

Bonner absurd award winner

Markham's Ward 4 Councillor Bud Bonner is a modern reminder of the late, unlamented, headless queen of France.

She said something like, "If the people have no bread, let them eat cake."

Councillor Bonner says, "If the people have no roof over their heads, let them live in an \$80,000 house."

Now a head-remover would



THE LIBERAL 1977
ABSURD BIRD AWARD

certainly be too drastic an appliance for the honorable councillor.

Even the more traditional tar and feathers would be a little too far to go. But not very much too far.

Bonner's recent remark, "We aren't approving a single house worth less than \$80,000" would be funny, if it didn't happen to be the hurtful attitude of so many of our elected representatives.

A thanks goes to Bonner for bringing the attitude out into the open. A nomination for The Liberal's 1977 Absurd Bird Award goes to him for the stupid, destructive position he holds on the housing issue.

Mr. Bonner, what Markham and all York Region needs is an immediate, market-saturating supply of the most economical, but still healthy and habitable housing. Provide it!



Teens, gears fickle fate

By Lynda Nykor

While you're reading this, I should be basking in the Florida sun.

The operative word here is "should," and I have to put it in on account of several variable factors.

Number one is the transmission in our poor old '69 Skylark.

Though it was only put in a few months ago, it's already getting that garbage-disposal sound again.

Number two is the radiator. It's got a hole in it, right down near the bottom.

Gravity can be a real bummer. Numbers three and four are two out of three children.

The science freak who had a lifelong dream of visiting Cape Canaveral has suddenly got a better fantasy.

Turned sixteen

It goes under the general heading of Now I'm Sixteen and I'm Old Enough to Stay Home by Myself.

I don't know what kind of visions that conjures up in his mind, but I do know the ones that are dancing in mine.

They're probably not too far apart, except for positive and negative reaction to.

I plan to handcuff him to the sink for the three days preceding our departure.

The hockey player has suddenly realized he'll miss his play-off games. I keep hammering away at the fact he won't have to cook dinner for two whole weeks.

He's only slightly mollified. Number five is a biggy.

Confines of car

It concerns five related people being in a compact car for eight or nine hours at a stretch.

Will we make it past London before the are-we-there-yets start?

Will we get to Windsor before somebody in the front seat decides somebody else is driving too fast?

Will we get across the border before everybody in the back seat decides everybody else's elbows stick out too far?

Will we get to Cincinnati before mayhem breaks out?

I think I know how Napoleon felt when he decided to march on Moscow.

If we go through all this to find rotten weather when we get there, I'm going to sink to my knees in defeat, too.

Emphasize positive

However, in spite of my little trepidations I'm definitely going to look on the bright side.

Warmth! Sunshine! Green stuff! A whole week with no dishes to do, floors to scrub, lunches to pack, beds to make or furniture to dust.

Places to go and sights to see! In my heart I know we're going to get one more snow storm before we get tulips and daffodils.

With any kind of luck it'll happen while we're away and be all melted by the time we get back.

