

History of Telephone Boundary Dispute

(No. 13 of Series)
By Mr. A. D. Bruce

It is with great reluctance that the writer recalls the regrettable incidents that will be recorded in this article. However, leaving this chapter unrecorded would be to present an unfaithful picture.

In the preceding chapter we recorded how the B. & S. Tel. Co. had built into Markham Village, how we had retired from Markham, and how we had extended our line into Unionville. Each of these moves was made at the request of The Markham & Pickering Tel. Co., or with their approval — the result of their inability to occupy new territory. The extension into Unionville had been made early in June, 1906, the M. & P. Co. having informed us that they could not undertake the extension, and that they were agreed that we should undertake it that the area might be saved from falling into the orbit of the Bell Company.

We resume the story of our relations with the M. & P. Tel. Company: June, 1906. My recollection is — and inferences drawn from references in written records confirm my recollection — that the first boundary line agreed upon between our respective territories was the side-road at lots 20-21, on the 6th line, Markham.

As the matter of keeping the Bell Tel. Co. in check was urgent, we pressed the development. We built southward 2½ miles, and had one telephone on what is now No. 7 Highway, and east of Unionville. Very soon we required two and eventually three party lines to carry the business from this new area.

Under date of Feb. 27, 1907 — less than nine months from the date of our extension to Unionville — we received a letter from the M. & P. Co. stating that when they granted us permission to take over in Unionville, they also had reserved the right to extend their line to Unionville. They also notified us that they purposed at an early date to build into Unionville — and other western points, in areas that had originally been allotted to their company.

Our Directors were more than surprised when this letter was laid before the Board. Remembering all that had occurred, in connection with our extension to Markham, they felt that this was a repetition of the Markham episode, and that the M. & P. Co. was imposing upon us because of the good feeling that was supposed to exist among all Independent Telephone companies.

Under date of March 15, we wrote to the M. & P. Co. . . . Our Company hereby enters a protest against your company extending into territory which was once, indeed, allotted to your company, and which we occupied to save it from being taken by The Bell Co. . . . As to the question of your company coming to Unionville as our competitors for business, we will not consent. Moreover, we would be obliged if you would inform us as to when — and in what terms — you reserved the right to build to Unionville. This was an important reservation, and we have no record of it.

This happened in March, 1907 and we heard no more concerning the intention of the M. & P. Co. to build into the disputed territory, until the spring of 1909.

When it became probable that an independent telephone company was about to operate in Vaughan Township, we decided to seek connection with their system and, as we believed that the M. & P. Co. would also desire to make a similar connection, we endeavored to have a conference for the purpose of clearly defining the boundary between our respective territories. We failed to obtain such a conference, but we did learn that representatives of The M. & P. Co. had been canvassing for subscribers in the western part of Markham Township, and had been stating that they were about to build into Richmond Hill and Thornhill, and also into Unionville.

The annual meeting of the Executive Committee of the York & Ontario Telephone Union was drawing near and we decided to bring the matter of our boundary line before the meeting, which was held in The Tremont House, Markham, on April 30th, 1909. As it happened, the writer was President of The Union, and Mr. A. F. Wilson — a member of the Bd. of Directors of the M. & P. Co. — was Secretary.

When our item was reached, I left the Chair and Mr. Alex. Neilson of the Scarborough Co. who was our Vice-President, presided. Each company pre-

Drives a Million Accident Free Miles



Mr. James Peddie of Claremont, a trucker, has driven nearly one million miles without an accident. Mr. Peddie started driving trucks only 20 years ago, after moving from his home farm at Glen Major to Ottawa. For two years, he operated a small sedan delivery vehicle and later drove a large straight truck on a route from Ottawa to Brockville for a biscuit company. He has been a resident of Claremont for the past thirteen years.

Mr. Peddie uses for his motto, the three C's — care, courtesy and common sense. He attributes his fine accident-free record to this slogan. The Claremont trucker transports both livestock and freight and his all-Ontario licence takes him to many distant points. He has two trucks. The other vehicle is driven by Mr. Walter Hopkins of Ashburn.

