

Claremont and District

By Staff Correspondent

Local dealers— Madill's Store and Overland's Store

The Sunday School Annual Meeting will be held this Thursday evening at seven o'clock in the S.S. Room. All the executive please be on hand.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Evans and family entertained the family on Christmas Day.

Mr. and Mrs. E. Shirk, our faithful telephone operators, were entertained at the home of their son, Elmer and wife in Stouffville on Christmas Day.

Mr. and Mrs. McGeechie of Toronto, Mr. and Mrs. Charlie Symes and family, and Mr. and Mrs. Victor Symes, were entertained at the Walter Symes home on Christmas Day. On New Years all of the family, numbering about twenty-six is expected to be seated around the family table at the father's home.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Lackey and son of Fraserville, Miss Lackey, and Mrs. Lackey's parents, were entertained at the manse by Rev. H. and Mrs. Lackey and children, on Christmas Day.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Redshaw entertained their family for Christmas, when twenty-six sat down to tables well laden with good things.

Mr. and Mrs. Tansley spent Christmas at the old family home of Mrs. Tansley in Toronto, here all the members had gathered to celebrate the day together.

Mr. and Mrs. Cliff Reynolds entertained their family at Christmas, including Jim of Toronto, Mr. Levi Linton, Mr. and Mrs. E. Baker, Mr. and Mrs. Hopkins and son.

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Gregg spent from Friday evening through Christmas Sunday and Monday with her parents and brothers at Norwood.

Mrs. T. Condy was entertained at the Jim Harris, and Mrs. Milton Harris home over Christmas.

Mrs. Rawson enjoyed Christmas at the home of Mr. and Mrs. J. McCreight of Stouffville.

Mr. and Mrs. Murray Ormerod and two children of Toronto have been visiting over the weekend at the home of his sister, Mr. and Mrs. Melvin Johnson and family.

Mr. Lloyd Linton had the misfortune to have his foot severely injured last Saturday, while doing the stable chores: a cow stepped upon it.

Mrs. Wiker and Mr. Gleeson of Toronto, spent Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Fred Evans and family.

Mr. and Mrs. Bill Tomlinson and daughter, of London, Mr. and Mrs. Ted Tomlinson and children of Toronto, Mr. and Mrs. Alan Tomlinson of Hamilton, and Mr. and Mrs. R. Cooper were entertained at the home of their parents, Dr. and Mrs. Tomlinson, over Christmas.

Mr. Malcolm Daniels of Green River, Mr. Clayton Jackson of Toronto and Genny and Mrs. Johnson were entertained at the Robt. Jackson home on Christmas Day.

Mrs. Bert Ham, Mr. and Mrs. Lou Sanderson and Miss Mabel Sanderson, all of Toronto, Mr. and Mrs. Harold Sanderson of Bethany, and Mr. and Mrs. Nelson Sanderson spent Christmas with Mr. and Mrs. Mate Anderson and family.

Mrs. J. Bennis, Miss Edna and the boys on the farm entertained about ten members of the family on Christmas Day, and motored to Toronto on Monday to the home of the youngest member of the family, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Robertson and small children, where the second celebration took place. This was the first time the Bennis family has been away from home at Christmas time throughout the years, and it was a very enjoyable experience for a change.

While the United Sunday School Supt. was discharging his duties as chairman at the Christmas Tree entertainment last Friday evening, some of the older boys who were, not particularly interested with helping along the good work inside, entertained themselves with playing pranks with the Supt.'s new English car, necessitating a visit to the garage. Needless to say he felt rather annoyed and an apology might help in smoothing things over.

Mrs. David Gregg and daughters Isobel and Jean entertained Mr. and

Mrs. T. Gregg and Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Gregg on Christmas Monday.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Pennel and daughters, Mr. and Mrs. J. Pickins and children, Mr. and Mrs. H. Mills, all of Toronto, also Mr. and Mrs. D. McCullough of Whitby and Mr. and Mrs. Freeman McCullough and family of Port Perry visited at the home of their parents Mr. and Mrs. J. McCullough on Christmas weekend. Mr. McCullough's condition has not altered much since he has been ill. He is confined to the bed most of the time.

