. IN NOVA SCOTIA

Sergt. Harry Spang, R.C.A.,

is a son of Mr. and Mrs. J. O.

Spang, 9th Line, Pickering.

Harry enlisted eight months ago

and is at present attached to

the Directorate_of Personnel

Selection, District . Headquar-

Action on Iwp.

Whitchurch Township Council de-

bated briefly on the Township

School Areas plan now adopted by

some 29 townships in Ontario, in-

cluding the township of York in this

Councillor Eugene Baker said he

hadn't much use for the scheme as

he saw in it just 'a means of taking

about the last vestage of local con-

Deputy Reeve Lorne Evans said he

felt that way at one time, but he

thought now he sees some merit in

the scheme. The idea is that a

township school board would be el-

ected by the people to operate all

the schools in the municipality. It is

claimed by the Department that the

cost is less than the present system

would be to close some of the schools

that is just what it would lead to,"

Council perused the circulars sent

without recording any action on the

the booklet before the discussion

ended. It was stated that about

eight schools banded together make

the most desirable sized area, thus

in Whitchurch one, or perhaps two

Mr. Leary said the council had

the power to set up such areas by a

areas would cover the township.

Reeve Leary read extracts from

minutes of the township books.

thereby create

added Councillor L. J. Harper.

transportation problems.

Mr. Baker said, the next step

expensive

trol from the rural areas.

of school sections.

equitable costs.

culture.

school area.

ters, Halifax, N.S.

VOL. 53, No. 41

STOUFFVILLE. ONT., THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 1943

DIGHT PAGES

Century-Old Woollen Mill A Victim of Flu Was Destroyed by Fire John Davis Dead

Landmark of Markham Township Served Community Needs

One of the oldest business landmarks in Markham Township was totally demolished by fire on Saturday when flames consumed the 3storey brick structure at Almira, used as a grist and woollen mills belonging to Willis and Harmon Lehman. Fire broke out around 11 o'clock in the morning, and inside a couple of hours the big mill was a heap of ruins. Nothing was saved. Cause of fire was an explosion in the oil burning office stove.

Mr. Harmon Lehman was sitting in the office reading the newspaper when suddenly the stove shot out a flame that quickly ignited things. For a few minutes he fought frantically to stem the blaze, then seeing he could not do it alone rushed to the house close by for his brother Willis. On their arrival the place was a raging inferno. Fortunately the wind was favorable to turn the flames from nearby buildings.

Two fire reels from Unionville responded within 20 minutes, yet with ample supply of water could make no impression on the flames which consumed the tinder-dry building like straw. Only the foundation walls are left standing.

Estimated loss of the building and valuable machinery has been placed at \$30,000. Some of the machines used in the woollen mills could not be replaced today at any money, it was stated. It is the most severe fire for Markham Township in the last ten years. The loss is partially covered by insurance.

At the time of the outbreak there was no one in the building excepting Mr. Lehman. The mill is used at this time of year exclusively for grinding grist. The woollen mills end was not operating, and while the valuable knitting machines were all lost, there was no wool consumed -All this is kept at the house Mr. Lehman explained, and this is the off-season for a stock to be on hand anyway.

The mill was erected in 1844 by John Bowman who also built a number of houses in Almira, with brick baked right in the district. From this pioneer miller the business place passed into the hands of Alfred Spofford while 63 years this coming April, B. Lehman, father of the present owners, bought the concern. John Bowman, the original builder was, the grandfather of Mrs. H. B. Lehman, so that in all the century, it had never passed far from the Lehman name.

The woollen plant was unique, being the only one of its kind in the province. In the neighborhood of 5,000 pounds of wool were manufactured by the plant each year and was all purchased from local farmers, except the black wool which came from Western Ontario. The wool was made up into an average of 200 pairs of socks and 2,000 pounds of yarn each season. The entire output was sold within a radius of 30 miles.

One of the machines lost was capable of turning out one complete tion. blanket every hour. There were also two power knitters, of which could be turned out five dozen pairs of socks a day. Four hands were usu ally employed during the busy season.

Eleven-Yr.-Old Girl Buried at Peachs

The funeral was held on Tuesday afternoon from the Peach's Church of Elizabeth Jean (Betty) Morris, only daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Warren Morris of Peachs, 7th concession of Markham. Betty, although only in her 12th year had suffered from diabetis for more than a year. The last few months her condition seemed to have improved, but Thursday she suffered an attack which brought on a diabetic coma. She was rushed to the Sick Children's Hospital, Toronto, where she passed away early Sunday

morning. Besides her grief-stricken parents, the little girl is survived by a younger brother Billy. The loss has hit the Peachs district severely, and recalls the fact that this is the fifth death within a mile of Peach's to occur within the last year.

