

Editorial . . .

Another Way of Looking at the Dropout Problem

Stouffville District High School, as well as those in the rest of the country, have been fretting now for some years about the school dropout problem. Last week another new program was announced, aimed at keeping the "not so bright academically" students in school. Will it work? We must say it's a sensible try but there is an even chance that it won't achieve the curtailment in dropouts that is hoped for.

It might be well to consider for a moment the comments in a Canadian magazine by a Canadian school teacher who himself has been plagued by the dropout misery. He says, "quite wrongly they blame the dropout problem exclusively on the schools. To me, and to many other teachers who know potential dropouts, this criticism is mostly piffle. Moreover, it's misleading the public, which is coming to expect the impossible from its schools. I claim that the time has arrived for placing the responsibility for dropouts where it belongs; not on the teacher, but squarely on the dropout himself. To convince the incorrigibly lazy student that he's wrong we must drop the consequences of his irresponsibility in his own lap. He must go. Some dropouts should drop out."

This teacher is not talking about students who drop out because their families need their wages. Nor is he concerned with those students who finally and honestly realize that they've reached the limit of their ability in the classroom.

Our teacher goes on to say, "My concern is those students who can learn but, for a variety of unappealing reasons, refuse to try. They are known as 'under-achievers' but I prefer a shorter, sharper term, like laggard or shirker."

Two Wrongs Mean No Rights

The proposed construction of a drag-strip track on a rural piece of property at lot 19, conc. 9, Markham Township has boiled up into a country storm in that area. According to reliable reports, the council in the township will be asked to back-track on an earlier agreement to grant a licence to the promoters of this racing project. Personally, at this late date, we don't see how the members can now side-step a previous commitment. Our opinion on this issue has not changed, however. We have spoken out in opposition to this program from the start and we feel that by giving the green light to the venture, the members made a bad move. The council of the current year has reached its decisions and, right or wrong, they should not allow themselves to be swayed like so much

The idea and clamour to give this shirker special treatment, that it will arouse responsibility is nonsense. It only suggests to his knotted-up little intellect that to get somewhere he doesn't have to be productive or reliable.

Most arguments for keeping dropouts in school is always based on the fact that most jobless people are jobless because they're under-educated. The idea that to keep them in school will eventually bring them up to par is likewise nonsense. We could keep some students in school till they died of old age and still not make them competitive in skilled jobs. The new plan for Stouffville is to turn the potential dropout, who will never get far with academic studies, into the line of some simple trade, so that at least his entire schooling is not in vain. This sounds logical, and as we said before, should have a fifty per cent chance of working. Certainly there are many jobs which can be done well, and contentedly by people who can't manage to graduate from high school.

This idea may to some, fly right in face of the idealistic concept that every boy, regardless of race, creed, color or national origin, can, if he only tries hard enough, become president of one of our leading Canadian companies or Prime Minister for that matter.

Our teacher friend, who incidentally comes from western Canada, concludes his remarks by these thought provoking words, "It's something to think about the next time we hear someone start bleeding for the young fellow in the stripped-down roadster with the gutted muffler who doesn't seem to be making satisfactory progress in his school work."

putty in the hands of a pressure group. If the council of 1965 wishes, for some logical reason, to cancel this licence, then that is a different matter.

We doubt that any item of Markham Twp. council business was given more publicity than this much-discussed drag-strip. Councillor Chas. Hoover in whose ward the project is planned and deputy-reeve Stewart Rumble waged a losing battle in opposing the raceway. During the many weeks that the controversy went on, we do not recall a single delegation or petition coming out of the area affected. Now, ten months after the permit has been granted, the residents are aroused to action. We feel that the 9th Line ratepayers have a legitimate complaint but we feel too, that they are a little too late.

Lust Of Sensationalism Goes On

Our Queen has come and gone safely — no thanks to the daily press. The only incidents to mar the visit were the yelping of a few immature youths who were out for publicity. This they got, out of all proportion to their importance, due to the lust for sensationalism of those newspapers more concerned with circulation than responsibility. One Toronto daily went so far in its wildness to attract readers, that it almost gave the impression it would be disappointed if something awful did not happen to her Majesty. The eagerness it showed to latch on to something harmful to the Queen, was sickening sensationalism to a great many.

The daily press played up the activities of the loud mouthed malcontents when the proper course was to ignore them. Now these same journals are jumping on the Quebec

police with glee because strong arm tactics were used to make sure these misled youths did not get organized into a mob which could have been difficult to control. If this had happened, my, what a clobbering the police would have taken from these same papers because they were too easy.