Twenty-eight children and grandchildren sat down to Sunday dinner and supper with Mr. and Mrs. Morgan Evans. Perhaps this was the largest Christmas party in our community.

Mr. and Mrs. W. Ward and Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Ward and children of Oshawa were entertained on Monday afternoon at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Will Evans.

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Wilson and family of Mount Zion and Miss S. E. Evans spent Christmas Monday with Mr. and Mrs. Morgan Pugh of Uxbridge.

Mr. Dave Pugh enjoyed Christmas dinner and supper with Mr. and Mrs. A. Edwards of Whitby.

Pickering Log House 161 Years Old, Still Sound and Occupied

One hundred and sixty-one years ago, when Pickering township's now rich farm lands were but forest, a plucky widow and her three children set to work to hew themselves a home from the wilderness.

Her husband had been an officer in the Imperial forces. Records fail to show whether he was killed on duty or died of illness. Records do show, however, that the Crown granted to one Mrs. Elmsworth, in 1798, a hundred acres of land on what is now the Brock Road and the Fifth Concession. They show, too, that two sons and a daughter were by her side as they tramped over the 100 acres, picking for themselves the site for the log house they were to build and in which they were to live for nearly 40 years.

These records end—but the log house still stands, perpetuating the tale of pioneer days long after its builders have gone. One of the few of its nature still in good preservation. In 1939 it was restored and put in use by Dr. Neil McEwen. Today it is occupied by Mrs. Evans.

They built well, those pioneers. The square-hewn logs held by wooden pegs are as firm today as they were a century and a half ago. The mortar used to fill their chinked edges, made from the burned limestone of the district, clings tightly. Only the foundation logs (no attempt was made to build a stone foundation) have rotted away. These were replaced as was the roof, which now is a roof in name only. The original earth-packed floor, too, was covered.

Dr. McEwen found there more concrete rewards than mere tales of history, for twice he has unearthed sharp-edged flints which experts have identified as flint "knives" used by the Indians who once found Pickering Township a rich hunting ground.

These finds were made on the now-abandoned and overgrown trail which used to be the "tote road," running between Whitby and Markham. The tote road, in places a mere Indian trail, is one of the beauty spots of the district, winding down to Duffin's Creek which was once spanned by a low wooden bridge, some of the foundation timbers of which are still in place.

It was over this trail, Dr. McEwen tells, that the notorious "Markham Black Hand Gang" operated about 75 years ago. Cattle rustlers, desperadoes, thieves of anything on which they could lay their hands, they were the scourge of the district. On Sundays they would meet on "Hell's Half Acre," a pleasant stretch of level land rising from Duffin's Creek, so named because of their association with it. There they would plan their raids. The tale is still told of how they had lightly pegged shoes on their horses' hoofs so they could turn them backwards and puzzle the Sherlock Holmes of the day as to which way they had ridden.

No doubt the occupants of the old house heard their thundering past in the night, but now they are but a legend, while it still stands four-square. Its occupants, too, saw the first council meeting held in Pickering Township in 1850, in Thompson's Inn, on the opposite corner of the Brock Road and the Fifth Concession. Thompson's Inn has since burned down, but there remains a link with the meeting of 1850. The township clerk, assessor and collector who attended that meeting was Hector Beaton. Appointed in 1849, he held office until 1853, when he was succeeded by his son, Donald R. Beaton.

Mr. and Mrs. L. Feasby and Mr. and Mrs. Allen Feasby of Sandford, Mrs. Dave Pugh and Mrs. Ed. Pugh enjoyed Christmas Monday with Mr. and Mrs. Roy Morgan.

BROUGHAM

During the Christmas holidays Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Sheppard entertained Miss Lena van Wilpen and Miss Ann Vermeer of Amsterdam, Holland. They have travelled extensively, taking in western Europe. For the past few years they have lived in Curacao, Netherlands West Indies, which is about thirty miles from Venezuela. They have spent some time in New York and from there visited a brother in Saint Adel, Que., and now are planning a round trip of the United States.

