbers would be on the Crescent. No change of name would be involved or necessary.

Arnold Street is one of the oldest streets in the town and has twice as many houses as the Crescent. The latter is relatively a new street with only about a dozen houses. If it were decided to give one name to the two streets, that of the old and long established with its larger population is the one that should be chosen.

Those petitioning for the change apparently do not realize the mass of changes in records which would be entailed by the change of name. For instance the town would have to

change records and mailing lists for tax bills, water and hydro bills. School boards and churches, their lists and mailing lists. The county, its assessment rolls. Hospitalization and Medicare; motorists would have to notify the Department of Highways of change of address for both driver's and vehicle licenses. Further afield, Ottawa would need to change records and mailing lists for social security numbers, income tax and old age pensions. The telephone company would have to revise its directory and mailing list.

All this is in addition to changes to be made by the individual residents. Actually the number of changes entailed by the proposed change of name would total in the thousands. And all of this is so unnecessary, costly and time consuming.

In either case, the name "Crescent" is a misnomer as even the combined street would not constitute a crescent; they are two straight streets joined by a right angle curve.

A. E. PLEWMAN, 41 Arnold Street, Richmond Hill

### STOP USE OF PHOSPHATES

Dear Mr. Editor:

Pollution Probe, a University of Toronto-based citizens' group fighting pollution of our environment, has asked us all to switch from laundry detergents to soap.

I feel I can recommend soap as I have been using Ivory Snow for 10 years, basically because of diapers, and know that it cleans everything from scruffy children's clothes to men's overalls. Mine is a wringer washer, but I used Ivory Snow in laundromats across Canada, and back, last summer and found that it did an excellent job.

If we all started using soap for our laundry, the detergent manufacturers would have to stop using phosphates; right now they say they can't come up with a substitute in less than two years. Can Lake Ontario wait that long? Or will it turn into a lifeless sea of sludge like Lake Erie?

I would like to see published in the local press the phosphate levels of the detergents tested by Pollution Probe. Please, let's show the detergent manufacturers they are wrong... we do care more about unpolluted water than having the whitest wash in town. Our waters don't have much time left; if we don't help stop pollution now, future generations will say there was something pretty wrong with our priorities.

MRS. ANN GRIFFITHS, R.R. 2, Stouffville.

## THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF BOOKS

RICHMOND HILL PUBLIC LIBRARY

### Suggestions For Winter Reading

#### FICTION

Cookson, Catherine — "The Glass Virgin" Catherine Cookson is a superb story teller and in "The Glass Virgin" her powers are at their height. Rarely has a heroine been portrayed more sensitively, or a situation more compellingly.

Holt, Victoria — "The Shivering Sands" When the disappearance of her archaeologist sister Roma sent Caroline Verlane down to Lovat Stacy in an attempt to discover what had happened, she found herself caught up in the drama of that ancient house and with the unusual members of the Stacy family.

Lofts, Norah — "The King's Pleasure" A great historical novelist focuses her talents on Katharine of Aragon, the proud, pious, passionate woman who was Henry VIII's first wife. With careful attention to historical detail, Norah Lofts describes the happiness of the early years of their marriage and the birth of their daughter.

Williams, Charles — "All Hallow's Eve" The publishers say that "All Hallow's Eve" may be read as an ordinary thriller. I do not think this is so, but I would say that whatever your opinions, if you have a clear brain or one that likes flights of the imagination this story is worth the effort it demands. For supernatural readers.

Creasey, John — "Murder, London-Miami" The new Roger West story centres on the complicated and dangerous plight of Sir David Marshall. Marshall leads a tragic life because of the insanity of his wife Yolande. When she is murdered in a luxurious nursing home Scotland Yard comes under strong pressure.

Gores, Joe — "A Time Of Predators" A Time of Predators is a novel of violence and suspense. Beyond that, it poses the perennially fascinating question of moral justification for an individual's deeds. How far may one go to protect or revenge his own.

Lathen, Emma — "Murder To Go" Living up to her remarkable talent for combining murder with big business Miss Lathen this time leads us skillfully behind the scenes of a million dollar chain of "take-out" restaurants called Chicken Tonight.

Anderson, Paul — "Satan's World" Thousands of years away in time and space spins a planet whose wealth in natural resources makes it the most vulnerable target for man's oldest and deadliest game — War.

O'Hara, Kenneth — "The Bird Cage" A London doctor Humphrey Carrington, is being subjected to a mysterious campaign of persecution. There are disturbing telephone calls; strange messages, etc.

Blane, Howard — "The Personality Of The Alcoholic" This scintillating on the alcoholic personality illuminates significant traits so that the relatively untrained person in daily contact with an alcoholic can better understand and help him.

