

Editorial . . .

Teacher Auction

The scene which was enacted at a Toronto hotel for the past two weekends, when representatives of some 125 Ontario School Boards and over 3,000 school teachers engaged in bargaining sessions, would suggest that there is still a shortage of qualified teacher personnel in the province.

The trustees try to secure proper instruction and the teachers shop around for the best terms.

Representatives of both the Stouffville High School and Separate School Boards were in attendance on Saturday.

This annual slave auction type of interview sessions engaged in by the boards of education are nothing new. They used to be held in the various teachers' colleges in Ontario on fixed dates each year. There, board members, Stouffville included, had to compete with other boards which had

higher salary schedules than those offered here.

A further indication of the demand for teachers is seen in the fact that one Toronto newspaper for several days carried from 10 to 12 pages of advertisements inserted by between 250 and 300 different educational boards.

This annual teacher auction is not a healthy situation. It could be remedied and indeed ended if the department of education were to adopt the British system and have salary schedules for teachers settled on a province-wide basis, so that no other board could offer higher terms than another. This would eliminate the practice of boards bidding against each other for teachers or trying to steal teachers away from other towns by offering higher wages. The British system has much to commend it in this respect.

There's A Brighter Side

It's not often that we voice editorial comment in connection with letters submitted for publication, but a portion of the writings by Mr. Leslie Grove in this newspaper last week aroused us to a point of direct rebuttal.

Mr. Grove refers to the television set as the "devil's instrument" after quoting from the results of a survey conducted by a U.S. University. "Christians, get rid of them or you'll regret it when your young folks get in deep trouble," he advises.

We admit that there may be a few programs that aren't worth the price of the hydro power consumed, but these are vastly out-weighted by excellent presentations, both live and on film.

We do not feel that viewers, young or old, are pressed into any abnormal action by what they see on the T.V. screen, that is, if they are of sound mind to begin with. No normal human being, after watching Gunsmoke would take a pot-shot at the first bow-legged stranger he sees walking down Main Street. Nor is a person likely to rush to the freezer for a bottle of — during an advertisement in the middle of an NHL game.

To condemn the entire television industry because a few of its programs go against the viewer's grain is like asking the board to put a padlock on the town library because they have a half-dozen copies of Fanny Hill on file (if they have).

P.U.C. "Nest Egg"

It is now quite apparent that two members of Stouffville's Public Utilities Commission have entirely opposite views on the subject of financing major water or hydro services in town.

Chairman Walter Atkinson appears to favour the build-up of a surplus account, a sort of "nest egg" that will be available when the need arises.

Commissioner Ken Wagg advocates a reduction of current rates and the borrowing of funds to cover the cost of pending projects.

Actually, there are advantages to both schemes but we feel that the P.U.C. should establish a financing policy in an effort to eliminate this subject of continuous debate.

Until recently, we were all for

the reduction of rates, especially in hydro. We advocated this policy because, on paper, we could see no positive program of any major significance in a finalized planning stage. Now, however, with the sinking of water test drills and the proposed erection of a hydro sub station, we can see the benefit of the golden eggs in the feathered nest.

Salting the funds away for that pending rainy day is sound business administration if (1) The ultimate use of this surplus money is clearly defined and (2) To obtain this surplus, the current rates do not become more than the traffic can bear.

The Commission members themselves are in the best position to know the most practical policy to follow. We wish that they would reach a common ground of opinion.

Could Prove Beneficial

The newly-organized Markham Twp. Citizen's Committee is moving ahead now, although we were initially dubious concerning the progressive effectiveness of this group, it is now quite obvious that their operation can be of assistance to the municipality and its governing officials.

First impressions can sometimes be deceiving and, the rather "cool" reception tendered this body in its debut before council tended to malign the motives of their good intentions.

If we were hasty in our editorial

criticisms of this committee it must also be said that the committee was lax in the other extreme in not providing the local press with background information on the purpose of their founding. We only know what we hear and we only hear what we are told.

One thing that stands this organization in good favour is the excellent choice of executive personnel, representing a good cross-section of the entire municipality. There is room in any town or township for such a group and we wish them well.

Planning For People

(contributed)

With word that the O.M.B. has approved Markham Township's application for increased density in two Thornhill subdivisions comes a reminder that urban residential conditions are coming closer.

Whether this is good depends on quite a few factors including concurrent non-residential development. However, most of the attention given industrial development has been based on hunger for school tax income. This in turn has led to competition for industry with various incentives and bonuses being offered which tend to offset the desired tax benefit.

