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Cherry Hill Farm Emphasis Is On Religious Education



—Courtesy Rural Co-operator

On a remodelled farm near Unionville, it is possible to see the first permanent folk school buildings in Canada. Purchase of Cherry Hill Farm 13 years ago and establishment of the farm as a centre for folk schools was the fruition of John Madsen's life-long dream. Mr. Madsen came to Canada from Denmark in 1929.

Inspired by the folk schools which are the bedrock of Danish rural life, the centre gave impetus to the Ontario folk school council, vitalized local rural social life and has been a centre of farm forum and county folk school activities.

Six years ago John Madsen died suddenly while holidaying in Copenhagen, but his work has been carried on and expanded by his wife, Betty. "I'm sure that is what he would have wanted," she said recently.

Apart from his basic education, Mr. Madsen was a product of the folk school movement. An expert in calisthenics, he combined his wide knowledge of this subject with a positive and creative view of life which he endeavoured to pass on to all who attended the school.

On his arrival in this country he worked as a farm laborer on Prince Edward Island, but the whole time he was fired with the desire to establish a folk school centre in the land of his adoption.

Meeting his wife in Toronto (she is a graduate of a Copenhagen art school) they decided to work together for the accomplishment of their ideal. In order to acquire capital for this project they made gymnasium equipment in the basement of their house.

Gradually expanding their business they bought a property in downtown Toronto which they made into a small factory for manufacturing sports equipment. Finally in 1945 they had saved enough money to buy their present property, Cherry Hill Farm.

The factory, now employing 25 men, was transferred to the farm, the barn was converted into a school and the loft became a gymnasium. Various out-buildings were turned into dormitories and classrooms.

At first the folk school courses were spread over several weeks, with people meeting on Tuesday evenings and on Saturdays from noon to 8 o'clock. However, in 1948, with the assistance of co-operatives and farm organizations, the first full-length residential school was held. Attended by 24 people from 14 counties, it was 16 days in duration, Mrs. Madsen said.

"In those days gymnastics were much in evidence on the program," she said. "There were also guest speakers, discussion groups, time devoted to arts and crafts and emphasis was placed on appreciation of nice things.

"We tried to point out that life had artistry even with the simplest of material things, and that one could have a cosy, tasteful home without spending much money.

"After my husband's death a little more emphasis was placed on arts and crafts and not so much time was spent on physical education. Pottery and ceramic making facilities were improved, a drama group was started and French conversation classes proved quite popular."

Highlight of each year at the Cherry Hill Farm is the folk festival. Usually held in June, it is attended by about 2,000 people. Various folk groups put on demonstrations of dancing, singing and gymnastic displays.

Rural communities, both far and wide, have benefited from the school. In the immediate district there is more than usual interest in arts and crafts, and there are several old peo-

ple making a living from weaving and wood carving — skills they learned at the folk school, Mrs. Madsen said.

Unfortunately, last year the folk school reached the stage where if it were to continue in its past form, either the fees had to be increased or a government grant was necessary. After much thought I have decided to completely re-orientate the program, she said.

"I want to make this school a strong Christian centre," Mrs. Madsen said. "Each weekend a large number of young people will be staying here for the purpose of making a religious retreat. In addition to spiritual reflection, they will participate in outdoor activities and interest themselves in arts and crafts."

It is Mrs. Madsen's aim to bring young people of all Protestant denominations to share in closer Christian fellowship. However, she is not severing her connections with folk schools: starting March 20th, York and Ontario counties will be holding a joint three-day folk school at her farm.

BIRTHS

BARANYI—Mr. and Mrs. Zoltan Baranyi, Stouffville, are happy to announce the arrival of their baby girl on Feb. 20, 1958, at Brierbush Hospital.

BRUCE—Mr. and Mrs. Robert Bruce, R. R. 1, Unionville, are happy to announce the arrival of their son on Feb. 28 at Brierbush Hospital.

CROZIER—Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Crozier, RR 1, Markham, are pleased to announce the arrival of their son on Feb. 23 at Brierbush Hospital.

ELLIOTT—Ronald and Ruth are happy to announce the birth of their son, Ronald Douglas on Feb. 12, 1958, at York County Hospital.

