

Cedar Grove Was A Busy Community In '64

(Pat McClelland)

1964 was not a spectacular year as we fit years into world history but it may have been a dangerous year. Skirmishes, differences, separations marked its passing, any or all of which might well become important or world consuming in some other year. China got the bomb, but only a small one, we are told. Nehru died and was quietly replaced by another peaceful man but when Khrushchev suddenly dropped from a mighty seat to oblivion, his successors left us somewhat confused and uncertain. World leaders kept one eye on Africa while the other watched a shaky United Nations and a few extra eyes were needed if all the world's small hot spots were to be marked.

Canada got a flax in '64 but it was pulled from a disgraceful parliament and presented to a country tired of the issue and ashamed of the democratic farce in Ottawa. In Cedar Grove things were more positive and more spectacular. Zion Church really took the headlines by deciding, building and paying for a new addition to the Church in an incredibly short five months. We began the year with the forming of a new and lively school area T.S.A. No. 4 with plans for a fine rural education system but before the year was out Bill 54 had wiped out all that and our school had become part of a second school area covering a major portion of the township. And so ended the rural school boards as we have known them.

The Town Line wasn't quite as hazardous in 1964 when the railroad finally put down steel and the activity slowed to gravel trucks and weekend visitors to Woodland Park. We had a bob-cat in the valley for a while last spring but he left for greener fields as summer came to Cedar Grove. Or he may have been hooded to leave by the groups of hound dogs who frequented the valley along about then.

Farmers are hard to please when it comes to weather but weather during the past year pleased no-one. March was the only honest month on the calendar, it blew and changed and was a real March even to presenting us with a blizzard mid month that really blew wed things down. The rest of the year was crazy. August behaved like November and November behaved like summer. We had fierce fogs in April and in May we roasted after gloriously coming into spring in the first week of the month, June and July parched us and the land and then suddenly drenched us with more rain than we could possibly drink in. August was so cold the park residents went back to town. And the roads were terrible, and still are. We almost had a white Christmas but our early snow vanished just before the holiday and was replaced by fog. As far as the winter holidays were concerned the children had practically no winter activity. In fact as far as 1964 weather was concerned, it was just plain hopeless.

But weather or not our Cedar Grove inhabitants did all kinds of interesting things. Chris Chapman left early in the year for Cocos Island and the Bluenose II to make a film for the CBC which was duly shown on June 18th. The Ritchie's new house was completed and the family moved in the early spring. Gordon Dimma turned 86 in March and George Freeman 94 in December. Margaret and Wayne Heatwole left us to live in Fort Francis and pioneer a new area. And most of us had a riotous time at Markham Arena in April when the Old Timers played a very funny hockey game.

West Hill Collegiate presented Guys and Dolls and Maureen Hamill, Margaret Beare and Dorothy Miller all took part; the Bowlers had their first banquet at Morgan Hall and enjoyed it thoroughly; the Antique cars made their annual trek to Woodland Park and we had baseball, baseball, baseball all summer with more enthusiasm than anyone could explain.

The Burns held a reunion for the first time in 27 years and the Pettys, Stonehouses, Quinns and Crichtons had their usual summer get-togethers. The Junior Farmers celebrated their 50th anniversary with a huge bar-b-que supper at Markham Arena.

Archie Little made headlines with a hay crop seeded without a nurse crop and which, in this dry year, gave an excellent

yield. Bible school went on as usual in mid-summer with a good enrolment.

The Corner Lot was the centre of activity every fine evening all summer and fall. There were community picnics, dances and corn roasts throughout the season and baseball, volleyball, horseshoes, croquet were going strong every night. The new Shuffleboard Courts proved to be very popular and Bea Petrie and Bob Dare won a Shuffleboard Tournament that almost lasted all winter. A new slide was purchased for the small fry this year and it never got dusty. Way back in February the Community Club chose the most perfect night of the winter for a most successful skating party at Cedarena.

This was the Beatie year and some of our teenagers suffered more than others. Mr. Freeman was made honorary President of the Jersey Cattle Association. Toward the end of the year the Dawsons house was completed and, speaking of houses, the Gastons bought Jean Millers' house and Mrs. Keller's was sold.

There were some new arrivals in the village; Peter and Lib McCowan welcomed a daughter as did Murray and Dorothy Reesor; Gordon and Lois Lewis; Caroline and Don Hoshel and Betty and Ernie Smith all added sons to the family.

But 1965 took its toll of our members, too. William Hiltz, Levi Drudge and Jack Offen early in the year; Elgin Walker, Margery Little, Paul Kellar, Gladys (Mrs. Earl) Rieseberg, Alfred Armstrong and Donald Macdonald, M.D.H.S.'s respected head of the history department.

