

The Stouffville Tribune



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Town Services Buffeted by Icy Storm



The village of Markham was one of the hardest hit communities in the district. The Main Street was cut off to through traffic early Monday morning when trees and broken branches toppled across the highway. Shown here, one large tree was uprooted and crashed down dangerously close to the Orville Heisey home in Mount Joy. Telephone and hydro wires were twisted and tangled. — Staff Photo

Local Hydro Men Worked Round the Clock Trying to Keep Service Operating

One of the most destructive ice storms in more than half a century lashed Stouffville and district over the past weekend, and damage is expected to run into thousands of dollars. Telephone and hydro communications were hardest hit. Fallen tree branches and broken poles transformed local lines into a chaotic web of twisted wire. A two-inch snowfall on Monday night worsened the situation. Although Stouffville residents suffered some inconvenience due to intermittent power failures, their plight could not be compared with the discomforts endured by neighbouring townships in Claremont and Markham Village. Claremont inhabitants were without hydro from Sunday midnight until late Tuesday afternoon. A number of residents were forced to seek warmer quarters. The damage along Markham's main street resembled the destruction wrought by Hurricane Hazel. The Township Municipal Building at Boltonville had to resort to their emergency unit. A regular meeting of Council on Monday was held in a warmer downstairs section. A number of employees worked in their winter coats.

Stouffville Couple Rescued When Schooner Wrecked

Mr. and Mrs. Archie F. Forfar of Stouffville have been rescued from a desolate island beach where their 20 ft. schooner, Lady, was shipwrecked en route from Miami to Nassau. Three Americans travelling with them were also rescued. The schooner was wrecked on a reef Christmas Day, and broke into two pieces. Three of the passengers rode part of the wreckage to one island beach, two others to another. Here they spent two days before being rescued. The shipwreck and rescue were reported by Roy Utter, a radio operator and employee of Kenneth Parker of Master Point Island, Bahamas. He reported that the five persons were taken to Mr. Parker's house Saturday where they were fed, given clothes and shelter. Rev. Wellington Hannah, a native of South Mystic Point, discovered the marooned party Saturday while fishing, and he took them to Mr. Parker's house. The Forfar family in Stouffville, said they had not heard from the couple since they left for Florida, Dec. 5th. They planned to spend Christmas in the Bahamas.

Christmas Day Accident Kills Minister and Wife

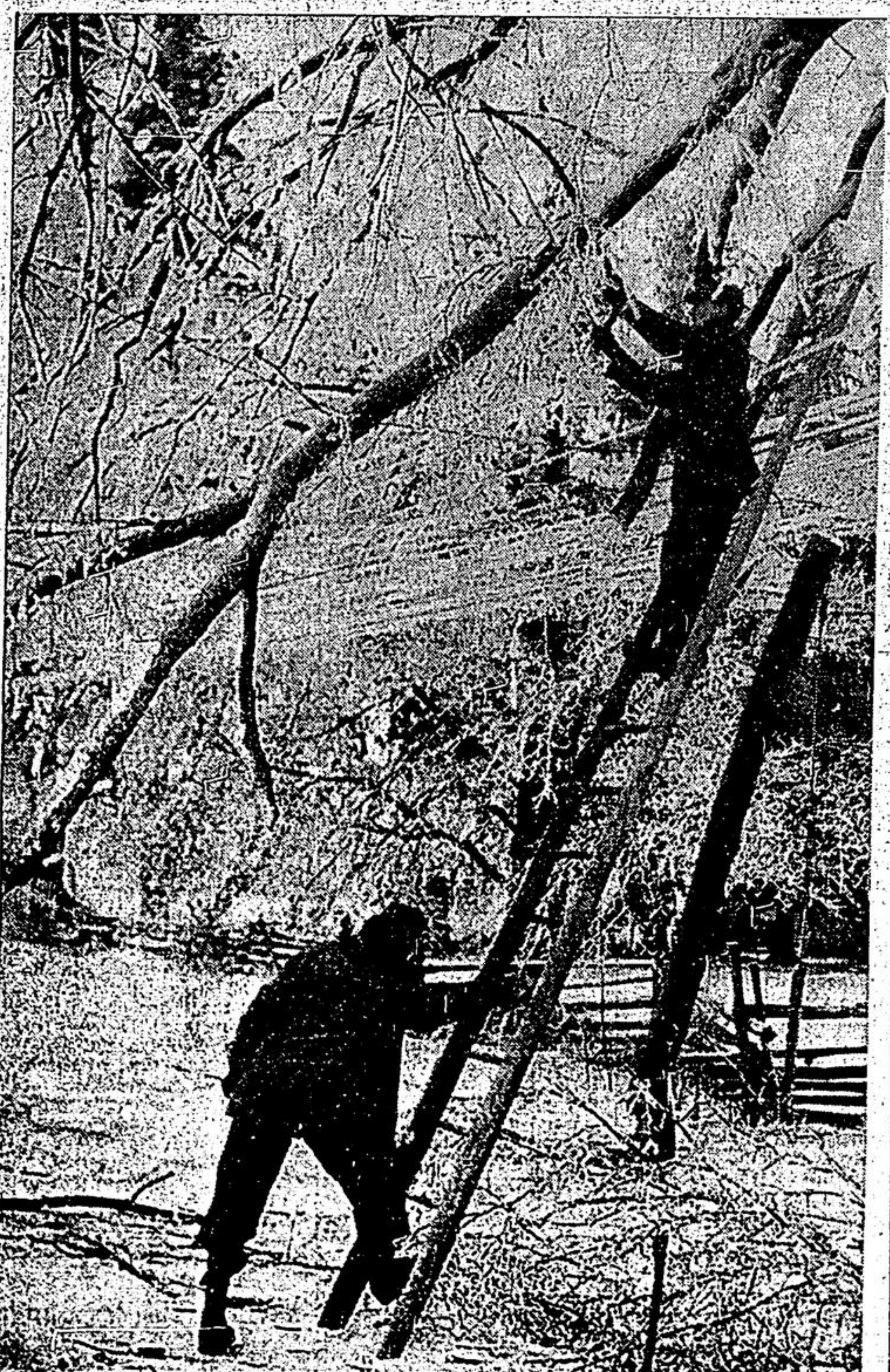
Rev. George Coulter and Mrs. Coulter, formerly of Stouffville, both died last week as the result of a motor accident on Christmas Day. Rev. Geo. Coulter was a minister of the United Church here thirty years ago. Mr. Coulter, who was in his 81st year, was killed instantly while driving home from a visit with friends. Their car went out of control on the icy surface of Highway 41 north of Napanee, and struck a tree. Mrs. Coulter, who was seriously injured, was removed to Kingston Hospital where she died on Sunday. Trinity United Church, Napanee, was Mr. Coulter's last charge, and the couple had been living retired there. Surviving the couple is one daughter, Mrs. R. C. Jackson (Isobelle) of Madoc. Mrs. Coulter, who was the former Annie H. Bower, is also survived by one sister, Mrs. A. M. Partridge. She was in her 78th year. Funeral for Mr. Coulter was conducted on Monday, Dec. 28th, and for Mrs. Coulter, this Wednesday, Dec. 30th. Public services were held in Trinity United Church and interment was made in Riverview Cemetery.

