

The Stouffville Tribune

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Crime Story Unfolds as Co-Op Thieves Sentenced

A long story of crime was unfolded in York County Police Court when the names of four men were read out along with the charges against them. Brian Roach, George Seniac, James McDonald, all in their twenties and John Ratz, alias John Ross, 36, had been brought from Orillia after being sentenced there for robbery, to stand trial for breakins at Stouffville and Markham on April 7th.

James McDonald, who asked for a remand when he appeared last week, had the charges against him withdrawn when he appeared in court on Tuesday of this week. A statement taken from one of the accused and read in court stated that the four had pleaded unemployment and starvation when taken into custody. They had been driving through Stouffville on the night in question and stopped at the Stouffville Co-op where they found a window in the rear not fastened. They entered and found only small change in office drawers. They took with them a quantity of drills, etc. Reesors Mar-mill at Markham was entered the same night and \$16 stolen, also the C.N.R. tool shed in Markham and a crowbar taken. The crowbar was in court and identified by Harvey Rose, C.N.R. employee, as the one stolen from the railway shed.

Constable Robinson of the Orillia O.P.P. said he had found the bar near the safe in the premises of an auto sales firm in Orillia and three of the men on the roof of the building. They had received sentences of eighteen months for John Ratz and nine months for the other men.

Constable Dukes and Chief Wideman of Markham were in court and said that drills and articles stolen in Stouffville were in the car accused were driving in Orillia. Roach and Seniac were given nine months each to run concurrent with sentences given in Orillia. Ratz was remanded until this Friday for sentence and a probation report. A long list of convictions were read against these men and against Ratz who has already served six terms in the reformatory.

"They haven't done you much good," said the magistrate, "a man of your age should go to the penitentiary. I am wondering if the trouble these younger men are in is due to your influence."

Sign Stouffville Fire Agreement

Whitechurch Council agreed on Thursday evening to sign a Fire Agreement with Stouffville on the basis requested by that municipality. The township will pay to Stouffville \$300 standby time, \$60 per fire for the first two hours and \$24 an hour thereafter. This matter has been on the agenda for several meetings as there was some dissention on the figures which were slightly higher than the agreement with Aurora.

A communication was received from Richmond Hill asking if the township desired the fire brigade from that town to service fire calls to Oak Ridges and other nearby points in the municipality which normally went to Aurora. Council agreed to circularize the rate-payers in that area as to the proper Aurora phone number to call in case of fire but agreed to pay any calls which Richmond Hill did have. Council did not desire any Fire Agreement with Richmond Hill.

Consider Dance Hall
Council will ask Walter Preston to supply sketch plans of a proposed dance hall, restaurant and gas station which he is considering erecting near Pine Orchard. There was some question as to a traffic problem which might be created by the dance hall and council wished to look over the proposed entrances to be made to the premises.

Sign Police Agreement
The annual agreement with the Ontario Provincial Police was placed before council who agreed to sign on the same basis as last year which is \$1500 to be made in three payments.

Would Leave County If No Tax Relief Given

"If no relief is forthcoming from county tax I am prepared to go along with other municipalities in recommending a Private Bill go before the legislature to have Markham Twp secede from York County," declared reeve LeMasurier on Monday night as council pondered the question of an extremely heavy county tax rate.

The time has arrived for Markham and numerous other municipalities in the county to prepare their budgets and strike the annual tax rate. However, to date, York County has failed to strike a rate that can be included in the township tax rate. The county is presently making representation to the Ontario Municipal Board for relief from heavy financial burden brought about by Bill 80 and the division of the county. "I don't think there's much hope of relief," declared reeve LeMasurier.

"The government created this situation and regardless of what other county rates are they should help out with the situation," said deputy reeve Clark.

Clerk Hoover stated that it would require a Markham mill rate for county purposes of 15.72 mills on the budget first drawn up for the county. However this figure would not likely represent a true picture as the original estimates were certain to be cut, the reeve said.

Clerk Hoover pointed out that if Markham set their county rate at ten mills they could be nearly \$50,000 short. "Let the county make it up out of their surplus," said the reeve. "Let the county wait," declared deputy reeve Clark. A resolution passed setting Markham's county rate at ten mills.

