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Largest Circulating Weekly for Whitchurch, Markham, Pickering and Uxbridge Twps.

STOUFFVILLE, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, JANUARY 23rd, 1941

Eight Pages

DONATIONS STILL COMING

Individual farmers are leaving donations at The Tribune office for the Telegram War Victims' Fund. Harvey Swain brought in a dollar the other day, to bring the total handed to Rev. Duncan Macgregor treasurer, \$119.65. The fund will be kept open and if you wish to give the amount will be thankfully received, and acknowledged in these columns.

Gormley Sees Two Fires Tuesday

About five o'clock on Tuesday morning George Fisher arose from his bed to look out the window of his home, only to see his blacksmith shop next his house in flames. The shop is situated on the 3rd of Whitchurch, next to the residence at New Gormley.

The fire had such a start that nothing could be saved from the building which contained a valuable set of tools belonging to Mr. Fisher. No one had been in the shop since six o'clock the previous evening, and the cause of the fire is a complete mystery.

Before the flames had died down, the sky to the north of Gormley was illuminated and it was found that the large barns on the Humphrey farm were all in flames and reported a complete loss. It is said this latter fire started from the gasoline engine which was at the time being repaired by a garageman. Suddenly it backfired and set everything ablaze.

Local Lads Organize Beaver Club

Lions Club Sponsor Much-Needed Boys' Activity. High School Teachers, Ralph Haist and Gordon Bailey Heads New Venture

Last Thursday evening a successful meeting was to organize a Boys Beaver Club in Stouffville and over thirty of the village lads were on hand at the request of Messrs. Ralph Haist and Gordon Bailey who have undertaken the idea which was put forward by the Lions Club.

The boys are most enthusiastic, and under such able leadership, a long-felt want in the town will be filled.

Feature of the organization meeting was a talk given by Mr. Spence local bank manager, who addressed the boys on the subject of aeronautics. Mr. Spence who was an air-force instructor during the last war made his well-chosen topic most interesting and appreciation by the leaders was tendered on the boys behalf for his interest shown.

The Club plans to meet henceforth every Tuesday night. Officers elected were: Chief, Ken Klinck; vice Chief, Arnold Schell; Sec., Irvin Borinsky and Treas., Bill Kellington.

This week the boys have received a very special invitation from the girls C.G.I.T. club to join with them in a sleigh-ride party.

WARDENS CHOSEN

Clarence Downey, reeve of Swansea, was elected warden of York County on Tuesday.

Jno. A. McDonald, reeve of Mara Township was similarly honored with the wardenship of Ontario County at Whitby.

THOROBREDS & PACERS CLASH

Ringwood and Vandorf teams will play a league game at Stouffville tonight (Thursday) at 8 p.m. Jim Gibson's thoroughbreds from Vandorf and Joe Cooney's pacers from Ringwood are expected to provide the season's greatest thrillers.

SAT'DAY NIGHT NUPTIAL

On Saturday evening at the M.B.C. parsonage in town Rev. H. Shantz, solemnized the marriage of Cora May Hisey of Almira, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. George Hisey, and William Percy Douglas of Unionville. The couple were attended by Mr. and Mrs. Jack Butcher of Markham, and after the ceremony left on a short honeymoon. They expect to take up farm work as their daily task in life.

Man in Park Shack for Past Nine Years Takes His Own Life

"Cuffy" Johnson Fatally Shot Himself Twice in Chest—Makes Confession After Being Found in His Lonely Shack—Blames Pranksters Who Pestered Him About Enlisting.

Widely known to all the town people as "Cuffy," Fred Johnson was discovered on Sunday evening in his shack with two bullet wounds in his chest. Ciyat Tarr had gone down to Cuffy's hut to pay a call while he was home from Camp Borden, and made the horrible discovery.

Dr. S. S. Ball was summoned and after rendering first aid had Cuffy removed to the Brierbush Hospital, where he died about 10 o'clock on Tuesday evening.

