

The Stouffville Tribune

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TWELVE PAGES

AT THE PLOWING MATCH



Happy and interested onlookers at the South Ontario Plowing Match Wednesday were three girls perched on contestant Joseph Tran's tractor. Left to right—Jean Taylor and Pearl Pilkey who hitch-hiked from Claremont to see the show. Perched on the fender is Alma Coates whose husband, Dave, is employed by Heber Down on whose farm the match was held east of Claremont.



In informal conversation about the progress of the South Ontario Plowing Match is President Heber Down, left, Secretary W. S. Croxall, centre, and Reeve Norman Down, a director, on the right. Favoured by the best of weather all three were delighted with the attendance and success of the event.



Judged the outstanding team in the contest, Heber Down's show pair of Clydesdales, driven by Wilnot Shea, Manilla, was also in the prize money for excellence of their plowing. Shea is guiding the plow assisted by Dave Coates, Mr. Down's right hand man.

Reeve Issues Official Thanks for Public Help

On behalf of the corporation of Stouffville and as chairman of the general committee for the collection of worn clothing, I take this opportunity to thank all the generous givers who donated in such a way as to pile up tons of clothing for the relief of destitute peoples in other parts of the world.

Thanks is also due to churches and War Branch members for their willing support in packing the articles for shipment, and to the Lions Club of Stouffville who made a good job of the canvass.

On the whole there were boxes and boxes of clothing that will be cherished by some unfortunate in Europe, and only a very few articles had to be discarded as unfit for shipment. When headquarters tendered us a supply of red tags to be placed on goods that were handed in unclean, filthy and perhaps carrying vermin, I said such tags would not be needed at Stouffville. None were used, and the odd article sent in in this category, was disposed of in fitting manner.

Ninety-nine per cent of the clothing was clean as the day the goods came from the store, and this was a credit to the people who generously donated it.

Reeve of Stouffville

Fire Underwriters Find System in Good Order

G. W. Graham, engineer for the Fire Underwriters Association made a surprise visit to the town last Friday and called out the brigade for a test. Later he had a couple of the firemen open over half of the 40 hydrants on the system and found every hydrant functioning properly.

Mr. Graham visited the reservoir property and was pleased to find both reservoirs filled to the top. He examined the auxiliary plant, and considered that the capacity of the pump, to handle 1500 gals. an hour ought to meet all the demands of the users here with ease whenever a drought season sets in. Of course, the engineer is concerned about the supply of water for fire protection, and this is what he reports on only.

When the official report is issued, it can be said now that it will be a favorable one, and that the premium rate for fire insurance will not suffer any from what Mr. Graham will have to place in the books.

GORMLEY FARM SOLD

The John Hicks farm at lot 3, con. 4, Whitchurch, just north of Gormley has been sold by Mr. Hicks to Mr. Meredith Ash, a neighbor. The place contains 100 acres and is well located in a nice section of the country. Mr. Hicks who is giving up farming will hold an auction sale on Tuesday, Oct. 30, of the entire farm stock and implements.

84-year Old Man Does All Own Work

Reputed to be the oldest living man born at Musselman's Lake, Albert Mapes of Ballantrae reached his 84th birthday last Thursday, Oct. 18. He was out doing his weekly shopping and had just recently returned from the hospital at Newmarket where he was confined a week or two owing to being run into by a car, while in the act of putting groceries in his buggy at Wright's store, Ballantrae.

Mr. Mapes is high in his praise for the nurses at the hospital, indeed, he said he wished he was a younger man, and the old gentleman really meant it.

Albert Mapes was born on the farm now occupied by Bernard Degeer, and has spent most of his long life thus far in the one Township. For a time he did reside on the 3rd concession of Pickering. He lives alone and does his own house keeping.

Barn and Crop Destroyed by Fire

Our Vandorf correspondent reports a serious fire at lot 23, concession 5, Whitchurch, which occurred on Sunday evening during milking time on the farm of Garfield Thompson. Evidently the blaze started in the mow and spread rapidly so that the barn and pig pen and hen house were soon doomed. Most of the implements were hauled to safety, and the livestock removed, excepting some pigs so badly burned they had to be destroyed.

