

Cause of Fatal Fire Presents a Mystery

Tragedy was written into the history of Uxbridge Township on Saturday when Ruth Dowsell, 18-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Dowsell lost her life in an attempt to save the live stock in her father's barn as the building was fast being consumed by flames. Ruth was a popular student of the Stouffville High School, and expected to complete her course this year.

She passed away about seven hours after being rushed to the Brierbush Hospital in Stouffville. Her father, also severely burned, is recovering.

Around four o'clock in the afternoon Ken Stewart, employed on the Bacon farm adjoining Dowsell's, saw smoke rising from the straw stack in the Dowsell barnyard, and called to Mrs. Dowsell who was nearby at the house. Rushing out she alarmed her husband who was also close at hand in a field not more than 60 rods away.

Before Mr. Dowsell reached the barn his eldest daughter Ruth had succeeded in turning loose six milch cows, then the two of them attempted to free more of the terrified animals.

"We were only 20 feet inside the door, and I saw the flames closing off the passage," Mr. Dowsell told The Tribune. "I thought I could easily run through the amount of flame so fast it would not injure me," he continued. He told Ruth to bend over and run for it as the flame seemed to be less near the floor. Evidently the girl made the attempt and probably stumbled for she fell inside the doorway, but somehow rolled out where a frantic effort was made to snuff out the flame from her clothing.

Despite the fact her flesh was actually cooked she sat up in the car and Mrs. Norman Wagg rushed her to the hospital in Stouffville. Here she jumped out and walked into the building. The flesh was dropping from her body in places. She never lost consciousness and even five minutes before her heart gave out she told the nurse that she didn't feel too bad.

The barn, a total loss, was 30x50, and a driving shed also demolished was fifty feet long. Buildings were very close to the house, not more than 50 feet away, and only the splendid fight put up by the hundred or more farmers who came to the rescue, saved the fine dwelling. They formed a bucket brigade and carried water from the pool nearby to drench the heated house. Stouffville chemical engine also played a part in saving the home.

Besides several cattle, 20 pigs, hens, the binder and mower, hay and grain were burned. Total loss around \$6,000, with insurance of only \$2,000. The six fine cows saved by the plucky Ruth were being cared for by neighbors also the two teams of horses which were working in the field when the tragedy started. Fortunately most of the implements were outside in use.

As we conversed with the stricken father as he lay in his bed a neighbor came in to say he had brought over a bag of grain for the chickens. "That's the way it is, everybody has been good," said Mr. Dowsell. His arms were bandaged to the tips of his fingers and his face terribly reddened and swollen from the flame.

He was ordered to remain in bed, but didn't take to the idea kindly.

The barn, Mr. Dowsell stated must have been built 80 years ago, but it had a new roof since he took it over three years ago, also the stabling has been renewed.

Almost Solid Front Favors Standard Time

We have been handed the following petition for publication which was circulated along the Main business section of Stouffville only, presenting a fairly solid opinion of mercantile interests against daylight saving:

To the Village Council:
We, the following merchants hereby subscribe our names as opposed to Daylight Saving being introduced in this town, believing that it would not be in the best interests of the business of the town, and that we can serve the farmer better by remaining on standard time:

J.M. Storey, Robt. Snowball, R. E. Curtis, Brathwaite Hardware, Dominion Stores, Wes. Boardway, Price Pugh, O. Lehman, N. O'Boyle, Harvey Schell, W. L. Rowbotham, H. A. Pollard, Ambrose Stover, A. Greenwood, Harold Forsyth, H. Bannerman, Harry Golden, Albert Lehman, H. A. Goudie, Mrs. W.H. Shaw, A.E. Weldon, A.W. Wilkinson, Clayt. Baker, Ratcliff & Co. I. Rose, M. C. Barker, Jos. Borinsky, Sid. Schmidt.

Marriages

Rusnell—Farrier

A quiet marriage was solemnized at the Mennonite parsonage on Saturday evening, May 6, when Kenneth Carl Rusnell, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs. Ira Rusnell was united in marriage with Gladys Fern Farrier, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Farrier of Stouffville. Rev. H. Shantz officiated. Only the very immediate family witnessed the ceremony, with Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Burkholder supporting the young couple. A happy throng of young people gave them a big hand when they finally emerged from the ceremony. After a short honeymoon the young couple are taking up their home in the west end of Stouffville, occupying part of the Rusnell property on Rupert Avenue.