Dr. Ball reported there were two distinct bullet wounds in the chest, evidently fired from the 22 rifle found beside the wounded man. Johnson was conscious when the doctor arrived, and told him that he had shot himself. Cuffy explained the presence of a knife on the bed as having been used to pull the rifle shell out of the rifle in order to reload it and fire a second shot.

Information given to the press by other parties indicate that Cuffy had been considerably "worked up" because of numerous jokes from pranksters who said he (Cuffy) would soon have to go to Camp Borden. This, according to street information, was said to have preyed on Johnson's mind and led to the rash act. In a written confession to the police taken at the hospital, Cuffy reiterated the same story.

A written pencil note indicated that Cuffy intended to be in Paradise forthwith when the first shot was fired, for he directed what might be done with his meagre belongings, which he hoped would provide for him a decent burial.

Cuffy Johnson spent much of his life in this district, but was in Toronto for a long time. After returning nine or ten years ago the town boys got together and in one big afternoon push rushed up the shack at the south end of the park property which has been his home and abode ever since. A general favorite with the boys, he has been taking their jokes too seriously, for he might have known that his presence at 58 years was not required in the army. He had a horror of war, and often told the writer so.

The determination to end his life must have been most deliberate. After wounding himself with the first shot, he doggedly emptied the chamber of the rifle, and reloaded evidently under terrible pain. He gave up after the second attempt, and remained conscious long enough to tell the doctor what he had done. Each shot entered the chest above the heart.

Attempt to Revive Bush League Here

An attempt is being made this week to round out a four-team bush league to play hockey in Stouffville for the remainder of the season. With so many of the boys from the surrounding countryside away from time to time and one or two of the former local league teams now in other groups it had appeared that any formation of a league here this winter was out of the question. However a group of the more interested boys in town aided by Messrs. Jos. Cooney, Murray Holden and Jack Barkey have organized a league, of Stouffville, Vandorf, Ringwood with 6th Line still doubtful.

Stouffville has been able to line up some fifteen players, including some former Juniors and High School players. At a work-out on Tuesday night Ross Wideman of Dickson Hill and Mac Clendenen from the 6th Line were a couple of welcome additions.

No schedule has been drawn up yet, but it is hoped that if the plan

INQUEST ORDERED OVER RINGWOOD DEATH

Dr. S. S. Ball, coroner, has ordered an inquest for Friday evening, January 31, at 8.30 o'clock to enquire into the circumstances surrounding the death of Mrs. Isabel Whyte of Ringwood, who died shortly after being admitted to the Brierbush Hospital, Stouffville.

BALLANTRAE ON TOP IN UXBRIDGE LEAGUE

Ballantrae hockey team won their third straight game on Tuesday night to tighten their hold on first place in the Uxbridge Hockey League. The Ballantrae boys narrowly nosed out Reach 3-2 in what the captain of the team declared was, "a lucky break for us." Reach is in second place in the standing with Sunderland third.

Tuesday night's game was a tight struggle until the last period when Ballantrae notched rather a fluky one to give them the lead. Slack Simpson and McNelly were the three goal-getters for the Shellmen.

In the other half of Tuesday's double-header, Uxbridge defeated Zephyr 2-1. A crowd of some six hundred was in attendance.

Jas. Rennie to Head Markham Fair Board

Fair Shows Profit of \$630.82 for 1940 Exhibition

James Rennie, reeve of Markham Township will head Markham Fair Board for next season with O. B. Heise, reeve of the village as 1st vice and John Scott of Claremont, 2nd vice.

The election was held at the annual meeting last week when some



thirty directors attended a banquet staged in the Tremont Hotel in Markham.

The last year's financial report was viewed as highly satisfactory by the Board. Total donations with the exception of grants amounted to \$1,211.00. The fair handed out \$2,901.05 in prizes in cash, goods and races.

Directors for the new year are: H. C. Morris, M. Russell, Earl Graham and Robert Nash of Markham Village; Walter Milne, Pickering Township; Lyman Kennedy, Morris Hammill, Alex. Davidson and George Little of Scarboro Township; W. L. Clark, Ken Deacon, J. H. Warriner, Robert Thompson, Fred Baggs and George Cowie of Markham Twp.