This biased news coverage has made Quebec appear wholly opposed to our Queen, to any association with Great Britain, and all set to jump into the role of an independent state. There is important work going on in Quebec to help work out a happy solution to Confederation. This more important group has been given a setback by a sensational press which has instead, played up the shouts of these youngsters for a free state, which they wouldn't know what to do with if they got it.

No Rest For The Restless

The Lancers' motorcycle club is in the news again. Their latest hang-out, located in the Twp. of Whitchurch was raided by about thirty officers Saturday night and charges have been laid against 20 members of this infamous organization.

It goes without saying that each girl and boy who belongs to this group is marked. No matter where they go, whether in pairs or as a

gang, they are the subject of suspicion and distrust.

Although they must be aware of the image they have created for themselves, they appear reluctant to trade in their motorbikes and leather jackets for a reputation of respectability. Their trademark has become a badge of dishonour. The opinion of the public has already been formed and their every mis-deed only makes that impression more permanent.



Hallowe'en, 1964

SUGAR AND SPICE by Bill Smiley

DO WIVES REALLY "HAVE IT MADE"?

Some of my best friends are women. I like women, generally, because they are compassionate, courageous, and smell nice.

Some are good lookers. Other are good cooks. Most have a great fund of common sense. For these very reasons, I have refused to stand by and let that fine creature, the housewife, be lead, or misled, into a morass of frustration and unhappiness, by a few frustrated, unhappy female agitators.

For years, I have been fighting a battle. It has been made up of skirmishes in speeches, fullscale attacks in this column, and occasional hand-to-hand combat with my old lady.

On some occasions, I have been routed, my banners tattered by forces in disarray. But my ideals have remained intact; my cause untarnished.

Once in a while, I've won a minor encounter. At a party, for instance, when a housewife has stung a drink in my face and rushed off to the bathroom in a confusion of rage and tears.

I don't regret a minute of the long campaign. The only thing that has depressed me has been the intense loneliness. Time and again I have felt like a lost patrol, cut off from all reinforcements, betrayed by allies.

But my heart leaped in my breath with new hope the other day, when I read an article in Maclean's magazine. For the first time in a decade or more, I felt that my cause, "Equality for Husbands", had an outside chance of winning.

Title of the article was, "Marriage in Easy Street (For Women)". Written by Sidney Katz, it was a sober, factual refutation of that base, insidious and increasing whine of the times — that a housewife is "bored, trapped, a slave to her family, and unfulfilled as a human being."

Mr. Katz quotes sociologist, psychologist and anthropologist to prove what I have been saying for years: that it is just the opposite, that it is the male creature in marriage who is trapped, who is the slave to his family, and who, very often, is bored silly with the whole business.

I have no need to quote any kind of an "ologist". All I have to do is look around me.

There's the former terror of the tank corps. A tiger in action, his name was a by-word among the troops, a symbol of dash and élan. There's not much left of his former fiendish skill as he steers his shopping cart submissively about the supermarket. His wife is busy Friday nights with her little theatre group.

There's the former bomber pilot. For three years, he held within his clever and capable hands six thousand horsepower, six tons of bombs, and the lives of six men. I wonder if he feels "fulfilled as a human being" as he drops another quarter in the coin wash. But it's Saturday night and his wife likes to watch the movie on TV.

Most of the damage has been done by a comparatively small group of harridans who have produced a veritable tidal wave of books, magazine articles and TV diatribes, all with the same theme: If you are a housewife (a) you are unhappy and frustrated; (b) you're a slob because you're not out working, or writing a novel or sculpting a sculp or something.

Normal, intelligent housewives, under this finger of scorn, are slinking around guiltily, trying to convince themselves that they are unhappy, frustrated shirkers. The only thing I'm worried about is that they may succeed.

As any woman of real insight knows, it is the male of the family who is a slave to the family, who is frustrated, unfulfilled and trapped. Let me quote from the article. In a survey, one housewife said, "A married woman has it made."

Welcome to the barricades, Katz. You can pile sandbags while I sharpen my finger to stick it in the dyke.

Go get him, girls, Katz, that is.

