



Mrs. Levi Steckley of Gormley was killed and her five year old grandson was injured in a tragic car-truck collision on the Don Mills Rd. on Thursday afternoon. Her car (left) was hurled 140 ft. from behind by a heavily loaded gravel truck. Mrs. Steckley had planned to pick up her daughter at a public school south of Heise Hill. The truck was driven by Floyd Housser of Stouffville who was not injured. The gravel truck was not badly damaged. PC Clifford Cox investigated. It took tow trucks over two hours to clear the wreckage. —Staff Photos

# The Stouffville Tribune

Vol. 72, No. 49 THE TRIBUNE, STOUFFVILLE, ONTARIO, THURSDAY, MAY 11, 1961 SIXTEEN PAGES

## Large Turnover in Public School Teaching Staff for Next Year

There will be a large turnover in the teaching staff for the two Stouffville Public Schools this year. Resignations have presently been received from six teachers, six new teachers have already been engaged and two more are required to complete the staff.

In dealing with the staff changes, chairman of the Board Mr. C. W. Hendricks stated that the tide had now definitely turned and there was keen competition among the teacher ranks for the available positions. In the local case, the Board received no less than fifty written applications for the positions. In addition, many others came to town to make personal applications without writing. In one instance four applicants arrived in one car, Mr. Hendricks said.

Those already resigned are Miss Stouffer of Summitview staff, and Mrs. Brillinger, Miss Griffiths, Miss Carpenter, Mrs. Murphy and Mrs. Videman from Orchard Park. The new teachers engaged are — Robt. Stover, Stouffville; Miss Mary Harwood, R. R. 4, Stouffville; Mrs. Annie Noble, Gormley; Bruce Mickleburgh of Newmarket, Miss Diane Brazier of Markham and Miss Christine Parllinson, Markham R.R. 2.

## Markham Twp. Tax Rate Is Down Slightly

Markham Township general tax rate decreased by 1.8 mills for this year as a heavy increase in assessment took up the increases in actual money which will be required for the various departments. The farm and residential rate in 1961 will be 14.8 as compared to 16.6 last year. The commercial rate will be 17.8 as against 20. last year.

The assessment increased by one and a quarter million dollars during the year. This took up the increase in cost of administration which amounts to \$8,000 and general office expense increase of \$8,400.

### ENGAGEMENT

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Jarvis are happy to announce the engagement of their only daughter, Doreen Gertrude, to Mr. Gary James Alexander, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Alexander of Hamilton. The marriage will take place on June 17, 1961, at 3 o'clock in St. Andrews United Church, Markham.

## Read Bylaw For Street Paving Program

Town Council gave two readings to a bylaw for a street construction program to cost \$91,262.00. Thursday night. Of this amount the town's share will be \$50,000 which will be debentured for ten years. The balance of the program will be paid for by the Highways Dept. subsidy. The program includes the paving of a number of residential streets including Tenth Line south, Montreal and Edward, and the re-shaping and draining on other streets.

The Consumers' Gas Co. was granted permission to lay a new gas main from 9th Line to Winona Dr. and north on Winona.

Asks Paved Boulevard

A request was received by council from Scandia Landscaping on Main St. east, to have the boulevard in front of their place of business removed and paved. It was pointed out that this was Highway Department property.

Reeve Lehman stated that he doubted if council could find any more money in the budget to do such a job and councillor Lehman commented that if this boulevard was hard-topped, council would find many more places on the street making the same request.

## Rodanz Cattle Going to P.E.I.

Ten bred heifers, the property of Geo. Rodanz Ringwood Farms, have been sold to Prince Edward Island. It marked the fifth such shipment during the past year.

The purchase was concluded recently when eighty farm tourists from the Eastern province visited the Rodanz property.

## Re-open Case of "Suicide Driver"

The case of an admitted auto-suicide attempt, aired in Buttonville Traffic Court last Dec. 9, was re-opened in the Supreme Court of Ontario, Toronto, last month. Wm. Windsor of Willowdale was fined an additional \$100 by Judge Moore. The defendant did not appear.

The shocking details of the case were brought to light late last year by P.C. Evan Kelley of the Markham Township Police Department. He told the story of trailing the accused along Yonge Street at speeds exceeding eighty miles per hour in a forty mile zone. He said that for a portion of this distance the defendant's auto was in the wrong traffic lane. It was raining extremely hard at the time and visibility was almost nil. The driver admitted that he had planned to involve the car in a collision and kill himself. P.C. Kelley was able to stop the vehicle after a lengthy chase.

