

The Stouffville Tribune

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Nightlong Fire Guts Landmark On Main Street

Fire which broke out at eight o'clock on Thursday evening, and raged for more than twelve hours, gutted the Geo. Baker building on Main St. here including two stores and apartments above. While the roof collapsed, part of the frame structure was saved. The fire was first noticed by Mr. Baker.

With the temperature hovering near zero, firemen controlled the stubborn blaze with three hose lines. When they arrived on the scene, just moments after the siren wailed, there was little actual fire to be seen, but immediately the streams of water began playing on the sawdust-filled walls, tongues of flame broke out in several directions.

Lassie, a large police dog owned by Mr. Baker, died in the flames, trapped it was believed on the upper floor. Both Mr. Baker and Mr. Wm. Sanders, an apartment tenant, were able to get out to the street before the outbreak became intense. George David, owner of the butcher business in the east side of the building, resides elsewhere in town.

Hose lines from two adjacent hydrants were augmented by a third pumped from the creek at the rear of the B. & S. Telephone building.

Gordon Brown, town electrician, was severely shocked and burned about the hands when he climbed to cut hydro wires leading to the building. He had taken off his gloves to scale the ice-coated pole.

Firemen kept a close watch on the Robt. Snowball barber establishment adjoining, lest the cement blocks should become overheated. The firemen handling the heavy hose were at times almost frozen rigid with the cold, and were revived with hot coffee from time to time, served up by Harold's Grill.

The conflagration cast a tremendous glow in the sky that could be seen for miles, and smoke floated as far south as No. 7 Highway. The telephone lines were kept busy answering queries from miles away as to the trouble.

Included in the loss on the upper floor were thousands of new gallon containers and paraffin cups, the property of Mr. Baker, local chemist. The refrigerator in the butcher shop contained a considerable number of New Year's fowl. Mr. Sanders, tenant, lost his entire clothing wardrobe. The losses of Mr. Baker and Mr. David are partially covered by insurance.

The building is a landmark built one hundred years ago. The structure was originally located at the east end of town where it served a church congregation as a meeting place at one time. Over a half century ago it was moved to its present site and for years was occupied by Maw Watt who operated a laundry and the late John Monkhouse conducted a tailoring establishment.

Miss Marion Weldon of Stouffville left this week for New York City where she will join the staff of the Presbyterian Hospital there. Marion has been nursing at St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, for three years.

FIRST BABY IN '52
First baby in the New Year at the Brierbush Hospital, Stouffville, arrived shortly after noon on Thursday, Jan. 3rd, a daughter for Mr. and Mrs. Murray Daniels of Stouffville, a sister for Robert. This first 1952 infant tipped the scales at eight pounds, four ounces.

These Were Prize Winners



Above photos are two of the prize-winning yuletide door decoration pieces in the recent Horticultural Society contest. Top picture is the door piece of Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Sider,

townline just west of Stouffville, which won them second prize for the out-of-town entrants. Below is the first prize effort of Mr. and Mrs. H. O. Klineck, on their apartment house, Main St., westend.

Whitchurch Township Council will hold their inaugural meeting for 1952 on Monday afternoon, Jan. 7th, commencing at 12 o'clock noon.

Five Candidates for Council In Uxbridge Twp. Election

Reeve Isaac Catherwood and Deputy-Reeve Stewart Ball were awarded acclamations to the 1952 Uxbridge Township Council at the nomination meeting held on Monday afternoon. Five names will be in the field for council from which three will be elected when the people go to the polls on Monday, Jan. 7th. The three former council members, Bruce Beach, John Ball and Luther Booth will again be seeking election along with two new candidates, Earl Dowswell and Clarence Bunker. Eldred Catherwood and Walter Beach were returned to the trusteeship of the school area board. The question of giving a \$10,000 grant to the Uxbridge Cottage Hospital by the Township will also go before a vote of the people at the coming election.

In offering his comments on the year's activities Reeve Isaac Catherwood dealt mainly with the accomplishments at County Council. The new hospital for the aged erected at Whithy at an estimated cost of \$550,000 was almost completed. Mr. Catherwood explained that the gross expense of the project was not expected to reach the estimated total. In expressing his views on the assessment situation the Uxbridge Township Reeve explained that the county assessor was engaged to work with the local assessor. He pointed out that there had been numerous complaints over various assessed properties but it was the idea of the assessors that everyone should pay their just share. Mr. Catherwood touched on the reforestation situation and said that the county had gone the limit in purchasing land in the township. He explained that private buyers are purchasing land for their own interests and are paying more than the county wishes to spend.

Arrangements had been made with Claremont, Stouffville, Mount Albert and Uxbridge fire brigades to service certain districts of the municipality wherever it was convenient. Deputy-Reeve Bert Tindall who resigned his post after moving out of the township explained to his audience that the council had not done as much work during the past year as they had wished but the money, to do the work just wasn't available. The purchase of a new truck had used up a big share of their approved road expenditure and now that the vehicle has been paid for the 1952 council should be able to move ahead without a debt hanging over them.

