

Century Old Love Story Revealed by Lady of 77

Ballantrae's First Postmaster Dealt Courageously With Cupid and Went Forth To Meet His Bride Astride His Steed "Borrowed" from Father

By Mrs. Andrew Pegg

The Tribune is indebted to Mrs. Andrew Pegg of Greenwood for this historical sketch of the Hill family of Ballantrae. Although in her 77th year, Mrs. Pegg writes with the vision of a person much younger, and her information about the Hills and Ballantrae will be read with great interest by many hundreds of former residents. As a portion of early Township of Whitechurch history it will prove invaluable.

Robert Hill was the first postmaster at Ballantrae assuming office there in 1852, immediately following his romantic marriage in that same year. Mr. Hill conducted the office in the Whitechurch hamlet until his death in 1902.

Mr. Hill built the present store occupied by Mrs. Gib. Wright and her daughter. He also built the spacious brick residence south of four corners there, now the summer home of Col. Hollinrake, York County Magistrate.

Back in 1852 Robert and William Hill made pine shingles at Ballantrae and teamed them to Toronto to sell at 25c per bunch.

Robert was only 19 years old and his brother was eleven months younger. Robert possessed a more adventurous spirit than his brother. One day when they were ready to return over the long trek home from Toronto, Robert suggested that they travel a different road by way of change, and while it was farther, they drove out the Kingston Road and landed at Greenwood in Pickering Township. On their arrival at the little hamlet the brothers were cold, and the colts they drove appeared tired—they still had sixteen miles to make home, so they decided it was best to stop and feed the horses, and get warmed up themselves.

Thoroughly enjoying the fire, behold a lovely young girl entered the room and enquired of the boys, would you like to have supper served, but they responded that they had only wished to get warm.

William could not help noticing that his brother was greatly impressed by the beauty and gracefulness of this girl—and well understood later when on frequent occasions Robert suggested the long way-home returning from the city. That long way, of course, took them via Greenwood.

One night when the family had all retired to their beds at Ballantrae, the doors locked by their father, William was awakened by Robert pulling at his elbow and poking him in the ribs, saying "Come, wake up, do not make a noise, I want your help in getting ready for my wedding tomorrow." Continued, Robert explained they must crawl through the back kitchen window, and asked William to bring up a horse as he (Robert) dressed.

William remonstrated, imploring Robert to wait, and asked—"what will father say?" "What will mother think?" Robert waived, "I cannot help it. Eliza Defoe is the only girl for me—and say do try to soften up father and mother toward me," and then his horse galloped away into the night.

William's words of reconciliation must have been effective, because two weeks later Father Hill sent horses and sleigh to bring the happy couple home to the old brick house which still stands on the east side of the 9th concession, just south of Musselman's Lake.

Robert Hill and brother John built a small residence and shop on the lot side of the road that turns off the 8th concession of Whitechurch across the south side of Musselman's Lake. John did blacksmithing, Robert woodworking and carpentering. They also did teaming between Ballantrae and Toronto.

About the year 1868 Robt. built the store on the four corners, and bought his merchandise from Toronto. When the Grand Trunk Railway came through, people had grown tired of making pine shingles, and took to cutting cordwood, which Robert Hill bought paying them \$1.25 a cord. He paid men \$1 per day to load the wood on railway cars. The money was usually spent in the Hill store, so Robert then was doing well.

Robert Hill bought most of the grain grown in the district, and shipped it to Toronto. Besides being the first postmaster he had a telegraph office.

The old G.T.R. station stood about 60 rods west of the four corners, just north of the main road to Aurora. The mail was carried twice daily to and from the trains. When Robert's son, Newton (born in 1872) grew big enough, he had a dog called "Shep", and this dog drew the mail wagon or sleigh with Newton aboard. He would say, "Mail Shep" and the mail was transported in short order. Newton today is Stouffville's retired stone mason, living on Tenth street.