Associate Directors: Jess Cook, Stouffville; George H. Henry, James Darlington of York Township; Alex. McLeod, Markham; Jack Fraser, Charles Hooper of Markham Twp.

Hon. Directors: George Hambly, A. H. Crosby, W. H. Crosby, R. R. Corson, R. P. Armstrong, James Torrance, George Padget.

Auditors, R. M. Reesor and Ed. Clarke.

fully materializes, games will start immediately owing to the lateness of the season.

WITH THE R.C.A.F.



Glenn Gibbons, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Gibbons of Lemonville who is in training as a ground man with the R.C.A.F.

School Trustees Appoint New Secretary

School Trustee Nolan proposed the name of Rev. C. J. Smalley as temporary secretary-treasurer of the Board owing to the condition of J. S. Dougherty who has been ill since mid-December. It was the inaugural meeting last Wednesday evening, and the secretary's accustomed chair was vacant.

Rev. C. E. MacLeod said he thought the logical man to take over the duties was the village clerk, George Storey.

Mr. Storey feels that he has enough duties to perform, said Mr. Nolan. However, Mr. Storey who was present at the meeting in his office, said he would take over the work of the school secretary if the Board was willing that his helper should do much of the secretarial end.

"That is all right," said Mr. MacLeod who agreed that whoever Mr. Storey had in mind would be satisfactory to him.

Trustee Nolan thereupon moved that Mr. Storey be named as secretary-treasurer pro tem, and this carried unanimously. Mr. Storey then sent for his helper Mr. Smalley who took his place and recorded the minutes.

Dr. H. B. Freel was again named as chairman by a unanimous vote of the members, and the routine business was then disposed of.

Messrs. McLeod, Stover and Aldred were sworn in for another term, Mr. Aldred being an entirely new addition to the trustee board.

Local Hunters Bag 250 Pounds of Rabbits

Fifteen hunters from Stouffville, and Claremont locality journeyed to Barrie last week to spend an afternoon hunting rabbits, and were rewarded with a kill of 28 bunnies. They averaged about nine pounds, and the boys report that 16 rabbits were shot in a square of a mile and a quarter. The veteran Jess Byer headed the hunters who were the guests of a Barrie friend.

Emboldened by their success of a week ago the party of local hunters returned to Innisfail township just south of Barrie a few days ago for a second rabbit hunt. This time the tribesmen from Stouffville shot down no less than 75 rabbits and two foxes. "We were eating dinner, when a big red fox came rushing along," said Nels. Byer. "My gun was in the rear of the car, but Dawson Hare had his handy and he ran along a brush pile and headed the fox off. Evidently Reddy did not realize he was on the other side of the brush for he bounded to within thirty feet of him, so that Dawson brought him down with a well aimed shot," said he.

There were in the party Nelson Byer, Jess Byer, Peter Byer (who is here from Western Canada), Walter and E. E. Byer, Frank and Vincent Baker, Dawson Hare, Walter Ward of Claremont was also in the group

Fine Herd Roasted Standing in Stalls in Devastating Fire

Roy Seebeck's Buildings Ablaze are Seen in Stouffville and in Suburbs of Toronto—Over \$10,000 loss in Buildings, Stock and Crop—Cause a Complete Mystery.

Three large barns 80x34, 20x38 and 30x60, stand in ruins as a result of last Saturday night's fire on the farm of Roy Seebeck on the Markham-Pickering townline about a mile north of No. 7 highway.

In addition seven horses, one pony, nineteen head of cattle mostly high-producing milch cows, 100 capon chickens, about 1200 bushels of grain and over 50 tons of hay, and countless other items were totally lost.

Roy Seebeck is a successful young farmer, married 14 years ago, when he went on the farm which he purchased from the Smith Bros. Cause of Saturday night's devastating blaze is a complete mystery.