\$4,100 Tender Accepted for Whitchurch Garbage

A tender of \$4,100 was accepted from Mervin Degeer by Whitchurch Township for the collection of garbage this summer at Wilcox Lake, Preston's Lake and Musselman's Lake. A tender price of \$3100 was given for Wilcox, \$800 for Musselman's, and \$200 for Preston's.

A communication was received on Thursday night by council, from the City of Port Arthur asking Whitchurch to endorse a resolution which had been sent to Premier Frost recommending compulsory insurance for any mechanical vehicle travelling on the highway.

"This idea is strictly to get the farmer taxed for tractors and other implements," declared councillor McCarron. "Everybody's paying into the unsatisfied claims fund and if the government can afford to pay for accidents caused by old jalopies on the road, it can afford to pay for the farmer who has to go on the road with his tractor," he said.

"Watch out that if you get will be notified that they must comply with the Land restriction bylaw, Chapter 12, Sec. 6.

Over \$10,000 for Missions in Recent Campaign

Another great missionary campaign has just closed in local United Missionary Churches with the total contributions to the work surpassing anything given previously. During the services which ran from April 21st until the 25th, messages were heard from India, Africa, South America, China and Japan by various missionaries including Miss Eileen Lageer, Rev. E. Benedict, Rev. Richard Reilly, Miss M. Keirath and Rev. George Weppeler. The messages and pictures brought vivid reports of the gospel work being carried on in spite of hardship and persecution.

Total contributions from the Stouffville United Missionary Church were \$6,625.88. This was made up of collections during the year of \$1,697.77; Sunday School \$480.00; W.M.S. \$724.79; Young Peoples' \$75; cash during convention \$3,077.32. This total is nearly a thousand dollars ahead of last year and does not include donations from Altona.

The Gormley and Bethesda churches contributed to the work \$4,000 in this conference year. Mounty Joy and Dickson Hill congregations gave \$1859 cash during the convention. Other amounts were also contributed from the churches during the year.

compulsory insurance, the rates don't go up for everybody, but I'm one hundred percent in favour of compulsory insurance for cars and trucks. Council agreed to take no action on the request.

Ask School Boards' Help
A request for council aid by the Canadian Institute for the Blind Building Fund, has been turned over to the rural school trustees as council felt that they had the best opportunity for reaching the people with the information regarding the campaign.

Weed Inspector Resigns
Mr. Elmer Starr who has been Weed Inspector for Whitchurch Township for a number of years has resigned the position and Clerk Crawford was instructed to prepare a bylaw for a new appointment.

Raised Budget
A communication from the township Planning Board requested a budget allowance this year of \$1500, which is \$500 higher than last year. The reason for the increase, the Board stated, was to carry the extra activities of the Industrial Committee. Deputy-reeve Timbers stated that the Board desired to meet with the council this Tuesday night regarding the new Master Plan for the township now under preparation. It was also hoped to have Dr. King of the Health Unit present to discuss the use of old sub-division lots which were of a smaller area than required now by bylaw.

AT THE ARENA
There will be public skating at the local arena this Wednesday night and on Saturday night of this week. Woodville and Fisherville will meet here in the fourth game of their ORHA Intermediate 'A' finals. Game at 8:30.

SOFTBALL MEETING
The Stouffville Shamrocks will hold a softball meeting on Tuesday evening, May 4th, in the Municipal Hall at 8 p.m. All those interested in making the team are requested to attend.

BOYS OPERATING PET SHOP BUSINESS



Three local boys pictured from left to right: Paul Coppins, Bob Hammersley and Barry Wilkes are presently operating a thriving "pet shop" business in the west end of town. The hobby started less than one year ago and has produced a number of pet pigeons, rabbits and guinea pigs. The birds and animals, housed in a small vacant barn are fed and cared for daily by the three business partners.

By-Election in Whitchurch Twp.

Whitchurch Township council accepted by resolution on Thursday night, the resignation of Councillor E. L. McCarron who has moved his residence from the municipality. Councillor McCarron was serving his third term on council. His resignation was accepted with regret by other members of council as he has been a most valued member since his original election.

