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Thanksgiving

At Thanksgiving there are at least three kinds of people.

There are those who find no cause for thanksgiving at this time of the year or at any other time. Their new shoes have rubbed a blister on the heel, they have a backache and a headache, their hay fever is rampant, the cost of food is constantly rising, taxes are going up, the payment on the car is overdue and the quarterly mortgage payment has drained the bank account. Besides this, their teenagers are a constant problem, they are rebelling against parental authority, against going to school and all communication has been lost. Why give thanks?

Then there are those who have made the final payment on their homes and their cars, who have just received a big increase in salary, who find the added cost of food and increase in taxes easy to handle, whose children give them no problems, and who have, indeed, "got it made".

But do they give thanks — well, maybe on Thanksgiving Sunday they will go to church and go through the motions. But actually they take all the credit themselves. They have worked hard at their jobs and deserve the promotion and the increase. They were wise and bought their homes at the right time — remember when mortgage interest money could be obtained at 5½%. They have taken care of their car and so can expect another couple of years of service from it. They have brought their children up right and the produce of the garden has been the result of many hours of back-breaking and knee-aching efforts on their part. They did it all and

take all the credit.

And then there are those who give thanks every day of their lives — for life itself if there is nothing else for which to be thankful. Thanksgiving Day is just another opportunity for them to express their thanks to the Heavenly Father. Prices may be high in Canada, but they are higher in other countries, so they give thanks. They know that much of the world's population goes to bed hungry every night, that every day throughout the world people die from lack of food, so they give thanks that this is not their lot.

Mortgage payments may be burdensome, but they give thanks that they are able to meet them. The old car may not be all that they could want but it is still providing reliable transportation, so they give thanks. Their family causes them little trouble, and they give thanks that this is so.



In fact their philosophy of life is expressed in the old hymn which says:

We plough the fields, and scatter
The good seed on the land,
But it is fed and watered
By God's almighty hand.

They give credit where credit is due and are thankful as His children that He gives our daily bread. Which kind of person are you?



(Photos by Stuart's Studio)

Thanksgiving 1973

Now thank we all our God
With hearts and hands and voices.
This is the theme of the coming Thanksgiving Week-end exemplified in the above picture of the fruits of field and garden symbolizing an abundant harvest.
And Canadians, especially in this part of Ontario, have much for which to offer thanks at Thanksgiving 1973.

There is plenty of food available, although prices are high and there is work available for all who are willing to work and most of our people are willing.

Besides being productive the countryside is beautiful and as the frost touches the leaves and paints the landscape in vivid colors this beauty is enhanced. Another reason for giving thanks.

Fewer Battered Children

Recently in Thornhill a teenage baby sitter was taken into court, charged with beating an 11 month-old youngster left in her care.

This was an unusual occurrence. The people most often charged with mistreating infants and young children are the parents of the children. In recent years, the "battered baby syndrome" has become a matter of increasing public concern. Children have died and parents jailed, but many cases never come to the attention of the public or the authorities.

In North York, Mayor Mel Lastman showed his concern by appointing a special committee with representatives of a hospital, Ontario Housing Corporation, the borough health department, children's aid societies, police, mental health council, a community day care centre and Parents Anonymous.

Parents Anonymous are admitted child beaters who, like members of Alcoholics Anonymous, want to overcome their sickness, to learn how to cope with the responsibilities of parenthood without resorting to violence.

To become a school teacher, a nurse, a doctor, dentist, bricklayer or plumber one must have specific educational preparation and meet standards laid down by law, but to become a parent no certificate or license is required. One may become a parent by intent or by accident, and the child is the helpless and vulnerable victim or benefactor, depending upon the degree of maturity and concern of the parents.

The North York Committee, like many committees and individual researchers before them, found that it is extremely difficult to trace the history of the battered child, that doctors and hospitals may have suspicions, but because they lack positive evidence they are afraid to get involved in what may become a case for the courts.

The committee came up with some excellent recommendations, but without legislation from higher levels of government, these would be extremely difficult to implement. They recommended that a central registry could be helpful, documenting the history of children taken to hospitals with suspicious or unexplained injuries, that public health nurses, physicians, or social service and mental health staff be trained to recognize the problems and pass on their suspicions to proper authorities.

