

# Tribune Editorials

## Housing Shortage Serious

The housing shortage in Stouffville has become serious, so much so that prices on the few homes that are available are soaring out of line and apartment rentals continue to climb. It is presenting a hardship on young couples attempting to make ends meet and on retired folks living on a fixed income.

A bungalow in town that sold for \$14,000 five years ago has increased to 18,000. Apartments are up from \$100 a month to \$125. Many people are beginning to look outside the municipality

for accommodation although their place of employment in some cases is in Stouffville.

Stouffville has one and perhaps two subdivisions on the verge of going ahead but shortage of mortgage money appears to be the holdup. The situation does not apply only to our town but most communities including Metro. Unless there is some easing of restrictions, the problem will become even more serious in the spring.

## Now's Your Chance

For several seasons now, one evening each month has been set aside in the public skating schedule at Markham for the over 21 group to enjoy an outing and the music of an accompanying band. It has been attended by many couples from Stouffville, in fact, residents here comprise a large percentage of the crowd. They have asked, on several occasions, that something similar

be held here.

Well, the time has come. Keith Sutherland, chairman of the athletic committee of the Stouffville Centennial Events Program, has acquired both the ice and a band for this Saturday night.

The success of this venture could prompt the holding of future skates for adults only. Now's your chance to prove a point.

## Time To Reflect

Centennial year is going to be a time to reflect for many people. See if you remember these: when a business success meant a roll-top desk and wooden wastepaper basket; only really wealthy people complained about income taxes; it was actually possible to go through life without filling out a single government form; farmers thought it a sin to turn farm land into

golf courses since only the idle rich could use it.

A wise father always gave his son a dime for the collection plate Sunday, since he knew if he gave him two nickels God might only wind up with one; one of the arguments for having a large family was to have a place to live when you were old.

## A Dividing Line In Heaven

The differences of opinion that created a split between six of the participating Stouffville churches in the World Day of Prayer Service, last week, indicates only too clearly that religious togetherness and brotherly love are only figments of the imagination.

Here in Stouffville, six denominations couldn't see fit to sit side by side in common pews and take part in a common service for one hour in an entire year. And still we call ourselves Christians, bound for a common Heaven. Perhaps it too will be divided — a section for the Anglicans, another for the Baptists, another for the Presbyterians and so on. What a joke.

And so there is a disagreement in the form of the service. Surely there

are enough sensible-thinking people in our churches today who could sit down and make the necessary changes that would prove satisfactory to all. Or could they, as individuals, swallow one ounce of their religious pride and accept another's recommendations? We wonder.

The church and its members are supposed to exemplify all that is upright and good, in a world torn by wars, racial problems and labor unrest. The example set here in Stouffville on Friday was a disappointment to say the least.

Attempts to cover up and minimize the importance of this matter does not clear away the cloud of confusion and contempt in the minds of many.



"...And he only had one for the road!"

## SUGAR AND SPICE

### This Is My Final Say On Education

By BILL SMILEY



O.K. I know. Enough is enough. This is positively the last in a series of columns on education. Let me repeat that I'm no expert, just a parent, tax-payer and teacher, and equally concerned in each role.

I've been critical. In some quarters, no doubt, my remarks have been considered rank heresy. But there is a positive side. Let's look at it.

Most cheering is the tremendous interest in educational improvement both from within and without the system. Departments of education are spending large amounts of time, thought and money in an attempt to scramble into the second part of the twentieth century.

New universities are springing up like mushrooms, with fresh and invigorating ideas, vital young teachers.

Men and women in all walks of life are taking a hard look at what they are getting for their money, and what they want for their children. As a result of these things, much of the old rigidity and inflexibility are crumbling under heavy fire.

Changes are coming. It's not been any easier to get them started than to make a team of oxen break into a gallop. But they're coming, even though they may gallop right through the fence. Thomas Aquinas hasn't much to say

to the swingers of today, with the New Morality on one side of them, and nuclear annihilation on the other. In fact, a punning colleague suggested: "Should Old Acquaintance be forgot?"

Egerton Ryerson is not exactly haunting the hall of Ryerson Institute. It's more likely he's holding his heavenly head in his hands with horror as he sees the students of that establishment putting away more ale per capita than their prototypes of Oxford and Cambridge in the days of Elizabeth I.

However, we drift. Here are some of the improvements. Some may flop. But at least the ponderous pachyderm is pulling its feet out of the mud at last. With a resultant, resounding squelch.

Teaching machines, television, computers will take over 90 per cent. of the dissemination of knowledge. They're a fact now. The kids of today's students will have to listen to boring tales from their parents about the "good old days when there was a teacher in every classroom."