The barn was filled with hay and grain not yet threshed. At one time the late George Yake occupied this property. Aurora Fire Brigade responded to the call in order to save the house. There was some insurance.

VIVIAN ANNIVERSARY

On Sunday evening, Oct. 28th, Vivian Church will observe its 12th anniversary with Pastor Rowan in the pulpit, and bright gospel singing. All friends invited.

Grasshoppers for Meat and Broth from Common Grass

For Hong Kong Prisoners and this Insulting Fare was Endured without Salt, Says Allen Harper

A meat course of boiled dried grasshoppers, and broth from common grass, were on the bill-of-fare served the Canadians captured at Hong Kong by the Japanese, and are among the things that Allen Harper, prisoner for about four years will never forget, yet despite such eatables this ruddy-faced lad declares, it might not have been so terrible had only some salt been available. The boys craved for salt, but never got any.

Allen is the second eldest of five sons, and one of four who enlisted from the family of Mr. and Mrs. Ross Harper, 6th concession, Whitchurch. He reached home on Sunday after about four years, most of which time relatives and friends feared for the worst, since no trace or word was forthcoming for so long.

He enlisted in the summer of 1941, and after short training was among the boys of the Royal Rifles of Canada to embark for Hong Kong where he was among 1200 captured on Christmas Day little more than seven months from the time of his enlistment. Chief cause of falling prisoners was the fact that the Royals arrived ahead of their equipment and were unable to fight with their guns and ammunition failing to catch up with them on the water voyage.

Standing in the spacious old home in Whitchurch Allen Harper looked to your reporter the very personification of health, despite the fact he was taken off the boat when he embarked at Yokohama for home due to illness, and after flying later as far as Saipan he was again delayed three weeks, suffering from pneumonia.

"When captured that memorable Christmas Day," said Allen, "we were sent to what was known as the China camp on Hong Kong Island. Food and medical supplies were terribly short, but no cruelty was practised on us. For misdemeanours the Japs would slap our men. Rice formed the chief diet, but one of the not-to-be forgotten items was dried grasshoppers, which might have been palatable had there been salt available. As it was they made poor meat. The men craved for salt."

"Another dish was broth made from common grass, and under such fare I dropped weight noticeably," he said.

Allen stayed in the camp on Hong Kong Island for a year, then the more fit were chosen and sent to Yokohama in Japan to work in the great dock yards. If anything, conditions in Japan were worse than ever. It was here the Japs took occasion to slap the soldiers for misdemeanours, but still they were no more inhuman with us than they were to their own children. No news on the progress of the war reached the prisoners up to this second year; no mail, and no tidings of any kind whatever. In fact it was not until 1944 that this boy received his first letters from home, then at least two years old. Parcels were mostly stolen.

Unloading at the docks earned the prisoners ten cents a day which wasn't important. It was in captivity here that grasshoppers and grass became part of the fare, with meagre rice supplies.

In May, this year, Allen and a group of his companions were moved again. This time to Sendi, a section famous for its coal mines. They were put to work in the mines 4,000 feet below ground and it was hard going. By now about 30 had died from malnutrition and sheer lack of medicine. This camp was known as "Hell and Slavery Camp," a name attached to it by the English whom they replaced.

"We were given an issue of Japanese soap," said Allen, "and this was something even the native civilians didn't obtain," he continued. "Then we broke the bars and gave part to the guards as a bribe for English papers. By this means we at last began to learn about the good turn the war had taken, and we noticed too, a slight improvement in the treatment of us as defeat became possible for the Japs."