FARRIER—Mr. and Mrs. Grant Farrier are happy to announce the birth of a daughter at York County Hospital, Newmarket, on March 2, 1958.

HUNKING—Rev. and Mrs. Willis Hunking of Share, Nigeria, are happy to announce the birth of their son, Willis Junior, on Feb. 25, a brother for Bryan, Patricia and Edith Faye.

O'MARRA: Gerald and Netta O'Marra are happy to announce the birth of their daughter on March 3, 1958, at the Bancroft Red Cross Hospital.

TURNER—Mr. and Mrs. William Turner, Goodwood, are happy to announce the arrival of their baby girl on Feb. 20, at Brierbush Hospital.

REESOR—Lewis and Alma Reesor are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Martha Jean, a sister for Erle, Harold and Marvin, on Feb. 26, 1958, at the Brierbush Hospital, Stouffville.

WIDEMAN—Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd R. Wideman, Stouffville RR 3, are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Elaine Evelyn, on Monday, March 3rd, at the Brierbush Hospital, Stouffville.

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Local and Personal Happenings

Polio Vaccine To be Given To Pre-School Children

Polio vaccine for pre-school children in York County will be available at 22 centres spread across the county beginning in the month of April. This will be approximately one year from the giving of the second doses to pre-school children in similar local centres last year. The minimum time of seven months will have elapsed to ensure adequate immunizing response to the stimulus of the 3rd dose of polio vaccine. Protection will thus be provided before the onset of the polio season in 1958. Country roads in April should be passable to ensure attendance of the rural pre-school children. Place and time of the pre-school polio centres will be announced in the local press shortly.

A full staff of seventeen public health nurses has been placed in the field for the first time in many months in York County. During the first half of the last year the health unit was short six public health nurses (35% shortage). Much school health work was neglected and the new high school health service was feebly maintained because of the demands of polio immunization. Meanwhile population growth caused large increases in child health centre attendance. Because of the staff shortage, it was impossible to meet the demand for extended child health centres. Thus serious overcrowding at existing child health centres has produced much dissatisfaction among young mothers throughout the county. Now that the public health nursing staff is back to normal, a more efficient service is being given to the schools, and child health centres are being extended to ease the overcrowding. Home visiting services to new infants and mothers badly neglected during recent months is being resumed.

The Ontario Water Resources Commission reports serious pollution of the Schomberg river, and has asked the Schomberg village trustees and the health unit to look into the problem. A proposed house survey of waste disposal systems in the Schomberg community has been discussed with the Schomberg trustees and the King township Council and will get underway as soon as weather permits in the spring.

An unexpected January increase in building activity in York County resulted in 542 plumbing and drain inspections for new dwellings and commercial buildings during the month.

Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Morris and Mrs. Milton Rossiter returned home from Daytona Beach Tuesday, March 4.

How to cure an inferiority complex completely, albeit temporarily: Have the victim drive a powerful car.

NOTICE

E. A. Grubin, R.O., Optometrist, will be at his office in Stouffville on Monday and Tuesday, March 10th and 11th. Phones 86J2 and 25J1.

NOTICE

BLANKETS — Anyone wishing to send with me for woollen blankets must have rags and money at my place by March 15. —Mrs. E. J. Stickle, Ph. Gormley 5507.

Mark Education Week Locally

This Thursday, March 6th, will be Open Night at the Stouffville Public School, 7.30 to 9.30 p.m. This week has been set aside to be marked as Education Week in Ontario, and Principal Lorne Boadway and his staff with the co-operation of the local Board are combining to recognize locally this province-wide Week. Parents and the general public are invited to come to the school on Thursday and see the work being done in the school. The teachers and the Board would appreciate your interest.

Saw Sharpening

Ike Smith's Saw Shop will remain closed Mondays and Wednesdays until further notice. Saws may be left at Stouffer's Hardware for pick-up.

R.C.M.P.

Plans for the establishment of "O" division headquarters of the R.C.M.P. at Markham have now been confirmed. It is intended during the first 2 years to complete an administration building large enough to accommodate 250 to 300 office workers.

BINGO

The regular weekly Bingos under the auspices of Branch 459, Canadian Legion, will be held in the Legion Hall every Saturday evening at 8 o'clock sharp.

