

Given up for dead

Pet cat re-united with family



'Katharine' purrs its appreciation as it rests on a sofa in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Allan Wideman, Bethesda. Missing since Aug. 14, the pet was returned to its rightful owners, Mr. and Mrs. James Lauster of Lakewood, Ohio, Saturday.

BETHESDA - It was a kind of family reunion at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Allan Wideman, R.R. 4, Stouffville, Saturday evening.

A cat named 'Katharine', missing since August 14 and presumed dead, was reunited with its owners, Mr. and Mrs. James Lauster, Lakewood, Ohio.

The couple, parents of two girls, Penney, 4 and Patricia, 7, travelled 350 miles to pick up their pet.

The story, unbelievable but true, had its beginning when Mr. and Mrs. Lauster stopped off at Cedar Beach Park, Musselman's Lake, to spend the night. In the morning, 'Katharine' was gone and a 4-hour search of the area failed to find her.

Mrs. Lauster placed a 'lost' ad in The Tribune. That was 17 weeks ago.

Last week, a cat matching Katharine's description wandered onto the Wideman family property. Thin and hungry, Mrs. Wideman coaxed it into the cellar with tempting morsels of food, then called the number listed in the advertisement.

There was no doubt, Katharine was safe and sound. A tiny bell, still fastened around its neck was all the assurance necessary. "We had almost given up hope," said Mrs. Lauster, cradling the cat in her arms. Katharine just purred.

Pinned under tractor

STOUFFVILLE - Stouffville machinist, Earl Hoover, O'Brien Avenue, suffered rib and internal injuries, Friday, when run over by a farm tractor, he was attempting to back into his Main Street welding shop.

Admitted to York County Hospital at Newmarket for treatment, he was retained there until Monday noon for observation.

Stouffville Anglican Church

Teen 'drop-in' centre

STOUFFVILLE - An experimental 'drop-in' centre, for Stouffville area young people, will be established in the Anglican Church, Sunset Boulevard, during the school's Christmas vacation period.

If successful, the organizers hope to expand the program and operate it throughout July and August.

The Centre is a project introduced by several parents, working in close co-operation with a committee of young people.

Assistance is being provided by representatives of a similar venture, established in Scarborough by the Y.M.C.A.

Areas of interest will be music, games and discussion.

Something along this same line had been discussed for the high school last summer but never materialized.

Local organizers will meet again this week to finalize their plans.

The Tribune

VOL. 82, NO. 29 STOUFFVILLE-MARKHAM-UXBRIDGE, THURSDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1970 15 CENTS

Claremont community rallies to aid family of fire victims

Stole \$20 from doll

STOUFFVILLE - The executive and members of Stouffville's Drum and Bugle Corps are busy re-organizing the band for competition and public appearances in 1971.

To raise sufficient funds, a lucky draw on a \$50 'money doll' was arranged, with the prize placed on display in the show window of Aiken's Pharmacy, Main Street.

On Friday, a would-be customer entered the store, stole \$20 from the doll and fled.

Joyce Timbers, a clerk, chased the man up a side laneway, but he escaped. She was able to give police an excellent description of the culprit.



Chairman

Beginning Jan. 1, 1971, all matters pertaining to local planning will be handled through the Area Council rather than a separate Planning Board. Councillor Tom Lonergan will serve as chairman.

Board rejects 8-lot split

STOUFFVILLE - A request for an 8-lot residential development rather than six, on the north side of Manitoba Street, was turned down by Stouffville Planning Board at a meeting Dec. 10.

The application was made by owner Michael Chiovetti.

The Board ruled that 8 lots with 45 foot frontage were too small. Mr. Chiovetti agreed to the original six. He expressed the hope that the agreement might be finalized prior to Jan. 1, 1971.

The site lies east of Church Street and north of Park Drive.

Establish fund at Commerce Bank

CLAREMONT - The village of Claremont has always been a closely knit community. The problems of the individual are everyone's concern.

So it was, Saturday, when residents, awakened by repeated wails of the fire siren, learned the terrible truth concerning the plight of Mr. and Mrs. Peter White and family.

The tragic toll - two dead, two seriously injured and all personal possessions destroyed.