"We were released one day after the surrender was signed, so the Japs got an extra day's work out of us," he said. On being set free they were able to visit the surrounding cities, and were soon back in Yokohama, awaiting passage to America. However, Allen was due to a sore disappointment when he went aboard ship here. He was found to be ill with a spot on one lung, and was returned to land for treatment. The boat went without him. "It was mighty disappointed," he said. Still when he was recovered, instead of going aboard a boat he took

High Cow \$182.50 at Claremont Sale

The few days of fine weather last week smalled the attendance at farm auctions, which was noticeable at the Earl Brillinger sale on the 5th concession of Uxbridge north of Claremont on Friday. Despite this fact that farmers were busy cutting corn and doing fall work long delayed by wet weather, milch cows caused lively bidding and the best or highest animal sold to Alex Miller of Newmarket for \$182.50. Eleven animals went to the Newmarket district. In all 30 head were sold, with young cattle not so keen. Two sucking colts brought \$34 and \$38 each which was considered good on such a poor horse market. The sale totalled about \$4,000. Sellers & Atkinson did the selling.

Car and Horse Collide Rider Injured

Riding horse-back on Sunday evening travelling north on the 9th concession of Whitchurch, Anthony Kersel of Toronto was struck by an on-coming motorist travelling south, throwing the boy to the ground and causing such injury to the animal that it is reported as unfit for further use. The boy received a broken collar bone. Kersel, 18-year-old youth, was staying at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. J. Herold on the former Herb Mitchell farm southeast of Musselman's Lake, and was enjoying an evening refresher with the horse at the time of the accident.

The car suffered some damage, and was driven by a Toronto man who did not immediately stop, but returned later and tendered his card. Young Kersel was removed to the office of Dr. Free and given first aid before being sent on to Toronto. Besides bruises, the lad suffered a broken collar bone, the doctor discovered.

off by plane. In fact he made the journey in several hops all the way by air to San Francisco.

His flying too, was delayed when the plane reached Saipan, for the cold weather up above was too much for his condition, and he was stricken with pneumonia, causing a delay of three weeks when he grounded at Saipan, midway between the Philippine and Wake Islands. Once at San Francisco, interest rather lagged in the great winter mecca for world tourists, because of his eagerness to reach home, so a stop of only four days was all Allen Harper allowed himself, before he boarded the train for home to be greeted at Toronto by his home folks and 25 or 30 friends.

He praised the good work of Capt. John Reid, nephew of Mr. John Reid, station master at Goodwood, who went with the prisoners from Hong Kong Island to Yokohama. He was often in desperation with sick all around him, but no medicine, only a few pills. He was wonderful, just the same, the lads thought.

Stouffville Carried Off Three Trophies in Big Field Meet

Stouffville High School captured three of the trophies at the interschool field meet held at Markham Fair Grounds last week, while Markham took four, and Agincourt none. The local school took the junior boys' championship, Roy Ward collecting 17 points. The junior girls' championship was also won by Stouffville, Helen Goudie getting 15 points, while Dorothy Wagg from this school, tied with Shirley Latimer of Markham for the intermediate girls' trophy, each getting 8 points.

The junior relay race was taken by the Stouffville school with a time of 2 minutes, 1 and three fifths seconds, while they placed second in the event, in the intermediate and senior groups. Stouffville also captured the event in the junior girls' group with a time of 42 seconds, and placed second in the other two grades.

The meet was held under ideal weather conditions, and the home school is to be congratulated on making such a fine showing at this first postwar competition.

Loan Campaign Opens with a \$210,000 Objective

Canvassers for the 9th Victory Loan are now on the rounds in town with the opening of the drive on Monday morning. Stouffville is being asked to raise \$210,000, which is the amount of bonds sold in the last campaign six months ago.

The objective seems very high, but it always has and who can say it will not be reached. If everybody does the best they can, we will have no fear of the outcome. So far the press has not been supplied with the objectives set throughout the county so that we are unable to publish them at this time.

This time the salesmen are Messrs. H. O. Kinck, Blake Sanders and Norman Baker; the latter being a new man replacing L. E. O'Neill.

