



MARGARET GOVAN
14 DEANBANK DRIVE
PHONE 889-5372

Social News Wanted

Your Thornhill correspondent is feeling a little browned off at the moment. There must be all kinds of social activities in full swing these days but none of you telephone about them. Certainly people go a-visiting, or are visited. And there are small parties and large ones, but unless I watch the number of cars in front of a house I have no means of telling who is doing what.

I have great sympathy with the woman who was the social correspondent in a small northern village. She also was the only telephone operator. One day her resignation appeared in the local paper: "Since dial telephones have come in, I have to give up the paper job. I have no means of keeping track."

Since my news has run out, and I am afraid that social news made out of whole cloth, would neither appeal to the editor or to you, I am falling back on what might have happened (and probably did in the days long since past.

January 1, 1550. A beautiful day, cold, bright, and with excellent snow conditions. The Indians in the village nearest Thornhill, had a games day. Snow snakes (these were long, javelin like pieces of wood, shaped slightly, and were thrown in such a way as to slide a great distance, the one going furthest being the winner) were much in evidence. Some of the children went tobogganing. Other games were played.

There was a great deal of fun and no squabbling.

January 1, 1650. A group of couriers des bois got together to celebrate New Year's Day. There was a great feast which included whitefish, venison, Brunswick stew (squirrels), and a desert of bread and maple syrup which had been obtained by a trade with the Indians. Everybody ate too much.

January 1, 1794; Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Miller, the first settlers in Thornhill, were too busy trying to make a living to be aware of the date. They carried on as usual, and had a dinner of potatoes and smoked venison.

January 1, 1795: The German Settlers had set up a Christmas tree the week before at German Mills. They held a dance which was a great success, with a large stag line! Due to present circumstances the clothes were all work-a-day ones.

January 1, 1820: Colonel G. W. Cruikshank opened his house (known now as Heintzman House) to the community at large. People came from as far as Toronto and Holland Landing. Owing to a very sudden and unexpected thaw (there were no weather reports) many people had to remain for several days. His 13-room house and the closest neighbors' houses all overflowed.

The following social events are gleaned from Mary O'Brien's Journal:

January 1, 1829: "Mr. McMullen came in to borrow a compass. He wished to track a deer. He was a picture-

esque figure in a long jacket and trousers of orange-tawny homespun, and a red knitted jelly bag hat. His long gun was one or two feet longer than he.

"Later on, Antony (her brother) and I, Richard and Fanny (another brother and sister-in-law) drove over in a sleigh to Mr. William Parsons (his house was the one which served as the Thornhill Veterinary Clinic). The buffalo skin robes kept us very comfortable. It was a pleasant dinner, and afterwards there was enough snow light to drive home safely."

Later that month: "A gay party at the Parsons'. They all expected Mrs. Draper to bring Dr. Daley's fiancée. Instead she brought her own husband who had an excellent singing voice."

She also comments that on December 26 she and Fanny walked two miles to Richmond Hill. It had a Presbyterian Church, a store, a school, a tavern. There is a house every quarter of a mile on both sides of the street.

In Mary's own house, near Bathurst Street, there are now eight or 10 houses within the sound of a 'bugle'.

Over and over again you hear about people doing their 'Own Thing' and making a pleasant existence in spite of hardships.

So much for the "olden days".

Of Interest

Mr. and Mrs. Ed. Fisher spent Christmas in Port Elgin with Mrs. Fisher's son and family. He is working with the heavy water plant up there.

In the New Year national honors Order of Canada list George Ignatieff was a recipient. Some people in Thornhill remember when the family were living in Thornhill. The Ignatieffs escaped to England after the Russian Revolution — Mr.

Ignatieff had been a government minister—and then moved on to Canada. George was attending the university at this time.

They lived in Dr. John Reid's house on Elgin at Yonge Street (the famous Annswell).

The sons all made a great contribution to their new country, particularly George who has been our representative at United Nations and is now the Provost of Trinity College.

