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OUR EDITORIAL COMMENT

Safety Program An Excellent Project

On Saturday morning, the first wheels of a three week bicycle safety program were put in motion under the sponsorship of the Stouffville Home and School Association and in co-operation with the local Police Department.

It was evident that considerable thought and work had gone into the preparation of the Saturday safety scheme. The program was well organized and every test was completed without a trace of confusion.

The amazing array of bicycles in the park on Saturday presented a rather interesting sight to any local citizens who happened to pass by at the time. No two were alike. Everything from fenderless hand-me-

downs to chrome-plated racers passed by the inspection stand for a complete check-up. Some minor adjustments were made on the spot while others were re-directed to the experienced father or older brother. A complete written record was retained on the condition of each young owner's bicycle.

We are pleased that such a safety program has been re-organized here. I will recall how a similar project was instituted in Stouffville a number of years ago by P.C. Hilliard of the Ontario Provincial Police. Following the withdrawal of the O.P.P. the scheme was dropped. We sincerely hope that the current plans will not meet with a similar fate.

Markham Fair This Week

Another season of rural fall fairs is with us, and this week comes the largest in the local area, Markham Fair. More than one hundred years in existence, Markham Fair is one of the finest and most largely attended in the province.

Fall fairs have been a thrill for the rural population even before Confederation. They began in 1854 and one hundred and five years later they are showing more vitality than ever.

Like all fairs, Markham is at the mercy of the weatherman, but the directors will agree that this big local show has certainly had its full share of fine days during the last few years. Rural fall fairs have a flavor all their own. It is possible to take in the whole performance, the grandstand show, the animal judging,

including the parades of award-winners and exhibits of the 4-H clubbers, boys and girls.

Markham directors have improved their premises greatly during the last few years, with new buildings and other facilities. This year there will be an old-fashioned spelling match added to Friday's events. In front of the grandstand on Friday will be the Jack Fraser Calf Scramble and other innovations which should greatly boost the attendance on this day.

Dr. M. B. Dymond, Minister of Health for Ontario will officially open the fair on Saturday. This year's president is David J. Tran, one of the best-known farmers in the area, and he is supported by R. H. Brillinger and H. M. Warriner as first and second vice.

With a smile from the weatherman this weekend, Markham could well break another attendance record.

Don't Travel Too Close

For some weeks now fines have been levied against motorists in local traffic court, for travelling too closely behind the car ahead. This follows a provincial police order to enforce this section of the traffic act. The habit is one of the most unnerving on the highway.

The section of the act is quite clear. It says: "The driver or operator of a motor vehicle shall not follow another vehicle more closely than is reasonable and prudent having due regard for the speed of such vehicle and the traffic upon, and the conditions of, the highway."

When prosecuting a case of tailgating in Hamilton recently, the

crown attorney said "there should be 20,000 similar summonses issued today." In this case the driver was described as travelling 40-45 miles an hour, and the magistrate said this meant he should have been 10 car lengths behind the vehicle in front of him.

As tail-gating becomes a public issue, the Ontario Safety League has issued a timely word of warning. Always help the driver behind you to pass, suggests the league. Keep well to the right and slow down if necessary. But don't carry your courtesy to the point of waving him to come past. If you do, and a mishap follows, you can be held legally liable.

Let's Fill The Churches We Have

There is accommodation in the combined number of churches in Stouffville for possibly fifteen hundred persons each Sunday. However, we can safely say that never more than half this accommodation is ever used. Now we note that still another church is to be started in our midst. In our opinion this is getting a little ridiculous. We have ample churches in town for those who wish to use them and until they are filled to capacity there is certainly no need for any further church services.

After all, church people are supposed to all be headed in the same direction, all with the same destination in mind, and just because you put a different interpretation on one or two passages in the Bible is no reason in our estimation, to set up another church. This has always been one of the failings of the Protestant church — the great number of divisions.

We have had a parallel in service club work in town as well. Several years back we were contacted on giving help to begin a Rotary Club in Stouffville — we refused as we believe that one service club in a town this size is quite sufficient. If that one is supported the way it should be, there is no need for any other.

Likewise, if the churches we now have, are supported the way they should be, there is no need for any other. In fact there is less need for any other under present conditions.

Every town is plagued by a number of persons who have a mania for starting new organizations. In most instances there are too many already. There are just so many individuals in a town who will support various clubs and societies. The more organizations you thrust upon them, the thinner you spread the support, and this rule holds for churches, clubs and sports organizations alike.



"One Business Man's lunch, please."



The Second Mile

A well-known magazine carries a monthly feature entitled "The most unforgettable character I have known." It has often led me to think of interesting people I have met although at the time I didn't fully appreciate them.

A few months ago a man died who stands out as one of the most interesting men I have known. He came to Canada from England through one of the agencies which places boys on farms. Early in the nineties of last century he was taken to a newly developed part of Northern Ontario. The people with whom he lived were themselves poor; they went where land was cheap, and the work of clearing bush difficult. He remained there the greater part of his life; many miles behind the railway, working hard although always in delicate health.

His chief characteristic was his complete devotion to the teaching of Jesus Christ. His humility and self-effacement was such as I have seldom ever known. Although not well educated he was intelligent and deeply religious. I have known many prominent churchmen in whom there was little humility, men vocal in the councils of churches but whose gifts and responsibilities had made them self-willed, occasionally domineering. I am not writing this critically; I know leaders have to be clear and emphatic and the church needs men who have strong opinions and convictions. But no one would say humility was a characteristic of our age. This backwoods farmer was different. There was in him a deep strain of something which made others think of Jesus.

