

Five-man coroner's jury recommends bylaw enforcement at 'death' corner

Ask caution signal

MARKHAM — A five-man coroner's jury has recommended that obstruction at the intersection of Albert Street and Hwy. No. 7 in the Town of Markham be removed in compliance with existing by-laws and that a caution signal be erected as a warning to west-bound traffic on the approach to the crest of a steep hill.

The Hearing, conducted by Dr. John Fleming of Markham, followed the death of 77 year old William Doherty, killed instantly when his south-bound car was rammed broadside by a gravel truck, Nov. 27, 1968.

According to evidence, the victim had attempted to make a left-hand turn on No. 7 Hwy. from Albert Street. The truck driver, Arthur E. Playter of Whitby was absolved of all blame.

Two witnesses at the scene of the crash said that a number of boats piled high on private property near the corner could have obstructed the view of the deceased.

Mr. Playter said that the car, a 1963 Acadian, drove directly into the path of his transport. The truck was loaded with 14 tons of gravel. "It all happened in a split-second," he said. "I had no chance to avoid it."

Mr. D. W. Cornelius, Markham, R.R. 1, said he had followed the truck for two and one-half miles and at no time had it exceeded the speed limit.

P.C. Douglas Skinner, O.P.P., Oak Ridges, said the truck's braking system was adequate. He said that due to extensive damage, the car's brake mechanism could not be checked. He described the weather as clear and the pavement as dry.

Constable William Hill of Markham, the first police officer to arrive at the scene said his first thought was for the injured. He said he could not recall noticing any obstruction at the corner, and was not conversant with town by-laws governing this matter.

Members of the inquest jury included: William Forbes (foreman); Keith Brodie; Arthur Gale and Clyde Lehman, all of Markham, and Jim Thomas, Stouffville.

Farm sales increase

MARKHAM TWP. — Several farms in the concession 9 area of Markham Township are reported sold, with prices ranging as high as \$3,000 per acre. The properties include those owned by Jack Grove, Clarence Muirhead, Thomas Masters, Gordon Cox and Carl Boyd.

The William Burd farm also on conc. 9 has changed hands and the former Jack Johnson property to the north is said to be sold.



'The Senators' bowling league where age is no barrier

Every other week 'The Senators' take over the alleys at the Stouffville Bowling Centre. The members with an age average of 75 years, conclude their season with an awards banquet. The club president is Albert King, 76, of Lloyd Avenue, Stouffville. He is shown here firing a 'strike' down the centre. Story on Page 3. —Staff Photo

Preliminary hearing

Court cleared of spectators

MARKHAM — A Toronto courtroom was cleared of all spectators as the Crown called an 11 year old girl to the stand to testify on her own behalf in a preliminary hearing before Judge Crawford Guest, Jan. 28.

The recommendation to bar the public from that portion of the proceedings was made by Markham Police Chief Fred White, also a witness in the case. Judge Guest concurred.

Charged with abduction and rape are Michael John Coppes, 27 and Rodney Hickey, 25, both of Toronto.

The girl said that she was on her way home from a skating rink when accosted by two men and pulled into a car. She said she was attacked three times, released and told to run as fast as she could or be shot.

A witness said that a partially clothed child came to the door of their home. She said that the girl was shaking and cold. Her husband drove her home.

Chief White told the hearing that from a description provided police by the girl, a composite drawing of two males was made and circulated across the province.

Mr. White said that the victim was also able to provide a description of the car where the assault was alleged to have taken place.

Inspector Albert Duguid of the O.P.P. described how the investigation had taken him all the way out to British Columbia. He said that a car and a quantity of clothing was recovered and the type of gun identified.

The case continues Feb. 6.

Top orators

STOUFFVILLE — Two public school pupils from this area will advance to the County oratorical finals this month.

Stouffville's winner is David Herbert, 13, a Grade 8 student at Orchard Park. In Whitchurch, the representative is 13 year old Sandra Davies, a Grade 8 pupil from Shrubmount School.

Jury 'drop-out' holds up hearing

MARKHAM — While a Markham coroner, two physicians and several witnesses bided their time for almost an hour, an officer of the O.P.P. attempted to track down a missing man — one juror.

