

# UXBRIDGE PICKERING TP. NEWS

## Pickering Council Stalled Naming Member to H.S. Bd.

Selecting a member to serve for a 3-year term on the Dist. High School Board reached a stalemate of indecision within Pickering Twp. Council on Monday night as two separate motions on two separate persons went down to defeat.

Both Geo. Todd of Cherrywood, the present Board Chairman and Mrs. Robt. Brown of West Rouge were named. When neither could gain a majority vote, the matter was held over to a later date.

Councillor Wm. Newman who favoured the re-appointment of Mr. Todd, said that he had done an excellent job and had given a good deal of time to the office. He was supported by councillor Herb Wank.

Councillor John Campbell put forward the name of Mrs. Brown. "I feel it would be a good thing to have a woman on the board," he said.

Reeve Clifford Laycox said that although Mr. Todd had done a commendable job, there was nothing wrong with making a change.

**Difficult Decision**

Both deputy-reeve, Mrs. Jean McPherson and councillor Harvey Spang admitted that it was difficult to make a choice without giving the matter more consideration. "I would like to see more women on boards," said Mrs. McPherson, "both in council and school activities."

"I'm at a loss on which way to go," said councillor Spang.

When both motions were lost both councillors Campbell and Wank appeared disturbed at the result. "I can't understand why we do so much talking around this table," said Mr. Campbell. "It's not the first time this has happened," said Mr. Wank. "It's a peculiar thing." He charged members with sitting on a fence.

### Agree To Separate Lot From Farm

Paul Mingay, Markham solicitor, appeared recently before Pickering Twp. Planning Board, on behalf of Gordon MacDowell, who had built a house on his father's 150-acre farm on the 8th conc. near Atha.

Mr. Mingay explained that David MacDowell, who died two months ago, owned 150 acres, and farmed from the main farm house located on the most easterly 100 acres, since 1948. Mr. MacDowell's son, Gordon, wished to locate on the home farm, and having discussed it with his parents, with their assistance, built his home on a small portion of the main parcel prior to the passing of the rural zoning by-law.

"The property was, in fact, owned by David MacDowell," said the solicitor. "I feel, therefore, that the procedure was somewhat wrong, if this was to be a separate lot, and that application should have been made to the Planning Board at that time. It proceeded because of the fact that it was considered then as an accessory farm building, as the son continued to help his father on the farm."

"The house," continued Mr. Mingay, "is not the required 2,000 square feet, and it would be inappropriate to expand."

It was then asked that a consent be granted for division so that the son could control his own parcel, and so that the estate could be dealt with properly.

A resolution was passed that the lot be divided from the farm, that its size be increased to two acres, and that the application be subject to all the conditions, including the payment of the \$500 lot fee.

See You IN THE "Coffee Shoppe" AT HOUSTON'S "THE REXALL DRUG STORE"

## Claremont News

On Thursday afternoon, Dec. 17th (to-day) the U.C.W. will meet at the home of Mrs. Frank Hollingshead to pack boxes for shuttles.

Congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. Steve Wideman on the arrival of a bouncing baby boy, tipping the scales at 8 pounds 14 ounces.

Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Avery of Toronto visited with Mr. and Mrs. Avery here on Sunday.

The Couples' Club of the Baptist Church are holding an "open night" on Saturday evening, Dec. 26th at 7:30 p.m. for everyone in the community. The guest speaker will be Mr. Chas. Ratcliff of Stouffville who last year, enjoyed a trip through Europe. Mr. Ratcliff, dressed in a native Egyptian costume will give an hour-long talk on his travels and will show coloured slides. A lunch will be served.

Results of the euchre on Dec. 9th were as follows: (Men) — 1st, Brian Madill; 2nd, Geo. Postill; Consolation, John Holman. (Ladies) — 1st, Sadie Hardy; 2nd, Rowena Lehman; Consolation, Lillian MacGregor. The next euchre will be held on Jan. 27th.

On Monday of last week, friends and neighbours of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Mansell and family held a tea in their honour and presented Mrs. Mansell with a gift. The good wishes of the community go with them in their new home.

Don't forget the variety Christmas show in the Community Hall on Saturday afternoon

### Local Queen Scout To Australia for World Jamboree

Queen Scout, Derrick Curtis of Claremont will leave later this month by air to attend the World Jamboree in Australia. Only five boys from Canada will attend. He will be away for two weeks. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Curtis.