THE ROBINS RETURN

Mrs. Leonard Brillinger was surprised to see a robin in the orchard on their farm at Bethesda on Monday morning. Scarcely able to believe her eyes, Mrs. Brillinger called her husband, and he too identified the robin pecking hungrily at an apple on the tree.

Aged Father of Mrs. Stalter, Markham, Dead

A resident of Oshawa for the past 73 years, Thomas George Kennedy died at the family residence in Oshawa, on Friday, February 17, in his 87th year. He had been in poor health for the past year.

Prior to his retirement Mr. Kennedy was an employee of the McLaughlin Carriage Co. for 25 years and later was employed by Fittings Limited for a similar period.

A son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kennedy, the deceased was born at Enniskillen on April 17, 1863. He was married at Oshawa on October 2, 1894.

He is survived by his wife, the former Mabel V. Menagh; a daughter, Mrs. O. R. Stalter (Phyllis) of Markham and two sons, Merlyn of Winnipeg and Paul W. of Oshawa. Also surviving are six grandchildren. Rev. D. M. Rose, rector of St. George's Anglican Church, conducted the funeral service at the family residence on Monday. Interment was made in the Union cemetery there.

Wife of High School Teacher Passes

Resident of Stouffville only since last mid-summer, Mrs. George Pearce died on Friday at the family home on Rose Avenue. Husband of the deceased is a member of the Stouffville High School staff and the family have the sincere sympathy of teaching fraternity, scholars and townspeople in general, many of whom had occasion to visit her during the past few months. Throughout her long illness, Mrs. Pearce maintained a spirit of courage and cheerfulness which was an inspiration to all those who knew her. As her pastor, Rev. D. Davis stated, "Mrs. Pearce revealed a reservoir of faith and courage during her long period of physical disability."

Ida Viola May Wilkinson was born at Hornings Mills, Ont., Dec. 25th, 1905. She received her High School education in Creemore, later attending Toronto Normal School. She taught for a number of years, including six years on the staff of Victoria School, Barrie.

She is survived by her husband and three daughters, Marilyn, Marjorie and Carol. Also surviving are her mother, Mrs. Ida Wilkinson, Creemore and two sisters, Mrs. Morley Atkinson, Hornings Mills. Her father, the late William A. Wilkinson, pre-deceased her in 1925.

Funeral services were held at the late home here on Saturday evening and at the Steckley-Lloyd Funeral Home, Barrie, on Sunday afternoon. Rev. Douglas Davis was assisted in the service at Barrie by Rev. S. E. Lewis, Collier St. United Church, Barrie, who was formerly pastor at Honeywood United Church of which Mrs. Pearce was a member. Floral tributes from friends in Stouffville, Wales, Wellington, Toronto, Peterborough, Creemore and from friends elsewhere bore silent testimony of love and esteem for the deceased and family, especially for the children who have lost a mother at so critical a time in life.

LATE HOCKEY SCORES
Midland 11 Toronto Meteors 2
Collingwood 14 Eclipse Knights 3

Uses New Drug



Billy Broderick, youthful leukaemia victim, who is at home with his parents in Mount Albert, after treatment by the wonder drug ACTH won at least temporary triumph over the malady. Confined to bed, the lad is feeling fine.

Reserved Seats for Hockey Playoffs

Reserved seat tickets for the opening game of the Senior O.H.A. semi-finals to be played in the Stouffville Arena this Saturday night, Feb. 25th, go on sale this Thursday at the following business places: D. Holden & Sons, L. E. O'Neill's and at the Arena (afternoon and evening). All tickets, reserved and rush are 75c. so fans are asked to pick up their seats early to avoid disappointment of having to stand.

The opposition in the first game of this best four-out-of-seven series is almost assured to be Orillia. There is just a slight mathematical chance of Meteors squeezing up out of fourth place by defeating Markham this Thursday, coupled with a loss by Stouffville to Eclipse.

If the standing remains as is, Meteors will play Markham in the first game of that series at Newmarket on Saturday night, with the second game here in Stouffville next week, while the Clippers are away at Orillia. These dates will be announced definitely this weekend.

