

# Editorial . . .

## New Meeting Quarters Are Required

With the coming of a new year, a new two-year term and several new members, we feel that it's about time that the School Area Board of Whitchurch Township acquired new meeting quarters.

For the past twelve months the trustees have met at the private residence of the Secretary and, although this practice may have proven convenient in some respects, we feel that it is not suitable for a program of this kind.

The monthly meetings are, of course, 'public', but a private home can hardly be classed as a public place. Teachers, ratepayers and even the press are rather hesitant to attend board gatherings under such circumstances.

## Don't Leave That Shopping Too Late

Christmas music, sparkling lights and cheery voices, all make for a wonderful gift shopping season. It's a merry time for planning and preparing for joyful giving. Such things are in full swing along Main Street.

Santa Claus himself is on the scene, here in his chalet. He's here to welcome the little tots and to let everyone know that it's time to hustle along with that gift shopping. The jolly chap has lots of ideas about Christmas. His predictions are for a bountiful yuletide with a large number of specially wrapped gifts under the tree. These undoubtedly take a little more time.

## And The End Is Not Yet

It was announced last week by the Bureau of Statistics that the cost-of-living index had shot up to a record 140.2 in November, an increase of almost a full point over October. Higher food prices are mainly blamed for the increase. This index is based on the 1949 consumer prices.

Beginning in January we will be taxed further for the new pension scheme, and take-home pay will take another dive. This means little comfort to meet this increased living cost. At this column predicted two years ago, the government will soon be taking so much out of the pay cheques for tomorrow, there will not be enough left to buy the groceries for today. Adding further to the spiral are the frantic efforts of federal and provincial

## Should Be Penalized

Some kind of penalty should be imposed on persons who, for no legitimate reason, fail to cast a ballot in municipal elections. We would suggest a one-term cancellation of the delinquent voter's franchise or, even more drastic for many, a \$10 fine.

The turnout at the polls in this area last week was nothing short of disgraceful and, if anything, it's getting worse. Is it any wonder that two-year terms for councils are receiving such unanimous endorsement? The majority of ratepayers just don't care enough to get out and vote any more.

## A Parade Is Such A Fleeting Thing

Santa Claus parades are quite common in communities surrounding Stouffville. The annual procession was dropped here several seasons back and has not been renewed. Its withdrawal has aroused some criticism.

The critics, for the most part, are spectator adults who, in the past, had no direct involvement in the organization of such an event. They have little knowledge of the hours and days of work that must go into the preparation of a float. In less than thirty minutes, it's all over. The streets soon empty. Father goes home to watch the Grey Cup; mother returns to the bake board and parade promoters dismantle their projects, wondering if it's been worth the effort. We wonder too.

## Ignorance Is No Excuse

A group of Whitby Township residents, some 200 of them, were crying into their empty ballot boxes last week when they learned that their representative on Pickering Twp. School Area No. 1, Roland Simons had missed re-election to the 1966-67 board by a mere 10 votes. These folk, who send their children to schools in Pickering and are therefore entitled to vote, claimed they didn't know the election date was Saturday, Dec. 4th. A suggestion that a new election should be held, has been raised.

We feel that it is rather regrettable that the south-east corner of Pickering's No. 1 School Area will not have a personal representative in the next term, but ignorance on the part of the voters is certainly no reason to wash out the recent results. Staying away from the polls is about par for the course in Pickering and

Whitchurch has two schools standing vacant, one at White Rose (conc. 3) and another at Bethesda (conc. 5) that could serve as the office of the Secretary and the board room for the trustees. If these buildings are both slated for demolition, then surely one of the other schools in the township could serve the purpose. Boards in Markham, Pickering and Uxbridge Townships have found this to be quite successful.

Under the sectional system, it was not uncommon for trustees to meet almost anywhere, including private residences. But school business to-day has advanced far past this stage. We would hope, that the new board, will give this matter some consideration.

Not only big gifts, but all gifts are likely to be more successfully selected when shoppers get an early start. Santa also holds to the idea that a close and thoughtful review of each issue of The Stouffville Tribune will guide you in this shopping. The advertising of local firms, will help you to be able to get things done faster, and avoid those hectic last-minute rushes.

We all know we should begin early, to enjoy the excitement of viewing all the new gift ideas at leisure, and have the pleasure of choosing just the right gift.

