

Tribune Editorials

Suggestions Worth Considering

No ratepayer in the Township of Whitchurch frequents the council chambers at Vandorf more, than Lawrence Hennessey, Gormley, RR 1. An unsuccessful candidate on a number of occasions, he has continued to show a keen interest in municipal affairs, possibly to a point, where his presence approaches the point of irritation to the sitting members.

Mr. Hennessey, admittedly, is not the most tactful person in the world. His questions are often blunt and his attitude embarrassing. He's a kind of onion in a petunia patch and the council don't pretend to roll out the red welcome mat. Regardless of the members' personal feelings, we think that Mr. Hennessey has many suggestions worth considering and recommenda-

tions that could very well be put into practice. He presented a brief at a meeting, Jan. 10 but no action was taken on any of the issues introduced.

Some of the items were — (1). A Saturday vote. (2). Bylaws should be reviewed and an Official Plan prepared. (3). The township should acquire land suitable for industrial sites. (4). A review of assessments should be made and compared with basic rates in other municipalities. (5). The demand for 1 and 2 acre residential lots should be considered and so on.

Mr. Hennessey may have an axe to grind with Whitchurch Council. If so, the members, being only human, have reason to show resentment. However, where outside suggestions have merit, we feel they are worth careful consideration.

Too Many Lone Hands

With the removal of the former Stouffville firehall building, the offices of the town Police Department will be moved to a new location on Main Street West. The council has already made arrangement for this shift.

Gone, but we hope, not forgotten, will be the afternoon meeting place for many men in Stouffville who, during the winter months, gather for games of euchre at the same site.

Although this matter may not be the

direct responsibility of council, we feel that the members have at least a moral obligation to find new quarters for these folks. They've never asked for any special consideration although certainly more deserving than most of us who are continually looking for favours.

Long winter hours can hang pretty heavy on hands with nothing to do. Free time, sooner or later, will catch up to us all.

Where There's A Will

Stouffville's Centennial Events' Program is already showing the benefit of good organization and the leadership provided by the chairman, Lorne Boardway, has the committee 'fired up' with enthusiasm. Another meeting is planned for Jan. 26.

The program has become a community affair since each and every organization in town is directly involved.

As a member of the Publicity Committee, we are most anxious to keep the public informed of what's going on. The Tribune will be pleased to publicize individual events, regardless of size. Each, in its own way is important.

There is always room too, for more willing workers for there's plenty of work to do. Attend the meeting, Jan. 26.

Before They've Even Started

A local newspaper serving an area considerably removed from any large city reports that no less than four representatives of the Unemployment Insurance Commission stepped into the local school there to instruct the pupils, grade nine and up, on their rights under the Unemployment Act.

Naturally these men were welcome by the pupils. During their stay, classes were abandoned, and pupils who were expecting to get out into the working world in the not too distant future were glad to know that they didn't have to work so long as they established themselves through unemployment in-

urance — living without working.

It would appear that Ottawa is spending money unnecessarily to tell "near" workers what they will soon learn for themselves. It is outrageous that four men should be sent to one school, if it were thought the idea was even necessary and we certainly don't believe it was.

This is one further sign of our decline into the welfare state, a system which is presently plaguing Britain where a generation is growing up with little desire to work and people are leaving the country in droves to settle where they can make their talents pay off.



"...and we paid hundreds of millions of Ontario taxpayers' dollars for those things even when we had admirals."

SUGAR AND SPICE

A Hundred Years Of What?

By BILL SMILEY



Wouldn't it be fun if we could conjure up from their neglected graves Sir John A. and the other Fathers of Confederation, and take them on a tour of the nation they tied together 100 years ago, with string and sealing-wax?

Would they think they had builded well? Would they swell with pride over the nation that has emerged? Would they look with awe on what has been accomplished? Or would they cry, as with one voice, "Lemme outa here! What have you done to our glorious Dominion?"

The physical changes in those 10 tiny decades, a fleabite in the human span, would surely impress them. The vast towers of steel and concrete in our cities; the ribbons of road and rail that span the continent; the St. Lawrence Seaway.