A very pleasant evening was held in the hall on Friday last, when a fine concert was given by the Sunday School. Too much praise cannot be given to some of the younger members for the very able manner in which they did their part. Santa Claus arrived in his jolly way and distributed gifts to all the children.

Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Mairs and family spent the holiday with Mrs. Dawson of Claremont.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Ellicott were entertained at the home of their son, Manson and Mrs. Ellicott and family on Christmas day.

Mrs. L. Matthews spent the Christmas holidays with friends in Toronto. Mr. and Mrs. C. Balsdon and sons of Pickering spent Christmas Day with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton.

Mr. Vernon Balsdon of Montreal were among the many callers on Mr. and Mrs. M. Hamilton on Christmas day.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Ellicott, who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on Tuesday afternoon, when they were 'at home' to their friends and neighbors and to their family in the evening.

Mrs. H. Shea of Toronto called on friends here one day last week. Mr. Gerald Middleton spent a day shopping in Toronto last week.

Mr. D. A. Beer and Mr. Albert Beer, also Mrs. L. Matthews were at Brooklin on Friday afternoon attending the funeral of the late John Allems.

Mr. and Mrs. B. Ritchie were at home to all their family during the Christmas holidays.

Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Knox, Mr. and Mrs. Ross Knox and Betty-Jean also Mr. and Mrs. K. Pascoe were among those who attended the family gathering at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Jno. Knox of Hampton.

Local Entertainer Writes New "Hit"

There is plenty of Canadian talent in the east of the "Mother Goose" Christmas pantomime in Toronto this week and hopes are high that pantomime will, hereafter, become a part of the Christmas scene in Toronto.

One member of the cast is Al Harvey, a veteran radio comedian and a songwriter of achievement. Mr. Harvey's latest song, "Play, Hurdy-Gurdy, Play," has been recorded by Victor and is scheduled for release early next month. It was written in collaboration with Freddie Grant, who wrote the hit song of the Navy Show, "You'll Get Used To It."

Al Harvey and his brother, Bob, played in English music halls for seven years and, there again, they had great success with their own songs. "Whoops, We Go Again" (by Al) became a hit when the former husband of Sarah Churchill, Vic Oliver, introduced it in a Revue. "Goodnight Little Soldier" is another Harvey tune, inspired by Al's small boy playing with his tin soldiers.

The round songster will play the nitwit son in "Mother Goose."

