

# The Stouffville Tribune

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TEN PAGES

## John Prentice Dies in Plane Crash

A plane flight made to reward two girls selling Victory Bonds ended in tragedy at Halifax one day last week when the Lockheed Hudson bomber nose dived into Halifax harbor, carrying to their deaths the girls and the three-man crew, including Flight-Lieutenant J. H. Prentice, son of the late John Prentice, well known auctioneer through-



FLY-LIEUT. HARRY PRENTICE

out Markham township.

The plane, caught in a sudden snowflurry, crashed almost vertically into the choppy water in a screaming dive, only a few minutes after it took off from a nearby airfield. All five were killed instantly. Three bodies floated to the surface a few minutes after the crash, but the other two were imprisoned in the wreckage.

The dead: Flight Lieut. John Henry Prentice, R.C.A.F., Toronto; Mary McQueen, Prince Edward Island; Jean Curran, Dartmouth; Arthur Cahill, Chapeau, Que., test engineer; Owen McCulley, Sydney, N.S. observer.

The two girls, both 22, were employees of the Clark Ruse Aircraft, Ltd., which operates a repair plant at Halifax. They won the flight in a competition among plant employees during the recent third Victory Loan campaign and had been looking forward to the event for days.

The plane had been repaired by the company for the R.C.A.F. and was on a "shakedown" flight. Clark Ruse officials said it had been given two test flights previously and was in perfect condition.

Flight-Lieut. Prentice had been chief test pilot with the company for the past two years, on loan from the R.C.A.F. Before the war he was a passenger airline pilot in the U.S. Flight Lieutenant Prentice, 42, was one of Canada's foremost pilots and is credited with saving the life of a fellow airman, one of three who crashed in an isolated spot in northern Quebec in April, 1941. While landing to affect the rescue, Prentice injured his back. The injury forced him to retire from Atlantic ferry service.

He was the son of Mrs. John H. Prentice, Balliol St., Toronto and the late Mr. Prentice.

## Indigent Patient May Claim Damages

Miss Martha McMullen, 75-year-old spinster living in the east end and a life-long resident of the village, may be the subject of a court action, since McCullough & Button, solicitors for Miss McMullen, have filed a formal notice with the council charging negligence on the part of the town, in respect to the accident which Miss McMullen sustained when she fell in the downtown district one day last week and sustained a dislocated shoulder.

While the town denies responsibility for the accident, Reeve Weldon pointed out that the village recognized Miss McMullen as an indigent patient at the time she was admitted to the hospital, and that she would be cared for on these grounds. She is in receipt of an old age pension.

## FARMER ENTERS HOSPITAL

Mr. Walter Jacobs who held a successful auction sale at his farm just north of Ringwood on Tuesday this week, left on Wednesday for the hospital in Toronto where he expected to take treatment.

## MRS. ELLA PENNOCK DEAD

Mrs. Ella Pennock who died in Stouffville on Tuesday was a resident of Scarborough, at West Hill. She came here a couple of years ago for hospitalization treatment. She was 70 years of age, and had made a number of friends in town during her short residence.

## Christmas Market Day Tuesday, Dec. 22nd

Stouffville Christmas Market Day is set for Tuesday, December 22, only a couple of days before Christmas, and probably a bit late for some buyers, and yet it will be quite satisfactory for others.

A slimly attended meeting of business men on Thursday evening, decided on the date and made necessary arrangements for the market place, also for ample weighing facilities. It was decided to advertise the fair locally and in the Toronto papers issue a call for outside buyers to increase the bidding competition.

Discontinuance of judging poultry and pastry was decided the best thing to do this year owing to shortage of help to handle this nature of market. It was noted that other market towns about had also dropped the feature of offering prizes.

Farmers are invited to set aside Tuesday, December 22 for Stouffville Christmas market, where top prices will be offered while the stores will be well stocked to meet the needs of the buying public.

## HORSE SHOW FOR CHRISTMAS FAIR

Horse fanciers in Stouffville will maintain the Horse Show again this year in connection with the Stouffville Christmas Fair to be held on Tuesday, December 22.

There will be an enlarged prize list in the horse section which will be published in this paper next week. The horse committee will meet this week to complete details. Liberal prizes will be offered.

## December Grants Viewed Suspiciously Says Deputy-Reeve Hooper of Markham

"I object to grants being handed out at the December meeting of this council," said Deputy Reeve Chas. Hooper at Markham council on Monday when payment of a grant agreed on months ago, came up in accounts. "It just looks as though there was some political motive behind it," said the councillor. I think it would be better to make payment when the grants are authorized instead of holding up the cheque until the end of the year, agreed Reeve Rennie. Mr. Hooper said that grants might well be made at the January session.