And surely they would be thrilled by the vast technological leap made since they stood together for that stiff portrait in Charlottetown. They would be dazzled by the simple facts of electric light and power, flight by jet-liner, radio, television, the telephone, the automobile, oil-heating, air-conditioning,

Just One Flaw

To the Editor: How splendid it is that all the governments are going all out to provide free education for everyone. Even those with no desire to study are to be pushed and cajoled through university. It speaks well for the great minds of Canada that the goal is being pursued.

There is just one flaw in the entire procedure. It, of course, involves finances.

If everyone is to have higher education, who will be left to do the hard and honest toil of constructive work?

Who will be left to provide the money to supply scholarships, to pay professional salaries, to subsidize student drones?

Who, Mr. Editor, who will meet the bills for the brains?

Don Clark
Milliken

Jan. 11, 1967.

Dear Sir, — May I through the medium of your publication extend sincere thanks to all groups, and interested persons who contributed to this programme in making it a most successful endeavor in the Stouffville area. Following are the results; a total of 1700 gifts were collected and \$130. received by cheques. 39 approved homes in the country were serviced, the Richmond Hill White Cross Centre, several indigent families through the direction of the Out-Patient Psychiatric unit of York County Hospital, Newmarket, and 250 patients looked after at the Ontario Hospital, Aurora. As well 600 surplus gifts were sent to the Ontario Division, Canadian Mental Health Association, to help Ontario Hospitals, where otherwise patients would have received nothing. York County residents through their generosity have indeed brought cheer and good-will to many. I would at this point say "thank you" to Mrs. Dorothy McKay, for a job well done in the Stouffville area and add a special "thank you" to the Stouffville Tribune for coverage.

Sincerely,
Mrs. G. Gilbert,
Chairman,
York County Christmas Gift Program.

Ten Years Ago

1957
The Department of Highways announced the opening of a new motor vehicle licence agency in Stouffville, to be operated by Mr. and Mrs. R. H. Murphy. Mr. Les Ogden purchased the first of plates.

The residence of the late Mac Urquhart was purchased by Ted Cadieux for a Main Street photo studio.

A new organ, a gift to St. James Presbyterian Church in Stouffville from Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Morris, was dedicated by the pastor, Rev. D. R. McKillop.

and a thousand other things we take for granted.

But how would they feel about the country they created after the fancy wrapping came off the toys? After they'd seen the Toronto City Hall, and flown across the country in a few hours, and plunged into the bowels of a modern mine, and gone up in a chair-lift at Jasper, and faced annihilation in a Montreal cab, and groped for their drink in a gloomy cocktail lounge?

Behind the glittering playthings, would they really find much change in the country? Not at this time of year, anyway. It would be still a shambling geographical monster, buried in white, tail turned to the north wind. Only a sprinkling of lights, a few curls of smoke, and a few ants crawling about would suggest it was not straight out of the ice ages.

And if Sir John A. and his fellows lifted that familiar blanket of white and peered under it, would they be surprised and delighted by what they saw? Would they perceive a mature, virile, independent people proudly proving that the twentieth century belongs to Canada?

One look would reveal a material prosperity and comfort beyond their dreams. But it would show that a lot of other things they were familiar with had not changed or improved in 100 years. Fear of the U.S., corruption in high places, French and English Canadians wrangling, dirty fighting at Ottawa, the taxpayers being bribed with their own money, the rich getting richer and the poor getting children: a familiar

world to The Fathers.

But the sorrow might change to horror when they looked beyond the familiar things and saw that the healthy-looking body was riddled with disease. The pollution of air and water would make them furious. The soaring rate of divorce, drug addiction, homosexuality, alcoholism would appall them. The number of dead on the highways each year would sicken them. The power of huge monopolies would frighten them. And the apathy of the average, well-fed Canadian would disgust them.

No, we'd have to divert their attention quickly, and turn it to other things that would dazzle them. Perhaps they'd be impressed by some of our great cultural traditions, developed since their time. Like the Grey Cup Game, when the punks and the drunks take over. Or Hockey Night in Canada, one of our great national customs, when this entire, sprawling nation is linked together into a warm, friendly group of idiots, rising as one man to fetch another beer when the commercial comes on.

Maybe they'd enjoy a tour of one of our new atomic energy plants? But I wonder what they'd think of the pictures of Hiroshima?