Nearly 150,000 Visitors to Pioneer Village

Nearly 150,000 persons have visited Pioneer Village, the pre-Confederation community now building at Jane Street and Steeles Avenue, in northwest

Metro Toronto, during the period May 23 to Oct. 15 this year. The Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority which is developing the Village notes that the attendance breakdown shows the following: 115,073 visitors plus 23,000 school students who were taken on special tours during the school terms. An additional 10,000 at-

Arts and Crafts Program at Pioneer Village

Metro Toronto and district youngsters will have an opportunity during the next two weeks to emulate the handicrafts of Ontario's pioneer settlers at Pioneer Village here.

An experimental pioneer arts and crafts program will be held at the Village Nov. 2-13 for elementary and secondary school students who will be touring the unique crossroads community at Jane Street and Steeles Ave. in Northwest Metro Toronto. Classes have already been selected at various age and grade levels to take part in the program.

The program, sponsored by the Metropolitan Toronto and Region Conservation Authority which is developing the Pioneer Village, will include butter-making, candle dipping, spinning, blacksmithing and grain crushing.

Its purpose is to provide students with a practical understanding of the way that pioneer families lived and worked during pre-Confederation days in Upper Canada.

The program is a co-operative study by the Authority and local boards of education to determine the effectiveness of such an innovation as a support to the history and home economics curricula.

Educational programs are an important aspect of the Pioneer Village. During the 1964 season, for example, nearly 20,500 students from regional schools plus 3,350 persons in organized groups, were conducted on educational tours by the teachers on the Authority staff.

Prevent Winter Damage in Your Garden

Many plants are not able to survive winter conditions unless adequate moisture is made available now, say horticulturists with the Ontario Department of Agriculture. Lack of moisture in the tissues of trees and shrubs before winter sets in is often one of the causes of winter-killing. Evergreens are particularly susceptible to this kind of injury. During sunny winter days, evergreens such as cedars will lose moisture from their leaves which cannot be replaced, because their roots are in frozen soil. The result is that the foliage becomes brown and unsightly.

To reduce this type of injury, ensure that evergreens have sufficient water before the soil freezes. Place the garden hose beside the plants and allow the water to run slowly until the water has penetrated to about six inches. To reduce the possibility of washing away soil around the evergreens, wrap a piece of cloth or burlap around the nozzle of the hose and place it near the trunk.

ended the annual Pioneer Festival, held Sept. 26. The Pioneer Village will remain open this year until Nov. 3, and will re-open for the 1965 season in May.

Roamin' Around . . .

The telephone stickers distributed around town through the mail by Cliff Alken of the I.D.A. drug store with the numbers of local police and fire stations attached, is an excellent idea and a fine service. In a time of emergency we would suggest that 99 per cent of all residents here would have to pre-check their directory before placing the call. It's nice to have the number right under the receiver.

We took a drive down No. 48 Hwy. the other day to view the new factory home of Sarco, Canada Ltd., near Hwy. 401. It's a beautiful building on the outside and no doubt an official opening will be held later to permit the public to see through the interior. It is interesting to note the distance that the plant is set back from 401. This is to permit, we understand, the expansion of this road to an ultimate twelve lanes and therefore, the property is not for sale, at any price.

"You never miss a good thing until it's gone," commented Will Morley, President of the Stouffville Minor Hockey Association, in a recent conversation. Mr. Morley was referring to a move by Alex Robinson and family to a new place of residence near West Hill. Mr. Robinson has been one of Stouffville's most active sports promoters, summer and winter, and his services will indeed be missed.

You can't keep a good man down. That was our opinion last week when we noticed Dave Stouffer diligently laying shingles on the roof of a new home at the corner of conc. 9 North and Rupert Avenue. Mr. Stouffer marked his 84th birthday recently.

Speaking of well-known and ambitious district residents, there's none more familiar to this community than Sam McKuen, now of Markham. We found him hitch-hiking on the Brock Road last week and knowing him to be a completely harmless cross-country traveller, we stopped and gave him a ride. Sam can point out the fore-owners of almost every property between Markham, Brougham and Clarendon. If you switch the subject to Bloomington, Lemoville, Ballantrae or Dickson's Hill, he's equally conversant with the personal histories of most residents there plus their fathers' and grandfathers' down the line. We'll say one thing for sure, that with Sam McKuen as a front-seat passenger, the conversation, although a trifle one-sided, is never dull.

Recently we mentioned in this column that a familiar landmark, the old Mertens home, in the westend of Stouffville, was being demolished. We now learn that one piece of timber in the house had the date of 1853 carved in the wood. Actually, the home was erected prior to 1834 when Claus Mertens settled there after coming over to Canada from Germany. He is buried at Dickson's Hill.