We had our share of weddings and anniversaries of importance. Mr. and Mrs. John Pearce celebrated 55 years of marriage and Mr. and Mrs. Joe Reesor 44 years. This was the year Bill Virdiramo married Carol Hudson. Dick Danes married Muriel Beare and Barry Gaston married Gloria Lennox.

Among the people in the news were Elliott Harrington because he sold his farm, and then bought another one; Helen and Maurice Hamill because they told all about their trip to Alaska; Les Milroy because he turned down Hogan's invitation to join the Mospert team; Mary the Gaston because she began work in the Police Department in Toronto and moved into the city; Mr. Witherspoon because he came to both Cedar Grove and Box Grove churches and now lives in Box Grove; Lloyd Smith because the township built him a bridge; Ida Tapscott because she fell into an unused cistern and Elsie Reesor because she had a brush with a fast moving gravel truck; Aubrey Lapp because he has two schools to care for, now and Wally and Elsie Reesor because they saw Liz when she and Richard Burton were in Toronto.

Our Apple Butter Festival was a gala affair this year with schnitzing and boiling for days before to keep up with the heavy demand of the two big days. One other very big project kept us out of mischief in Cedar Grove last year. Cedarena was enlarged to Olympic size and is now 100'x200' and all ready to go as soon as the weatherman complies.

Congratulations were the order of the day often in '64. Lola Reesor got a third and 85% singing in the Kiwanis Festival, Bob Ramer won a first and Meredith Lapp a third. All our college students completed their years successfully. Colin Reesor, John Ineson and Bruce Petrie. Doris Lapp received her B. Sc. degree and Jin Chrichon got honours in Physics and Chemistry on his final matric exams. Bobby Dean won a week at Tam O'Shanter training school for being the young hockey player to show most improvement during the year. Allen Hamill got 2nd class honours in his first year at Guelph and Colleen Reesor completed her first year at Teacher's College. Susan Ryan was the point winner for under 18 at Markham Fair.

"Travel in the younger sort, is a part of education; in the elder a part of experience." Well, old or young or in between, for education, experience or pleasure, travel we do, from Cedar Grove, and back again. To Ottawa went the Archie Littles and the Les Beares, to New York went Ginny Dare, to Italy and North Africa went Mr. and Mrs. John Virdiramo, to Kingston to tent with Jimmy Offen and Colin Reesor, to Detroit went Bobs Tapscott and

In Cedar Grove we leave the old year with a sense of achievement. Much has been accomplished in our village this year. The New Year begins for us with a truly new feeling to it, it feels like a beginning and with high hopes we expect a splendid '65.

"As for the rest of the world? There is a stirring, uncertain quality in the whole globe. There is fear among people of what is inevitable, things like automation and world unity. There is a clinging to old ways already crowded out by new. This is not an easy year to enter. The petty errors of the year just past could easily become grievous sins in the year ahead. We need men of purpose to guide us through 1965; men of vision to see farther than we can; men of courage and intelligent ambition. And we who do not lead must learn to pick our leaders more wisely than ever before and then we must not so much as follow as support the men we choose. Good men make a good year. May 1965 be a happy one for you.

Receive Certificates



This group of electrical technicians from Stouffville and Markham were presented with electrical heating association certificates by C. E. Crease, Ontario Hydro's Central Region Consumer Service Engineer. In the front row from the left are W. D. Atkinson of Stouffville P.U.C.; Mr. Crease; Gordon Brown, Stouffville P.U.C.; and Max Sonntag of Sonntag Electric. In the back row from the left are Rodney Dobson and Thomas Lee of Ontario Hydro, Markham; and Robert Beare of Beare Electric, Markham.

2,500 Qualified Electric Heating Consultants Available In Ontario

Ontario now has some 2,500 qualified electric heating consultants. Their ranks were swelled to that total when another 75 electrical contractors, industrial and utility electrical technicians completed the complicated, technical electric heating course and received their certificates. The course was presented by Ontario Hydro Central Region staff members who gave a series of lectures. Course members attended the three-months course from Woodbridge, Brampton, Port Perry, Newmarket, Markham, Stouffville, Keswick, and Metropolitan Toronto including Scarborough, Weston and North York. The graduates received their certificates from Adam S. Smith, Ontario Hydro's Central

Region Manager. 12,000 All Electrical Homes The graduates were told that electric heating is growing at a remarkable pace. In 1958 there were virtually no all-electric homes in Ontario. By the end of November 1964, there were more than 12,000 electrically heated dwellings in the province. Over 2,500 of these all-electric homes are located in Central Region. The number of total electric dwellings has more than doubled in the past two years. R. N. Leadbetter, Secretary-Treasurer of the Electric Heating Association, mentioned the electric heating goals that had been established and said that these targets had been more than met to date.

