

# Claremont and District

By Staff Correspondent Local agent—Mowder's Store

Mrs. Stickwood, R.N., daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Linton has been in Whitevale assisting with the nursing at the Donald Beaton home.

Miss Mildred Linton of Lorne Park College, Fort Credit arrived home this week for the holidays.

Mr. Drake of Toronto, was a weekend visitor with friends in Claremont.

Miss Margaret Briscoe of Toronto, was a weekend visitor with her parents here.

Miss Betty Pretty is home for the yuletide holidays with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Alf. Pretty.

Mrs. Edgar Evans who resides just east of the village is spending the Christmas holidays with her parents in Windsor, Ont.

Victor Prouse, member of Canada's arm forces is home for a month's leave.

The Baptist Young Peoples' did not hold their regular meeting this week, but will convene next Monday at the home of Miss G. Forsyth.

A social evening for the children was held in the Baptist Church school-room on Wednesday. Santa Claus and all the trimmings were on hand for the occasion with gifts for the children.

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Hardy have both been stricken with the Flu lately, and their daughter, Mrs. Gibson of Oshawa, has been assisting in the home during their illness.

Mrs. John Gregg and Mrs. H. G. McIntyre are both numbered among the sick folk in the village this past week.

Mrs. James Taylor was numbered among the "lucky" last week when she won a cash prize from a Tea Co. quiz program in Toronto.

Mrs. Ross Farr has undergone a serious operation in the Women's College Hospital, Toronto, and is holding her own according to word the first of the week.

The collection taken at the United Church Sunday School here recently and added to during the week, amounted to \$15.00 for the Telegram Christmas Children's War Victim Fund.

Mrs. Norman Linton was in London recently where she attended the funeral of her father the late Mr. Holtby, who passed away there sud-

denly. The Mission Circle of the Baptist Church will hold their regular meeting on Tuesday Dec. 28th, at the home of Mrs. C. H. Found. Topic will be "Towards a New Order." Election of officers will be held.

Friends will be sorry to know that Percy Redshaw, son of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Redshaw is confined to the military hospital at Debert, N.S. where he is stationed with a unit of the C.A.S.C. His uncle, Geo. Redshaw has been taken down with pneumonia at his home in Claremont.

A charge of intoxication in a public place was laid by Constable Norton against George Matheson, Claremont last week, accused being accused on the Main St. here, following an alleged near-collision with the C.P.R. train at the local crossing.

Miss Emma Underhill, elderly maiden lady is quite ill at her home here in the village. The neighbors missed her appearance on Monday morning and summoned Constable Norton to enter the home. He found Miss Underhill in her sick condition, and with the help of neighbors they soon had the house warmed up and things in order. However, later in the day it was deemed advisable to remove her to the Brierbush Hospital at Stouffville.

Pickering Farmer Buys Caledon Acreage.

George Pegg, Claremont, is reported to have purchased 100 acres from Wm. J. Line, Caledon East. Purchase price is understood to be \$5,000. Mr. Pegg held an auction sale at his farm, lot 10, concession 7, Pickering Township, in November when he disposed of his stock and implements, and has since sold this forty acres to John A. Wilkie of Oshawa, for a reported price of \$3,750.

Toxoid and Vaccination Completed in Pickering

A summary by the Medical Health Officer for Pickering Township, Dr. N. F. Tomlinson, made during the recent toxoid and vaccination campaign through the township, discloses the following number of children treated: vaccinations against smallpox, 238; completed diphtheria, toxoid, 94; completed whooping cough and diphtheria, 47; partially completed whooping cough and toxoid, 81; partially completed toxoid 185. The outbreak of colds and influenza accounts for many of the uncompleted cases, which can, however, be completed on next year's round. All school pupils have been indexed by the school nurse, so that next year's program can be carried out more thoroughly than heretofore.

## ATHA NEWS

A Merry Christmas to all. Mr. William Dunkeld visited Sunday afternoon and evening with the Carruthers family.

