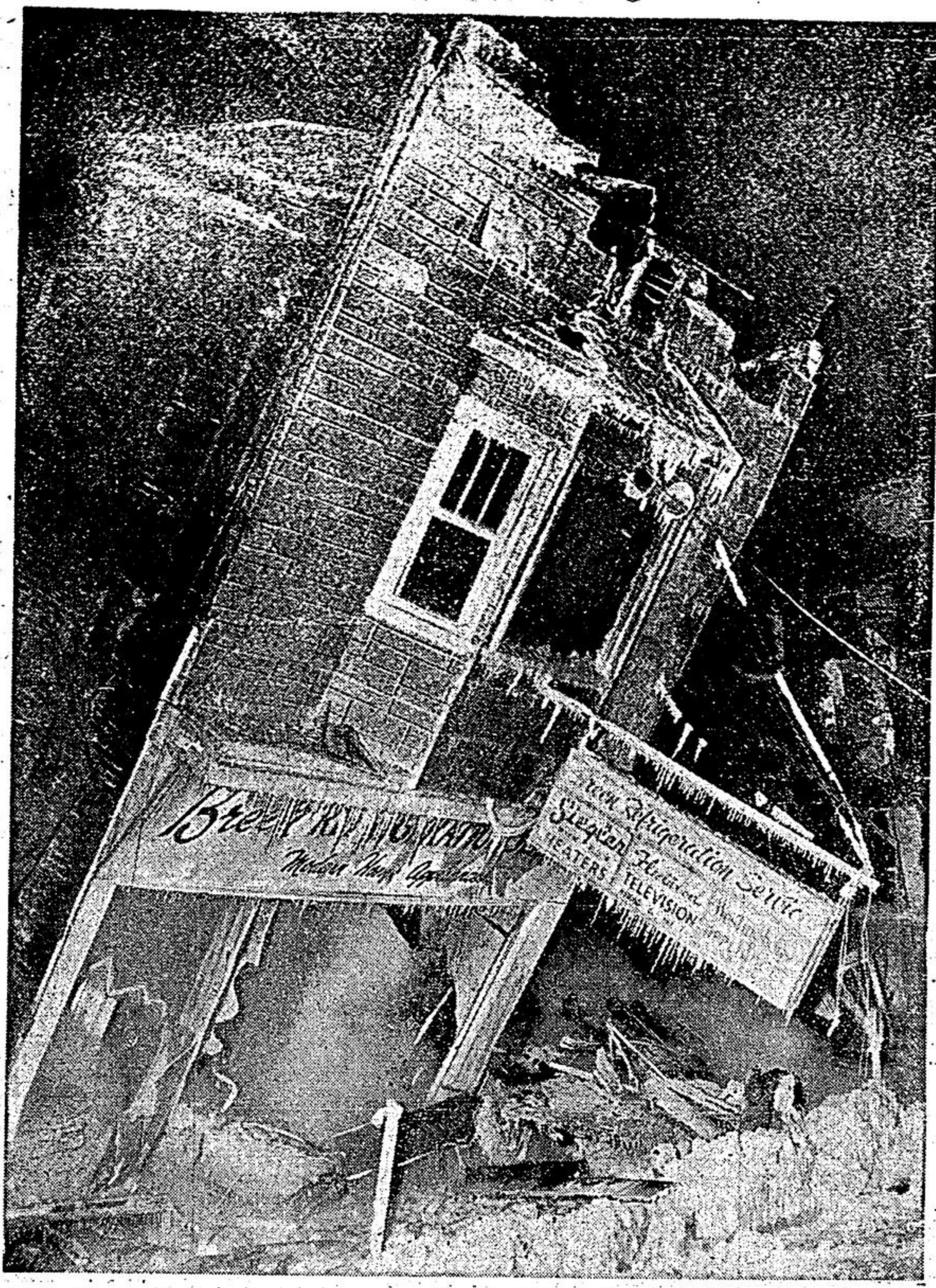


Store Topples To Street During Fierce Blaze



A collapsed refrigeration store is tilted at an angle following a \$500,000 fire in Bradford last week. The town's water pressure dropped from forty-five to five pounds and auxiliary pumps to the Holland Marsh drainage canal had to supply most of the water to fight the fire.