Derrick is attempting to finance the trip on his own but any assistance would be appreciated by the Claremont Scout Organization. Interested persons should contact either Robt. Hockley at 649-2392 or Al Roszell at 649-2403.

### Honour Former Fire Chief for 20 Years Service

Mr. Jack Norton, Fire Chief with the Claremont Brigade for 20 years, was honored last week at a brief presentation ceremony held at the firehall.

On behalf of the volunteers, Mr. Wm. Gliddon, Sec. Treas. presented Mr. Norton with a leather travel bag. He has been a member of the brigade for 25 years but resigned recently as Chief.

## Division of Property Deadlocks Planning Bd.

Orville and Levi Fretz, Butchers, have appeared before the Pickering Township Planning Board on several occasions with proposals for the division of their land at conc. 9, Pickering Twp. From an original 70 acres some 40 acres, with the existing farm buildings, had been sold. On the remaining parcel, a block butcher building has been constructed, and a house.

The Fretz Brothers asked for the division of a three-acre parcel on which the house stood. This was denied, and the refusal endorsed by the Pickering Twp. Council, because the dimensions of the house were 1150 square feet and this was not considered reasonable on a three-acre site.

At a meeting of the Planning Board on December 3, a new application was submitted for the house to stand on an 8-acre parcel, the boundary line identified by a creek which crosses the road.

"Once it becomes a separate parcel, it then becomes a non-conforming building with respect to the floor area," explained Planning Director J. H. Faulkner. On a smaller parcel Mr. Faulkner contended that it was almost impossible to farm; with the larger parcel, it was potentially agricultural.

Mr. Levi Fretz, present at the meeting, stated that the eight-acre parcel he had selected for the house was largely sugar bush that was utilized each spring, and he described the annual yield.

If the acreage is used for farming, a 1150 square foot house can be built rather than the 2,000 square foot house in a residential zone in a rural area.

"It was the Board's opinion that 10 acres could constitute a farm," said Norman Lehman, Vice-Chairman of the Board presiding in place of Dr. David Lennox, who was in hospital recuperating from an accident. "As far as I can make out, no one will stick their neck out and say

how small a farm has to be."

"We have asked the question many times, and no one can give a definition of a farm or a farmer," Rex Merritt agreed.

A resolution was proposed by C. W. Laycox, that the consent be granted for the eight-acre division, and that a condition of the consent be that no accessory buildings be permitted on the remaining land without first notifying the planning board, and that the \$500 lot fee be charged.

"If we charged the \$500 lot fee, we are tacitly recognizing it as a residence," said Mr. Merritt.

"As it stands now we are considering it an accessory use in an agricultural zone. Normally, where we're going to wind up with a new residence, we charge the fee. I think we have accepted the principle that each ownership is entitled to one dwelling free. With the second dwelling, the fee is applicable."

"I am certainly not in favour of the residential lot fee," said Mrs. Jean McPherson. "I think it is one house, and a farm house." Mrs. McPherson wished to grant consent, but not charge the development fee. She abstained from the voting. The result — a tied vote.

A second resolution with the same conditions, but not to charge the \$500 lot fee, was put. It resulted in a lost vote.

It was suggested to Mr. Fretz that the parcel be increased to 10 acres, and on a parcel of this size, or over, the planning board has no jurisdiction.

**BACKACHE**

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### Pit Extension Requested

Ray Anderson, who owns a farm near Brougham, appeared before the Planning Board Dec. 3rd with his solicitor to request a change of zoning from an agricultural use to a quarry use for some 15 acres at the south end of the farm.

Planning Director John Faulkner explained that this change in the rural-by-law had been objected to by Michael Walsh and Tarsisco Morello, both abutting owners to the east of the farm. He explained that 100,000 yards of gravel had been taken from this vein years ago, and then Mr. Anderson had used it for his purpose in 1961 and 1962.

Although Mr. Anderson explained that the operation was from 250 to 300 feet from any fence line of the property, Mr. Cecil Phillips and Mr. James Phillips appeared before the board to question the project. Both of these owners farm at the south and east line of Mr. Anderson's property.

"I don't want to get into a higher assessment bracket," Mr. Cecil Phillips remarked.

"Your property would not be rezoned," said Mr. Merritt. "This would not affect your assessment."

