

# Editorial . . .

## A Holiday 'To Remember'?

On Thursday (today) more than 1,000 Stouffville school students and hundreds more in the immediate area will enjoy a holiday. A holiday for what? — to mark an occasion in history that occurred 32 years before the majority of these young people were even born. We're not impressed. Instead of a full day away from

school for a reason that is not apparent, it would make far more sense to conduct classes as usual with a two minute period of silence at 11 o'clock. For two minutes at least, the pupils might realize that November 11th is truly a 'day of remembrance' and not just a one day vacation from their books.

## The Facts About Central Schools

The proposed implementation of a central school program in Area No. 1 of the Township of Pickering, has aroused some objection from a segment of ratepayers.

As we stated previously, the trend toward this kind of system is apparent and regardless of opposition, it will, sooner or later, come about.

Last week we received a 24-page brief from the Hon William G. Davis, Ontario Minister of Education. One of the topics included in the informa-

tion concerns the centralization of schools. The facts are as follows: During the last year, 127 new central schools were put into operation in rural Ontario, making a total of 878. They replace 2,309 one-room schools; 201 two-room schools and 20 three-room schools.

It is obvious that the Dept. of Education is backing the movement toward centralization and the proposal by the trustees of Area 1 in Pickering is by no means an unguided shot in the dark.

## Is Auto Insurance Really That Expensive?

There have been plenty of sour looks this past couple of weeks following a warning that car insurance rates are going to increase again next year, possibly six percent. This year the boost was even higher. The prediction was made by J. B. Humphrey, of the All Canada Insurance Federation. He said that rates will continue to climb because of the continued increase in the number of accidents and rise in cost of repairs.

This is the gloomy side of the coin. However, a pamphlet entitled Viewpoint on Insurance, and published by the fire, auto and casualty industry of Canada, has just come to hand. It puts a little different light on the subject.

It makes the blunt statement in the beginning that the average Canadian motorist, spends less proportionately for auto insurance than he did 25 years ago, despite the fact that

the average cost of an accident has gone up 4 1/2 times.

The pamphlet gives these statistics: "In 1940 the average wage earner was making \$23 a week. It took him 3 1/2 weeks to pay for his insurance. Today this average driver, over twenty-five, earns nearly \$80 a week and he works less than two weeks to pay for his insurance, and in some cases less than 1 1/2 weeks. In addition he works, in the average case, a 40-hour week instead of 54 that he worked then. In addition he gets three times the insurance protection because minimum limits have gone up from \$10,000 to \$35,000."

Finally, the exposure to accident has increased tremendously. In 1940 there were 1,500,000 cars compared to 7,000,000 today.

It just doesn't appear possible, but this seems to prove that while you're paying more you are really paying less and getting more for it.

## China Less Dangerous On A Full Stomach

It was recently confirmed that Canada had closed another big wheat deal with Communist China. The sale of about 187,000,000 bushels will deposit \$336,000,000 in the pockets of Canadian grain growers.

We realize that by the time this item is read the election will be over but the newest deal suggests that it is merely one of a continuing series and that the Chinese demand for Canadian grain is likely to continue regardless of which party is in power in Ottawa.

The point that we would like to make is that generally speaking Canadians believe that a Communist with a full stomach is a lot less dangerous

as an enemy than one who is hungry. The money China has to spend every year for this imported food will not be available to speed production of nuclear weapons.

News of these continuing wheat deals is having an impact as well in the United States who up until now would have no truck or trade with China. One segment of U.S. opinion has already pointed out that Canadians are just out to make a fast buck, something in which our southern neighbors are most proficient. However, the more sober-minded, and less jealous, according to U.S. publications, are looking for a change in American policy to permit the same kind of trading relations.

## Food For Thought

It was graduation night on Friday evening for 47 boys and girls, now full-fledged students in Grade 9 at Stouffville Dist. High School.

The formal banquet and diploma presentations that followed, was sponsored by the Home and School Association.

The guest speaker for the occasion was Mr. J. B. Daniels, Personnel Manager of Chesbrough-Pond's Ltd., in Markham. There was plenty of 'food for thought' in his address that featured education and its meaning in terms of dollars and cents.

Nothing is closer to the mind of a high school teenager than a weekly pay cheque. Thirty, forty or fifty dollars will buy several new dresses for a girl or serve as a down payment on a car for a boy. It seems like a lot of money when your only interests are in dresses and automobiles. But it won't buy a house or feed a family or pay for an apartment.

Mr. Daniels pointed out that nine years of high school and university may seem like a long road to travel. But it also means the difference of \$75 weekly in a pay envelope. It's well worth considering.

## Forest Fires Below Ten Year Average

TORONTO — Forest fires in Ontario and acreage burned continued their steady downward trend this year, well below the previous two years and, in point of loss, considerably below the ten-year average. Preliminary figures issued by the Forest Protection Branch of the Department of Lands and Forests list 1,205 fires and 19,692 acres burned over as compared with 1,834 fires and 28,322 acres burned in 1964 and 1,855

fires burning 56,138 acres in 1963. The ten-year average for 1951-60 inclusive was 1,291 fires and 97,516 acres burned.

