

Father Helps Family Escape Through Rear Window As Markham Home Completely Destroyed By Fire

Six persons are homeless as a result of a fire that destroyed their frame bungalow, early Monday morning. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Thorne at the corner of Hawkridge Ave. and Robinson St. was completely gutted. Mr. and Mrs. Thorne and their four children, Neil 15, Gary, 13, Lorne, 12 and Brenda, 5, were forced out of the blazing home shortly before 1 a.m. Mr. Thorne told the Tribune that he was watching television and apparently fell asleep. When he awoke, the living room was full of flames. He said he tried to notify the fire department, but upon finding the phone out of order, he roused his family, and escaped through a window at the back of the house. Mr. Thorne said he awakened his next door neighbour, Mr. Sidney Garnish, in an attempt to call the brigade. However, Mr. Garnish's phone is connected to the same party line and was also dead. Mr. Thorne located a police officer who notified Buttonville to sound the alarm. By the time the fire department arrived on the scene, the house was a blazing inferno. Blame Space Heater Fire Chief, Chas. Hoover, said the fire started from a space heater. He said he found severe burning in the floor directly under the stove. With the exception of beds, a dresser and a small amount of clothing, everything was burned. The clothing that was saved, however, suffered smoke and water damage. Fifteen men, with two trucks

battled the blaze for nearly 2 hours. There were no injuries. Mr. Thorne works for Bill Hood, an Imperial Oil Dealer. Surveying the charred ruins Monday morning he was still in a state of disbelief and shock. "It was a nightmare," he said. "I lost everything, but I have my family, so I'm lucky," he added. The home and its contents are insured. Friends of the family have united with the Salvation Army and the Red Cross in assisting the Thorne family. Clothing and furniture are being sent in from as far away as Uxbridge. The family is staying with Mr. and Mrs. Garnish and Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Houghton until more permanent accommodation can be found.

Gunman Fired Shot Through Own Car Window, Court Told

"I have the gun and we're going all the way," was a statement produced in Richmond Hill Court on Tuesday morning and attributed to 23 year old Barry Palneau of Lake Wilcox, one of the three charged in the armed robbery on Dec. 16th of the Markham Boat and Car Sales Co., No. 7 Hwy., Markham Village. The driver, Wayne King, 21, of New Toronto said that Palneau waved the gun at him and fired a shot through the car window, barely missing his face. This pair and a third companion, Frank Payne, 34, also of Lake Wilcox entered pleas of guilty to the charge and were convicted by Magistrate O. S. Hollinrake. The sentence will be handed down on Jan. 19th. Two Entered Police Chief Fred White of Markham testified that both Palneau and Payne entered the building, leaving King in the car. He said that one shot from a .22 cal. revolver was fired into the ceiling and the night watchman, Sam McKuen was forced to lie down on the floor. A sum of \$58 was taken from the till. The chief said that P.C. Wm. Gunn arrived quickly on the scene and immediately radioed a description of a car that he had seen earlier in the area. He then took up the chase, north along Hwy. 48. Had Been Drinking In a statement, Palneau said that he and his two companions had been drinking and latter decided to obtain some "fast money". Payne said that he had taken the money from the till. Constable Grimshaw endorsed the testimony of Chief White and said that extra cartridges for the revolver were later found inside the get-away car. Solicitor Paul Mingay requested that sentence for the three men should be adjourned for two weeks in order that pre-sentence reports could be obtained.



The wreckage of a late-model car is shown here after it went out of control on the 10th conc. of Markham Twp., near 16th Ave. on New Year's Eve. Injuries to the two occupants were not serious although the driver, a Scarborough youth was pinned under the vehicle for over half an hour. —Staff Photo.

Diver Pinned For Half Hour In Ditch Under Wrecked Car

A Scarborough driver pinned under the wreckage of his late-model car for over thirty minutes, making a satisfactory recovery in the Scarborough General Hospital. Douglas Arthur Knapp, 21, lost control of the auto as it rounded a curve at the corner of 10 and 16th Ave., in Markham Twp. on New Year's Eve. He was thrown under the vehicle after it rolled through a deep ditch and came to a stop in a grove of trees. A passenger in the car, Raymond Francisco, 19, also of Scarborough was able to make his way back onto the road and call for assistance. He was released from hospital the next day. P. C. Barry McWhirter of the Markham Twp. police said that the driver was pinned by his legs under the auto. He said that his head was pressed against the ground but the pressure was not sufficient to cause serious injury. He said that the youth was conscious throughout the entire rescue ordeal. He praised the work of two tow truck operators Bob Riddell and Oliver Harding of Williams Esso Station in Markham.

Music Festival Deadline Date Is Jan. 15th

The annual Stouffville Lions Club Music Festival will be held this year from Feb. 22nd to 26th. The closing date for entries is Friday, Jan. 15th. Applications should be submitted to Box 970, Stouffville. Entry forms or additional information may be obtained by writing to Box 970 or by calling 610-3115 or 610-2016. In 1964, 165 entries were filed and it is hoped that this number may be exceeded this year.