Valuable Dog Strays in Storm

"Kim", a female German Shepherd pup, the property of Mr. Jack Garrett, Albert Street, has strayed from its home and its owner believes it may have become lost in the recent ice storm. It was spotted by Stouffville officer, P.C. Vankoughnet, on Monday night but has not been seen since. It had been kept at Garrett's Main Street garage and was being trained as a watchdog. The dog is black in colour and when last seen, was wearing a choke collar. It comes from pure-bred champion stock. A reward has been offered for the animal's safe return. Anyone seeing the dog is asked to phone Stouff. 265 or 247.

Routine Business Occupies Council

Markham Township council, meeting for one last time in 1959, dealt almost entirely with routine business on Monday afternoon. Due to the hydro failure, the council chambers was without either light or heat. The meeting was held on the first floor which has an emergency generating plant which supplies power to the police office. In the final report tabled from the Planning Board, it was noted that the following industries had either located or enlarged in the year 1959: The Richvale Block Work Centre, Assinck Bros., Nordin Building Products, J. Kittank, Onway Constr. Co., Boosey & Hawks, and Ratcliff Bros. The T.T.C. has been advised by the Commission's solicitors that it would not be in their jurisdiction to continue to operate the Yonge St. bus line after Dec. 31st unless a bylaw was passed by each council, Vaughan and Markham and Richmond Hill. Markham council passed the bylaw Monday giving it the necessary three readings. In the recent election for school trustees for Area No. 1, which had been delayed due to the death of one of the candidates, the members elected were — Messrs. McKay, Clarke and Parker, all for two years. The aforementioned polled the highest number of votes. Messrs. Honsberger and Frost were each elected for one year. Mrs. Alexson only lost out by two votes. The vote brought out a considerable turnout at the polls and rivalled many municipal elections for interest in that Yonge St. area.



Icy Jungle

Local hydro and telephone linemen endured the hazards of ice, snow and falling debris in a round-the-clock effort to untangle a web of broken wires and restore communications to both townfolk and rural residents. Pictured here, two spare workmen, Noel Storry and Clifford Lynde, employed by the Stouffville-Bethesda Telephone Company, cut away broken tree branches on the ninth con., Whitechurch, near Bloomington.

Unique Conveyance For Wedding Party

Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Clark who were married on Dec. 23rd, in the Stouffville United Church, were escorted through town following the ceremony in a unique horse-drawn conveyance. The "glass house" mounted on a farm wagon was drawn through town by a team of horses, much to the delight of the newlyweds, their attendants and onlookers. Much of the material for the glassed-in wagon, was provided by Mr. Jerry Brillinger, and construction work was done at Les Wilson Motors. The horses belonged to Mr. Percy McKay, and James McKean was the driver. Nearly 200 Attend Ceremony

Value of New Building in Town Over Millicn Dollar Mark Again This Year

For the second year in succession, the total value of new building in Stouffville, has topped the one million dollar mark. The figures just compiled for 1959 are very close to those of last year, showing a total of \$1,201,600, as compared with \$1,233,476 in the preceding year. Of this amount approximately \$750,000 was for new homes, and the balance for commercial additions and alterations. The total number of new homes was just five less than in 1958, being forty-eight. Sixteen of these were on Glad Park. Most expensive home was valued at \$16,500 with a number ranging from \$14,000 to \$15,000. Permits issued for commercial and public properties were not many in number but were of considerable value. The addition to the local post office, the Bank of Commerce building and the new municipal offices accounted for about \$125,000. Stiver Bros. also made a considerable change and a new store was erected for Smith's Radio & TV. April and October saw the greatest home building activity and twenty-four house permits were issued in these two months. Total building permit fees collected in the year amounted to \$854.00. The forecast is that an equal number of new homes can be looked for in 1960, most of these being on the Watson Heights subdivision, with some start possible on the Boraven Development property. This later subdivision will also contain considerable commercial property. The erection of the new Public Utilities Building at Blake and Main Sts. will also add to the total.

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