Mr. Thos. Birkett, local insurance dealer, has been ordered to bed for a few days, owing to the precarious condition of his health.

Shot Through Wall Wounds Youth at Greenwood

Victim of a freak shooting accident, Clifford Richards, 17, Toronto, was wounded Sunday at Greenwood, Pickering Twp.

Provincial Police said Richards was in a shack near the home of Douglas Hoskins when a bullet ripped through the wall, penetrated his left arm and lodged in his right wrist.

The bullet was accidentally discharged, police said, from a rifle in the hands of Fred Haniford, 14, Toronto. Richards and Haniford, both air cadets, were out on a weekend visit. Haniford was walking 25 feet from the shack when the gun went off.

Richards was driven through snowdrifts and over icy pavement to Brooklyn, where Dr. Guthrie Grant removed the bullet. No bones were broken.

Const. Henry Price said that if the bullet had not first gone through the wooden wall of the shack it undoubtedly would have shattered the boy's wrist.

PUBLIC INVITED TO HEAR SPEAKING CONTEST

The public is cordially invited to attend the annual oratorical contest sponsored by the Stouffville Lions Club to be held at the High School next Monday evening, Feb. 27th, commencing at 7.30 o'clock.

Winner of the local contest will advance to compete with other speakers in surrounding Lions Club zone contests.

Couple Injured By Skidding Car

Two Toronto persons were injured on Sunday night when a car went into a skid and crashed into another car on No. 7 Highway a half mile west of Markham.

Injured were, John McAllister, 29 and his wife, Mary, 27, both of Toronto. They received cuts to the face and head when a car driven by Roccie Pagnello, 23, of Markham, crashed into their car, Prov. Const. W. Skidmore said the Pagnello car went into a skid attempting to avoid a parked car.

PASTOR RESIGNS

Rev. R. C. McDermid, pastor of Chalmers Presbyterian Church, Uxbridge, resigned Monday, due to ill health. He came to Uxbridge in 1945. For the past three months he has been confined to his home with a heart ailment.

Engagements

Mrs. May Kennedy of Stouffville, wishes to announce the engagement of her daughter, Eileen Joyce to Mr. Gordon Samuel Paddley of Claremont. The marriage will take place on Saturday, March 4th at Stouffville.

Pickering Twp. Dogs Ordered Confined

A charge against Herbert Burk, of Dunbarton, of keeping vicious dogs was withdrawn by Magistrate Frank, Ebbs, Monday with a warning that the animals be kept confined. Owner of five Great Danes, Burt admitted that the dogs occasionally got out of the kennels. One had attacked a youth and tore his coat. Various complaints have been tabled before the municipal council concerning the Burt dogs.

Uxbridge Council Busy Passing Annual By-laws

Three by-laws were passed by Uxbridge Township council in session last Saturday. A bylaw to appoint live stock valuers, pound keepers and fence viewers for the current year, also a pound keeper and a live stock valuer from each school section, and fence viewers from all parts of the Township.

Council passed a bylaw to authorize appropriations for expenditures on roads and bridges for 1950. The amount of money was set at \$20,000.

Another bylaw was passed to authorize the Reeve and the Treasurer to borrow money for payment of current expenses, and the amount authorized was \$20,000.

The council appointed the three councillors, along with the road superintendent, and the clerk as delegates to the Good Roads Convention. The Reeve and Deputy-Reeve are delegates from County Council.

The Road Voucher for January amounting to \$946.69 was passed for payment, and general accounts amounting to \$256.54.

The next meeting will be held on the afternoon of March 13th.

Local School Choirs Do Well in Competition With Larger Centres

Stouffville High School choir made a fine showing in the current Kiwanis Musical Festival in Toronto, carrying off one first, four seconds and a fourth.

The local group is under the leadership of Principal L. C. Murphy, and was pitted against choirs from much larger centres, including Preston, Paris, Simcoe and Oakville. In fact the mixed choir class in which our local songsters stood second called for groups from centres up to 75,000 population.