Marlene, 12, and Dwayne, 11 lost their lives when trapped inside the blazing inferno of what was once their home. Mrs. White and Bonnie, 14, forced to leap from a top storey, twenty feet to the frozen ground below, were taken by ambulance to Ajax-Pickering Hospital and later transferred to Oshawa General. Mr. White and sons Norman, 20, Gordon, 18 and Kenneth, 10 escaped. Kenneth suffered burns to his feet, when the ladder propped up against the house caught fire.

'A wonderful girl'

Marlene, described by her closest friends as 'a wonderful girl', was on the verge of rescue but turned back. It is thought she might have made a final but futile attempt to reach her brother.

Mrs. White or 'Pudge' as she is known to a wide circle of friends, suffered a broken hip and will be confined to hospital for at least three months. She was operated on, Sunday. Bonnie suffered burns to her feet and spinal injuries. She may be released by the weekend.

The cause of the blaze is still not known. Claremont brigade chief Tom Hammond said flames were shooting out the windows when he arrived although the firehall is only 400 feet away. Volunteers concentrated their efforts on saving the home of Mrs. Allan Fryer, immediately to the west. The interior had some smoke and water damage.

Campaign organized

The embers hadn't cooled before community organizations had moved in to assist the family. A Lions Club committee headed by Earle Pilkey and 'Curly' Knapp commenced a systematic collection of clothes, food and furnishings. Members wives requested aid by phone. The response was tremendous with items coming from many miles around. Financial contributions in the name of the Peter White Fund have surpassed the \$2,000 figure. A special account has been opened at the Claremont Branch, Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce. Individual donations can be arranged also through the Lions Club by calling 649-2843.

The Claremont Legion has played its part along with the Pickering Branch of the Red Cross. The Salvation Army outfitted the family in new clothes. At a pre-Christmas gathering of drivers for Brown-Wall Bus Lines, a sum of \$121 was collected. One little boy donated fourteen cents.

Temporary lodging has been provided the family at the home of Ren Lloyst. Later this week, they will move into more permanent quarters at a residence offered by Bill Evans. The 'Lionettes' are holding a work bee on Thursday (today) to put everything in order.

Solemn tribute

On Tuesday however, all thought of material needs were set aside as the community paid its final respects to Marlene and Dwayne. The caskets, banked by beautiful bouquets of flowers were placed in the auditorium of Claremont United Church, where the two had attended Sunday School regularly. All arrangements were handled by Kent Milroy Funeral Home, assisted by the church pastor, Rev. Eldon Linstead. Earlier, principal Allan Ward and the senior pupils of Claremont Public School participated in a private service. Interment was made in Claremont Union Cemetery.

The pall-bearers were - Fred Wright, George Wright, Ronald Hagerman, Jim Powell, Robert Slack, Allan Lloyst, Brian Norton, Donald Norton, Glenn Hammond, Haig DeRusha, Eddie Ingram and Dennis Finch.

Mayor-elect Laushway protests \$6,000 regional council salary

Absent from chamber - vote ruled in favor

YORK REGION - A flat wage rate of \$6,000. That's what members of York Regional Council will receive in 1971, a decision reached Dec. 10 following a hectic and sometimes heated forty-five minute debate.

The figure is \$1,000 over the scale agreed upon in the two other Ontario regions, Niagara Falls and Ottawa-Carleton. There, the members receive \$5,000.

That was the amount recommended by Mayor-elect Ken Laushway of Whitchurch-Stouffville. In fact, he stated from the floor he would not support payment of one more nickel above what the other two regions are getting.

However, when the vote was taken on the \$6,000 stipend, Mr. Laushway was absent from the chambers. The chairman considered his abstention as a decision for the affirmative side.

Markham Town representatives, Mayor Anthony Roman and councillor Jim Jongeneel were opposed. So were Mayor Illingworth, Aurora and Dr. Burrows, Sutton.

The initial motion by Aurora Mayor Dick Illingworth called for a figure of \$4,800 plus car

allowance, amounting in total to about \$5,000. It was defeated.

Mayor-elect explains absence

STOUFFVILLE - Did Mayor-elect Ken Laushway vacate the regional council chambers to avoid taking a stand on the controversial salary question, Thursday?

This was the feeling of some press members who saw Mr. Laushway leave and then return following the vote. Mayor Laushway told The Tribune he slipped out to the washroom during a lull in proceedings, not knowing the legislation would be put through so quickly. He said he wasn't gone more than two minutes.