Word was received from La Grange, Illinois, of the death of Mrs. Dave Ford. She was the former Mae Dorman who lived with the late Mrs. Joe Lehman, while going to school in Stouffville. Just one year ago her husband suffered a heart attack while shovelling snow and died suddenly.

Horticultural Meeting

A meeting of the Horticultural Society will be held in the United Church Basement on Monday, March 10th, at 8 o'clock. "Foundation Planting" will be the subject for discussion by a member of the firm of Unionville Nurseries. New home owners should take advantage of this information. Dr. Alan Secord, well known in this district, will be speaking on Conservation of wild life. Music will be provided by the Melville Male Choir. A cordial invitation is extended to all those interested in these subjects.

Mr. Harry Sanders, O'Brien Ave., and one of Stouffville's best-known personalities, marked his 87th birthday recently. Mr. Sanders who is a former reeve of Stouffville, enjoys good health and takes a walk downtown each day. While he doesn't indulge in much winter motoring, Mr. Sanders does drive his own car and has been doing so since 1915. This respected gentleman lost his life partner last year and the couple had marked their diamond wedding anniversary in 1956.

Mr. Dan Hall, a Victoria St. resident for several years, has moved to an apartment in the Frank Sheridan residence at Main and Park Streets.

I.O.O.F. EUCHRE

The Stouffville I.O.O.F. Lodge will hold their regular Euchre in the Masonic Hall on Tuesday, March 11th at 8.30 p.m. sharp. Good Prizes, Lunch.

Late W. Brillinger Active in Many Phases of Town Life

The funeral of the late Walter C. Brillinger of Stouffville was conducted on Friday from the chapel of L.E. O'Neill's and was very largely attended. The floral tributes were magnificent and bespoke the esteem and warm friendship felt for the deceased.

The service was conducted by Rev. Douglas Davis and the pallbearers were: Harry Stouffer, Ken Wagg, Harold Mason, Bert Clarkson, Bruce Harper and Carl Lehman. Interment was made in the Stouffville Cemetery.

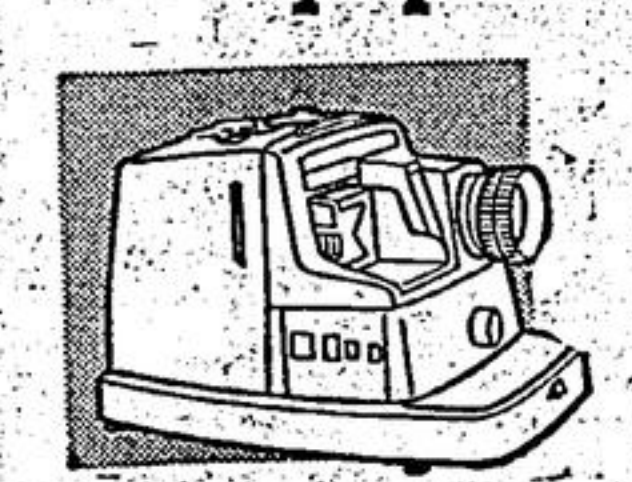
Walter Brillinger passed away suddenly in hospital in Toronto where he had been confined following an accident several weeks previous. His passing came as a distinct shock as it was believed by his many friends that he was on the road to recovery.

Besides his wife, the former Gladys Silversides, whom he married thirty-seven years ago, deceased is survived by one son, Gerald and two daughters, Betty, Mrs. Robt. Sanderson and Barbara, Mrs. Harry Schell, all of Stouffville. There also survive two brothers, Percy and Harry, and a sister, Mrs. Albert Miller, of Stouffville.

had been occupied as a farmer and wholesale gardener.

Mr. Brillinger was identified with the United Church, and was a member of Richardson Masonic Lodge and had been a member of the Stouffville Lions Club. He had served his municipality as a member of council for a number of years and was keenly interested in municipal affairs. He was an ardent curler and took an active interest in local sports, particularly hockey. He served a term as president of the Stouffville Arena Co. Board.

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PEE WEE PLAYOFF SCHEDULE

March 6—
4.30—Bruins vs Red Wings
5.30—Hawks vs Rangers

March 13—
4.30—Hawks vs Bruins
5.30—Red Wings vs Rangers

March 20—
4.30—Bruins vs Rangers
5.30—Hawks vs Red Wings

Uncle Ed. Says . . .



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