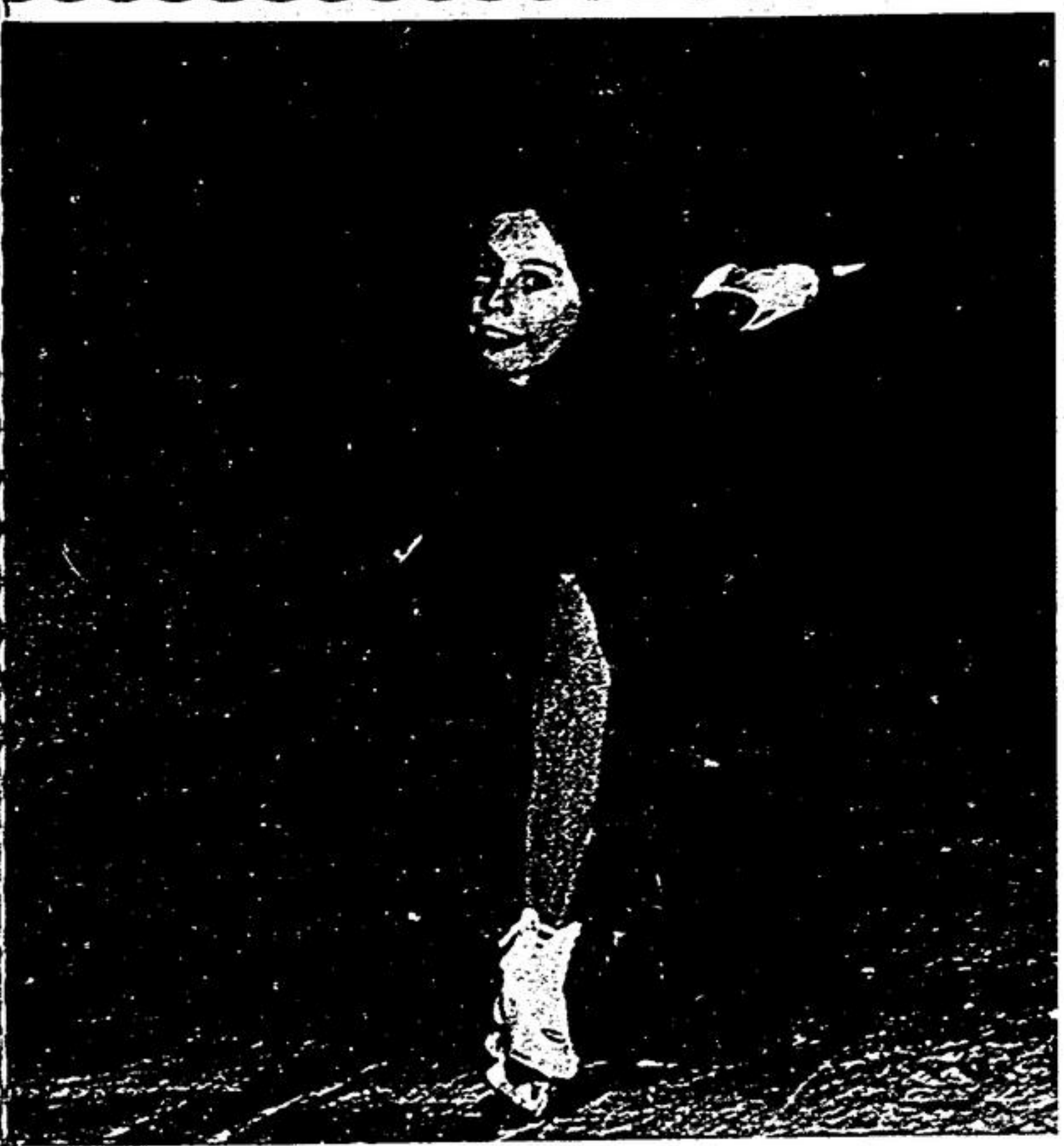
William Faris, Rougecrest Drive, Markham, was issued a subpoena to serve on a jury at an inquest hearing into the death of 77 year old William Doherty, McPhillips Avenue, Markham.

When the jury member did not appear by 8 p.m., a hurried call was put through to his home. The coroner was assured that he would make it by 9.

When, by 9 p.m. he still did not show, an attending news reporter was sworn in as an emergency replacement.

Although empowered with the authority to issue a warrant for the absentee juror's arrest, Dr. John Fleming declined. "We'll just forget about him," he told the presiding coroner.

Constable Douglas Skinner informed the coroner that Mr. Faris' only excuse was 'he forgot.'



Eight year old cuts fancy figure

Stouffville Figure Skating Club conducted its first junior tests Jan. 31. One of the participants was 8 year old Marlon Brodie, Glad Park Avenue. Winners were presented with crests by club president Roy Ward. —Staff Photo

'Just Society'

Pay fair share - reeve

STOUFFVILLE — It is now apparent that welfare on a County-wide basis will cost Stouffville taxpayers more but as far as reeve Ken Laushway is concerned the village will only be paying its fair share.

Reeve Laushway, a prime promoter of the new County Welfare program inaugurated Jan. 1 was critical of Markham Twp's decision to withdraw. The issue will be put to a vote of County Council, likely this month. Approval is also required from the Ontario Minister.

Although the budget has not yet been set, Mr. Laushway suggests that the increase for Stouffville could be about 75c per capita. "That's not very much to help our neighbor," he said with obvious reference to the Twp. of Whitchurch.

The reeve said that only recently one family had moved from Stouffville to Whitchurch because they couldn't find rental accommodation here within their means. They are currently on welfare. "We

don't have a Lake Wilcox or a Musselman's Lake here," he said, "but these people must live somewhere."