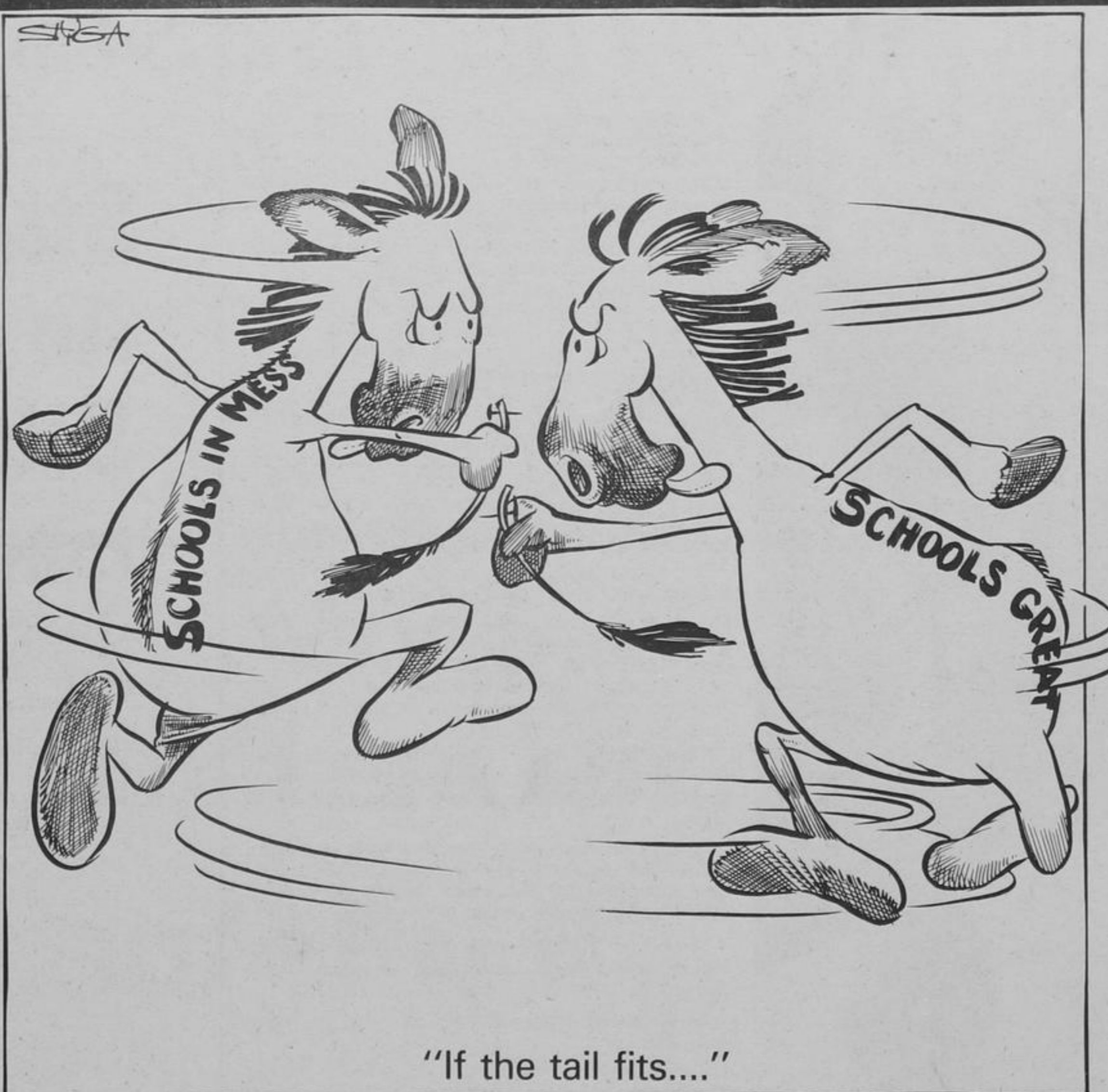
We'll find we missed the last frigid blast of winter. The grass has "riz" and the birdies are singing.

The trip will have been stimulating, refreshing, relaxing, educational.

The five of us, having had a week or so of perfect harmony in the sun, will form a mutual admiration society, and vow to do this every year from now on.

Probably none of us will raise our voices for months.

Tune in again next week and I'll tell you what it was really like.



Letters Teachers are above parity

Dear editor,

Your editorial support for a lower board of education budget is sound, though a bit late.

If you had published that opinion "before" the vote was taken, it would have helped my own effort to reduce the tax.

There are some facts which both the board and the public must face, and this may be a good time to clarify them.

I make this report with some regret; as I value the friendship of many good teachers.

As a trustee, however, I have a duty to be both fair and realistic.

The biggest part of the board's budget goes towards teachers' salaries; about \$19 million in 1970, and about \$25 million in 1973.