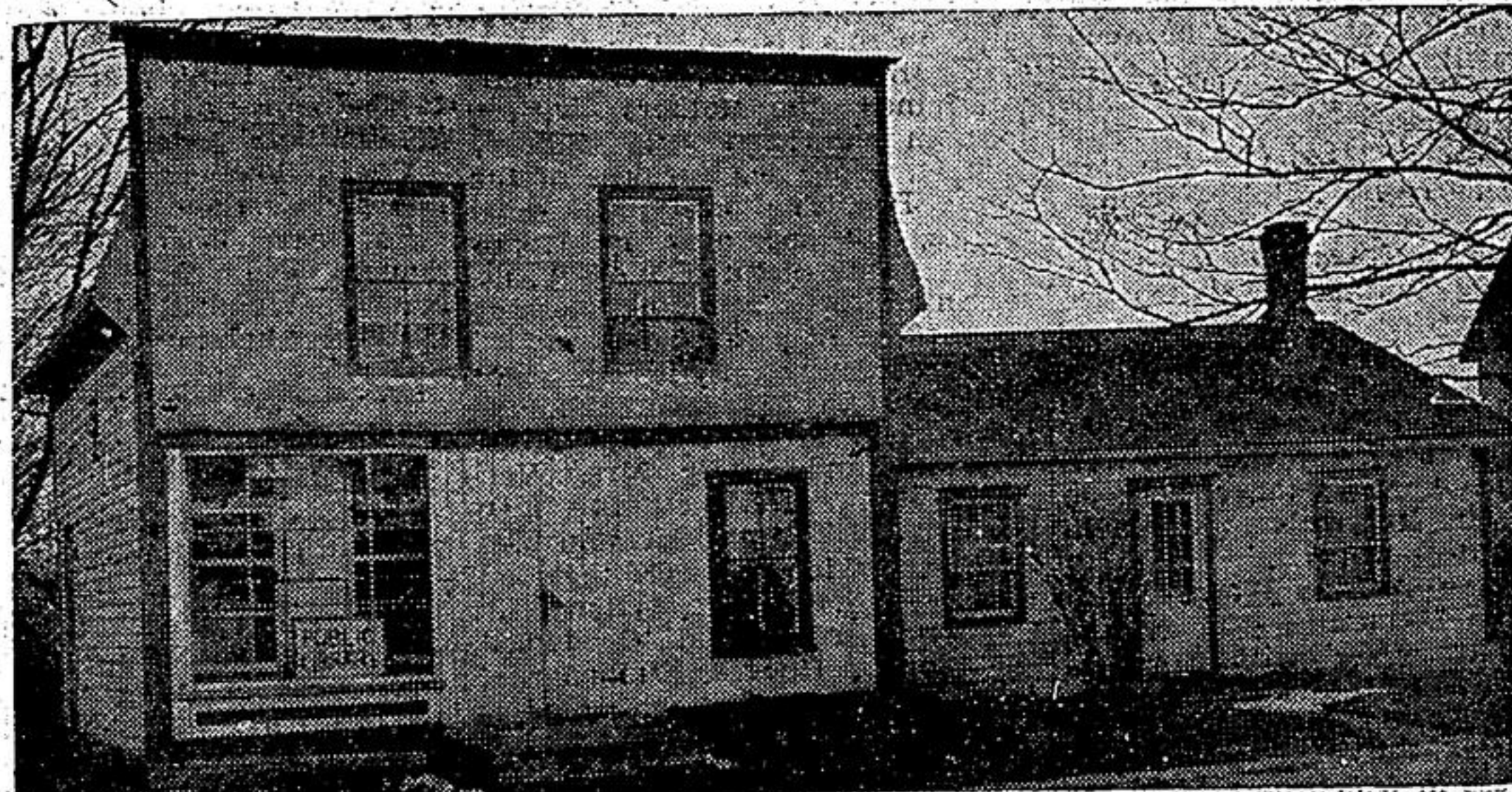
HEALTH UNIT AGAIN ASKED FOR ONTARIO COUNTY

Members of Pickering Women's Institute have begun a movement toward the establishment of a County Health Unit. Some 25 Ontario Counties now use this system. In a petition to their township council, the Institute cites reasons for the unit.

Mrs. T. C. Brown of Brougham



MRS. T. C. BROWN appears on this page. Mrs. Brown is librarian of the village library.



Mrs. T. C. Brown, writer of the article on this page, has lived in the house shown above for the past 70 years. It is one of the original stores built in the village of Brougham, and the residence section to the right is over 100 years old. The library is located in this building.

AUDLEY (Dec. 22)

Happy New Year to all! Mr. and Mrs. Burns of Toronto visited their uncle and his family, G. K. Pratt, on Monday last.

We have had some very mild weather lately. At any rate it was good for the dry wells.

Mrs. Bartlett has not been in the best of health lately, and her friends here are hoping that the holiday time will help to restore her to better health.

The Pratt family attended the closing exercises of the Leaskdale school on Wednesday evening where their daughter, Mrs. Kennedy is the teacher.

George Todd, councillor of Cherrywood and E. L. Chapman and wife attended the school concert on Monday evening.

One of the best concerts put on at the school was witnessed by a large crowd of ratepayers and visitors on Monday evening. Warden W. H. Westney, an old pupil and a former trustee, acted as chairman. His introduction of the children and his remarks were pleasing and to the point. The songs and recitations were a credit to the training of the teacher and to Mrs. Eastwood, the teacher of music and a former teacher in the school. The Christmas tree was well laden with presents and their distribution was made doubly charming by the kindness of Old Santa, in the person of Basil Churchyard. A vote of thanks was tendered all who had contributed to the enjoyment of the evening.