This revolution, in turn, will eliminate the lock-step progress of the present, where the swift are held back, and the slow are scrambling, because courses are aimed at the average. The kids will move at their own speed. Learning will be satisfying and exciting.

There'll be strong opposition to this. There'll be dark whispers that it is undemocratic, that it will produce an elite. They'll say it's bad for the bright child because he won't be emotionally mature if, let's say, he's ready for uni-

versity at 13.

Baloney. Education isn't democratic now. Not when one kid has to slug groceries after school to buy decent clothes, and a class-mate is out skiing. Not when the first kid hasn't a chance to go on because he must help support his family, while the second kid goes off to university to find a husband. Better an elite of the mind than an elite of middle-class money and morality.

As for the emotionally mature bit, that too, is poppycock. Some people are emotionally mature at 10, others never.

Another bid change will be curricula. Kids will be taught less facts, more about life. That is, instead of square roots and dangling participles and the Peloponnesian Wars, they'll learn about themselves, and other people, about beauty and economics, about leisure and love.

Annual examinations, which have about as much to do with education as I have to do with Sophia Loren, will vanish.

Schools will have shorter terms, more frequent holidays, but will likely operate year-round.

Teaching will improve, because it will become a dynamic, creative profession, attracting the dynamic, creative people.

I hate to spoil this vision of educational Utopia, but I have one more prediction. The whole thing is going to cost more and more and more. That's the only prophecy I will unconditional-ly guarantee.

tional Council of Christian Churches; and it points up the fact that the action of our ladies was not so startling, unusual, revolutionary or unprecedented. What they have done has been done in a thousand places.

We hope that the people of our community will believe us when we say that no churches have been split, and that the normal everyday pleasant relationship between the men and women of our town has not changed. We still respect our United Church, Presbyterian Church, Anglican Church and Catholic Church neighbours.

One more hope: That this whole matter can now be dropped. There is not much point in knocking the scab off a wound that will heal if left alone and treated carefully.

Still your friend,  
Rev. Arthur Walsh,

Feb. 11, 1967.

Dear Editor, I was very interested in your article in last week's Tribune revealing that though the ladies of the country were presumably meeting to pray, no doubt, for peace among the nations, those in the various local churches could not even agree among themselves.

They ask that nations bury their differences and get together. How about the churches doing the same? In most cases these differences are petty and do little to advertise the church as a place of harmony and brotherly love.

Aren't we all supposed to be headed for the same heaven, if there is one, or do some believe that it is only for them, or again possibly they believe heaven is departmentalized.

The idea that mere interpretation of some parts of the christian gospel is reason enough to keep up an everlasting separation of the various groups; is, in my opinion little short of stupid. How narrow can we get. And believe me some of these groups are narrow. There is a strain of animosity running between some of these churches which no amount of whitewashing is going to rub out. Every now and then it rears its head into the open, as now.

This is not the first time some of these churches have refused to cooperate, and alas, it will not be the last. It's no secret that the churches have been slipping in their efforts to interest today's people, and why not, with such narrow and bigoted outlooks.

If religion means anything, it is service to one's fellow man, and in my opinion this is certainly no way to go about it. Let's forget about what's going to happen to you when you're six feet under, today is the day to be concerned about if we are going to make this place a better one for mankind. Let's forget about these nonsensical differences which in the long run count for absolutely nothing, and let's get down to the task at hand.

Clarence Irwin,



## THIS WEEK & NEXT

### Peril In Space

By RAY ARGYLE

It may now be safely surmised the United States — barring an outright Russian abdication of the space race — has lost its bid to be first with a man on the moon in this decade.

America's three-man Apollo spacecraft was to have flown for the first time next Tuesday. And, although the United States would have been 28 months behind the Soviets in orbiting a three-man space vehicle, (Russia's Voskod I achieved this in October, 1964) America seemed to be catching up.

The U.S. Gemini flights had been spectacularly successful. Docking and rendezvous had been accomplished smoothly. One crew had set a space endurance record of 330 hours and two others had pulled off space walks which outperformed earlier Russian manoeuvres.

But there will of course be no high drama at Cape Kennedy next Tuesday, because the three men who were to have ridden Apollo I into orbit died heroes' deaths during a routine ground test Jan. 27.

The full impact of the deaths of space veterans Virgil Grissom, Ed White and rookie Roger Chaffee have yet to be felt. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has postponed indefinitely the three manned flights scheduled for this year, although unmanned launchings will continue.