More attention should be given to the suitability of the new tax payer in his new suburban setting. Does he provide a service needed by the community? Does he provide

employment of a type required by suburban dwellers?

Commuter problems could be eased by bringing jobs to the people instead of the reverse. This would reduce road costs and also the traffic strain on those who wish to enjoy the fresh air and elbow room of the countryside.

Higher population density destroys the country amenities for which the commuter struggles.

But higher employment density could reduce that commuting struggle.

And Planning Boards can, if they wish, prepare for those businesses which provide the type of employment appropriate to the type of people who are beneficial to a suburban community.

Dear Mr. Rivard —

In answer to your letter, please forward P.S. clearing the government



Battle Scars Of War Not Evident In West Germany

(By C. H. Nolan)

The big storm delayed our takeoff from Uplands RCAF base for the first leg of our trip to Europe to visit the Canadian Brigade and RCAF bases. Conducting our party of 17 Canadian Weekly Newspaper publishers from all across the Dominion is Capt. A. K. Macdonald of Information Services Dept.

After a 24-hour delay we finally moved off, flying from Ottawa to Trenton where we boarded a big Yukon personnel transport for the non-stop 10-hour flight to Marville, France. We had 130 on board, many wives and children of soldiers overseas. Capacity of the plane is 160. The uneventful flight brought us in over Prestwick, Scotland and we passed over London five miles up. It was 40 degrees below outside, the Captain advised.

Marville RCAF base is north of Paris, not far from Metz. We were given lunch at the Officers' Mess and reboarded for an hour's flight to the city of Dusseldorf, the Edon Hotel.

Carnival Time In these German cities and the place really "bounces" most of the night. There are great throngs in the streets, many in gay costumes, and the beer gardens are jammed.

Dusseldorf took a real pasting during the war but after a scant 20 years you would scarcely know it. Fine stores and clean, broad streets are everywhere. I was struck by the prosperous appearance of almost everyone. Whole families walked the streets, some singing, better dressed than you see in Toronto. Usually the small children wore fancy costumes. There is new construction everywhere and heavy traffic. It was a typical example of West Germany's rapid recovery.

We moved out by bus for Soest, going through the great Saar Valley crowded with industry. The road system is wonderful with great interchanges equally as complex as any at home.

Towns are closely packed with one of them boasting an elevated mono-rail street car system, over forty years old.

Scene Of A Raid Of particular interest in the 2-hour drive was the Mohne Dam. This was one of the three dams which was breached in the famed dam busters' raid of the RAF. The famed raid is on the news stand in book form and is also a movie. Over 120 German industries were crippled by lack of power after the raid. We stopped briefly for a cross some distance down the valley which marks all that remains of a small village completely wiped out by the great wall of water which surged down the valley. A thousand people lost their lives below the three dams and the RAF paid a heavy price but the "hit" was considered strategic. The dams had to be hit from the up-stream side as they were 100 feet thick at the base. This made the job particularly hazardous as planes had to fly very low and were caught in murder-

ous cross-fire from the many guns protecting the dams.

We travelled the No. 1 route today, used by Napoleon in his march on Russia.

Soest is an ancient German town with much of its wall still standing. The history can be traced back 1000 years when it

was a cultural centre. Today it is the headquarters for the Canadian Brigade.

Nike missiles were standing aimed at the sky near the outskirts as we drove by and nearby is a tower, alone on a hill, marking the birthplace of Bismarck.

SUGAR AND SPICE by Bill Smiley

SOME SPRING FANCIES

We all know what a young man's fancy is supposed to lightly turn to in spring. But when you get right down to it, young men are vastly uninteresting, except to themselves, recruiting officers, and, of course, young women.

So we will ignore the fancy of young men this spring, especially since it's lightly turned to the same sort of thoughts in the other three seasons too. Let's examine the fancies of some of the more interesting age groups.

Sole aim of very small males, in the spring, seems to be mud. They love mud. It has the same fascination for them that it has for small girls. They like to walk in it, kneel in it, roll in it, push small girls down in it, and bring as much as possible of it home with them.

Slightly older boys have a fancy in the spring for anything that is dangerous, foolish or irritating. On the first day the temperature is above 40 they want to go hatless and barefoot. They build rafts that sink. They dig caves in the sides of crumbly sandpits. They cross swollen streams on the slippery trunks of fallen trees. They walk on railway tracks.

The mature, or married, man is stunned by spring. A few weeks ago, his home was quite attractive, with that nice white snow covering everything. Now it's nothing but a big, fat eyesore. Paint peeling, eavestroughs dangling, cellar window broken and a potato sack stuffed in it. Storm window for the southeast side of the kitchen still leaning against the house, where he left it last fall. Front lawn littered with kiddy car, grapefruit rinds dropped while hustling out wine bottles contributed by passersby, the rake, a pile of dead leaves; and the whole torn into trenches, worthy of Flanders' fields by the visits of the coal truck.

