

The Tribune, Stouffville, Ont., Thursday, December 12, 1946

## Audley Community Club Celebrates 20th Anniversary

A successful business man in a neighboring city, attending a function in Pickering recently, remarked to the writer, that he had been born in the township, where as a boy he had known everybody in a large radius, and that now he did not see one familiar face. The ghosts of the past nineties seem to rise from the old swimming hole and the knarled apple trees on many a neglected farmstead, as he passed along the once familiar sidelines of our delightful township.

So quickly does the changing time cover up the familiarities of place and faces. Even a passing of five years in a neighborhood effects a change of personnel that is lamented by many when they reflect on friendships of to-day. Go over the lists of residents on any two mile stretch of our leading concession lines, and count the number of direct representatives of our pioneer peoples, and the results will be startling. And this marked movement is being speeded up by the recent war displacements of populations.

And yet, each of these communities had their local interest and social get-togethers. In no part of the township is this more noticeable than in the Audley neighborhood. Our pioneer families had their church activities, their little red school house gathering and literary societies, their wood paring, building and quilting bees, while the national political contests often did the good fraternal spirit fostered by these local agencies.

The old Grange in the seventies and eighties contributed much in the neighborhood spirit, for it was of no secret politics. Following that the Patrons of Industry provided local groups that embraced everybody in its social rounds of meetings. Each of these activities numbered sometimes as many as a hundred people at a monthly gathering here.

The advent of the motor car, at the beginning of the century, was a disorganizing influence on local society. These country people, who in their rugged individualism, began to move farther afield for their amusements. Surprise parties, sleighing parties and wedding anniversaries absorbed restless energies until the first great war broke out. After it, several years were needed to get down to smooth running again.

It was just at this time that a few people at a choir practice in the little frame church at Audley, looked around for a more abundant life. A piano was needed. How to get it was the query at one Friday prac-

tise. "Why not try a drama?" suggested one. And the idea caught. But to appeal to the whole community, some organization should be formed, suggested another. So then and there they decided to form some sort of community sponsorship.

A meeting was called of all who were interested in the neighborhood improvement. At this meeting consisting of active church members, singers, unattached residents, other religious adherents and nearby people, it was decided to form a community club, non-sectarian and non-political. They name a skeleton executive to do the spade work in the organization. R. P. Winter was chosen the first president with Mrs. Gladys Pratt as secretary. And the name they chose was the Audley Community Club. The time was the fall of 1926.

Enthusiastically all the members went to work in drafting a constitution and proceeded at once to put on a play. "The Village Doctor" was the one chosen and the whole locality still remembers how well it went over so that repeat performances were called for locally while calls from outside made a record in its presentation. It was no trouble to purchase a piano for the church, and the presentation of it to the church was the first of the many acts of service.

A printed constitution was drawn up and a declaration of policy made, to which every member had to subscribe when entering. Procedure was to be on parliamentary rules. All actions of the club were to rest on purely democratic lines, which would stress individual initiative and collective contributions to the good of the vicinity.

Thus a club that has stood longer than many neighborhoods can boast of, with a wealth of accomplish deeds and assistance of which the community is justly proud. No wonder then, that at a recent gathering at the home of Percy and Mrs. Neale it took the form of a wedding anniversary with its candel cake and festive finery. Although the night was, conflicting with some other affairs, a fairly large crowd attended. About half of the past presidents of the club were there. Many of these found it difficult to think on their feet, before they got the training of society, but who on this occasion made creditable remarks and contributed to the review of the twenty years of service. Dick Winters, George Puckrin, Ben Bryant, Arch Bell, Fred Puckrin, Gord Winters, Percy Neale and Dick Winters Jr., the present president, made addresses that all

### WATER \$10.00 LOAD

The continued long dry spell in the Lindsay area left many a well dry and farmers are still hauling large loads of water for many miles and paying for it at the rate of \$10 a load.

The drought, however, has brought business to one man, John Deyell. He is 88 years old, but all his life has been very successful with a divining rod, with which he can locate water 75 and 100 feet below the surface.

"I have been busier this fall than ever before in my experience," said Mr. Deyell. "And I have not made a miss at any time in my life. If I can't find water then I give the people their money back—this has never happened."

