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Senator Davey Praises Weeklies

(Continued from Page 2) the average wage levels of newspapermen in Canada would be truly appalling. "It's not that newspapers are charging too much, it's that they are spending too little," he said.

The media inquiry chairman said the death of "The Toronto Telegram" wasn't the most serious thing happening to the newspaper industry in Canada during the past few months. He said the most serious thing, and it was happening at the same time, was the takeover of several smaller independent Canadian daily newspapers by newspaper chains. He said these takeovers were generally ignored.

"If there is no press ownership review board soon, there won't be any independent newspapers left to save," he said. The report from his inquiry recommended establishment of such a review board. But it hasn't come about. Davey said he wasn't "married" to the review board recommendation, but would support it until a better solution was brought forward.

Davey said he had three main concerns during his inquiry into the media. First

he wanted to find ways and means to bring about better media voices. Secondly he wanted to find ways and means to encourage more media voices. Thirdly he wanted to find ways and means to facilitate a better Canadian cultural survival.

Senator Davey warned his audience not to underestimate the power of the press or ignore threats to press freedom. "Anyone ever long in public life becomes aware of the all-pervasive influence of the media," he said.

The York senator was outspoken about his opinions on several subjects, saying he is a "dove" on the question of armaments and a member of the Committee for an Independent Canada. He said he believes cities of over two million people should become provinces.

Senator Davey said the public generally is ignorant of the effectiveness of the Senate. He said while he has been a senator one-third of all the legislation passed by Parliament has originated in the Senate. He said the attendance of senators at sessions is better than that of members of Parliament.

In his opinion the idea the Senate is relatively un-

necessary and expendable is only a widespread public fallacy. He said the Fathers of Confederation had the example of an existing elected Senate before them when they chose to establish the present appointive body.

Senator Davey was introduced by Real Estate Board President Robert Shea and thanked by President Elect Harry Sadler. The meeting was also opened by President Shea, Aurora Ministerial Society President Rev. Lloyd Driedger said grace. Real Estate Board Civic Night Committee Chairman Earl Stewart welcomed the diners and introduced the head table, which included Senator Davey, Stewart, Aurora Mayor Richard Illingsworth, Georgia Mayor Dr. George Burrows, Richmond Hill Mayor William Lazenby, Whitchurch-Stouffville Mayor Ken Laushaw, York Region Chairman Garfield Wright, President Elect Sadler, East Gwillimbury Mayor Mrs. Gladys Rolling, King Township Mayor Kenneth MacTaggart and Rev. Driedger. Also attending were Donald Deacon MLA, York Centre and William Hodgson, MLA York North.

Trained People For First Aid Required For All Businesses

The Workmen's Compensation Act requires all employers to provide a first aid station on their premises and to have in charge people trained in emergency and/or standard first aid, holding a valid St. John Ambulance Certificate.

Plans of the York Central Branch of the Order of St. John, Richmond Hill, are to contact all industries and businesses within its area to help them meet these requirements. Arrangements can be made with St. John for the necessary training. The branch executive hopes to recruit some housewives or retired people who can spare an afternoon or so a week to contact the businesses and industries to make them aware of

the regulations and how they can be met.

People interested in helping and interested businesses and industries are invited to contact the York Central Branch of the Order of St. John by phoning Mrs. Mario Bennett, 56 Yonge Street North, Richmond Hill, 884-8101.

The local brigade is also ready to supply first aid personnel at public events when invited to do so. This service is purely voluntary and the brigade relies on public financial support to offset expenses, providing training and to maintain and adequately supply the first aid trailer used at such public events.

Music Week Recital Is Project Of Alumni

The Alumni Association, Royal Conservatory of Music of Toronto, Markham Chapter, presented its third annual student recital at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Henry Sisson in Markham on Tuesday last week in recognition of Canada Music Week.

The recital is one of the alumni's main projects of the year. Its purpose is to encourage young people who are studying with members of the alumni.

NEWMARKET: Sam Rippey, captain in the volunteer fire department has been hired as the second permanent firefighter here. His starting salary is \$6,200 a year. Two more full time firemen are being considered for 1972.