Horse and Cutter Honeymoon Recalled by Mr. and Mrs. N. Tarr

Events of Sixty Years Ago When They Drove from Claremont to Uxbridge on First Lap of Honeymoon Revived at Anniversary Occasion

For Mr. and Mrs. Nathan Tarr, Stouffville, Sunday, Feb. 26, will undoubtedly have vivid recollections of that memorable cutter drive they took together on February 26, 1890. The sixty years will not have greatly dimmed the recollection because on that occasion they were starting on their honeymoon, driving from Claremont to Uxbridge behind a spirited steed.

The nuptial knot had just been tied by Rev. C. J. Dobson, Methodist minister, and the couple left to the tune of bells and the cheers of their many friends who witnessed the ceremony.

Mr. and Mrs. Tarr confided this information as they were on the eve of observing sixty years of wedded life at their comfortable home in Stouffville where they have resided the past eleven years or since their retirement from farming on the 9th concession of Markham just south of Stouffville.

"There was lots of snow that winter of 1890," said Mrs. Tarr, but we made the trip to Uxbridge with horse and cutter. Both principles in this happy marriage were born in Pickering Township of parents who came over from England in the early days. For their wedding Mrs. Tarr was then Matilda Burgess whose parents after farming in Pickering retired in Uxbridge town, had for her bridesmaid her sister, now Mrs. J. A. Jones of Mt. Zion, south of Balsam.

Mr. Tarr's brother, the late K. G. Tarr, was best man. There were forty-four guests.

The young couple of that 1890 wedding event settled on a farm in the district but after three years moved into Claremont where Mr. Tarr was engaged with the local baker who he bought out after nine years. He successfully operated the bakery himself for the next nine, then returned to the business of farming. They located on the 9th of Markham just south of Stouffville and here remained for 32 years, or until they retired to Stouffville.

Their five children look on the aged parents with great reverence and respect and have every reason to do so. There was no electric switch to turn on during Mrs. Tarr's active days in bringing up five children. No electric washing machine and no refrigeration. The custom, Mrs. Tarr said, was to rock the cradle with one hand and work the wash board with the other. "I guess we all had to do it one time or other fifty years ago," said Mrs. Tarr. The family of Mr. and Mrs. Tarr consists of three daughters and two sons. They are Mrs. Andy Green (Eva) just north of Stouffville, Mrs. Doolittle (Mary) of Orillia, Mrs. C. A. Wright (Verna) of Montreal, Roy in Orillia, and Clifford at home with the parents. There are six grandchildren.

Mr. Tarr will be 85 this coming May and Mrs. Tarr was 84 on St. Valentine Day. He suffers some impairment of his sight but can still read large print, while Mrs. Tarr finds her hearing not so good as it once was, yet she carries on conversation with not too great difficulty, and is still the careful housekeeper. Maintaining their neatly kept home in pink of condition, townspeople are naturally proud of Mr. and Mrs. Tarr and hope they will enjoy good health until the end of their days, which is probably the best wish anyone can extend to those who are living in the eventide of life.

