

Local Storm Damage Will Cost Thousands

Weatherman's Blitzrieg Levelled Two of Township's Largest Barns —Irreparable Damage to Many Fine Trees in Sunday's Wind-storm.

The weatherman sent a blitzrieg over a large portion of Ontario Sunday afternoon which struck heavily at Markham Township, inflicting damage running into thousands of dollars. On No. 7 highway just east of Markham village and due south of Stouffville, two of the township's largest barns were flattened, on the farms of Harvey Burkholder and Jonathan Gould, which will run into several thousand dollars to replace. Valuable spruce trees which money cannot replace were laid low. The most remarkable thing about this terrible wind storm is the fact that not a single human being was harmed, and save for poultry there was not an animal injured over the whole countryside.

On the Harvey Burkholder farm there were 100 men at work on Monday, following the storm on Sunday afternoon, willing helpers rallied from the Mennonite brethren of the various churches, and not one of them had been invited. To our enquiry we were told by numbers of them that they "just came" knowing there would be work to do.

The large modern barn was twisted and torn, with the roof blown away. One stick of timber several feet long blew 200 feet to the house and crashed into the frame kitchen at the rear of the solid old stone dwelling. The whole super-structure on the barn was more or less a wreck but the large timbers were not injured to any extent. Part of the roof on the dwelling house was torn off and on one side of the kitchen. 15 or 20 men had this repaired by Monday night. The most amazing damage was to the sturdy big trees in the fine spruce grove standing between the house and the highway. Snapped off as though they were matchsticks were massive trees 75 years old. Here thirty men labored Monday clearing away the snarled wreckage, and recovering valuable logs which were being hauled by a tractor into the open and trimmed up ready to go into lumber. The Burkholder bush to the east of the farm came in for a share of damage. A couple of hundred trees, large sturdy spruce, were cracked off, some at the butt, and these will later be made ready for the mill. It is estimated there will be ample lumber to rebuild the barn without buying a board.

"I was in the barn cleaning the stables out in readiness for milking," said John Greenwood, hired man. "I had the electric lights on because it got very dark just before the storm struck. There was a



WING COMMANDER G.R. HOWSAM

Native of Port Perry, who has been appointed senior air staff officer for No. 4 training command, with headquarters in Regina. He is a brother to Earl Howsam, Altona, see article on page 2.

swishing noise and things began to move. I feared the barn was coming in, and I ran for the cement silo, but heavy pieces of timber soon came in on me and I had to make for the open storm. I feared that I might trap me in the silo, and I might have been roasted alive. When I reached the outside, the wind carried me into the field with terrible force. Timber, straw and everything was hurled through the air. The noise was so terrific that the falling of the barn was not heard. When the piece of timber hurried through the dwelling the family were fortunately in the main part of the house.

Jonathan Gould's barn immediately north across the highway fared even worse. The massive structure 100x50 was lifted into the air and dropped again right on the foundation, but it crashed down into matchwood, and nothing of much value was left of it. An elderly gentleman who had worked on building the foundation of the Burkholder barn about 25 years ago, explained that the timber was all new in the building, whereas in the Gould frame erected 50 years ago, and frame was of used timber which could not withstand as much. Jonathan Gould 88, sat at a window looking toward the barn and heard the roar of the wind, but did not see the fall of the barn.

His son Joe, who operates the farm had just arrived home with the coming of the storm about 4.30 in the afternoon. He rushed the car into the driving shed which attaches to the west side of the big barn. He

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Work Started on New Water-works Extension

Men were put to work on Monday morning digging the trench for laying an extension to the water works mains in the east end on the north side of Main street from the Brierbush Hospital to Montreal street, a distance of 500 feet. A four-inch main will be put down, connecting with the four inch which feeds along Montreal street. Some time in the future it is expected that the line will be extended from the hospital on west until in time it will eliminate feeding properties on the north side of the street from under the roadway where the pipes have to run at present to reach the big main on the south side.

