



## Greetings and Best Wishes

### Whitchurch Boy Tells of the Life in China

News from China from Francis Starr, son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Starr of Whitchurch Township, who left home here a year ago last October to do missionary work, is contained in the following letter, full of interesting detail:

"I had high hopes that I'd be able to send you my Christmas message from Tengchung on the China-Burma border, but fate was working against me and the other day I was started with a convoy to Chungking. At the present time I'm mounted on the tailboard of my truck with the bed-roll of a Philadelphia insurance underwriter for a seat and the trunk of a Scottish lab technician for a desk. Put your finger on the road half way from Kunming to Kweiyang and you will have me covered.

This is my first journey into this part of the country but I've seen few sections more desolate and more awe-inspiring than what I can see from here. There isn't a human being or human habitation in sight and all the good earth I can see is a mass of naked, rocky mts. reaching into the sky.

The evening before last as we were nearing the top of a hill my engine gave up the struggle and since then we have been sitting here. I don't know what the bandit situation is here but we are certainly vulnerable. Nevertheless we have spent two nites in the open and will probably have to spend two more. We couldn't pov-mov (breakdown) under more favourable circumstances. The days are warm and sunny and there is a full moon at nites. We had recently been given a good supply of rations by some evacuating Americans and I brought along a couple cases so we are more than surviving. A South-bound FAU convoy went through yesterday and by now our plight should be known in Kuting so a rescue mission should soon be here.

A Ford truck that has been considerably altered by Chinese mechanics and Chinese roads since it said "goodbye" to Dearborn has just wheezed by and the accompanying cloud of dust halted my literary operations for a bit. The delay has given me opportunity for reflection on what things may be like back home just now. It's a little difficult to remember what winter is like as I sit here in the shade in a state of semi-nudity but I suppose Ontarians will soon be having weather that will remind them that Christmas is coming up fast.

It seems to me that many things that many people associate with Xmas have been missing in my life the last few years but I can't say that I have missed them. While most of the people I know were eating Xmas dinner last year I was rolling across central U.S. in the "Spirit of St. Louis" train of the Pennsy. Inc. The year before I was in a pulpwood camp in the wilds of the upper Ottawa valley. The year before I was in a hospital in a lumbering town on Vancouver Island. The year before I was in a log cabin along the shore of Lake Superior with a temperature of 104 and the nearest doctor was almost 100 miles away. The year before mankind was in a more reasonable state of behavior and I was allowed to spend Xmas quietly at home. This coming Xmas may conceivably be spent in a similar situation to what I'm in now but I suspect I'll be just as happy as any of you despite the turkey, the multitude of presents and the relatives and friends that may surround you.

Thus I'm led to question seriously many of the values that most North Americans tag on Christmas Day. The persons that decided that Christ's birthday should be celebrated on a former pagan holiday must have had some vision of what the day would degenerate to, as it seems to me there is little relation between popular Christmas Day celebrations and Christianity. My ideas of how Xmas should be celebrated aren't very clear but when I hear a youngster say after Xmas, "Well, Santa Claus was pretty good to me. He brought me nearly everything I asked for," I know that that kid isn't being brought up right. Also, when I hear that at certain Xmas parties so many people had to be carried out, I know that these people are participating in a pagan celebration. As I said before, I don't know where I'll be or what I'll be doing when Dec. 25 arrives this year but I would appreciate it if some of you people who still live ordered lives would write and tell me in what way your Xmas Day was a reflection of Christ.

### GREAT TAX COLLECTION

The tax roll in Stouffville is \$22,000 in round figures, and all of the present year's levy has been paid with the exception of \$46 owing by five tax payers. That's a good showing for the people of Stouffville to make, and a good collection too for Collector K. R. Davis. In fact it is something of a record, besting last year's good showing by about \$50.

### Horse Show was Largest Yet Held

The Stouffville horse show on Christmas market day was well attended and produced keen interest as well as competition, with eleven entries in one class. The judging was proceeding when this paper went to press hence the results could not be obtained for publication last week. Dr. Stapleton from Guelph College, and Mr. Colin Hawkins of Brownsville were the judges and their decisions were generally approved.

Heavy draught teams—Sprucewood Farms, Heber Downs, Roy Hall, Herb Simpson.

