

The Stouffville Tribune

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LOCAL BABY REAL ACROBAT



Nelson Wilson, son of Mr. and Mrs. I. P. Wilson of Stouffville, is a real acrobat as shown by this picture. He now weighs twenty-one pounds and at five months of age, he per-

formed this stunt. Mrs. Wilson is the former Margaret Byer of Stouffville, and the couple have recently moved to town from the West. Mr. Wilson is employed at the local Machine & Tool Works.

Passing of John Gower Removes Well-Known Figure from Community

In declining health for some years, but bedfast less than a week, one of Stouffville's most familiar citizens passed to his rest early Tuesday morning, Dec. 12th, at his home on Clark St., in the person of John W. Gower, who had been active until his 82nd birthday.

Born in Headcorn near London, England, 81 years ago last March, he was the son of John Gower and Maria Manning Gower. The deceased came to Canada at the age of 22, and settled in Markham Township, and his mother lived in Stouffville for a time. After a short time he moved to Baker Hill, where he worked on the farm for the late John Jamieson. He also resided in Toronto, Maple, Buttonville and the Melville community.

Besides being employed on farms, Mr. Gower worked a short time for the railroad, cared for private gardens and furnaces, and was maintenance man for the town of Stouffville in which he made his home for some 36 years. He was a faithful and thorough workman, who took just pride in his handiwork. The late Mr. Gower was identified with the Baptist Church, and was a member of the Maccabees. For the past 17 years he made his home with Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Holden, the latter being a niece.

Mr. Gower was twice married, first to Mary J. Livingstone of Woodbridge. They are survived by three daughters, Mrs. Alf. West (Bertha) of Oshawa, Mrs. Oscar Cryderman (Louise) of Flint, Mich., and Mrs. G. Roberts (Myrtle) of Weston, and 13 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. His second wife was Lizzie Miller, daughter of the late Dan Miller of Stouffville, who also predeceased her husband.

Three brothers also survive, George of the 8th con. of Markham, Ernest of Belleville, and Bert of Toronto, as well as two sisters, Mrs. G. Penfold (Emily) of England, and Mrs. Ben Lehman (Nellie) of Akron, Mich.

Funeral service will be held Thursday afternoon, Dec. 14th, at 2:30 from O'Neill's Parlours conducted by Rev. Gibson Brown with interment in Stouffville Cemetery. Pallbearers will be nephews of Mr. Gower, Fred Steckley, Ed. Brownsberger, Almer Fockler, Walter Pipher, Wilbur Gower and Lorne Gower.

Oldest Town Retailers Mark Diamond Anniversary

The firm of Ratcliff & Co. has long been associated with the public life of Stouffville, being established in the year 1890. They will this year, complete their sixtieth year of commercial business. Thirty years of this term of retailing in groceries were passed in the Todd block in the west end of town. Needless to say they have seen many changes and many ups and downs in the business life of the community, so many changes indeed that today they are the oldest firm doing business in the town. The business was established by James H. Ratcliff who continued it up until 1903, after which time he was joined in partnership by his brother John W. Ratcliff, both of whom have passed away in recent years, and the business has passed to Glenn Ratcliff, son of James H., and who continues it to the present time.

Ratcliff & Co. has seen the rise and fall as well as the passing of many competitors, as at many stages in the town's life, the contest for a place in the business life has been strenuous and exacting. Besides carrying a full line of staple groceries they established the first fruit business in the community.

At the closing years of the first World War, the firm, feeling the necessity of larger quarters, was fortunate in securing one of the finest business blocks in the centre of town. At that time, the block housed, in addition to their business, a public market in the basement, a public hall, the office of the B. & S. Telephone Co. and a corner store occupied by Geo. H. Saunders.

Members of the firm, the late James H. Ratcliff and now Glenn Ratcliff have been actively engaged in the town's municipal affairs. It was during the elder Ratcliff's term as Reeve of Stouffville, that our splendid gravity water system came into being.

To meet the public demand for modern self-service, Ratcliff's Store recently underwent further modernizing to offer a spacious, well-lighted store, with easily accessible well-stocked shelves, and double pay-check outlets.