Mr. Peddie is of the opinion that many accidents are caused through mechanical defects. "One must keep his truck or car in top working condition," advises the experienced owner. The driver feels that excess speed is also responsible for many highway accidents. "A driver should regulate his speed according to the condition of the road," warned Mr. Peddie. He limits his speed to 45 m.p.h. His vehicle is licensed for a load not to exceed six tons. He is able to transport either nine steers, fifty-five lambs or forty pigs in a load. He is able to get 100,000 miles out of a set of tires.

Christianity Has Done Great Things For India

"India is a free republic today because of the Christian gospel," Miss Winnie Bonner, missionary from India, told the morning congregation at the United Missionary Church, in Stouffville, on Sunday. Miss Bonner is one of a number of missionary speakers who were part of a week-long missionary convention in this church, concluding with three services on Sunday.

Miss Bonner took her text from the tenth chapter of John, the 9th verse: "I am the door; by Me if any man go in, he shall be saved. . . . Today's Christians are most privileged — while world statesmen tremble, they have a message to tell the world. In my travels half way around the world, no color or race barrier could be found if there were true fellowship with God," the speaker said.

She told of the plight of India, with three hundred million people bound down to the worship of idols when the first missionaries came. She continued with interesting experiences in the city of Calcutta.

The India government has today done away with the caste system which separated the people and now the "untouchables" are in high places and professions. The emancipation of women in India was also credited to the introduction of Christianity. The gospel has brought new medical care and new hospitals are springing up everywhere. It has also brought education. Every high school student, she said, must read the Sermon on the Mount.

Miss Bonner unfolded the interesting story of the conversion of her grandfather who was an upper class Hindu priest through the preaching of Alexander Duff.

Miss Bonner spoke in the afternoon and again at the evening service. The Youth for Christ Band provided the musical portion of the program at night and Mr. Lambert Stouffville led the congregational singing at all services.

of interesting experiences in mission work in India. She stressed the blind futility that faced millions in her country and told the startling story of five thousand persons being stampeded to their death during a pilgrimage to the Ganges River in search of an idol that might meet their spiritual needs.

Only one radio station in India will allow Christian broadcasts, that being Radio Free Seylon where a half hour of Christian Church time can be purchased.

The amount raised in cash during the year is \$2,964.21

and the amount raised in cash during the convention is \$450.81. The promises and pledges totalled \$1,190.00. The exact total raised is \$3,695.02.

March Building in Markham \$100,000

Value of building in Markham Township during March amounted to \$137,165, according to figures presented to Twp. Council at their regular meeting Monday afternoon. Seventeen permits were issued during the month including nine new homes valued at \$109,000.

All New Sidewalks to be Built Under Local Improvement Act

All new sidewalks in Stouffville will be laid under the local improvement Act following a resolution passed by the local municipal council on Monday evening. It was anticipated that requests would be received this summer from a considerable number of areas in town requesting new walks and council agreed that the burden of expenditure on these walks, principally in new subdivisions, must be lifted from the other ratepayers in the community.

Heretofore all new walks in town were laid on a fifty-fifty basis, the municipality sharing half the cost. Under this system there was no compulsion on the ratepayers to pay their share and no method by which council could legally collect. Likewise, one ratepayer on the street could hold up the entire walk if he did not desire to pay.

Under the Local Improvement Act, the system used in practically all municipalities for such local works, the total cost of the walk will be borne by those desiring it. A signed petition of at least seventy percent of the ratepayers desiring such walk must be presented to council and the cost which is

determined by tender, is apportioned on a frontage basis and debentured against these properties for a period of years.

Councillor Timbers made the observation that Stouffville had been most generous in the past in paying for half the cost of these walks. Reeve Daniels stated that he believed quite a number of new walks were pending and the cost would be high if handled any other way than by Local Improvement.

Del Forsyth appeared before Council and made the suggestion that Council pass a bylaw limiting the number of taxi cabs in town to one. However, Council did not take the view that there was much likelihood of any additional cabs starting up in business in a community of this size.

Clerk Garfield Brown stated that the Auditor for the village had asked that council set an annual salary for the Building Inspector. However, Council believed that the year was too far advanced to make any change in the present system of pay for the building inspector and instructed the clerk to advise the Auditor that consideration would be given to a salary next year.