Light draught teams—Roy Hall, Heber Downs, Vincent Baker, Belgium & Percheron—Leitchcroft Farms, Vincent Baker, Jack Woods, Aurora.

Amateur class—Herb Simpson, Vincent Baker, Jack Woods, Allan Lewis.

Horse teams—Herb Downs, Roy Hall, Leitchcroft Farms.

Special best mare or gelding on grounds—Roy Hall, Sprucewood Farms, Heber Downs.

### Electrical Cake Oven Installed Here

The Stover Bakery has just added an electric oven to the ever increasing equipment of the local shop. The new outfit will handle the cake end of the business which will allow the large brick oven to be used entirely for bread baking. The latest equipment is of modern design of metal construction heavily insulated with two compartments, one above the other. It was made by the Penderith people who specialize in such equipment. There are variable heats, and when on high draws 68 amperes, about 8 or 10 horsepower. The expensive equipment calls for a complete overhaul of the electrical installation in the plant, all designed to meet the constantly increasing demand for Stover products of both bread and cakes.

### Mrs. Jos. Mowder Passes in 87th Year

The passing of Mrs. Joseph Mowder at the family home on Albert street, Stouffville, on Wednesday afternoon, Dec. 26th, came somewhat as a shock, since she had not been considered seriously ill, in fact she enjoyed a good Christmas. Mrs. Mowder was in her 87th year, being one of Stouffville's eldest residents.

Born on the farm just south of town near Mongolla, she was of Pennsylvania Dutch descent, her father being the late Daniel Hoover. She attended school at Mongolla, and married Joseph Mowder when the couple took up farming, until they retired in town in 1918. They always lived in the neighborhood during their active years on farms south and east of the village. Mr. Mowder died in 1931.

Surviving are three sons, Frank at home, Joseph of Toronto, and Fred of Claremont, also three daughters, Mrs. Lloyd Turner, Miss Mae Mowder and Mrs. Charles Barkey. An only surviving brother is Ludwig Hoover of Stouffville, and a sister Miss Mila Hoover of Toronto. Mrs. Mowder will always be remembered as a good mother, and she enjoyed a wide circle of friends, even in her latter years when they enjoyed visiting at her home.

The funeral will be held on Friday afternoon at 3.30 from the late home. Rev. D. Davis will conduct the service. Interment will be made at Stouffville cemetery.

vehicles will be eligible to purchase tires without restriction, excepting the ability of the dealers to meet the demand.



Christmas turkey and mince pie didn't mean a thing to seven-year-old Albert Gagnon of Meadow Lake, Sask. He can only be fed through tubes directly into his digestive system. But next year he hopes to go through a Christmas bill of fare from turkey to salted nuts, and

taste every mouthful. Albert, shown here with his panda, "Tommy," is in Toronto General Hospital awaiting a complicated operation by which four specialists and the hospital staff hope to remove a three-inch constriction of the esophagus. As a child of two years, he swallowed a quantity of lye.

### Decide on Two Sections for Junior Hockey League

Opening Game Here with Uxbridge on January 4th

The Junior C. O.H.A. group with which Stouffville has entered a team, will be divided into two sections. It was decided at a meeting held during the weekend of representatives of all the eight clubs involved. Section (A) will comprise Port Hope, Peterboro, Lindsay and Lakefield, and section (B) will be Whitchy, Port Perry, Uxbridge and Stouffville.

The winners from each section will play a best two out of three game series to decide the championship. Incidentally the Peterboro entry is a junior 'B' team which will not enter the picture so far as play-offs are concerned. In the event that this team should top the northern group, then the second place team in that section would be the one to play off with the winner of the Stouffville group.

The teams will play a double schedule beginning on January 2nd and ending Feb. 12th. Stouffville's home games will all be played on Friday nights, with the first one against Uxbridge, Jan. 4th.

Coach "Ike" Harper has been putting his outfit through some real workouts during the past week and a half, and is quite satisfied with the material which is shaping up.