Brigade Answered 76 Calls In 1964

The Stouffville Fire Brigade responded to a total of 76 calls in 1964, exceeding the record figure set in 1963 by three. The Twp. of Whitchurch once again led the list with 26, more than in the town of Stouffville. There were 18 calls into Markham Twp., 6 to Uxbridge and 2 into Pickering Twp. The annual meeting of the Stouffville brigade was held last month and Walter Smith was re-appointed Chief for another term. He has completed six years at this post. The Deputy Chief is Fred Castle, also a re-appointment.



Firechief Walt Smith

Know This Man?



Local readers may not recognize this nifty looking gentleman although he's possibly one of the best known residents in town. He's Sgt. K. Ross Davis of the 227th Battalion, Men O' the North in World War I, 1914-1918.

Price Increase Has No Effect On Stamp Sales

It takes more than an increase in the price of stamps to halt the flow of greeting cards at Christmas time. In fact, at the Stouffville Post Office, the sale of 3c stamps soared to a total of 135,500, a higher figure than in 1963. Dec. 15th was the heaviest day of stamp sales when \$864. worth passed through the wicket. On Dec. 11th, the staff sold \$720. worth. The cello-pack system of packaging has proved a real asset, according to Postmaster, Jack Sanders. There are fifty stamps in a pack at \$1.50. A total of 1,820 of these were sold. The month of December was, of course, the busy period. Three cent stamp sales totalled 124,100 and five cent stamp sales numbered 25,000. Because Christmas Day fell on a Friday, many people left their mailing to the final week and thus spread out the influx of cards over a longer period. The Postal Department put out a special issue of Christmas stamps in both 3c and 5c denominations and these will all be called in on Jan. 16th. In spite of the increased business, the local post office staff handled the mail in a very efficient manner and deliveries were completed without delay.

Markham Board Inspects 18 Schools

The newly elected trustee board in Public School Area, No. 2, Markham Twp., was taken on a personal inspection tour of all 18 school buildings in their district on Monday. The members, Mrs. Mildred Toogood Arnold Morton, Eldred King, Elson Miles and Stuart Watson were accompanied by Inspector Maynard Hallman of Richmond Hill. On Wednesday evening, the five trustees were sworn into office at the inaugural ceremonies conducted at the Inspector's office, 18 Yonge St. North, Twp. Reeve Chas. Hooper was in attendance. The only business conducted was the choosing of a Chairman and naming of special committees. The Jos. Fockler family numbering twenty-one held Christmas Day altogether at the home of their parents.

Magistrate Rejects Penitentiary Request

Loie Marshman, who pleaded guilty to three charges of breach and entry, was sentenced Tuesday to 18 months definite and months indefinite by Magistrate O. S. Hollinrake. Marshman, who resides in Stouffville, requested that he be sent to Kingston to learn the motor mechanics trade. He claimed that while he spent nine months in jail at Guelph he didn't learn anything. The youth added that he wanted a sentence of 3 years so that when he was released he would be capable of carrying out a trade. Magistrate Hollinrake levied 18 months on the three charges which falls short by a year and a half the time requested by the accused. Magistrate Hollinrake stated that although the youth has been in considerable trouble, he still feels there is some good in him.

Exclusion From Planning Bd. Angers Pickering Tp Dep-Reeve

Deputy-Reeve, Mrs. Jean McPherson has been replaced as a representative on the Pickering Twp. Planning Board and the shift in positions touched off verbal fireworks at the inaugural meeting in Brougham on Monday night. Reeve Clifford Laycox had appointed ward 5 councillor, Herb Wank to take the post. In a vote on the rather ticklish issue, councillor Wank's name was favoured. Mrs. McPherson said she had served on Planning Board in 1964 and, in a two-year term, she could see no reason for "changing horses in the middle of the stream." The deputy-reeve agreed that Planning Board work was time-consuming with 35 meetings plus site inspections last year. "My time is my own, my work is solely council work, I am at a loss to know why the change," she said. People's Choice "Why does one member of this council have to have all the important positions?" questioned the reeve, with obvious reference to the deputy-reeve's complaint. The remark was followed by a tirade of accusations that was finally interrupted by councillor Newman, acting in the roll of a peacemaker. "You didn't put me in here," charged the deputy-reeve. "I was elected by the people." "I didn't, I'll assure you of that," shot back the reeve. "This is the start of a New Year and we might just as well get things straight and above board," replied the lady deputy. "If you're implying that anything was done below board, you could find yourself in court," countered Reeve Laycox. Councillor Newman said that the matter had already been settled and if any change in voting privileges was being considered, it would have to come at another meeting.