The funeral service was taken by Rev. A. J. Orr, whose consoling message taken from the text. "The Lord Giveth and the Lord Taketh Away," conveyed some hope and comfort that is so helpful at a time like this. Pall bearers were Henry and Harold Nobbs, Jack Warriner, Brnce Hisey, Gordon Lewis, Don. Miller.

this now widespread disease

year, and for many years farmed was very little improved over a week the Wideman place just west of ago, and if the terrible cold prevails

former Nellie Harper, and by three to do it. Gordon (Ruth) Mrs. Mrs. (Jean) Johnson, and Miss Phyliss at home, enough to prevent seizing up and no also by two sons, Bruce at home more. It is in the interest of every and Gnr. Harry Davis who had just householder to be very careful in alentrained for the east coast Satur- lowing taps to run at nights, because day morning when he was called if things get any worse they will be back home because of the unexpect- stopped from doing this by having ed death of his father.

Ace Davis in Saskatchewan, Louis estly desired in order to prevent in Toronto, and one sister Mrs. such a step. Anthony Hoover, Dickson Hill. The, late John A. Davis was born in Al Uxbridge Township, son of the late Albert Davis, a well known resident of only a few years ago.

The funeral on Monday afternoon from the late home proceeded to Stouffville cemetery for interment. Rev. D. MacGregor conducted the

School Areas 38 Below Sunday,

Thirty-eight below zero, according to the registration on more than one thermometer at 4.30 a.m. Monday, out. but the worst of it was the terrific wind that accompanied the sub-zero drop. Monday morning business was fairly paralyzed, and garage men were besieged on every hand. Their relief trucks were even frozen up too in some places. The only town plumber had about twenty calls booked and all wanted their pipes thawed at once. Many other people undertook to thaw their own pipes, realizing that to get the plumber was next to impossible.

Farmers coming to town since the record drop tell of freeze-ups in their barns where they had never known, water to freeze before, and they all blamed it on the high wind that accompanied the 30 to 40 below atmosthem, but dropped the discussion

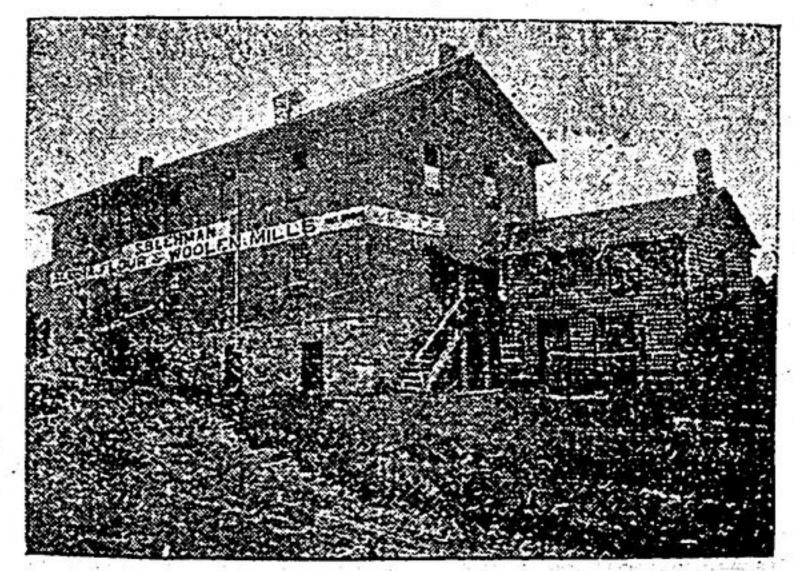
. It put another strain on the town water system, which was almost drained the week before and had not time to accumulate a reserve supply. It remained cold right up to Tuesday night, and hopes are now for milder weather, but so many have lost faith in the "Old Fellow" that no one trusts him any more—we mean Old Man Weather.

A ring of local curlers comprised majority vote of council and the of H. W. Sanders, Samuel Armconsent of the Minister of Educastrong, Thomas Birkett and Walter Stapleton residence, but that was Brillinger, has been competing this a good many years ago. The farm Among the benefits to be derived according to advocates of the week in the annual Ontario Bonscheme are a more equal school speil in Toronto, but have had little privilege for each child, and more success is the big tourney this year. Opportunities for better place- Only eight rinks out of the 100 that ment of teachers. Better opportun- started Monday, remained unbeaten ities for school music teacher, nurse on Wedneday morning manual training, science and agri-

ENGAGEMENTS

The possibility of closing a school Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Booth. with low enrolment until such times Stouffville, Ontario, announce the as the reopening of the school may engagement of their daughter be warranted, is cited as another Margaret Noreen to Clifford Elmer improvement under a township Wagg, son of Mr. and Mrs. Cecil; Wagg, Stouffville.