Magistrate A. D. Barron levied a minimum fine of \$10 and ordered the driver to undergo a re-examination by the Dept. of Transport. He also suggested psychiatric treatment, if necessary. Judge Moore took a more serious view of the incident and ordered a \$100 fine.

### ENGAGEMENT

Mr. and Mrs. John Gandier, of Markham, Ontario, wish to announce the engagement of their only daughter Alice Jeanette to Mr. Graham Frisby, son of Mr. and Mrs. John Frisby, of Stouffville, Ontario. The marriage to take place in Markham United Church, June 3, 1961 at 4 o'clock.

For Mother's Day specials be sure and read the Main Street Merchants ads on pages 6 and 7 of this issue.

## Dog Control Officer Found Dead in Truck

The Dog Control Officer for the Township of Whitchurch and the Village of Stouffville was discovered slumped over the wheel of his truck last week and was pronounced dead by Coroner Patrick Greaves of Newmarket. Arthur Henderson, 48, of R. R. 1, Cedar Valley, had been an employee of Whitchurch for 4 years and only recently his services had been acquired by Stouffville. He had been dead for about four hours before the discovery was made by a passing motorist. Death has been attributed to a heart seizure.

A routine investigation was conducted by the Ontario Provincial Police of the Vandorf Detachment. The funeral service was held on Saturday afternoon.

## Council Road Comm. Criticized For Inactivity

Criticism was voiced at the regular meeting of Stouffville municipal council on Thursday, towards inactivity of the road committee. Reeve Wagg called for a report on the work of road committee, and the chairman, councillor Henry Slack said he had "nothing to report".

At this point deputy-reeve Laushway declared, "It's not my committee but it's high time we got a little organization into this road work. We've got roads full of holes, and the dust at the west end is terrible. There was supposed to be a survey made of the roads and walks after the last meeting and it still isn't done. People are getting fed up with this sort of thing."

"I'm advising council right now," said reeve Wagg, "that there'll be a meeting of council on Tuesday morning to see about these streets and walks."

"I thought this was the committee's job," said councillor Lehman.

"Well, I would expect the committee would have some suggestions of what work should be done, to bring to the meeting," replied the reeve.

Councillor Lehman said he was quite willing to attend if the reeve thought it was necessary.

Deputy-reeve Laushway stated that dollars could be saved or Park Drive if some patching was done now and a fresh coat of tar and chips applied. If this was not done right away, the whole road would have to be torn up next year.

The deputy-reeve said that he had found the road men doing work at the disposal plant that should have been left until a bad day. "They should be patching the holes in the streets and not drawing material they could be doing on a wet day," he said. "Mr. Fosdick has authority to hire men if he needs them, without taking our road men when they should be taking care of the streets."

"We seem to need closer co-ordination between our committees," commented reeve Wagg.

"It's a funny thing that all these things seem to be wrong every time just before Thursday's council meeting," said councillor Lehman.

"There's nothing funny about it — it's the first dry day we've had to get this work done," replied deputy-reeve Laushway.

Council agreed that a grader should be hired immediately from Mr. Femson. It was believed there was at least a week's work to be done right away.

# Gormley Woman Killed in Car - Gravel Truck Crash

Mrs. Levi Steckley, 58, of Gormley was almost instantly killed on Thursday afternoon when her car was rammed from behind by a loaded gravel transport and tossed 140 feet into a ditch at the side of the Don Mills Road. Mrs. Steckley was en route to the public school south of Heise Hill, to pick up her youngest daughter, Mary Elizabeth, when the collision occurred. Her grandson, 5-year-old John Steckley, miraculously escaped serious injury. He was a front seat passenger in the vehicle that was completely demolished. He was admitted to the Branson Hospital for treatment of cuts, and shock.

The truck, a tractor-trailer was owned by Howard Story of Ballantrae and driven by Floyd Housser 28, of Stouffville. It carried a 20 ton load of gravel. Following the impact the transport veered off the highway, snapped off a telephone pole and ground to a halt part way into a field. The driver was not injured. He has been charged by Markham Township Police with criminal negligence. It took almost two hours for tow truck crews to clear the wreckage. P.C. Clifford Cox conducted the investigation, assisted by P.C. John McCague.