All last winter several houses on the north side were without the water service because the pipes were frozen up. Aside from this inconvenience, there is the danger from frost damaging the pavement should a pipe burst in winter under the road foundation. The best thing to do, in the opinion of the council is to gradually lay a main on the north side of the street and in time get rid of any pipes under the roadway. The estimated cost of the project now in hand is \$750.

At the end of the year the water system had a cash surplus in the bank of \$1,079, after donating to general account of the town \$1300, of confetti the happy couple left on from the water works last year which helped the general tax payer to this extent.

KING PROCLAIMS DAY OF PRAYER

Next Sunday has been proclaimed a national day of prayer, and all churches are called upon to observe the occasion, according to a request made by King George to all his people.

BETHESDA GIRL IS WED

PRESTON—BOLENDER
A quiet and pretty wedding was solemnized at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Valentine Bolender, Bethesda, on Wednesday, May 15th, when their daughter Anna Viola became the bride of Burnice Douglas Preston, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Preston, Rev. H. Shantz of Stouffville officiated. The bride given in marriage by her father, looked charming in a dress of tea rose crepe, and carried a bouquet of orange blossoms. The bridesmaid, Miss Stella Preston, sister of the groom, dressed in turquoise blue sheer, carried pink snapdragons. Mr. Gordon Bolender was groomsmen. Mrs. George Webb, of Stayner, cousin of the bride played the wedding music.

After the ceremony a dainty lunch was served, and amid showers of confetti the happy couple left on a motor trip to Northern Ontario. For travelling, the bride chose a navy coat with matching accessories.

RETIRING MANAGER HONORED BY STAFF

A rather happy and pleasing incident took place last week when the entire bank staff at the Canadian Bank of Commerce presented their retiring manager Mr. E. M. Still, with a beautiful chrome nickel plated clock, swung from a pedestal. Small in design, it is beautiful and useful, and highly appreciated.

It is just a little more than ten years since Mr. Still located in town to take over his duties at the bank, which he relinquishes at this time in favor of Mr. J. S. Spence from Thornhill. During his decade here Mr. Still has been favored with adding scores and scores of friends to himself, so that his retirement is generally regretted. The members of the staff participating in the gift to Mr. Still are Messrs. J. C. Porter, W. R. Sperry, D. A. McRae, Jean Collard, and Manager J. S. Spence.

HARMON YAKE 89

A sumptuous dinner was served at the home of Mrs. Loss Hill in Claremont in honor of her father Harmon Yake who celebrated his 89th birthday on Sunday. The birthday cake with "greetings to father" inscribed decorated the table. Toronto, Oshawa and Claremont and other places were represented at the party and all wished Mr. Yake who is hale and hearty every happiness in the days ahead.

STANLEY'S HOLIDAY TREAT

Showing at the Stanley Theatre this weekend, May 23, 24, 25 with two shows both Friday and Saturday night is "Hollywood Cavalcade" with a line-up of star filmed in glorious technicolor. It's a real holiday treat with Don Ameche, Alice Faye, Stuart Erwin, Buster Keaton and many others, who made "Alexander's Ragtime Band" famous and now have produced a real successor.

IMPORTANT CONVENTION

Next Tuesday and Wednesday, May 28 and 29 the 15th annual Sunday School Convention for the Township of Whitchurch will be held in Vandorf church with services each day beginning Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock standard. Every Sunday School in the district is expected to send delegates. William Paisley is the president.

Red Cross Proposal Not Favored by Local War Branch

The Stouffville War Branch has turned down a formal proposal made to them to work in conjunction with the Red Cross organization which recently named a set of officers for Stouffville. Mr. F. L. Button, president, wrote the War Branch, asking that organization if they would be willing to unite their effort with the Red Cross who would become largely responsible for raising funds, while the War Branch would continue their effort in making supplies.