Farm Leaves Family After 100 Years

In the family probably one hundred years or more the Baker farm at Baker Hill, 8th concession Whitchurch, has been sold to Mr. Alex Ratcliff. Since the death of the late Sylvanus Baker the place has been rented and the tenant, Mr. Earl Tate is arranging to hold an auction sale in November. Mr. Tate is retiring from the farm and is building a residence on the suburbs of Newmarket.

The late Mr. Sylvanus Baker was born on this farm some 85 years ago, when his father operated the place. From the large farm house there is a commanding view over the countryside. A large new barn was built only a few years ago to replace the original structure destroyed by fire.

Former Town Lad Saves a Life

A former Stouffville boy, William Bryan gained the head lines on the Toronto dailies last week, when he saved a life by rescuing a man from under a burning auto. Will Bryan, it will be recalled lived at the Harding home in the east end and attended school here.

Trapped under his burning auto in a Church street parking lot about noon on Friday, Ray Hurst, aged 33, of 17 Northcote avenue, was rescued by Bryan.

Mr. Hurst's clothing was completely enveloped in flames before he was dragged from under the auto by his rescuer and he was horribly burned about the face, arms, body and legs. Doctors at St. Michael's Hospital are fighting to save his life with blood plasma, petroleum and sulphur drugs.

William Bryan was burned about the hands and cut about the arms in the rescue and in fighting the flames until firemen arrived. He was given first aid by firemen and emergency treatment at St. Michael's.

Police report that Mr. Hurst was draining his gas tank to discover a leak when the fumes caused an explosion. Sheets of flames shot out from under the auto. Mr. Bryan made his way through that fire grabbed Hurst by the legs and pulled him away from the auto. He then beat out the flames with his coat.

Second Car Stripped and Abandoned at Ballantrae

That portion of Whitchurch Township lying north of the Ballantrae road on the 6th and 7th concessions, and for the most part a barren waste, and known to many as "Seldom Seen," is becoming notorious for various types of crime. Three weeks ago William Linton was robbed at his lonely home in this locality, and since then a car belonging to a Barrie man was hauled to a place on the 7th concession opposite Albert Mapes' home, and completely stripped of tires and other accessories. Last Friday morning still a second car was found abandoned in the spot where the first car was found. It was a 1941 Nash DeLuxe, and was spotted by someone who happened to be roaming over the barren section, and which proved to be the property of a Toronto doctor. Police had it hauled to Ballantrae garage, and later it was taken back to the city. Thieves had removed three of the four wheels, the spare, the seal-beam headlights and other accessories. The right front wheel was left evidently because the tire was not considered good enough.

No arrests have followed on any of these offenses, which appear most difficult to solve. That persons familiar with the locality, knowing it is seldom traversed by anyone, is evidence that the thieves are probably close at hand, or once lived in the locality.

CHANGE OF RESIDENCE

Mr. and Mrs. Ira Aldred have moved from town to their farm on Scugog Island, and the bungalow which they vacated in the west end of town, was occupied this week by Mr. and Mrs. Bert Miller of Toronto. Mr. Miller was employed as a baker here 33 years ago, and Mrs. Miller was a daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Henry Brillinger. The property they own and occupy was the home of Mrs. Brillinger's parents.

Young Porkers Run \$7.50 Each

Young pigs just over six weeks old advertised for sale in last week's issue were disposed of at \$7.50 each which is considered an excellent price. Not all pigs advertised last week however found buyers, hence some of the offers are being repeated in this paper.

Various reasons are offered for the large number of porkers on the market. The approach of cold weather finds some farmers lacking the proper pens for winter, and a few others decided to sell on account of the easier price for pork, but this reason is not well founded, since a drop in the market this past week would not foretell the price these pigs will bring when they are grown. It is more likely that the high price of feed induces some farmers who have to buy it, to sell the pigs early, and let someone else raise them.

ENGAGEMENT

The engagement is announced of Ella Magdalena, youngest daughter of Mr. Albert R. Wideman and the late Mrs. Wideman, to Elmer David Grové, son of Mr. and Mrs. Russel Grové. The marriage is to take place early in November.