Church News

Thornhill Presbyterian held a very special musical service on the evening of December 23. The choir presented "The Manger King", a Christmas Carol Cantata. The director was Walter Stothers, and the soloists were: Mrs. June Graham, Keith Barber, Norm Lightfoot, Mrs. Marguerite Wood, Roy Schatz, and Mrs. Nettie Winship.

It was all a great success and both choir and congregation enjoyed it all.

At the special Christmas Day Service — where every child was invited to bring a toy to show it "aged 6" — Janice Winship (aged 6) recited the New Testament Lesson.

Senior Citizens

Some of the senior citizens of Thornhill are interested in starting a group who wish to record their childhoods for their own enjoyment and for anybody else who cares to read them. They realize that in this rapidly changing world their childhoods are so different from those experienced by children of today, and that whatever happens today is tomorrow's history.

If you are or know of someone who would like to join us please telephone me, Margaret Govan, 889-5372, for further information. We also need some people who can type, and would be delighted to have volunteers.

South Thornhill & Bayview Glen

CORRESPONDENT: DAVE BARBOUR
PHONE 889-5205 - 366-1720

School News

A three-part presentation of introduction of grade 8 students into high school and advanced programming evaluation by the two local secondary schools will take place next Wednesday at Woodland Senior Public for the benefit of the students and their parents.

This program gets underway at 7:30 pm. The second segment is at 7:45 and the presentations by the guidance counsellors of each secondary school is scheduled for 8:45 pm.

Donald Anderson will represent Thornlea Secondary and Casper Guggino will be on hand for Thornhill Secondary. Both are guidance counsellors for their respective schools.

This program will conclude with coffee being served to the parents, students and guests in attendance.

Due to a two-day professional development period January 3 and 4, involving all local teachers, schools in Area 3 of the York County Board of Education will open January 7.

E. J. Sand Junior Public reported that the junior ping pong tournament is progressing well, and cosom hockey inter-mural play will begin in the new year.

The chess club will soon become active. There will be an opportunity for pupils wishing to learn the game of chess to do so in the new school year, after lunch or after school.

The Catherine Frazer trophy will once again be competed for.

A chess tournament for all York County will be starting at the end of January. Pupils in Area 3 in the elementary section (up to grade 8) will be competing at Woodland Senior January 26 and 27. The entry fee is \$1.50, which is \$1.50, which is used for prizes and operating expenses.

and family of Owen Sound. The Clows had been long-time residents of Doncaster before returning to Owen Sound more than a year ago. They resided at 57 Clark Avenue.

The surprise of the Ladies' Club is, of course, that they do not solicit donations.

Raising their own funds, this active group of women provides numerous public service functions and aid to local families, individuals and students with cash, goods or services as called for.

Your correspondent invites you to call him, at the above phone numbers, if you know of items of interest to our readers. We appreciate items such as children's birthdays, serious illness, deaths, weddings, adventures, important vacation stories and anniversaries, etc. involving residents of South Thornhill, including Doncaster, Highland Park, Bayview Glen, Thornlea and Grandview area.

The Thornhill Area Recreation Committee, at PO Box 142, sends word that they are arranging ski instruction again for public school students in the Thornhill area starting January 9 at the Honey Pot Ski Lodge.

Lessons will take place at 3:30 pm and pupils will be picked up by a bus which will stop by or near the E. J. Sand Junior between 2:45 and 3 pm. The recreation committee will send a note to you on request and a flyer will be distributed through the schools. Further information may be obtained by calling 366-7311.

Church News

Bible Sunday comes in January at Thornhill United and the congregation is reminded of the needs of the Bible Society. The Thornhill branch has raised \$2,899 this year. Unfortunately the project to supply New Testaments to Tanzania fell short by \$1,276. Special envelopes for contributions are available at the church which may be handed to Rev. Egerton Peacock or mailed to Alex Brown, branch manager, 97 Elgin Street, Thornhill.

