

# The Stouffville Tribune

Leading Weekly for Whitchurch, Markham, Pickering and Uxbridge Twps.

VOL. 54, No. 35

STOUFFVILLE, ONT., THURSDAY, JAN. 6th, 1944

Copies this issue, 2,065

## Thugs Demand Claremont Man's Cash, at Gun Point

Claremont Merchants Seek to Prevent Recurrence of Breakins.

Two armed men who attempted to rob Jack Brignall, Claremont barber shop and pool-room operator in the early dawn of Thursday morning, were apparently frightened away as Brignall sped for assistance.

At about 5.30 a.m. the window on Brignall's sleeping quarters was broken, the barrel of a gun came through and a voice on the outside demanded the sleeper's money. Brignall dashed from the room to the front of the premises, only to be confronted by a second man with a revolver who also demanded money. Grabbing a milk bottle, the owner let fly at the intruder and switched on the large front lights over his gas pumps.

Apparently not wishing to be identified, the gunman ran to the rear of the building and Brignall hurried out and across the street where he roused his neighbour, C. A. Overland. A phone call was put in to Constable Norton who arrived on the scene seconds later. Armed, the constable entered the pool room, but found no trace of the robbers.

Later in the morning an abandoned coupe with a bullet-hole in the rear windshield was found near Os-hawa. The car had been stolen on the evening previous, and used in an attempted liquor robbery at Cobourg. Several Claremont citizens are said to have identified the coupe from photographs, as the car used in the attempted hold-up here.

Gas Stolen Night Previous Only the night before thieves broke into the gas pumps of Bob McLeod, on the four corners at Claremont, and got away with some seventy gallons of gasoline.

Merchants Move for Protection Following the two breakins described above, the merchants of Claremont are considering the engaging of a night-watchman. Constable Norton was approached on the matter, but declined the position. It is reliably reported that a salary of \$2.50 a night was named.

Claremont business places feel that they are becoming as popular a stopping place for thugs and hoodlums, as Uxbridge, and hope to waylay the epidemic before any further outbreaks occur. However, as only a limited number of the businessmen are to be affected, there may be some opposition to the payment of a night-man. It has been proven almost conclusively that the merchant can get best protection by taking the necessary precautions on his own. Keep a good watch dog in your store premises, and a fire handy and you have the best protection possible. says one man.

### GORMLEY GIRL IN HOME OF TRAGEDY

Judith Ann Gooderham, eight-years old, Forest Hill Road, daughter of Mr. George Gooderham, died as a result of electric shock Sunday when she climbed on a metal sink in the kitchen of her home to reach in a

### BLIND FORTY YEARS CHERRYWOOD WOMAN DEAD

Losing her eyesight almost before middle life, Mrs. Emilie Laughlin of Cherrywood, Pickering township, passed away at the Brierbush Hospital last week at the advanced age of 84 years. She had been a patient here going on to two years, and although she could not see, she was able to move about her room and was very bright.

Surviving is a daughter living in Winnipeg, and a grandson, Newton Laughlin at Cherrywood. Her husband died years ago. Deceased was buried at Erskine cemetery near her old home, last Thursday.

## Burkholder Elevated to Reeveship in Markham Village

Highlight of the Markham village election on Monday was the defeat of Mr. O. B. Heisey who held the position for six years, by Mr. Frank Burkholder, son of the late Nelson Burkholder of Stouffville, and sister of our Miss Iola Burkholder. The new reeve served on the council in Markham for several terms, and the battle was conceded to be interesting from the start.

Three women running for public school trustees were all left at home, thereby serving notice on the fair sex that they would not be appreciated in office.

MARKHAM VILLAGE	
For Reeve	
Burkholder, Frank	290
Heisey, O. B.	161
For Council	
W. J. Payne	346
E. A. Roffey	306
C. W. Reesor	277
J. S. Torrance	270
Ed. Reeves	132
F. H. Tunny	87
Elected—Payne, Roffey, Reesor, Torrance.	
Public School Trustees	
J. A. Bayes	232
A. E. Robinson	204
John Snowball	202
Miss A. E. Mahew	190
Mrs. Gladys Reesor	147
Mrs. L. Hurst	143
Elected—Bayes, Robinson, Snowball.	

