

Editorials Written by Stouffville High School Students

Stouffville's Poultry Industry Is On The Upper Trend
Barbara Bagg, Grade XII

In the past year at Stouffville was located a branch of the company known as Skyline Farms Limited, Marshall's Five Star Hatchery and Booth's Processing Plant amalgamated, giving the complete cycle of operation in the poultry business, from the egg to the marketed chicken. The baby chicks are hatched at Kettleby in a large modern hatchery, then delivered to various farmers and poultrymen in the surrounding district. Any surplus baby chicks are brought to the broiler house at the local branch. These chicks are raised in a modern, up-to-date brooder house equipped with radiant heating. They are fed a specially prepared broiler ration that develops them quickly and produces a very tender, juicy, and rich flavoured meat. These tender young fryers are taken from the broiler house to the processing station at nine to twelve weeks of age.

The birds are dressed by a mechanical picker, held over night in the refrigerator at a temperature of thirty-three degrees Fahrenheit, until they are thoroughly chilled. They are then graded, sorted for size and packed ready for shipment to hotels, restaurants, and stores in different cities and towns in Ontario.

At the Stouffville processing station approximately three thousand broilers per week are handled in this way as well as one thousand to one thousand five hundred heavy chickens and fowl.

The development of the broiler business in the past five or six years has changed the poultry industry from a seasonal operation and puts it on a more stabilized year round basis, not only providing steady, yearly employment for those employed but putting fresh frying chicken on the market for the consumer every day of the year.

Musical Appreciation

Lorne Boardway, Grade XIII

Few people realize how rapidly our deeper class of music is dying out, not to the extent of complete elimination, but with a gradual and disappointing decline. Deeper music does not necessarily suggest operatic arias or orchestral symphonies but musicals, such as the works of Gilbert and Sullivan, which should be appreciated by us of the modern world. Some schools teach this type of music to their choirs and glee clubs, but the great majority of people never hear these masterpieces.

Since festivals allow singers and other artists to compete against one another they are sadly lacking in drawing power for those who do not sing, but would undoubtedly enjoy good music. Such names as John Charles Thomas or Lily Pons are known to almost everyone and since we talk about such singers, why can we not sit back and enjoy the music these musicians produce? Composers such as Beethoven, Chopin and Bach, to mention a few, have given to the world great music, but so few of us appreciate it. If we were to make a survey of all those people who listen to music, we would find that a very small percentage favour the formal type previously mentioned. It may be seen from our amateur talent programs that men and women are desperately trying to regain interest in those compositions. Many of our popular numbers also are reproductions of older melodies, but treated in a modern way.

More concerts and recitals, which would include such music, should be arranged to gain public interest. From this we would all notice how much greater the demand would be for such music and thus help to improve the musical world of today.

Changes in the School Curriculum

Mary Stouffer, Grade XIII

There are changes to be made in the school curriculum in the years to come. We in the Upper School now will not benefit by them, but the following will give some idea of what is in store for our very youngest brothers and sisters.

The entire school from the beginner's class through to the Upper School will be broken down into four divisions, Primary, Junior, Intermediate, and Senior. The primary division will take in what is now grades one, two and three, the junior division grades four, five and six, the intermediate divisions grades seven, eight, nine and ten and the senior division grades eleven, twelve and thirteen.

Under this revised system a child just beginning school will be in the same room with the same teacher for three years, more or less, depending on his rate of advancement. He will then be promoted to the next division where he will spend approximately three years, and so on to the next until he has completed the four divisions. This system will have a greater flexibility and will permit more attention to the individual child than the present one. Since each division will contain three or four groups, a child who is more proficient in some subjects than in others will be able to take reading with one group and arithmetic with another. In some subjects such as art and social studies, all the groups will be able to participate in the same activities, although in the basic "three R's" they will still have to remain for the most part, separate. More emphasis will be placed on reading in the lower divisions as it has been found that pupils in the higher grades often have trouble with their studies, because of poor reading habits. Such subjects as written English, Social studies, Science, Art, and Health instruction will be outlined by teachers with the advice of the inspector to meet local conditions and needs of the pupils. In the Senior division a greater place will be given to forest conservation and map reading, not as separate courses but as suitable material included in other subjects. The Intermediate division will serve to eliminate the great barrier between grades eight and nine and to give the pupils a chance to select the course in which they wish to specialize.

In September of this year certain boards will be asked to establish the Primary division on an experimental basis. Other boards may do so if they wish after consultation with the inspector. In September there will also be some modification of the grade seven course; the number of obligatory subjects in grades nine and ten will be reduced to English, Social Studies, Mathematics, Physical and Health Education and Guidance; steps will be taken to distribute the work leading to Upper school examinations more equally over grades eleven, twelve and thirteen. In June of this year there will be no High School Entrance Examinations.

To effect such changes in the school curriculum there will have to be a "cleaning out" of obsolete material to make way for the new. In many cases there has already been a gradual shifting to some of the new material, so that the "cleaning out" process may not be so drastic as it appears.

