

Gino Testa and \$45

A new life in a new land for Stouffville contractor

STOUFFVILLE — If you feel you must criticize this country called Canada, don't do it in front of Gino Testa. He just might dunk you head first in a tub of cement.

Unlike many native-born Canadians, Gino appreciates what this country has to offer. He points with pride at the progress he himself has made since coming here seventeen years ago from Frosinone, near Rome in Italy.

"Canada — she's the greatest country in all the world, and the people, they are real great too," he said, a friendly smile wrinkling his eyes, "but let me give all newcomers a wee bit of advice. Don't expect life to be any bed of roses. If you want something b a d l y enough, you have to work for it."

Seventeen years ago, Gino Testa wanted something. Today, the fruits of his labors are in evidence, in Stouffville, in Whitchurch, and in Scarborough.

Gino's first big break came when he established a firm called Testa Masonry Contractors. He had one small truck. The company flourished and in eight years he had 113 employees on the payroll.

Later, he set his sights on the Stouffville area. He bought a 133 acre farm north of the town, between concessions 8 and 9 in Whitchurch.

He sold his home in Scarborough and built a new one on the property where he, his wife and family now reside.



Gino Testa, Stouffville, R.R. 2, came to Canada from Italy 17 years ago with no job, no friends and only \$45. —Staff Photo

The story does not end there — far from it. Mr. Testa established his own construction company and many of the houses in

Stouffville are products of his carpentry skill.

His biggest move came in July, 1968 when he started up

still another company — Country Ready-Mix Limited.

He now has a fleet of 13 trucks and 18

full-time employees.

Two weeks ago, he set up still another firm — Testa Forming Limited.

In one year, his gross income was something like \$800,000.

But as Gino puts it, a new life in a new land 'is no bed of roses.' He left his bride of only 11 days to come to Canada in hopes of finding some fame and a little fortune.

He arrived in Toronto with 'no job, no friends and only \$45 in his pocket. He turned his hand to almost everything — repairing railway lines, logging and even cutting hair. Three times he was taken to hospital with sickness or injury and once he almost died.

Gino's ultimate desire was to earn enough money to bring his wife to Canada and every week he put some money aside for this purpose.

When his savings reached \$2,000, he arranged for her passage. They were reunited in Toronto.

The Testa family's current project is the building of a new \$150,000 home, designed entirely by himself and unmatched anywhere in Canada. It is now nearing completion.

Gino and his wife are presently on a return trip to their native homeland to renew acquaintances with old friends and family relatives. The couple may encourage others to come to Canada. There is plenty of room in this country for folks of Gino's kind, ambition and faith.

Lifelong community resident

CLAREMONT — The Claremont community lost a well-known and highly respected resident, March 14, 1969 in the passing of Mrs. Jacob Taylor.

Mrs. Taylor, the former Mabel Evans, was born in Uxbridge Township, the daughter of the late James Evans and Rachel Morgan. She was 80.



Mrs. Jake Taylor

She was married Jan. 15, 1916 and in 1966, the couple marked their Golden Wedding anniversary.

Besides her sorrowing husband, she leaves to mourn her passing three daughters, Fern (Mrs. Alvin Redshaw) Goodwood; Irene (Mrs. Ronald Carnochan) Oshawa; June (Mrs. George Smith) Claremont; and two sons, Gordon and Ivan, both of Claremont.

There are two sisters, Margaret (Mrs. Bert Jones) Brooklin; Ethel (Mrs. James Briscoe) Claremont; one brother, Ross of West Hill; seventeen grandchildren and seven great grandchildren.

The service, March 17, was conducted by Rev. Eric Linstead of the Claremont United Church from the McEachnie Funeral Home, Pickering with interment, Claremont Union Cemetery. The pall bearers were all grandsons — Dennis Smith, Joe Taylor, Garry Taylor, Alan, Bruce and George Redshaw.



Jack-in-the-box

This 'Jack-in-the-box' is real and he'll pop out on Friday and Saturday night at the Stouffville Skating Club carnival in the Stouffville Arena. The 'Jack' is really Bruce Walden, son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Walden, Manitoba Street.

—Staff Photo

A Daffodil Tea, sponsored by the Stouffville Branch of the Canadian Cancer Society, will be held Thursday, April 17 from 2.30 to 5 p.m. at the home of Mrs. Blair Mitchell, 47 Orchard Park Boulevard. Ladies of the village are invited to attend. Admission is 50c.

The Royal Conservatory of Music of Toronto's Newly Formed Alumni Chapter extends an

INVITATION TO GRADUATES

to attend a meeting being held at the home of

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Music Mania '69 Tickets for Music Mania '69, both reserved and general admission are now available from Mr. Graydon Card, Main Street; Mrs. Norma Card, 353 Rupert Avenue or Mrs. Marion Hodgson, 450 Loretta Crescent South. The program is two nights, April 25 and 26.

Pledge \$8,400 for mission work

VIVIAN — McCormack Memorial Church, Vivian, was the scene of much missionary enthusiasm Sunday evening when the final total of \$8,400.00 was announced for missions for the coming year. The church had set a goal of \$4,500.00, but the people became so interested in the work of missions during the week that they far exceeded their objective.

The offering was not simply in cash. The congregation were given 'Faith Promise' envelopes at the beginning of the week. Then on the last Sunday they filled out these envelopes by indicating the amount promised each month for the next year. In this way the total givings for the year ahead are

determined. Every activity of the week contributed to the success of the conference, from the exhibits in the fellowship room to the flags carried by the girls and boys of the church. The speakers, Rev. C. Tipp, Rev. G. Thomas, Rev. H. Percy, Rev. A. Burrow and singers Russell Jenkins, Lloyd Knight, Judy Naus, The Nighswander Trio and the church choir presented the challenge of missions. Missionaries themselves who attended were interviewed in almost every service.

Last year the church supported two missionary families in South America. This year they plan to take on the support of several more new workers in vari-

ous countries of the world. The pastor of the church, V. G. Shillington, says that he believes that the program of world missions will guarantee life to any church.

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