Case Dismissed Against Township

Before Mr. Justice Barlow in Supreme Court at Osgoode Hall the action brought by Ralph Connor against the Township of Whitchurch, ex-reeve Newton Rae and Constable John Windsor, was dismissed with costs to be paid by the plaintiff. These are variously estimated at from \$130 to \$160, for the Township.

If the defendants so decide they may have their costs taxed by the Taxing Officer.

The case arose over the right of the township to remove campers from the beach in front of Connor's dance hall, which Connor claimed was private property. When Rae was reeve instructions were said to have been given the constable to act in the matter of removing campers from the disputed area, with the result that Connor instituted the case with the three parties named as defendants. A preliminary hearing or examination was held at Osgoode Hall, but the case never came to trial, and the defendants asked for dismissal which was granted.

I. B. Lucas, for the township, F. L. Button, K.C. for Mr. Rae.

Mr. and Mrs. Ken. Coulson, Toronto, spent Sunday at the Merten's home.

WILL ARRIVE TO-MORROW



Their Majesties who will arrive at 9.30 to-morrow morning, Friday, at Quebec City, are shown boarding the Empress of Australia at Portsmouth, just prior to sailing last Saturday.

Special Trains for May 22nd

Mr. C. E. Watson informed the School Board on Monday evening that he has been advised by the C.N.R. officials in Toronto that a special train would be provided for the children of Stouffville and district going to Toronto on May 22 to see the King and Queen.

In fact there will be two trains, one to arrive in the city at 12 noon standard time, and the other fifteen minutes later, leaving at 4 and 4.15 on return trip. The first train will start from Lindsay, but will pick up no passengers after leaving Blackwater. The second train will start from Uxbridge, and four coaches carrying one hundred passengers each, will be reserved for Stouffville. Each train will accommodate 1,000, the information said, and both sections will run direct to Riverdale Park where the reservations are made for the children.

The fare on the special train from Stouffville is 75c for adults, and 40c for children.

DOUBLE TRIO WINS CUP

The ladies' double trio of Baker Hill won the silver cup at the Aurora Musical Festival in a class of four entries, bringing home the honors Tuesday evening. Clarion Baker acted as accompanist. Personnel of the trio: Mrs. Oldham (Alma Baker), Mrs. Alex. Ratcliff, Mrs. Donald Ratcliff and Misses Dora Baker, Evelyn Dougherty, and Ruth Clark.

SEVEN HUNDRED MILES BY AEROPLANE

A service that should be of great interest to the people of Stouffville and surrounding community, is to be held in the United Church, on Wednesday evening, May 17. Rev. Denzil G. Ridout, F.R.G.S., former editor of the Record and Missionary Review of the United Church, is to give an illustrated lecture on pictures taken while he was on a seven hundred mile trip by aeroplane over Newfoundland and Labrador. A silver collection will be taken at the close of the service.

Brake Test Made at Local Train Crossing

LOST VALUABLE MARE

A registered mare, of the heavy type belonging to Mr. John Crawford, Township Clerk of Whitchurch, died in the harness on Saturday afternoon. The fine beast showed signs of being off her feed on Friday, but appeared to be in good condition on Saturday and worked as usual. She died before a veterinary could be called.

HORTICULTURALIST NEWS

The Regale Lily bulbs to be given as premiums to members of the Horticultural Society are on hand, and if you wish any, and the canvassers have not called on you, just get in touch with president Geo. Saunders, or Secretary M. Mertens, at once.

Guard of Honor for Ruth Dowsell

Unable to gain admittance to the stricken home hundreds of sympathetic people stood with bowed heads as the solemn funeral cortege for the late Ruth Dowsell passed between the long column of Stouffville school students who formed a guard of honor stretching from the entrance to the home for several hundred feet to the waiting hearse. The pall bearers who bore the remains of the popular 18-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Dowsell were: Dean Wagg, Willis Taylor, Kenneth Bacon, Leslie Mitchell, Kenneth Stewart and Ralph Cooper. The funeral was held on Monday afternoon from



Ruth Dowsell

the late home on the 2nd concession of Uxbridge to Goodwood cemetery for interment. It was in charge of L. E. O'Neil's funeral parlors.

In the background of this solemn scene stood the stark walls of the burned barn where Ruth lost her life attempting to save her father's cattle from the burning structure on Saturday afternoon. It was still smouldering, and added grief and forlornness to the whole of what was transpiring.

Flowers from Ruth's school chums, (and she was friends with all the students) from the neighbors and relatives banked the bier, and were conveyed in a special carriage. The service was in charge of Rev. J. W. Holmes of Goodwood United, assisted by Rev. L. E. Atkinson and Rev. Robert Young of Stouffville.

