

The Stouffville Tribune

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Acres Of Winter Rhubarb On Altona Farm



Ten years ago Mr. Geo. Francis of Altona purchased one load of rhubarb sprouts and since that time his business has gradually expanded until now he has three acres of rhubarb under cultivation. This "winter rhubarb" as it is called is matured in a specially heated house which was only recently completed. Thousands of sprouts are also grown in the barn. It takes from 3 to 6 weeks for the rhubarb to reach maturity. The root cellars are completely sealed off from light.

Mr. Francis started into the rhubarb business at West Hill but the land on his present Altona farm is more suitable for his crop. The heavier soil and increased rainfall produces an excellent grade of rhubarb.

"When the roots are trucked in from the field and placed in

the root house they are completely frozen. Mr. Francis explains that the harder the sprouts are frozen the quicker they will mature when they are placed in the heated store house. When the crop reaches its proper growth the rhubarb is cut and packed in ten pound cartons and shipped to Toronto. A good packer is able to put up 100 cartons every four hours. A ten pound carton sells for approximately \$1.40.

The house, barn and root cellar are all heated from a central heating unit located inside a cement block building. An automatic self-stoker furnace consumes some five tons of coal per month or thirty tons during the winter. An additional root house is to be constructed this summer and it will also be heated by the

A sudden dry spell in the summer could be disastrous for the winter rhubarb farmer. In order to take care of such a situation, Mr. Francis purchased a \$3,000 irrigation system which draws water under pressure from the nearby Altona creek. The machine can successfully water half an acre at a time.

Rhubarb is not the only hoe crop cultivated on the Francis 90 acre farm. Twenty-three acres of potatoes and five acres of spinach are produced during the summer. Mr. and Mrs. Francis have three sons, Don, Dave and Jim who work with their parents on the farm.

The Francis' farm is the only rhubarb growing plantation in the district. One other rhubarb farm is located on the Don Mills Road, south of Steeles Avenue.

Stouffville Accepts \$300 Standby

At the regular meeting of Markham Township Council on Monday evening it was learned that Stouffville had consented to accept the \$300 standby time fee offered by Markham Council in fire protection provided by local firemen. Stouffville requested that they be paid \$300 standby time plus \$60 for the first two hours and \$24 per hour thereafter. Markham Twp. Council felt however that if they agreed to the Stouffville offer they would have the Markham and Richmond Hill brigades down their necks asking for more money. The hourly rate remains unchanged. The agreement has been passed on to the Township solicitor J.D. Lucas for final ratification.

A letter was received from the Markham Twp. Property Owners Association requesting that they be allowed to consult with council concerning some proposed boundaries for the purpose of dividing the township into wards. Councilor Lennie stated they would agree to meet a delegation concerning the subject of wards some time in March.

Town Tax Picture Still Bright

Despite persistent rumours of tightening money, Stouffville's municipal tax picture remains bright and Tax Collector K.R. Davis reports that of the 1953 roll of \$55,933.66, less than \$230 remains outstanding. Even this small amount is made up of estate payments which will not remain outstanding on the books for too long. The 1952 roll of approximately \$91,000 has no arrears.

It is not likely that any other municipality in the province can boast as clean a tax sheet as Stouffville which speaks well for the residents here as well as the efficient collector.

Bud Lehman Injured In Bush Accident

Bud Lehman, son of Gar Lehman, Stouffville was hospitalized on Friday afternoon when a chain saw sliced a thirty stitch cut in his left leg above the knee cap. Bud was working in the bush at the rear of the farm when the accident occurred. He was rushed by Ralph Boyd to Dr. R.E. Mitchell where the wound was treated. He was then placed in the Stouffville Brierbush Hospital. It was just one year ago that Bud underwent an operation on his right leg in the Toronto East General Hospital. The accident will put a serious crimp in his hockey plans for the remainder of the season. Bud is a forward with the Unionville Jets Jr. B. hockey team.

