

The Stouffville Tribune

Vol. 61, No. 33

THE TRIBUNE, STOUFFVILLE, ONT., DECEMBER 7, 1950

Nigerian Customs and Rural Life by Local Missionaries Just Returned to Stouffville

Rev. and Mrs. Earl Honsberger, missionaries of the United Missionary Church on furlough from Nigeria, Africa, have many interesting things to tell of that country. The home of Mrs. Honsberger's mother, Mrs. John Barkey of Second St., will be their headquarters while on furlough. Mrs. Honsberger is a nurse, of medium height, black-haired and quiet spoken, while her husband, a large man; was an interior wood-worker before entering the ministry.

Around the Barkey living-room are handicraft products of Nigeria—a woven grass fan, dyed earrings of corn or backbones of fish, carved ebony plaques, bust and book-ends, hand-hammered brass trays and bowl, gourds bearing a burned design, and hand-bags of crocodile and lizard. There are also illustrated authoritative books on the country, to which they can turn to illustrate a statement.

On Nov. 25th, 1937 this couple left Montreal for Nigeria for the first time. They travelled by boat to Liverpool, and from there to Lagos. This first tour was largely spent in studying the language and in general missionary work, stationed at Salka. Mrs. Honsberger says: "I learned more of the native tongue in one year than I did French in three years at school because we had to use it. I enjoy learning languages." Mr. Honsberger studied Spanish once, but says he should have been ten years younger for language study in Africa. They returned by boat Nov. 25th, 1941, and were home almost two years because of the war. During this time they were engaged in deputation work, and for 9 months relieved Rev. W. B. Moyer at Port Elgin in 1943 when his health broke.

On Dec. 1st of 1943 they left again for Nigeria, via Portuguese boat from Philadelphia to Lisbon, then by various boats, taking the plane to Lagos, the last part of the journey. This time they were on the field two years and 6 months doing general missionary work at Yelwa and working among the Hausa tribe and Island people (or Gungawa). They flew from Lagos to London, and took the boat from Southampton to Halifax. On this furlough their son John was born. The usual furlough is one year, one month of which is required to come home, and another to return, so the usual leave spent in this country is ten months. When they returned to Africa, they felt it best to leave John in Canada with the Barkeys, and he has made his home with Mr. and Mrs. Reg. Stouffer.

During their last tour, the Honsbergers opened up a new mission station at Tungan Magajaji, where Mr. Honsberger built 2 mission homes and a rest home in connection with the hospital program. The buildings were constructed of sun-dried blocks of clay, plastered with cement inside and out. Roofs were thatched. Sometimes tars made from cotton are used for waterproofing, as these will penetrate into sand plaster. In order that windows will run up and down freely in the hospital, steel frames were used, as wooden ones contract in dry weather, and in the wet season expand a great deal.

As there is a great deal of illiteracy, many do not know how old they are. They had a mission school (primary), and a first-aid centre on the compound site. Patients come here suffering from cancer, leprosy, tropical ulcers, heart condition, venereal diseases, yaws, quite a lot of tuberculosis, and worms of all kinds. The first year there was only a nurse (Mrs. Honsberger), the second year she and Dr. Bell. For the third year there was a nurse, a new one, and two doctors Dr. John Erb and his wife. Dr. Erb is a son of the well-known pathologist. Half the administration building is up, a twenty-bed ward, and another building which can be used but is not completed.

The climate is good in the northern part of Nigeria, averaging about 90 degrees, going to perhaps 110 in the shade in a very hot season. The flowers are beautiful, but the natives do not cultivate flowers. They reason you can't eat them, so why cultivate them. When the rains start, beautiful lilies like our Regals appear, but they are not very fragrant. Then there are dwarf mauve irises, a few cacti in bloom are very pretty; and the Lillium gloriosus is the Nigerian national flower, but has little perfume. Mrs. Honsberger grew petunias, roses, balsams, zinnias and marigolds, but you can't grow asters there well. The

trouble was that in the dry season green feed was scarce, and community sheep and goats or the Honsbergers' chickens or turkey sometimes yielded to temptation to add a green salad course to their menu, and Mrs. Honsberger's flowers were it.

They have started a citrus grove—oranges, grapefruit, lemons and tangerines, and for fruit trees guavas, mangoes and paw-paws. If you leave mature oranges on the trees, they freshen up again when the rains come. There are Flamboyant trees, sometimes called Flame of the Forest, covered with brilliant red flowers before the leaves appear. Frangipani is a tree with fragrant waxy flowers, white, pink or bronze. Red Hibiscus is grown, and sometimes pink. The Bouganvillea with its mauve, red, or yellow flowers is a climbing shrub growing also, and Corlita is a beautiful dainty pink-flowered vine.