Rural Eavesdropping On The Party Line

When the Wisconsin Telephone Company proposed recently that it be allowed to abandon four party service in this area, memories were stirred of the days when a telephone call was considered something less than a private matter, when "rubbering" on the party line was as normal as snapping on the TV set is now.

The party line, to be sure, has involved a few persons in trouble. Notable have been cases of farm wives who hung onto the line while the neighbor's house went up in flames for want of the volunteers that could have been summoned if the line had been open.

Most vigorous of this lot of relentless talkers was the lady at Poughkeepsie, N.Y., who refused to yield the line to a man anxious to report a brush fire. "Let the thing burn and get off the line," she said. Despite her plea that "you hear the darndest things on a party line," she was found guilty of a charge which called for a \$500 fine or a year in prison. She got off, however, with a suspended sentence.

Dashed for 'Phone—The woman could not have been more right in her analysis that "you hear the darndest things on a party line." With just that promise of a choice morsel, there always was a dash for the wall telephone as it sent out its peal to all subscribers. One woman, in fact, broke her toe at 2 a.m. when she slipped while hustling along the cold linoleum to see what was on the line.

Although plenty of party line lore developed in the cities, it was in the rural areas that the telephone equipment reached its folkstest. It was not uncommon to have 15 to 20 subscribers on a line. As the receivers went off the hooks, the signal, underpowered in the first place, became fainter and fainter. Coupled with the heavy breathing from those who tuned in, it was often impossible to hear at all. The choice then was to follow: "Will you get off the line so I can hear?" or to hang up and make the call later.

One subscriber used to foil the intruders on her daily call to her sister by shifting to her native Norwegian tongue. This brought a snort from the eavesdroppers but also the clicks of their receivers.

Usually matters did not reach that point. The lack of privacy was taken as a matter of course. A two-way conversation often picked up another member who had a valuable contribution to add to the conversation. There was no embarrassment on either side at this "butting in."

Line of Rural Life—The telephone system was the life line of rural life, as well as source of gossip. When transmission was poor, messages often had to be relayed from listener-in to listener-in, all the way from sender to receiver. More than one country doctor was summoned to a farm bedside by this method.

Emergencies of all kinds were handled by the faithful operator. She would "ring" her lines with several "shorts," then report a fire or even a coming tornado. Local merchants used this system to announce a special bargain event, and buyers quoted the price of hogs this way.

A merchant could put the party line to another advantage in this manner. He would listen in on a deal being made between his competitor and a potential customer, then call the buyer and beat the offer.

Put Up Struggle—Despite its limitations, subscribers to the party lines did not give in to the more modern service without a struggle. Even the state public service commission once was caught officially recognizing gossipy neighborliness as an asset to rural life. The Belmont & Pleasant View Telephone Co. asked to abandon its Fayette exchange with its new-fangled switchboard. "It is impossible for parties on the line to listen in as the subscribers are accustomed to do," said the telephone company.

The PSC said that the firm could abandon its switchboard. The telephone operator, in those days before radio or television, was the fountain of news and information. She supplied election results, baseball scores, the time and other bits of information.

—Milwaukee Journal

New Books in Local Library

- (FICTION)
- Heyer Venetia
 - Selfert Love Calls the Doctor
 - Ashton Return to Cheltenham
 - Smith Where Did You Go? out
 - Smith What Did You Do? Nothing
 - Butler Portrait of Peter West
 - Jarrish Jarrish
 - Dawson Battle Royal
 - Marshall Hair Trigger
 - Gray Lost Pueblo
 - Grey The Dude Ranger
 - Grey The Fugitive Trail
 - Grey Mrs. Lorimer's family
 - Clavering Beware of the Mouse
 - Wibberley Ordeal by Innocence
 - Christie Night of Reckoning
 - Strange Ice Palace
 - Ferber Dr. Zhivago
 - Pasternak Mr. Robbins Rides Again
 - Streeter The Straight and Narrow Path
 - Tracy The Tall Ships
 - Jennings The Middle Age of Mrs. Elliot
 - Wilson The Prospects are Pleasing
 - Tracy Desert Passage
 - Poole More Stories to Remember
 - Andrews Vols. 1 & 2—Beecroft & Costain
 - Dinesen Anecdotes of Destiny
 - Andrews A Hospital Summer
 - Durrell Moutainville
 - Tute The Rock
 - Waugh The Sugar Island
- (NON-FICTION)
- Mowat The Grey Seas Under
 - Mark Van Doren The Autobiography of
 - E. J. Pratt The Collected Poems of
 - Sutton The Spirit of Man
 - Sutton The Science of Flight
 - Hillary The Crossing of Antarctica
 - Hillary The Crossing of Antarctica
 - Mason The Ancient Civilization of Peru
 - Lower Canadians in the Making
 - Thompson The Battle for the Rhineland
 - Douglas West of Indus
 - Costain The Three Edwards
 - Cooper The Rainbow Comes and Goes
 - Boone Twixt Twelve and Twenty
- Sound arguments are fine until people get too noisy about them.