Dreikurs, Rudolf — "Logical Consequences" In this volume Dreikurs and Gray present a new psychological approach to the rearing of children. Recognizing the social

upheaval going on throughout the world, they examine its effect on the child—his rebellion, demand for equality, and inability to adjust to his parents' world.

Hamilton, Eleanor — "Sex Before Marriage: Guidance For Young Adults." This is not only a sex education manual for young people from sixteen to twenty. It also offers them a positive and practical philosophy of sex. Its thesis is that there is an ethical and healthy way to express sexuality at every age and stage in life, including the years before marriage.

Hart, Jane — "Where's Hannah." A handbook for parents and teachers of children with learning disorders. Hannah is a brain-damaged child. She suffers from what is variously known as cerebral palsy, neurophrenia, cerebral disfunction, central nervous system impairment.

Devlin, Bernadette — "The Price Of My Soul" In the spring of 1969, Bernadette Devlin, aged 21, was elected to Parliament, the youngest MP since Pitt. In the summer of 1969, the image of Bernadette "bejeaned, besweated, besieged" on the barricades of Bogside in erupting Northern Ireland became familiar around the world.

Dixon, Jeanne — "My Life And Prophecies" For the first time, world-famous Jeanne Dixon tells her own story, in her own words and reveals what she sees in store for the future.

Start 'Em Young (St. Thomas Times-Journal) As a means of fostering interest in civic affairs and government, several municipalities in Ontario are making a regular practice of inviting classes of students to their council sessions. Elgin County Council has done this in the past with most favorable results being reported.

Perhaps this is something that could be conveniently extended to the students of St. Thomas schools. Grade 8 appears to be the "starting grade" for this experience in municipal government, and it is something that could be extended through the secondary school grades.

While accommodation at St. Thomas City Hall is limited, the public gallery that is seldom occupied by adults could easily hold one class at a time. By briefing the classes before they attend the session on the basics of municipal government, the student should learn much from actually seeing a council working session.

A lifelong interest in municipal politics could very well have its firm beginnings in sessions such as these. There seems little point in bemoaning an alleged lack of interest among young people in municipal affairs when the fullest use is not made of opportunities to spark it. Exposure at an early age to the fascinating field of local government would do much to prevent the apathy that is only too apparent among some of the older generations from taking a grip.

BRADFORD — Mrs. J. S. McClockin, R.R. 1, Bradford, was named 1970 chairman of the York-Simcoe Branch, Canadian Arthritis and Rheumatism Society recently. She succeeds W. M. Simmons, formerly of Newmarket, who moved to Barrie last fall.

The most dramatic encounter came on the nights of September 26 and 27, 1918 when he and his troops faced the Canal du Nord.

"We were on the south side and the Germans were on the north," he told "The Liberal". A train of 64 cars loaded with ammunition was following the trucks loaded with troops over the canal.

They were under heavy shellfire and the two end cars were hit. One, loaded with cordite, started to burn. Drivers of the trucks and the troops had taken cover, but eight drivers and two sergeants disconnected the burning cars and pushed them 100 feet down the tracks as the shellfire continued.

A senior officer took their names, and the sergeants were awarded the Distinguished Combat Medal, the drivers the Military Medal,

## In the Spotlight

By MARY MONKS

### Pianist Carol Parker Awarded Thomson Scholarship

There is an old saying about "blowing your own trumpet", and during the course of collecting material for this column I have seldom found it difficult to get people to talk about themselves or their accomplishments. Last week, however, I met a young musician so reticent when it came to discussing her credits, that I have appointed myself her trumpeter.

Carol Parker, though still only fourteen, has eight years of piano study behind her, and has just competed for the fourth consecutive year in the Kiwanis Festival with outstanding success. A grade 10 student at Langstaff Secondary School, Carol studied music initially with Miss Felicity Reading of Thornhill, but for the past six years has been a pupil of Mrs. Myrtle Guerrero at the Royal Conservatory of Music.

Students of the Conservatory undergo an examination or audition yearly in order to retain a place in the course, and at her most recent audition Carol was awarded a scholarship for \$150.00, having made 89% in grade 10 Music. She attends classes twice weekly, her subjects including the history of music, harmony and ear training.

At the Kiwanis Festival, Carol came first in the Concerto Class for competitors 19 years and under, with a performance of the first movement of Beethoven's Second Piano Concerto. In the Canadian Composers' Class, (17 and under), she again came first, with two compositions by Robert Fleming. She was further awarded fourth place in the Amateur or Professional Class, with 88%, with a rendering of "Fetes Lointaines", by Frederico Monpou.

After her performance of Beethoven's Sonata, (Opus 31, Number 1 in G), on February 20, the adjudicator, Sidney Harrison, after awarding her first place in the class for 21 years and under, remarked that it had been her finest performance in the festival. I might add that I had to glean this information from other sources, since Carol would not have dreamed of broadcasting the fact.