Officials point out that until the end of August this year the number of forest fires in Ontario was about normal. Since then, there has been a record low in fire occurrence due to frequent and general rainfall over the province. While the fire season ends of-

cially on October 31, forest protection officers warn that this does not end the fire danger. Fallen leaves and dead herbaceous growth killed by frost provide the usual autumn problems. Hunters and all those travelling in forested areas, therefore, are urged to be extremely careful in the use of fire in any form in the face of conditions that could so readily bring about disastrous, even fatal, conflagrations.

"Just slip it under the door"



## First Curbed Pavement Here 35 Years Ago

Just thirty-five years ago this fall Stouffville residents were pointing proudly to their first curbed pavement. The job was done by the Warren Bituminous Paving Co. and the price was something over a hundred thousand dollars for the mile and a quarter. Stouffville's share of the cost was \$67,000. Most youngsters growing up today will never have heard of a corduroy road. We had one at that time right here in town. The most of it stretched from what is now Park Rd. to Baker Avenue. Seventy-five years ago logs were cheap, in fact some would almost give them away to get rid of them. These great logs formed the basis for the roadways, particularly in low areas. They were covered with gravel but gradually worked up with the frost leaving a surface with a real wave in it.

Sidewalk foremen by the dozen watched the big mechanical shovel heave and twist to remove these logs which were several layers thick in some places. Those were the days when giant Mack trucks with the familiar chain drive, formed the backbone of the construction company fleet. Most of the gravel for the job came from the Baker Hill pit which was just opening up.

The new pavement was the most expensive and best available, with two layers of asphalt laid on a thick concrete base. Down the centre of the street a 36-inch storm drain was laid, the first municipal drain in town. Old-timers wagged their heads with doubt as the drain trench went down twenty feet through the hill at the corner of O'Brien Ave. Their comment: "I'll never work away down there."

An added feature to the job was the installation of curbs. Up to this time, open ditches ran along each side of the street except in the main business block. In the west end of town these ditches were well cared for, being silted and trimmed up leaving quite an acceptable appearance. However, in the east end, the ditches were deep. They were choked with weeds and numerous household drains emptied into them, leaving at times, not too pleasant an odour. To cover the cost of the curbs a frontage tax was added with a rate of 10¢ a foot for one end of town and 11¢ for the other.

The unexplainable part about this whole deal was that the end of town which gained the most by elimination of the bad ditches got off paying the smaller figure. Before the job was even started or a contract let, the village council had a long and bitter struggle over the project with councillor Jos. Borinsky leading the fight in favour of the new and the late George Dowsewell, then councillor, putting up the main opposition. Needless to say this council, though they did a good job in bringing Stouffville its first good road, was dumped at the next election.

## When Is A Man Old?

When is a man old? Socrates produced his greatest philosophical thought at 70. Plato was only a student at 50. He did his best teaching after 60.

Francis Bacon was 60 before he did his best writing. Agassiz was 51 when he gave his great scientific lectures.

Voltaire did his finest work after 60 and produced his masterpiece at 84. Gladstone was a potent figure in political and intellectual circles when he was 80.

Goethe wrote a part of Faust at 60 and the end of it at 82. Victor Hugo wrote Les Misérables at 62.

John Milton completed Paradise Lost when 57 and Paradise Regained at 63.

Jules Verne was writing his No. 1 novel when he was 70. Webster wrote his monumental dictionary at 70.

And the recent death of Bernard M. Baruch, vigorous to his end, in the midst of his ninth decade, leads us to a reconsideration of the question: When is a man old?

In our society, we have built iron curtains around those who have passed the age of 50 — they are no longer considered capable of real growth; their future is in the past. We have assumed that mental muscles are like so many biceps, and that once a man reaches middle age he can no longer flex his mind, nor add virile strength to flabby thought.

Moreover, because we are prone to "thing-ify" people — imaginative stories at 70 — to make them fit to things — we tend to think of older men

# Roamin' Around . . .

Speeders were 'king' on Saturday night at the Markham Arena as more than 200 "oldtimers" drifted around the rink to the brass band rendition of the Skater's Waltz. Although hopelessly out of condition after a two-year layoff, we noticed the old legs loosening up a wee bit as the music-makers rose to play 'The Queen.' But singly or in pairs, how the 'old folks' can skate. By comparison, they make today's rock and roll generation look like snails with their brakes seized. Even in full flight, the cut-down blades are just no match. It's like a deer in a race with a Clydesdale horse. It was just like old times on Saturday. No traffic jams at centre ice; no games of tag; no snowballs; no Beale records. Just two hours of solid enjoyment and recreation. And how the folks from the Stouffville area loved it. With no exaggeration, we would estimate that at least half of the people present were from the Stouffville district. Many were the same ones who waltzed around the old rink while a band played in the gallery, some (?) years ago. A lot of water has flowed under the old bridge since then but the memories of those days are still very real. For those who didn't make it down to Markham last Saturday and would still like to give it a whirl, mark Dec. 4th on your calendar. If the old speeders look a little moth-eaten and rusty, it might serve as a hint for hubby to mark them down as a number one purchase on his Christmas list. Anyway, a pair of skates are only as good as the feet that fill them, so give it a try. You'll be glad you did.