Let's "get with it," time is getting short. See you at the Christmas counter.

governments to spend all they can for the centennial. Every day thousands of dollars are being wasted on the World Fair through a most inept public relations department. In Ontario about 150 municipalities have failed to apply for grants for centennial projects. Some may think it strange that a municipality does not want to spend \$1 per person in order to collect \$2 per person in grants. Could it be that some town fathers believe that by not applying they are saving not only their money, at the municipal level but money at all three levels as well?

Education costs too are going up and highway costs continue to increase. Along with all this the cost of living spirals yet another notch, and the end is not in sight.

How do you like these percentage figures? Pickering Township — 28%; Markham Township — 27.6%; Stouffville — 48.5% and Whitchurch Township — 25%. Quite a record isn't it?

Breaking the figures down, the result is even more shocking. For instance, in Whitchurch, there are 5,366 eligible voters. Out of this number, only 1,322 turned out. In Markham Township, 9,472 were eligible but only 2,621 cast ballots. Pickering is much the same with some improvement here in Stouffville.

It's a case of minority rule because the majority aren't interested.

The trouble is, the public expects and demands too much. Each year, the parade must be better than the last; and, by hook or by crook, it usually is. But there's a limit, a levelling off point and when that is reached, a gradual decline usually follows. Then there is nothing at all.

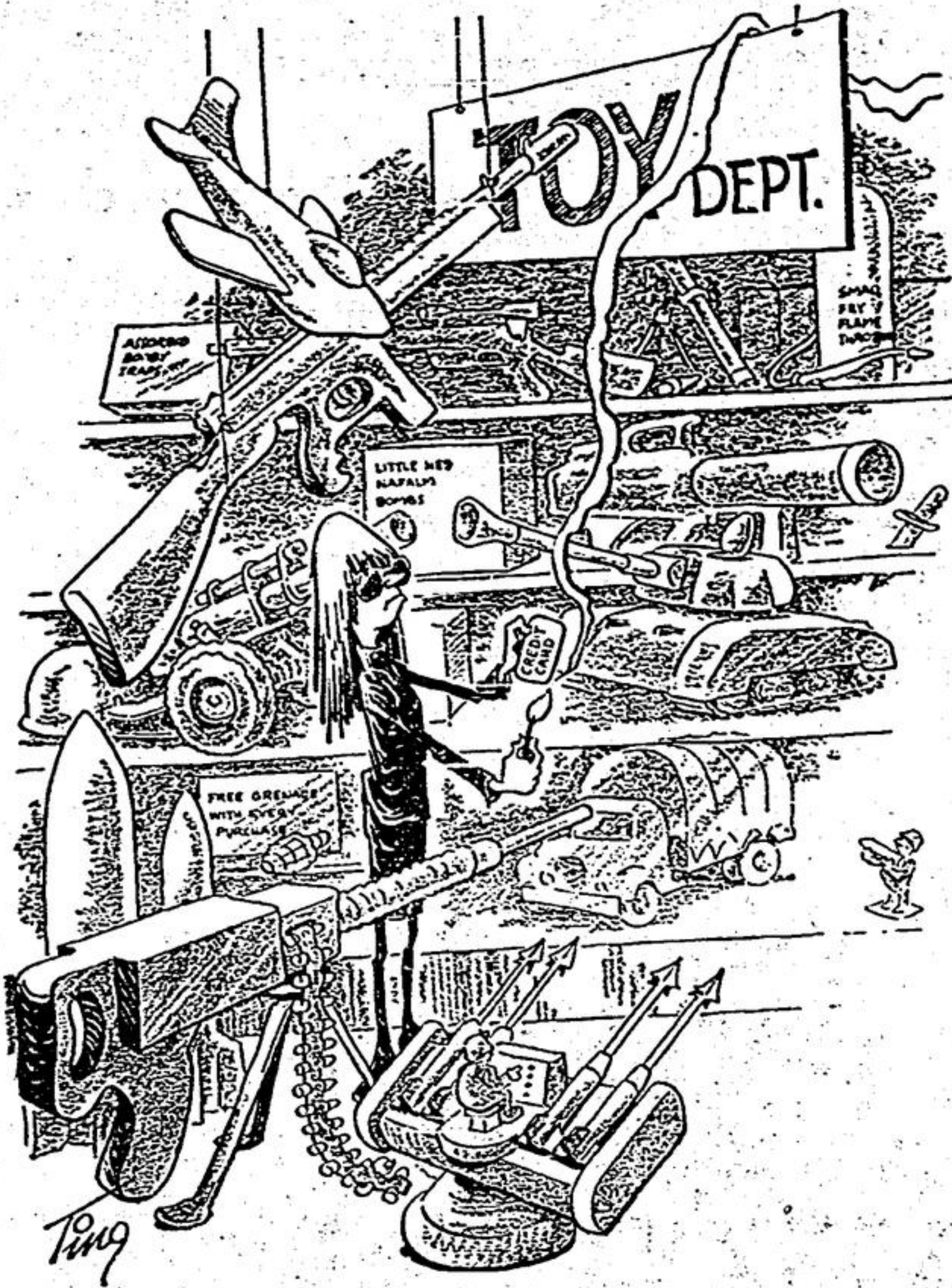
We still say that Christmas is for the kiddies. With more than a week still to go, over 1,000 children have trekked through Santa's chalet on Main Street. This is just as much of a thrill for them as an hour-long wait on the curbside to see a parade that's over in half an hour. If the adults want something more professional, the Eaton Co. can fill the bill. There, the work doesn't all fall on the shoulders of the faithful few.