Easter Could Be 31 to 81 Degrees

The weather for Easter, April 10? Well, during the past ten years the average temperature for that date was 54.3 degrees. Over 40 years the April 10 readings range from 31 to 81 — but there are only two 31-degree readings on record and one 32.

Local Minister Honored at Bible School Graduation

Rev. Oscar Burkholder, former local son, was honoured last week at the annual graduation Exercise of the Ontario Mennonite Bible School at Kitchener. The graduation also included graduates of the Bible Institute where Mr. Burkholder has been located for the past four years.

He was presented with a plaque in recognition of his 37 years as teacher and a letter of appreciation from the board also was given to him.

Diplomas, earlier in the day, went to 14 Bible school graduates and to five in the Bible Institute. The diplomas were presented by Principal Roy S. Koch and Dean John F. Garber.

At the same time, Sunday school certificates were received by 21 students. These were in recognition of two years of study. Enos Bearinger, class president of the institute, presented a 14-volume set of reference books to the school library, a gift of the graduates.

Rev. Howard S. Bauman, the school board chairman, presided at the night service. The Commencement address was given by Rev. Myron Augsburger, college pastor of Eastern Mennonite College, Harrisonburg, Va.

Music was directed by Rev. V. Paul Martin. Bible school graduates comprise one from Ohio and one from Indiana, with the rest from Ontario. Milo Shantz is class president.

Bible school graduates are Tillie Anderson, Fair Oaks, Ind.; Irvin Cressman, Kitchener; Catherine Geringer, Stanley G. Geringer, Doris A. Geringer and Milo D. Shantz, all of New Hamburg.

Also Doris Geringer, Walenstein; Patricia Grove, Markham; Erla Martin, West Montrose; Orvie Martin and Dorothy Grace Stricker, both of Waterloo; Mary Louise Miller, Kent, Ohio; Eileen Mae Roth, Shakespear; John Myron Rudy, Baden.

Institute graduates are Enos Bearinger, Hamilton; John Bohm, Waterloo; A. Margaret Detweiler, Breslau; Doris Ada Seick and Verdelia Mae Schmitt both of Kitchener.

Mr. and Mrs. H. K. Mitchell are visiting their son Dr. R. B. Mitchell. They have been vacationing at Nassau in the Bahama Islands, south of Florida, for the last two months. Mr. Mitchell is a retired doctor.

Markham To Ban Top Soil Removal Commercially

Markham Township Council moved on Monday afternoon to stop the commercial removal of top soil from farms in the township. Deputy Reeve W. L. Clark stated that it was estimated that six hundred acres of good Markham soil had already been carried away. Mr. Clark stated that denuding a hundred acre farm of top soil was a good business venture as the farm would bring as much as \$3,000 an acre.

At present council has power only to restrict sub-dividers from removing top soil.

All members voiced the opinion that the matter was serious. Township solicitor J. D. Lucas was present at the meeting and informed council that legislation had passed the Ontario House which would allow council to prohibit the commercial sale of top soil. Council agreed that a bylaw should be drawn to stop the sale.

Council sanctioned payment of the annual levy to the Don Valley Conservation Authority of \$63.13 and to the Rouge Authority of \$1,182.05.

Solicitor Lucas informed council that action is again pending against objectionable swill feeders in Markham Township.

Claremont Couple Married 54 Years

On Sunday, April 3rd, 1955, Mr. and Mrs. Kirkwood Beel, of Claremont, formerly of Greenwood, celebrated their fifty-fourth wedding anniversary with a supper held at the home of her sister, Mrs. Wm. E. Cowie, Claremont.

Fifty-four years ago they were married at the home of the bride's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Thos. Graham, Lot 22, Con. 8, Pickering Twp., this being the place where Mr. Beel had been born. The officiating minister was Rev. Dr. Campbell of the Claremont Presbyterian Church. The bridesmaid was the bride's sister, Mary (Mrs. Wm. E. Cowie) and the best man, Mr. John Beel, brother of the groom.

Following their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Beel farmed for 48 years at Greenwood, on the farm known as "Clear View Farm" which was purchased by Mr. Clouston upon their retirement. Since then they have resided at the home of their only daughter, Mrs. John Middleton.