He does the only sensible thing, in the circumstances. He sits down with pencil and paper and lays out a plan of cleaning up, painting, and general improvements. He reads it triumphantly to his wife. He's so sincere, she's really impressed. She's proud of him. A new leaf. First job he'll tackle is the front lawn. Then the cellar.

Half an hour later, she discovers the new leaf is just the other side of the same one he turned over last year. She catches him cleaning up the front lawn by chipping grapefruit skins into the coal-truck trailer with a golf club. They have words. She dons her boots and rakes the lawn, sending him to the cellar.

When he doesn't show up for supper, she figures he's really bucking down to it, and goes down cellar to call him. And there he is, crouched on the remnants of the coal-pile, with his fishing rod, practising his fly-casting into the large pool between the vegetable-bin and the furnace.

What about the oldster, the codger? What kind of a fancy does he have, come spring? After dying with death through a long, cruel winter, when his old side-kicks were appearing with monotonous regularity on the obituary page, I imagine he's pretty pleased with himself. In fact, I know he is. I was talking to one the other day. As he sunned himself in front of the post office, he told me:

Didn't think I'd make it, back there in January. Flat on my back and gettin' worse every day. The old lady practically had the insurance collected and off to Florida for the rest of the winter. But, with an evil chuckle, "she got fooled. She caught the cold and I buried 'er the end of February. Have a snort now whenever I feel like it. Say, son, when do those tourists start to arrive? I'm going to spend the whole summer watchin' them girls in their shorts. I figure it won't do them any harm and should do me a lot of good."

Roamin' Around . . .

We are this week indebted to Orchard Park public school principal Keith Sutherland for uncovering a copy of the Stouffville Alert, published in 1877. To our knowledge, it is the only issue in existence. Although almost 88 years old, it is in very readable condition and some of the items contained in it are quite interesting. We will bring a few of them to your attention in this column.

The Publisher of the Alert was one, James Wideman and it is quite obvious that his one ambition was to save the community and its residents from that dastardly curse known as "drink." So resigned to this purpose was Mr. Wideman that he termed his paper — The Local Temperance Journal. The price per issue was three cents or \$1.00 per year, payable in advance.

One topic of interest concerns a meeting of the East York Liberal Conservative Association on the Agricultural Grounds in Markham Village. Rt. Hon. Sir John A. Macdonald will be present.

Another item reads that Sir John A. Macdonald is considering retirement. A suggested successor is Dr. Tupper but the paper contends that he would not be as successful as Sir John.

The population of Stouffville in 1877 was 870 people and growing by about 100 each year.

Cattle herding was permitted on the streets in town but no cows were permitted to run at large since they tended to damage the trees and sidewalks.

Track laying has been commenced on the Lake Simcoe Junction Railway and is to be pushed with vigor.

Mr. John Jerman, town blacksmith is very ill. We understand his illness is caused by a kick from a horse.

The Markham troop of Cavalry are drilling in Unionville this week. They present a fine appearance.

Markham Twp. Council has held up an expenditure of \$15 that was to go toward the opening up of the Sixth concession through Unionville.

At E. Burk's cheap cash store in Markham, \$1.00 will buy any one of the following items — 7 gals. of coal oil; 16 lbs. of raisins; 21 bars of good soap or 3 lbs. of green or black tea.

The Green River Sons of Temperance will hold a tea party today.

The Prohibition question will never be fairly met until temperance men show that they will not support any candidate for public office who is not a tried Prohibitionist, no matter what party he hails from. The time is not far distant when temperance men will go to the polls in a body and demand prohibition.

A very interesting game of cricket was played on Saturday between clubs from Claremont and Unionville.

Dominion Day will be celebrated in Stouffville with the laying of the corner stone for the new Congregational Church. The festivities will be held in the grove of Wm. Brown Esq. and following the dinner, short and spicy speeches will be made by both Toronto and resident ministers. A brass band will enliven the proceedings.