Mr. and Mrs. M. Dunkeld, also Mrs. Thomas Dunkeld, visited at Blackstock with Mrs. J. Milton.

Mr. and Mrs. Albert Draper have received an airgraph from their son, Gren., who is on the fighting line with the Cent. Mediterranean forces. Gren. is enjoying oranges, apples, nuts. The best of luck Gren.

## Member of Pioneer Family Buried Here Yesterday

Following an illness of only ten days duration, Mrs. W. F. Jones passed away in Toronto on Sunday, Dec. 19th. The former Sara Ward, Mrs. Jones was a daughter of Richard Ward and Elizabeth Evans of Balsam one of a family of twelve, of whom she was the oldest. Deceased who was 74, left this district over thirty years ago. She was actively engaged in the work of Avenue Rd. United Church. Besides her husband there survive, two sons, Russell and Norman, two daughters, Mrs. S. J. Lane and Mrs. J. Wilvert, and three grandchildren. Of the large family of twelve, eight still survive, being Roy, Walter, Fred, Evans, William and Judson, of Claremont, and two sisters, Mrs. Frank Cooper, Claremont, and Mrs. Will Birkett, Stouffville. Funeral service was held at the Morley Bedford Funeral Parlours, on Wednesday afternoon with interment in Claremont Union cemetery.

## CLERK BEATON SERIOUSLY ILL

The veteran clerk of Pickering Township, Mr. Donald Beaton is reported as being seriously ill at his home in Whitevale under the care of a trained nurse. The family has been summoned to the bedside of the sick man.

Last December Mr. Beaton attended the township nomination meeting at Brougham to mark his 60th consecutive year in the capacity of returning officer, but next Monday he will not be in attendance, a fact that will be noted with regret.

## BROUGHAM

Mr. and Mrs. A. B. Mathews visited their daughter, Mrs. Harbison of Myrtle on Sunday.

Russell Gray of Research Enterprise Ltd. was home on Sunday.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Gannon and little daughter, were recent guests with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. D. Gannon. Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Crocker and Mrs. Witter of Toronto, visited Mrs. L. Mathews on Sunday.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Madill on the arrival of a young daughter.

On Sunday, Dec. 26, there will be special Christmas music in the afternoon at 2.30 and in the evening the "Birth and Childhood of Jesus" will be illustrated in colored slides. This service will be under the direction of the Y.P.U.

The C.G.H.T. girls held a very pleasing and interesting Vesper and Candle light service in the church on Sunday evening. This was followed by Carol singing and illustrated slides of "Dickens Christmas Carol" which was given by Rev. I. E. Kennedy and enjoyed by all present.

The Woman's Institute held their regular meeting on Tuesday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Harvey, with a fairly good attendance. The president, Mrs. M. Hamilton was in charge of the meeting. Reports of the recent convention were given by the delegates and plans were also made for the January meeting, which takes the form of a social-evening, when the husbands are to be entertained. A grant was made to "Christmas Cheer" for British Children and also to the Hospital for the treatment of Tuberculosis. A report was also given of the welfare work done by the members. The meeting closed with singing Christmas Carols and a dainty lunch served by the hostesses, Mrs. Harvey, Mrs. Hamilton, Mrs. Philip and Mrs. Lemon.

## PRIVATE BANTING



Her time fully divided between soldiering and studying, Lady Banting, widow of the late Sir Frederick Banting, is now a private in the C.W.A.C. and a fifth year student of medicine at the University of Toronto. She says she enlisted "because about 70 per cent. of the women students do and because it frees men from some of the tasks they don't like."

## Mrs. Thos. White Buried at Whitevale

One of Pickering Township's oldest women, Mrs. Thos. N. White, passed away at her home in Whitevale on Sunday, Dec. 19th in her 88th year. She was a remarkably bright woman for her age, and her death removes a member of an old pioneer family of the township. Mr. White died a few years ago. Her maiden name was Eliza Jane Bruels.