Mary Ann Daley Passes in West

One of the pioneer families of Stouffville and one with a widely known name was that of Daley. Death removed the last surviving member of that original family in the person of Miss Mary Ann Daley, who died in Edmonton, Alta., on Wednesday, Feb. 17th in her 95th year. Mary Ann Daley was the daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. J.T. Daley and was the oldest of seven children, her brothers, R.J., Rev. J.T. and Frank and her three sisters, Susie, Maggie and Josie all having predeceased her. In her active years, she was connected with the Congregational Church, now the Christian and later became associated with the United Church. She was of a retiring and reserved nature and her main interests were her home and the cause of temperance. After the death of her sister, Susie, with whom she lived on Main Street for so many years, she moved to the West to spend her declining years with her remaining two sisters.

Surviving are a number of nieces and nephews. Mr. L.R. Daley and Mr. Vincent Daley of Camrose, Alta., Mrs. W.J. Beckett, Mrs. O.G. Olstad, Mrs. R.E. Kottmeier, Mrs. Norman Lambert and Mr. S.F. Daley of Edmonton, Alta., Mrs. Millie Taylor, Mrs. Outrum, Mrs. Percy Weegar and Miss Kathleen Daley, Toronto, Ont., Mr. Murray Dougherty, Morrin, Alta., Mr. Chas. Dougherty, Didsbury, Alta., Mr. Percy C. Dougherty, High Prairie, Alta., Mrs. Celia Montgomery, Winnipeg, Man., Mrs. Norman Noble, Montreal, Que., and Mr. Bert E. Dougherty, Seattle, Wash.

Rev. Douglas Davis will conduct the funeral services from

Hearing on Validity of Election In Pickering Twp. Continues

A hearing into a motion to declare the election of the Township Council in Pickering invalid has been adjourned until next week. The hearing brought to the Ontario County Court by Gerald Allman, of Claremont began on Tuesday before Judge J.E. Pritchard. Evidence was heard all day Tuesday and Wednesday and was adjourned until Wednesday of this week when additional witnesses will be called.

Chief witness heard on Wednesday was Frederick Hunt, an unsuccessful candidate in the last election, the one under dispute. During the hearing Major Edward Smith, earlier referred to in testimony by Col. Stephen Stephenson, told the Court of visiting the store of J.S. Balsdon at Pickering on election day, Dec. 7th, and finding there an election card carrying the names of a slate of suggested candidates.

Mr. Hunt, a resident of Highland Grove, recalled the visit he had made to Township Clerk Johnston's office before the election. He told of the conversation between Col. Stephenson and Mr. Johnston regarding the ballots for the water vote which Col. Stephenson had declared wrong in the manner of a by-law, not a question.

On that visit, he said, the Colonel had asked if the clerk had informed Reeve Todd of the possible use of election cards on election day and the clerk had told him that the Reeve had been contacted and had replied that he was not having any such cards printed and their use was therefore, none of his personal affair. It was at this meeting, said Mr. Hunt when Mr. Johnston had suggested that senior citizens of the township be allowed to be present at the counting of the ballots and it had also been suggested that one deputy returning officer be allowed to leave the polling place for a time and his wife be allowed to take over. Col. Stephenson, said Mr. Hunt, had objected and had suggested that this election be carried on according to the rules.

Mr. Hunt told of visiting the Dunbarton voting place and asking the constable there what was the idea of permitting the use of an election card. The constable, he said, turned to the counter behind him, picked up a card, saying "Oh you mean this?" and tearing it in two pieces. Mr. Hunt stated that he took this card to the Pickering Police station and had been told by Sgt. David Freeman to keep it.

The matter was then adjourned for the lunch hour. After lunch, Mr. Brower, attorney for Gerald Allman, the relator in the motion, stated that he wished the Court to permit Dr. K.A. Roberts, Deputy Reeve of Pickering Township and a respondent in the action to call Barry Murkar as one of his witnesses.

His Honor asked Dr. Roberts to then declare his position in the matter. It was then pointed out by A.W.S. Greer, Q.C. counsel for Reeve George Todd, that Dr. Roberts sat in the section of the table occupied by the relator and Col. Stephenson, intervenor in the matter. Dr. Roberts disassociated himself from both the relator and the respondents. Judge Pritchard ruled that he would not disturb the continuity of the hearing by calling another man's witness and ordered Mr. Hunt back to the stand.

