

Mystery Fire Destroys Home on 8th of Markham

The strange and almost singular incident of a farm home in the heart of Markham Township burning to the ground without even the neighbours knowing about it, occurred one evening last week when the large brick dwelling on the former Dan Raymer farm just south of Markham Village on the 8th concession went up in smoke.

No alarm was sounded, no brigade summoned, and the whole thing was quite a shock to everyone in the neighborhood when they made the discovery the following morning. No one was in the place during the night, although there had been a fire in the furnace the day previous.

The place was recently purchased by Mr. Barjak of Toronto, and only the day before the new owner had moved all his furniture into the home from the city. Added to this severe loss was that of his new tractor which unfortunately he had stored in a large shed right beside the house.

The house was partially covered by insurance, but the coverage on the furniture had been dropped just a few days previously.

Mr. Barjak is a Czechoslovakian by origin, and has been in this country some eighteen years. He disposed of a butcher business in Toronto to take up farming, and this sudden blow will be a severe loss.

Former Family Here Has Three Sons in U.S. Armed Forces

Three sons of Mr. and Mrs. Hilliard Degeer of Davison, U.S.A., former residents of this locality are serving in the U.S. forces, and one of them Staff Sgt. Edward Degeer, 28 years old, has been wounded, according to a report from Flushing. He was wounded in action in France on Dec. 1st in the left hand. Sgt. Ed. is a former high school student at Durand and later was employed in the great Fisher plant. He has a wife and four children living in Flushing. Two other brothers in the forces are Douglas in the navy and who was born east of Stouffville just opposite the H. H. Reesor farm where his father was employed at the time, also David with the army in Texas. Edward who was wounded was born at Bloomington, and many friends here will recall the family. These boys are nephews of Mr. and Mrs. Morgan Degeer who live on the second concession of Uxbridge.

Whitchurch Moves Toward Township School Area

It was felt by many present at the trustees meeting held in Vandorf on Friday evening that a definite gain was made in favor of a township school area in the Township of Whitchurch. Some trustees who attended said they went more or less prejudiced against the idea, but after hearing the address and the discussion carried on by Inspector O. M. McKillop, they were now in a wavering attitude, and are no longer prejudiced.

Some weeks ago, the township school area was outlined in this paper and Mr. McKillop again restated the plan, and answered questions. If such an area is set up the whole township would be under control of a five-man trustee board who would administer the affairs of all the schools in the municipality. While no promise of saving necessarily enters the plan, there is the promise of more equitable distribution. Right now some schools supply certain text books free, while other sections of the township make a charge. A township school board would make such distribution the same to all scholars in the area. No school would be closed because of a school area, it was pointed out, so long as there are scholars to attend. In the event of the number being so small as to not warrant the engaging of a teacher, scholars would be transported at no cost to them to the nearest school.

About 50 trustees attended the meeting, which is to be followed by a series of public gatherings in the township.

HELP THE BLIND

Stouffville Women's Institute will conduct a tag day in aid of the Canadian National Institute for the Blind, a highly deserving cause. Few will pass up the opportunity to make a donation when the taggers accost them on the street next Saturday.



L.A.C. John Sanders (Jack) has good reason to smile, reaching home and his wife after 5 years in Britain, North Africa and Italy. Mrs. Sanders looks happy too.

Jack Sanders Home After Three and a Half Years Overseas

Jack Sanders, son of Mr. and Mrs. Blake Sanders of Stouffville, arrived at his home here last week, after serving overseas for thirty-nine months, with the R.C.A.F.

Jack was with the airforce supporting the famous 8th Army throughout the African campaign, and then in Italy. Just prior to returning home he spent a month in England where he met up with "Louie" Morden and Sam Anderson two other local sons serving in the European theatre.

Jack will spend a month here with his wife and parents before reporting to Trenton R.C.A.F. station. A brother William who is with the army has recently been placed on the permanent staff at the big Petawawa Camp. Jack stated that he had not enjoyed sleeping in a bed for the three and a half years he was away until arriving home, and could scarcely believe he was here after campaigning abroad for such a long period.

Your chance to secure garden tools will be at the Walls sale on Tenth street next Saturday afternoon, May 5th.

Liberal Candidates for Ontario Riding



Dr. W. H. Gifford At the dual nomination meeting in Whitby Dr. Gifford was chosen on the first ballot as Liberal candidate for the Ontario riding which is greatly dominated by the vote in Oshawa.