The inaugural meeting of Markham Township council for 1944 was held this Wednesday afternoon.

cupboard for candy. On the sink was an electric toaster, the socket for the cord attachment of which is in the metal flange of the sink.

Parents were in Trenton at the time, and the only persons in the home were a 4-year-old sister and Miss Vera Brillinger, maid, and daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Roy Brillinger, Gormley.

## ICE HARVESTING AT RATCLIFF'S POND

Ice cutting commenced this week in the local district when Carl Rose and his outfit stepped onto the Ratcliff pond at Baker Hill to cut for the Maple Leaf Dairy at Stouffville and for other customers. This is one of the purest supplies obtainable since the ice is made from spring water rising nearby and which is not in any way contaminated. The supply at this source, of course, is limited, but a great many farmers in the district are taken care of from it. Mr. Rose is calling on them to file their orders with him immediately.

The cutting machine will later be moved to Musselman's Lake where an unlimited ice supply may be cut. A couple of years ago this supply was approved by Dr. Williams, M.O.H., for Whitchurch township.

The quality of ice to be packed this year will be one of the finest for some time. There is twelve inches of clear blue ice with no shale on whatever. "Finest quality ice you could wish to harvest," said Mr. Rose in describing the condition of the ice.

### SANTA CLAUS GETS INTO TROUBLE

Embibing from the wrong bottle, Santa Claus, if you can believe it, was charged with being tipsy when he was ordered to police court at Newmarket on Tuesday. In his hurry to attend the school concert at Bloomington and being over-anxious to make a neat speech, he determined to take a little stimulant. The stuff he took wasn't what he should have been drinking, hence he arrived in rather a "tipsy" state.

Constable Bob Windsor said Santa Claus ought to pay for his mistake and actually summoned him to court. To make matters worse, when his mind got fogged, Santa brought along a dozen bottles of beer, and thought it was Coco Cola. He gave it to friends.

In the basement of the school he was relieved of his great coat and someone shore his whiskers, under loud protests. Upstairs chairman, Rev. Gibson Brown led a rousing sing-song that drowned the protests from the ears of the audience. The magistrate hesitated to go against old Santa Claus, but invited him to pay ten dollars to the court which he did with a smile.

## COUPLE TO MAKE HOME IN TORONTO

The United Church Manse on the 6th line, Markham Township was the scene of a pretty wedding on Friday, December 31st, 1943; when Mary Jean Spang, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Spang of the 8th concession, Markham Township, was united in marriage to Lloyd Geo. Garner, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Garner of British Columbia. The ceremony was conducted by the Rev. A. J. Orr in the presence of a few relatives and friends. The bride, who was tastefully attired in a turquoise blue wool suit, and carrying a bouquet of baby chrysanthemums, corn flowers and maiden-hair fern, was supported by her sister, Mrs. George Sale of Toronto, who wore a dress of powdered blue crepe and carried a bouquet of pink carnations, bouvardia and maiden-hair fern. The groomsmen were Carl Hoover of the 8th concession. Following the ceremony, the wedding party returned to the bride's home where the reception was held. After a short wedding trip, Mr. and Mrs. Garner will make their home in Toronto. The best wishes of the community are extended to them for their future happiness.

## LIEUT. A. A. BAKER WEDS UNIONVILLE GIRL AT HART HOUSE

Rev. A. E. Owen, of Cooksville and formerly of Unionville, officiated at the wedding of Shirley Bernice Brown, Reg.N., and Lieut. Alan A. Baker, R.C.N.V.R., of the Township of Whitchurch, which took place on Dec. 27th in Hart House chapel. The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur L. Brown, Unionville, and the groom is the son of Morgan Baker and the late Mrs. Baker of King, Ont. Standards of white chrysanthemums formed a pretty setting for the bridal party. Clarion Baker, cousin of the groom, played the wedding music and Miss Alma Baker, sister of the groom, was soloist. Given in marriage by her father the bride chose a two-piece ensemble of seaway blue wool with accents of brown. Her flowers were a corsage of apricot colored roses. Miss Gwendolyn Brown attended her sister as maid of honor, in gold wool with navy accessories and a corsage of Coral-colored roses. Lieut. Robert N. Parkinson was groomsmen and the usher was Gerald Rose. At the reception held at the University School of Nursing, Queen's Park, the bride's mother received in a gown of plum crepe with shoulder length bouquet of orchids. The couple left for a wedding trip to the Laurentians.