Mrs. Steckley was a well known and highly respected resident of Gormley. She was the former Mable Irene Cober, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Cober. She had been a life-long resident of the district.

Her main interests were connected with activities in the Heise Hill Brethren in Christ Church where she was a member and a regular attendant at Sunday services. She had conducted a Sunday School class for many years.

Besides her husband, she is survived by one son, Bruce and five daughters, Margaret (Mrs. John Eyer) of Fort Erie, Alma and Reatha, both of Toronto, Carole and Mary Elizabeth at home. There are two brothers, John and George Cober, both of Gormley and three sisters, Mrs. Ralph Baker of Gowans town, Mrs. J. R. Steckley and Miss Ella Cober of Gormley.

Rev. William VanderBent of Richmond Hill conducted the funeral service on Sunday afternoon at one o'clock. Close United Church.

to 600 friends, neighbors and relatives completely filled the Heise Hill church, a silent tribute to the respect held for the deceased in the community. It was one of the largest funerals held in the area in many years.

Interment was made in Heise Hill Cemetery. The pallbearers were, three neighbors, Messrs. James Dennis, Herbert Moreby, Elmer Leek and three nephews, Messrs. Walter Brillinger, Mervin Whiteman and Carl Steckley.

## Lee Co. Gets Gravel Tender

Lee Sand & Gravel Co. was the successful bidder for the supplying of gravel to the municipality of Stouffville this year. Four firms tendered on the contract. The delivered price will be \$5c a ton.

Stouffville council meeting on Thursday night also opened tenders for the sale of the used works department truck and sale was made to Vern Preston for \$225. Four bids were received for the truck.

To Erect Stop Signs

Dep. reeve Laushway, chairman of the property committee, presented a committee report recommending a number of Stop signs to be erected at various intersections. The intersections named were Montreal and Stouffville, Park Dr. and Maytree, Market and Somerville, Harold and William, Rupert and William, Second and William, Rupert and 9th, Rupert and Fairview. A corporation speed limit sign was also recommended for 9th Line south as well as school crossing on Sunset.

In presenting the report, the deputy-reeve stated that traffic was steadily increasing on Harold and Fairview, and fast driving on both streets made it necessary to take some normal precautions about cross-streets.

### ENGAGEMENT

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Reesor announce the engagement of their daughter Esther May to Harry J. Lewis, son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Allen Lewis of Markham. The marriage to take place on Saturday, June 3, at 2 o'clock in Locust Hill ternoorn at one o'clock. Close United Church.

## Turn Down Deer Shoot in Uxbridge Tp.

Members of Uxbridge Township Council expressed some pessimism concerning a suggestion by the Dept. of Lands and Forests that a short open season on deer should be considered within the municipality. In a letter from the District Forester, A. W. Leman of Maple, aired briefly before a regular meeting on Monday night, it was pointed out that three-day deer shoots contributed to the control of high deer populations which are known to exist in many townships. The suggestion met with opposition from all members present.

Reeve Earl Dowswell said that the Council had received only one complaint of deer crop damage throughout the past year. "I would hate to estimate the number of complaints we would receive if we opened the township up," he said.

Deputy-reeve, Robt. Nesbitt expressed a fear that too many hunters would resort to the use of high-powered guns. Council agreed that no action should be taken.

## Youth Remanded After Assaulting Police Officer

Robt. Galbraith of Markham Village, charged with assaulting a police officer and a civilian, in addition to a charge of escaping custody, was granted a further remand when he appeared in Newmarket Court on Tuesday. He asked that the case should be laid over until May 15th in order that he might obtain legal advice.

Galbraith has been accused of assaulting Robt. Beard of 15th Avenue, Markham Township, and P.C. Wm. Gunn of the Markham Village Police Department. Bail has been set at \$1,000.

Mr. Roy Tindall has returned home after spending several weeks in Uxbridge Hospital.

## Auditor Recommends School Budget Night For Whitchurch Twp.

Due to the considerable complications presented for school boards in the paying by the government of the new \$5 grant, Auditor E. A. Smith has recommended to Whitchurch Twp. Council that a budget night be held each year. Mr. Smith considered that the council would be rendering a service in holding such a night annually where the Inspector could explain the various forms required to be completed.