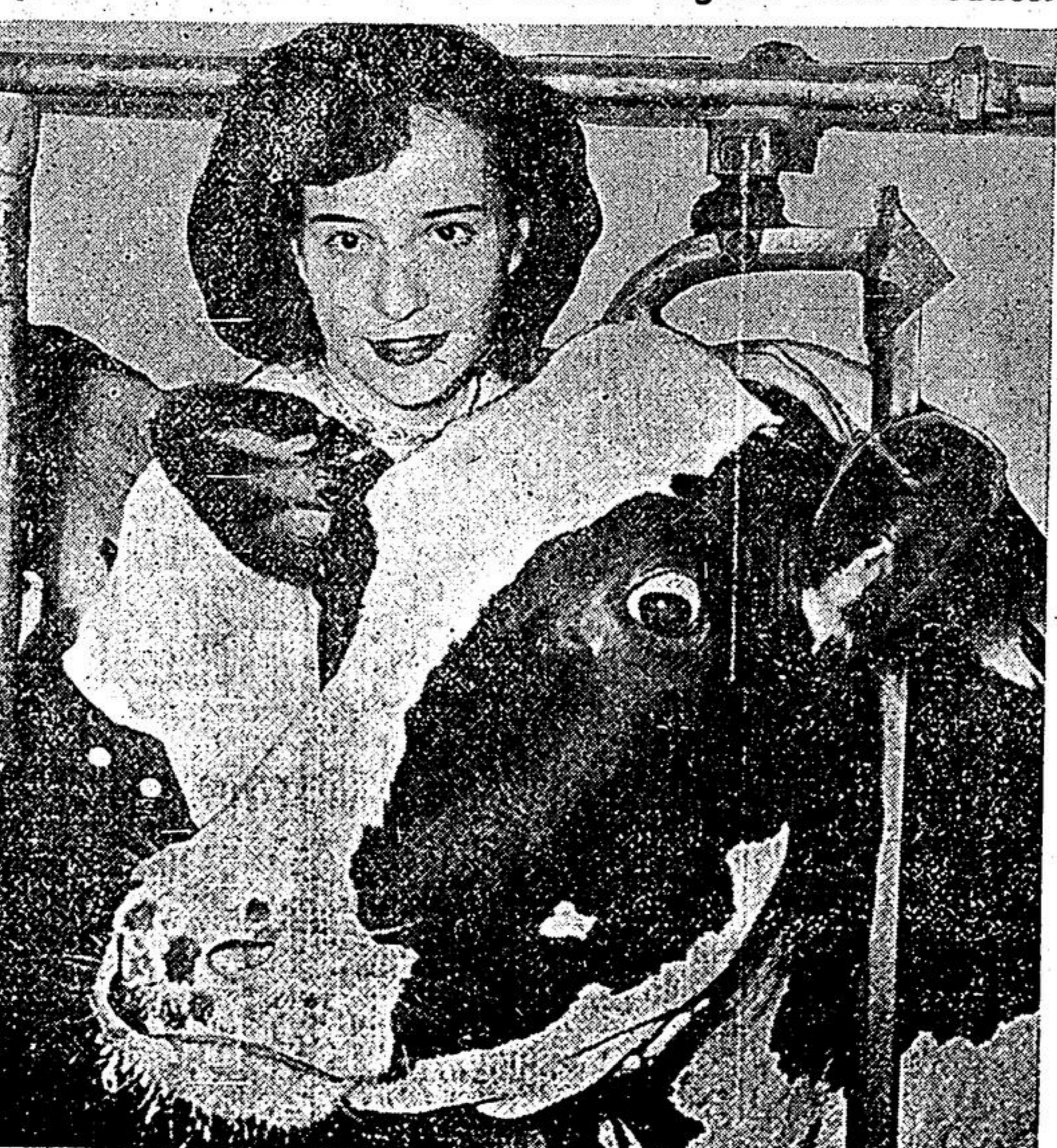
Local Dogs Win At New York Show

Great Danes from Stouffville did themselves proud at the famous Blue Ribbon show held last week in Madison Square Garden, New York, when the exhibits belonging to Mrs. Malcolm, Stouffville Brierbush Hospital, carried off two coveted wins.

Noble Lady's Mona stood to pin the open Harlequin bitch class, and was awarded the red ribbon signifying first, while Gras Dane's Baron took 4th place in his entry, thus did those local canines bring their certain honor and distinction back to Canada and to Stouffville from one of the most important dog shows in America.

Friends will regret to learn that Wm. Maxwell, well-known citizen of Markham village and for many years road superintendent of Markham Township, is confined to his home, following a heart attack which he suffered last Saturday.

Queensville Cow Is World's Second Highest Milk Producer



Alphabst Dale, Holstein of the Glencloskey farm, Queensville, Ont., is now recognized as the

world's second highest milk producer. Dale, being admired by Pat Arthurs, has given 21,064

pounds of milk, British Columbia cow leads with 21,800 pounds.