ALMIRA MILL DESTROYED BY



Almira Woollen Mill, the oldest establishment of its kind in Ontario, which was totally destroyed by fire on Saturday afternoon. Loss is estimated at \$30,000.

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Water Shortage Still Serious Problem

Well known farmer of the dis- The severe weather of the past trict John A. Davis died on Satur- weekend aggravated a serious water day at his late home, Lot 31, Con. | condition in the town system, that 8. Markham, just south of town, was showing some signs of improvefollowing an attack of the flu. ment on Friday. However, the cold "Jack" Davis as he was so familiar- dip on Sunday and Monday induced ly known as, had been in delicate dozens of householders to keep their health for a year or two, and it is taps open in the houses in order to thought that when the flu struck, prevent freezing water pipes, and he was not in good enough physical this dragged the water down to anocondition to withstand the ordeal of ther dangerous point in the town reservoirs.

Mr. Davis was only in his 60th On Tuesday this week the situation town, until it was recently sold and the system may be forced to close he moved to the place where he people off over night where their installation is not good enough to He is survived by his wife, the keep frost out without wasting water

If you have to run a tap, allow Jack the minimum to get away. Just the water cut off at the street, so the There also survives two brothers, co-operation of these people is earn-

Destroyed by Fire

The large white frame house on the Freeman Slack farm just north of Altona on the second of Uxbridge, was totally destroyed by fire in broad daylight on Saturday, and only a few items of furniture were saved from the flames. Exact cause Coldest in Years of the fire is unknown, but it is bekitchen pipes, although there was not a big fire in the stove. No one was in the place when the fire broke

Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Slack who occupy the farm, had started for siding. Stouffville with the team, but due to slippery roads they decided, on reaching Altona, to send the cream cans with someone else from there to town, and after making some purchases started for their home again.

They saw smoke gushing from the house as they reached the hill overlooking the residence from the roadway. On arrival at the house payment totalling \$582.42, and the place was filled with smoke. Joe Forsyth neighbor, was the first to arrive, then George Alsop, and a few more came but despite their frantic efforts little could be saved. splendid work of these neighbors did rescue a buffet, Chesterfield, sewing machine, bedroom suite, and a few other pieces, but furniture running-nearly \$1,000 was destroyed. The fire seemed to be flercest around the kitchen, indicating that this was the place it started.

In addition to the furniture belonging to Mr. and Mrs. Slack, their daughter (Thelma) Mrs. Gordon Taylor, recently married had a large quantity of goods stored in the upper part of the house and this too was a complete loss.

The fine old house was once the was acquired by Mr. and Mrs. Freemas Slack, now living retired in Goodwood, and was their home until the son Stanley took over. The loss is partly covered by insurance.

Red Cross Parcels Bringing Grateful Overseas Response

Dear Mr. Button,

your Stouffville Red Cross Society against Markham in their second may I assume the responsibility of game of the O.H.A. Junior semiwriting this thank you note. Some- finals to be played at Markham day soon Neil and I hope to return this Friday night. This was the home and thank you one and all for first game of the two-game series, your many kindnesses in person, goals to count on the round. rather than this cumbersome medi-! um of letters. In the interim your and although Markham piled up gifts add much to help us establish two goal lead in the first and early a home life during our temporary minutes of the second period, sojourn in England. During the past | Unionville led by Sunderland and week we have stolen a few days to- Monat, came strong toward the end gether which have been the nearest of the mid session to score three substitute to the future we await. times in less than three minutes. ality in return. Yours sincerely,

Dear Friends. (Continued on page 5)

Snow Removal Costing Whitchurch \$75 a Day

OUT OF HOSPITAL



down in a plane making a forced lers. landing. This was good news, but

Uxbridge Appoints

Uxbridge Township Council has applied for a subsidy on an estimated expenditure of \$9,000 for road work in 1943, the appropriation having been set at the February meeting held on Saturday at Goodwood, with Reeve Johnston pre-

The treasurer reported the receipt of the Provincial Treasurer's cheque for \$3,696.37 being the 50 per cent subsidy for 1942.

The entire council and the Road Superintendent were appointed committee to attend the Ontario Good Roads Association meeting in Toronto, February 24-25.

Road accounts were approved for general accounts amounting \$48.62.