Salaries this year take up close to \$50 million.

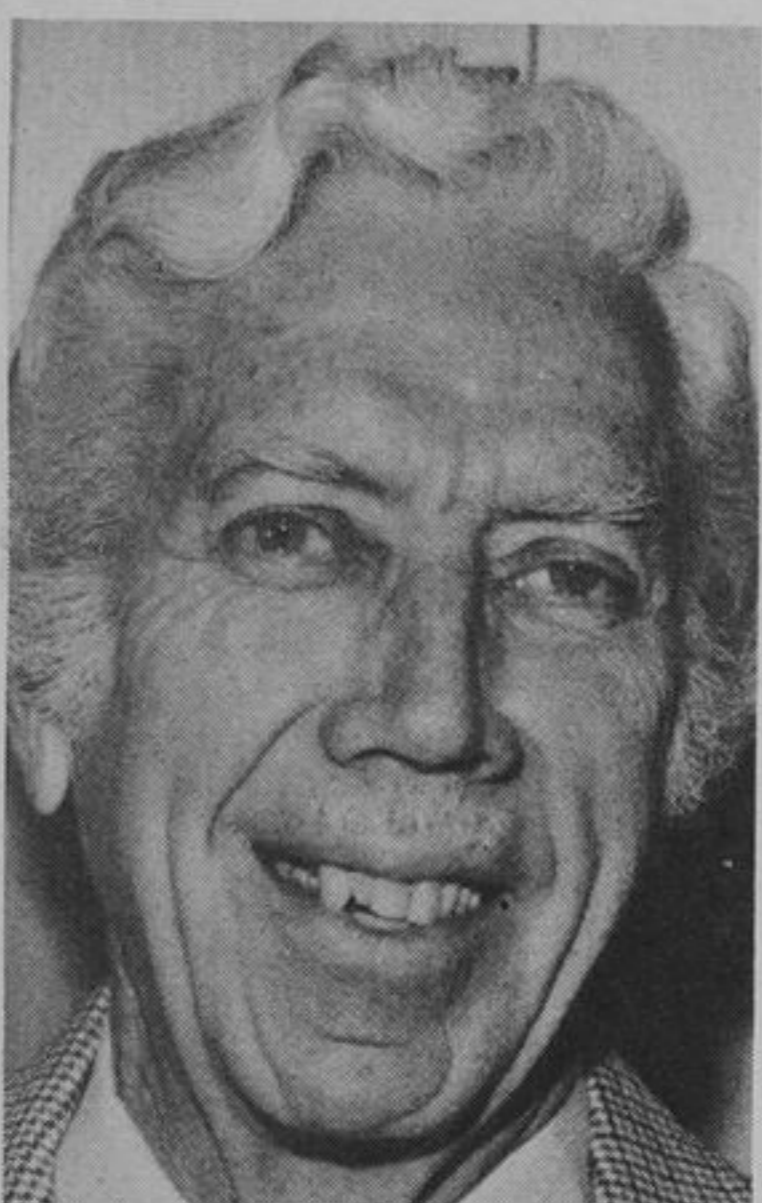
Some observations:

1. Teachers are now well above parity with our own taxpayers for equivalent services rendered.

2. This part of our budget has gobled up so much money that other needs are being starved.

3. The real impact on the budget is hidden each year since the contract year begins in September and the biggest effect is delayed until the next year; thus tying the hands of the next board.

4. Much of the cost is due to



Trustee Baker
... teachers get most

negotiated pupil-teacher ratios which do not increase salaries but force us to hire more teachers. This has increased the spare time of teachers on rotation more than it has reduced class size.

5. No one wants the agony of another strike, but we can't really expect the teachers' negotiating committees to stop demanding. That is what they were organized to do.

ERIC BAKER,
Richmond Hill trustee,
Richmond Hill, Ont.

Computerized by YCH

Dear editor,

York Central Hospital has finally succeeded in reaching the top of the list as far as modernization is concerned.