At the anniversary supper a toast to the couple was proposed by Mrs. R. J. Nesbitt and was ably responded to by Mr. and Mrs. Beel. Mrs. Kathleen Haslam read an address to the honoured couple and Mrs. Margaret Symes presented them with flowers and personal gifts.

Mrs. Ella McArthur of Toronto was a guest during the weekend at the home of Mrs. A. V. Nolan.

Local Plowmen Winners At B.C. Spring Match

Two Ontario plowing champions finished first and second in two separate contests at the annual Chilliwack Plowing Match in Chilliwack, B.C. on March 30.

Hugh Baird of Blackwater, Ontario, 1954 winner of the Esso tractor class at the International Plowing Match, Breslau, Ontario last October, captured first prize in Chilliwack's open tractor class and also won a trophy for the best plowing of the day.

Norman Jarvis of Markham, Ont., who won the 1954 Esso horse championship at Breslau, finished second in the Chilliwack open horse class, just one point behind the winner.

The Ontario men visited Chilliwack during a western tour provided for them as part of their championship prizes. The trip, sponsored by Imperial Oil Limited, also took them on sightseeing tours of Vancouver, Vancouver Island, Edmonton, and Portage la Prairie. F. A. Lashley, secretary-manager of the Ontario Plowmen's Assn., accompanied the plowmen.

Anthony Sale Totals Over \$20,000

One of the largest crowds to attend an auction sale in this district turned out to the Campbell Anthony auction at Whitevale last week. Total receipts of the sale were more than \$20,000 and the selling was conducted by Sellers & Atkinson, auctioneers.

A load of small trinkets on a wagon brought nearly \$450 and a fine herd of Holsteins as well as a number of good implements found ready buyers.

The combine sold for \$3,900, the tractor \$1,400, a Ford tractor \$355, PTO Baler \$1,200, drill \$355, 2-wheel trailer \$175. Oats went for \$1.27 a bushel and hay 43c a bale.

The top price cow brought \$235 and cows averaged \$200. The entire herd was disposed of in 70 minutes — 40 head.

Mr. and Mrs. Anthony have purchased a home in Markham where they will move shortly.

A total of \$19,165 was erected in commercial buildings with the balance made up of additions and accessory buildings. The Building Inspector, Walter Craig, presented the report.

FINE SPRING WEATHER BRINGS OUT BABY PARADE



A parade of baby buggies on the sidewalks in Stouffville is a familiar sight. Almost every afternoon, mothers

take advantage of the warm spring sunshine to give their young sons and daughters a stroll in the fresh air.

Pictured above in front of the town Post Office are, left to right—Mrs. George Arm-

strong, Mrs. Don Craven, Mrs. Les Clarke, Mrs. Lorne Schell and Mrs. Harry Schell.

Town Council to Raise Own Salaries to \$150

The matter of councillors salaries came up for discussion on Monday evening at a record five-hour council session and after much discussion members agreed that the solicitor should be requested to prepare a bylaw setting out the salary for each council member at \$150 a year. Present salary is \$75 a year.

Reeve Daniels stated that as far as he could learn Stouffville council members were the lowest paid of any officials in this capacity, lowest figure being \$150. Members attended twenty-eight meetings last year according to the records.

Councillors Wagg and Timbers expressed the view that the new salary rate was not too much to ask for the work required and other members, while not pressing the matter expressed the view that the present remuneration was low.

Tenders are being called this week for fifteen yards of gravel this year and Frank Marritt, County Weed Inspector is to be contacted to ascertain if spray-

ing of roadside weeds on some streets would be feasible. Councillor Timbers stated that the use of such spray might be deemed dangerous in built-up areas.

Building Inspector Ogden's report showed seven permits issued during the last month, two for new dwellings and the balance for additions.

Due to the death of the late Mrs. Thos. Williamson, the residence formerly occupied by Mrs. Williamson at the corner of Blake and Main Sts. has passed to the Williamson Estate Fund set up for the poor of the town by the late Thos. Williamson. Council agreed to place the dwelling on the market, immediately, and offers for the house are being called for in this issue of The Tribune.

The clerk was also instructed to notify all dog owners that their canines must be tagged up this period of the year. Tags must also be obtained from the assessor and failure to comply in either connection will bring a court summons.