Mr. Hunt was recalled by Mr. Brower. He told of visiting the polling place at Fairport Beach and of sitting in a chair on the sun porch where he observed a man coming out to the table there to mark his ballot. He said that he had been able to see this man mark his ballot but had not seen how he had marked it. It was while he was there, he said, that he purchased tickets on a doll.

He told of securing tickets for three persons whose names had been omitted from the voters' lists. He admitted that he had not complained of these things at Fairport Beach and stated that "After voting in federal and provincial elections I did not think that Pickering Township would be that sloppy."

Albert Hull, a construction superintendent and a scrutineer at the election told of visiting the Dunbarton poll with Mr. Hunt. He recalled the incident in which the constable had picked up and torn the election card. He also told of standing in the Dunbarton polling place in full view of voters who marked their ballots right in front of him. He told of watching four voters place their votes for Dr. Roberts.

The fallen curtain, which permitted him to see this, he said had been corrected upon the complaint of Dr. Roberts who was present.

Mrs. Hazel Goddard, a scrutineer at Whitevale, was called to tell of the ballot count there where she had been unable to see ballots being counted. She also reported that the poll clerk had left the room on three occasions during election day.

Mr. Brower announced that this concluded his case. Dr. Roberts, a respondent then called upon Barry Murkar of the Pickering News. Mr. Murkar reported that he was unable to find the original copy for the advertisement in his paper regarding the publishing of the voters' lists.

Charles Ross, an engineer, was called by Dr. Roberts. Mr. Ross stated that he had voted at Fairport Beach and told of being permitted to vote in the same room as his wife at the same time. He claimed that the DRO at the polling place had indicated that both could vote together. His wife was also called and she too stated that she and her husband had voted simultaneously at the Fairport Beach poll.

Reeve George Todd was then called. The Reeve admitted that no official action had been taken by council after Dr. Roberts had announced at the inaugural meeting that action was being taken against the township. He said that he had not discussed the burning of the ballots with Mr. Johnston, Township clerk, until after they had been burned on January 19. He also did not know who had made the decision to burn the ballots. He revealed that Hilja Greer, a clerk in the municipal office and Gordon Riehl, a township auditor had been present while the ballots were being burned by the clerk.

Mr. Brower then began a cross-examination of Mr. Todd and indicated that this would take some hours.

Two spoiled ballots in a polling station where the clerk's statement reported "no spoiled ballots," people voting in an unscreened sun porch and in an adjacent bedroom, and suggested election slates that were distributed at the Claremont Santa Claus parade and later appeared in voting booths—these were some of the irregularities testified to by 4 witnesses appearing Thursday in Whitby at a public enquiry into the last Pickering

Mrs. Fred Paget Passes in Hospital

On Saturday, Feb. 20th, Mrs. Fred Paget passed away in the Stouffville Brierbush Hospital in her 78th year. Born in England, the deceased resided for 24 years in Montreal. Mr. and Mrs. Paget came to Stouffville in Oct. 1951 and resided on Rose Ave. She attended the Stouffville Anglican Church.