They recommended an education program for the public so that members of the community would know how to recognize the problem and pass on their suspicions to proper authorities.

But who are proper authorities? How could a registry be established that would protect the child, yet not be used for the wrong purposes?

The committee, all experts in their own field, admitted that not all members knew what legal channels are available for protection of abused children.

Earlier studies have shown that in the majority of cases of "battered babies", the parent responsible was himself (or herself) a battered baby.

One positive recommendation made by the committee, and one that should rate top priority in any action taken by governments at any level, was that day-care and evening-care facilities should be made available to parents who would not otherwise be able to get away from their children for even an hour. This is a recognition of the need of every individual for a break from an extremely demanding and enervating responsibility.

The YWCA in Richmond Hill and various local churches have tried to help in this direction, planning daytime programs for mothers of pre-schoolers and providing nursery school or day-care facilities for the children, giving the mothers a few hours each week in which they can be among others like themselves; that they can ignore the howls from the room next door, confident that their child is in good and capable hands.

Such programs may relieve the tensions for a few, but there are still thousands of parents in this country who have nowhere to turn. Some may be sadists and in need of psychiatric treatment, but the majority of child beaters are very unhappy, trapped, frustrated, human beings who deeply regret their inability to cope with life, who love their children and want desperately to change their ways. If they did not love the child, why would they take him from hospital to hospital, from doctor to doctor, attempting to deceive the professionals, yet not wanting to destroy their offspring?

It is a very large problem, and for too long it has been swept under the rug. The machinery should be set in motion immediately at federal and provincial levels to prepare legislation that will protect the child, that will give physical and moral support to the parent, that will encourage the community at large to become involved, that will eradicate this blight, this plague that hangs over the heads of unknown numbers of innocent children in this so-called civilized society.

THE WONDERFUL WORLD OF BOOKS

RICHMOND HILL PUBLIC LIBRARY

New Fiction For Fall Reading

TANK COMMANDER by Ronald Welsh — In the summer of 1914, the Germans enter Belgium. This is the signal for mobilization in Britain and John Carey, with his regiment the West Glamorgan, leaves the comfortable barracks at Tidworth for the danger and hardship of life in the trenches. A further story about the Carey Family.

Equality May Never Come

(Kitchener-Waterloo Record) Women teachers had a good case to argue in their request to the Waterloo County Board of Education, but the request itself was paradoxical.

The Federation of Women Teachers Associations of Ontario was asking the board to give equal treatment to men and women on teaching staffs. They wanted promotions to be strictly on merit so that more women could rise to senior positions. They wanted to have pension and insurance benefits exactly to those available to male teachers.

No one is likely to quarrel with those objectives. The form of the request, however, was that the board should adopt a bill of rights for women teachers. If boards of education are going to promote themselves to be little Parliaments, promulgating bills of rights, should they not be rights for all teachers without discriminating between the rights of males and the rights of females?

A special bill of rights for women teachers, excluding males from its purview, sounds like a most unequal arrangement.

The women teachers can argue, with justification, that they have lagged behind males in salaries and in promotions. They have, and therefore may have some cause to seek special assurances.

Exactly equal rights, though, they are never likely to get. The law now provides some rights to maternity leaves to female employees. We cannot envision the day when male teachers will have a guaranteed right to time off while they pace hospital corridors.

THE SUMMER BEFORE by Patricia Windsor — Bradley is dead. He was Alexandra's best friend. The Summer Before is the story of how she comes to accept his death and slowly, painfully emerges from her isolation.

AFTER by Robert Anderson — How a man copes with the death of his young wife, an event which opens the floodgate on remote and subterranean emotions and apprehensions.

WORLD WITHOUT END, AMEN by Jimmy Breslin — This second novel by the author of *The Gang Who Couldn't Shoot Straight*, deals with a New York City cop who returns to Ireland as an out from his life as a lousy husband, lousy father and lousy cop.

HONEY FOR THE BEARS by Anthony Burgess — The reprint of a comedy which takes the reader, via comedy, into the heart of the cold war world of mutual loathing and incomprehension.