Circulars were distributed setting out the Township School Areas in Ontario and advantages claimed for --the system, and which will be printed in detail in a future issue of The

A by-law was passed making the following appointments: Pound Keepers-Clarence Gall, Oscar Tindall, W. H. Fiss, Bert May, George Coppins, Walter Davis, Ernest Morgason, Bruce Beach, Samuel Bacon, George Hosie, Isaac Catherwood, George Hill. Live Stock Valu-

Redshaw, Everett Hockley, J. O. dance may be recorded. Widdifield, Erastus Smalley, Isaac Hingston, Wm. Hackney, Berton J. M. Carmody:

Mutton-eating dogs made a dastardly attack on a flock of sixteen fine sheep on the farm of Lance Case, 2nd concession, Whitchurch, and besides killing two animals outright, seriously injured every animal in the enclosure which the dogs entered to make the attack. The cruelty is only comparable to the action of the Nazis that overran Russian villages. J. A. Clarke estimated the flock worth \$320. He rushed the wounded to market, and the council ordered compensation of \$116 to make up the loss between the normal price and the selling price for wounded sheep, plus the two killed. It is the largest sheep claim brought before Whitchurch council in a year.

Reeve George Leary presided over the February meeting on Saturday, and council was told A cable to his parents Mr. and that snow removal is costing the Mrs. Floyd Fairles received this ratepayers \$75 per day. Road Supt. week from their son Leland in Widdifield declared that in some England states that he was able to places a big plow or the maintainer leave the hospital on February 10th and plow could only make two and a after nearly five months convales- half miles in a day, and then only by cing from an accident when he came the aid of fifteen or sixteen shovel-

Reports came in from other it was a bit disconcerting to learn municipalities where the whole that Leland had just received his machinery had broken down, then first bit of Canadian Mail since the the councillors said their position first of October. His Chrstmas par- might be worse. "It means increascels and a cable from home failed to ed taxation, unless the situation suddenly lets up," said Reeve Leary -In answer to Councillor Eugene Baker Mr. Leary said he didn't think the saving by reason of a lower county rate would anything like equal the cost of these big snow storms. Road accounts were ordered paid running over \$1,900.

Council advanced the pay of road foremen from 35c to 40c per hour. These men were pressing for more money. Said Councillor Ed. Logan, "The foremen have to run their cars all over the country hauling shovels and things around." The foremen put in around 3,600 road hours last year, according to figures submitted by Clerk John Crawford, and which were requested to be submitted at this time, so that councillors might estimate fairly what any increase might mean over a year. The resolution to advance men passed without a dissenting vote. It was stated that Markham paid the laborers 30c per hour, same as Whitchurch, and that it would not be advisable to jump their pay over other places. Foremen's advance is to become effective April 1. Relief for January totalled \$125, for wood and groceries.

CADETS AT HOME.

Invitations have been issued for an At Home to be held at the school on Friday evening to commemorate the first anniversary of the local squadron. In addition to the social opportunities afforded by this gathering, the officials have been able to secure Flt. Lieut. J. Gellner, D.F.C., a native of Czechoslovakia to talk to the guests. He is taking a ators-Nathan Linton, John Kydd, special course at Oshawa and will Jos. Jones, E. W. Evans, Albert then return to active service. Leola Hockley, Henry Slack, Ernest Morg- Food Shoppe has been engaged to ason, Douglas Beach, Joseph Cooper, do the catering and the event will George Hosie, Wilfred Simpson, Ed. provide a fine opportunity for many to inspect the fine school buildings. Fence Viewers-T. W. Dowswell, It is hoped that all invitations will Cecil Latcham, W. F. St John, Edw. be accepted, so that a good atten-

Catherwood, Frank Hardy, J. A. Tindall, Chris. Manley, Henry Slack,

Unionville Gains Two-Goal Lead in O.H.A. Semi-Final

Scoring two whirlwind goals in the last six minutes of play on Monday night, Unionville chalked up a As a prospective candidate for win and a two-goal lead to carry

The game was cleanly contested

So sorry you are not able to drop in With the count 4-3, Unionville this New Year's afternoon and share settled into a close checking defena cup of tea: Perhaps next year sive game, but Markham were not this wish may become a reality, with to be denied, and at 6.03 of the finour friends and neighbors of al period, the Green and White Stouffville partaking of our hospit- tallied the evener. At 14.56 Unionville took the lead again, Sunderland and Moffat combining on a Mrs. Neil (Mary) Smith. close-in tally, while with just 40 seconds to go, they clicked again.

The Padre's Office Hamilton being the marksman. There were only five penalties The Christmas parcel you so handed out by referee Pat. Patterkindly sent one of our men could son, there being none in the second period.

8rd PICKERING PRESIDENT



Third resident ever chosen from Pickering Township, to be President of Markham Agricultural Society in its 87 years of existence is John Scott of Claremont, who now heads the Society. . *