The investigation of the tragedy will take several weeks, but the report from the inquiry is sure to insist changes be made in the space program to make it impossible for such an accident to occur again.

It is highly unlikely either scientists or the Congress will be able to justify going ahead with the \$40 billion space program without radical changes.

The first change will have to be made in the atmospheric environment of the Apollo space capsule. It was because the Americans chose the easy way out — all-oxygen space cabin — that Apollo I became a fiery death trap.

The spark of yet-unknown origin which leapt into the space cabin as the three astronauts lay strapped on their couches, immediately consumed the

cabin's oxygen and ignited every burnable thing in the spacecraft.

The all-oxygen atmosphere was chosen to save weight and space. The alternative was a two-gas system, such as oxygen and nitrogen, which the Russians use in their spacecraft. But this takes extra weight — a vital factor when American rockets were less powerful than Russia's boosters — and requires more complex equipment.

In a two-gas environment, the spark which consumed life in Apollo I would have flickered off harmlessly. Its origin would have been pinpointed and corrected.

Such an environment also requires a double cabin for space walks — one wherein the astronaut can close a trap door behind him to free his system of nitrogen before venturing into open space. Otherwise, he could become subject to the "bends" which sometimes afflict underwater divers.

In retrospect, it is evident that while American scientists knew what they were doing, they took a calculated risk — and lost.

It can now be expected U.S. scientific and public opinion will be brought to bear to ensure such mistakes are not repeated. This means the growth of American space capacity will be retarded, because important changes cannot be made in craft design without slowing the whole program.

The Soviets, meanwhile, are moving ahead slowly, apparently avoiding every possible gamble which could result in disaster. And while it is possible the Russians may also have lost men in their space program, it seems to have none of the "crash" atmosphere of the American effort.

Astronauts Grissom, White and Chaffee were brave men who will go down in history because their deaths were the first of the Space Age.

The goal set by President Kennedy of putting a man on the moon in this decade thus claimed its first victims six years later. With the American space program virtually at a standstill, Russia continues to hold a clear three-year lead — at a time when there are only three years left in the decade of the 1960s.

# ROAMING AROUND

## Stouffville In 1967

With only a few dates still to be set, 1967 is shaping up as the biggest and best entertainment year in the social history of Stouffville. Our only wish is that Canada would celebrate its birthday in much the same way, more often.

With a small part of the program now past, there's still much, much more to come. Circle these dates on your calendar.

Saturday, Feb. 18 — Old Tyme Skating Party in the Stouffville Arena (adults only). Live music by the East York Concert Band.

Friday, March 10 — Firemen's Dance in the Stouffville Legion Hall.

Saturday, March 18 — Lions Club Barbershop Harmony program in the Stouffville District High School.

Friday, April 7, Saturday, April 8 — Centennial Figure Skating Carnival in the Stouffville Arena.

Thursday, April 20 — Consumer's Gas Company Cooking School Demonstration in the auditorium of Stouffville District High School.

Saturday, April 22 — Centennial Beauty Queen Pageant in the auditorium of Stouffville District High School.

Friday, April 28, Saturday, April 29 — Music Mania Centennial '67 in the auditorium of Stouffville District High School.

Friday, May 5 — Stouffville District High School Centennial May Queen Festival.

Saturday, May 13 — Rebekah and Oddfellow's Lodge Dance at Cedar Beach Gardens, Musselman's Lake.

Saturday, May 20 — Stouffville Home and School Centennial Bake Sale.

Thursday, May 25 — Kinsmen Club Western Jamboree at the Stouffville Sales Arena.

Friday, June 9 — Kinsmen Club Donkey Baseball Game in the Stouffville Park.

SATURDAY, JULY 1 — ALL-DAY PROGRAM IN THE STOUFFVILLE PARK WITH MONSTER DANCE IN THE ARENA AT NIGHT.

SUNDAY, JULY 2 — MASS OPEN-AIR CHURCH SERVICE IN THE STOUFFVILLE PARK AT 11 A.M.

Wednesday, July 5 — Lemonville Centennial Strawberry Festival at the home of Jim and Jean Nauta.

Sunday, August 20 — Kinsmen Club Talent Contest and Sing-Along in the Stouffville Park.

Saturday, September 2 — Kinsmen Club Centennial Marathon Walk.

Wednesday, September 20 — Kinsmen and Kinette Clubs Giant Euchre Party in the Stouffville Arena.

Friday, September 29 — Legion Ladies' Auxiliary Centennial Fashion Show in the Stouffville Legion Hall.

Saturday, October 14 — Stouffville Brownie and Girl Guides' Good Deed Day.