Mr. Jas. Phillips said, "I think it would be a detriment. As long as it is kept in this one place it would be all right, but it may be more — you never know! I don't like a gravel pit right in front of our house."

The matter was referred until a site visit of the Board is made. The policy of gravel pit operation in the whole township is presently being discussed, and a new outline of gravel pit regulations may be discussed at a Planning Board meeting on Dec. 17.

### Call Tenders For Brougham Fire Truck

Tenders will be called for the purchase of a new fire truck to be stationed at Brougham in Pickering Twp.

According to information presented before council, a grant of 45 per cent will be paid if the unit is delivered by March 31st, 1965. Reeve Clifford Laycox noted that this grant could reduce the total cost to the township by as much as \$9,000.

The purchase has been recommended by Fire Chief, Don Lynde.

Councillor Wm. Newman suggested that the present truck at Brougham was in working condition but was in need of extensive repairs. "I feel we should move quickly on this," he said.

A four leaf clover is considered lucky because its four leaves form a cross.

### Strike Has Bearing On Truck Buying

The current strike at General Motors in Oshawa may effect the purchase of a new 4-ton gravel truck by the Twp. of Pickering.

Two of the lowest tenders revealed on Monday night were for G. M. vehicles but the delivery guarantee was not too definite.

At \$5,508.13, the G.M.C. Retail Branch in Toronto had the lowest bid but delivery was from 6 to 8 weeks after production is resumed.

Next in line was Cliff Mills Motors of Oshawa at \$5,773.15 with delivery in 30 days.

The council agreed to accept the Mills tender if their delivery date is assured. If not, they will take the next best buy, an International from Burrows' of Brougham at \$5,974.00.

### New Bridge for Westney Road

A new bridge, to cost an estimated \$100,000 will be built on the Westney Road in Pickering Twp. over the C.P.R. line.

Reeve Clifford Laycox said on Monday night that grants from different sources would reduce Pickering's share of the cost to about \$5,000.

The council agreed to engage the firm of Totten-Sims and Associates to prepare plans for the new structure.

### GREENWOOD

The Annual Christmas Concert will be held in the church on Dec. 18th at 8:00 p.m. The Sunday School class will provide the entertainment and Santa Claus will be there with lots of gifts for the boys and girls. The young people's class will be trimming the tree Thursday night at 7:00 p.m.

The General meeting of the U.C.W. will be held on Thursday in the church at 8:00 p.m. Mrs. McLean will be in charge of the program and Unit No. Two will provide refreshments.

The Sunday School teachers from Greenwood Church attended a conference at the Ajax United Church on Tuesday, Dec. 15th. The Presbytery committee discussed the New Curriculum.

The community is glad to hear that Billy Thomas is home after his operation.

Six 40 lbs. cartons were shipped to the Fred Victor Mission after White Gift Sunday. All the canned goods were given to the Maxwells who are living with his mother in Bay RIDGES after the fire which destroyed their home.

Mr. John Bryant flew to England recently to attend his father's funeral.

Mr. and Mrs. Sharp have returned home to Buckingham, Quebec for Christmas.

Mrs. Norman Wilson spent last Friday with the Ken McTaggart's.

Mr. James Kinnear of Hespeler came down to visit his father in hospital.

Mr. and Mrs. M. Gepp will accompany Mr. W. Lishman on his trip out to Vancouver.

The happiness of your life depends upon the quality of your thoughts.

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## Pickering's Robin Hood Inn Is Unique in All County

An English-style Inn, complete with large, stone fireplace, leaded-glass windows and oak refectory tables, has been in operation in Pickering Twp., for nearly a year.

The Robin Hood Inn, located at Altona Rd. and the Second Concession, is owned and operated by Mr. Howard T. Ross.

Mr. Ross has owned the tract at Altona Rd. and the Second Concession for the past six years. However, it was only after Pickering Twp. voted to go "wet" 18 months ago, that he decided to build the Inn. His wife, Marie, whom he met in England during the war, spent many hours with her husband, drawing up the plans of their venture. The Inn is now fully licensed under the Liquor Control Board of Ontario.

Designed by Owner

Selecting the name was no problem as Mr. and Mrs. Ross were married in "Merry Old England" and their first cottage was named "Robin Hood." He explained that the Inn was completely designed by themselves and no architect was involved.