These people will find no sympathy here. Certainly the rest of the electorate and the five successful candidates should not be penalized for a mistake of the people's own making.

The group of Whitby Township residents claim that they were not notified personally of the election. Such a practice is not legally necessary and we would question its benefit anyway. Seventy per cent of the electorate that did receive a personal notice, still failed to vote, so what's the use.

We think that if a few more people were nipped for their lackadaisical attitude, it might make them more aware of their civic responsibilities. With sincere respect to trustee Roland Simons, we hope that a new election is NOT called. Perhaps then, in 1967, the affected electorate will remember not to forget.

## Burning the Over-Draft Card



## SUGAR AND SPICE by Bill Smiley



### THE CHRISTMAS GAME

People become a bit frantic as Christmas approaches, and I don't blame them. Every year, despite fervent pledges to keep it simple, the holiday season seems to begin earlier, grow more garish, and finally turn into a three-ring circus before the last stocking is hung.

While we all deplore the expense and exhaustion involved, we are all ardent players of that great North American game known as "Needle Your Neighbour."

That's why the simple little candle in the window has evolved into that hideous phantasmagoria of coloured lights all over the front of the house. That's why the few sprigs of evergreen over the mantel have evolved into a living-room resembling a spruce swamp.

Regardless of such things as a happy family gathering, the pleasure of the old carols, the joy of giving, Christmas is not really a success unless we can come up with something that will put the neighbours' noses out of joint.

And this is where I come in. I can't bear to see people unhappy. Except my neighbours. After a lot of thought, I've come up with a few pre-Christmas suggestions that will turn your neighbour green with envy, red with rage, in the proper colours for the season.

How about a Yule log this year? Get that old mattress out of the attic. Or off the bed in the guest room. Saturate it with gasoline. Roll it up, tie it with ropes and hide it in the garage.

On Christmas Eve, when your neighbour is gloating through the curtains at the vulgar nativity scene in four colours on his front lawn, take out your Yule log and burn it on your lawn. When he rushes out—and he will—tell him it's the genuine article, ordered from England. Then watch him burn. By the way, don't over-do it. Don't try burning your Yule log in your two-foot-wide fireplace.

A variation on this theme is an eternal flame. If you don't have gas, have a line run in to your front lawn. Tell your neighbour the guys who are tearing up your lawn are looking for a leak in your sewer. This will please him.

Then, some night, half an hour after he turns on his electrical monstrosity, flip your gas switch, and slip out and light your eternal flame. The fiendish ingenuity of your plan, the simple dignity of your little light burning away, in wind and snow, will drive him wild. It'll be worth the few hundred bucks it costs.

This year, forget all about that junk for your living-room: Christmas candles, spruce boughs, sprigs of holly, coloured lights in the chandelier. Oh, let your wife go through the motions. Women enjoy such utilities.

But a couple of nights before Christmas, when your wife is on a last mad shopping scramble, throw all that garbage out. Then take two gallons of paint, one red and one green, and paint everything in your living-room one or the other. Your neighbour will be livid with envy when you ask him over for refreshments. Your wife may be any colour.

A variation on this is to let your kids help you paint, and not ask your neighbour over. Christmas morning, you send the kids over at seven a.m., in appropriate colours, and they ask him over.