Reeve Rennie presided at the meeting and leave was granted North York Township to sell power to their own public utility where it enters Markham or will enter Markham to operate a huge well about to be bored to augment the water supply of the North York district. Permission to lay mains was also arranged.

Messrs. W. J. Spears, Douglas Hood and H. D. McCague were paid \$3.30, \$3.50 and \$3.15 respectively, services as fence viewers on a special case in their district.

Mr. E. M. Steele was awarded \$10 for information leading to the conviction of a party shooting on Sunday. A conviction followed when the party fined was found to have shot a pheasant. Councillors Clark and Barber moved for payment of the reward.

The council decided to increase the Campbell scale by 40 per cent for relief recipients. There are very few who require assistance, according to Clerk Chas. Hooper, but the township does have a bit of relief he said.

Relief for the month totalled \$123 of which about half is known as subsidized relief, that is the amount paid out will be reimbursed in part or whole to the township.

Constable Ben Gayman was requested to report on the advisability of setting up some sort of organization as a precaution against air raids and fires. The cop said he had been advised by the authorities that Unionville district was not considered in a danger zone and that such organization was not required. Literature, however, will be distributed to the schools of the township dealing with fires, etc.

Council passed the annual bylaw providing for nomination meeting and election places and officers to man the polls in event a poll is demanded.

Persons are forbidden to place electric lights on outside Christmas trees this season, and special lights will not be allowed in stores for decoration purposes.

## FOURTH CHRISTMAS OVERSEAS



Sergt. Charles H. Hicks, son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Hicks of Bethesda, who this month will spend his fourth Christmas in England. He served for eleven years as a member of the Toronto Scottish and at the outbreak of war he joined the overseas unit of the same regiment as a private. He was among the first Canadians to arrive in England, landing in December 1939. After serving as a machine gunner on numerous coastal defenses in Britain and being twice injured in raids he was promoted to the rank of Sergt. and is now an instructor on the Educational Company staff. His two sons, Charles and Stanley, attend Bethesda school, while Mrs. Hicks is on war work at the John Inglis plant, Toronto.

## TRAIN CRASHES TORONTO MILK TRANSPORT

A large truck gathering milk for Riches Dairy, Toronto, was crashed by a C.P.R. train last Thursday over near Pickering townline on the 10th concession, as the truck proceeded to Green River from the north. The cans of milk were thrown sky-high, and were picked up 40 rods from the place of impact, but the driver of the truck, escaped with only a few bruises.

At time of the accident a terrific blizzard raged, and the driver could not see even the railway tracks as he pushed along slowly for Green River.

Constable B. Gayman of Markham, investigated.

## Pioneer Mother is Laid to Rest

Native of Glasgow just east of Stouffville, and a resident of the town district all her life Mrs. George Kester died at the Brierbush Hospital on Thursday, December 3, in her 78th year. Mrs. Kester had been ill for several years, and was a hospital patient here since last May.

Deceased was a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. William Forsyth of Uxbridge Township (Glasgow), a pioneer family who settled there about a century ago.

After her marriage to George Kester who died in 1928, the couple located in Stouffville over 50 years ago. Mr. Kester was a stone mason and scores of foundations still stand as a memory to his workmanship. The Kester home in the east end is well remembered by older residents. Two sons born to this union, survive, while three other sons predeceased the parents. The survivors are Lorne Kester of the Canadian Line Materials, Scarborough, and Dean Kester of Timmins, who rose to prominence among the legal fraternity of Northern Ontario. At the present time however, Mr. Kester is critically ill in the northern town, and was being visited by his brother Lorne when the mother passed away. Also surviving Mrs. Kester are two sisters Mrs. George Brownsberger of Stouffville and Mrs. Jos. Thompson of Goodwood.

Mrs. Kester was devoted to her home and family, so long as health and strength permitted her to serve these vital interests for which alone she lived.

The funeral on Sunday afternoon took place from the Baptist church to Stouffville cemetery. Rev. D. Macgregor, pastor, conducted the service, and the pall bearers were Messrs James Slack, M. Stevens, F. E. Rae, Wm. Armstrong, Sam. Armstrong, Chris. Armstrong.

Mr. and Mrs. George Lee, Toronto were guests of Mrs. S. M. Warriner, Church street, on Sunday.

## BAGGED 52 SKUNKS IN MARKHAM TOWNSHIP

Bounty has been paid on 53 skunks taken in the Township of Markham last month, and for four foxes shot or trapped in the same municipality. This information was made known on Monday when the township council received application for the bounty offered on these animals.

Bruce Wideman trapped or killed 13 skunks, and received the bounty of \$5.25; Herbert Spofford got 33 and was paid \$10.25; Stanley Powell took six and received \$3.50. All three of these men shot a fox which was included in the bounty paid. James Cowan also shot one fox and received the reward of two dollars.

