

Lake Wilcox Family Homeless After Fire

A Lake Wilcox housewife and her two children escaped with nothing but the clothes on their backs when fire gutted their 2-story frame house on Willowbank Avenue last week.

Mrs. E. H. Ensor was dusting around a gas fireplace when the dusting cloth caught fire, igniting a backlog of dust beneath the fireplace which in turn fired the insulation behind it. After phoning Aurora firemen, Mrs. Ensor, daughter Julie 17, and a son Stanley 2, escaped to safety. Two other children, Cathy, five, and Jennifer, ten, had just left for noon classes at the Lake Wilcox Public School. A son, Michael, 15, was in high school in

Aurora. Mr. Ensor, a caster at American Standard, Toronto, was at work.

Neighbors quickly came to the assistance of the Ensors. Evelyn Friend, 18, an employee at Gallacher's food store, Oak Ridge, threw a fire bomb through the smoking front doorway after flames prevented her from getting any closer. Mrs. H. Woodward, another neighbor, gave the Ensors shelter.

The fire, which was fanned by a stiff winter wind, roared up the inside of the walls and completely destroyed the interior and contents of the front room and upstairs. Virtually all of the family's clothing was de-

stroyed as well as Christmas presents and decorations, furniture, bedclothing, and a collection of valuable books. A purse containing around \$9 in uncashed cheques as well as a box containing dues from a local Cub pack, were also lost. Mrs. Ensor is a Cub leader while Mr. Ensor heads a Scout troop.

The quick arrival of the Aurora firemen prevented the house from being levelled to the ground and possibly catching onto neighboring houses. The terrific combustion blew out all the windows at one stage.

The Oak Ridge Lions Club's welfare committee, headed by Stan Rule, was on the scene quickly to organize relief work. Mrs. Peggy Cragg, of the Lake, also organized help. Mr. Rule contacted the Red Cross in Toronto and obtained a complete set of bedding for the family. He then arranged for the stricken family to stay at a vacant home belonging to Stan Williams of Lake Wilcox until the situation was improved. The family is still in great need of household articles, mainly front room and bedroom furniture.

Mr. Ensor, who drove immediately from work upon being phoned by his wife, said that the house was insured for approximately \$15,000.

To achieve success one must make an attempt.

Keeping Poinsettias

Although it will be easier to buy poinsettia plants from a florist each winter, they can be carried over to the next year, according to horticulture specialists with the Ontario Department of Agriculture. Poinsettia flowers are inconspicuous but a colorful show is provided by the large scarlet or sometimes cream colored, leaf-like bracts. This popular Christmas-flowering plant does best in good light exposure and a temperature of about 65 degrees F. Yellowing and dropping of the bottom leaves may be caused by temperatures below 60 degrees, drafts, and drying out at the roots.

After "flowering" rest the plants in a cool location and let the soil dry out. Don't let the stems become dry enough to cause shrivelling of the bark, however. During this rest period cut back the plants part way. Following the rest period, place plants in a larger pot, supply water and expose them to a good light and a temperature of 65 to 70 degrees F.

Exposure of poinsettia plants to electric light after the first of September is not a good practice. It may prevent the flower buds from forming and the bracts from coloring.

HALF-PAST TEEN



T.B. Tests For 5,000 York County Students

In January, approximately 5,000 High School students and teachers in 8 York County High Schools will be offered a simple skin-test for tuberculosis to determine whether the student has been infected at any time during his life with T.B. germs. The project is part of an effort to discover early cases of tuberculosis infection by a simple and convenient skin-test process.

The T.B. testing programme is being organized by the York County Health Unit with the assistance of the National Sanatorium Association, which draws its funds from the Christmas Seal sales. A signed consent from the parents is required for the skin-testing inoculation, and enthusiastic co-operation of parents and students is expected. The small number of students who show a positive result will be offered free chest x-ray examination as a follow-up to determine whether infection is present. This screening process eliminates the need to x-ray the teen-age and young adult population.

A new skin-testing process is being used which eliminates the traditional needle and syringe. There is practically no discomfort. The test is "read" by trained health staff 4 to 6 days later.

Dr. R. M. King, medical officer of health, says that the skin testing of high school students and teachers in York County will be on an annual basis and will probably be extended to include elementary school pupils in the near future. He stresses the importance of a continuing fight against tuberculosis, which he says is just as necessary now as in former years, contrary to the impression that tuberculosis is decreasing in importance. The important thing now is to find cases early while complete cure is easy and less time consuming, and thereby keep tuberculosis in check.

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Two farmers from East Luthers have drained parts of their farms in the last three years. Both claimed that returns to date have more than covered their original investment," reports Dufferin County Agricultural Representative, J. B. Matheson.

If you're thinking about tile drainage, it might be worth your while to attend the Farm Drainage Short Course at the O.A.C., from January 25 till Wednesday, February 3 (exclusive of Saturday and Sunday). You can cut your original tiling investment if you can do some of the work yourself.

R. W. Irwin has dropped welding from the course in favour of surveying. "You can't do a good job unless you know how to survey," he explains. "The work will be outside, so bring winter clothing. We will supply the equipment, if you wish."

The course will include worthwhile subjects: how to calculate cut and grade; how to set stakes and grade; closed drains and open ditches; topographic surveying; and levelling practice. Classes start at 9 a.m. Monday, January 25 and close at 4:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 3.

Costs? Registration for the course is \$2 board is \$2 per day, and room from \$5 to \$8 per week.

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Winter Care of Your House Plants

Short daylight periods and low light intensity during winter cause growing conditions for house plants to differ greatly from the rest of the year. Horticulturists with the Ontario Dept. of Agriculture offer the following advice on winter care of house plants.

Geraniums, fuchsias and chrysanthemums are sun loving plants and should be placed where the most light is available. African violets, philodendrons and most foliage plants require less light but must be moved to places where the light is sufficient. The north window often recommended for African violets may not have enough light for good growth and flowering in these short, dark days.

When grown in windows, plants tend to become one-sided but this can be prevented by giving them a quarter turn each day. Most plants thrive when the day temperature is 65 deg. F. and the night temperature from 55 to 60 deg. F. Since house temperatures are usually too high, it is best to grow plants in cooler parts of the room, usually near a window. Drafts should be avoided, however. When the blinds or drapes are drawn, they should come between plants and windows, to prevent the plants from being in a very cold air space. Care should also be taken to keep plants away from the excessive heat of registers and radiators.

Dry atmosphere is often one of the chief factors responsible for failure in growing house plants. When watering, add only enough to wet the soil to the bottom and then do not water again until the plant or soil shows signs of needing it. Follow directions on plant foods and keep in mind that house plants do not require feeding as often in winter.

Check Hay Quality Now

Take a close look at your hay the next time you are tossing down bales. "It's a good way to pick up last year's mistakes," says O.A.C.'s crops extension specialist, Stan Young.

The reason for poor woody hay is that it was cut too late when it was cut. Another common loss of hay quality is leaf shatter. The biggest single reason for leaf breakage and loss is bad timing of haying operations, or simply baling too dry. Seed on the grasses or legumes is another sign that the hay was cut too late.

"The right time to cut hay is when the most feed value per acre is obtained," says Young. "And that is when the alfalfa or clover is just beginning to bloom."

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