SAHARA SURVIVAL by Burt Cole — Suspense and adventure in the Sahara during the days of the Algerian terror.

BE HOME BY ELEVEN by Amber Dean — Mary Crane got home by eleven — even though it was her first date with Conrad Gould, and was quick to accept when he invited her out again the next night. But unlike Mary, Conrad Gould did not get home by eleven — nor by eight the next morning when his frantic parents alerted the state police.

FOREVER PAINTING by Peter DeVries — Detailed comic exposition of honor under pressure, with the third side of a triangle a mother-in-law.

THE DEVIL WE KNOW by May Dikeman — Saga of Father Michael who labors in the Anglican Parish of the Holy Family in strife ridden North Bronx to protect his acolytes from drug pushers and the FBI and his church from thieves.

MURDER IN WAITING by Mignon Eberhart — The pretty young ward of a judge and his wife is left rocking on deep and uncertain waters when the former is assassinated.

UNDER THE HAYSTACK by P. A. Engebrecht — When her mother and her stepfather did not come home for dinner, Sandy had a sense of

foreboding. But her mother had been late before, so Sandy hid her fears from her two younger sisters.

MINDFOGGER by Michael Rogers — A 22 year-old genius on the verge of perfecting a device able to control the brain, is pursued by several parties, each with an illegitimate interest in his invention.

LAST NIGHT AT THE RITZ by Elizabeth Savage — Two middle-aged couples joined for lunch at the Ritz, agree to make a day of it and what a day, what a shattering day it turns out to be.

LAW AND ORDER by Dorothy Uhnak — Novel about three generations of the O'Malley's, a New York City police family that's known violence, corruption and honor.

BREAKFAST OF CHAMPIONS OR GOODBYE, BLUE MONDAY by Kurt Vonnegut — As a self-tribute on his fiftieth birthday, Vonnegut releases one of his characters, Kilgore Trout, a science fiction writer, from the travels of his creator.

THE RACE by Eunice Walkup — As the day of the 100th running of the Kentucky Derby approaches, the hopes of a host of characters begin to accelerate wildly.

THE RINGER by Edgar Wallace — Alan Wembury's promotion to divisional inspector of Deptford coincides with the return of the dreaded Ringer. Wembury finds himself divided between his loyalties to his childhood sweetheart and her crooked brother; between his personal interest in protecting Mary from danger and his professional instinct to track down the elusive killer.

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In the Spotlight



By DIANA COOK

Family Services Centre

While there is some truth in the saying, "Everything that man esteems endures a moment or a day" it is by no means all inclusive. There are some things that do continue to exist unharmed and unchanged. For example it would be hard to imagine life today without the concept of the family. Its effects on each of us as individuals is virtually limitless.

Needless to say, family living has its problems, and it was to assist in the understanding and eventual solving of these problems that the Richmond Hill Family Services Centre was created. The majority of cases dealt with are marital problems, the rest either family, personal or financial. Remedial, or personality problems are the charge of five counsellors, each of whom has taken certified courses in human relations, psychology, adult education, etc. Their business does not involve instructing clients what to do or not to do, as that is something they must decide for themselves. A counsellor's main duty is in helping the person become aware of the problem, to understand why it exists and the best means of going about solving it.

Budgetary and credit counselling is provided by a group of five volunteer businessmen from this area, who advise people in debt how to handle their money wisely.

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Letters To The Editor

THORNLEA SWIMMING POOL

Dear Mr. Editor—
During the last election campaign, here in Thornhill, we were told what a marvelous pool we had at Thornlea Secondary School paid for by the taxes of the citizens of Markham. The price seemed a little steep, but considering it had a carpeted ceiling (which is great for acoustics), roomy change rooms, a large lounge, etc., and a much needed opportunity for our children to become skilled in swimming, we accepted our councillors' word that it was a reasonable price.

Last spring a "mom and tots" and an "adult improve your strokes" programs were successfully carried out. We, as adults, expected to enjoy the pool at certain times during the week days. Our children were enrolled for lessons all summer and very capably taught.

I thought we would enjoy these privileges throughout the year but much to my amazement I discovered the land on which the pool stands was sold to the Town of Markham for \$1 with the legal agreement that the York County Board of Education have full use of the pool from 9 am to 5:30 pm every school day.