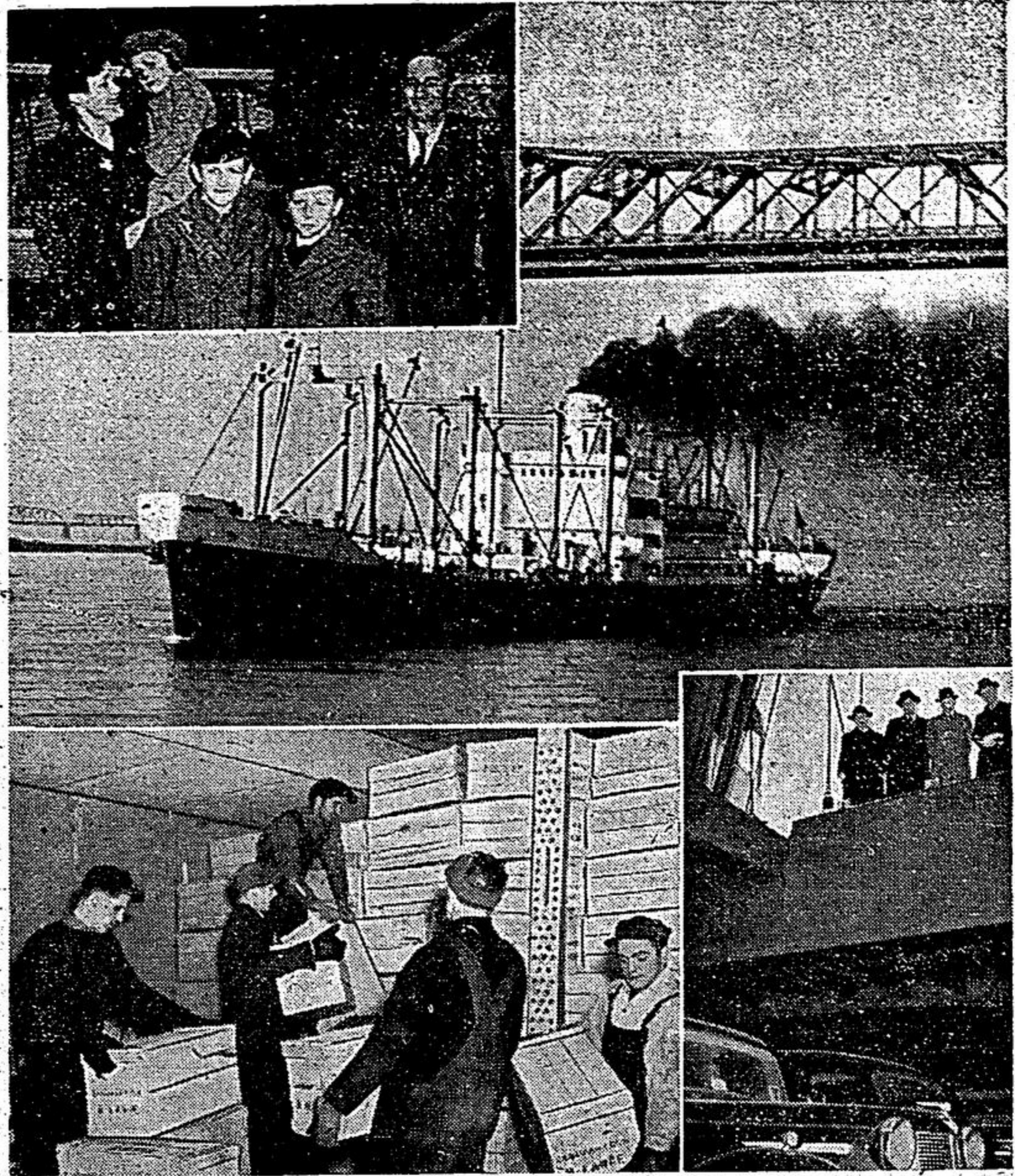
stressed the good the club had done to the community and the help it had been to each. Regrets were received from Jack Bryant, and, F. M. Chapman, the latter having helped fill out the first year's president's term when the elected one was away on business, and who was president about ten years later. Three former secretaries were present and spoke also, Mrs. Clemence, Mrs. Ben Bryant, Mrs. Everent Bryant and Mrs. Dick Winter. Other past secretaries who were not present number among them, Mrs. Hortop of Orangeville, Mrs. Jack Spencer of Whitby, Miss Mary Neale of Toronto, Mrs. Fred Puckrin, Mrs. Kay Walker of Port Perry.

Bill Winters who has always been a real stalwart in the athletics of the club, and who is not actively connected with the Junior Farmers movement in Brooklin, called upon the members to assist these young people by assisting them in sending samples of the soils of their fields for analysis so as to make the work of agriculture less hazardous. The District Representative F. M. Campbell B.S.A. sent his regrets at not being able to be there.

It was recounted that the activities of the club have not been limited to sending flowers to the sick, or assistance to unfortunate ones but have been in the nature of influencing legislation by the local township, by the Federal authorities, whose acts are always the results of opinions and demands from the people.

It is true that some mistakes have been made. Only a dead man makes no mistakes. Selfishness, personal ambitions, pleasure seeking and cliques can ruin any aggregation of citizens, and the Club has always had the foresight to curb any such things before they wrecked its good name.

## BUSY BEAVERS



Back on the seas again, the growing Canadian Pacific fleet of fast cargo ships carried some 200,000 tons of foodstuffs and other Canadian products to Britain during the shipping season. Above, the heavily-laden

Beaver Glen passes under Jacques Cartier Bridge bound for London on one of the 20 C.P.S.S. sailings during the summer. Inset at top shows the family of George Nicholls, formerly of London, England arriving on the Beaverburn to settle in Canada

at Niagara Falls. Bottom left, shows part of a large shipment of eggs being loaded on the Beaverlake. Picture at bottom right shows some small English cars arriving in Canada on the Beaverburn when she reached Montreal on her maiden trip.

### BIRTHS

**BARTHOLOMEW**—Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Bartholomew (nee Helen Adams) are happy to announce the birth of a son, Bruce Gordon, on Monday, Dec. 2, 1946, at Oakville Temporary Hospital.

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