Speaking of refreshments, how about a wassail bowl this year? It's quite simple to make, and bound to impress. Take any large bowl or small washtub. Half fill with nut-brown ale. It's an old Elizabethan recipe, and don't forget to tell your neighbour this.

Stir in several wassails. These are small, ancient Englishmen, pickled in alcohol. Something like the shepherds in shepherd's pie, but no gristle. Flavour to taste with nut-meg, nut-brown maidens, mistletoe and garlic salt. Fill bowl with gin. Ply neighbour generously. But don't touch the stuff yourself.

If you haven't got him by now, there's no hope for you, and you might as well relax and enjoy Christmas with all the old familiar horrors of last year.

## In The Editor's Mail

Stouffville, Ont., December 7, 1965.

The Editor, Stouffville Tribune, Stouffville, Ontario.

Dear Sir: So Santa came to town on Saturday — SO WHAT? — And that, Sir, is my impression of our SANTA CLAUS PARADE.

Get with it Stouffville! Where is your imagination and ingenuity? This is the Christmas Season, a mystical, magical, wonderful time and Santa stepping out of a convertible and sauntering into his house on Main Street sure didn't display much enthusiasm, did it???

Why not a Parade with music, floats, clowns, etc. It may cost a dollar or two but wouldn't it be worth it just to see the look of enchantment on a child's face as he or she watches the Man of the Moment come to Town complete with all the trimmings?

Come on Stouffville, please don't let the Santa Claus Parade go where the Horse Show, Christmas Market and Trade Fair have gone.

Christmas belongs to the young and the young-at-heart, so please next year let's do SOMETHING about it.

Sincerely, (Mrs.) Jean O'Neill.

## York Potato Crop In '65 Up \$400,000

In spite of adverse weather conditions throughout much of the fall and summer season, the value of harvested crops in York County is over nine million dollars.

A tentative figure of \$9,655,700 has been released by the Ontario Department of Agriculture. For the same crops last year, the total was \$9,125,000.

A major increase was recorded in the County potato industry. The crop value of \$1,746,000 in '65 was up more than \$100,000 over 1964. Winter wheat took a heavy drop of more than a quarter of a million dollars.

Here are 1965's crop values for the County with the 1964 figure in brackets: Winter wheat, \$798,000 (\$1,089,800); oats, \$1,858,100 (\$1,630,000); mixed grains, \$658,700 (\$593,100); barley, \$451,000 (\$297,000) all hay crops, \$2,899,700 (\$3,089,800); fodder corn \$544,000 (\$543,400); husking corn, \$699,300 (\$555,800); potatoes, \$1,746,000 (\$1,325,500).

Winners of the Euchre held in the Legion Hall by the Legion Ladies on Thursday evening, Dec. 9th are Ladies: Mrs. E. A. Griffith, Mrs. Jennie Coyle and Mrs. Sue Schell; Mens: Gus Almsedt, Don Bacon and Wm. Morris.

# Roamin' Around . . .

Local elections are now past and although we are rather hesitant to criticize the faithful few who do stir them selves out to the polls, we still feel that voters, on a whole, are a strange breed of people. In many cases, it's not what you know but who you know.

For instance, take a look at Ward 1 in Pickering Township where farmer, Harvey Spang walloped the bee-jeobers out of a newcomer by the name of S. A. Osterhout. At Mr. Spang's home poll in Atha, he outscored his rival by 134 to 6. But who were the six who voted against him? Did he boot somebody's son in the posterior for stealing apples? Did one of his Holsteins stampe through a neighbour's petunia patch? Did his dog chew on the tail of someone's Persian puss? We don't know and probably Mr. Spang doesn't either.

Many ratepayers, especially women, would support a male candidate solely on his personality platform. He may fill a council seat like a wooden Indian for 52 weeks of the year but if he's a good family man, a regular church attendee and drives all the kids in the block to school on rainy days, then he'll get the vote.

And men are about as bad. How they hate to see the women move into the political limelight especially against one of their own kind. Let them stay at home and look after the house, is a common argument. School board, that's alright, but not one step further. And so it goes.

But the candidates themselves often fail to help the situation. They offer no platform at all but pleadingly request your support. It's like the blind leading the blind.