"We had completed the chores about six o'clock, and no one was in the barns from then until I saw the buildings in flames about 7 o'clock, as I was going down the road about half a mile south of my place, bound for Green River to get my hair cut," said the owner to The Tribune, as he explained the early stages of the fire. Some fellow coming from the north in a truck yelled as he apparently saw the fire and immediately I turned around I saw the flames. Mr. Seebeck said he ran back and the whole place, all the buildings were in a whirling mass of flames. With the help quickly gathered we rescued the ten pigs, but could not get near anything else for the terrible heat. Every animal was roasted in its stall.

It was a still, cold night, and this made it comparatively easy to save the house and a driving shed some distance away. The sturdy cement silo withstood the terrific heat and stands now unscarred monarch over the ruins. There was not a stick of timber left standing from any of the three structures however, which joined together into one immense barn.

The buildings were wired for electricity two years ago, while within the past year Mr. Seebeck installed a mechanical milker. All this is now a total loss.

There is insurance on both the barns, crop and contents but it will not of course, cover the loss, estimated around \$10,000.

This area south-east of Stouffville has been notorious for serious fires in only a year's time there being no less than three large barns burned within a year, one of the W. Taylor place, then the Tran barn and now the Seebeck barns. One or two smaller fires may be added to these all in the one section.

Saturday's fire illuminated the sky and could be seen for miles. In Stouffville it gave the impression of being only a mile away instead of six miles south.

Pioneer Markham Miller is Dead

Hereward D. Milne, Norwood Rd., Toronto died early Tuesday. He was the oldest surviving son of the late Capt. Thomas A. Milne, who was a member of a pioneer Markham family.

For many years Mr. Milne owned and operated a flour mill in Markham. Subsequently he spent 30 years with the Maple Leaf Milling Co. While with them he travelled extensively in the north country and the West Indies. He had been retired for ten years. He was a member of Markham Masonic lodge.

Surviving are his widow, two daughters, Mrs. Ross MacCorquodale, and Mrs. H. B. Legate, Owen Sound.

and shot one of the two foxes brought home. Still other hunters were in the party from Toronto.

TANKARD FINAL AT UNIONVILLE POSTPONED

The final game in the tankard scheduled for Wednesday morning between Stouffville curlers and the winner of Unionville and Agincourt was postponed on account of soft ice. Stouffville's two rinks took their first round with a decisive win over Locust Hill.

Owing to both the tankard and the district cup games being played on the same day the local club were unable to raise sufficient players for each, and no representatives were present from here to contest the cup series.

Over Hundred See O.E.S. Installation

On Tuesday evening, January 21, 1941, Jubilee Chapter, No. 163, O.E.S., in Stouffville witnessed the installation of new officers for the coming year, in a picturesque ceremony.

Mrs. Edna Hunter, D.D.G.M., was the installing matron, assisted by Mr. L. P. Sutton, Miss Annie Marsh, Grand Marshal of the Grand Chapter of Ontario, Mrs. Maude Entwistle, and Mrs. Margaret Squires all of Toronto also past Matrons and Patrons of the local chapter.

Over one hundred guests attended the dinner, preceding the meeting, convened by Mrs. Pearle Nolan and her committee, which was followed by a short toast list, presided over by Mr. William Griffiths.