The Curtain Club . . . Past And Present

By BONNIE SHEPPARD
How memories flood back when an old scrapbook is brought out of a trunk! Look through these scrapbooks with me now and we'll remember.

The very first yellowed clipping is from "The Liberal" in May 1954. Imagine! "Twenty-seven people interested in drama attended a formation meeting for a Richmond Hill district little theatre group held one evening in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alf McLatchy." The parsing of this sentence may be in some question but there is no question now about the success of this meeting.

It's 1971 and this tiny group has been responsible for the entertainment of close to 100,000 people. Can you hear the echo of laughter from the many comedies through the years? See the parade of thousands of costumes worn? The excitement of all the opening nights? What an inauspicious beginning for the spirited drama group which has done so much for Richmond Hill!

FIRST PRODUCTION
"Rebecca", by Daphne du Maurier was the first production staged by the club. Opening night was February 4, 1955 and Jack Smith the federal Member of Parliament was in attendance to mark the occasion. The headline on the write-up read "Capacity Audience Acclaims First Curtain Club Drama Production."

The excitement, tensions and desire for excellence of that first night have carried down through 16 club years. Those 27 "interested people" sparked the beginning to an enthusiastic, driving theatre.

With an active interest in improving the standards of an already excellent group, the Curtain Club took part in the Ontario Drama League. Just one look at the playbill in the club will reveal the remarkable successes the club had in those festivals.

MUCH HARD WORK
In 1961, October 4 was a

proud day indeed for the Curtain Club and its members. A picture in "The Globe and Mail" depicts Marion Postlethwaite and Deborah Anderson hoisting the now familiar Curtain Club marquee into place onto the face of the new theatre.

In a clipping from "The Toronto Telegram", Rose MacDonald wrote "There isn't another theatre in the province, professional or non-professional, that has a handsomer theatre." The story behind this is one of hard and dedicated work. Converting a body and fender repair shop into a theatre is no easy task.

The women of the club scrubbed and scrubbed and scrubbed to remove years of grease and dirt. The men painted, insulated, partitioned, plumbed and wired like mad. Countless hours of work went into the job (and not a few parties I'll wager) but just look at the results. So impressed were people, that "The Star Weekly" on February 3, 1962 had a four-page, full color spread about the Curtain Club.

The production the paper highlighted was the first staged in the club. A one act Canadian play by club member Joe Rabinowitch called "The Trans-Planted." At the Ontario One Act Play Festival of that year Mr. Rabinowitch's play won top honors. One full page picture in "The Star Weekly" shows Dennis Thatcher, fully costumed as Henry VIII waiting calmly for his cue to stride on stage in "Like It Or Not". Impressive!

1962 TRIUMPH
Remember the headline on the front page of "The Liberal" of Thursday, April 5, 1962? "Curtain Club's Play, Actors Capture Many Awards" and subtitles — "Dominion Drama Festival Regional Trophy Comes to Hill" and "Group Goes to Winnipeg after National Honors". Just listen to the list.

• Dominion Drama Festival Regional Trophy — Curtain Club for best production of a play

• Edgar Stone Challenge Trophy for best director to Stephen Ker Appleby — The Curtain Club
• Hugh Eayres Trophy for Best Visual Presentation to Ann Featherstonhaugh — The Curtain Club
• L. C. Tobias Award for Best Supporting Actress to Mary Monks — The Curtain Club
• With special honorable mention to Best Actor — Gerry Crack and Best Supporting Actor — Bill Ferguson.

What a year! A new theatre, budding playwright and all those honors for the play "Don't Listen Ladies".

The list would go on interminably if I were simply to list all the triumphs of the club. What about the time the power failed and audiences responded by bringing flashlights in from their parked cars in order that "the show might go on".

Listen to Gerry Crack describe the agony of speechlessness when some joker in props substituted a sticky, drying peanut-butter sandwich for his usual one. He was to gulp it down and then go into a long serious speech. (Oh, I can taste it on the roof of my mouth now!)

Or hear Mary Monks recount how her ghostly costume became entwined in the fan as she tried to float across the stage in "Blithe Spirit". How many club parties have dissolved into laughter about events such as these.