- January 2 Port Perry at Whitchy
- January 4 Uxbridge at Stouffville
- January 7 Stouffville at Port Perry
- January 8 Whitchy at Uxbridge
- January 9 Stouffville at Whitchy
- January 11 Port Perry at Stouffville
- January 14 Whitchy at Port Perry
- January 15 Port Perry at Uxbridge
- January 16 Uxbridge at Whitchy
- January 18 Whitchy at Stouffville
- January 21 Uxbridge at Port Perry
- January 22 Stouffville at Uxbridge
- January 25 Port Perry at Whitchy
- January 28 Stouffville at Port Perry
- January 29 Whitchy at Uxbridge
- January 30 Stouffville at Whitchy
- February 1 Port Perry at Stouffville
- February 4 Whitchy at Port Perry

### RUSHED TO HOSPITAL CHRISTMAS EVE

Well known merchant at Ballantyne, Mr. Gilbert Wright, was rushed to the Toronto Western Hospital on Christmas eve where they diagnosed his case as double pneumonia. He is reported as a very sick man, but is holding his own well, and is expected to make good improvement shortly.

### Merchants Attain New Records

Some Stouffville merchants are able to report one of the busiest Christmas sales yet attained by them, and all declare that trade could not have been better. As one merchant said, "we had less goods but we took in more money than ever before on a certain day." This meant that with staple lines off the market, shoppers went for more expensive lines. For instance a good warm \$3.50 or \$4 sweater was not to be had, but you could buy one costing \$12 or \$15. This situation is blamed on the ceiling price, which it is urged must be revised immediately to permit staple lines to come back.

In commercial writing paper there is not a regular line of 20 pound bond on the market, costing the retailer 13 to 15c a pound. If you want a 20 pound bond, only Linen Record, or some such outlandish priced paper, costing 60c wholesale is obtainable. Government regulations do not permit as yet the manufacture of the 13 cent paper.

Getting back to the Christmas trade, it is learned that shopping was completed earlier this year, so that the last-minute buying on Christmas eve was noticeably light. The public obtained their requirements early, fearing a quick sell-out.

All the stores remained closed on Wednesday in recognition of Boxing Day, and an opportunity to give their staffs a good rest after the heavy week of long hours.

- February 5 Port Perry at Uxbridge
- February 6 Uxbridge at Whitchy
- February 8 Whitchy at Stouffville
- February 11 Uxbridge at Port Perry
- February 12 Stouffville at Uxbridge

### Oldest Resident Seneca Baker Passed Away on Christmas Day, Buried Friday

Born in Whitchurch Township 96 Years Ago.

Early on Christmas morning, Seneca Baker, who passed his 95th birthday last August, answered the inevitable call that he predicted five

years ago would soon come when on his birthday he told a reporter that he would die if he quit work. At that time he was quite busy doing odd things about the farm, but soon after he was not able to be a bout and with failing eyesight, he gradually weakened, although he outlived his fondest expectations. Up to a very short time ago he kept a clear mind, and his daughter read the newspapers to him, in which he was always interested. He was a student of public events, and early Canadian history.

His long and honorable municipal record was always a matter of pride, and rightfully so. Mr. Baker was elected reeve of Whitchurch first in 1895, returned in 1896, and again served in this capacity in 1907-8, 1913 and 1914, six terms in all during which time he was honored with the Wardenship of the County of York in the year 1907. Resurrections were not gained easily in those days, for there was many a turbulent battle at the polls.

Staunch Liberal, he had said that it took courage to be a Liberal in his youthful days, for the Irish Tories of that time ruled with an iron hand. Mr. Baker was a great admirer of Premier Mackenzie King, and during his latter years he took very tolerant views, and could see a lot of good in other parties to which he did not subscribe any support. All through his long career in public life no one ever dreamed of pointing the finger of public scandal at him, and he was greatly respected by his opponents for his straightforward dealings.

Back in the days when the rural church was so much a part of the life of the people, when transportation was slow and roads not so good, Mr. Baker contributed much to the life of the Baker Hill Baptist church in its most active days. He used his musical talent to conduct a choir, his other talents to serve in all offices of the church, and to lend such assistance as was needed in any department of its activities. A great reader himself, he encouraged the young along this line, and introduced the Sunday School library at Baker Hill at a time when it was so much appreciated.

Chatting with friends on his 90th birthday he said that he had no hard and fast rule for long life. Moderate living and a measure of good luck had much to do with it, he suggested.

Seneca Baker, whose father Joel Baker, pioneer lumber merchant, settled in Whitchurch over a hundred years ago, married Esther Milliken, who predeceased him some years ago. They celebrated their golden wedding in June 1938.