Surviving are two sons, Orval White of Toronto, and Harry on the home place, also four daughters, Mrs. Arthur Pherrill, Mrs. Levi Annis and Mrs. A. Playter, and Mrs. B. Annis, wife of the deputy-reeve Annis of Pickering. Two other brothers, Russell and Lloyd reside in Montana and Toronto.

The funeral on Tuesday afternoon from the late home with interment at Whitevale cemetery, was attended by many old friends and acquaintances of the family.

## "HAT TRICK", R.C.A.F. ACE



Pilot Officer Rayne D. Schultz, 20-year-old, six-foot-four farm boy, who shot down three Nazi planes in one night, was a crack shot at home, hunting partridge on his farm near Bashaw, Alta. With Flying Officer Vernon Williams of Hamilton, Ont., as navigator, one night last week Schultz downed three enemy aircraft while patrolling in his night fighter Mosquito.

## DENIES CHARGE HE SMOKED CIGARETTE

Joseph McNeily of the Township of Pickering, charged with unlawfully smoking a cigarette in the change-house within the protected area of the D.I.L. plant, contrary to the Defence of Canada regulations, was arraigned before Magistrate F. S. Ebbs in Whitby police court. The accused pleaded not guilty to the charge and was defended by L. S. Hyman of Oshawa.

Lieut. Jones, chief of the guard at Ajax, gave evidence that the accused man was brought to him by Guard J. Manton who had arrested the accused on the charge of smoking in the change-house.

Guard Manton gave evidence that on the morning of November 26th he was on patrol duty and upon making his inspection of the change-house, saw the accused smoking at one of the tables and that the accused had thrown away the cigarette upon seeing the guard approach to where he was sitting. He placed him under arrest immediately.

The case was adjourned for completion and final disposal to Jan. 3rd, at 2.30 in the afternoon. The accused was released on bail.

## Captured and Prisoner, Now Safely Out of Germany

The capture and captivity of George McNeice, a nephew of Charles Vine of Claremont, Ont., portrays an interesting story, and incidentally provides a splendid testimony for the work of the Canadian Red Cross in enemy territory. While George may not be known to our readers, Mr. Vine is widely known over the Claremont district. The letter reads in part:

A happy welcome awaited Signaller George McNeice, the only Otley man among the repatriated prisoners of war from Germany when he arrived at his home. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. H. McNeice had hung a large Union Jack with the words, "Welcome Home" on it, and the neighbors also displayed flags.

In an interview Signaller McNeice gave a very interesting account of his capture in France and subsequent experiences in captivity.

He went to France in May 1940, and was captured near Rouen on June 9th. Serving in the Royal Corps of Signals, he was attached to the first Armoured Division, and was the wireless operator in a tank which broke a track while passing through an orchard. While the crew were mending it, the rest of the troop left, and two hours later McNeice and his three companions found themselves behind the enemy lines. They set off in an attempt to rejoin the British, and encountered some of their own infantry, who led by an officer, eventually had to leave them.

The tank passed a blazing lorry lying across the road and ran into a number of German tanks at a crossroads. McNeice's tank fired twenty shells, registering some hits and broke through. At dusk they ran out of petrol and parked the tank in a wood, after making it unserviceable. They hid in a hedge bottom, near the river Seine, with the Germans surrounding them and during the night a fierce battle raged between the opposing forces. When morning came they found themselves hopelessly outnumbered, and surrendered. They were taken to Rouen Cathedral, where they spent the night with 30 other Englishmen.