"It has always been our policy in Uxbridge Township to 'pay as we go' and that is the method we have followed during the year (continued on back page)

Arnold Tipper, councillor in 1951, and Jack Lowe, well-known undertaker, will contest the mayor's position in the town of Uxbridge on Monday, Jan. 7th.

Mr. and Mrs. P. A. Jerman and Mr. and Mrs. J. A. Jerman and their families of Toronto. Mr. and Mrs. Gordon McCowan and family from the city and Mr. and Mrs. Mel Emmerson and family were all New Year's guests with Mr. and Mrs. W. McCowan. The family gathering included nineteen members and was one of the largest groups to assemble for this annual holiday feast.

Miss Audrey Jennings visited with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Tom Jennings, over the holidays. Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hamilton, Mrs. D. Johnson and Heather, Mr. Chas. Green of Toronto and Mr. Donald Devine of Orillia spent New Year's at the Jennings home.

Lived on Adjoining Farms, Couple Wed 50 Years

On Sunday, Dec. 30th, over 170 guests visited the home of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Milroy of Markham on the occasion of their golden wedding anniversary. The happy couple have been residing in the village for almost seven years moving from Cedar Grove where they had operated a farm since their marriage a half century ago.

Mr. and Mrs. Milroy have practically grown up together as their parents owned adjoining farms and sent their children to the same public school.

From 3 o'clock in the afternoon until five and from 7 in the evening until ten the well wishers filed into their home on Main Street bringing their many gifts and good wishes. A telegram from Prime Minister St. Laurent and M.P.P. Jack Smith were among the treasured gifts that will be honoured forever. Mr. and Mrs. Milroy have two daughters, Mrs. Max Reesor (Rilla) and Mrs. Alex Reesor (Margaret) as well as two grandchildren, Doreen Reesor and Donnie Reesor. Two relatives who attended the wedding fifty years ago and were on hand to offer their congratulations were a brother, Mr. Arthur Milroy of Cedar Grove and a sister-in-law, Mrs. Robt. Milroy, also from Cedar Grove. The minister at the ceremony, Rev. Leslie Pidgeon, passed away some time ago.

Receiving at the door were the two daughters, Mrs. Max Reesor and Mrs. Alex Reesor, with Mrs. Edgar Pilkey, Mrs. Howard Pilkey, Miss Marian Burrows, Mrs. Chadwick, Mrs. Walter Percy, Miss Nellie Lapp and Mrs. Ed. McCowan pouring tea. Other ladies who assisted at the gathering were Mrs. Rae Pilkey, Mrs. Alvin Pilkey, Mrs. Stewart Murrison, Miss Ruby Reesor, Mrs. Ross Murrison and Mrs. Stan Pilkey.

Former Resident Mrs. J. Spence Dead

Suddenly on Sunday, Dec. 30, at the home of her son at Mount Albert Mrs. John Spence passed away in her 82nd year. Born in Whitevale the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Francis Burgess, she deceased moved to the 6th concession of Whitchurch following her marriage to John Spence where the couple operated a farm for a number of years. Following retirement Mr. and Mrs. Spence moved into Stouffville where they resided for some 12 years. Mrs. Spence had been living with her son William at Mount Albert for the past two months. Her husband predeceased her three years ago. The late Mrs. Spence, although suffering from a heart condition, had up until the time of her death been feeling in comparatively good health. She was identified with Stouffville United Church.

The deceased leaves to mourn her passing one daughter, Mrs. Albert Scott (Gladys) of Bethesda and four sons, Earl in Toronto, Bill of Mount Albert, Elmer on the ninth concession of Whitchurch and Maitland on the ninth concession of Markham. There are twelve surviving grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Funeral service was conducted at the chapel of L. E. O'Neill, Stouffville, by Rev. D. Davis of Stouffville United Church on Wednesday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. with interment in Stouffville Cemetery. The pallbearers were Messrs. Ross Harper, W. Paisley, John Lehman, Geo. Yake, Geo. Middleton and James Jarvis.

Engagement

Mr. and Mrs. Owen Halsted, Ringwood, wish to announce the engagement of their only daughter, Clara Ann, to Donald George Harmon, a son of Mr. and Mrs. George Harmon, Stouffville; the marriage to take place this Saturday, Jan. 5, at Ringwood.

Local Organizations Launch Fund for Recent Fire Victims

Local organizations in town rallied this week to the aid of the fire victims who sustained heavy losses in the recent conflagration in the Baker building on Main St. and this issue of The Tribune launches the Fire Victims' Fund to which all are invited to subscribe. Donations will be acknowledged in this column each week. While the Fund is launched in the name of Fire Victims, contributions may be specified for individual victims, if the donor so desires it.