## Case Adjourned

The action that was to be heard before Judge Lovering in Surrogate Court, Toronto, on Wednesday this week, brought by D. F. Holden & Sons, and Mrs. Delbert Holden, for monies alleged due them by the estate of the late Thomas Williamson, has been adjourned, and will not be heard until after the Christmas holidays.

Adjournment was asked for because of the illness of one of the witnesses for the claimant, and to permit the parties concerned to reach a settlement, if possible.

## Three Flocks Raided in Whitchurch Twp.

Whitchurch township Council held a special session at Vandorf on Saturday to pass any outstanding accounts so that the clerk might have them incorporated early in his books in readiness for the annual statement of the receipts and expenditures that will shortly be issued for 1942.

Sheep killings have been most cautious when ravaging the farmers' herds, and while three claims were filed, in each case only one animal was destroyed by the marauders. Lou Brillinger, Pat Murphy, and Watson Fairles each lost one sheep and were ordered to be compensated to the extent shown in the accounts listed below.

Reeve Toole and members said they were being congratulated on the marked downward trend shown in the tax rate this year. "I appreciated the reduction noted in my own tax bill," said Reeve Toole.

Road Superintendent Henry Widdifield reported that the township snow plows were on the job, and had caught up with the blocked condition existing in places by Saturday afternoon. County plows were caught unprepared for the unexpected storm of last week, but light plows were out on Saturday also.

Final council meeting of the year will be held on the statutory date of Dec. 15. Council passed a number of accounts for work on roads before adjournment.

General Accounts ordered paid: Bruce Clark, shooting dog \$5; E. Dennis, shooting dog; Lou Brillinger sheep killed, \$15; Pat Murphy, \$10.00; Watson Fairles, sheep killed \$9.00; Theaker & Son, ambulance \$6.00; Postage and hydro accounts \$19.34; J. A. Clark, valuing sheep, \$10.50; Elmer Starr, weed inspector \$8.00; Hospitalization for November \$75.68.

## MERCHANTS

A dozen business men attending Thursday evening to arrange for Christmas markets, each subscribed \$1.00 toward the expense money necessary to advertise the day and engage necessary help for supplying scales and looking after details.

Other merchants who did not attend are asked to donate a dollar also. Advertising will be placed in daily newspapers calling for buyers from outside points.

In order to meet all expenses and promote a good market do your part by leaving your dollar with W. E. Smalley at the office of the Village Clerk.

## PROMOTED

Gordon Birkett, son of Mr. Thos. Birkett of Stouffville has been promoted to the rank of Code Instructor with the R.C.A.F. The appointment is more significant for the fact that Gordon was one of seven in a class of 75, chosen for the position. He has been stationed in Montreal.

## MARKHAM MERCHANT DIED SUDDENLY

Norman L. Heisey, Mount Joy merchant, and the operator of a cream route, died suddenly on Monday evening at his home in Mount Joy. In the prime of life his death was a tremendous shock as Mr. Heisey had been active right up to the day of his passing. The funeral service this Thursday afternoon at Markham United Church will be at 3 p.m. Surviving are his wife Nellie V. Gates and one daughter Mrs. Norma Beare. Reeve Orville Heisey was a cousin to the deceased.

## Steps Taken to Enforce Snow Cleaning Bylaw

Residents have got to clean their sidewalks this winter or expect a visit from the sidewalk inspector who was appointed on Monday evening by the council. Constable Ira Rusnell was named for the job.

The bylaw governing the cleaning of sidewalks enacted away back in 1903, when Russell Fitch was reeve was scrutinized before the new bylaw was made effective. The idea of naming an inspector is to give force and effect to the bylaw. In the past few years claims amounting to over \$1000 have been paid for alleged neglect of sidewalks, and although the winter has just got started the village is confronted with another action. While these damage actions are covered by insurance, the premium rates steadily rise against the corporation, and indeed towns with very bad records are shunned by the insurance people.

Under the present bylaw persons who fail to clean their walks by ten o'clock in the morning are liable to have the town man do the job, and the cost will be added to the tax roll against the property owner, or the owner may be summoned to court for failure to comply with the bylaw.

Council did not favor compelling the ratepayers to sand the walks, a phase of the bylaw that Councillor Nolan opposed some time ago and which point held up the final passing of the bylaw. Monday night all members of council agreed against compulsory sanding.

It was argued that if householders and shop owners are made to keep their walks clean there would be no great demand for sand, and after all people may sand or put ashes on their walks at their own discretion without conclusion.

Reeve Weldon presided over the meeting and expressed himself as favorable to the bylaw as it passed the council with the compulsory sanding clause struck out.

The Constable was instructed to keep an eye open for neglected walks.

## COMPETED IN BONSPILL

Messrs. Ira Aldred, Will Birkett, Thos. Birkett and M. E. Watts, comprised a local rink of curlers who competed at the opening of High Park Bospill this week for the Thawburn Memorial Trophy. The Stouffville quartette were eliminated by a slim margin in the first round.

