

Connie sees sights in Colombia

Correspondent
Anne Fowler
832-1204

maple news

MAPLE — Connie Ambrosch of Weller Crescent recently returned from a month-long visit to her aunt in Colombia.

Her impression upon arrival at the South American city of Medellia was "what a teeny airport for the mountain city second only in size to Bogota."

Many of the local residents returning from Miami had loaded the plane with oil drums full of North American clothing, food and cosmetics. The customs line-ups were fantastic.

The main business of Medellia is textiles and leather, Connie reports. The standard of living for

Colombians is low — for Europeans residing there, it is middle-class compared to Canada.

On her tour, Connie visited the coastal town of Cartagena, the site where Simon Bolivar liberated that country from Spanish rule. The night life here was active, she says, but the swimming dangerous due to currents.

At Santa Marta, a large city further up the Caribbean coast, tourism is flourishing. The United States and European tourists, along with many

permanent European residents, flock to the well-developed beaches. Life is quiet at night here with plenty of time for walks on moonlit beaches.

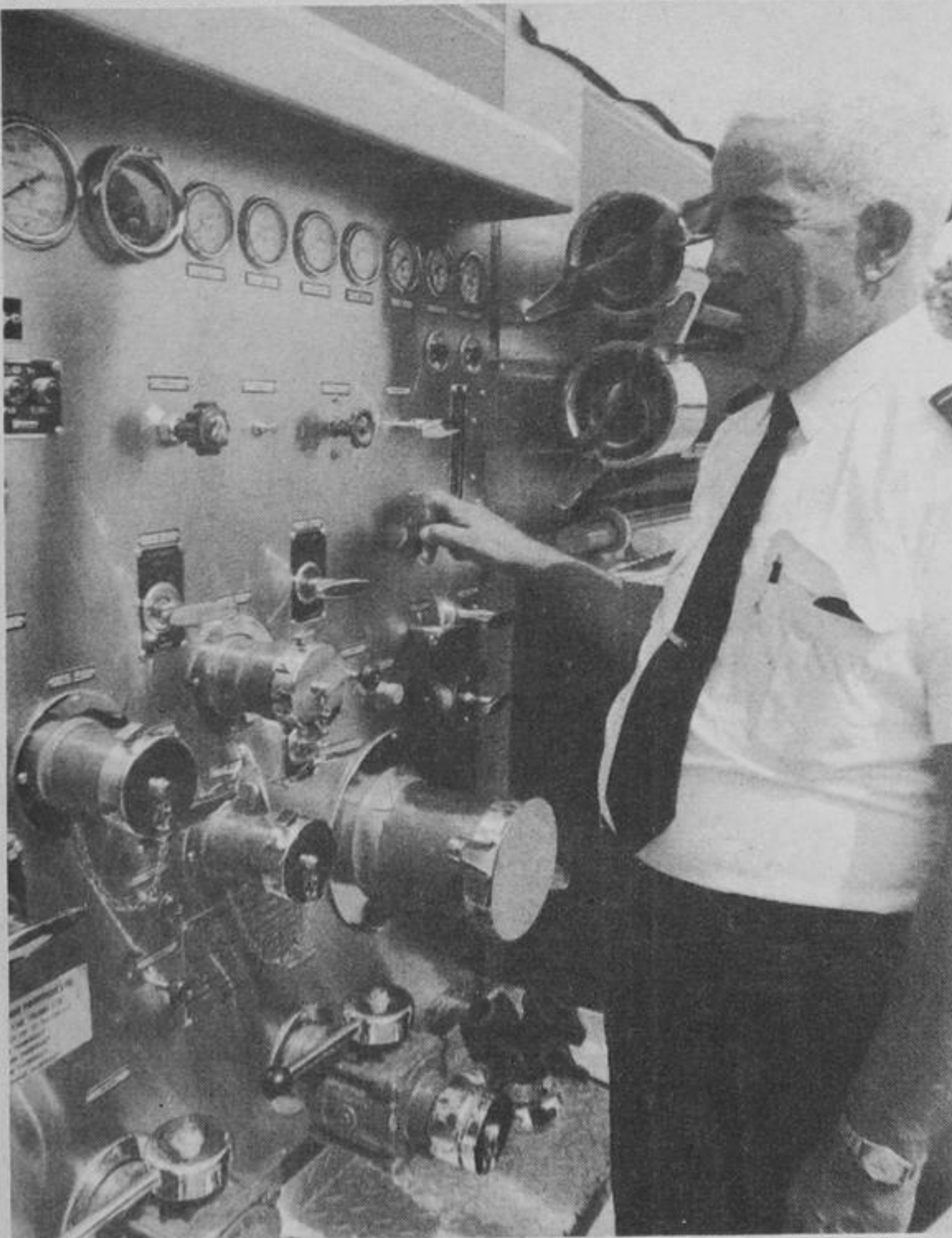
During her stay, Connie met an American missionary, Florence Cavender, who has for 33 years been working with the Kuna Indian Tribe located on the Colombian-Panama border.

Connie says she was very impressed with the "openness and friendliness" of the churches and with the work being accomplished by the Oriental Mission Society.

A student from Chicago who was there, is planning to visit the Ambrosch family during the Christmas holidays this year.

Church re-opens

Teston United Church will re-open on Sept. 5 with 10 a.m. Sunday School classes and the 11 a.m. church service.



Complicated control

It's not a space lab or computer headquarters, but just a panel of controls and gadgets for the recently acquired pumper truck of the Vaughan fire department. Shown with the truck is Vaughan's deputy fire chief, Lloyd Palmer of Church Street, Maple.

Plebiscite urged on fairground dispute

MARKHAM — Ward 5 Councillor Walter Grieve wants a plebiscite on the Markham Fairgrounds issue.

The 31-acre fairground at Highways 7 and 48 was sold to a developer for \$2.1 million after the Markham and East York Agricultural Society decided the site was no longer big enough to stage the annual Markham Fair.

The board purchased over 100 acres of land at McCowan Road and 18th Avenue and expects to hold its first fair there next year.

But a resident's group backed by Markham's ratepayers association wants to save the old fairgrounds as open space. In a brief to council, the group suggested the town buy the property and build a combined cultural and recreational complex.

The developer wants the land to be used for a mixed housing development. Grieve said he is convinced the property is too expensive for the town to acquire.

A figure of \$5 million has been mentioned as the minimum the developer would accept for the property.

Grieve admitted that the residents' group has substantial popular support, but said if people want the property saved and developed for cultural and recreational projects, they must be willing to accept the higher taxes to pay for it.

He felt the plebiscite would bring the full story to the public's attention by making it an issue in the municipal election campaign this fall.

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OMB hearing alters agricultural bylaw

MAPLE — An extremely short Municipal Board hearing resulted in a change in the Vaughan zoning bylaw Monday aimed at preserving agricultural land.

The only two objectors to the change and the town solicitor settled their differences before the hearing. The town solicitor, Tom Fraser, agreed to make an exception for each objector to the bylaw which nor-

mally will allow only one house on one farm lot, if the lot is less than 90 acres.

One of the objectors wants to demolish one of two houses on his property and build a new, larger structure. The second, Richard Hassard whose property is on Dufferin Street, wants to build a large new house on his property, but to retain the present one for the help.

The OMB will ask the town to pass a new bylaw in each case allowing the exception. The final order on the main bylaw will not be issued until this is done.

WATCH FOR

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