The father of the dead girl was unable to leave his bed for the funeral, because of his own burns which were received at the same time his daughter was fatally stricken, but he heard the service from his bedroom, listened to the words of comfort and the short sermon from the lips of Ruth's pastor in Goodwood. As the long line of cars moved on to the cemetery the whole village turned out to join them, and to witness the last rites at the graveside.

Besides the parents there survives one sister Erma, aged 16, two brothers George 12 and Roy 8.

Identical Engineer and Coaches Figuring in the Storry Accident Assembled for the Purpose.

The Canadian National Railways are still investigating the almost fatal accident of six months ago when Mr. Edgar Storry of Bloomington lost part of one arm when his car was struck by an incoming train. Last Thursday the identical engine and coaches which figured in the accident were assembled and with the same engineer, and effort was made to stop the train over the piece of track which is travelled on the morning of the accident.

Engineer Peart has been on his run as usual since the morning his engine struck the Storry car, but the cars shortly became scattered far and wide, and it was not until last week that they were again assembled at Lindsay, and made to re-enact what they did on the morning Storry was injured.

While the crew in charge of the train would not make any statement, it was understood that the fine instruments attached would tell just how fast the train was travelling, how much breaking was done, to stop in a given space. Two trials were made last week. In one the train stopped before it reached the crossing, and in the other it stopped about the place it came to a halt on the day of the accident.

So far as this paper could learn there is no charge or court action instituted, which may indicate that a peaceable settlement is being sought, and in this the railway is co-operating in gathering evidence.

While greatly handicapped through the loss of one limb Mr. Storry is able to assist with the work around his farm to some extent, although like the bird with a broken pinion he will never be quite the same.

Forty Year Resident Passes

The death of John McKinnon on Friday came as a real surprise to the many who knew him. While not in very good health for a year or two, his death was not expected. He passed away peacefully at his home on Montreal street in his 82nd year.

The funeral on Sunday afternoon took place to Stouffville cemetery, conducted by Rev. E. Morton. The brethren of the Orange Lodge also took part and paraded to the cemetery. The pall bearers were Messrs. George Dowsell, A. S. Collins, Price Pugh, Sandy Jones, Edw. Walls and J. Walker.

Born on the 10th of Markham on the present Wideman farm just below Stouffville John McKinnon lived practically all his life in the neighborhood. Forty years ago he bought property in the east end, and developed a market garden, and here he lived until his death. He married Lucinda Davis, and besides the widow there survives one son William and one daughter Mrs. W. Taylor, Toronto. An only brother is Robt. McKinnon of Stouffville. There are three sisters Mrs. William Crossen, Stouffville, Mrs. Geo. Knowles, Newmarket, and Mrs. James Knowles, Aurora.

Mr. McKinnon was a staunch Conservative and member of the Orange Order. He served a couple of terms on the village council.

Thirteen-year-old Lenore Baker of Toronto, won the gold medal, for piano solo under fourteen years, at the York County Musical Festival being held at Aurora this week. Lenore is a pupil of Mr. T. W. Eagleson.

JUNIOR FARMERS TONIGHT

The monthly meeting of the Stouffville Junior Farmers will be held in the Municipal Hall this Thursday evening (May 11). Mr. F.H. Sangster will give an address on the Co-operatives—This will be interesting. There will be other entertainment and refreshments will be served. Remember the meeting will open sharp at 8.15.

COLLIDE AT UNIONVILLE

Two cars collided at the Unionville corner on Sunday, the one, driven by Robert Johnson of Port Perry failing to stop at the intersection, ploughed into the side of a coach driven by W. H. Kunucky of Toronto. The Toronto car was quite badly damaged, but no charge was laid.

Leaving Profession Resigns From Staff

Miss Ethel I. Hogg, B.A., teacher on the Continuation School staff, tendered her resignation to the School Board on Monday evening with the explanation that she is leaving the profession.

Miss Hogg came to Stouffville two years ago, and has been a popular teacher since that time, highly esteemed by all the students and regarded by the Board as a teacher of high merit. Her resignation was received with regret, so the resolution read.

It was decided to hold a special meeting next Monday evening for the purpose of discussing salaries for next year and dealing with the vacancy on the staff.

It was stated that the school is carrying an overdraft in the special building account of about \$3,000 which is offset by monies owing by the Department, and due April 1st.

Dr. Freel presided. Members present, McMullen, McLeod, Turner and Nolan.

Rev. Samuel and Mrs. Goudie of Vineland are in town for a few days this week.