

SCHOOL DAZE



By John MacRae

Is Geography Relevant?

"Some of the subjects we have to take could be interesting but they have nothing to do with us in Ontario or even in Canada. In geography we study Africa this year and Asia next year. What good is that for someone living in Canada?"

D.B. - Richmond Hill

One sure way of putting a teacher on the defensive is to tell him his subject has no relevance in today's world. But if you think this is a new phenomena just wait til I tell you what your parents and I did when we were in high school. We did worse than just telling the Latin and Greek teachers that they weren't "with it". We told them they were teaching "dead" languages. The fact that they read Homer in the original cut no ice with us. We lived through the period when they thought that a study of the classics was great for the mind muscle. Thanks to us, the only students taking Latin and Greek today are those who appreciate the preciseness and beauty of these languages. So keep complaining about the lack of relevance and perhaps changes will occur so that the high schools will eventually get to "where it's at".

Very often though the students can't see the forest for the trees. We often teach about the intricacies of the wheels and gears without ever informing the student that he's learning how a watch works. At least once a month every teacher should try to relate the topic at hand to the total picture. There is a logical plan to the geography curriculum but taken in its parts the relationship is not easily seen.

Do you remember your junior school studies courses? It starts with the child and his immediate family and extends gradually into the community by talking about the fireman, the postman and the policeman.

In grades 3 and 4 your horizons were lifted again when you studied lumbering and mining in Ontario. You also discovered the difference between a river and a lake, between a mountain and a hill. Learning about the explorers became the vehicle for map study of Africa and the Americas and with James Cook, the world. Concepts such as economic cause and effect and longitude and latitude were also introduced. In grade 7 and 8 you studied the industries and crops of the Americas along with the history of Canada, the United States and Britain. The elementary school curriculum is intended to give you an overview of the western world's history and geography.

But geography in high school is not just maps and places — it's more oriented towards explaining the casual relationship between geographic and climatic conditions and how they affect the life style of a region. Africa is particularly suited to this kind of study since the climatic regions of the continent are so regular in their pattern extending north and south from the equator. Concepts are introduced such as high and low pressure areas, air and water currents. When the implications of these concepts are understood then the climate and vegetation of each area becomes quite logically explained.

The next obvious step for the teacher is to have his students apply these new understandings in order to explain why the prairies grow wheat, why the Appalachians are the ski mecca of Eastern America, why tobacco grows successfully on the shores of Lake Erie. Maybe your teacher just hasn't got to these questions yet. African geography may not seem relevant to you yet but hang in there and eventually the pieces will fall into place to form a complete picture.



JANIS GOODMAN, GARY HOUSE EXCHANGE VOWS
Lovely Evening Marriage

COMING EVENTS

FEBRUARY 18, FRIDAY, 8 pm—Richmond Hill Naturalist meeting, St. Mary's Anglican Church Chapel, 100 Yonge Street South. Member's Night. Also Mr. Gustave Yaki from the F.O.N. Everyone welcome. Saturday, February 19, a visit to area feeders, and Sunday, February 27, winter tree and bud identification trip. clw34

FEBRUARY 19th, SATURDAY, 10:00 a.m. InterClub competitions. Aurora Markham, Stouffville and Richmond Hill skaters will compete in dance, interpretive and free skating events. Everyone warmly welcome. clw34

FEBRUARY 21, 1972, MONDAY—Every third Monday of the month 8-11 pm. Family Euchre at O.L.Q.W. Parish, Bayview and Crosby. Prizes, refreshments. clw34

FEBRUARY 21, MONDAY, 8 pm—Barney Danson and Donald Deacon report to the Electorate, Library Room, Thornhill High School, Dudley Avenue, Thornhill. clw34

FEBRUARY 22, TUESDAY—Richvale Lionettes Euchre, 31 Spruce Street, Richvale. Refreshments. Admission \$1. clw34

FEBRUARY 22, TUESDAY, 8 pm—The Richmond Hill Horticultural Society will meet in the Lions Hall, Centre Street East. Bob Keith will speak on the recent "World Rose Show" in New Zealand. All welcome. clw34

Don't miss the annual smorgasbord sponsored by the St. Matthew's U.C.W. at Richmond Hill United Church on Thursday, February 24, 5:30 - 7:30. Call 884-1975 for tickets. clw34

St. Matthew's United Church was the setting for a lovely evening wedding December 10, when Janis Lynn Goodman, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Al Goodman became the bride of Gary William House, son of Mr. and Mrs. Russell House, all of Richmond Hill.

Rev. John McTavish officiated at the ceremony. Mrs. Gloria Park was at the organ and played "Because" during the signing of the register.

Given in marriage by her father, the bride was charming in a floor-length gown. Swiss re-embroidered lace over silk organza, accented the yoke. Empire style bodice and cuffs of the long fitted sleeves. Small lace appliques were sprinkled over the A-line skirt and set-in chapel length train. Her shoulder-length three-tiered bridal illusion veil was held in place by a small delicate petal-shaped headpiece of lace, pearls and crystal beads. She carried a white bouquet of pink roses, white carnations and white Stephanotis.