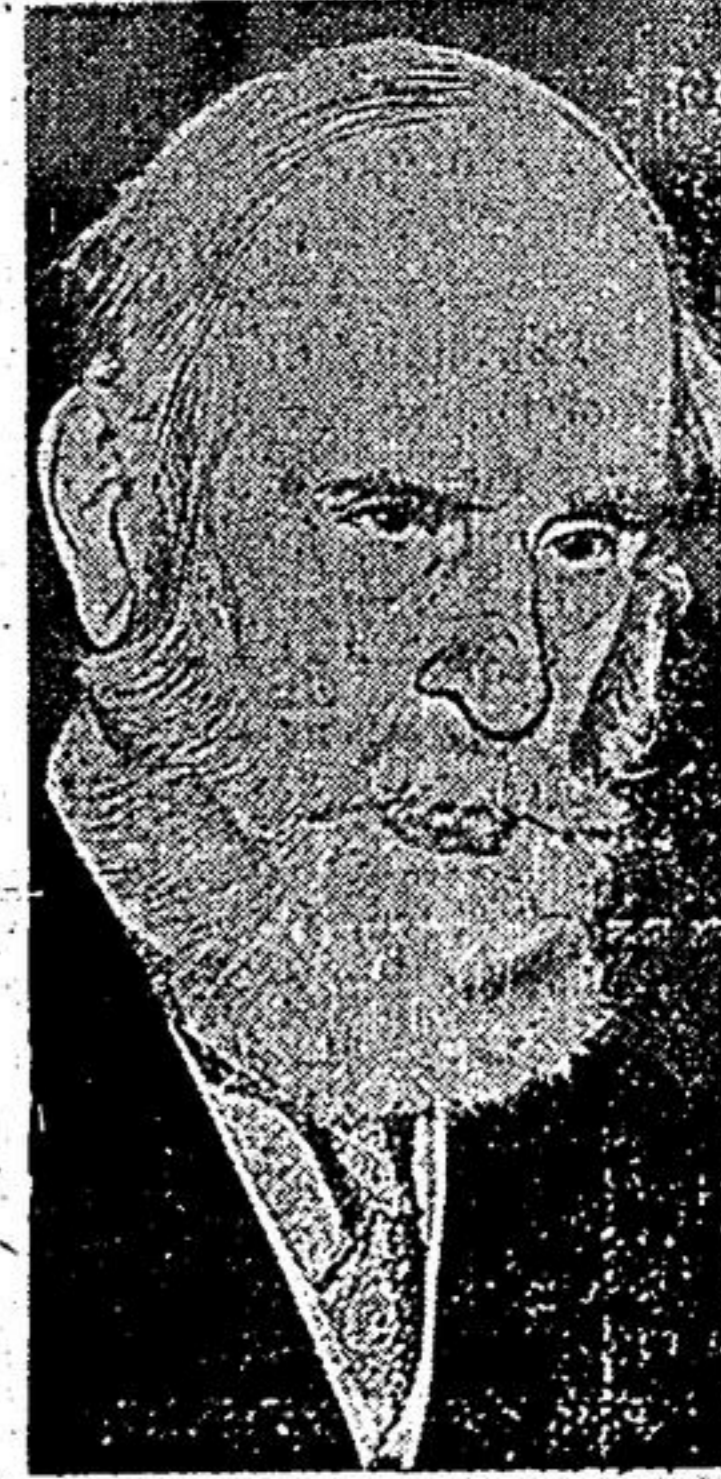
The following officers were installed: Worthy Matron Mrs. Lillis Paisley; Worthy Patron Mr. William Griffith, Associate Matron Mrs. Elizabeth Griffiths, Secretary Mrs. Ina Woodburn, Treasurer Miss Anne Lehman, Conductress Mrs. Pearle Nolan, Associate Conductress Mrs. Hattie Storey, Chaplain, Mrs. Susan Shankel, Marshal Miss Jane Parkitt, Organist Miss Luella Holden, Adah, Miss Effie Harding, Ruth Mrs. Florence Johnson, Esther, Mrs. Stella Drewery, Martha Mrs. Ida Malloy, Electa Mrs. Alice Shaw, Warden Mrs. Dunelda Fairies, Sentinel Mr. J. Borinsky.

NO INQUEST IN SUICIDE CASE

On enquiry Wednesday afternoon from Dr. S. S. Ball, Coroner, we are advised that there will be no inquest into the death of Fred Johnson. After conferring with the authorities at Queen's Park the Coroner said that a thorough investigation already made is deemed to be all that is necessary.

It is rumored, however, that the police will continue their investigation.

WAS 97 ON SUNDAY



97 years of age on Sunday, Sir William Mulock went arm-in-arm with Hon. Howard Ferguson to attend a dinner on Monday.