Talk about unusual circumstances, few will compare with a case that came before the courts at Richmond Hill on Tuesday. The background facts are as follows. A chap down Willowdale way spotted several bundles of shingles on a property in Markham Township. He is alleged to have taken them to his own home for use on the roof of his own house. Apparently he had neither the time nor the skill to put them on so he asked a neighbour to look him up to a carpenter to do the job. Lo and behold if the neighbour didn't contact the very man who was the original owner of the missing merchandise. Immediately on seeing the goods, he put two and two together and called the police. A charge of theft was laid. With 'breaks' like that, a guy couldn't hope to get away with anything.

Persons entering the council chambers at Brougham in Pickering Twp., prior to the regular meeting last week were both surprised and slightly shocked to see a huge lumberman's axe standing upright in the chair occupied by Ward 2 councillor, Bill Newman. It was hastily removed before Mr. Newman entered upon the scene. With a municipal election coming up in Pickering on Dec. 4th, there's always a chance that "a few heads could roll" but councillor Newman denies that he plans any such drastic action. In fact, he may not run for office at all.

Several residents in town questioned the legitimacy of door-to-door callers last week; selling key chains in aid of the deaf and dumb. We had two at our door on successive days and for the first time ever, we refused them a donation. We now feel rather ashamed for it seems that the canvassers were actually legitimate cases and truly worthy of some financial help. But how is one to know? Surely some better means of identification is available to such persons. We personally, are growing a little tired of these guessing games, never really knowing who is right and who is wrong.

By the time The Tribune arrives this week, the Federal Election results will be history. On the eve of the vote (Sunday) we contacted a couple of local residents for their opinions on party politics-to-day as compared with yesteryears. Howard 'Pat' Malloy, Market St., Stouffville will be 90 in January and he can't recall ever missing a chance to vote. He quickly admits that there isn't the excitement in elections that there used to be. "I remember when Herb Lennox ran against McKenzie King and there was a meeting in the old town hall (site of the present Post Office). The place was crowded," he said, "the next night, there was a meeting in a barn outside of Mt. Albert. We drove up by horse and buggy, changing horses at Ballantrae. The building was packed with people smoking inside. It's a wonder it wasn't burned down." Mr. Malloy said that at one time, there were only five Conservatives in Stouffville. "You could count all the Tories on the fingers of your one hand." He mentioned the late Jim Rae as a dedicated Conservative while in the Liberal ranks, the names of Sangster, Sanders and Daley came to mind. Mr. Malloy declined to admit to the direction of his political leanings except to say that he wouldn't vote Liberal. "Will it be Conservative?" we asked. "It's possible," he replied.

On the other side of the fence is Miss Janet Bruce of Stouffville, RR 4. An extremely active lady at 94. She cast her ballot on Monday at the Forrester residence in Cashel. Miss Bruce is a true-blue Liberal and proud of it. An autographed picture of McKenzie King hangs on the living room wall of her home beside that of another past Liberal stalwart, Sir Wilfred Laurier. So there you are — a gentleman, 89 and a lady, 94, both with their own personal political opinions. They took the time and trouble to vote and enjoyed the privilege. Many, a good deal younger, couldn't be bothered.

A well-known Unionville landmark changed hands on Monday when Harry Broadway left his familiar Esso station at Kennedy Road and Hwy. 7 after 26 years of faithful service. One of his long-time customers was Dawson Wagg of Stouffville who purchased gas there for the past 23 years during his route days with Winterstein's and now with Taylor's Transport. "I wish I had a cent for every gallon," he said.

Over-sized vegetables appear to be the order of the day in this district this fall. The latest is a 21 pound cabbage, grown on the property of Chester Patten, Gormley, RR 1. This is four times the weight of an average cabbagehead and certainly the largest we've ever seen.

Although many people will hold up their hands in horror at the thought of a district deer shoot, it appears certain that a 'hunt' will soon be allowed in some of the local townships. In Uxbridge and some parts of Pickering, these animals are becoming extremely numerous and considerable damage has been reported. Farmers tell of seeing them in herds of a half-dozen or more.

## Asks For Tax Exemption For Town Council

The Ontario Municipal Association will ask the provincial government to seek a thousand dollar, income-tax exemption for councillors of villages and towns. This will be one of 18 resolutions presented to the government in December.

Mayor Jack Heenan of Cobourg, says the exemption would make the job of councillor more attractive. He's vice-pres. of the O.M.A. The mayor adds: "We are running out of people interested in giving their time to council."

At present councillors are allowed a one-third exemption on money paid for attending council and committee meetings. Younger people prefer sports cars.

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