All departments of the Thornhill United Sunday school will resume January 6. The nursery and kindergarten classes did not close during the holiday season.

For the needy, the Helpmate - Information clothing depot has good clean used clothing for all persons at low bazaar prices available every Tuesday morning from 9:30 to 12 noon. For other times, please call Mrs. Jean Bryce at 889-5102 for special arrangements to visit the centre.

Holy Trinity Anglican Couples Club will enjoy a hay ride and toboggan party at the Robinson Farm, Bayview Avenue, north of the Thornlea Secondary School January 13. All welcome. Come and enjoy the fun.

BOOK TALK
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PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Local Writer Roy Clifton Chose Fantasy Land For Children's Ecology Narrative

ESCAPE FROM THE SHADOWS - (HIS AUTOBIOGRAPHY) by Robin Maughm. Formidable indeed were the two spectres in the author's life, his illustrious father, at one time the Lord Chancellor of England, and his famous uncle, Somerset Maughm. This narrative of suffering, although it searches for causes of unhappiness, does not make weakness into virtue. The total honesty of the autobiography is shocking and pitiful. (Non-fiction at Unionville).

THE FINGER OF SATURN — by Victor Canning. Another winner from the pen of this master storyteller. Loyalty, love and action produce a tension which grips without release until the novel's startling climax. (Fiction at Markham, Thornhill and Unionville).

WINDOW ON MY HEART. THE AUTOBIOGRAPHY OF OLAVE, LADY BADEN-POWELL G. B. E. AS TOLD TO MARY DREWERY. The May and December marriage between Lady Baden-Powell and her famous husband was a huge success. Both of the Baden-Powells received tremendous acclaim



for their work throughout the world with the Boy Scouts and the Girl Guides. Less successful was Olave's relationship with certain members of her own family. (Non-fiction at Unionville).

THE CITY BEYOND THE GATES — by N. Roy Clifton. In order to take some plants and seeds to the sad-faced people of a barren country, Janey-Ann searches to find a way through the fence which separates them from her own green and fertile land. The author of this ecological fantasy is the librarian at the Richmond Hill High School. (Fiction at Thornhill).

MARK GERTLER — by John Woodeson. A first and long overdue biography of this controversial artist. His constant striving to perfect his talent, his poverty, his sickness and the strange lack of romantic fulfillment in his life makes his story a compelling one. Gertler was just one of the suicides that occurred in the anguished group of artists of which he was a part. (Non-fiction at Thornhill).

LOOK FOR THESE TITLES AT YOUR LOCAL LIBRARY.

Neighborhood Notes

Birthdays greetings are extended to the following youngsters this week.

Celebrating tomorrow will be Wendy Browning, 37 Clarke Avenue; Andrew Dean, 41 Morgan Avenue; and David Sidwell, 14 Multiflora Place. Wendy will be 13, Andrew will be 14 and David will be 11 years old.

Having birthdays Sunday are Melody Pinnemore of Elgin Avenue and Michael Trudel of 53 Woodward Avenue. Melody marks her 11th and Michael his 18th.

John Naismith, 61 Clark Avenue, will celebrate his 17th Monday and the next day his sister, Jennifer, will be 12.

Celebrating birthdays Tuesday are twins Mark and Joseph Trudel, 53 Woodward Avenue, who will be 13.

A donation of \$50 was received, with great surprise and delight, by the Doncaster Community Ladies Club at the Christmas season. The gift came from Gord Clow

Emergency Patient Killed

Donald Austin, 32, of 29 Romfield Circuit, Thornhill, was acquitted last week of a dangerous driving charge, resulting from an accident August 23 in which he ran his ambulance through a red light.

Judge William Camblin said there was "a reasonable doubt" that Austin was responsible for the crash, which burned an emergency patient being taken to North York General Hospital. The patient, Paul Langer, 31, of 30 Wild Rose, Thornhill, was receiving oxygen at the time.