There survives a family of nine, four sons and five daughters. The sons are Bert and Eugene of Whitchurch, Oscar of Welland, and Morgan of King, and now employed with the Soldiers Rehabilitation Commission in Toronto. The daughters are (Tillie) Mrs. Barnes who lived in the old family home and gave such loving and tender care to her father in his declining years, also (Zillah) Mrs. Gilbert of Stouffville, (Laura) Mrs. Cook of Newmarket, (Ida) Mrs. Miller of Sutton, and (Violet) Mrs. Thos. Simpson, Ballantyne.

Also surviving are two brothers, Dr. W. A. Baker, aged 81, of Peterborough, and Rev. J. Baker, aged 91, Toronto. Only last summer the three aged men were able to be together which was quite an unusual event in the history of any family where three of such great age are spared so long.

The funeral service this Friday afternoon will be held in Baker Hill church, commencing at 2.30 o'clock, and will be conducted by Rev. D. Macgregor and Rev. E. Morton. A short service at the late home at 2 o'clock will precede the funeral cortege to the church.

Mr. and Mrs. L. C. Murphy and family spent the holiday with relatives at Amhurstburg.

### GOODWOOD BOY LEAVES CHRISTIE STREET

Able to leave Christie Street Hospital, Toronto, last week Ralph Cooper, son of Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Cooper was welcomed home on Friday by his friends in his home village of Goodwood. Wounded while fighting in Holland, Ralph received a nasty bullet injury in the leg near the thigh, and the case was a complicated one, necessitating the grafting of bone saved from the shin bone on one leg, and screwed to the injured bone of the other leg. "Everybody is delighted to see Joe back again," Reeve John Rae told The Tribune.

### JOHN SCHELL RETURNS

John Schell who was raised around Ringwood where his mother lived for some years, and where John received his schooling, has returned from Overseas. He saw service in Italy, Sicily and North Africa, but is looking fine after his rugged career. He enlisted from Toronto shortly after he left the home locality here.

### Whitchurch Gets All But \$8,000 Taxes

Tax payers in Whitchurch township responded to their annual obligation this year in paying taxes to a remarkable degree. Only \$8,000 remain unpaid out of a total collection of \$57,000.

Persons making payment had the option of settling their account through the banks at Stouffville, Aurora, Newmarket and Mount Albert, or paying direct to R. E. Ratcliff, collector. Some made payment at the office of the Township treasurer, and so every facility was made available that could be to receive the money.

The good showing is a reflection of good times and good prices enjoyed for farm products today. May it continue this way for years to come.

### Stricken, Preparing for Market

In the act of loading his car with Christmas poultry for the Whitchy market, William W. Bassett of Greenwood, was suddenly stricken beside his car, and died almost immediately on Friday afternoon. The load had just been made ready, and Mrs. Bassett's daughter, Mrs. Albert Maskell, went out from the house to start the car when she saw her father slump to the ground. She managed to get him into the house in his unconscious condition, but he never rallied. About a year ago Mr. Bassett suffered a stroke also, but he recovered and enjoyed good health all last summer. He was in his 74th year.

The funeral on Sunday afternoon took place from the late home at Greenwood to Stouffville cemetery, where the remains were laid beside those of his wife who died 32 years ago.

William Bassett was born in Devonshire, England, and came to Canada at the age of 13 years. He spent his life in the Unionville and Ringwood districts, and seven years ago moved to Pickering township. He married Jennie Jennings, sister of Messrs. Thos. and Delbert Jennings of Stouffville, but she died at quite an early age.

Mr. and Mrs. Bassett are survived by one daughter Mrs. Albert Maskell, and one son Arthur Bassett. There are three grandchildren, Jean, Olive, and Shirley. An only brother Frank Bassett lives at Dunbarton.

The funeral service was conducted by an old friend of the family, Rev. E. Morton of Stouffville, and pallbearers were neighbors and associates.

### DOES FARM CHORES AT 92 YEARS OF AGE

Still glad to count himself a useful and reliable chore boy about the farm, Mr. Ezra Clubine celebrated his 92nd birthday at his home on the townline west of Stouffville on Wednesday, Dec. 26th.

Mr. Clubine possesses all his faculties to a marked degree, enjoying good hearing, and good eyesight, so that he is able to keep up with his reading.

**FIRE RATIONING OFF**  
Tire rationing ends in January, so that all passenger cars and other