Council members meeting on Monday night, expressed favor for the suggestion and it is quite probable that such a meeting will be called in 1962.

In presenting his annual report, the Auditor spoke of the increased costs of education. He pointed out that in 1948 the total bill was \$31,000, while in 1960 this same bill had risen to \$232,000.

Mr. Smith commended the Whitchurch staff for their co-operation, but expressed a desire to see the constant increase in tax arrears. The total at present is \$209,000. Of this amount, \$119,000 is current while the remainder goes back for several years.

Taking Over Properties

Clerk Jack Crawford assured council that he was taking the required action to register the amounts of tax arrears against

each property when the time exceeds three years. Already this year, he said, 12 resignations had been approved and he had a total of 50 to complete. In these cases the municipality takes title on registration, is responsible for the upkeep, fire insurance, etc., and may sell the property after one year if the tax arrears have not been paid off.

The Auditor commended Mr. Crawford for his action in this regard and expressed hope that council would give him full support in reducing the arrears by this method.

## Hearing May 29

Floyd E. Housser, 28, of Stouffville, driver of a tractor-trailer gravel truck involved in a fatal accident south of Gormley last week, has elected trial by judge and jury. He has been charged by Markham Township Police with criminal negligence in the death of Mrs. Levi Steckley, of Gormley. He appeared only briefly in Newmarket Court on Monday. The preliminary hearing will be held on May 29th.

Mrs. Steckley was killed almost instantly when her car was rammed from the rear by the loaded transport on Thursday afternoon.



## Queen is Crowned

A pretty eighteen year old, grade 12 student was selected May Prom Queen of Stouffville Dist. High School at the annual semi-formal dance on Friday evening. Daphne Cheung was the popular choice from a group of ten entries. Last year's queen, Elaine Forsyth officiated at the crowning ceremony. —Staff Photo

## Grass Fire Calls Concern Uxbridge Twp.

Members of Uxbridge Township Council expressed concern over the mounting total of grass fire calls answered by district brigades within the past month. The matter was the subject of some discussion at a regular meeting on Monday night.

Reeve Earl Dowswell suggested that insufficient precautions were taken by many local residents. He noted that on one particular day, three grass fires had been set in spite of an extremely high wind. The Reeve noted, however, that since no recent bills had been submitted, the Council could take no positive action. He said that one party had agreed to assume the cost of one fire call and another was under investigation. "I feel we should go all the way," he stated.

Councillor Alvin Redshaw said that he was not particularly anxious to see a fine levied but would favour the ratepayer covering the cost of the fire call.

Councillor Charles Forsyth said that in at least one instance, a neighbour had summoned the brigade but the fire in question was under control. He contended that it would be unfair for either the resident or the township to absorb such costs.

### Legal Action

The Council will take legal action in an effort to prosecute the person or persons responsible for dumping a quantity of refuse on the road allowance within the township. Evidence was discovered in the garbage and solicitor Wm. Parsons will be instructed to send the party a lawyer's letter. Road Superintendent, Stan Slack informed the Council that he had caught one culprit red-handed in the act of depositing refuse in the ditch.

Mrs. Peter Watson, John and Jeffrey of Barrie spent a couple days with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Lambert Stouffer.

## New Building Proposed For Youth Work

R. S. Lewis, Maytree Ave. appeared before Stouffville municipal council Thursday evening with sketch plans for a new building for the accommodation of boy scouts. He said the building would also be used for other youth work such as Cubs, Brownies, Teen Town, etc.

Mr. Lewis who is one of the Scout workers, appeared to ask if council could make available park land on which to locate the building. "We will want to make this a community-sponsored effort," he said.

Reeve Wagg commended the scout leaders for their interest and proposal.

Mr. Lewis said the Scout Leaders would want some assurance that the building would always remain for the purposes

outlined and not be turned over in later years for a warehouse or similar purpose.

He said the proposed building would be 30 x 40 ft. He suggested such a program may take several years to complete.

Councillor Lehman suggested that the using of park land would be a matter for the Park Commission and suggested that Mr. Lewis should come to a meeting of this Board.

Reeve Wagg said that the plan certainly merited some study and if there was not presently land available for such purpose, there could be in the future as the town was disposing of certain park lots, money from which could be used to enlarge the present park.