"They all knew my feelings on the issue. I was opposed to the \$6,000 from the start and my opinion never changed," he said. However, for the record, the 'no response' reply to the call of his name was ruled as a 'yes' vote.

Markham councillor Jim Jongeneel recommended a flat \$6,000 for 1971, adding that the issue should come under review in 1972 in anticipation of a cut-back to \$4,000 once the system becomes more properly organized. It too was lost. A third motion, put forward by Dr. Burrows, Sutton supported by Ken

Council's farewell

STOUFFVILLE - Members of Stouffville village council will say their farewells, Thursday (tonight).

While two will be back in 1971, the status of the municipality will be changed.

Under the system of regional government, the identity, politically speaking, will be The Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville.

Invited as guests, Thursday evening are members of Planning Board, Committee of Adjustment, Park Board, Library Board, Cemetery Board, Public Utilities Commission and the Recreation Commission.

Young by comparison

STOUFFVILLE - It was the meeting to end all meetings for Stouffville Planning Board, Thursday.

Each member was attempting to recall their years of service with one, Ken Wagg, going back to about 1956. Reg MacKay, another veteran on the Board, said he had served on two separate occasions as chairman and Jim Richards, since 1965.

"And what about you?" asked reeve Ken Laushway of 1970 chairman Bill Kamps.

"Just three years," replied Mr. Kamps hesitatingly. "by comparison with you guys, I feel like a New Year's baby in wet diapers."

Laushway called for a flat \$5,000 with no car allowance. That was rejected also.

The fourth and final motion, recommending the straight \$6,000 salary with no strings attached was placed before the meeting by councillor Ray Twinney and Mayor Bob Forhan of Newmarket. It passed.

Mr. Twinney, in speaking to the motion, said he had personally attended more meetings in the last three months than for the whole of 1970 as a county councillor.

Mayor Gladys Rolling, East Gwillimbury noted that time spent by members in the organizing of the regional system had been free-gratis. "We're only cheapening ourselves," she said, "I don't believe our constituents expect us to work for nothing."

Total remuneration in 1971, excluding the chairman's salary will amount to \$96,000.

Have made mistakes - planner

STOUFFVILLE - Beginning Jan. 1, 1971, the duties of Stouffville Planning Board will be assumed by the council, Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville. The pre-selected chairman is councillor Tom Lonergan.

Member Reg MacKay, in looking back over the Board's work in recent years, sees two main areas where mistakes were made.

He told the final meeting, Thursday, that the Board, in his opinion, erred when it allowed construction of The Ponderosa apartment with no buffer zone between the rear of the building and homes on Elm Road.

He suggested too, that no homes should have been allowed on lots of less than 60 foot frontage. "I don't

like to see houses jammed together," he said.

On the same subject, Mr. MacKay observed, that if a 45 foot lot had permitted the erection of a lower cost house, then someone would obviously benefit.

Reeve Ken Laushway said Stouffville's growth could have proceeded on a par with Markham and Richmond Hill if Planning Board and Council had agreed to increased subdivision buildup. "Who was to know ten years ago that regional government would come into effect in 1971?" He noted that had the village boasted a greater population, it might have remained a municipality unto itself within the region. "I still think we did the right thing," he concluded.



The scene of a tragic fire, early Saturday morning in Claremont that took the lives of Dwayne and Marlene White (inset), two children in the family of Mr. and Mrs.

Peter White. The house and all its contents were destroyed.

-Jas. Thomas.

Kindergarten child is struck by car

GREEN RIVER - A 5 year old Green River boy is showing signs of improvement, following an accident on Hwy. 7, when struck down by a car.

Richard Mattinson was rushed by Vance ambulance to Scarboro Centenary Hospital where he remained unconscious 48 hours. He suffered a depressed skull fracture. The little lad apparently left the school bus at a

wrong location and was walking to the laneway entrance at Wilson's Park near where his parents reside.

Police said he ran directly into the path of an auto driven by Constance Wonnacott, R.R.1, Locust Hill.

Mr. and Mrs. Mattinson have four other children, Mark, 11, Steven, 9, Terry, 7 and Dorrie Lyn, 2.