The school board has hired Mrs. Pratt for another term. She is to be complimented upon her work. The same teacher of music will be in charge when the school re-opens the 3rd of Jan. 1950.

The annual school meeting will be held on Wednesday, Dec. 28th, at 10 a.m. for the annual business and the election of a trustee. It is hoped that many ratepayers will be out.

F. H. Puckrin has about completed his new implement display room on the corner of the 4th and the No. 12 highway. His ever enlarging tractor and farm machinery business will be seen from leading highway.

A motorist on the Greenwood road last week ran into a deer and killed it. Several deer have been seen in the rough lands along the old C.N. right-of-way this past summer. He reported to the game warden.

The New & Modern

RIO Theatre UXBRIDGE

Matinee Saturday at 2.30 p.m.

Wednesday & Thursday December 28 & 29

GLENN FORD and JANET LEIGH "The Doctor and The Girl"

FOTO NITE

Every Thursday

THIS WEEK

\$ 100. Cash Offer

Wednesday Night is Attendance Night.

LOTS OF FUN LOTS OF CASH

Friday & Saturday December 30 & 31

JUDY GARLAND and RAY BOLGER "Wizard of Oz" Technicolor

Sunday Midnight, January 1st

ROBERT HUTTON and JANIS PAIGE "Wall Flower"

Monday & Tuesday January 2 & 3

JACK CARSON and RONALD REAGAN "John Loves Mary"

Two Shows Nightly - First 7 p.m.

Claremont Jersey Cow Ends 10-Year Record

The Jersey cow Clayton's Volunteer Nan (115816), owned by E. M. Sheridan, Claremont, has completed a 10-year-old record in 305 days of 9,174 pounds of milk and 499 pounds of fat. A two-year-old in Mr. Sheridan's herd, Elsie's Pinn B. Lady (179255), has completed a senior two-year-old record of 7,739 pounds of milk and 415 pounds of fat in 296 days.

Sybils Pinn Basil Molly (175645), senior two-year-old, bred and owned by F. M. Chapman, Pickering, has completed a record of 6,212 pounds of milk, 342 pounds of fat with a test of 5.51 per cent in 365 days.

Pickering Native Mrs. R. Bint Dead

Seriously ill for five weeks Margaret Jane Graham, beloved wife of the late Richard A. Bint, died at the family residence in Oshawa on Friday in her 75th year.

A daughter of the late Robert and Annie Graham, she deceased was born in Pickering Township and was married in Toronto in 1902. A resident of Oshawa for approximately 60 years, she was an active member of Albert Street United Church.

Predeceased by her husband in July, 1949, she is survived by three daughters, Mrs. Cecil Pollock (Vergie), Mrs. Ross Lee (Hazel) and Mrs. Melville Pollard (Hilda) and two sons, Robert and Cecil of Oshawa. Also surviving are 13 grandchildren.



With a loud, clear note we're wishing all a Happy New Year!

Wm. Malloy PLUMBING SERVICE Stouffville, Ontario

CROWS RAIDING MILK BOTTLES SHOW HONOR

Duncan, B.C., Dec. 24 — There appears to be honor among the band of thieves that has begun regular raid here. Householders say a flock of crows swoops in every day to consume bottles of milk left on doorsteps. The birds pick off the caps and help themselves. And there's never any quarrelling among them, witnesses say — each crow is assigned to a bottle and the others leave him alone.

FIGHT Poultry Colds with HTH-15

The only "floating powder", dry Chlorine for dusting poultry against breathing disorders. Just dust heads. HTH-15 is so finely divided that it settles slowly, prolonging treatment.

For Drinking Water A little HTH-15 in drinking water makes it safe and helps prevent illness.

at your nearest dealer

APPLICATIONS for the position of **ASSESSOR** of the **Township of Pickering** will be received by the undersigned until **TUESDAY, January 3rd, 1950**. State qualifications, age and salary expected.

LLOYD T. JOHNSTON, Clerk, TOWNSHIP OF PICKERING, Brougham, Ontario.