Harold Steckley



Douglas Steckley

Lieut. Harold M. Steckley, R.C. A. and Douglas Steckley in training with the R.C.N.V.R. are the sons of Prof. J. C. and Mrs. Steckley, O.A.C. and owner and operator of the farm, "Harbroy," on the 5th concession of Whitchurch where they spent many summers before the war. Harold was attending Queen's University prior to enlisting taking an engineering course. He has been with the 8th Army since the invasion of Sicily and is now in Italy. Douglas, the youngest was a medical student at Western University before he enlisted.

## UNIONVILLE ARREST GUILTY OF ASSAULT

Jack Drohan, the man who gave Constable Gayman a real battle at Unionville last week when he placed the accused under arrest, was found guilty of assault on Mrs. Melway, neighbor of the constable, but was not guilty of the charge of assaulting Mr. Melway. He was also found guilty of theft. He told the court he and Melway had been drinking

### Editorial

## Forward with the Enquiry

It must have been with real regret that the general public throughout the County of York read the protest from Mr. F. G. Gardiner, reeve of Forest Hill, and chairman of the York County Police Committee, and later the criticism of Judge Lovering, directed against Commissioner W. H. Stringer, who through court action at Newmarket is turning the spotlight on the slot-machine business as carried on in this jurisdiction.

The general opinion has continued to grow that there is a "racket" in the manner in which this business has been carried on, and if that belief is ill-founded, this enquiry would clear up the matter to the advantage of the York County police. If they have been guilty of misconduct, then let them take the punishment. Just when the investigation seems to be getting highly interesting for the police force, men in high places step in and challenge the authority of the Attorney General's Department to carry on the investigation. Such criticism tends to detract rather than help the Department to get to the bottom of the trouble.

The fact that conditions that have been shown to exist went unnoticed by the Police Committee, should silence any criticism against the Attorney-General's Department taking a hand.

We believe we speak the mind of many people in this county when we say that they are not so much concerned about whether York County police are controlled from Queen's Park or from Adelaide street, as they are over the prosecution of the so-called "slot-machine racket."

One would have thought that the Police Committee would have offered help rather than hindrance to an enquiry that so many seem to feel is long overdue. If the County force is not guilty of "sloppy" practice then let the enquiry go on so they may be exonerated. They will not be exonerated by detracting from the case over an issue of authority which scarcely interests the ratepayers of the county at this moment.

## Slot-Machine Enquiry is Shifted to Adelaide Street

### BROTHERS HAVE FINAL LEAVE TOGETHER

Ken. Harper journeyed up from Dartmouth, N.S., where he has been attached to the R.C.A.F. training centre for some time on his embarkation leave which is being spent with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ross Harper, Whitchurch township. Little did he dream that he would have the good fortune to meet his brother Don, who just arrived home on a similar leave from R.C.A.F. duty on the west coast of Canada. Now the brothers know they are going overseas at the same time, and if not on the same boat, they will have close contact with each other. Another brother Allen who fell prisoner to the Japs at Hong Kong is known to be well and is working, according to his latest letter home.

### CEDAR VALLEY MOTHER CONVICTED OF THEFT

Pleading guilty to a charge of stealing a quantity of groceries amounting to \$6.13, from Loblaw's Groceteria, Newmarket, a Whitchurch woman, Sarah Cohn of Cedar Valley, was placed on suspended sentence and the groceries in question returned to Mr. Andrew White, manager of the store, in police court at Newmarket on Tuesday.

Mr. Whyte told his worship that he had had the accused under observation for about two months. On Dec. 23rd, she came into the store, collected a number of articles, some of which she paid for at the cashier's counter. The others, which she did not pay for and which included the butter, meat, cocoa and sugar, she placed in a shopping bag and handed to her ten-year-old son who was standing at the front of the store.