The New Arena
Jessie Harding

While walking down the street one notices a new sign "Arena". What is so spectacular about that? Stouffville has a new artificial-ice Arena!

This season specially, it has been fortunate that Stouffville has had the new "rink". Many would have been disappointed if there had been no ice for skating or hockey at the beginning of the winter because of the mild, rainy weather. As in former years the hockey players would have been trying to play hockey on water-covered ice. Hockey in Stouffville has also been enhanced by the added seating capacity.

The new arena has provided a wonderful incentive to the smaller children who are just learning to skate. Several evenings after four o'clock were set aside for them to learn to skate. On Saturday afternoons, free skating is provided for the younger set. This was done other years also, but often the afternoon sessions had to be cancelled because the ice was too cut up for night skating. Now the children can skate without interference from the weather.

Stouffville had its own "Sunday sports" problem because of the modern building. Nearly everyone recalls seeing the picture of Doctor Ball pointing his finger at Reverend Rowan and saying, "Now Norm, take it easy." Naturally a peaceful settlement followed. The hockey teams were allowed to practice on Sunday, but the general public was not permitted to watch.

By installing artificial ice, Stouffville has kept pace with changing times and conditions.

Sunday Sport For Toronto

Ronald Smith, Grade XII

Is Sunday sport going to prove to be an advantage or a disadvantage. To many citizens of Toronto, Sunday sport is a stepping stone to the wide open Sunday. To other Torontonians Sunday sport will provide entertainment. The victory of Sunday sport was a great achievement on the part of Don North who worked for Sunday sport tirelessly. To the clergy of Toronto it was a great disappointment.

But Sunday sport is not going to interfere with the church services, because the people voted that a game of baseball or any such game could not be started before two o'clock in the afternoon, and will have to end before six o'clock in the evening.

The first game of baseball to be played on Sunday is on May 7th. The International Baseball schedule is being held up until the government passes a law stating Sunday Sport is legal in Toronto. My opinion is that Sunday sport will prove to be an advantage not a disadvantage.

Are They Fair

Margaret Hisey, Grade XIII

Do you think that the Upper School exams are fair? Is it right that some student should fail an exam and thus fail his year because of the whim of some marker? Oh yes, he is probably tired, hot, and hungry and has just finished scanning seventy-five papers, but is that any reason why some student whose paper has had the luck of being the shade should fail? It certainly is not. If the student is financially poor, he will not be able to take another year, last on a day which reached one hundred degrees in the but instead will have to "get out" and work. He will "get along" in the world but how many better jobs could he have had with his Upper School? In addition failing may discourage some and although they have the ability, they will cease school and let their dreams of higher learning be tramped under.

I do not mean that a student should be allowed to pass because of his circumstances. But surely one's examinations should be marked with the same degree of fairness as the several other papers which were done by a marker in a good mood. You may say, "how can anyone be in a good mood when it is one hundred in the shade?" Well why not have the final examinations in the fall, or the winter? This would certainly make it easier for the examiners and the students would find their brains much more receptive to their studying than in a hot, sultry, summer day.

There is another element of unfairness which appears. Some students who have had an excellent record during the year will "crack up" when it comes to writing the finals while others, who have had poor work during the year will "cram" the night before and manage to "scrape" through. Is this fair? Should not one's work during the year be taken into account? Why should some intelligent person with a nervous condition be denied his year while some "moron" is allowed to pass?

But the most striking fact to me is how can any one expect a fellow human to learn, remember and write exams in a whole years course in nine subjects and pass them. After all, the human brain is only so large, and ordinary people find this quite a strenuous undertaking for one brain. Could not some new system be worked out—one in which a student worthy of passing is allowed to pass?

A Successful Life

Erla Holden, Grade XIII

There are five chief necessities for a successful life. Two of these, character and intelligence, can not very easily be separated. One is just as important as the other. The Canadian people are always a little inclined to over-estimate character because they pride themselves in the possession of it. But we live in a world today in which most of the problems are new problems, and in which intelligence is more needed than ever. These problems will never be solved by unstable clever people with quick brains and nothing else. Character is the most important thing, no doubt in life, but it must be directed by intelligence. If you have both you will not be a successful person, but you will be a good citizen, the kind of citizen who will yet carry us through our troubles and help to create a better world.

Lastly, you must have some kind of creed, and faith and purpose. You should not accept anything at second-hand, or believe in anything because your father believed in it or your school teachers believe in it. If you wish to be constructive you must be critical. You must examine and discard the articles of your faith which are useless. But you must have some faith and it must be a determined belief that will carry you through your darkest days. Life is a very pleasant and amusing thing, but it is no good pretending that it is easy. If you are going to make anything of your life you must fight battles with the purpose of winning. Your heart will often be sick, and you will need all the comfort and support you can get.

There are many isms today to perplex us such as Nazism, Communism and Fascism, but they will generally cancel each other out. There is only one ism which kills our soul and spirit and that is pessimism.