We could tell them what we did in the two great wars. But one look at the tax bill for defense would give them apoplexy.

And so it would go. Personally, I think that after the initial novelty wore off, Sir John A. and The Fathers, more in sorrow than in anger, would return to where they came from, without ever taking a look back.



THIS WEEK & NEXT

China's Future Cloudy

By RAY ARGYLE

The convulsions which have shaken China the past several months have no counterpart in modern political life since the Russian Revolution. Yet the evidence suggests that the current upheaval in China is for the present confined to Communist Party cadres and does not involve the masses of Chinese people.

What does seem clear is that at a time when China could use a strong dose of decisive leadership, there is a sort of anarchical democracy prevailing at the upper levels of Peking leadership.

The future of Chinese nuclear development, the question of a Peking seat at the United Nations and the role of China in Vietnam are all paramount issues for the Chinese Communists.

It may be some consolation to the West that the "Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution" has for the time being rendered the Chinese People's Republic quite incapable of leadership.

Because contact between the West and China is still so limited, even the best informed speculation about Chinese intentions is none too well founded.

Recent signs, however, have put quite a different emphasis on the cultural revolution and subsequent purge launched by Communist party chairman (and father of Chinese Communism) Mao Tse-tung.

The first interpretation of this upheaval was that Mao was clearing the decks for his inevitable departure by reinforcing the revolutionary spirit of China's younger generation.

Mao, so this line went, was alarmed at a growing lack of fervor among China's young Communists. Knowing neither war nor revolution, China's young people had to be banded into tough Red Guards who could be manipulated for the good of the regime. Their target was "revisionism," the fatal Chinese Communist catch-all definition of anything which strays from the original Communist gospel as preached by Mao.

After months of Red Guard rampages through Chinese cities and countryside, news leaking through the Bamboo Curtain now shows conclusive that

it is Mao Tse-tung himself who has been fighting for his political life.

Red Guard posters (the most common means of spreading news in China) tell of how Mao was forced out of his post as President of China in 1958 following the debacle of the "Great Leap Forward" — that bold bid for overnight industrial development which instead almost wrecked China's primitive agricultural and industrial society.

Mao's chief ally in the current struggle is defense minister Lin Biao, now regarded as his heir-apparent.

The first prominent victim of the cultural revolution was the mayor of Peking, Peng Chen. He was ousted and as an indication that the struggle is far from over, the Red Guards are now attacking Chen's successor.

But the most bitter scorn of the Maoists has been reserved for Mao's successor as president, Lin Shao-chi, and the secretary-general of the Communist party Teng Hsiao-ping. And even China's popular premier, Chou En-Lai, has come under attack by the Red Guards who have demanded a "fiery death" for Chou.

The Chinese Communist leadership is obviously sharply split, with the basic division between elder hard-liners represented by Mao and Lin Piao, and younger and less fanatical leaders who oppose China's split with Russia and who favor better relations with America.

During all of this incredible upheaval, however, it would be the height of wishful thinking to believe that civil war might break out in China.

The grim drama now unfolding in China may be a final test of Mao Tse-tung's famous philosophy of the country versus the city — the theory that the peasants, when marshalled into a fighting force, can overthrow a city-based regime. This theory worked for Mao in the Chinese civil war and he has since preached that it will work on a global scale, with the peasants representing the undeveloped world and the cities the industrialized West.

ADAMING AROUND

The Good Old Days

Many of our senior folk, here in Stouffville and elsewhere too, enjoy reminiscing about the good, old days. In this, our centennial year, the memories seem to get better and the stories longer. As proof that the good old days were shrouded in a good deal of bad, we would recommend readers to obtain a copy of the November issue of Argosy Magazine, published in Dayton, Ohio. Nino Lo Bello has a supposedly true-to-life story from the 'frontier' village of Markham, dated August 31, 1845. It tells of a gang of outlaws known as the Swamp Raiders and led by White Hood who robbed, murdered and plundered in an effort to force residents to sell their land at a bargain price or move away. It tells how Mrs. Burto Morrow was attacked by the Raiders, stripped of her clothes and tarred and feathered. Her husband and daughter were killed. The writer goes on to describe how the village folk lived in terror of the gang. One woman, Mrs. Matilde Beecham who defied the Raiders' threats, had parts of her husband's body sent to her, one piece at a time. Others mentioned in the story include — Reverend Bingham Andrews, Nathaniel Case, Robert Burr, James and Hiram Stoughtenborough, Thomas Tyler and Jacob Temple. The conclusion is startling that we feel residents, especially the folk down Markham way, would be wise to read it all for themselves. Who knows, your great, great grandfather might have been a Swamp Raider. It's well worth the price of 50¢ plus postage to find out.