Sweet potatoes grow readily, the native one being white, and Mr. Honsberger prefers it for a continuous diet as it is not as sweet as other varieties. Mrs. Honsberger recalls a very beautiful flower growing in a tree on their first tour which she believes was a mauve orchid. Jack-in-Pulpits are very large. Their last field was set in a farming community, where natives grew bulrush millet, guinea corn, rice, acacia, cotton, groundnuts (or peanuts), sugarcane, corn, and natural grass for hay.

Cattle are of the Zebra type with large horns, having hump but no stripes. They are black and white, or jersey colour, and produce very little milk. There are few horses, none really good. Ploughing is done by hand, but the Government

Third Gravel Pit To Be Opened on 10th Concession North

A third firm will next year open a new gravel deposit near Gravel Hill, on the 10th con. of Whitchurch, north of Stouffville. The sale is announced of the Archie Nesbitt farm on the west side of the concession to the Hannah Construction Co. of Toronto. Sale price was \$14,500, and includes the 75-acre farm and buildings.

Mr. and Mrs. Nesbitt acquired the place four years ago from Mr. Lloyd Brown. Mr. Nesbitt is a returned man and his wife, a Dutch war bride. Mr. Nesbitt has taken a position with Ringwood Farms.

The city firm will take over the property this month and will make the third company to open mining operations in these large Whitchurch gravel deposits. Millions of yards of gravel have been trucked away from this area, and there seems to be an unending supply in this particular region.

Prepare for Widening Of Aurora Sideroad

Another step in the preparation of the widening of the Aurora sideroad from the 4th concession of Whitchurch east, ultimately to the 8th, was taken at the regular December meeting of council held on Saturday afternoon. Council passed a bylaw providing for an agreement between the township and the County of York to cover the widening of the corner adjacent to the well-known Wesley Church. The land was purchased some time ago from the G. Gemmill farm.

It is believed that the county ultimately plans to surface the road all the way from the 4th con. to the 8th con. at Ballantrae. Provision in the survey is for an 86-ft. road allowance.

The annual bylaw was also passed appointing C. E. Toole as the Whitchurch representative on the Newmarket - Sutton High School Board, and J. C. Edwards as the representative on the Markham-Stouffville Board.

Councillor Fred Timbers was appointed as the council representative to the annual meeting of the York County Federation of Agriculture to be held at Newmarket on Dec. 13th.

The appeal case in connection with the County equalized assessment is expected to be finally settled this week. The final decision will reduce the Whitchurch equalized figure by some \$550,000, to approximately \$1,900,000. This new equalized assessment for 1951 will further reduce the Whitchurch County levy.

In 1949 the municipality paid \$18,000 in the county levy; in 1950 the amount was \$14,000, while in 1951 it is anticipated the figure will be down to less than \$10,000.

Road accounts for the month amounted to \$3,399.60, and the retainer fees of \$250.00 each to the municipalities of Aurora and Stouffville, for fire brigade services, were passed for payment.

The question of increased salaries for the office staff again came up for discussion, but due to the fact that Councillor Sid. Legge was absent from the meeting, the decision in the matter was bypassed until a full council was present.

Death Takes Mother After Lingering Illness

Following a lingering illness of a year's duration, Mrs. Earl Keith, Main St., Stouffville, passed away on Tuesday, Dec. 5th. The late Mrs. Keith was born in 1892, in Markham Township, and married Earl Keith in 1930. The couple took up residence on the former Sandy Jones farm.

Deceased was the former Ida Ethel Hoshel. Besides her husband she is survived by one daughter Audrey, and two brothers, Charles of Toronto, and George of Whitchurch Township.

The funeral on Friday afternoon will proceed from the L. E. O'Neill Funeral Chapel at 2 p.m. with interment in the Stouffville Cemetery.

Herbert Lagerer of Toronto visited at the home of Clarence Lagerer on Saturday last.

New Parking Ban To Be Introduced

Bylaw was passed by Stouffville Municipal Council in special session this week, which will ban all parking on the north side of Main St. between Church St. and Stouffer St. Week after week, dangerous congestion occurs near the school, opposite the Presbyterian Church, at the entrance to the Arena and the Atkinson Sales Arena, because of the double parking on both sides of Main St.

