

# The Stouffville Tribune

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TWELVE PAGES

## First Train Through Town Recalled by Eye Witness

Edward O'Brien who has made 250,000 pies for Cape Cod Visitors recalls early days in Stouffville. Reveals Marvelous Memory at 88.

Probably no other living person could relate the story told by Ed. O'Brien, now 88, who recalls Business in Stouffville over 70 years ago. Member of one of the village's pioneer families, prominent in their day, Mr. O'Brien is still operating his famous chicken pie shop at Cape Cod, one of America's greatest summer resorts. With but a small beginning his pie shop is now renowned and his records show that he has sold 250,000 pies over the years.

At the request of The Tribune, he has penned an interesting letter, written in a hand writing that would put many of us to shame for legibility. Indeed, few persons at his great age would attempt to describe a village and recall names of persons who carried on business here that far back. But let's hear from Mr. O'Brien.

Dunnisport, Cape Cod.  
Editor Nolan:

In requesting a recollection article for your paper, I will attempt same. But no dates will be given, as that's beyond me. And just how far back you want me to start is a guess. I left Stouffville 71 years ago. In the first place, the hotels were, Mansion House, just west of the railway and Queen's Hotel corner near Church St., at the east end of town, Yake's on the corner of the tenth and one just across the street, of which I have forgotten the name.

The stores were those of Bill Sanders, Archie Leaney, White's bake shop. At the east end either Laws' or Laidlaw's. The doctors I recall were Dr. Sil Freel, and Dr. Loyd. Blacksmith shops were operated by German and Dan O'Brien. Pump-maker was I Boadway down the other way. There were no pipes at that time, all pumps were made of wood. Outside of having the best farms and farmers we had Mr. Lead' Wheeler's Flour Mill and Saw Mill. This was where I had my first employment. My job at that time was hauling logs from the pond across the street with a yoke of oxen, and I got ahead of the sawer my father. I would take old Jimmy, the White's horse and dump cart and haul sawdust to the fire. At other times I worked in the barrel shop and then the flour mill.

Then there was Geo. Flint's sash and door factory where my father and I worked. There was the cheese factory, Armstrong's plant and Jack Sanders near the coal yard. There was McCullum's tailor shop, Daley's shoe store, Dan McMurchie's tannery, Graham's tin shop, Grant's jewellery store, Rodrick and Bruel's wagon shop, Burkholder's furniture, Phil Dan's furniture, eastend. When I left Stouffville there was only one building west of the railway, and that was occupied by Mrs. Barkey, afterward, Mrs. Thos. Williamson. There was only one street running north and south, that was Church Street. Stouffville Fair was held just north of the Methodist Church. There were only two houses on the east side of the street and Burkholder's furniture shop.

I went through the exciting times when the old Toronto and Nipissing railway was being built. I remember walking half way to Markham to see Old No. 1 with all its brass bands around the boiler, shining so you see your face in it. This was my first sight of a locomotive. Then there was the first double-header here which afterwards exploded.

I was almost the first person there and was the boy who found the body of one of the two firemen, blown almost up to S. Stouffer's farm. The other fireman was blown into the station agent's second storey window. His house was across the yard. The engineer was blown into the end of a pile of cordwood. The brakeman went the length of the train with the engine bell into the caboose. The boiler went clean over the top of the station, onto a pile of wood. At that time they fired the locomotives with wood. All four people were killed outright. A peculiar happening in connection with the explosion was the old expressman, Tommy Toze and horse which stood just across the platform and was not hurt in the least. This story may be entertaining for the younger generation.

As to my school days and teachers—my first days at school were in the old hall on Fockler's lane

## WHITCHURCH FARM SOLD

Mr. Adam Young has sold his 13 1/2 acre farm on the 9th concession of Whitchurch for \$9,000 according to filing records just made. The property is lot 14, and is three and a half miles north of Stouffville, and a short distance south of Musselman's Lake. The new owner hails from suburban Toronto.

This property is known as the old Forsyth farm and has a large square design cement block house. Mr. Young located there little more than three years ago. He is calling a public auction sale for Feb. 14th, when Prentice & Prentice will sell the dairy cattle and other live stock, also implements, hay and grain.