A sports oddity has come to light up Mount Albert way where Jerry Case, pitcher with the softball team there, handled the mound chores against Queensville with his left arm in a cast. In addition, he fanned a one-handed home run, the first time that such a feat has ever been accomplished. Another "first" in the league was when Bill Farr of Zephyr established a new fashion trend by wearing car huffs in centre-field. Geo. Haskett, sports editor of the Newmarket Era and Express has suggested that umpires might adopt the ear-warmers as standard equipment to snuff out the verbal complaints from behind the screen.

It's a solid pat on the back this week for the plowman who endured the worst of weather conditions at the East York Match on Wednesday. Only one out of more than sixty entries quit before he had finished his land. We saw one man actually dump water from his rubber boots. "Just like sucker-fishin'", commented one helper.

While on the subject of plowing, Bill Simpson of Ballantrae ran into truck troubles while en route to the King-Vaughan match and took his vehicle into a garage at Aurora for repairs. When the prizes were given out at the conclusion of the match, Bill was awarded a donation from this same service station. Bill didn't say which was worth the most but no doubt he'd be happy to call it an even deal.

The Dept. of Hwys. doesn't intend to be caught napping this winter when the snow flakes start to fly. With .0001 inches of the white stuff on the ground last Wednesday, the sand trucks were out in full force.

Markham Village Police Dept. have a brand new '65 Ford on the road from Talpark Motors. The vehicle is lit up like a Christmas tree with two red flasher lights on the roof in addition to the regular rotary beacon. The new car arrived none too soon since the old cruiser sounded like a mobile cement mixer.

Pheasant hunters were out in full force on opening day last week and game wardens report not a single infringement on the law. Many would-be hunters were caught short this year without a licence. Although a goodly number are supposed to go on public sale prior to the hunt, it appears that the majority are reserved well in advance and Joe Dokes is left to grab what's left if he's lucky.

It's amazing when you realize that the only difference between a gold and silver medal for Markham's Bill Crothers in the Olympic 800 meters was a half-second. Bill was just that close on the heels of the race winner, Peter Snell of New Zealand.

While not an enthusiastic follower of track and field events, we, like most other T.V. viewers of the Olympics, were caught up in the thrill of this man against man, girl against girl spectacle. We thought that the television coverage was excellent and must surely have erased much of the apathetic feeling with which Canadians had previously adopted toward this type of sport.

York Cleaners in town has purchased a fleet of brand new Mercury vans from Coffey and Bartley Motors. On this same subject, their row on row of new '64 model cars in stock with the arrival of the '65's, is rapidly depleting.

Joan Harper, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Bruce Harper is a trusting soul. Last week, hired employee, Fred Moore "Innocently" asked Joan to take his Volkswagen up to Mickey Hunt's Sunoco Station for a pre-winter check on the anti-freeze. Joan resolutely did as she was told, unmindful of the fact that Volkswagen, with their air-cooled motors, do not require this type of protection. After some persuasion, she returned home with the car, determined to let the owner look after his vehicle's future requirements, including the filling of all four tires with air.

We paid a semi-annual visit to dentist, Dr. Nell Smith last week. Following a tooth by tooth check-up, a date for a return trip was arranged by his receptionist, Hilda Jones. "Do you want me to remind you of your appointment by telephone?" she asked very efficiently. "No," we replied and walked out leaving a winter coat and two rubbers behind.

Forward, Bob Armstrong of the Markham Jrs. was given a rousing ovation by fans as each player was introduced prior to the start of the season's first game in the Markham Arena on Friday night. And still there are those who say that "local" boys don't count for much any more. For some 400 spectators, one local lad did count, not because he will ever become a super star but because he is Bob Armstrong of Markham.

The office of the Stouffville Arena just doesn't seem the same this season without Ken Kirby around to give forth with his friendly greeting. Ken, who could always take time to speak between sweeps of a broom or shovel, is no longer on the rink staff. He is one of the original employees, a term of service that dates back some 15 years.

YOUR DAIRY DOLLAR BUYS MORE

MARKHAM DAIRY LTD.
Phone Direct 294-2212

For Office Supplies — It's The TRIBUNE

The Stouffville Tribune
ESTABLISHED 1848

Member of the Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association and the Ontario Weekly Newspapers Association.

Authorized as second-class mail, Postoffice Dept., Ottawa.

Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations.
Issued every Thursday at Stouffville, Ont.

In Canada \$3.50 Elsewhere \$5.50

C. E. NOLAN, Publisher JAS. THOMAS, Editor JAS. McKEAN, Advertising