"The serious part of this is that you took a ten-year-old child to help you thieve," stated Magistrate Woodliffe. "It is a mean and miserable thing for a mother to do, to teach a youngster to be a thief. I am placing you on probation for six months. You are to stay out of Loblaw's store and report to the Newmarket police every two weeks. The goods will have to be returned to Loblaw's."

and he drove Melway home to Unionville. Melway was found stretched out in his home with a head wound which Drohan says was self-inflicted when he was getting out of the car.

Drohan tried to force Mrs. Melway to drive him to Toronto, when her screams brought the constable who battled Drohan before he was subdued and arrested.

Drohan was remanded for sentence on the assault charge against Mrs. Drohan, and on the theft charge for stealing a wallet with \$15 from the home.

### Police Chief Stewart's Evidence Makes Situation Appear Better, Says Commissioner Stringer

Further enquiry in the slot-machine business being conducted at Newmarket will be held at York County building, beginning this Thursday afternoon.

At Tuesday's sittings in Newmarket A. M. Mills, court clerk, told the enquiry that \$13.48 seized back in 1940 had been deposited in the bank last Thursday. Other sums given him in 1942 were also deposited last week. He came across the money checking records for the enquiry, he told Commissioner Stringer. Witness said he had often allowed the money to accumulate.

Criticized by Commissioner Stringer for the long delay in making deposits, Mr. Mills said, large sums passed through his hands, sometimes \$600 or \$700 a day.

Constable Stuart submitted evidence on number of machines seized and destroyed by his department, which evidence caused Mr. Stringer to say that this made the situation appear a lot better.

### Commissioner Intends to Investigate where Monies Taken from Machine Went

Describing the methods of York County Police in the disposition of seized slot machines, "a sloppy way of doing business," Provincial Police Commissioner W. H. Stringer on Thursday at Newmarket, urged Chief William Stuart to apply more efficient bookkeeping henceforth.

On the witness stand at the fourth day sitting of the inquiry, which originally set out to investigate method of policing in Whitchurch Township, Chief Stuart was unable to answer specifically certain questions regarding the disposal of some 100 confiscated slot machines in the past six years.

"The commissioner stated that the inquiry was 'getting nowhere' because of the indefinite nature of testimony given by Chief Stuart. He observed that some of the machines were held by York County police for considerable periods before being destroyed and that money taken from the destroyed devices was held for lengthy periods before being turned over to the York Court clerk."

"No Particular File" Asked to produce information including dates of disposition of all slot machines were destroyed, the Chief police headquarters and the names of certain constables present when the machines were destroyed, Stuart admitted that he kept no particular file in that regard. "I could name officers present at the time all machines were destroyed, but it would only be by memory," declared the chief.

"Why were the machines and money held?" asked Crown Attorney L. R. McTavish.

The witness replied that "there was no hurry" adding that money taken from the machines was in (Continued on Back Page)

## Uxbridge Township Vote Was Light

The vote polled on Monday over Uxbridge township was light since there was no real issue at stake in the municipal election and interest was only in your preference for one candidate over another.

