# Cholera came with Irish

Col. David Bridgford sold the front 50 acres of Lot 47 and the house thereon to a Mr. Gregory, who painted the building red.

It was here that two Americans, Troop and Sargent, started the Richmond Hill Fanning Mill Co.

It was here also the Pattersons began manufacturing agricultural implements, an industry which was later moved a couple of miles to the west and developed into a large industrial concern at Patterson.

Cholera Hit

In the late 1840's, Ireland suffered from an epidemic of cholera.

Many families fled that island to escape the dread disease and to make their homes in Canada.

disease with them.

One such family, passing through the village, was refused accommodation at any hotel and took refuge in this vacant building.



Some of them died, the survivors then travelling northward.

For months afterwards no local person would enter the house and it acquired the reputation of being "haunted", particularly among the young boys who reported strange sights and sounds coming from the dwelling.

Spook Story According to William Harrison, one of those boys, there was a tall chimney constructed of rough stone at one end of

the structure. The chimney crashed to the ground Unfortunately they brought the one night. Naturally the local lads thought this was the work of the "spooks" which inhabited the struc-

> The property also contained a dilapidated old barn and a field full of

> > proved to be false.

stumps which cast eerie shadows, adding to the feeling of the supernatural being present.

On one occasion Harrison was wending his way home after dark through this property and noticed the barn doors ajar.

Boyish curiosity prompted him to glance inside and what he saw held him transfixed with horror.

Terror Figure

It was a gigantic figure of a man enveloped in a dirty white sheet with a high peaked hat of the same color.

Around its neck was a dark tie by which it seemed suspended from above, its feet barely touching the floor.

Its cadaverous face looked directly at the terrified boy. Finally he overcame his terror and

entered the barn to investigate. He discovered he was the first victim of a childish prank, the youngsters of the neighborhood having constructed the "ghost" that day.

Both house and barn were demolished in the 1850's.

Death Dream

Harrison recorded also that the old colonel had a dream a couple of years before his death in which he stood beside a grave being excavated in the village's cemetery.

disappeared into the blue sky. Then he was approached by a man in

a black suite who counselled him, "Weep not, for you will see them

Shortly after that dream two of his grandsons were victims of scarlet fever

The burial service was conducted by McDonald's of his meal last week with Mart, a young well- the Methodist minister on the Yonge dressed woman, said to Street Circuit, whom Col. Bridgford However, when the bill be in her 20s, paid for her had not seen before.

purchase with a \$20 When he first saw the minister, Canadian bill, which later Bridgford identified him as the man in black who appeared in the dream.



### **Princesses honored**

In most Carnival Queen competitions runners-up are briefly honored, then forgotten. But Peter Miller of McDonald's Restaurant has not forgotten. Last week he entertained Richmond Hill's Snow Queen Karin Steiner and her court at a

candlelight dinner in his Yonge Street restaurant. Pictured with Karin, left to right, are third runner-up Elvira Varriale, Second Runner-up Lesley Shelton, and first runner-up Laurie Di Battista.

## Counterfeit money circulating in area

Canadian and U.S., has and with a strong, disclosed as a phoney. Restaurant in Richmond a \$20 American bill.

feet, three inches tall, A54675316 A - was turned

RICHMOND HILL - about 265 pounds, with in at Bank of Montreal in again' Counterfeit money, both brown hair, clean shaven Richmond Hill, it was shown up in York region, southern accent, paid for Meanwhile up the road within a few hours. and one of the victims his Big Mac and the rest in Aurora at Top Drug

A man described as six - serial number

Area school office

location protested AURORA - Vaughan Vaughan, was to have Trustee Betty Canivet has been re-located in asked that Area 3 office of Langstaff Public School,

mond Hill, be moved to a for that purpose, has more central location since been cut. next year.

schools in Thornhill and estimated to cost \$2,000.

York County Board of but the \$58,000 allotted in Education, in Beverley the first budget draft for Acres School in Rich- renovations to the school

Temporary renovations The office which serves at Beverley Acres are



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TOWN OF RICHMOND HILL

# WATERMAINS

Starting April 20, 1976 the Richmond Hill Waterworks will do the semi-annual Flushing of Watermains, from Tuesday to Friday from 9.30 a.m. to 4.00 p.m.