Engagement

Mr. and Mrs. R. J. Fleury announce the engagement of their daughter Phyllis Jean, to Maurice Wyatt Dixon of Winnipeg, son of

Councillor Reg. Stouffer Tops Polls, Small Vote was Recorded

Councillor Reg Stouffer topped the polls on Monday in the Stouffville Municipal election which drew only about thirty-five per cent of the electorate out. With no burning issue to be decided, interest in the campaign lagged.

John Scott, former councillor, seeking a seat on the 1951 board, made a strong bid, and finished a scant 41 votes back of Councillor Harold Spofford, fourth member of the present council to be returned to office. Reeve Henry Ogden was returned by acclamation, and there was no election for school trustees or cemetery commissioners.

Here's How They Voted

	North Side	South Side	Total
Reg Stouffer	160	140	300
Glenn Ratcliff	150	144	294
Harry Ratcliff	144	138	282
Harold Spofford	142	122	262
John Scott	125	98	223

Harry Walker Heads North York Plowmen

Mr. Harry Walker was elected to head the North York Plowmen's Association at the annual meeting held at Sharon on Tuesday evening. A fowl supper was enjoyed by the gathering, followed by various reports, entertainment, and the election of officers.

The following will fill the positions next year: hon. pres., P. E. Ferguson; Walter Wood; pres., Harry Walker; 1st vice pres., Ivan McLaughlin; 2nd vice, Allan Balso; secretary, Ross Ratcliff; treas., L. J. Harper; directors, Ed. Logan, Ed. Ferguson, Fred Timbers, Elmer Wells, Bill Simpson, Allan Shaw, Walter Rate, Charlie Haines, Wm. King, B. Davidson, Irwin Winch, Murray McMillan, Frank Marritt, Bruce McMillan, S. Baycroft, M. Connell, R. J. Rogers, Fred Byer, Ernest Davis, E. Hamilton, H. Wardell, J. Harper; auditor, Chas. Nolan.

Market Day Dec. 20 Horse Show Cancelled

The date of the annual Christmas Market in Stouffville is Wed., Dec. 20th. Farmers are invited to bring their produce to Stouffville that day when outside buyers are expected to be on hand.

Owing to the fact that suitable accommodation for horses is not available in town, the annual horse show has had to be cancelled. The horse show has been the mainstay of the market day in more recent years, as little effort was made to induce poultry raisers to bring their produce here. At one time, prizes were given, both for poultry and home-made baking, but of late more emphasis has been placed on the Santa Claus parade and the horse show will apparently have to be dropped for the present at least.

Was Resident of Markham Township For Sixty Years

Succumbing to a heart ailment, Mrs. Benjamin Hoover passed away at her home, lot 22, con. 8, Markham, on Wednesday, Dec. 6th. The late Mrs. Hoover had resided in Markham Township for sixty years, and in Ringwood for nineteen years. She was in her 80th year. A daughter of the late Phillip Raymer, she married Benjamin Hoover in 1890, and he predeceased her in March 1933.

Deceased was an ardent worker in the United Missionary Church, Mt. Joy and was a Sunday School teacher for many years.

Surviving are two sons, Arthur and Clarence, and a sister, Anna (Mrs. Menno Grove). A daughter, Gertrude, predeceased her mother.

The funeral was conducted from the late home on Saturday by Cyril Berry and Aaron Grove, with service in the Wideman Church, and interment in the adjoining cemetery. Pallbearers were, Lorne Loveless, John Timbers, Levi Grove, Willis Reesor, George Hoover and Norman Hoover.

Mrs. Pearl Dixon and the late Mr. T. Dixon of Winnipeg, the marriage to take place Wednesday, Dec. 27th, 1950, at the United Church, Stouffville.

Rev. and Mrs. A. T. Gooding of Gormley announce the engagement of their daughter, Ruby Eileen, to Kenneth Edward Jones, son of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. Jones of Dickson Hill. The marriage will take place on Tuesday, Dec. 26, at Gormley.