Adam S. Smith, Ontario Hydro's Central Region Manager, in congratulating the graduates said that the pioneer days of electric heating were behind and the present electric heating course graduates were entering the field on the ground floor of an exciting new era of comfort living. He stated that the new consultant in electric heating would be participating in the most effective and significant improvement in comfort living which has occurred in a decade. Other speakers included Frank Thomlinson, Director of Consumer Service, Toronto Hydro; Roy F. Smith, who directed the course; Charles E. Crease and G. K. F. Pepper, all of Ontario Hydro.

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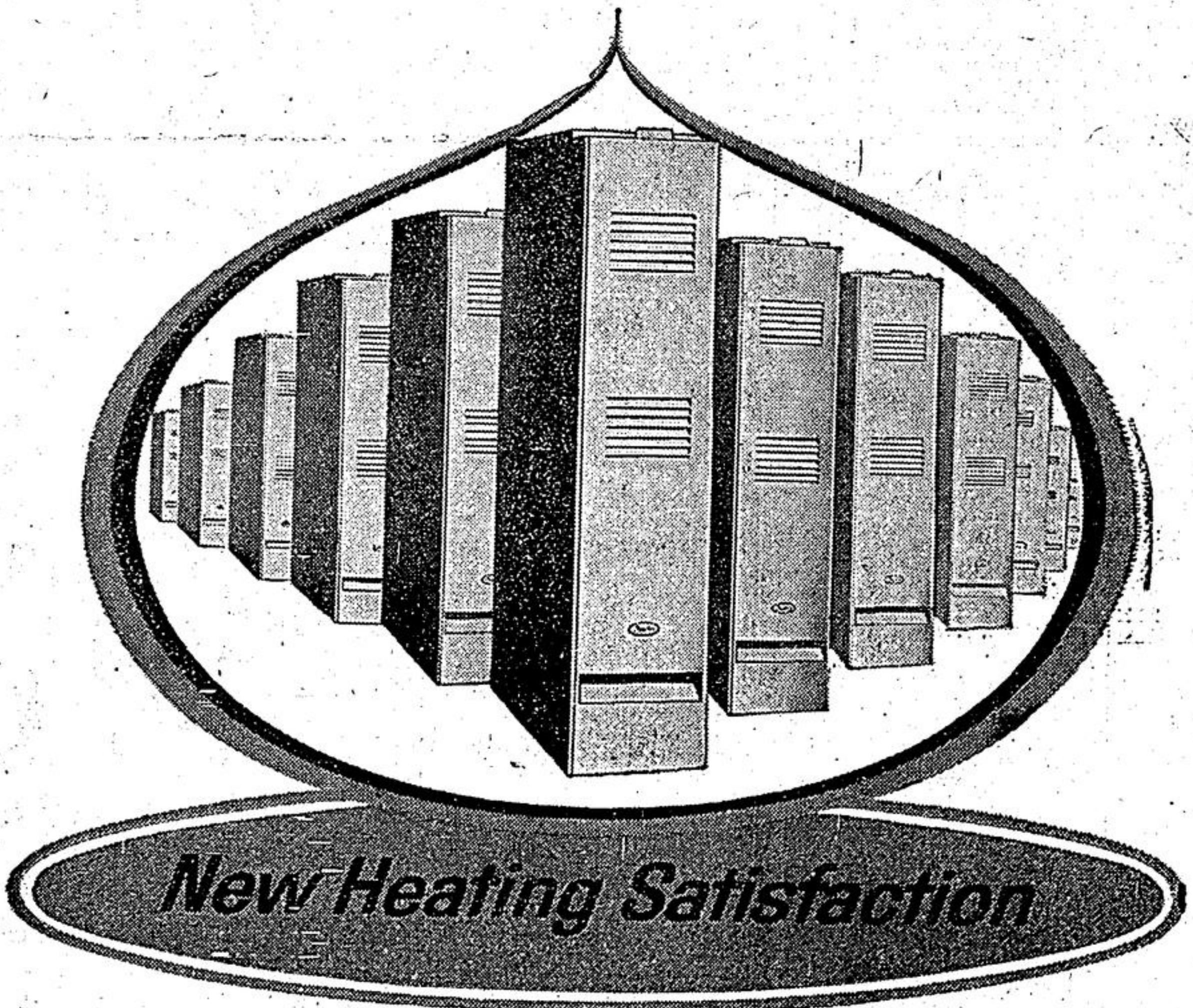
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