## CAUGHT IN UNIONVILLE

Excitement was high at Unionville on Monday when two police cars raced into the village chasing a fleeing car carrying three Toronto youths in a stolen car. Police raced up Kennedy Road touching 90, fired shots at the runaway car, until they reached Unionville. Here the three lads abandoned the stolen car and ran to escape, but were captured in short order on a side street.

## Paying Hospitalization For Man with \$2600 Salary, "Crime"-Disney

"Why this township should be saddled with hospitalization for a man getting over \$2500 a year salary is an absolute crime," stated Deputy-Reeve Frank Disney at special session of council on Monday.

This statement was the result of the revelation that a Pickering resident, reputed by the relief officer to be drawing more than \$2500 a year in salary was charging his hospital account of some \$300 on the township and county. Reeve Westney told members that the county had repudiated the hospital claim two years ago, but now the institution was threatening to sue. The county had then paid \$150 of the account of which amount Pickering will have to pay 50%.

Mr. Westney said that the only alternative to paying that the council would have, would be to sue the man who received the service.

"Then I'd sue," said Councillor Burk.

"It's getting to be a racket," stated Councillor Geo. Todd.

Relief Officer Johnston pointed out that there was little need of investigating cases, if anyone, regardless of income could enter a hospital, claim to be indigent, and make the municipality pay.

People who stoop to a thing like that might feel pretty small if their names were revealed in the press, and the ratepayers could see just who was saddling all the hospitalization costs on them, suggested Councillor Todd.

## THUMB CUT OFF AT RINGWOOD WORK SHOP

Adam Ruhl, employee of the Toronto Spindle-Carving Co., Ringwood, lost the thumb from his right hand while engaged in work in the shop there. He was cutting with a power saw when he struck a knot, causing his hand to slip.

and my first teacher was Miss Tilly Leaper, and my first male teacher, McKinley. Then came Adam Ross, Mr. Mann and Jim Hand. I mixed the mortar and carried the hod to build the first four-room school for Stouffville, opposite the old town hall.

Just a word or two about sports—Stouffville always was in front in all kinds of games, especially baseball. There was great rivalry between Stouffville and Markham, whenever we went to Markham or they came to Stouffville. The visitors always brought the best fighting talent they had, as invariably it ended up that way. Two of our best men as I remember them, were Jim Dowsley and Flash Brooks. The above are from my recollection as a boy. Stouffville of course, was considerably built up when I left at 17 years of age.

Monkhouse was the tailor at that time. Old Uncle Flint was the mail courier who always carried the mail in the old-fashioned buckboard. The postoffice was located on the hill half way to the east. Then there was Gibney's foundry, and Wideman's tombstone shop. These existed at the time I left town. I am in my 88th year and have had to do a little scratching to remember all I have written.

## New Year Robin At Ballantrae

Reports of having seen a robin are mentioned frequently in the daily press. Either the red breasted, summer bird has returned very early or never left for the South this winter at all. In any event Robin Red Breast has been around Ballantrae all winter, for Mr. Fred W. Jaynes reported having seen one at Ballantrae on January 2nd this year. Mr. Jaynes said the bird was sitting up in a maple tree chirping like a good fellow. As he approached the tree the bird turned and faced him, displaying its red breast in no mistaken fashion.

## Musselman's Lake Ice Harvest on Next Week

Ice cutting in dead earnest will begin next week at Musselman's Lake when the thousands of cakes that go to fill the ice houses of farmers and butchers, will find their way into the empty storage. Carl Rose declared this week that the quality of ice on the lake right now is probably the best in three years, 12 inches in depth, but nice and clear. Mr. Rose predicted that weather conditions between now and Monday will not spoil the ice even if it failed to get very cold. He explains that the absence of snow on the ice makes for an improved product, and there is no snow on the lake now.

In a normal winter ice cutting begins about January 15, but at that date this month there was only four inches of ice, and the situation didn't look very good. However, one or two cold snaps lasting only over night enabled Jack Frost to do his work, until the 12-inch blocks are now available. If we get a cold weekend another three inches may easily be added to the depth of ice.