This might temporarily discolour your water. Please check the water colour before doing any laundry.

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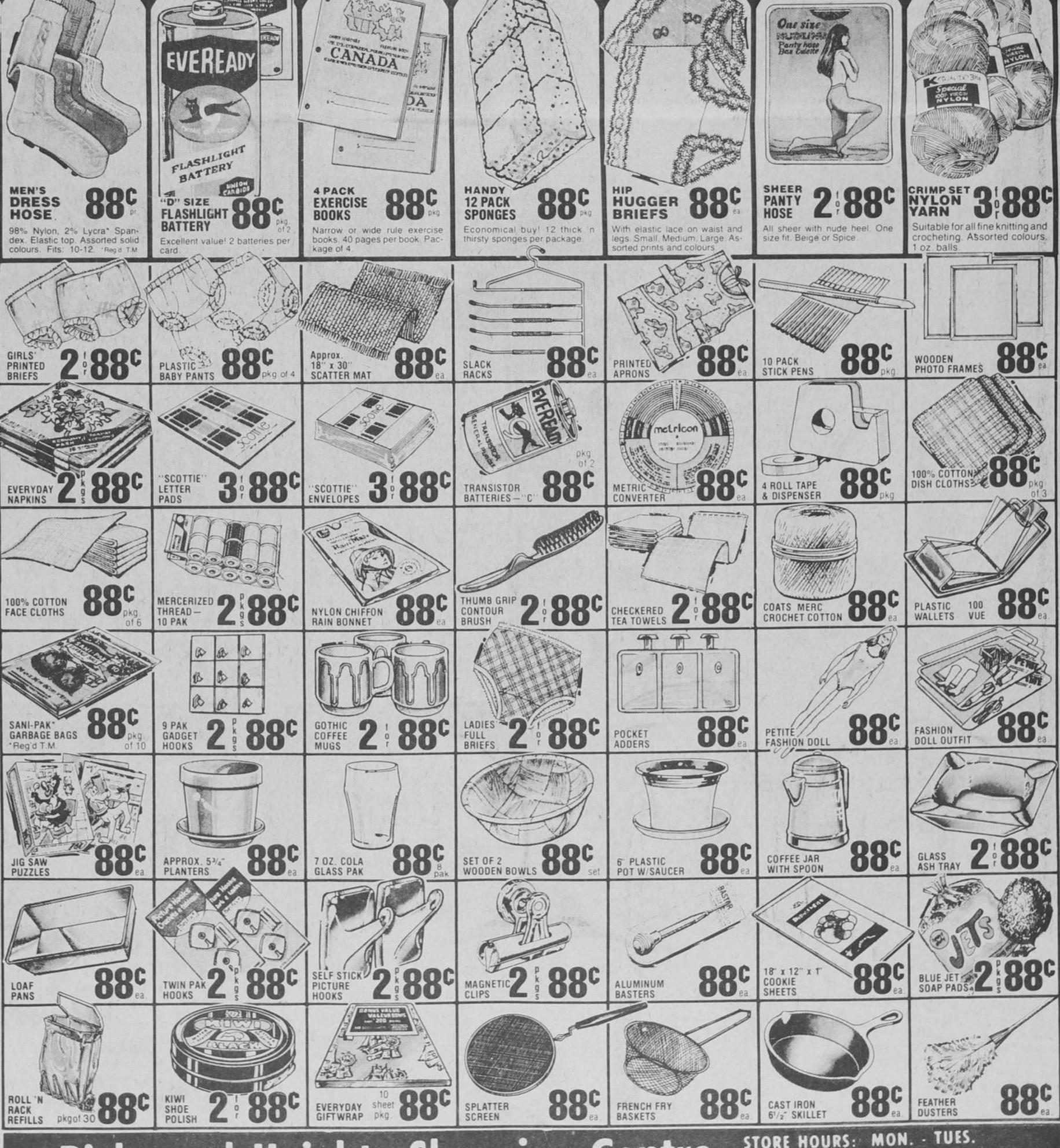
REG. 1990

**ONE WEEK ONLY** 

M. L. Perkins Maintenance Manager







Richmond Heights Shopping Centre 10520 YONGE ST., RICHMOND HILL

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