The ambulance turned over and burst into flames after being in collision with a car at Finch Avenue and Leslie Street.

Austin told the court he thought Langer was dead when he and attendant Rob-

Thornhill Ambulance Driver Is Acquitted Of Dangerous Driving

ert Munro picked him up at his home. "But I thought if I got him there (hospital) in a hurry we could possibly revive him."

Langer died of thermal burns complicated by drug abuse.

Austin said he slowed to about 15 or 20 mph before entering the intersection. He said the practise was to stop and then go through if the traffic was clear.

Half-way through the intersection Austin said he noticed car lights and pressed the accelerator of the ambulance to the floor.

Stuart Forbes, lawyer for the defendant, said that it wasn't a case of dangerous driving, but one of a rather dangerous intersection.

Gary McColl, of Willowdale, driver of the car, was not called on to testify.



(Photo by Dave Barbour)

The Sugar Plum Fairy And A Thornhill Admirer

Thousands of elementary school children packed the O'Keefe Centre December 20 for the National Ballet's matinee presentation of "The Nutcracker", the popular ballet set to the music of Tchaikowsky. The young people were enthralled by all the wonderful characters including the clockwork toys, the Nutcracker Prince, snow maidens, snowmen, Spanish, oriental, Chinese and Russian dancers, the

Marzipan Shepherdeses, the waltzing flowers and all the many, many characters who gave a polished performance. Following the excellent performance Laurie Smith, 19 Brightbay Crescent, a grade 8 pupil at Woodland Senior Public School had the honor of presenting flowers to Prima Ballerina Karen Kain who portrayed the Sugarplum Fairy in the ballet. They are seen in the above picture.

Favor Fluoridation Vote Mayor And Ratepayer Head

"I only wish that this kind of informative response had been received following our initial inquiry last spring. Mayor (Anthony) Roman's generous offer to discuss the fluoridation issue with our committee is very much appreciated and will be accepted early in the New Year," said South Thornhill Ratepayers' Association Jack Galbraith of 9 Brightbay Crescent this week.

Ratepayers' Chairman Galbraith was commenting on a reply received from Markham Mayor Roman to Galbraith's letter published in this newspaper last week repeating the ratepayer group's request for a stop to water supply fluoridation proceedings until the public had a chance to consider the issue. The new local regional Town of Markham includes that portion of the Thornhill postal area north of Steeles Avenue, east of Yonge Street and south of Highway 7.

WANT PLEBISCITE

"Our major goal is to be assured that everyone in the Region of York will be informed (possibly through the use of water bill inserts) and aware of the proposed addition of fluoride to our general water supply. Also we urge council to recommend that a plebiscite must be held before a final decision is made.

"We thank 'The Liberal' newspaper for the interest your staff and readers have taken with regard to this important health topic," said Galbraith.

Mayor Roman's reply to the South Thornhill Ratepayers was as follows (Roman is also chairman of the York Region Council engineering committee):

"Thank you for your letter of December 7 which was received December 14. In order to bring you completely up to date with respect to fluoridation at the local council level, as well as the Regional level, may I just review what has happened to date.

CITIZEN'S REQUEST

"Early in 1973 we received a letter from a resident of South Thornhill, Rod Mackenzie of 16 St. Andrew Court, requesting that water in Markham be fluoridated. Upon receipt of this letter the majority of council indicated that water in the Town of Markham should be fluoridated.

"Consequently, a resolution was passed, copy of which is enclosed, that the Town of Markham ask the Regional Municipality of

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JACK GALBRAITH
Thornhill Ratepayers

Announcing

BARRY M. FISH and LAWRENCE H. SWERN are pleased to announce that as of February 1, 1974, they shall carry on the practice of law in partnership under the firm name of SWERN and FISH, at 7755 Yonge Street, P.O. Box 309, Thornhill, Ontario. Telephone: 881-1500 889-7331

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