A terrible march lasting 17 days, followed, through France, Belgium, ending near the Dutch frontier where they were herded into open trucks. The train crawled along and the Dutch gave them food. This was followed by a three-day journey on barges into Germany, and then by train they were taken to Thorn, in Poland. After several days at this "sorting" camp, McNeice was sent to a working camp at Danzig, and until September 1942, when he had to go into hospital, he was employed building flats on the outskirts of the city, under civilian supervision. They had to work 12 hours a day, although as he puts it, they certainly did not "unduly hurry." In winter-time they shovelled the

snow in the streets. "Jerry was pretty confident at the time," said McNeice, "and he tried to keep us down. He did not give us much food, and if it had not been for the Red Cross parcels we should have been in a poor way. The people called us 'English Schweinebands' at first and boasted about Coventry being flattened, but when the R.A.F. raided the town in July last year, and the Russians made 3 or four 'nuisance' raids, they gave up boasting. Only one bomb fell close to our camp, breaking the windows."

McNeice said they formed libraries, played football and other games and organized concerts. The Swiss paid regular welfare visits and parcels from home arrived fairly well. Several attempted escapes were made but they were all unsuccessful.

"We had had rumours of the repatriation in August," McNeice said, "and we decided to wait and see as many of the lads with me had been disappointed before. However our medical dossiers went to Berlin to be checked, and we set off from a Baltic port in a German Red Cross ship for Gothenburg. The Swedish Red Cross gave us a great welcome, loading us with such things as fruit and cigarettes. We remained on the ship, and were visited by Princess Ingrid. When the 'Atlantis' arrived at dusk, we were exchanged. Our companion ships left us to go to Leith, after a voyage without incident, and we sailed to Liverpool. We were given a tremendous welcome at the dock side, flags were flying, bands playing, and an enthusiastic crowd met us. I remained for a week in a Chester military hospital, where I had my medical. I arrived by taxi from Leeds, and was dropped at Bondgate. I met my dad at the bus where he had been waiting for three hours, and coming home was recognized by several of the folk, and well—here I am."

Describing the change in the German attitude, McNeice said at first they were sure of themselves, on Jerry remarking, "You go to Berlin, I go to London," to which a Tommy retorted, "Aye, as a prisoner."

"They thought they would win the war in a few months and then we should go home again. We invariably reminded them of that little strip of water, the Channel, which annoyed them very much. As time went on Germans paid us more respect, and one said he hoped the English would help Germany destroy the 'Russian menace.' Before we came home, people were begging for certain foods from our Red Cross parcels, and the word victory was hardly ever mentioned by them. We were given a propaganda paper called 'The Camp' in which was all the discouraging home news. We simply read the paper and laughed at it."

He concluded: "Everyone of us owes a lot to the Red Cross, and on the whole the boys left behind are in the best of spirits."

## EXTENSIVE PROGRAM BEING CARRIED OUT IN 37 ONTARIO COUNTIES

Following up the successful courses given in farm mechanics and the repair and adjustment of farm machinery, the Ontario Dept. of Agriculture announces that a similar series of courses of instruction, of a greatly increased attendance is anticipated.

courses were conducted in 30 counties, with 15,844 farmers attending. Plans for this year call for 284 courses to be given in 37 counties of the province and, in view of the practical value of this type of instruction, a greatly increased attendance is anticipated.

**BUYS 41 HOLSTEINS**  
Hon. Mitchell F. Hepburn, former Premier of Ontario, has purchased 41 pure-bred Holsteins from the Pigeon Timber Co., Fort William, to be added to his Bannockburn herd, at St. Thomas.



COMPLIMENTS OF THE SEASON

C. A. Overland Grovery Claremont

Help him to get a line home



FOR him, that Long Distance call home at Christmas is the big event of the day. He's counting on it. Let's make sure that he, and thousands like him, won't be disappointed.

It means giving up our own Christmas telephoning, so that war-crowded lines will be freed to handle the flood of holiday greetings from naval, army and air force posts across the country. It means sending our Christmas messages by mail.

Should you find you must telephone out-of-town, try to do so as many days before the holiday as possible.

And especially avoid all non-essential calls to distant or war-busy centres. Winning the war is a non-stop job, and urgent messages must go through.



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