Councillor Glenn Ratcliff



Councillor Harry Ratcliff



Councillor Reg Stouffer



Councillor Harold Spofford

Well-Known Thresher Dies in Markham

Well-known thresher and a resident of the municipality his entire lifetime, Freeman Ramer passed away at his home in Markham on Thursday, Dec. 7th. Although in his 79th year, death came suddenly. Deceased was born in Markham, a son of the late John Peter Ramer.

Fifty-three years ago he married Sarah Cornell who survives him. The couple enjoyed all their married life in north Markham where Mr. Ramer plied his trade as a thresher, and for five years was employed as a locomotive engineer. He was identified with St. Andrew's United Church.

Besides his widow, the late Mr. Ramer is survived by two sons, Frank and Emerson, and a daughter Carrie (Mrs. Gordon Roberts); four brothers, Tillman, Ambrose, E.H. and Peter Ramer; also two sisters, Elizabeth (Mrs. Wesley Reesor), Lillian (Mrs. John Lehman).

The funeral on Saturday was conducted by Rev. Mr. Thomas, local minister, from Dixon's Funeral Home, with interment in Elmwood Cemetery. Pallbearers were, O. Ramer, Reuben Meyers, John Snowball, Garnet Raymer, Ed. Roffey, and Harry Johnson.

4-MILE HOSE HALTS BLAZE AT MARKHAM

Markham and Unionville firemen had to lay hose a quarter of a mile to a creek, the closest water supply, when fire broke out in a garage on No. 7 Highway on Monday. Damage was \$5,000.

The blaze broke out in the furnace room and gutted the centre of the new building, destroying several tires and a new car. The garage is operated by Jack Maynard and James Rushton.

The recently organized Stouffville Farm Forum met on Monday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wellington Reid to discuss

David M. Hoover Passes Peacefully in Sleep In 84th Year

Funeral service for the late David M. Hoover, who passed away at his home on O'Brien Ave. early Friday morning, Dec. 8th, was held in O'Neill's Parlours on Sunday afternoon, conducted by Rev. Douglas G. Davis with interment in Stouffville Cemetery. Pallbearers were nephews of the deceased, Reuben Meyer, Allen Meyer, Joseph Brownsberger, Samuel Brownsberger, Edwin Byer and Nelson Smith.

Since dislocating his hip five years ago, the late Mr. Hoover had remained upstairs in his home. Some two weeks before his death it was thought he had suffered a stroke. When one of the family went into his room around 7:15 Friday morning, she found her father had passed away, presumably in his sleep.

The late Mr. Hoover was born at lot 25 on the 7th concession of Markham Township at Peach's Corners 83 years ago, the son of Christian L. Hoover and Susannah Hoover. He was united in marriage with Josephine Pipher, who predeceased him 14 years ago. Mr. Hoover farmed on the property where he was born, and was a quiet, patient, uncomplaining man, whose chief interests were his home and his church. He was a member of Peach's Methodist and Stouffville United Churches. The Hoover family moved to Stouffville 23 years ago.

Surviving are three daughters, Mrs. Erle Miller (Florence) of Stouffville, and Edna and Violet at home, and two sisters, Mrs. William Gilmore (Matilda) of Unionville, and Mrs. Robert Smith (Sarah), of North Markham.

"Security for Farm Labour." The next gathering on Monday, Dec. 8th, will take the form of a turkey supper to be held at the Fred Timbers' home.

Thousands In Town For Santa Claus Parade

One of the largest crowds ever assembled in Stouffville was on hand Saturday afternoon for the annual Santa Claus Parade staged by the local Business Men's Association. Thousands poured into town, some from considerable distances, and they were well repaid, as Saturday's display surpassed by far anything ever assembled for this annual Christmas celebration.

The parade covering a distance of several blocks moved off from the Legion Hall and proceeded through town to the east end and back to the municipal building where Santa dispersed nearly a half ton of candy bags to eager youngsters in the arms of harrassed parents.

Many of the floats were quite unique, and much credit is due the many business concerns who put so much effort into the affair. While only three were awarded

prize money, many of the others made fine showings, and the judges had a difficult time selecting the three top spots from the large assembly.