This reluctance to make her successes known is no mock modest attitude and is certainly not indicative of a "shrinking violet". When not being questioned on the subject of her remarkable talent, Carol has a bubbly personality matched by a quick wit and mischievous humor.

Surprisingly, she still finds time, despite the many hours of practice, to ski, skate, swim and water-ski. She has an interest also in acting, and if she can fit it into her already crowded schedule, should make an attractive ingenue for any drama group. In addition, she plays French horn in the school orchestra.

I was interested to find out, with so much time devoted to serious music, whether she enjoyed the popular music one associates with the average teenager. She assured me that, with the exception of country and western music (an aversion I share), she loves all music, including the Beatles' compositions, folk and rock.

Carol lives in Thornhill with her parents and sister Cathy, aged 12, also a piano student, and a nine-year-old brother Michael.

There is an exciting postscript to the list of Carol's achievements in the Kiwanis Festival. I have just heard that at the Eaton Auditorium on Saturday evening, Carol was awarded the Gordon V. Thomson Memorial Scholarship for \$100.00.

"In The Spotlight" wishes every success to a delightful and talented musician.

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### Second Seneca Campus Here In York County

Markham Township Council Newmarket. Deputy-reeve Anthony Roman moved the council resolution and was seconded by Councillor James Jongeneel.

Markham Township in 1964-65 tried to get Seneca College, said Councillor Jongeneel, "The Minister of Education does have some responsibility to provide York County with such a facility. If we are to have a viable region, we need such an institution of higher learning as Seneca College," he said.

The council endorsed Aurora's resolution seeking consideration of the former York Manor Home for the Aged and adjacent grounds, located at



## Rambling Around

by Elizabeth Kelson

### Glad To Work In A Bank

Betty Mulholland, current accounts ledgerkeeper in Thornhill's Bank of Nova Scotia loves her job. So far she has totalled seven and a half years of banking experience.

At 15 years of age, Betty left school and went to work as a junior clerk in a branch of the Toronto-Dominion Bank. After that she went to Nova Scotia branches at Queensway and Smithfield as a teller, then to Yonge and Lawrence as second teller. She was head teller at Eglinton and Castleknock for about a year.

Marriage and the birth of two daughters, Rebecca and Diana took Betty from the banking world for a time. For a short period she held a part-time

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## Anastasia Fraud - Concord Veteran Recalls His Service In Siberia

BY MARGARET LADE

Anastasia is dead. She has been dead for more than 50 years.

Osborne Dempster of Concord agrees with the decision reached last week by the Supreme Court of West Germany. He is convinced that the story he heard in Siberia following World War I is the true story of the massacre of the Royal Family of Russia.

A Canadian who served in the Imperial British Army during the war, Mr. Dempster re-enlisted and was sent with the British Expeditionary Forces to Siberia when nations of the western world joined later by Japan attempted to stem the tide of revolution in Russia.

He did not see much military action during his two years in that part of the world, Mr. Dempster recalls, for they were prisoners first of the Russian winter, then of the Bolsheviks, but they were also free at times to do quite a bit of travelling and to mingle with members of the White Guard, or the Red Guard, which ever happened to be in the neighborhood at the time.

Russia had conceded defeat to the Germans early in 1917, and on March 15 Czar Nicholas II abdicated, but he

and his family were not killed until July 16, 1918.

In Omsk in the lowlands of Western Siberia one day Mr. Dempster met an old friend, a man who had served with the American Red Cross in France, and was surprised to find that he had become an officer in the Bolshevik Secret Police.

Through his former friend, he met many important and friendly commissars. Lunching one day with one of these officials, Mr. Dempster asked why the Romanoffs had been kept prisoner for so long before they were disposed of.

The commissar explained that the Red Guard had moved the Romanoffs twice for safe keeping as the White Guard advanced north from Crimea.

Following the collapse of the Imperial Russian Government, Czechoslovakian forces had joined the counter-revolutionaries and were approaching Ekaterinburg where the Royal Family were under house arrest in the summer home of an engineer named Ivanoff.

The Reds wired to Moscow for instructions and the reply came back that the Romanoffs must not fall into the hands of the Czechs, or the accompanying White Guard.

Czar Nicholas, Czarina Alexandra, their five children, two maids and family doctor were taken to the cellar and shot.

When the Czechs arrived on the scene, says Mr. Dempster, they found a truck driver who said he had removed the bodies and dumped them down a mine shaft. The truck driver reported that bombs had been dropped down the shaft to complete the destruction.

In February 1920 a young woman was pulled from a canal in Berlin. She claimed to be Grand Duchess Anastasia, youngest daughter of Czar Nicholas, and she was bent on suicide. Czarina Alexandra was a daughter of the German Royal House of Hesse, and for years "Anastasia" who later assumed the name of Anna Anderson, has been fighting for the \$100 million Czar Nicholas had deposited in London banks for his daughters.