Miss Brandie Rose as maid of honor wore a gown of azalea French velvet. Bridesmaids Mrs. Larry Brewer and Miss Kathy Pridham were gowned alike in violet French velvet. Their dresses were styled on the Empire line with matching shades of lace trim accenting the low scooped neckline, puffed cap sleeves, Empire waistline, ribbon chokers, peau de soie shoes and wrist-length white gloves added to the simplicity of the gowns.

Donald House, brother of the groom was best man and the ushers were Larry Brewer and Craig Goodman, the bride's brother. At the reception held at the bride's mother received the Summit View Gardens, the guests in a princess style dress of fuschia polyester crepe with long, full matching chiffon sleeves gathered at the wrist by a beaded cuff. The neckline was accented by a floral design made of clear crystal beads. Matching shoes and bag trimmed with corsage of pink and white roses and small beaded chiffon rosettes worn in her hair completed the outfit.

The groom's mother also received, wearing a lovely dress of blue sequins around the neckline and edge of the sleeves. She wore a matching blue velvet hat and shoes and a corsage of white roses.

The bride chose a pant suit of hot pink angora for her going-away outfit with black handbag and shoes and a corsage of white and pink roses.

Two Common Assault Charges Thornhill Man

A Thornhill man faces two charges of common assault following a service station incident just after midnight at the Econo Gas Bar, Yonge Street and 16th Avenue.

Charged is Joseph Costanzo, 21, of 88 Romfield Circuit, according to York Regional Police.

Police said there was a complaint from the station that a man at 12:15 am February 4, left the service station lot, then came back, grabbed Melvin Polard of King Street, London, and then committed an assault on attendant Dan Dormer, 23, of Carmen Drive, Mississauga.

Council Defers Regional Jail Recommendation

A report by Police Chief Bruce Crawford recommending establishment of a centrally located jail and detoxification centre in the region was deferred Thursday afternoon of last week by York Regional Council.

Aurora Mayor Dick Illingworth set the pattern when he observed that there "seems to be a difference of opinion between the chief and the police commission as to the immediate need for a jail or a detention centre in the region."

He added that the question of a detoxification centre "seems to find the commission agreeing with the chief that there is a definite need for such a facility here."

Mayor Illingworth and the rest of council thought that the matter of a jail in the region should be deferred six months as suggested by the commission.

"I don't mean we should forget about it," he said. "This period of time will also enable us to get some cost figures on how expensive such a jail operation would be and compare it to the present costs of transporting prisoners from court to the Don Jail."

Aurora Regional Councillor Ray Twinnery, a member of the police commission, agreed that council should also await results of the recently passed Bail Reform Act.

Hit-And-Run Charge

5 Breathalyzer Cases

Five breathalyzer charges and one hit-and-run charge were laid last week by Richmond Hill Division YRP.

Arrested February 13 at Baker Avenue and charged with failing to remain at the scene of an accident, with failing to produce insurance and with public mischief was Gary Davidson, 20, of 307 Axminster Drive, Richmond Hill. The car involved belonged to James Davidson of the same address was impounded by police. The front end was damaged.

Arrested at Yonge Street and Elgin Mills Road February 12 for impairment and failing a breathalyzer test was Peter Lacey, 21, of 402 Markham Road, Apartment 101, Richmond Hill.

Two of the other drivers arrested for impairment were from Aurora and one of them was only 17 years old. The others arrested were from Metro.

Thornhill 17-Year-Old On \$585 Theft Charge

A 17-year-old Thornhill youth, Douglas Stephen Corby, 111 Inverlocky Boulevard, has been charged with theft of a portable television and three portable radios valued at \$585. Police reported the merchandise was taken from another apartment at the same 111 Inverlocky Boulevard address on February 11.

"It may be that with the added emphasis on keeping people out of jail while they're awaiting trial could mean a 75 to 90 percent reduction in prisoners. It could turn out that there won't be a need to build a jail here."

It was also decided to find out what government subsidies would be available for financing of the building of a jail.

The detoxification centre proposal was also deferred for a month for further investigation of the type of facility that might be required.

Health Commissioner Dr. Owen Slingerland said there were "mixed feelings in several areas on just what should comprise a detoxification centre in the way of personnel."

He said that it might be less

costly and more effective to set up such a facility at or near a nursing home.

"To have it as part of a general hospital," he said, "might prove quite expensive when you consider the cost of providing hospital beds. It could be very costly."

He also said it would have to be decided whether it would be necessary to have a trained staff on duty or "laymen schooled in how to handle drunk cases and perhaps one qualified doctor on call in case of emergencies."

In his report, Chief Bruce Crawford said that "the requirement for a jail or detention centre in the Region of York is both feasible and necessary from an economic viewpoint and considering the aspect of security."

The present system calls for temporary detention in local lock-up facilities and after re-

mand the transportation of prisoners to the Don Jail.

He suggested that a regional detention centre built in a central location between Richmond Hill and Newmarket would be a more economical operation.

Commission Chairman Judge William Lyon felt the commission should withhold any financial recommendations until the federal government's Bail Reform Act was given a chance to be effective.

"The act," he said, "has only been in effect for about three weeks and indications are that the number of persons incarcerated should be reduced considerably."

The commission decided that they approved in principle of the need for the detoxification centre.

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