Friday, November 24 — Stouffville Kinsmen and Kinette Clubs' Centennial Ball at Cedar Beach Gardens, Musselman's Lake.

Saturday, November 25 — Kinsmen and Kinette Clubs' Curling Bonspiel at Rolling Hills.

Saturday, December 2 — Stouffville Kinsmen Club Santa Claus Parade.

Where were you when the lights went out. For a few dozen perpetual pancake-eaters in the Stouffville United Church, last week, it looked like back home to a can of bacon and beans. But never underestimate the powers of four women. Helen Taylor, Gertrude Burkholder, Lorna Button and Mary Davidson had the assembly line rolling in no time and with the help of 45 C.G.I.T. workers, everyone was served and satisfied. Consumed were 1,600 pancakes and 48 pounds of sausage.

We didn't know until recently that the stork doesn't stop at the Brierbush Hospital here anymore. According to statistics, if the birth-rate count in Canada continues to drop, he'll soon be able to head south for the winter like the rest of the old birds.

You can just bet that residents of high-class homes on the Vandorf Side-road between concessions 6 and 7, Whitchurch Township are keeping a watchful eye on test-hole diggings in that area. Wouldn't those folks, who have invested thirty or forty thousand dollars in scenic country lots, love to wake up some morning and look over the edge of a 30 foot gravel pit.

The next time you need your ears lowered, drop in to the new Stouffville Shopping Plaza and give Steve a try. You'll pay an extra quarter but that electric shoulder massage machine is well worth the price. Just make sure your fangs (teeth) don't fall out on the floor.

Crest Hardware's McCulloch Snowmobile, parked on the sidewalk in front of the Stouffville store, attracted dozens of viewers, both young and old, on the weekend. With the trailer, it carries a price tag of \$995. It is powered by a 15 1/2 h.p. motor. Without doubt, it's been the biggest attention-getter since a show-window 'model' was caught between dress rehearsals in the Marguerite Shoppe.

Even without the topless waitresses, Hal and Helen Dafeo have established a most attractive dining room addition to their restaurant on Main Street West. And who knows, the first may come later — say around the year 2067.

## EDITOR'S MAIL

### Courage Of Convictions

By OUR READERS

Dear Mr. Thomas:

Please allow me an explanatory word in extenuation of the purported rude shock given the religious community by the ladies of the Baptist, United Missionary and Christian Churches.

In the first place, the opening paragraph of your news report announcing this shock is quite ambiguous. Accepting the statement at face value, there has really been no split between the churches of Stouffville; you cannot split that which was never united. But, taking the other possible meaning, that the ladies from all of the churches no longer meet in a union prayer meeting, is there necessarily anything wrong with that? It may not harmonize with somebody's ideal, but it does not warrant the banner headline: "Prayer Service Splits Churches."

Actually, if your reporter is correct and the "World Day of Prayer Service" is "purposely intended to unite denominations around the globe," this is just one more reason why our ladies found themselves awkwardly situated through the union service. It is no secret, surely, that the religious opinions of evangelicals and liberals are as far apart as the poles, generally speaking. You cannot shame intelligent people of firm conviction, on either side, into a union effort that militates against conscience. There is no place for broadmindedness; but the plea for broadmindedness can sometimes become specious, and even a temptation to betrayal.

Mrs. Neil Smith, if we accept the accuracy of your reporting, is to be given credit for hitting upon the simple

answer to the whole alleged riddle. Why she could think of it and no one else could, — this amazes me. She said: "the Baptist, United Missionary and Christian Churches appeared to favour a more evangelical type of service." It is as simple as that.

Now the tone of your report is not good. The indifferent reader, who may be biased against the Church; will be impressed with the notion that our ladies are taking a "holier-than-thou" attitude. Nothing could be farther from the truth: they only knew that they had certain convictions to uphold and tried to do it quietly. The Tribune could have done these well-intentioned ladies a service by a simple report of an undisguised fact, shorn of sensational ambiguities.

Our ladies still retain their high regard for the praying women of other churches, for their sincerity and excellent character; they are neighbours and hope to remain good neighbours. But, neighbourliness and high regard for character is not necessarily related to doctrine and method in religion.

The ladies of the evangelical churches will be quite unhappy if any are led to suppose that their exit at the entrance of the Catholic ladies was anything more than coincidental. The move made this year is something that has been brewing for several years.

Perhaps it should be pointed out that the World Council of Churches is not the only body putting out an annual World Day of Prayer outline. This is also being done by the National Association of Evangelicals and the Interna-

# The Tribune

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