Take my case No. 82177Y-44230 Mar. 17-77, Dr. ---.

I was punched into the modern computer at 6:30 a.m. At 7:15 a.m. sharp I received the customary 60-second blood tests.

At 7:45 a.m. I was taken to Short Stay. There I was told to strip and wash off my makeup.

From 8 a.m. to 9 a.m. I listened to an assortment of chatter, ranging from discussion of a hangover to grumbling about the 25 patients due in that day, not counting emergencies.

Finally I was wheeled to a hallway where not one, but three people asked me in succession if I had any false teeth, caps or contact lenses, and checked by wristband No. 82177Y-44230.

Operation over, I woke up to the sounds of two screaming children in recovery at 10 a.m. I had a terrific headache.

Dr. ---, stopped by. He briefed me as to what he'd done to me, then left.

Back I went to Short Stay for tea in a disposable cup and burnt toast on a disposable plate.

I had difficulty swallowing.

Told to get dressed at 11:15 a.m., couldn't walk too well, but didn't say anything. It was getting very crowded in Short Stay.

While being wheeled out to the hospital's front door I told the volunteer lady in an orange smock that I was going to be sick.

Rushed back to Short Stay, I threw up there into two bowls (while still in the wheelchair fully dressed).

A nurse gave me mouthwash and said I would feel better now.

I told her it hurt when I breathed.

"Oh yes, that will go away. It's just gas or from the anesthetic," she said.

I was still in the wheelchair and was vacated from the hospital at 11:30 a.m.

My sister took me home. There I spent the next eight hours in extreme pain, often times being unable to breathe properly.

My husband finally called the family doctor when I became hysterical from not being able to breathe.

Told by the family doctor that he mustn't touch me, we called the doctor that operated.

Finally there came a call from Dr. --- informing us I was the one out of 100 cases where oxygen gets trapped under the diaphragm in an operation such as mine.

He said the gas would dissolve in a few hours if I followed his instructions.

So you see, York Central Hospital has done it! It has finally found a way to computerize us all into a neat little number like the ones they stamp on car parts that go through General Motors' production line.



Judy Bunker
... just a number

But the hospital hasn't quite perfected its system yet.

They've still forgotten to install the "reject line". Some of us don't always turn out perfectly.

Hopefully not a patient again, I remain,

No. 82177Y-44230,
(MRS.) JUDY BUNKER,
190 May Ave.,
Richmond Hill, Ont.

Confines of car

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Letters

Lynda should be lashing elsewhere

Dear editor,

It is distressing that Ms. Lynda by her uneducated criticism of "Network" may deter people from going to see this fine film (Lynda's lashes column March 16).

It contains two vital messages for us, firstly that to the television moguls ratings are all important.

Quality and accuracy do not attract large audiences, therefore they are dispensable and by continuing to watch the rubbish the networks produce, we are encouraging them to peddle inferior programs.

Secondly and most importantly the film shows television can make or

break a president or prime minister, control and slant the news we see and that if we let the stations become a monopoly we are in danger of creating an unelected power which cannot be removed by the democratic process.

All this is said in witty, incisive and realistic language superbly acted and brilliantly produced and directed.

I would suggest that if Ms Lynda wishes to lash a movie she should do so constructively, to do less is to insult the intelligence of the reader.

ELSPETH ASH
242 Royal Orchard Blvd.,
Thornhill, Ont.



Elspeth Ash
... Network had message

Sports editor Fred Simpson is superb

Dear editor,

I should like to firstly express my appreciation of your paper.

It is surely one of the best country newspapers in Canada that I have ever read; especially your sports page.

My first compliment I must confess, goes out to your columnist Fred Simpson.

I read his article each week and I think it is superb. It is so complete and to the point.

This is not to exclude the rest of your wonderful team. Keep up the good work.

OWEN FORBES,
96A Roseview Ave.,
Richmond Hill, Ont.