Permanent signs will be erected shortly by the Ontario Dept. of Highways who have jurisdiction over this portion of the street.

It was also revealed that the Dept. of Highways will station one of their large grader snow-plows in Stouffville this winter, to work through town and north to Uxbridge. The equipment was at work this week levelling off the accumulation of ice on the south side of the Main St. business section.

Former Stouffville Girl Passes in Flint, Mich.

Mrs. Ross winterstein left Toronto on Wednesday morning to attend the funeral of her aunt, Mrs. William Lambert Carver of Flint, Mich., on Thursday. Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Perkins and Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Perkins of Victoria Square also planned to be present, as they are relatives of Mrs. Carver's. Mrs. Priscilla Heisey of Stouffville is a cousin also.

Mrs. Carver was the former Alice MacKinnon, and was in her early seventies. She was one of a large family, and when her mother and father moved to the United States, she was a small child and stayed with her Grandmother and Grandfather Perkins at Victoria Square. When they passed on, Alice came to Stouffville to reside with her Aunt Mary Trudgeon.

She was a dressmaker, which trade she learned in this village. Following her marriage to Mr. Carver, Mrs. Carver moved to Toronto and later to Flint, Mich. Surviving are two sons, Norman at home, and Gordon also of Flint, and four grandchildren. Mrs. Winterstein subscribed to The Tribune for Mrs. Carver who eagerly waited each week for news of her old home town.

Close Run for Council In Markham Township

With only a light vote out to the polls to Monday's municipal election in Markham Township, there was quite a close run for the three council seats by the four contesting candidates. Last year's council members were all returned, with Alf James, a new member in 1950, heading the polls. W. J. Lennox, the only new candidate, polled 715 votes, just eighty-seven votes back of Chas. Hooper, and was exceptionally strong in his home district of Doncaster, Thornhill and Langstaff.

Reeve Win. Timbers and Deputy-Reeve Dalton Rumney were both returned in Markham by acclamation so there will be no new faces around the council board when they convene in January 1951.

Dr. McEwen Deputy-Reeve In Township of Pickering, 1950 Councillors Returned

Dr. N. E. McEwen defeated Geo. Todd, deputy-reeve of Pickering Township, in Monday's municipal election, by a slim fifty-eight votes. Dr. McEwen held the deputy-reeve's post a couple of years ago. The balance of the Pickering Township Council was returned to office, with Mr. Wootton, a new candidate from Pickering Village running fourth.

In defeating the present deputy-reeve, Mr. McEwen polled a strong vote in Pickering, Dunbarton, Frenchman's Bay and almost all the lakeshore polls. Mr. Todd, for his part, received his heaviest support in the north farming

section, Claremont, Brougham and Whitevale, although he received a substantial vote in the south as well.

Mr. Fred Zinkie, new member to the council board last year, proved that his administration is finding favor with the ratepayers as he topped the polls on Monday with a vote of 1,323, nearly a hundred votes in front of Mr. Clare Baldson council.

The 1951 council of Pickering Township will be comprised of W. H. Westney, reeve; Dr. N. E. McEwen, deputy-reeve; Clare Baldson, Milton Burk and Fred Zinkie, councillors.

Farm in Family For 132 Years

The sale was recorded this week of the Ross Kester farm on the Pickering-Markham townline just east of Stouffville. The place has been in the Kester family name for 132 years, having been purchased from the Crown for the sum of one hundred pounds.

Mr. Kester recently passed away, and the farm was disposed of to Fred Hope of Milliken. H. W. Moyer, Willoughby farm agent negotiated the transaction, and the sale price was \$16,800. The farm consists of 75 acres of good workable land, a small portion of hardwood bush, and good buildings. Mr. Hope will take possession of his new farm in February.

Bill Hawley, local C.N.R. section employee, was the lucky winner of the first program cash prize at the Owen Sound-Stouffville hockey game on Tuesday night.

Kiddies Headquarters Here This Saturday

Every child for miles around, and parents too will be Stouffville bound this Saturday afternoon for the annual Santa Claus parade, staged by the merchants. The Markham Girls' Bugle Band will head the show, and there'll be nearly a dozen floats, in addition to entries by youngsters of their decorated bikes and doll buggies. The Stanley Theatre is staging their weekly matinee for the kiddies in the morning at 10 a.m. while the arena is providing free skating for them in the afternoon. All in all next Saturday promises to be one of the biggest days of the year.