A resolution calling for a nomination and election to fill the vacancy was duly passed and the necessary bylaw is being prepared by Clerk Crawford for early presentation to council.

Clerk's Position
Six applications were received for the position of clerk to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Clerk Jack Crawford. Council discussed the applications at some length but reached no decision.

Miss Gertrude Taylor Passes Following Lengthy Illness

On Thursday, April 22nd, Miss Gertrude M. Taylor passed away in the Stouffville Nursing Home following a lengthy illness. Born at Headford, she was the daughter of the late John and Marcella Taylor. She was in her 64th year.

She is survived by two sisters, Mrs. Harold Harper and Marjorie, both of Unionville and three brothers, Harold, Lorne and Russel of Albany, New York.

Funeral service was held at the Ogden Funeral Home, Agincourt, on Saturday afternoon at 2 p.m. conducted by Rev. W.S. Butt of the Unionville United Church with interment in the Victoria Square Cemetery. The pall bearers were Herb Weatherill, Arthur Ellis, Arthur Brown, Harold Harper, Thomas Hobbs and Everett Harper.

PAPERS WANTED
The Tribune is anxious to obtain extra copies of this newspaper for the issues of Feb. 4 and March 18 of this year, also issue in week of March 20, 1952.

Official Opening Of Markham Offices

The modern new municipal building of Markham Township will be officially opened during a special ceremony this Saturday afternoon at 2:30 p.m. Cutting the ribbon will be Mr. Win. Timbers, past reeve and council member and prominent in Markham's municipal affairs for many years.

The flag raising will take place on the fine new staff encircled by the driveway in the property foreground and will be conducted by the Markham District Veterans' Association. The flagpole is the gift of the Buttonville Women's Institute.

The ceremonies will also include tree planting, unveiling of a plaque, other presentations and a tour of the building followed by lunch at the Buttonville Community Hall. Markham Township was incorporated in 1850. Settlement began in 1793 with the Bercy Settlers at German Mills, and many of today's residents are descended from the families who remained when the colonization project ended with the ruin of William Bercy who invested \$150,000 in the plan to settle German immigrants in York County.

The Bercy settlers were followed by a colony of French aristocrats exiled after the revolution. These Royalists settled in the north-west corner of the Township but did not stay long in the wilderness. Several families, however, owe their descent to some of these people.

In 1803 the first of the Pennsylvania Dutch came into the Township, Henry Wideman being the first settler. In the following year there was a large influx of Mennonite settlers in caravans of Conestoga wagons. The migration continued until the outbreak of the war of 1812. By that time Markham Township had a larger population than any of the neighbouring townships, and twice as many as the Town of York, 1200 people. The Home District comprised nineteen municipalities in 1809. Markham Township was surveyed in 1794.

After the end of the war of 1812 British settlers began moving into the Township. By 1849 Upper Canada had legislation for the setting up of municipal government in any township that had one hundred freeholders on its tax roll. Under the provisions of this Act Markham Township has been electing its own Township Council since January 1, 1850.

Lions To Canvass For The Blind

Stouffville Lions Club under the chairmanship of Fred Campbell agreed on Monday night to canvass Stouffville homes on behalf of the Canadian Institute for the Blind Building Fund. Stouffville's allocation is \$1400. The Lions will handle the canvass in the blitz manner, going out in force on Friday of this week, Monday and Tuesday of next week. Householders are asked to give a cordial greeting to the Lions and be prepared to contribute all possible to this cause.

The canvass covers the counties of Halton, Peel, Simcoe, York, Ontario and the district of Muskoka and Metropolitan Toronto. Thousands of volunteers are conducting the appeal which will culminate in the erection of a centre for the sightless second to none on the continent. The new centre will provide a nucleus of activity that can change the lives of more than 2,000 blind citizens who live in the five-county area.

Greater employment opportunities will be high on the list of advantages the new centre will set in motion. L.G. Williamson, a blind person himself and C.N.I.B. Director of Employment, explained not only how these improvements would benefit county dwellers who move to the one-hundred-room residence, but also how it will provide a source of income for the sightless who remain in their own homes in the county communities.