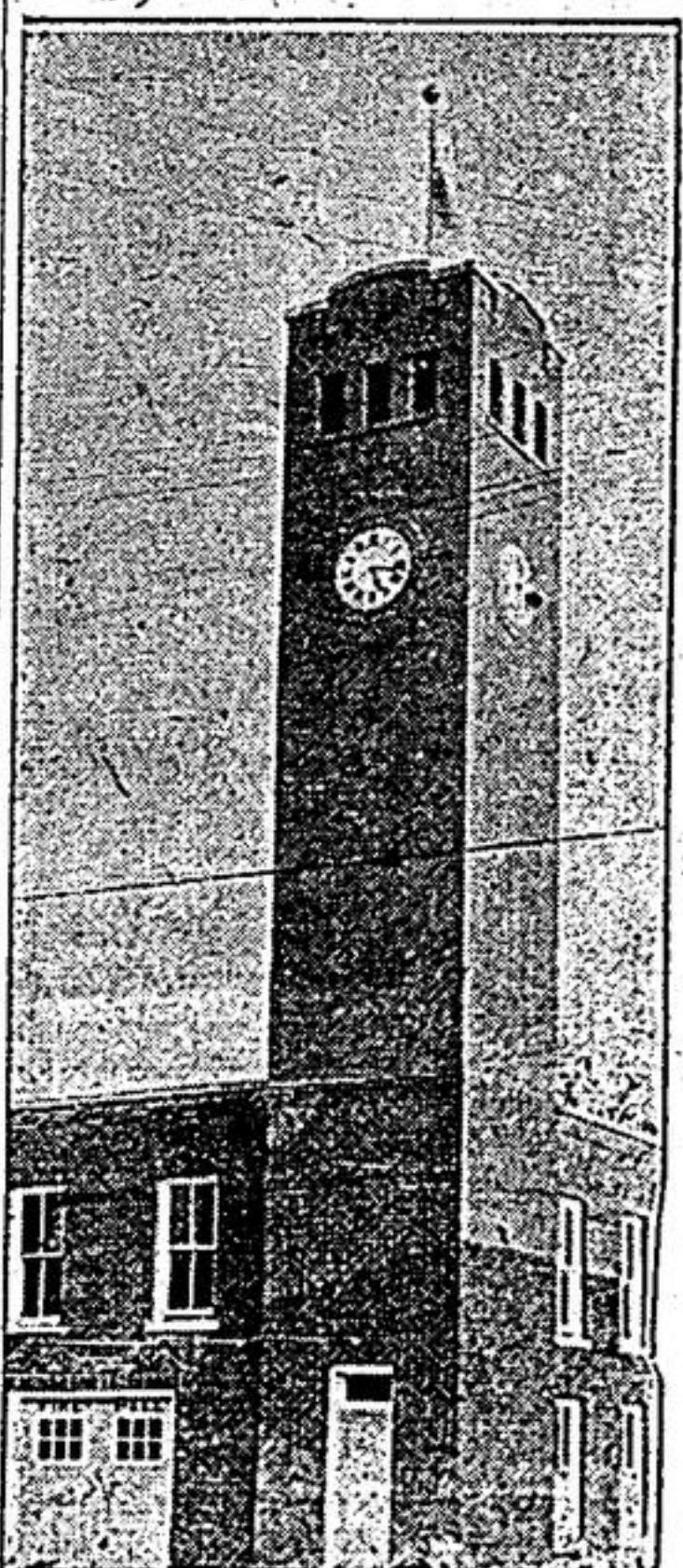
Besides her husband she leaves to mourn her passing, one son Ernest of Montreal and two daughters, Mrs. A.E. Newman of Toronto and Mrs. A.M. Taylor of McMasterville, Que.

Funeral services were held at the L.E. O'Neill chapel on Monday afternoon at 2 p.m. conducted by Rev. Fraser Bourne of Christ Anglican Church, Stouffville with interment in the Stouffville Cemetery.

Horticultural Notes

The regular open meeting of the Horticultural Society was held in the United Church basement on Monday evening. In the absence of the president, Mrs. Dixon was in the chair. A duet was provided by Misses Gloria Hood and Joy Wood. Mrs. Archie Campbell gave a paper on "Tuberous Begonias". Pictures were shown of their trip to Europe by Miss Sue Sellers and her girl friend. They travelled to France, the British Isles, Germany, Norway, Holland and many other countries.

Steeplejacks Repair Town Clock Tower



On Tuesday, repair work was started on the top of Stouffville's town clock-tower by members of the Trans-Canada Steeplejack Co., Toronto. Following an inspection on Monday, the brick work above the clock was considered unsafe and the sidewalk below the tower was blocked off to public traffic. The work is expected to be completed this week. It marked the first time the tower has required repair since its construction 23 years ago.

Accident Victim Buried at Melville

Funeral services were conducted on Monday afternoon for eight year old Keith Kerswill, nephew of Mr. Geo. Kerswill, 6th concession of Markham, who was struck down and killed on the Lake Shore Road, Toronto on Thursday while returning from a grocery store. Interment was made in the Melville Cemetery.