William E. N. Sinclair Former leader of the Ontario Liberal party will be the federal candidate to replace W. H. Moore who retires after 15 years at Ottawa.

Council to Deal with Road Program

The regular meeting of the Stouffville municipal council for the month of May will be held this Thursday evening. Some matters of importance will come before the gathering, including a discussion on a new road policy for more permanent roads in the village. Almost every town around has at least a few avenues under permanent pavement and it is felt that the cheaper way to maintain our side streets is to lay a tarvia finish that will eliminate the annual oiling and graveling. If the policy is worked out, an early start will no doubt be made on at least one street. Oil is both offensive and expensive, hence the idea to be worked out is to lay a short stretch of permanent road each summer, so as to get rid of both the oil expense with its annual nuisance.

Markham Councillor New Agricultural Federation President

Mr. Dalton Rumney, Markham Township councillor, was chosen president of the York County Federation of Agriculture at a meeting held in Richmond Hill, the first gathering this year. President Rumney is a Victoria Square farmer, and will have Reeve Charles Hooper as second vice president, and Roland Kester first vice president. William Buchanan the past president was made secretary-treasurer.

A committee was appointed whose duty it will be to interview the township councils with a view to gaining financial support from this source. District representative, Wm. Cockburn, conducted the election and Russel Rowntree acted as secretary.

CALLING TENDERS SOON

Plans for the new heating establishment at the big school building are now being drafted since the architect and an engineer visited the school a week ago. We may expect tenders to be called for the work very shortly of constructing the heating house at the southwest corner just outside the school building together with bunkers for the accommodation of the year's coal supply.

Baby Falls 35 Ft. into Well, Uninjured

When the 26 months-old Dean Dempster, son of Mrs. Dempster who resides just north of Vandorf on the 4th concession of Whitchurch, fell into an unused well on the Anderson farm, he was brought the 35 feet to the top by Frank Geal, a twelve-year-old lad. Miraculous as it may seem the baby was unharmed from the strange experience.

Onlookers at the scene reported the baby fell into about 10 feet of water, and laid floating until the Geal boy clambered down the projecting bricks on the inside of the well and grasped him.

By the time the plucky lad reached the child, neighbors had let a rope down. This enabled the young rescuer to bring the baby back up unharmed. He accomplished this by backing up and carrying the child in left arm, and at the same time grasping the rope in his right hand.

Frank E. Rae, veteran tailor, has been absent this week from his accustomed place in the Spofford block, due to indisposed health. We hope that his return will not be long delayed, and that is the wish of many old friends.

Offenders are Caught in Washroom Episode, will Face Town Council Tonight

Widespread interest has been attached to the hunting down of the culprits who broke into the ladies wash room and damaged the plumbing in the municipal building on Sunday night, April 21, since the authorities posted a reward of \$25 for information leading to the conviction of the guilty ones. It will be some satisfaction to learn that the police have been successful in rounding up the young men involved, who happen to be boys from east of Stouffville in the Goodwood district.

On obtaining certain information local and county police were set to work, and after visiting the farms where the young fellows were found, they gained a confession. Constable Rusnell and County Constable Barraclough were assigned to the task.

The accused, we understand, are to make an appearance before the municipal council on Thursday night, to state their case, and in the meantime court action is being withheld.

There is strong public resentment against those who have been guilty from time to time of abusing the wash rooms placed there for public convenience, and a demand that an example shall be made of the first offenders caught. What action the reeve and council will take when the matter is debated this Thursday evening is not yet determined.

The \$25 reward has been earned and will form part of the expenses incurred in the matter, the reeve stated on Wednesday.

Victory Loan Sales Lagging

In Stouffville the amount reported sold for the 8th Victory Loan to reach our objective of \$120,000 is slightly under \$30,000, which is not too good. At the same period in the last campaign over \$35,000 had been sold. Stouffville citizens will have to do their very best to hold their splendid reputation this time.

Markham village with an objective of \$100,000 has reported bonds sold totalling \$12,000, and so it shows all along the line. Probably it is the flush of victory and the cessation of hostilities in Europe that distracts peoples' minds from the campaign which is so important to the country's financial success.

J. L. Abell and Chas. Hoover are leading the seven salesmen in Markham township with Mr. Abell in top place.

For Whitchurch, Les. Mount is leading the sales, with J. A. Clarke and R. T. Caldwell standing second and third. There are only the three salesmen in this township.

The campaign got under way rather slowly, which is quite customary, but this next six days should see it well toward the goal, if the objectives are to be reached.