On the centennial theme, we pose this question to ten students of Stouffville's two public schools following their half-day vacation, Jan. 11. The holiday is in memory of what well-known Canadian man? Eight replied Sir John A. Macdonald; one said he didn't know and one said Sir John A. Diefenbaker.

Centennial beards are slowly but surely becoming quite commonplace around Stouffville. John Foulds, though looking like a veritable porcupine at present, has all the makings of a prize-winner. He's literally bristling out all over. Most townfolks know what's going on but how do you explain to your pastor that you didn't sleep on Sunday morning.

Still on the subject of centennial Charles Richards & Sons of Stouffville have come up with the most educational calendar we've seen. It includes a color picture and accompanying story on each of the ten provinces plus information on such men as Sir John Macdonald, William Henry Pope, Jo Graves Simcoe and others. They can be purchased at any International tractor, large or small.

The Legion Ladies' Auxiliary are preparing a centennial quilt and tickle will go on sale following its completion. The women folk, however, would well to look to their counterpart at Main and Albert Streets. Frank Burkholder has begun his own version of a knitted masterpiece that will keep someone toasty warm next winter — may Mrs. Burkholder's.

Don't be surprised if the old Mt. Pleasant Public School on the 7th Cession of Pickering Township becomes a centennial model on the grounds of the Brougham Museum. Chances of becoming a community centre as planned for similar structures at Mt. Zions, Altona, Atha and Whitevale appear rather slim. The population is hardly adequate to support such a scheme. Historical Society would no doubt welcome the addition with open arms.

Ratcliff's I.G.A. Store, the Manly Lloyd Houghton and Occupations' dent, Gale Goudie of Stouffville, rec'd front page publicity in the Decem I.G.A. Bulletin. The Main Street Fed liner is participating in the two-store merchandising course offered Stouffville High School that includes cashing, preparing displays stocking shelves.

Old time euchre parties are coming back with rural communities, particularly in Pickering Township, using the school buildings to good advantage. One of the most recent card groups to come to life is at Greenwood where the village pastor is the life of the party, though he started off the centennial year by winning the 'booby' he has solved to improve even if he's kicking his partner on the shins under the table.

On a more sombre note, Roy Wilson, conc. 7, Whitchurch is wondering who the person was who stole his mail box and dumped the contents into the ditch.

EDITOR'S MAIL

Information on Ancestors

By OUR READERS

Jan. 9, 1967.
Dear Sir, Iowa descendants are seeking information about ancestors so please put this notice in your paper.

"Information is required for a family history regarding Abraham Strickler, Sr. who married Barbara Ramer (1780-1871) in 1804 and came in the early 1820's to Markham. Does anyone have their family Bible? What were the dates of Abraham Sr.'s birth and death and where is he buried? What was the year they came from Pennsylvania to Markham? Data has been obtained about their children Abraham Jr., Elizabeth, John, Catherine and Daniel but does anyone know the name and date of birth of another daughter and also death and birth date of a son, David, anyone having any information please phone Markham 294-0345.

Yours truly,
(Miss) Nellie Hyland,
Markham, RR 1.

Jan. 16, 1967.
Dear Sir, I was rather intrigued by Ray Argyle's column last week 'Posties need Help.' Working on a weekly newspaper, over which, I understand, Mr. Argyle exerts a certain influence, I tried to deduce the raise in pay I was supposed to have received at the beginning of this year.

One look at the suggested future pay rates of the postal workers had me searching for a clue as to why I should be satisfied receiving wages 15 to 20% less than that now paid the mail handlers.

I suppose the explanation lies in the words 'comparably essential jobs'. What I would like to know is, just what rate of exchange does Mr. Argyle allow between a printer and a postal employee?

Bent I. Borgesen
Whitby.

The Tribune

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