The matter came before a recent meeting, with the result that the ladies decided to continue in their own way, rather than to form any link with the Red Cross. Any advantage of procuring yarn through the Red Cross is eliminated, one of the members said, by the fact that the Stouffville group are able to buy this yarn now from Red Cross sources.

Teddy Meyer is First Plane Casualty While Working in Local Orchard

Although the terrible European war has not actually reached Stouffville, there was an aeroplane accident here on Saturday afternoon. Teddy Meyer, one of our aged citizens was the victim. He was operating a spraying pump on a high spring wagon for Mr. Edw. Walls, when a plane flying over the village swooped low over the orchard and frightened Mr. Walls gray steed, so

that when the horse bolted it threw Mr. Meyer to the ground with such force that he was rendered unconscious. At that he had a narrow escape for the heavy barrel and pump almost fell from the wagon on top of him.

The injured man was taken to the home of Mr. A. S. Collins, and was later removed to his own home where he rallied from an unconscious condition.

FOUND GUILTY ON FALSE EVIDENCE CHARGE

Found guilty of attempting to obtain false evidence, in court of General Session at city hall, Toronto, on Tuesday, Ralph Connor was held in custody for sentence today, Thursday. Through his counsel Mr. Harold Bruels, Connor put up a strong denial. The case was heard before a jury and His Honor Judge McDonald.

The whole case arose out of a charge brought by Connor a year or two ago against the Township of Whitchurch, Constable Windsor and the reeve of the municipality for alleged wrongfully removing him from certain water front privileges at Lake Musselman. This action was ultimately dismissed when Connor failed to prosecute the case.

Deputy-Reeve Cook Presents Shield

York County's annual musical festival concluded its four-day sessions Friday with the highest award of the festival, the piano scholarship, being presented to Miss Margaret Woods of Markham.

The scholarship, which is worth \$25, is provided by Mrs. Aubrey Davis and is awarded to the piano student showing the most promise in the opinion of the adjudicator, Mr. Frank Welsman, who judged all the Piano classes, stated that he felt Miss Woods deserved the award.

The Mrs. J. Whimster reading prizes were awarded to Gordon Winch of Keswick and Miss Susan Kuper of Memorial Public School of Fairbank.

For the fourth year Agincourt choir captured the rural choir class, thereby winning the Township of Whitchurch shield. It was presented to the successful choir by Deputy Reeve Jesse Cook, of the township, who praised the Agincourt group. A smaller shield will be presented to the choir to be retained in its possession, for having won the title more than three times.

NOW IN TRAINING



Robert Holman of Claremont is in training with the Ontario Tank Corps. Bob is a son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Holman of Whitchurch and attended school in Markham. He has been a resident of Claremont for a number of years where his wife now resides.

MORE ENLISTMENTS

Two local men, Joe Austin and Gordon Lehman have enlisted for military service. Joe is a son of Mr. and Mrs. George Austin, and has joined the Royal Air Force, while Gordon Lehman, son of Mr. and Mrs. Ab. Lehman, is with the R.C.E. engineers. Gordon left on Monday, while Joe is expected to report for duty any day.

Bloomington Couple Married 64 Years

BIRTHS

Wilson—At The Brierbush Hospital, Stouffville, on Thursday, May 16, 1940, to Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Wilson, Myrtle Station, a daughter.

The late Queen Victoria had been a queen for thirty years when both George Vaughan and his wife Alice Wylde, now living at Bloomington, were born, but they have a special reason for celebrating the late Queen's birthday on May 24. Mr. and Mrs. Vaughan were married on that date 64 years ago now, and are therefore among our elder people who have been spared to each other many years over the average span. Both Mr and Mrs. Vaughan are over 83 years old.