## High School Choir Wins Shield

Stouffville High School mixed choir under the leadership of L. C. Murphy, was awarded the championship shield at the Toronto East Musical Festival held in Glenmount United Church on Tuesday. The local school singers scored eighty points, and were highly complimented by the adjudicator. The local United Church choir also competed in a class for over twenty-five voices, and stood second. A Toronto choir from the Church of the Nativity won first in this competition.

## S. S. Convention is Opposed to Open Sun.

"Enrichment and Enlargement through Evangelism," was the theme for the 80th annual Sunday School Convention of Markham Township Association, held at Victoria Square on Wednesday last week, for which the ladies of the United Church there prepared excellent meals for the delegates who came in great numbers, indicating that while attendance at Sunday School is not all that could be hoped for, there is a sizeable band of faithful workers.

Between session Mr. Don Ratcliff showed a temperance film, while much credit for the success of the day was given to President Win Timbers. He was returned for another year. The morning session was enthused by a prayer offered by Rev. Mr. Curry, resident pastor. Reports were filed by all the departments and Rev. W. Butt gave a lengthy talk on how a Sunday School should be conducted. With only a few minutes at his disposal Rev. N. Rowan led a worthwhile discussion on the convention theme. He offered some creative ideas.

Mr. R. Perkins led the afternoon singing and Mr. Oliver Raymer gave an address on "Enlargement through Evangelism." A temperance talk was given by Mrs. J. H. Peacock of the W.C.T.U. Mrs. Don Ratcliff and Mrs. Rowan conducted a children's service.

Devotional was conducted in the evening by Rev. C. Berry and the resolution committee submitted, "that whereas there is a movement on foot to create Sunday a wide-open day, this convention goes on record as urging those in authority to preserve the sanctity of the Lord's Day by refusing such legislation."

The evening service heard a grand address by Dr. Gallagher, secretary of the Canadian Council of Churches, and the thanks of all went to the ladies for their work in looking after the needs with splendid meals.

Besides President Timbers those elected were: 1st vice-president, Archie Little; 2nd vice-president, Bruce Clark; Secy-Treas., C. R. James, assistant secretary, E. N. Silver.

Come to the skating party being conducted by the Stouffville High School, on the spacious school open-air rink on Friday evening, Jan. 28th.

## Uxbridge Twp. Farmer Stands On Attempted Murder Charge

Earl Hopkins pleaded not guilty to the murder charge of his brother Marlin whom he shot last November in the home of George Matthews on the 5th concession, after an alleged altercation said to have dated back to the winding up of the father's estate, and finally over a girl staying at the Matthews home.

Hopkins walked to his home some rods away from the Matthews place at the foot of the "Bootjack" Hill, and brought back a gun which he levelled at his brother through a window, former evidence indicated.

Dr. D. Bean, Toronto General Hospital, said Marlin was in an extremely serious condition when brought to the hospital, with little chance of recovery. However, the miraculous happened, and he is out of danger now. The case is proceeding at Whitley.

George Matthews, first crown witness, said that Earl had been living at his home for two days preceding the shooting. On Monday, Nov. 22, he went to Toronto, accompanied by Earl and Marlin, the witness said. Marlin had a cheque for \$500 which he cashed in Uxbridge. After going to Toronto Earl and Matthews delivered a load of scrap iron and returned to Matthews' home, leaving Marlin in Toronto to look for a job.

On November 24, witness continued, he and Earl went to Toronto with another load of scrap, and on their way home, stopped off at the National Hotel in Toronto for sandwiches and beer. Marlin came into the dining room, Matthews stated, and had a beer with them. When the beverage room re-opened at 8 p.m., he and Earl went to it but the waiter refused to serve them any more beer.

Driving back, Matthews said, Earl had complained that Marlin had "got it in for him" and also had stated that the older Hopkins brother had not paid him for a harvesting trip to Western Canada that both had made earlier in the year. Matthews testified that on November 25, the day of the shooting, Earl left the house in the morning and returned in the evening. He was in a sober condition.

Later in the evening Marlin arrived at the Matthews' home in a taxi from Toronto accompanied by Marlon O'Brien, Mary Tanak, and Leonard Bulloch. The party from Toronto brought with them 34 pints of beer.

"Earl left while the others were still there, saying he would be back in the morning," Matthews said. "There was no argument before he left."