Hope to Hold '65 Rate At '64 Level - Hooper

Reeve Charles Hooper said, in his inaugural address before Markham Twp. Council on Monday that he hoped, through added assessments, to be able to hold the mill rate in 1965 at the same level as in 1964. Rev. Grant Sloss of the United Missionary Church of Markham and Dickson's Hill conducted the prayer of invocation and spoke briefly to those in attendance. Mr. Hooper said that the new council would welcome suggestions and advice that would tend to improve the operation of a township business and administration. He urged the approval of a discount for prepayment of taxes. He said that the members should continue their efforts to attract more industry to the municipality. Must Hold Tax Line Deputy-Reeve, Stewart Rumble said that it was most necessary to hold the tax line in '65 in spite of increases in expenditures that he could already foresee. He spoke out in opposition to 10 residential lots. "I would sooner see a person buy an acre and use it than create a weed patch," he said. More Co-operation Councillor Charles Hoover said he hoped there would be more co-operation within the council in '65 and not a division that he likened to the Government side and the official opposition. Councillor Cleary Palmer advocated the purchase of a new fire engine for the Unionville brigade; the hiring of a Planning Director; testing the legality of the lot fee charge and the possibility of purchasing the Jail Farm property. Councillor Allan Sumner also favoured the hiring of a Planning Director and the appointment of capable members to the Planning Board. Mr. and Mrs. Jos. Fockler, Ringwood had New Year's Day dinner with Mr. and Mrs. Morley Cook, Armitage. Mr. and Mrs. Tom Bullock and girls, Agincourt, and Mrs. and Mrs. Clarence Fockler and family, Ringwood were dinner guests of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Nigh, Charles St. on New Year's Day.



Mr. R. L. Mercer, staff teacher at Stouffville District High School and Past President of Dist. 31 of the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation was among the 400 delegates who attended the annual convention at the Royal York Hotel, Toronto last month. Mrs. J. McDonald of Markham Dist. High School was also present at the assembly.

Driver Abandons Burning Truck

Markham Village firemen were called out Monday morning to extinguish a fire burning in a truck on Hwy. No. 7. It was the second time in less than 10 hours that the brigade was called to duty. The truck, owned by the Premium Forst Company, Scarborough and driven by Edgar Tooley of Milliken, caught fire just west of the town limits. Mr. Tooley stated that he smelled something burning, then noticed smoke seeping through the floor boards. He abandoned the truck, shortly before the cab burst into flames. The rig was carrying a full load of shavings, but firemen prevented the blaze from spreading. Earlier, firemen were called to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Edward Thorne, Robinson St. in Markham, to battle a blaze that completely destroyed their frame bungalow.

Fail To Revive Markham Infant

Efforts to revive a 3 1/2 month old Markham Village infant on Tuesday morning failed, although both mouth-to-mouth and oxygen inhalator treatment was used. Michael John Orleck, son of Mr. and Mrs. M. Orleck, Arrowflight Drive, was pronounced dead by Coroner Dr. John Fleming of Markham. No inquest will be held. Respiration treatment was provided by Fire Chief, Chas. Hoover, P. C. Wm. Gunn and Mr. Orleck but without success. Dr. Robt. Seaver of Markham was also called to the home.

Gormley Boy's Arm Mangled In Conveyor

An unfortunate accident occurred at Gormley last week when a 9 year-old boy had his right arm badly mangled in a farm conveyor machine. Christopher Johnston, son of Mr. and Mrs. Norman Johnston fell into the implement and his arm became wedged in a wheel. He also suffered a deep cut behind his right ear. Presently confined to the York County Hospital at Newmarket, he has already undergone one operation and a second will be performed this week.



Christopher Johnston

FAILS TO BLOCK SITE

A determined but unsuccessful bid by Pickering Twp. Councillor, John Campbell to re-locate the site of the proposed new \$300,000 municipal building, failed to get enough sympathetic support on Monday night at Brougham. The location, decided earlier, will remain at the intersection of the Brock Road and No. 2 Hwy. The recorded vote was 4-3 against any change in the site plan. Councillor Campbell had previously spoken out in favour of a location at the corner of Liverpool Road and No. 2 Hwy. His opposition to the Brock Road site was based mainly on the existence of a large wrecking yard in the immediate area.

First Sign of Activity



If the prediction on this sign is correct, the new dragstrip project to be located on the 9th conc. of Markham Twp., will be open for business in June of this year. The proposed site is situated about two miles north of Hwy. No. 7. —Staff Photo.

Appointed O.C.



Mr. Robt. McVey of Markham was among the several Ontario barristers to be appointed as a Queen's Counsel. The honour list was revealed officially on New Year's Day. Mr. McVey's law office is in Toronto.

Open "Winter Wonderland" Sat. Night

With a little co-operation from the weatherman, the outdoor ice rink on the Walter Atkinson property, north of the Stouffville Sales Arena, will be opened for public skating on Saturday night. Appropriately named "Winter Wonderland," the arena has a large skating area and is protected from both wind and snow by a heavy growth of trees. Skating will be from 8 to 10:30 p.m. Admission is 50c. The project this season is sponsored by the Stouffville Minor Hockey Association. Ice time will be rented out at a nominal rate in an effort to raise much-needed funds. Executive President, Will Morley and vice president Gordon Stewart are promoting the program. Mr. Atkinson himself, has put in many hours of work in preparing the rink for winter use. The inaugural meeting of the Stouffville Municipal Council will be held on Thursday evening at 7:30 p.m.