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Origin of Municipal Names Described by 'Star' Writer

Did you ever wonder how and when the name of a town or township might have originated? Some light is thrown on the subject by Mr. Dean Hughes, a writer for the Toronto Daily Star. He writes as follows:

Sub post-offices — how to get them and how to lose them again—are high in the news these days. But have you ever heard of the political role a post-office played in giving the town of Agincourt its name?

Back in 1858 a man named John Hill had a general store at the northeast corner of what is now Brimley Rd. and Sheppard Ave. He had long wanted to have a post-office there and one day he met an old friend who was a member of parliament from Quebec.

The M.P. slapped Mr. Hill on the shoulder. "Can I do anything for you?" he asked. "Yes," said Mr. Hill, "use your influence to get me a post-office."

It's a French Name

The friend promised, on one condition. The post-office had to be given a French name. So in due time it came about that the post-office was built and the name was chosen. It was called Agincourt. Since this was the name of a battle wherein the English were victors over the French, one wonders if the committee which picked the name wasn't doing some leg-pulling at the expense of the M.P. from Quebec. At any rate on June 1, 1858, the name went up over the post-office door.

Speaking of names, I never knew until a month ago how the village of Unionville got its name. Although it first occupied a site north of where it is now, it was lured to its present location because of the sawmills and grist mills which had been built there. And it was named to celebrate the union of Upper and Lower Canada in 1841.

Instead of pursuing the subject of how places were named, this might be a good time to say a word about some places that were renamed. For instance the townships of Toronto, Scarborough and Pickering.

Toronto? That's Dublin

It all started back in 1788 when the Sieur de Rocheblave became interested in the little settlement of Toronto and applied for a large grant of land in return for establishing a portage service over the Humber Trail. Lord Dorchester was Governor of Canada then and he approved this application and decided to lay out a town at Toronto.

Orders were given to survey the fronts of a series of townships between the Trent and the Etobicoke. The proposed township of Toronto (already laid out on paper) was to be called Dublin. The next township east — now Scarborough — was to be called Glasgow. And the

York County Population Is Climbing

settled and one reason was the presence of Scarborough Bluffs. The town clerk's report for 1809 showed 140 inhabitants in Scarborough and 180 in Pickering. On the other hand, Markham township, farther inland, had 1,111 people.

One of the main reasons was that settlers couldn't find a decent landing place until they went east to the mouth of the Rouge river and Highland creek. They travelled by boat up these waterways and settled in Markham. There are reports of boats going up the Rouge as far as No. 7 highway.

Canada is the United States' biggest single customer, buying more than one-fourth of its exports.

Incidentally Scarborough and Pickering were slow in being settled.

The population of York County has increased from 69,640 in 1951 to 98,210 in the year 1958. This increase in growth is partially indicated by the revenue from the Registry Office. In 1955 the fees from the south and north York offices combined amounted to \$37,000. By the end of last year this amount had grown to \$53,000.

A hungry man is more interested in four sandwiches than in four freedoms.

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Green Giant Fancy Cut	GREEN BEANS	4 15-oz. TINS	59c
Nucoa (Regular)	A & P KETCHUP	3 11-oz. BOTTLES	49c
Ingersol	MARGARINE	4 1-lb. PACKAGES	99c
Jane Parker	CHEESE SPREAD	16-oz. PACKAGE	53c
	RAISIN PIE	EACH	39c

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