Robin Hood Inn is complete in every detail to the typical Inns found in England. It is modelled Tudor Style, with aged oak beams supporting the peaked second floor ceiling. The walls of the first and second stories are dark panelled with each floor being equipped with a stone fireplace.

The first floor consists of two rooms; the Robin Hood Room and The Friar Tuck Room. The second story is a large banquet hall called "The Sherwood Room." There is a bar on each floor. Huge wall photos taken from actual shots of the "Robin Hood" T.V. series highlight both floors. Actual capacity is 200 persons with ample parking on the grounds.

Mr. Ross employs about 25 persons during peak periods, with the hostesses attired in actual Robin Hood costumes. Most of the employees live in the surrounding area.

Each day a special English style dinner is featured at the Inn. There is no age limit for entering the premises, although Mr. Ross enforces the "21 age limit" for drinks, very strictly.

The Inn offers two different "cocktails" if the children should like to "indulge." For the girls, a "Shirley Temple" and for the lads, "Mickey Rooney" is the drink. Both consist of ginger ale and syrup.

Regarding the two fireplaces, Mr. Ross said there is enough stone in both of them to build a comfortable bungalow. He said they were constructed by an Irishman, whose family has been in the business for over a century.

The Robin Hood Inn caters to persons throughout the Country of Ontario, and "anyone else who wants to use our facilities."

**\$100,000 Project**

Mr. Ross estimated the cost of construction at near \$100,000. He said plans are in the drawing stages for a ten-unit motel to be attached to the Inn. The motel will follow the same motif as the Inn.

When asked how he follows the legend of "taking from the rich and giving to the poor," Mr. Ross explained that if a group wanted to use one of the rooms, and their budget fell short of the required rate, he would cater to them by equalizing his service to their specified budget.

Even the washrooms are appropriately named "Little John's Room" and "Maid Marion's Room."

**Easily Reached**

The location "off the beaten path," is explained simply by Mr. Ross. He claims that people have a tendency to remember the little, out-of-the-way places, better than a similar establishment located in the heart of the city.

"As a matter of fact," he stated, "a person can come out here just as fast from Yonge and Eglinton as he could drive downtown and park his car. Once on the 401, it's only a fifteen minute drive. From Interchange 63, the Inn is just north of Hwy. #2."

Entering the Inn is like entering the past, to the days of Robin Hood and his merry men, and life in Merry Old England. The structure is saturated with custom and atmosphere, and is, indeed, a unique and beneficial project for the Township of Pickering.

### Fund Aids Greenwood Family



Residents of the community of Greenwood and adjacent districts have rallied to the aid of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Maxwell and family whose home was destroyed by fire last week. A fund, established at Clark's General Store has now exceeded \$500. Large quantities of clothing have been left at the church. Assistance has also come from the Pickering Red Cross and the Audley church. Mrs. Maxwell, who rescued her three children from the blaze, is shown here with the youngest, Jimmy, 3 months. —Staff Photo.

## Bypass Low Tender on Grader for Pickering Tp.

Once burned, twice wary was the motto adopted by Pickering Twp. Council on Monday night in connection with the purchase of a new road grader for the municipality.

The members bypassed the lowest tender in favour of an Adams machine, but in doing so, they will lose the government subsidy on about \$90,000.

The low bid was \$16,377.00. The Adams unit was priced at \$17,367.86. The low tender was for the same make of machine, that, according to Engineer Paul Poulsson, had failed to stand up since it was acquired in 1959. The Company representative expressed regret concerning past experiences but noted that many improvements had been perfected in the new model.

Councillor Wm. Newman said that a cost comparison under actual working conditions was important and he was willing to support the engineer's recommendations.

"The lowest tender price is not always the best buy for the township," agreed councillor Hubert Wank.

### ATHA

Sympathy of friends in this community is extended to Mr. and Mrs. Alec Bell and Beverley in the sudden passing of their son and brother, the late Alec Bell.

Mr. and Mrs. Elles Melton and family and Mrs. Thomas Dunkeld had Sunday dinner with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. James Melton, Burketon.

Mr. P. Phillips from West-Hill visited Ernie Carruthers on Sunday.

Atha Christmas concert will

be held on Monday night at the school house on Dec. 21st at 8 p.m. All are welcome. Teacher, Mrs. Jarietts.

Birthday greetings to Miss Marie Draper on her birthday, Dec. 15th also to Nelda Draper, who will be two years old on Dec. 14th.

Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bieby entertained to a birthday supper on Saturday night for Dougie Dunkeld. Mrs. Paul Meyers, Jimmie Gilbert, little Paulette Meyers, Mr. and Mrs. Donald Dunkeld were also supper guests.

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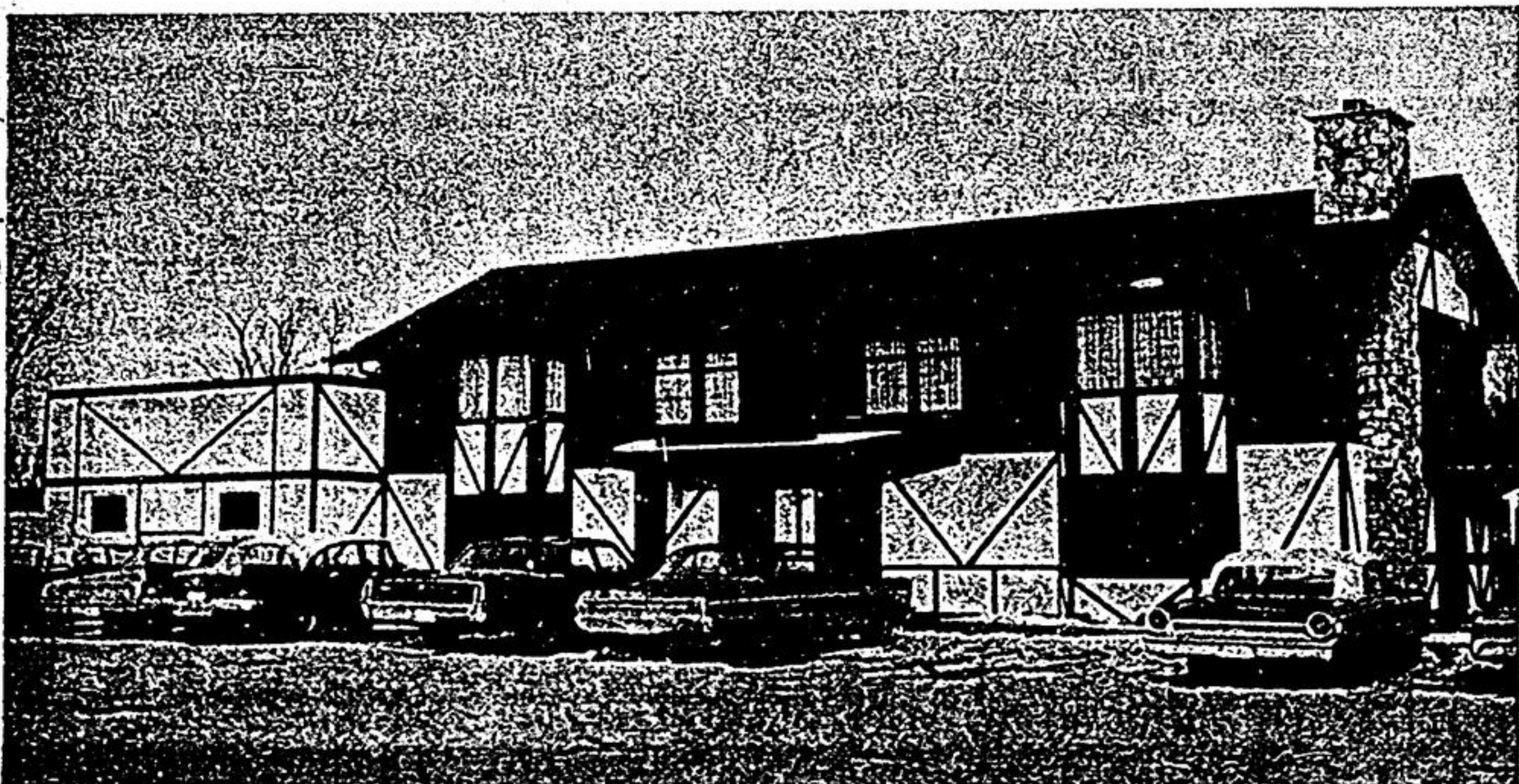
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## Robin Hood in Pickering Township



The Robin Hood Inn, located on the Altona Road in Pickering Twp. is unique in the entire County. The interior setting depicts the Robin Hood era and even the waitresses are attired in native dress. The building cost close to \$100,000. —Staff Photo.