Mass Thanksgiving Service Here on "V" Day

Arrangements have been completed to hold a great mass meeting in the United Church, Stouffville, for the people of all our churches and for those who do not attend any church, on the day to be observed as "V" Day and which will be a public holiday. Ministers of all the town churches will participate in the service, and special choral music and duets will be rendered.

This service, to begin at 11 a.m., will be an expression of thanksgiving to Almighty God, on behalf of our people, for deliverance from this long drawn and bloody conflict, and it is anticipated that the United Church which is the largest building available, will be more than taxed to accommodate those who will want to attend.

Each minister will have a part in the service, and the municipal council and Board of Education are expected to attend, in one body. They will assemble at the council chambers at 10.40 before the service. Since the accommodation will not permit, cadets, scouts, and other groups will not be expected to assemble in a group.

In the event of the first Sunday following "V" Day being declared a day of solemn thanksgiving, each church will also observe this national event in its own regular services.

Big Parade for V Day Afternoon

In addition to the morning thanksgiving Day program arranged for Stouffville on V Day, an afternoon affair is being formulated for the school children. Children of the school will be asked to gather in front of the Fire Hall at 2.30 o'clock, when a parade will be formed and headed by band music will parade west to the outskirts of the town and back to the hall. The children will all be supplied with flags.

In front of the hall community singing and short addresses will be carried on. The speeches will be by representatives of community organizations, including the Cubs, C.G.I.T., H.S. Literary, Lions Club, Masonic and Oddfellows Lodges, the Red Cross, the War Veterans Association, the Board of Education, and the municipal council.

Citizens are enjoined to decorate their places, and it is expected that this undertaking will be something that the younger folk will long remember in connection with this anxiously awaited holiday.

The committee on arrangement includes Harold Spofford, L. C. Murphy, Bert Lickorish and A. V. Nolan.

J. E. Smith Replaces Mulock as Liberal Candidate

Because of ill health, Hon. W. P. Mulock, Postmaster-General of Canada, will not be able to accept re-nomination as Liberal candidate for York North in the coming elections, it was announced at a nomination convention of the North York Lib-

By acclamation, the convention of 200 nominated J. E. Smith, editor of "The Liberal," Richmond Hill newspaper, as Liberal candidate in the Federal riding of York North, which includes Whitchurch but not Markham and Stouffville, both in East York again, and R. W. Scott, Vaughan Township farmer and former reeve, as the candidate for the Provincial election.

Expressing Mr. Mulock's gratitude to members of the riding, Mrs. Mulock said in a letter to the convention that "until this illness, my husband had always looked forward to contesting this riding again with a great deal of zest."

"Bill Mulock has been an outstanding member of the House of Commons and has given unselfishly of his time in the service of York North," said Mr. Smith. "When he became postmaster-general, he went at it in dead earnest, and his record throughout the trying years of war has won the admiration of his colleagues and of the people of Canada. I do not presume to claim that I can fill Bill Mulock's shoes, but if it is your wish, I will try."

"I know the heart of York North, the people's aims, hopes for the future, and what they want in a better Canada. I believe that the Liberal party standing between radicalism on one hand and reaction on the other, is equipped by experience and policy to meet the demands of these trying times."

The Drew Government's action (continued on back page)

OVERSEAS OVER FOUR YEARS



Away from home four years last February Murray Sinclair landed at Ringwood on Monday evening, after a splendid voyage across the ocean from the British Isles. Murray has seen a good deal of the world since he last left the home of his parents, Mr. and Mrs. E. R. Sinclair for his saw service in South Africa and then in India, as well as in England. It proved a long four years for Murray as well as for the folks at home, but there's a heap of history packed in that space of time, that will never be effaced from his memory should he live a thousand years.

