

York County Health Unit Reports on Sanitation

During recent weeks the health unit has been particularly concerned with food sanitation in the restaurant field, and with sanitation in sub-divisions.

Food Sanitation
Each municipality in the health unit has been asked to adopt a system of licensing such businesses as restaurants, lunch counters, and snack-bars, if licensing of eating establishments is not already in effect in the municipality. The value in licensing such businesses is to produce a closer control over the springing-up of new restaurants that may not be relied upon to prepare and handle food safe for human consumption, and will

tend to prevent evasive changing of ownership of poorly operated and poorly equipped restaurants. At the present time only the Town of Newmarket has a restaurant licensing by-law in the health unit, and it is recommended that each municipal council in the health unit adopt a licensing by-law as soon as possible.

General Sanitation
The extremely difficult problem of waste disposal in the Highland Park, Doncaster, and Thornhill area has taken a step closer to being solved. At the request of the health unit, a survey of this area has been made by the Provincial Department of Health during the

past month. In this general area, hundreds of new homes have been built and occupied on lots that are too small in size for safe installation of private septic tank disposal systems. Apparently no other waste disposal method is available at the present time. To aggravate the situation a large part of the area has an abundant supply of municipal water purchased from a neighbouring municipality, and this ample water supply has tended to increase the volume of liquid waste necessary to be disposed by each household. Many, many waste disposal systems have been unable to handle the load, and raw

sewage has bubbled up in pools and puddles on the surface of the ground and run together into the ditches creating a serious menace to the health of the people in the community. A poor situation has been made worse in some cases by what would appear to be slipshod methods on the part of the contractors doing the work of installing the waste disposal systems.

The problem is of great concern to the residents in the area and it has been discussed in detail with many of the individual owners, the local ratepayers organization, and the Markham Township Council. Because it is felt that the pres-

ent difficulties in this area will increase as time goes by, the health unit recommended in November 1951 that the Township engage a consulting engineer to survey the area and to recommend a solution to what is already a community problem. The health unit pointed out that a municipal sewerage system appeared to be the obvious answer. It has been further recommended by health unit that the Township of Markham adopt a new and revised septic tank by-law to assist in obtaining better workmanship in the installing of septic tank systems. During last month, at the request of the health unit, the Provincial Department of Health dispatched an engineer to survey the problem. The report just received from the Department of

Health for the province emphasizes again health unit's recommendations to the municipality. A suggested septic tank by-law has been forwarded to three other municipalities in the health unit. It is recommended that the local councils consider adoption of the by-law in order to assist in control of new installations and to assist in rectifying numerous existing problems. If the grown-ups wait up to kiss the kids good night no wonder they don't get any sleep. Anger impairs vision, according to a scientist. So we all get so mad we can't see straight. Some people cut down on food for fear of biting off more on their grocery bills than they can chew.