After our removal to Toronto my wife and I decided to ask him to visit us during the National Exhibition. He had never seen even a town and we felt sure he would be thrilled at the crowds and the exhibits. It would be a highlight in his experience.

He came and in his first visit to the Fair he lost two hundred dollars which he had in his hip-pocket. Characteristically he blamed it on his carelessness. He refused to think he had been robbed; it had just fallen out. Two hundred dollars in those days, and to a man trying to eke out a living on a stoney, backwoods farm, was a lot of money. My wife and I were quite distressed but his own attitude to the incident was something I have remembered over the years. He said: "If the man or woman who found that money needs it more than I do — it's all right with me." There was no bitterness or resentment; not even a trace of self-pity; just a hope that some unfortunate person had been benefited.

What kind of a world would it be if it were made up of men like that? I do not dare to hazard an opinion. In any case it would be only a guess. A great British newspaperman wrote a book a few years ago, in which he spoke scornfully of those who allowed others to push them aside in life's keen competition. "Stand up for your rights," he urged, "and don't let others get in your way." He wouldn't have thought much of my friend from the North. He would have called him a fool. The two men were poles asunder.

When Saint Paul was writing to the Corinthian Christians nineteen centuries ago, he set forth the Christian ideal. He wrote: "Love seeketh not her own." If he had said that love does not seek that which belongs to others, we could understand him better. But he insisted that love does not say: "I'll have my own — nobody will put anything over me. I'll have my rights."

Perhaps my Northern friend wasn't such a fool after all. Anyway he passed on recently at the age of 77, leaving behind him the record of a blameless life.

Our quotation today is by Goethe: "A good man, like ripening corn, bends his head in humility."

SUGAR and SPICE

By BILL SMILEY

How about a spot of book reviewing this week, for a change? Anyone who doesn't read books, and there are plenty of them, might as well turn to the classified ads, because this won't interest him.

Inordinate and uncontrollable reading is one of the several major flaws in my character. Print on paper is to me what fermented or distilled liquor in a container is to an alcoholic.

Like the anky, I prefer the good stuff, if I can get it, but if there's none around, I'll take whatever is available. Sometimes when I've reeled through a reading binge, and there's nothing left in the house, and the booksellers are closed, I wind up gulping feverishly from such fare as the Ladies' Home Journal, a Superman comic, or one of the kids' Think and Do books.

I've even been reduced, at the end of such a lost weekend, to reading in French and English the literature on the breakfast cereal boxes.

I have no idea how many books I read in a year. There's no way of keeping track of them. I deliberately read four or five at a time, keeping them in different places in the house, in order to confuse my wife, who abhors my addiction. I read, crunched over the back of the toilet, while I'm rubbing the lather into my

face for a shave.

Frequently, when I have finished writing this column, about 2 a.m., I'll sneak into the living-room, pull a brand new paperback from under the piano, and guzzle it before going to bed. This produced sympathy the first couple of times I tottered down, red-eyed and careworn, to go to work in the morning. But she caught me at it one 4 a.m.

Anyway, I've swilled my way through a few interesting books lately and thought I'd mention them. Don't expect a scholarly review, with plot outline, tracing of symbolism, literary antecedents and all that jazz. I leave it for the pipe-smoking professors, and the earnest English students.

I've been nipping at one of the books between paragraphs of this effort. It's written by Harry Golden, of whom I have never heard, and is called Only In America. Golden is a Jew who lives in the deep South and puts out a newspaper in which there is nothing but editorials. His book is a collection of short pieces, pithy, shrewd, witty, learned and very human. Highly recommended as a bedside companion, if you can't do better than a book.

I've just finished Lolita, the book which has had such an inflammatory effect on would-be

FORECAST

by Olive A. Garrett

Are you a Match Box Collector? Recognizing that the humble match folder will always have been competition from the lighter, a leading match manufacturer is putting out his product in "design series" the first was the "World Series" which was 24 different costume designs from all over the world. These appealed to the ethnic groups of New Canadians who are moving here from all the countries pictured in the series. The educational value to the rest of us is not to be overlooked either. For Christmas they will feature timely designs, and the recent Royal Visit and opening of the St. Lawrence Seaway was used, showing a map of Canada and indicating the feature dates for each day. One of their newest Series will show designs of the 30 most popular sports. Matches used to be purely functional, but all this, as well as boosting sales, will make the collectors happy.

seconds to install, costs \$3.98, and is said to save up to \$200 a year on gas.

Gasoline engines will run on an air-fuel mixture varying from a thin mixture of approximately 17 pounds of air and one pound of fuel to a rich mixture of eight pounds of air to one of fuel. Best operation is over a somewhat narrower range, apparently.

No technical data is available but they do say, "Now, run your car half on gas, half on air." This device is claimed to boost power at the spark plugs and produce a "three-layered spark." Not only the gas is ignited but oxygen as well.

Now think of that. Isn't it amazing? I'm all for wearing cars off gas altogether!

A gentleman is one who holds the door open for his wife while she carries in the groceries.

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A series of four comic panels showing a man talking to a woman about a book. The woman says 'HE'S DONE THIS BEFORE, YOU'D BETTER ASK HIM ABOUT HIS BOAT.' The man replies 'There you are: four books as different as could be. And if I've interrupted you just when the Mickey Spillane hero was about to kick the lady in the groin, I hope you'll pardon the intrusion.'