In The Spotlight

(Continued from Page 2)

One of the landmarks still seen in Kinnear's Mills, Quebec, is the white clapboard church built in 1873. Originally church services were held by an itinerate Anglican minister in the mills, prior to the erection of the first Presbyterian log church in 1842. This was replaced thirty-one years later by the church pictured in The Spotlight. The log church is said to remain, adjoining the existing church site.

Possibly one of the earliest women to enter "trade" in Canada, James G. Kinnear's grandmother, Harriet Kinnear is said to have had the gift of foresight. On the death of her father in 1847, and falling heir to a sum of money, Harriet opened a general store beside her home. A responsible and fearless woman, Harriet Kinnear was wont to travel in a two-wheeled cart, pulled by a single horse, with cap-fired pistols in her reticule, from the mill town to Quebec City, to purchase stock and merchandise for her store. It is fascinating to read of the travels and life of this strong-hearted woman, a woman who bore seven children in 10 years (she bore fourteen all-told in her lifetime), yet laced herself in tightly during her pregnancies so that nature would not interfere with her business affairs. The Grand Trunk Railway was completed in the middle 1850's and it is possible Harriet then availed herself of this more modern form of transportation.

QUIET COMPETITION
There was a disagreement about the value of the CODL festivals in the club — wondering whether they were worth the trouble and expense. It was decided then, that we would no longer enter a play into them. We've learned since then, that the club does want and indeed needs the competition of preparing for the festival.

The CODL has altered the format so that we may now be involved with considerably less expense. Therefore, we plan to enter our third production of the year, "The Giacobina Smile" by Aldous Huxley and directed by Gerry Crack.

Spirit has seldom been lacking in the club, but renewed vigor is evident now with this new stimulus. Perhaps the scrapbooks will once again bulge with clippings of CODL triumphs for the club.

NEED NEW THEATRE
What now? The Curtain Club's energies are being directed full tilt toward the building of a new community theatre. From the original club membership of 27, we have grown to over 100 strong. We need more room to improve productions through more stage room, better lighting and sound facilities, larger audience capacity (we don't intend to lose that marvellous intimate theatre feeling) and wonder of wonders — a backstage washroom.

To this end, the group has been granted a plot of land at Elgin Mills and Newkirk, by the Richmond Hill Town Council. A farsighted community-minded move you'll admit. Concentrated work on the part of the Curtain Club to raise the funds necessary for construction has resulted in a tidy sum ready to be set to use.

But more money is needed. As one of the fund-raising endeavors, we have initiated — "The First Nighters Club". Opening night of each production allows patrons of the theatre to see the premiere of the current play, indulge in pleasant conversation with director, cast and crew and imbibe a little wine. All for the cost of only \$4.00. I can't imagine a more pleasant way in which to extend help to a cause.

DEVELOPED TALENT
Several very talented people began at the Curtain Club and have gone on to "bigger and better things" in showbusiness. To name a few: Dennis Thatcher — Stratford, CBC, CTV; Margot Sweeney — Hair, CBC, CTV; Lynn Griffen — CBC plays, Drop-In, etc.; Mary Monks — CBC radio and TV; Ron Scott — Foxey Lady — CBC, CTV; Gerry Crack — The Reincarnate, CBC, CTV; Barbi Peirce — CBC, CTV, movies.

On the list does go on! Rex Sevenoaks — Drama Head at Humber College, CBC; Ron Solloway — CBC - radio - Anne Murray Specials; Ron Chudley — Drama Head at Banff School of Fine Arts.

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Notice To Septic Tank Contractors, Etc.

As of December 14, 1971, the installation of private sewage disposal systems (septic tanks) will NOT be permitted until weather conditions are satisfactory in the spring of 1972.

J. O. Slingerland, D.P.H.,
Medical Officer of Health.

COME AND JOIN
If you haven't been to the Curtain Club, you're missing a marvellous opportunity to see how good community theatre can be. Perhaps you may see the beginnings of a career. If you're caught up in the plays, the atmosphere and excellence of the club, as I am, you'll want to know more about the past and the future. Do call and find out: Chris Steele 884-7065, Mrs. Ann Cook 884-8664, Mrs. Marion Postlethwaite 884-7609, or attend a meeting at the club. The next is December 13 at 6:30 pm at 25A Yonge Street North.

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