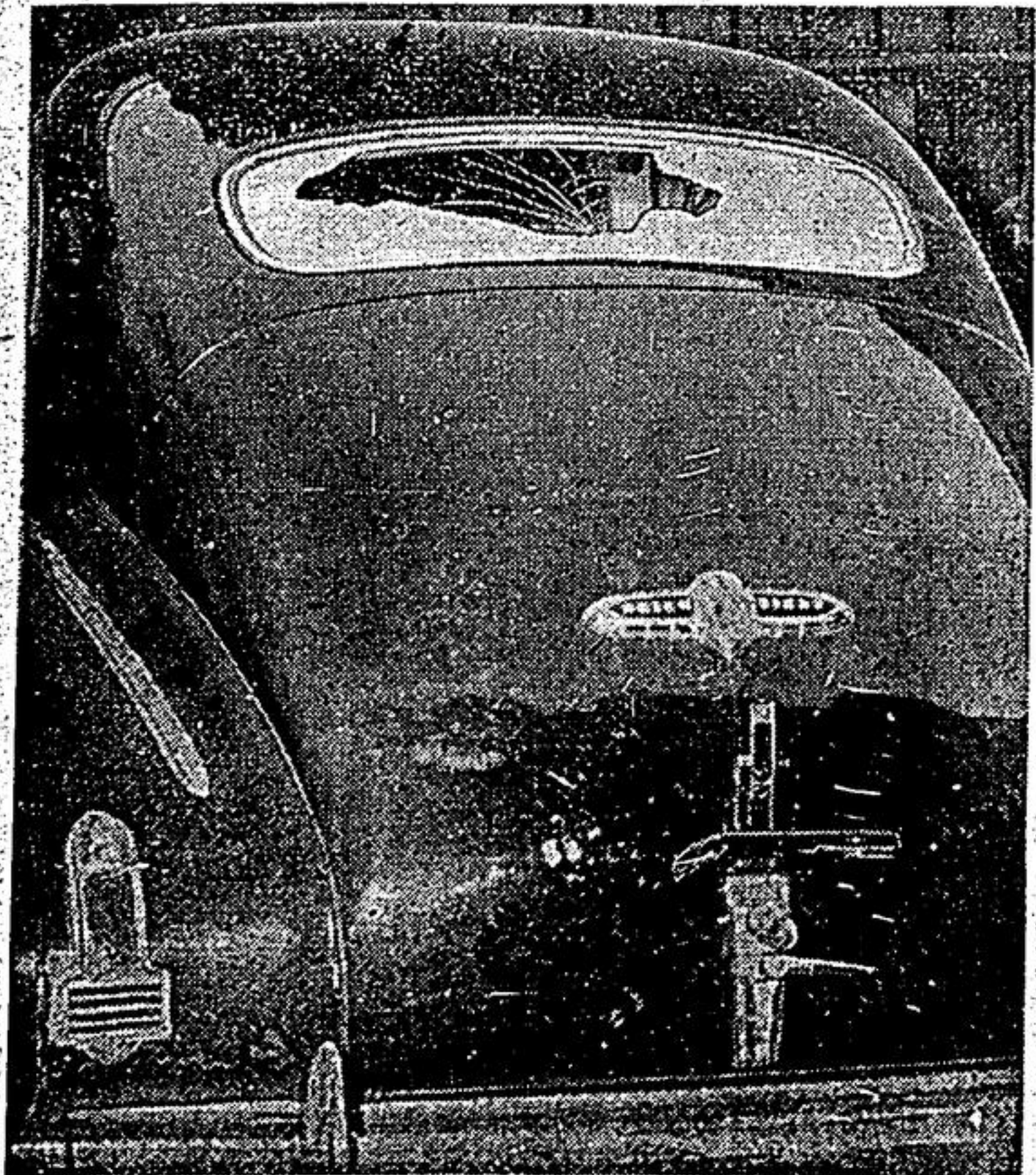
Former Deputy Reeve Walter Beach was defeated by Reeve Edgar Johnson who was regarded as very strong at the outset and goes back for his third term. John M. Rae, deputy reeve was accorded an acclamation, while Freddie Middleton was the low contestant for the council and will have to remain at home. Isaac Catherwood returns to council after some years out of office.

### Township of Uxbridge Election, 1944

For Reeve		Beach	Johnson
Polling Div. 1	—	20	25
Div. 2	—	49	56
Div. 3	—	61	38
Div. 4	—	6	42
Div. 5	—	8	52
Div. 6	—	32	99
Div. 7	—	10	51
		186186	365

### For Council

Div.	Ball	Dick'n	Cath'd	Mid'n
Div. 1	14	22	21	24
Div. 2	74	61	44	48
Div. 3	75	59	38	38
Div. 4	35	30	32	8
Div. 5	32	14	54	7
Div. 6	119	68	68	41
Div. 7	32	52	34	10
	381	307	291	176



### Believed Used by Claremont Gunmen

This car stolen the evening prior to the Claremont hold-up, and used by robbers in escaping an attempted liquor-thieving job at Cobourg, was found near Os-hawa, and is believed by sever-

al Claremont residents to be the car they saw speed away following the attempted hold-up of Jack Brignall. The bullet hole is believed to have been made by Cobourg police constable Doherty.