There have been several pretenders through the years who have tried to establish their claim to be the "real Anastasia", but 69-year-old Anna, who a year ago married American history Professor John Manahan of Charlottesville, Virginia, has been the most persistent.

Of the more than 40 Romanoffs who had escaped Russia and settled in other parts of Europe or in the United States, the majority refused to believe the story of her rescue and escape, but from 1928 to 1931 she was accepted by and lived in the United States with Princess Xenia Romanoff. It was then that she adopted the name Anna Anderson.

She returned to Germany, and for 20 years after World War II lived alone in a cottage in a remote hamlet in the Black Forest.

Her life story was made public in the film, "Anastasia" starring Ingrid Bergman, and Mr. Dempster was an interested viewer.

"It was very typically Russian," he agrees, "but not withstanding, the story is not true. There could not possibly have been any survivors from Ekaterinburg."

And while Anna Anderson Manahan makes her final appeal before the Supreme Court in West Germany, James William Osborne Dempster of 68 Hillside Drive recalls his own experiences in the same period in history.

Now past 80, and winner of the British Military Cross,

the French Croix de Guerre and the Belgian Croix de Guerre, he won his medals on the Western Front in the final year of "the war to end wars".

As a 2nd Lieutenant in the Imperial Service with 132 men under him it was his responsibility to get supplies of ammunition to troops advancing on the Hindenberg Line.

The most dramatic encounter came on the nights of September 26 and 27, 1918 when he and his troops faced the Canal du Nord.

"We were on the south side and the Germans were on the north," he told "The Liberal". A train of 64 cars loaded with ammunition was following the trucks loaded with troops over the canal.

They were under heavy shellfire and the two end cars were hit. One, loaded with cordite, started to burn. Drivers of the trucks and the troops had taken cover, but eight drivers and two sergeants disconnected the burning cars and pushed them 100 feet down the tracks as the shellfire continued.

A senior officer took their names, and the sergeants were awarded the Distinguished Combat Medal, the drivers the Military Medal,

and young Lieutenant Dempster the Military Cross.

"I would like to pay tribute to these men," he declared. "They deserved everything they got."

When the war ended he was given six weeks' leave before he was due to report for discharge, but as a member of the British Army he had to pay his own way to come back to Canada. He informed the War Office in London that he was still available for military service, but protested when he was assigned to the Rhine Army of Occupation.

So he was detailed to go to Siberia in March, 1919. Thanks to the general strike in Winnipeg, he got a month of unofficial leave in Toronto before entraining for Vancouver.

The trip to Siberia was a long one for Osborne Dempster. After crossing the Pacific to Yokohama he spent six weeks in Japan, then on to Shanghai. His unit intended to get to Siberia through Manchuria, but they were held up again and had to return to Japan, then on to Vladivostok, and finally to Omsk where they reported to the Royal Engineers.

The British commandant of the station had to keep track of every foreign officer who came or went by train and report to the Russians, who were operating the railway under allied control.

For three months they were stationed at Omsk. "We made occasional trips to the front line 300 miles to the west," Mr. Dempster recalls, "skating back and forth showing the flag."

In September, 1919 Leon Trotsky arrived on the northern front and the retreat of the White Guard and the expeditionary forces started.

The British made up a train and commandeered an engine as the Reds arrived. There was a skirmish and another Canadian officer was killed.

The train had gone only 100 miles east when the troops had to disembark and take to horses and sleighs. Twelve officers and 12 men of the British Army attached themselves to a White Guard artillery unit and jumped a train attached to a Polish division.

But the Reds circled around and the troops were once again "detrained". It was January 6, 1920 and (Continued on Page 14)

## Winter Fun (For Some)

The snowflakes fell one Sunday morn. They covered the roads, the hills and tree, I know my man will leave me, For he has a new toy you see.

Yes, for weeks on end he's watched the skies, In hopes that snow would fall, As then the hills and valleys call To him "Ski-doo, Ski-doo" that's all.

It's "hurry, hurry, I must be off", (He really thinks he's cute) He dons his hat, his gloves and suit, (You silly thing, you forgot one boot!)

Away he goes with a couple of guys, Snow machines, red, green, blue, of every kind, I can't say I really mind, Except that dotted line he signed.

One by one across the hills— They dot the landscape well. And now (sorry dear!) I really must tell, Would you believe he fell? he fell!

He and the boys they'll ride all day, And sometimes into the night, They give not a thought, not while they're in flight, About when they return to their wives, what a fight!

It's across and down and over that rise, He surely loves that thing, I can't say I laugh or sing, But, oh well, it'll soon be spring.

MRS. MARCIA D'ANTIMO, 236 Gells Road, Richmond Hill.