"A spacious shop will make it possible for us to parcel out to sightless home workers, quantities of sub-contract work," Mr. Williamson said. "This work will give the blind an occupation for a few hours each day, and a pay cheque at the end of the month."

He explained that the majority of the blind receive a \$40 month pension from the government and may not earn more than a small amount without forfeiting the pension entirely.

STAR OF THE SHOW



Nancy Murphy, three years old, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Murphy, who was the star of the amateur show sponsored last week by the local Legion. Nancy rendered "Peter Cottontail" and "Ricochet Romance."

Elgin Wagg Gets Town Gravel Tender

Elgin Wagg was the successful tender for the Stouffville gravel contract at a delivered price of \$1.10 per yard. Council reached a decision at a meeting on Thursday night. There were four tenders for the contract. Close to 1,500 yards of gravel is expected to be placed on the town streets this summer. In discussing the tenders Council agreed that they had received good service from Wagg last year with loads being delivered when they were required.

Councillor Daniels suggested that a survey be made of all town roads to discover the necessity for repair work, new culverts, etc. He also suggested that following the application of oil to the side streets these roads should be blocked off until the oil is thoroughly absorbed.

Reeve Henry Ogden was appointed as temporary building inspector until a satisfactory replacement could be obtained.

Mr. Archie Little and Charles Hoover, representatives from Markham Twp. Council attended the meeting to discuss the new fire agreement. Stouffville Council members felt that they would not be able to lower their hourly rate.

Half Million Dollar Sub-Div. For Markham Twp.

Markham Township Planning Board and Council have indicated agreement with a proposed new sub-division planned by the T. J. Colbourne Construction Limited comprising 150 new homes on Bayview Ave. south of No. 7 highway. The proposed value of houses would range from \$18,500 to \$40,000.

Build School
Included in the proposal is the offer to erect a new five-room school on four acres of land to be deeded to the township. The school, the sub-dividers stated, would be commenced within six months of the registration of the plan and would be completed in three months.

Paved Roads
The sub-divider also proposes to lay penetrating pavement or to donate to the township \$5.50 per foot for this purpose. The township council has also asked that proper drainage for the sub-division be provided at no cost to the municipality.

LOCAL GIRL TO GRADUATE FROM BIBLE COLLEGE

On Thursday, April 29, 1954, the Varsity Arena in Toronto will witness the Graduation Exercises of Toronto Bible College. Forty-five graduates will receive diplomas and certificates. Among them will be Miss Shirley Steckley.

Toronto Firm to Conduct Parking Meter Survey

A request was received by Stouffville town council on Thursday night from the A. E. Horton Sales Co., Toronto to make a parking survey in Stouffville with the ultimate plan of later installing parking meters. Prov. Police Constable W. S. Hilliard highly recommended the installation of meters in order to alleviate Stouffville's parking problems. At the present time the town has a one hour parking bylaw on Saturday nights and a five hour limit during the day.

Constable Hilliard pointed out that it was difficult to keep a close check on the parking violators other than with the meter system. He said that in the town of Whitchurch meters were installed and the Company retained half of the proceeds for three years until the meters were fully paid for.

Council felt that a parking survey would do no harm and further consideration would later have to be given to the idea of meters.

RINGWOOD FARMS HEREFORDS TOP QUEBEC SALE

The five top heifers sold last week at the annual Quebec Beef Cattle Spring Sale at Sherbrooke were animals from Geo. Rodanz' Ringwood Farms. The local breeder disposed of seven animals in all, one heifer selling for \$75.00, top price for the breed. Shorthorns and Angus cattle were also disposed of.

ENGAGEMENT

Mr. and Mrs. Chas. Ingleton of Agincourt announce the engagement of their daughter, Verna Muriel Kathleen, to Mr. Gordon Leonard Cox, son of Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Cox, Markham. The marriage will take place on Saturday, May 22, 1954, at 3 o'clock D.S.T., at Armadale Free, Methodist Church.

Mrs. Geo. Lawson has returned home after spending a couple of weeks in hospital.