The following advertisers' names are prominently displayed — Henry Wales and Sons, Markham Carriage Works; C. H. Chant, Undertaker, Unionville, Funerals attended on short notice and all requisites supplied. Hearse for hire; The Red, White and Blue Flag Store, Stouffville, opposite Knill's Hotel. All kinds of produce taken in exchange. D. Fox and Co., S. J. Fenton, dry goods, groceries, crockery, glassware, boots and shoes, East End, Stouffville; R. J. Daly, Main St., Stouffville, boot and shoemaker; F. Wixon, agent for the Royce Reaper, also Mason and Hamlin organs, Stouffville; W. Kirton, dealer in groceries, crockery, glassware, Main St., Stouffville, nearly opposite the Post Office. Everything good and cheap; W. P. Hartney, near the Railway Track, Main St., Stouffville. The highest prices paid for wool; Gibney and Son, Stouffville Foundry and Machine Shop; Hardware Store and Tin Shop, J. O'Brien, Prop., opposite the American Hotel, Main St., Stouffville; Stouffville Carriage Works, W. B. Brown; Carriage Builder; D. McRae, Merchant Tailor, Main St., Markham, next door to Mrs. Smardon's Boot Store; John Patrick, Harness Maker, Unionville. Horses carefully measured and fitted with collars; John Stephenson, Clerk and Treasurer of Markham Twp. will be at Hall's Hotel, Markham, every Monday to attend to business in connection with the Second Division Court.

What is the definition of an optimist? He's the coach of the Lake Wilcox hockey team who, in the final thirty seconds of a Community League playoff game on Friday night, pulled his goaltender in favour of an extra forward with his club trailing by a score of 6-3.

Local druggist, John Houston has very kindly donated a first aid kit to the Stouffville Police Department for use in the cruiser. It has already been used to good advantage.

Whitechurch Twp. police department are enforcing the 40 mile speed zone limit west of Ringwood. They had their radar unit working in the area last week and several were caught in the beam, including this writer.

Owners of wayward dogs in Stouffville may soon find their pets impounded. With the coming of spring, Canine Control Officer, Olle Pellet plans to impose an immediate crack-down. On the same subject, dog tag fees will now be payable at the Clerk's office and will not be collected by the Assessor as in previous years.

The big snow storm of two weeks ago is now history but it is interesting to know that it cost the town approximately \$2,000 in a round-the-clock cleanup campaign.

We feel that Road Supt., Elgin Wagg is to be commended for his rather quick action in acquiring machinery from Scarborough and Uxbridge to free some of the snow-clogged ditches in town on Friday. The move was made just in time before the rain on Saturday that could have resulted in serious flooding.

The three-day extension for '65 licence plate markers provided some drivers with a last-minute breather. Stouffville police didn't lay a single charge in this connection and every thing was also in order down Markham Twp. way too.

We're pleased to see that the Twp. of Pickering is making good use of their soon-to-be-erected nuclear power plant project, the second largest in the world. This information is stamped on every envelope going out of the Municipal Office at Brougham.

The Stouffville Players group will stage a 3-act comedy, "Doctor In The House" in the Legion Hall on April 8th and 9th. Members of the cast include — Frank Steele, Elsa Bevan, Jerome DeLaurier, Jewel Sloyan, Dennis Empson, Pat Dymond, Wilf McWhinnie, Frank Barker and Jean O'Neill. The director is Doreen Northover and the stage manager is Jack Mumford. Mr. and Mrs. Fred Constable of RR 2, Woodbridge has indeed be proud of their family. All four daughters have, during the past five years, been crowned as beauty queens in that district — Freda, Anne, Joan and Donna.

The Stouffville Lions Club is once again in charge of the Easter Seal Campaign for Crippled Children. Last year, only 500 of the 2,500 envelopes mailed out, were returned with donations. In total, about \$1,200 was collected. It's a most worthy cause and every dollar helps.

Gormley's Massey-Ferguson dealer, Stewart Rumble received a bonus with a recent shipment of tractors when he found a stow-away hen perched atop one of the machines. The biddy had apparently completed the 250 mile trip, non-stop from Detroit and although a little wind-blown, she soon responded to a heat-treatment and feather-massage. It is understood that U.S. customs officials will waive the usually duty fee on this import and chalk it up to good public relations.

Chief Ellenberger and the Uxbridge Police Department have a real frustrating case on their hands. It seems that some individual in the area takes delight in phoning ladies during the early-morning hours, using profane language and in general, making life miserable. The Chief said that he has received more than 300 reports of such occurrences.

Allan Elson of Uxbridge, injured back in December when a snow-mobile he was driving crashed through the ice at the Bluegrass Turf Farm near Glasgow, is still confined to hospital. Both legs were broken and the one was badly splintered. It is not expected that he will be able to walk until the fall and even then, he will require the use of crutches.

The original Maple Leaf Flag at Orchard Park School, stolen only four days after it was officially erected, has never been returned. The one now flying is a brand new banner.

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