Organizations represented in this worthy drive are the Oddfellows Lodge, Stouffville Legion, Business Men's Association and Lions Club. Campaign chairman is Mr. Earl Lehman, treasurer, Mr. Len Wilkes and secretary, Mr. M. E. Watts. Contributions will be accepted and a receipt given at any of the following business places: Len Wilkes Clothes Shop, C. H. Bell & Son, Klineck's Store, Silver Bros., Carload Grocerier, and Canadian Bank of Commerce. Will Hold Bingo On Friday, Jan. 11th of next

week, the Campaign Committee will stage a monster bingo in the Legion Hall in aid of the Fund. This bingo will be operated on a "share-the-wealth" basis, and everyone is urged to rally to its support. Members of the Committee are, Sherman Arnold, Bill Greenbury, Wm. Malloy, Walter Smith, Ken Wagg, Earl Lehman, Len Wilkes and M. E. Watts. The fire which swept this business block in town during the holidays is the worst sustained in many years, and offers of aid have already come from numerous quarters to those who have lost home, property and business. Any contribution, regardless of amount, will be most gratefully accepted and acknowledged forthwith.

Contributions to Date	
C.P. & T. Fund, I.O.O.F.	\$ 25.00
Stouffville Lions Club	100.00
Sherman Arnold	2.00
Silver Bros.	25.00
Bill Greenbury	2.00
Stouffville Tribune	25.00

Cedar Grove Storekeeper A. G. Offen, Passes Suddenly

In poor health since July, but only seriously ill recently, Arthur G. Offen, well-known storekeeper of Cedar Grove, passed away at the Lockwood Clinic on Thursday, Dec. 27th. The late George Offen was born in Toronto on July 12th, 1889. Forty-one years ago he married Clara Whiteside, and the couple operated the general store at Cedar Grove for twenty-nine years. The couple also spent some time in Toronto and Highland Creek.

Mr. Offen retired from business some six years ago. He was a member of the Zion United Church, Cedar Grove. Surviving are two sons, George of Trenton and Jack of Cedar Grove, also three sisters, Mrs. F. Gibbons (Sarah), Mrs. M. Quarrington (Nellie), and Mrs. F. Royale (Bertha), all of Toronto. A fourth sister, Catharine, is predeceased.

The funeral on Sunday was conducted from the Zion Church by Rev. G. Thomas with interment in Cedar Grove Cemetery. Pallbearers were Messrs. Frank Sewell, R. J. Barber, Murray Milroy, Clifford Milroy, Lorne Burkholder, Clayton Tarr and Austin Reesor.

Markham Twp. Couple Wed 50 Years on New Year's Day

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Dennie celebrated their golden wedding anniversary on Jan. 1 at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Herbert Simpson of Ballantrae. Twenty guests were present. Married at the age of 21 the bride, the former Lillie May Frisby, was 71 on the 7th of Oct., while the groom was 26 and celebrated his 77th birthday May 20th, 1951.

The happy couple have three children, Mrs. Dennis White (Myrtle), Mr. Charles Dennie and Mrs. Herbert Simpson (Gertrude). There are six granddaughters, three grandsons and one great grandson.

Mr. and Mrs. Dennie originally farmed on the 8th con. of Whitchurch before moving to their present home at the corner of the 5th con. and the townline some five years ago. Both are enjoying comparatively good health.

Pinned Under Wheels Of Runaway Car

Pinned between the rear wheels of a runaway auto on Monday afternoon, Mrs. Frank Grove of North Markham, mother of five children, was able to roll free, jump into the auto and bring it to a stop.

Mrs. Grove was dragged some distance as the auto rolled backwards down a lane on the farm of Edward Timbers, a mile south of Markham. She suffered only a bruised shoulder.

Backing the auto out the lane, Mrs. Grove had her hand on the open door on the driver's side and was leaning out looking for curves in the lane.

The door suddenly jammed into a snow bank, throwing Mrs. Grove out of the auto and under the rear wheels. The limited space between the undercarriage of the car and the ground resulted in Mrs. Grove's being dragged along.

After she managed to roll free, she jumped up and tried to get into the auto from the driver's side, but couldn't make it. She ran around the other side and got in.

Mr. Geo. Pearce, principal of the Stouffville High School, was bereaved last weekend when his father passed away at his home in Barrie. The late Walter Pearce was in his 69th year, and leaves to mourn his loss, his wife, the former Alice Skinner, and three sons, George, Maurice and Fred. Interment was made on New Year's Day in Barrie Union Cemetery.

Legion Presents Car to Lucky Ticket Holder



Here in the centre is George S. Clements, Toronto, a navy veteran of World War II, and winner of the handsome Ford obtained from Murphy Motors,

Stouffville, and given as a lucky ticket prize. The Legion's 1951 president Len Buckland is seen here presenting the keys to the winner.

With them is Wally Nicholson, also a member of the local Legion, who handled the ticket sales.