Reeve Laushway pointed out that any municipality within the County having a population of over 5,000 could seek permission to manage its own welfare needs. He said he would be very surprised if the request is approved. "There's no doubt about it, under proposed regional government, welfare will be one of the services provided. If York wishes to remain as a regional unit then it's time we started working together."

Mr. Laushway pointed out that it would be very nice if, under a County plan, municipalities could derive only the benefits. "We all must be willing to accept a fair share of the costs too," he said.

Reeve Laushway noted, however, that should the co-operative welfare scheme become too burdensome on individual municipalities, then some other system would have to be arranged.

Blue Sunday

VICTORIA SQUARE — On Saturday morning, Mrs. M. R. Jenkinson, wife of the Victoria Square United Church minister, fell on the ice and broke her left wrist.

While preparing to take his wife to the hospital, Rev. Jenkinson also slipped and fell, striking his head on the ground. Both were then admitted for treatment and observation.

Rev. Roscoe Chapin of Unionville was requested to take the Sunday worship in Rev. Jenkinson's absence but he was taken ill Saturday evening and had to decline.

The service was subsequently cancelled.

Markham town [ship]

MARKHAM — The two Markhams, town and township could become one if a notice of motion by councillor Walter Grieve is approved by all parties concerned.

Councillor Grieve will put forward a recommendation likely at the next meeting, Feb. 17 to have their solicitor investigate the possibility of establishing a separate town, comprising the present Town of Markham and Township of Markham.

Councillor Grieve will recommend also that the Town of Markham consider the benefits of withdrawal from the County Welfare system in favor of a co-operative welfare program with Markham Township.

Recreation director

STOUFFVILLE — Three years ago, the Stouffville Park Board recommended that consideration be given to the hiring of a recreation director during the summer vacation period.

The issue was later discussed by council but the cost, estimated at \$1,500, was considered impractical at that time.

The Park Board of 1969 has re-introduced the subject. The employee is referred to as a Director of Operations but council representative Jim McKellar explained that this meant Director of Recreation. The time of hiring was

suggested only as 'in the future.' The suggestion aroused no comment.

Councillor McKellar outlined the accomplishments of the board during the past year and said that many projects were planned for the months ahead. He commended the members, Lloyd Jennings, president; Wilfred Morley, secretary-treasurer and Mrs. Hilda Wilson for their enthusiasm and hard work.

It was agreed that letters of appreciation should be sent to both the Library and Park Boards for their free-gratis service to the community during 1968.

Henry Ogden retires

Service spans 21 years

STOUFFVILLE — For the past 21 years, Henry Ogden has been watching Stouffville grow. His positions of municipal importance have provided him with an excellent vantage point. He is the first to admit that it has been a gratifying experience.

On Jan. 23, Mr. Ogden relinquished the last of his many posts when village works superintendent, Ron Gibson assumed the office of Building Inspector. Now on a holiday trip to Florida, Mr. Ogden will continue to assist with this work on a part-time basis until May 1.

Mr. Ogden first entered municipal politics as a member of village council back in 1947. He later served 2½ years as reeve, tak-

ing over the office from the late A. V. Nolan. Contentious issues dealt



Henry Ogden

with at that time included the settling of a site for a new Stouffville district high school and the leasing for 99 years of a site for the arena. George Storey was the village Clerk, later succeeded by Garfield Brown. The late Harry VanEeno was the lone road department employee.

Mr. Ogden's knowledge of home construction has proved an advantage in the roll of building inspector. The fee, a percentage of the number of permits issued, sometimes amounted to only \$400 per year. Last November was the biggest month on record and Mr. Ogden declined to accept his rightful share. He was paid a flat rate with the remainder returned to the general account.

John Lunau - president

Markham District Historical Society

Mt. Joy School museum site

MARKHAM — Community historian John Lunau, Markham R.R. 2, has been named president of the Markham District Historical Society. The election of the 1969 executive was finalized at a meeting in the Markham Arena Feb. 3. The site of the museum will be the former Mt. Joy Public School immediately north of the town on Hwy. 48.

In addition to president Lunau, other officers include: 1st vice-president, William Rutledge, Rougecrest Drive, Markham; 2nd vice-president, Elson Miles, Milliken, R.R. 1; secretary, Mrs. Mary Bretherton, Galsworthy Drive Markham; treasurer, Sidney Gadsby, Gormley, R.R. 2. Five elected councillors are: Lorne Smith, Markham, R.R. 2; Dean Hughes, Unionville, R.R. 1; Mrs. Wilma Petch, Talisman Cresc., Markham; Austin Reesor, Markham, R.R. 1 and Donald Hindson, Drakefield Rd., Markham.

The next public meeting will be held at the Arena, Monday, Feb. 17 at 8 p.m.

Membership in the Historical Society is available at \$2 from the association secretary, Mary Bretherton.



For John Lunau, president of the Markham District Historical Society, the purchase of the former Mt. Joy School for a museum site is a dream come true. —Staff Photo