Business places reported a flourishing trade for most of the day with the crowds gradually tapering out in the evening. There were no end of attractions in town on Saturday beginning with a show at the Stanley for the kiddies in the forenoon, free skating at the arena in the afternoon, a busy auction sale at the Stouffville Sales Arena, the parade, and in the evening a senior hockey match.

Prize winners were as follows: floats, Stouffville Nursery School, Mole Motor Sales, Stouffville Planning Mill; second class, Stouffville Business & Professional Women (pony car), Heather Heaton (baby carriage), John Nolan (tricycle), Eddie Sanders (bicycle); clowns, Jack Garrett.

UXBRIDGE TWP. BUYS BIG TRUCK

Uxbridge Township has just purchased an International truck, 4-wheel drive, from Mr. Ratcliff of International Motors, Stouffville. The big job will be used for plowing snow. Contract price was \$11,000.

Friends and relatives including Mr. and Mrs. Len Tait from Ajax and Mr. and Mrs. C. Andrews and daughter of Newmarket gathered recently at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Bert Tait, popular Stouffville couple, who celebrated twenty-five years of married life.

MARKHAM VS. NEWMARKET HERE MONDAY NIGHT

Markham Millionaires will play a regular league hockey fixture here this Monday night, Dec. 18th, with Newmarket. Game, time is 8:30 p.m.

Stouffville Clippers are arranging for a bus to go to Bracebridge for an exhibition game on Boxing Day, Dec. 26th. For tickets call L. E. O'Neill or Walter Holden.

Mrs. Orval Fretz, Audrey Bell, Mrs. E. Kramer have joined the local post office staff to assist in handling the heavy Christmas rush of mail.

Former Road Foreman Killed in Train Accident

Leslie Preston, road foreman for Whitchurch Township for 26 years, was killed on Wednesday morning of this week when struck by a southbound C.N.R. freight train at the crossing between the 4th and 5th con. of Whitchurch, on the Ballantrae sideroad.

Mr. Preston had been to Aurora and was returning to his home which is only about a half mile from the crossing when the accident occurred. His car, an early model Durant, was carried nearly a half mile down the track by the impact, and his body had to be

extricated from the wreck.

The unfortunate man was 73 years of age, and has spent his entire lifetime in the municipality. Only last year he retired from his road foreman's position. He farmed at one time on the 3rd con. and also on the Preston home place on the 5th. His wife predeceased him nine years ago and he is survived by two sons, Jack of Queensville and Elmer on the 5th con., also two daughters, Mrs. Stelebras in Oshawa, and Mrs. Reynolds in Queensville. Ernie Hoover has been making his home with the deceased.

Town May Be In Line For A Planning Board

There was intensive discussion at the regular meeting of Stouffville Municipal Council on Thursday evening concerning the necessity for the establishment of a local Planning Board. Stouffville, like so many other municipalities, is suffering growing pains, and it appears that now is the time to set up some definite plans for expansion or at least seek proper direction in handling newly proposed sub-divisions. Two new sub-divisions are before council at the moment. The one has received approval provided various conditions as covered in local building and land restriction bylaws and others covered by provincial law are followed. This is the A. E. Heaton sub-division on Manitoba St. running east from north Church Street.

Blue prints for another sub-division covering the former Sangster property adjacent to the C.N.R. tracks at the foot of Blake Street call for a new street known as Brant St. to run north and south through the property and joining Rose Ave. and Burk-

holder St. Eighteen lots are shown on the plan, the shallowest lot on the east side being 88 feet, and on the west side 102 ft.

"I think we should have a street crossing the tracks, and this looks like one of the best places," commented Councillor Reg. Stouffer.

Council agreed that a second through street crossing the C.N.R. must be planned for shortly. A street right-of-way crosses the Gold Fish property and could be continued through to the 9th con., and this plan appeared most favorable to council.

Councillor Harry Ratcliff reported that he has received a number of complaints concerning residents keeping livestock in the east end of town. It was stated that this was a matter for the Sanitary Inspectors of the Health Unit, and such complaints should be lodged with them at the Newmarket head office.

A bylaw was passed appointing A. G. Thompson as council's representative on the local High School Area Board.

Council agreed to proclaim Tuesday, Dec. 26th, as Boxing Day.