If you plan to make a tour of Stouffville prior to Christmas to see the lights, make sure the home of electrician Ross Hetherington is a stop-off point. It is located at 336 Rupert Avenue but the number is not really necessary for you can't miss it. On the front lawn of his property is a huge 30 foot pine tree. It wasn't there last month and it didn't 'grow' out of the ground over-night. He cut it down up in Uxbridge Township and transported it to town by truck and pole trailer. The trunk is inserted in a foot-deep hole and braced from all sides for added support. It has been 'dressed up' for the Christmas season with 300 coloured lights and these are operated by a time clock device inside his home. They flick on at 5:30 p.m. each day and off again at 11:30 every night. Since the cutting, hauling and erecting of this tree every year is a rather arduous chore, Ross has already taken steps to eliminate this task in about twenty years time. He has planted a permanent pine out front and hopes to see the day when it will develop into a permanent Christmas tree.

A sign in the Markham Township Municipal Office at Buttonville reads — "Everybody Should Pay Their Taxes With A Smile — I Tried But They Wanted Cash."

Another sign at the west end of Stouffville indicates that a start on the new Shopping Centre and Supermarket is not many months away.

The G.M.C. truck (cab and chassis) parked on the lot at Patrick Motors in Stouffville is worth \$29,500. It is a v-8 diesel and the largest of its kind to be assembled in Oshawa in 1965. They are now made only in the United States. It is the largest to be sold locally and is presently awaiting delivery of a trailer. The complete unit will go out later this month.

For those persons who have not viewed the new Toronto City Hall at night, we would suggest that it's worth a trip to see it. It is a most magnificent structure. If you're still young at heart, take along your skates. A fine artificial ice arena is located at the Nathan Phillips Square and although Toronto boasts more than 1 1/2 million people, the skating wasn't crowded on Thursday.

## Corn Yield Totals 121 Bushels Per Acre On Jack Pike Farm

(A. A. Wall, Agricultural Representative, York County) two York County Holstein farms, Romandale won the NEWMARKET — I have purposely avoided any mention of grain corn in these reports this fall. Although it's normally a favourite topic, it isn't a very good one right now. With so many fields not harvested yet, losses so high from lodging, and drying so difficult, anyone who talks grain corn has to be ready to defend himself.

Well, my faith was restored some last week when I got the yield results from our corn competition. There were 24 entries this year. The lowest yield was a respectable 81 bushels per acre, and that's shelled corn corrected to 15% moisture. The highest yield was 121 bushels, grown by Jack Pike from Markham. The challengers were Master Feeds Farm with 110 and Pat Steckley with 113. Of the 24, over half beat the 100 bushel yield barrier.

Harvesting Problem This proves that even in a poor corn year, we can grow the stuff. The only sticker is harvesting. A year like this emphasizes the weakness of the rational picking and crib storage. Harvesting is held up waiting for the ears to dry down, and this delay gets us into wet ground, stalk breakage and losses, as well as the problem we will have next spring.

I think silos will prove to be better for corn storage in York County than corn cribs. Silage and high moisture grain can both be put in wet. This makes life a lot simpler at harvest time. And despite popular opinion, silo storage costs very little more than crib storage.

Later Than Usual A fair amount of silage was put in this fall, rather than usual. It had been frosted and dried out, and many people used to fresh green material with lots of moisture, feel that feed value deteriorated badly. It's true that in there is some loss, but likely in the worst part of it is that it isn't as palatable as usual. The fermentation process doesn't work as well, there's likely to be a few moulds, and cattle just won't eat as much weight. However, the feed value of the grain isn't affected at all and the grain is the most important part of silage. So, in my opinion, silage this year will likely make milk or beef just about as well as it usually does.

Congratulations this week to The man who habitually passes on a hill, or ignores Stop signs, or thinks that swinging wig-wags apply only to the traffic behind him, rapidly uses up his "free" chances in the gamble. One day he will have to pay. And perhaps his son, whom he taught to drive in the same fashion, will get a similar bill.

## THE STOUFFVILLE TRIBUNE LIMITED

ESTABLISHED 1888  
Member of the Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association and the Ontario Weekly Newspapers Association.  
Authorized as second-class mail, Postoffice Dept., Ottawa.  
Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations.  
Issued every Thursday at Stouffville, Ont.

In Canada \$4.00 Elsewhere \$6.00

C. H. NOLAN, Publisher JAS. THOMAS, Editor NOEL EDEY, Advertising