## STATUTORY MEETING

According to statutes all municipal councils are required to meet on Tuesday, Dec. 15, to complete final business of the year, and prepare for nomination meeting on December 28. Councils recognizing the November nomination are not affected.

## ONLY TWO PROPERTIES IN MARKHAM TAX SALE

Only two properties reached the adjourned tax sale for Markham Township held last week. One of these was a property at Langstaff with \$46.25 against it, and the other was a Unionville property with only \$26.88 in tax arrears and penalties. Both properties were bought by the township through the treasurer who was given special powers to purchase at this adjourned sale.

When the Markham Township tax sale was first announced there were eleven properties in the list, three of these paid up before the sale date and the others were sold at the sale, with the exception of the two properties that were bought by the township at the adjourned sale. This leaves the township with a clean tax sheet, said an official.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. and Mrs. Milford Rose announce the engagement of their only daughter Myrtle Eleanor to Mr. William James Topper, son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Topper, Stouffville. The wedding to take place in the latter part of December.

Mr. and Mrs. George A. Glenn, of Hensall, wish to announce the engagement of their elder daughter, Helen Cavell, to Mr. Morley Clinton Sanders, B.A., youngest son of Mrs. E. M. Sanders, of Richmond Hill, Ontario, the wedding to take place December 26th.

The engagement is announced of Ruth Helen Grace, only daughter of Edgar A. Storry and the late Mrs. Storry to John Howard Kee, son of Mrs. Kee and the late John Wesley Kee of Orangeville. The marriage to take place in December.

noon at Markham United Church will be at 3 p.m. Surviving are his wife Nellie V. Gates and one daughter Mrs. Norma Beare. Reeve Orville Heisey was a cousin to the deceased.

## PROMOTED



Sgt. Pilot Gordon Baker, son of Mrs. Baker, and the late Harvey Baker, 10th concession, just south of Stouffville, has been promoted to the rank of Flight Sergeant. Gordon received his wings at Prince Edward Island last spring and is now stationed at Tofino, B.C.

## Recalls Coming of Railway in 1870

(By Mrs. E. J. Davey, before the Women's Institute of Stouffville)

First I would like to mention a few things of interest dating back to October 1891. The council at that time had under consideration a scheme submitted by George Bros., to light the streets by electricity. Another item of interest next year came when W. P. Hartney proposed to the council a petition signed by James Dougherty and others praying that the question of local option be submitted to the ratepayers. The petition was laid over until April when Reeve Daley asked that a bylaw be submitted to prohibit the sale of liquor. This was passed finally.

In 1869 a start was made by cutting brush and clearing land for the steam railway which came through in 1870 and was called the Toronto Nipissing railway. This was a narrow gauge line with woodburning engine. In the year 1873 the Sutton branch was built. It was in 1881 that the broad gauge was laid and the line then became known as the Midland Railway of Canada, later on called the G.T.R., now the C.N.R.

I have frequently been asked how it came that Stouffville was such a long town, one and one quarter miles in length. It had its beginning at the east end around 10th street, and after developing to some size there, the railway came through at the extreme west end, one mile away, which enticed building in the west end of the village. Naturally the town gravitated toward the railway.

Commencing where Miss Tarr left off in her report last week, of the east end occupants of those early days, we will mention the Christian Church, which was then the Congregational Church, then the white house, where Mr. Jarvis lives in between that and Baker Ave. was a small house, where a Billie Rodanz was living. It was close to the sidewalk, and the school children used to go there for water to drink.

Dr. Armstrong occupied the house, where Mr. and Mrs. Smales are now living. Then came the well known home of Mr. and Mrs. Stocks, she kept a millinery store. Next was the home of Mr. Geo. Urquhart, now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Keeping, a niece of the former owner. Then came a small house, which quite recently was moved up on Baker Ave. The Presbyterian Church used to be in this vicinity, but it was later moved west on Main street and is now occupied by Mr. Wilfred Morden. Mr. Jerman and family lived in the home where Mrs. W. Watson lives now. Queen's Court was a hotel, tenanted by H. Miller and was burned down. Moving along we come to the Kribbs and Urquhart homes, then the Leansy home, which later was moved up on Church street north, close by was a bake shop run by a Mr. H. Johnson, then the Burkholder property, which has been greatly enlarged by both the late Mr. Mather and Mr. L. E. O'Neil.

Where Mr. Boadway's drug store and the Dominion store now are, was the Kribbs Hotel, then R. J. Daley's store, with a public hall upstairs. Mr. Button's hardware was formerly Mr. W. B. Sanders' store and later became the Post Office. Next was Mr. Shaakel's barber shop, then the home of the Barnes family. Coming where Shaw's store now stands, there were two stores with dwellings at the back. These were

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