LOCAL ELECTION MONDAY

Ratepayers will go to the polls in Stouffville on Monday to elect council for 1951. Polls will be open from 9 a.m. until 6:30 p.m. Five candidates are running for the four seats on the board.

More than Eighty Students Receive Academic and Athletic Presentations

More than eighty students received diplomas, academic awards, and athletic prizes at the annual Commencement Exercises of the Stouffville High School, held in the Legion Hall here on Friday evening. Lorne Boadway, president of the school Literary Society, chairman, welcomed the parents and guests, in his opening remarks.

The Honor Graduation Diplomas were presented to the following nine students, by Mr. Frank Burkholder, chairman of the local Area Board: Mildred Brillinger, Margaret Hisey, Erla Holden, Carolyne Logan, Robert Logan, Murray McMullen, Fay O'Neill, Donna Stouffer, and Mary Stouffer.

Graduation diplomas were received from the hands of Mr. Ted Edwards, and Mr. Don Chadwick, also members of the High School Board. Students receiving these were, Barbara Bagg, Shirley Bone,

Vera Doust, Jean Empringham, Norman Fairles, Clarence Fowler, Jessie Harding, Vernon Hoover, Robert Lehman, Willard Moyer, Janet Noxon, Murray Redshaw, Barbara Smith, Shirley Steckley, Dean Watson, Betty Wideman, and Allan Winn.

The largest group was that receiving Intermediate Certificates, and these were presented by Mr. A. G. Thompson and Mr. A. H. Williams, to the following students, James Bodendistel, Florence Bolender, Eldon Brillinger, Audrey Brown, Ira Brown, Marion Brown, Grant Burkholder, Glenn Byer, Louise Clarke, Murray Couperthwaite, Reginald Cox, Mary Eckardt, Nelda Eison, Bruce Fockler, Eldon Fretz, Mary Ann Fretz, Ona Hallman, Shirley Hartwick, Joan Haynes, Edward Hill, Barbara Hisey, David Hoover, Harry Hunt, Delphine Logan, Lorne Morton, Edward Murphy, William Murphy, Margaret Myers, Walter O'Boyle, Agnes Ohi, Jean Paisley, Phyllis Paisley, Marilyn Pearce, Eleanor Reid, Herbert Roberts, Bruce Rusnell, Anna Savoretti, Shirley Schell, Grace Sellers, Helen Snowball, Roger Spence, Elaine Spofford, Robert Sproxtton, Doris Steckley, Glenn Thompson, Ruth Timbers, Doris Whitty, Mary Wideman, Murray Wideman.

The Whitchurch Township scholarship for proficiency was presented by Reeve Ed. Logan, to Jessie Harding, and the Valedictory address was given by Donna Stouffer.

Two inter-school athletic awards were received, the junior girls' championship to Margaret Reid, and the senior girls' cup to Marion Atkinson who tied for this honor. Honors in the local field day went to June Smith, Graham Frisby, Helen Snowball, John Davis, Marion Atkinson and Willard Moyer. Miss Schofield, Mr. Davis and Mr. Pearce presented these awards.

A real highlight of the evening's program was an address by Mr. Arthur Duncan, Director of Public Relations for the Bata Shoe Co., Batawa, Ont. Mr. Duncan took as his subject, "Getting the Best Out of Life," and held the rapt interest of the large audience with an instructive and yet humorous talk.

Several musical numbers by the Senior Choir and Junior Girls Choir rounded out the program. The usual dance numbers, tumbling and play which have formerly formed a portion of the commencement program will form the basis for another student concert in the spring.

WINNERS OF INTER-COUNTY TRACTOR PLOWING COMPETITION



The Ontario County team, composed of Hugh Baird, Blackwater, R.R.2, and Donald Dunkeld of Claremont, were successful in winning the McLean Trophy emblematic of the Inter-County Tractor competition at the International Plowing Match held

this fall near Alliston. Hugh Baird also won the Fred G. Fuller Trophy for having the best plowed land in this Inter-County Class. By winning the McLean Trophy the two boys and H. L. Fair, agricultural representative for Ontario County, were awarded the

British American Oil Trip to the Chicago International Livestock Exposition. They traveled with the Ontario party to the H. Club Congress in Chicago. Left to right are Robert Baird, Hugh Baird, H. L. Fair, Donald Dunkeld and Murray Dunkeld. Mr. Fair is

holding the McLean Trophy which will remain in the Department of Agriculture office at Uxbridge until the International Plowing Match next fall. Hugh and Donald both received miniatures which they will keep.