He was born in Toronto when the place was styled "Muddy York," while his partner was born in England. Married in Toronto, they ventured into farming before many years, and settled in Scott and then in Whitchurch in the Musselman Lake locality. Twenty odd years ago they gave up active farm work, and moved into the hamlet of Bloomington to enjoy a well earned rest. Their six children are all living, namely, William Vaughan, (one time storekeeper in Stouffville,) now of Toronto; Arthur of Church Hill, Robert and George in Toronto, Wallace of Bloomington, and Mrs. John Paisley at Ballantrae. There are nine grandchildren and five great grandchildren.

Victoria Day will be quietly observed by the venerable couple at their comfortable home, where friends will be thinking of them and wishing them many years of continued good health.

HIGH PRAISE FROM SCHOOL INSPECTOR

The annual report filed by Public School Inspector W. H. T. Mooney for Stouffville public school, proved to be very gratifying to the members of the Board the other evening when it was read to them, as it must have been to the teaching staff and Principal C. E. Watson.

Up-to-date teaching methods, the determination of every teacher to do a good job, the standard of the equipment, and work of caretaker all came in for highest praise. In fact, Inspector Mooney had not a single complaint to offer. The staff he said, were all doing great work, and every member appeared efficient and capable.

Inspector Mooney, a new man for Stouffville, is going to be very popular with the trustees and teachers alike, we imagine. After all, we think that everything he said about the standard of our public school was merited.

BRANTFORD FELLOWSHIP SUNDAY NIGHT

On Sunday evening at seven o'clock the Young People's Fellowship of Brantford, will be in charge of the service at the Christian Church. This group, comprised of young people from various denominations and with their motto, "Brantford's Youth For Christ," have done much toward the deepening of spiritual life among the young people of that city. For the past five winters they have held "Fireside Services" in the different Brantford Churches following the regular Sunday evening meetings. These "Firesides" attract as many as 500-800 and are broadcast to a large radio audience. During the summer a Young People's Conference is held where leading speakers from Canada and the United States lead the young people into a deeper knowledge of Christian truth. This group will be in Stouffville for the one night only and you are advised to be their early to secure a seat.

Whitchurch Jersey May Have Taken Lite by Drowning

Walking back into the field last Thursday to drive home the cows, Stewart Rae, Lemonville farmer, was an eye witness to the death of his choice Jersey cow, the pride of his milking herd. Just as he arrived where the cattle pasture, the Jersey bolted into a deep pool of water, and sank below the surface. The keen eye of the farmer told him that the cow was in deep distress, and as he rushed to render first aid from drowning, Mr. Rae was opening his knife to perform an operation.

First he raised the animal's head from out of the water, and holding it up, he jabbed the knife in back of the stomach to relieve a bloated condition common among animals at this time when first going on new grass. Gas escaped all right, indicating that a successful operation so far had been performed, but the cow died forthwith. Mr. Rae said that when he hauled the animal's head from below the surface, two streams of water shot from her nostrils in a manner that would have done the Ballantrae fire engine proud. This indicated that water had been taken into the lungs, but whether the cow was drowned or died from bloating, Mr. Rae was not prepared to say.

To our way of thinking, it was a clear case of suicide. That poor beast suffered the tortures of the condemned, and must have been crazed when she rushed into the deep pool to drown herself. Surely no cow in her right senses would do such a thing, and Mr. Rae was high in his praises of the common sense possessed by this particular animal which was the best in his herd.

ENGAGEMENTS

Mr. and Mrs. Nathan W. Tarr announce the engagement of their daughter Verna Elizabeth to Mr. C. Abbott Wright, Toronto, son of Mr. and Mrs. C. Harvey Wright, Halifax, N.S. The marriage to take place quietly June 15th, in Eaton Memorial Chapel, Toronto.

Mrs. Bert Tait continues to improve, according to word from the hospital. It is hoped that she will be able to be brought home in another week.



This barn is on the farm of Harvey Burkholder, No. 7 highways, almost due south of Stouffville, and shows how Sunday's storm played havoc with the sturdy structure. Other barns in Markham Township suffered a worse fate than the one shown here.