According to OPP Constable Stan Knight, Keith, was one of nine children hurrying across the busy intersection when he ran into the side of a taxi driven by Raymond English. No blame was attached to the driver.

Eight year old Keith was accustomed to spending part of his summer vacation on the George Kerswill farm. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Kerswill, Lakeview.

NO SKATING SATURDAY

There will be no Public Skating this Saturday afternoon in the Stouffville Arena from 4 to 5 o'clock.

Town Recreation Assoc. To Operate Minor Sports

The organization of the Stouffville Recreation Association was unanimously supported by representatives of the Stouffville Chamber of Commerce, Stouffville Legion, Stouffville Lions Club and Parks Commission at a special meeting held on Thursday night. The Association will take over the entire minor sports program and representative from Stouffville's three main organizations will form the framework of the club. Those representatives who received appointments to act as governors of the new Association were: Messrs. Cec. Hendricks and Ernie Austin of the Chamber of Commerce; Jack Garret and Dr. Nell Smith of the Legion and Ted Edwards

and F.L. Button of the Lions Club. Dr. S.S. Ball will represent the Parks Commission. Mr. Tom Wedseloft was elected Secretary. It was suggested that Mr. Art Latham and Mr. Geo. Rodanz along with representatives from the Stouffville Town Council be invited to sit on the Board. The Recreation Association was formed primarily to aid all nonprofit making sports programs in Stouffville. All requests by and from outside organizations will be directed to the Association through its representatives. The next meeting will be held on Wednesday evening, March 3rd at 8 p.m. when the policy of the Association will be thoroughly discussed.

Pay Tribute to Late Menno Grove

The Wideman Mennonite Church was filled on Saturday afternoon as neighbours, relatives and friends paid a final tribute to Mr. Menno Grove, a resident of North Markham. Born on the Mount Joy side road, the deceased resided for a number of years on the farm now owned by Mr. Gordon Pipher, 8th con. of Markham. He has lived in Mount Joy for the past thirty-eight years. He was in his 78th year.

Although Mr. Grove had not been in the best of health since Christmas death came very suddenly resulting from a heart attack. The late Mr. Grove has always been very

active in church work and served for a number of years as a deacon and also a Sunday School teacher in the Mount Joy United Missionary Church. Although the late Menno Grove spent the majority of his years on the farm, he later turned his hand to the carpentry trade following his retirement in Mount Joy. Besides his wife, the former Anna Raymer, he is survived by two daughters, Beatrice (Mrs. John Timbers) on the 6th concession of Markham and Ruby (Mrs. Orran Loveless) of Ellesmere.

A private funeral was held at the Dixon Chapel on Saturday afternoon at 2 p.m. followed by service in the Wideman Mennonite Church at 2:30. The services were conducted by Rev. H. Shantz assisted by Rev. P.G. Lehman of New

BIRTHS
CARR — Albert and Ruth Carr, Unionville R.R. 1 announce the birth of their son "Barry Glenn" a little playmate for Brian on Feb. 14, 1954 at the Markham Nursing Home.

QUANTZ — John and Lillian Quantz, Claremont wish to announce the arrival of a baby-sister for Murray, Marjorie Ellen, born Tues., Feb. 16, 1954 at Oshawa General Hospital. Mother and daughter both doing well.

Dundee, and Rev. M. Bricker of Toronto with interment in the Wideman cemetery. The pallbearers were Mr. Lorne Grove, Mr. Roy Grove, Mr. Louis Grove, Mr. Frank Grove, Mr. Amos Reesor and Mr. Arthur Hoover.

TWIN GIRLS BORN AT BRIERBUSH



On Thursday, Feb. 11th, twin girls, Doreen Carol (left) and Darlene Marion (right) were born to Mrs.

Ray Hill of Altona. Darlene weighed 5 lbs. 9 ozs. and Doreen weighed 5 lbs.

8 ozs. The mother was the former Edith McKenzie of Columbus near Oshawa.