The Small Car, Possibilities, Advantages, Disadvantages

Murray Redshaw

The small car is being used more and more in Canada than it used to be. The bigger cars are still in great demand, but they cost a great deal of money to purchase whereas the smaller cars are much cheaper. The material used in them is as good if not better than the material used in the big cars; their engines are so constructed that they will run further on a gallon of gasoline than will the bigger car. Their rate of speed is not as great as that of the big car, but great enough for the general construction of the roads in Canada. Owing to the fact that they are cheaper to purchase and cheaper to maintain, many workmen are purchasing these small cars and their possibility of becoming the chief car is rapidly approaching.

There are many advantages to owning a small car. In crowded cities many scraped fenders are often avoided because of the smallness of the car. Small parking spaces can be used readily. Because of the smallness of the cars they are easily manageable and many women would sooner drive a small car than a large one.

In Canada the winters are very harsh and a great deal of snow falls. This is when the small cars are at a disadvantage. They are much lower than a big car and will not go through as much snow. They are narrower and therefore will not follow in the tracks of a big car that has already broken a trail in the snow. In big cities or wherever there are stop lights a car must have a good acceleration so that the traffic will be kept going at a moderate speed. The little car has not as quick an accelerator as a big car, and often slows the traffic down.

On the whole it is my opinion that the advantages of the small car in the modern congested expensive world outweighs the disadvantages, especially for the man who has a moderate income.

The Influence of Comic Books

John Davis, Grade XII

Do comic books create a bad influence on children?

The subject of comic books is being widely discussed by many parents and a large percentage of these seem to be against this kind of literature. The majority of comic books consists of stories of murder, robbery or gang wars. The romance comics are struggling to push the crime comics out of top position, but most of the children prefer stories of criminals. Many people have tried to stop the sale of comic books, but sales of these books have been so great it is a rather hard thing to stop. In Toronto some citizens had success in having five or six types of crime books banned from being sold in that city. More reforming moves like this would help the younger generation considerably.

In reference to criminal comics, we find that in such books as "Crime Doesn't Pay" or "Crime Buster" the police always win out because of a slight mistake by the criminals. Even though the police always win out, all through the story the police are shown to be stupid and slow whereas the criminals are smooth and intelligent. As many of these "book-worms" of today study the ways and means of the modern crime expert the thoughts of whether or not they themselves are as clever as the criminal must enter their minds. When reading the paper or listening to the news, the children hear of many robberies, some robbers getting caught and others escaping, some of the tougher youngsters get the idea that if they "pulled a job", they wouldn't get caught, sooner or later some child tries stealing and he may be lucky and get away without being caught, but like all criminally inclined people, the child will try for something bigger and the odds are such that he is almost certain to be caught. If the offence is big enough the youngster might receive a short sentence in the Reform School. When released from the school the person involved thinks he is "big time" because he has served his time, and tries the same thing as before and thus begins the ruination of a life.

This may seem highly improbable just from reading comic books, but if some of the people in Toronto had comic books banned they must believe in what I write. Although I have related only one example of what could happen. I hope it will wake a few parents up to the fact that comic books are a bad influence on children.

Grade 13

Phyllis Clarkson, Grade XIII

Down in the dingy basement in a crude rectangular shaped rooms of a big red building, is the graduating class of Stouffville High School.

Let us open the thin, flimsy door to see the true condition of this dungeon. As we stumble over a small step we find ourselves in a rather stifling atmosphere. There are three rows of seats holding eighteen students. Two rows are against the cold plastered walls, while the other row goes right down the middle of the room. This leaves only two narrow aisles to get to the front.

The rough walls are painted in a two-toned green, the ceiling matching the lighter coloured green. Pipes of different shades and sizes run along the ceiling from one end of the room to the other. Although these pipes shake and sway they seem to stay there securely, also hanging from the ceiling is a small radiator, the only source of heat. If the radiator is turned on the room becomes too stuffy. The choice is to open the door or the window to allow the air to circulate. If the window is opened a cold draft goes through the room. If the door is opened, the voice of the teacher, striving desperately to teach a lesson, is drowned out by the noisy public school children. What do the students do? They freeze.

Standing in front of the window is a blackboard, blocking all the precious outdoor light. The lighting system consists of two glaring sixty watt bulbs shining from the ceiling. These unpleasant surroundings are too much for anyone, thus, by the end of the day, many of the students are restless and unpleasant. Headaches are a majority complaint and colds are becoming a habit.

The only thing attractive about the room is a calendar, donated by the boys, from one of the local garages. On it is a picture of a beautiful young girl in a daring pink dress.

Is this the place for these students? After spending twelve years at school the last year should at least be spent in a comfortable room. If you were a student attending school ten periods a day, five days a week, from September to June, wouldn't you want a suitable classroom in which to stay? The final year is hard enough as it is, without having to put up with these deplorable conditions. Next year let us strive hard to have grade thirteen in a pleasant room with cheerful surroundings.