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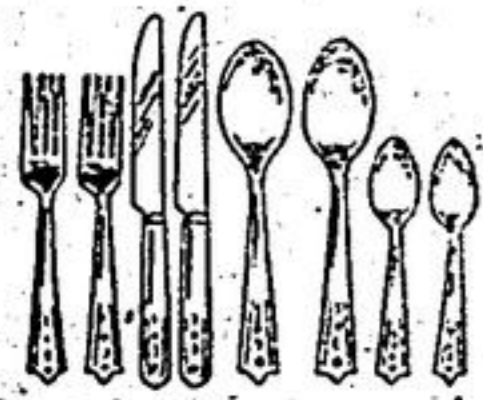
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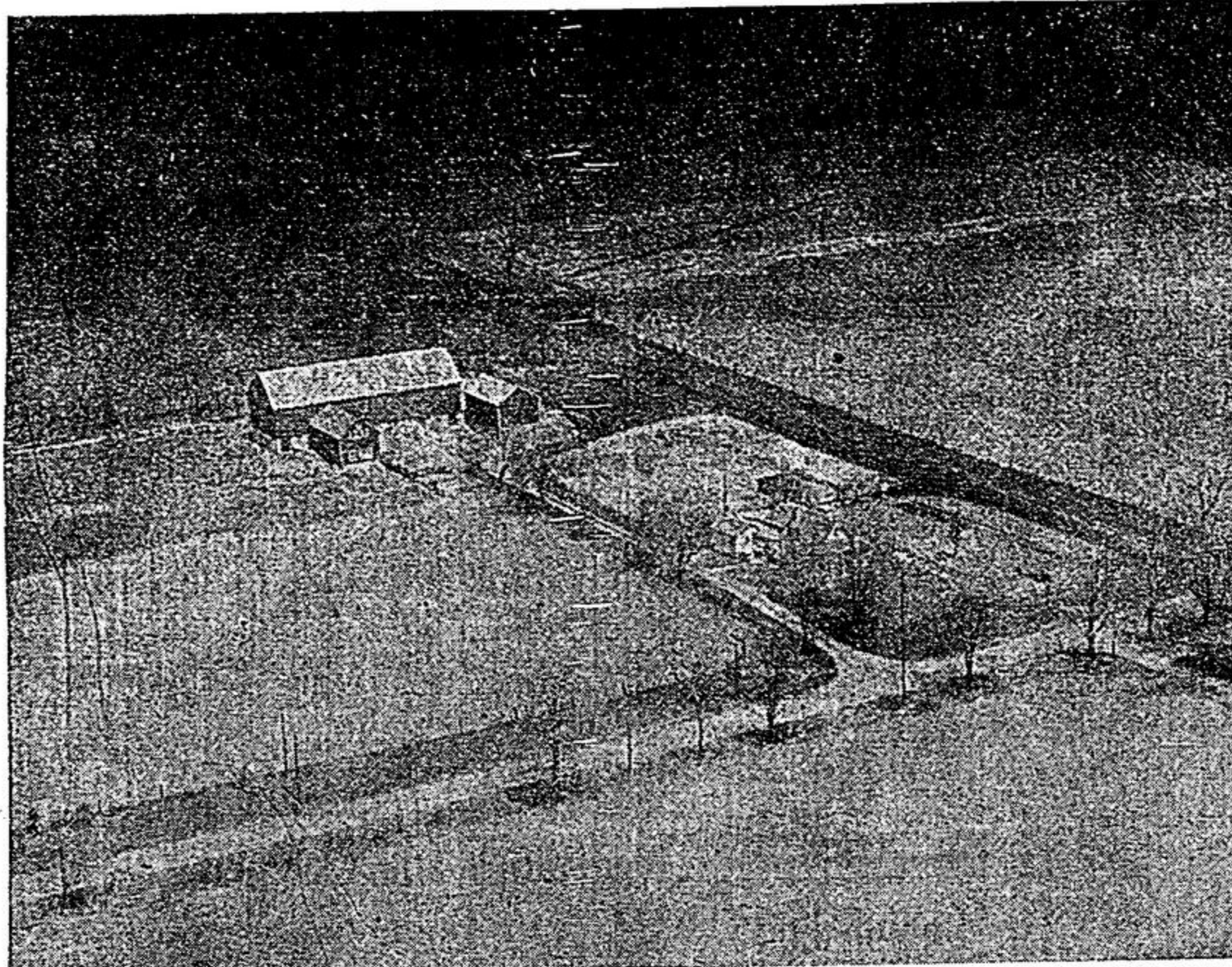
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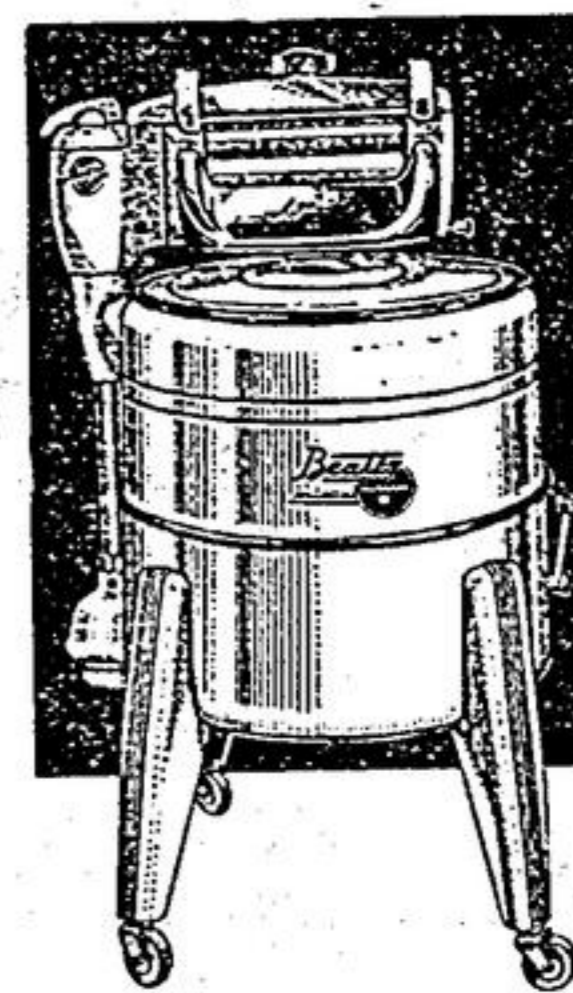
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