Thornhill softball needs lots of volunteer parents

Dear editor,

This year Thornhill Softball League enters its 10th year of service to our area's young people.

Last summer my child enjoyed a season of softball fun provided by a large number of hard working volunteers.

With more than 600 youngsters likely to be involved in various local teams this year, perhaps more mothers, fathers, teenagers or others could find time to assist in some capacity.

The league can use the help of individuals as coaches, assistants, scorekeepers and umpires.

Clinics are planned which will aid persons interested in learning to fill these positions effectively.

Thornhill Softball League provides a good team sport experience for youngsters from the ages of 6 to 17.



Glenda MacNaughton
... you get training

In the past, girls haven't played T-ball (the game for first year players).

But if there are 6-year-old girls who want to play, they might be eligible if a parent is willing to commit himself-herself to work with a T-ball team.

Parents planning to register a child

(or children) for any team this season should be considering now the possibility of becoming involved as more than a spectator.

GLENDA MacNAUGHTON,
129 Baythorn Dr.,
Thornhill, Ont.



yesterdays
by mary dawson

Among the pioneers of the Buttonville area were John Walker and his family who settled on 50 acres, the northeast quarter of Lot 16, Concession 4, Markham Township.

This was in 1834, according to an article which appeared in The Liberal Feb. 13, 1942.

They cleared the land and built a log house on the west side of Concession 5. A few years later they bought part of the east half of Lot 16, Concession 3.

John Walker was born in Coleraine, Ireland, in 1788.

He married Rachel Keith, and with his wife and family emigrated to Canada in 1834.

His son James was then 14 years old. John was a member of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland and precursor of the congregation of Post Stewart.

Brown's Corners founder

When he settled in Markham Township he was one of the founders of Brown's Corners Presbyterian (now United) Church and became its precursor.

The following certificate was brought from his church in Ireland:

"We certify Mr. John Walker is descended from parents among the most respectable and upright in the

parish of Ballyachron — that in 1831 he was unanimously elected a Ruling Elder in the congregation of Post Stewart — that he is and always was in full communion with us — that he is entitled to all the privileges, of the Christian Church — we recommend him and his family to the care and attention of whatever Minister and Worshipping Society he may please to attach himself.

Burnside Cottage
9 June 1834

John Stewart, PM
Read in the session and signed by order
Thomas McWilliam

Had big family

James Walker married Rachel White and they had a big family, including four sons and five daughters — Isaah, Samuel, John, James, Mary (Mrs. Calvert), Sarah (Mrs. Elson), Rachel (Mrs. McRill), Ann (Mrs. Elliott) and Louise (Mrs. Padgett).

All (with the exception of Mrs. Elson) lived to be over 80, John and James dying in January 1942.

James married Rachel Stonehouse in March 1892. His family included Earl and Roy, Eva (Mrs. L. A. Hood), Irene (Mrs. F. Tennyson), Rachel (Mrs. H. Patterson), Viola (Mrs. A. Harrington) and Ruth (Mrs. H. Bowway).

James was born in the original log house, moved to Lot 16, Concession 3.

Buttonville's Walker family

He lived his entire life on that property, dying in the "new" house built in 1858.

Correction

Mrs. Florence Cain of King has pointed out an error in the March 23 story of the early days of Laskay which stated Joseph Baldwin settled on Lot 8, Concession 5, King, in 1832.

Mrs. Cain points out the east half of that lot has been the property of the Cain family since the earliest days.

From the context of the article written by Edgar James in 1926 it would appear Baldwin settled on Lot 3 and the mention of Lot 8 was a typographical error made 51 years ago.

(MRS.) MARJORIE FENTON,
10117 Keele St.,
Maple, Ont.

Letters

Thank you

Dear editor,

I would like the management of The Liberal to know how much my family and I enjoy your paper, especially the Sharon's Sunshine column and the Yesterday's column by Mary Dawson.

I do hope they both will continue.