Now, where does that leave us?

Well, it depends on whom you talk to, as everyone has a different story. So far the school trustees, school superintendent and the Markham parks and recreation director all have different answers.

It does seem to boil down to the fact that Thornlea School has exclusive use of the pool on school days except on Mondays and Fridays when the York County Board of Education has it from 2:30 to 4:45 pm.

The last I heard the board is allowing the Town of Markham the use of the pool on weekends and daily from 6 pm to 10:30 pm.

In closing I feel someone received a good deal but not us the Markham taxpayers.

MRS. JAMES SHIRLEY,
25 Apple Orchard Path,
Thornhill.

PRESERVE OUR PAST

Dear Mr. Editor—

In view of the great interest concerning Annswell in Thornhill during the past few weeks, I am forwarding to you the provincial government's historical background report on this building, as I think many of your readers would enjoy its content. The provincial government's position with respect to the house was based on this report, and two architectural opinions given by Professor Douglas Richardson of the University of Toronto and myself.

I should like to comment on your editorial in your September 20 issue concerning historic buildings. More and more the public are becoming aware of our vanishing heritage in buildings. At the present time national and provincial inventories of buildings are being made, and as a result it is to be hoped that in the future there will be no confusion as to whether or not a building is to be spared.

There are also buildings of local or regional value, and it is necessary that communities such as Richmond Hill make its own inventory of buildings which are of interest on the local level. Such a procedure has been carried out in Toronto, Hamilton and Kingston, and as a protection, these cities are also endeavoring to have a sixty-day delay power in the issuing of demolition or alteration permits for the buildings on the inventory. Such a procedure could be quite well applicable to surviving buildings of Richmond Hill, Vaughan and Markham, and as a result, it would avoid the confusion and anguish which has recently taken place in Thornhill over one house.

NAPIER SIMPSON, JR.,
Architect,
Willowdale.

PEFFERLAW: A committee headed by Regional Councillor Bob Pollock is making a bid to have the province establish a pilot project "total health care centre" in Georgia. This would differ from a hospital in that emphasis would be placed on preventive medicine.

Ban Non-Returnable Bottles And Cans

The State of Vermont in the United States has now become the second state to ban non-returnable bottles and cans in an effort to cut down litter throughout the area.

Vermont's new law covers beer, malt beverages, mineral water, soda water and other soft drinks. Oregon, the first state to ban the non-returnables only outlaws soft drink and beer containers.

Vermont's law doesn't ban flip-top cans outright, as does Oregon's, but since September 1, Vermont storekeepers have been required to pay five cents on each empty bottle and can returned to them.

This fall, hearings will be held on Oregon Senator Hatfield's bill to make the non-returnable law universal.

Kess Cannon, director of the state's Department of Natural Resources, says the new law hasn't resulted in any change in

soft drink prices in Oregon, while just the opposite is voiced by Kent Wood, of the Glass Container Manufacturer's Institute.

In Vermont, Dan Webster, director of the Environmental Conservation Department's Protection Division, says soft drink prices rose in anticipation of final implementation of the state's beverage packaging law.

"The burden of the law is on the store owners," says Oregon's Cannon.

Extra help is necessary to receive, sort and store the returnables, the cost of which is usually passed on to the consumers.

Can companies are also hit hard as their products can't be refused, making it more expensive for soft drink companies to put their products in cans.

In Oregon, a preliminary Environmental Protection Agency study noted a significant de-

crease in roadside litter three months after the law went into effect October 1, 1972.

However, spokesmen for the beverage industry say that the data was preliminary in nature and any reduction in litter was the result of a publicity campaign carried on against it by the Oregon state government.

A year long EPA study of the effect of the Oregon law on local litter is expected to be completed in October.

Also, both the Vermont and Oregon laws are being challenged in the courts in suits by numerous beverage packagers.

So far as the deposits go, the Oregon law and Hatfield bill require a two cent deposit on standardized bottles that can be used by more than one manufacturer, and a five cent deposit on non-standardized containers.

In Vermont, a deposit of at least five cents is required on all containers, standardized or not.