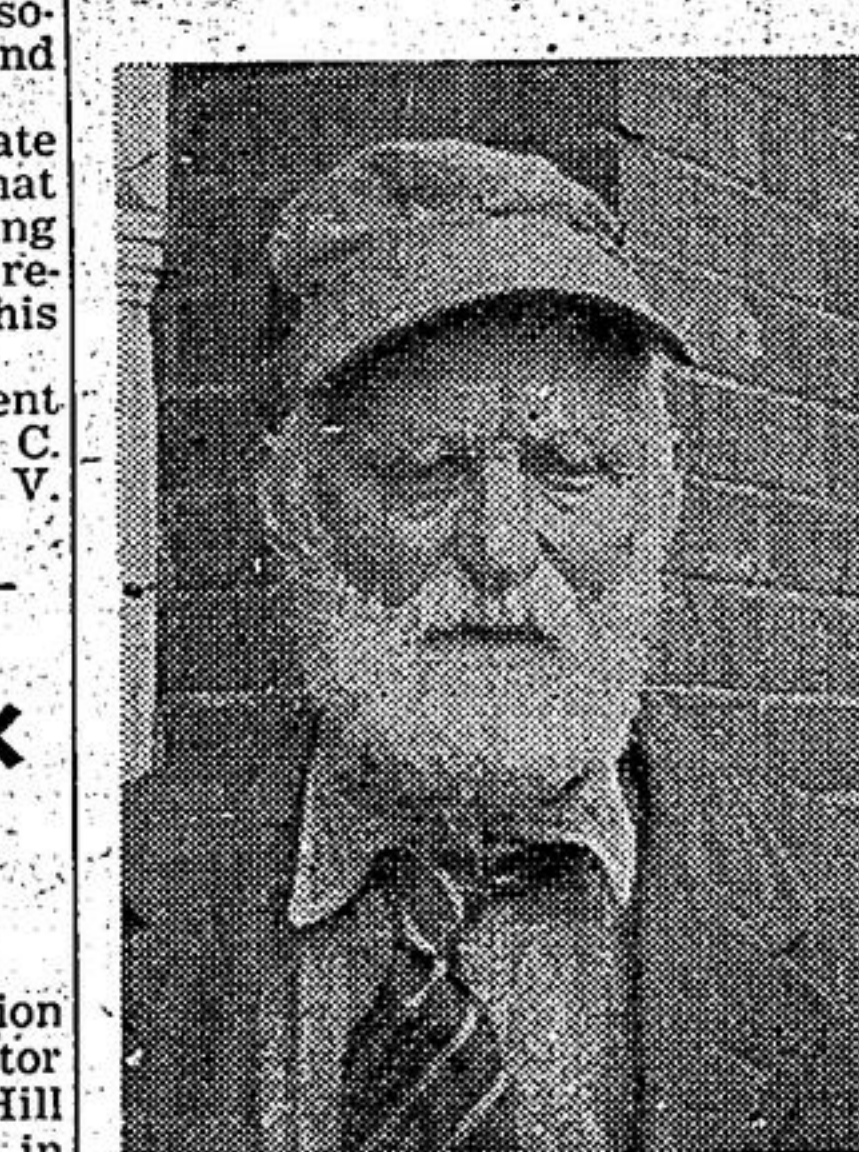
RINGWOOD BOY BELIEVED IN MINOR ACCIDENT

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Abell of Ringwood, have received official word to the effect that their son Bob had recently sustained injuries, presumably in Germany. It is assumed that the nature of his injuries are not serious, and that they were received in an accident, but no definite information is at present available.

Bob is with the R.A.C.F. and after his first eighteen months in England enjoyed a holiday home. No doubt when he returns a second time he will be home for good. Bob's wife is in Toronto.

Job Jordan Marks His 92nd Birthday

Just north of the corner grocery at Ballantrae lives Mr. Job Jordan who has only recently celebrated his 92nd birthday, thereby being one of the oldest men in the Township of Whitchurch. In fact this monogermanian citizen may be the oldest man living who was born in the municipality and still has his abode close to the place where he



first saw the light of day.

When the Tribune camera contacted this veteran of the soil, he willingly arose from his couch and called for a necktie and when adjusted to his liking, stepped out of doors and stood as erect as a major-general while the camera clicked. There was some debate about those flowing whiskers, which were not known to his friends during his long life but which have been permitted to flourish only recently. But they do look becoming, the reporter insisted.

"Born just two miles west of his present place where he shares the farm home residence with his son-in-law Mr. George Sutton, Job Jordan has spent all his long life in Whitchurch excepting for a short time in Northern Ontario and Western Canada when he was a young man. Job was a son of Luke Jordan who came from the British Isles in the latter part of the last century. The Jordan home on the 6th concession near the Aurora road was nestled in a dense bush settlement. Mr. Jordan recalls as a lad how he used to ride horseback to Ballantrae for supplies. Then he related the following story:

"I was the youngest, two of my eleven brothers and sister died before they were born."

(continued on back page)



Jack Smith

eral Association in the arena at Richmond Hill on Saturday night, and which was attended by numbers from Stouffville and district. Mr. Mulock, M.P. for York North since 1934, and postmaster-general since 1938, suffered a severe attack of pneumonia early in April.