"About 11.30 p.m., while Bulloch, Mary Tanak and I were in the bedroom talking and Marlin, Marlon O'Brien and Marcia Harris, my housekeeper, were in the living room, I heard a noise like a glass chimney of a lamp breaking. I ran out of the bedroom to the living room, and saw Earl standing on the verandah at the window with a gun in his hand. The living room window had a hole about six to eight inches in diameter in it. I saw Marlin slumped on a couch in the living room.

"I ran out and grabbed the gun by its stock and barrel. I said, 'Give me that gun.' Earl said, 'No, I won't. I got 'im. Where's the other guy?' I said, 'What other guy?' and he replied, 'the guy that came with Marlin (Bulloch)."

"I told Earl that Bulloch had done no harm. Then I asked him if there were any more shells in the gun, and he said there was. I asked him as a favour to unload it, and he worked the ejector and the shell came out. I kicked the shell under a couch on the verandah. He worked the ejector again, but no more shells came out," Matthews said.

Matthews stated that he struggled with Earl but the latter broke away and left the premises still in possession of the gun. Fearing that the accused might return, Matthews said he hustled the rest of the Toronto party through a trap door into the cellar while Marlin lay bleeding on the couch.

Crown Attorney Alec C. Hall, K.C., introduced Marlin's blood-stained shirt and undershirt as exhibits. Matthews said that he had then summoned a doctor and the police.

Under cross-examination by A. W. S. Greer, K.C., defense counsel, Matthews said that except for Marlin he had never met any of the party from Toronto before that night. He added that Marlin and Earl had always seemed to get along well together.

After Earl and Marlin returned from their Western trip, Earl seemed to be dull and listless, witness stated.

"Marlin told me to my face that Earl was crazy, and that was why he had to bring him back from the west," Matthews said.

All he heard was the tinkling of glass; he did not hear a shot, witness declared. He admitted that he was not sober at the time of the shooting, but denied he was drunk. "I was half-and-half," he said, as the spectators laughed.

## C. B. BOYNTON HEADS MARKHAM FAIR BOARD

Chas. B. Boynton was elected president of the Markham Agricultural Society at the annual meeting on Saturday. Lloyd Turner of Stouffville is second vice and Roy H. Crosby is the efficient secretary again. The meeting was conducted by Fred Baggs, former president, and the attendance was large showing high interest in this big annual fall fair.

## Goodwood's Dr. Darling Died on Monday

Just five weeks from the date The Tribune published the life history of Dr. R. E. Darling of Goodwood, the aged physician died at the Brierbush hospital in Stouffville on Monday this week in his 80th year. Thus the village of Goodwood is without a resident physician for the first time in nearly 50 years.

Dr. Darling's wife whose maiden name was Helen Hostrasser died six years ago, and surviving are his only son Ronald, and a daughter Mrs. Arthur Baker, Stouffville.

The funeral this Thursday afternoon will be from O'Neill's Chapel in Stouffville to Goodwood cemetery. Service in the chapel at 2 p.m.

## Unionville Comes from Behind to Win Over Aurora

In a snappy O.H.A. Junior C' hockey game at Unionville on Tuesday night, Unionville Mutuals overcame a three goal lead to down Aurora Meteors 5-1. Over five hundred fans crowded the Crosby Memorial rink.

Aurora swept to a three-goal lead in the first period, Ron Simmons and Doug Ross being the snipers. Unionville bounced right back to tie in the count in the middle frame and went on to win in the last period.

Lyall Petch, Boychoff and Minton were the Unionville scorers. Two former Stouffville goalies are opposing each other, Doug Moore in the Aurora net and Norm Stunden in the Unionville cage. Both net-minders were kept on the jump throughout the sixty minutes, and both came up with some sparkling stops. The win ran Unionville's winning streak up to six games with one tie, and was their second win over the Aurora Club. The Mutuals were without the services of Bun Sellers.

## ANNOUNCEMENT

Mr. and Mrs. Geo. Gower, Ringwood, will be at home to their friends on the occasion of their golden wedding anniversary on Feb. 1st, from 2 to 4 and from 7 to 9 p.m. Their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Almer Fockler, Stouffville, will receive with them, on the occasion of their silver wedding anniversary.

## MARGUERITE HODGINS AND HAROLD MASON UNITED IN WEDLOCK

A marriage of real local interest was performed at Stouffville on Saturday last when Marguerite Peplow, daughter of Mrs. Hodgins and the late John Hodgins was married to Harold Mason, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Henry Mason, Leeds, Yorkshire, England. The ceremony was performed by Rev. D. Davis.

## Old Age Pension Boards are Disbanded

Ten New Applicants in Stouffville in 1948

The Old Age Pension Boards throughout the province have been disbanded by a provincial amendment in administration for nearly 25 years.

Likewise Mothers' Allowance Boards. Mr. Herman Kidd of Whitchurch was chairman of the York County Old Age Pension Board. Mothers' Allowance Boards have been in effect since 1925, and Old Age Pension Boards since 1929. The duty of the boards was to receive applications, carry out certain investigation and pass on the information to the Department at Queen's Park.

In York County Mr. Holtis Beckett for the Old Age Pension Board has been retained to write up applications, which will clear once a month, and hurry them on to the Department. Mr. Beckett was secretary of the old board for years. He is a solicitor, well gratified and conversant with the Act. For the Mothers' Allowance Board Mr. W. C. Gohn of Mark-

## Whitchurch Feels Benefit of Dominion Railway Tax

According to the most recent report issued to the Township of Whitchurch respecting the municipalities liability for patients cared for in Ontario Mental Hospitals, there are six such persons who are the responsibility of the township.

Under a very old arrangement and Dominion Statute, there is what is known as the Dominion Railway Tax directly payable to the government at Ottawa, who in turn hands the money over for maintenance of mental cases in the public hospitals. Thus it comes that no municipality has to pay out of their annual income any money for this purpose, nor do they ever receive any share of the Dominion Railway Tax, not even if they had no mental cases in the institutions. It is just a book-keeping item to notify those municipalities who have such patients that they are being maintained through the railway tax imposed by Dominion laws.

Thus when it so happens that a municipality like Whitchurch has the responsibility of six mental cases perhaps for a lifetime, this tax comes in very handy in the financial picture.

## Veterans' Hall to Re-Open This Saturday

Stouffville Veterans' Memorial Hall will hold a gala re-opening dance this Saturday night, Jan. 29th. The newly erected hall has been closed for several weeks, while more interior work was being done, and the ceiling placed. The Legionaires will play for the dance, and the admission will be the regular 50c.

## Ask Attorney-General's Dept. for Police Survey

At a special meeting on Monday, Pickering Township Council went into consultation with Inspector Hand of the Provincial Police regarding the new setup for policing the township. At the present time, the Provincial Police Force is handling the municipality north of the 3rd concession, at no expense to the ratepayers, while the township maintains two officers south of the 3rd, the cost of which up to now has been charged against the entire township.

The suggestion has been made that the Provincial force take over the entire municipality. According to figures given council on Monday, the cost of handling the job this way would be cheaper than maintaining the present local force, and in addition the service would be greater, principally through the use of the radio system.

The question also arose as to whether or not the ratepayers south of the 3rd con. who are receiving the entire services of the local force, should not pay the entire cost of this force.

After considerable discussion, it was agreed that the Attorney General's Dept. should be asked to make a survey of the situation, and give advice as to their findings.

ham will continue in office to receive applications in this field. York County Council in session on Friday were told that 834 applications for Old Age Pensions were received in 1948, 40 additional for part pension, and 40 more were refused for various reasons. There are 53 persons receiving full pension on account of being blind. Six of seven blind persons were granted pensions in 1948. Below we give the number of old age pensions by municipalities within the County of York applied for in 1948:

Aurora 13, East Gwillimbury 10, East York 85, Etobicoke 40, Forest Hill 4, Georgina 11, King 24, Leaside 15, Long Branch 28, Markham Township 22, Markham Village 9, Mimico 17, Newmarket 24, New Toronto 19, North Gwillimbury 12, North York 65, Richmond Hill 5, Scarborough 89, Stouffville 11, Sutton 5, Swansea 18, Vaughan 18, Weston 25, Whitchurch 8, Woodbridge 1, York 250. Total 828.