



**The Tribune**

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## Editorials

### Jail is not the answer

In the fall of last year, five Stouffville boys were surprised by a lone York Regional police constable, while consuming liquor near the high school.

One was arrested, but the others fled. Later, they returned and, according to evidence, assaulted the officer, enabling their companion to escape.

All were picked up that night or the next day and charged.

In provincial court at Newmarket, Feb. 6, the five were convicted and sentenced to seven days in jail, plus a \$100 fine.

We don't condone this kind of thing. Rather, we look on the actions of the accused

with contempt, and throw our support solely on the side of the officer.

But we do not support the decision of the Judge. He, in our opinion, places a wrong sense of values on people, particularly young people, when he considers steel bars the solution or a deterrent to this type of crime. It is not, nor will it ever be.

But fines are, if heavy enough. In this instance, \$1,000 rather than \$100 would have better served the cause of justice, with payments by installment and by the boys themselves.

Hitting the pocketbook, hurts. Jail solves nothing.

### More myth than reality

Do you know that if all those persons listed as unemployed were to take all the jobs that are crying for workers, there would be no unemployment at all - in fact there would be more jobs available than people to fill them.

Most Manpower Centres report the same situation - a wide variety of jobs in each case running into the thousands of vacancies. Attractive unemployment insurance benefits and the general welfare attitude of so many make these long lists of job vacancies of only passing interest.

Various schemes are being tried to alleviate the situation. The hand-outs are being cut down, "jumpers" are being penalized, and thousands have been added to the unemployment insurance rolls, many of whom merely find it an added tax since they have little or no hope of ever benefitting.

The idea that in the final analysis the country is responsible for keeping everyone has snowballed. The cost of all this "free living" can only come from those who work, and the government, if only for its own sake, should see that the "work ethic" is pushed to the limit.



### SUGAR AND SPICE

## We won the battle but lost the war

By BILL SMILEY



I've just been reading a book about the Battle of Britain, written by Peter Townsend. He was a World War II fighter pilot and was in the battle himself.

He's also the chap the royal family wouldn't allow to marry the then Princess Margaret, because he'd been divorced. He was probably lucky. Later she married a photographer called Jones or Smith or something. He is now Lord Something-or-other. His wife is Princess Northing-or-other.

Anyway, it's an excellent book, for anyone interested in battles that have changed the course of history. Townsend has consulted a mass of material from both German and British records, and gives a balanced picture of the B. of B., looking at it from both sides of the English Channel.

By the way, is anyone interested in the battles that changed history, besides me and a few history buffs? There are quite a few of them, and one must wonder what would have happened to history if the battles had been lost not won.

At least one of them has probably affected you, personally.

If the Persians hadn't been slowed down at Thermopylae and trounced at Marathon, they'd have wiped out the Greeks. Think what that would have done to the restaurant business in Canada. Not to mention Jackie Onassis' \$20,000 a week in spending money.

If Drake and his fleet had not beaten the Armada, half the people in Canada would be talking Spanish, eating garlic and going to bullfights.

How would you like to be out to a bullfight this afternoon (it's 15 below outside), sitting in

the shady side of the arena, and shouting "Ole", at a bullfighter and a bull frozen literally, into the classic stance of the bullring?

And what about the battle of the Plains of Abraham? If the Limeys hadn't won that one, I'd be happily back in Ireland right now, cutting peat in a bog, instead of sitting here wondering how in the name of energy I'm going to meet my fuel bill.

Go farther back. If Joan D'Arc (later St. Joan), hadn't lifted the siege at Orleans there'd be no French, no Separatiste Party, no Canadian problem.

Another dandy was the Battle of Culloden, where Bonnie Prince Charlie was beaten by the English. Instead of the Scottish invading England in kilts, they were forced to invade with their brains, and they took over the financial affairs of the British Empire. Which, as we all know, are somewhat less than remarkable.

Back home again, there's the Battle of Queenston Heights, which nobody knows much about except the residents of Queenston, and few of them. But this produced a great, pure, Canadian image, Laura Secord chocolates, without which Canada could probably not have maintained its integrity, nationality, and rotten teeth.

The Yanks have theirs. The Alamo, for example. One of the most stupid affairs of history. (If anyone ever tells you that you are going to fight to the last man, throw away your gun and begin running all directions, preferably at once.)

There was, of course, the Charge of the Light Brigade, which didn't change the course

of anything. But it did serve as a lasting memorial to the utter stupidity of the British ruling classes. And from that war we did get the Cardigan sweater and the Raglan coat. Not to be sneezed at. Or on.

Perhaps you have sensed my purpose in this little essay. Or, perhaps, like me, you haven't.

Well, like, it's been a bad day, y'know, and y'take an' put your average Canadian up against something, and he'll come up with something, eh?

Oh, yeah. I remember. I was wondering what would have happened if we'd lost the Battle of Britain. It would have been a Jolly Good Show.

Hitler was prepared to make generous terms, and divide the known world with Britain. Pretty good deal, I'd say.

But the obstinate, stupid British decided to fight. And even worse, they won. The Luftwaffe did not destroy the R.A.F., which had the privilege of being attached to me (or was it the other way around?) during the war.

Result, Britain is sliding down the sluice into economic anonymity. Germany is master of Europe, financially.

It pays to lose wars. Germany and Japan, the big losers in W.W. II, are riding an incredible winning streak in peacetime.

Italy won a short war in Abyssinia, bombs against arrows, machine-guns against spears. She's in her usual mess.

France "won" two wars and is in chaos. Britain "won" two wars and couldn't borrow a quarter for a pint of bitter.

America "won" two wars and the dollar is about as healthy as a wet tissue.

Maybe we should have lost the Battle of Britain.

### Editor's Mail

## Solution to vandalism

Dear Mr. Thomas:

How does one stop Dr. Spock's spoiled kids from destroying your property?

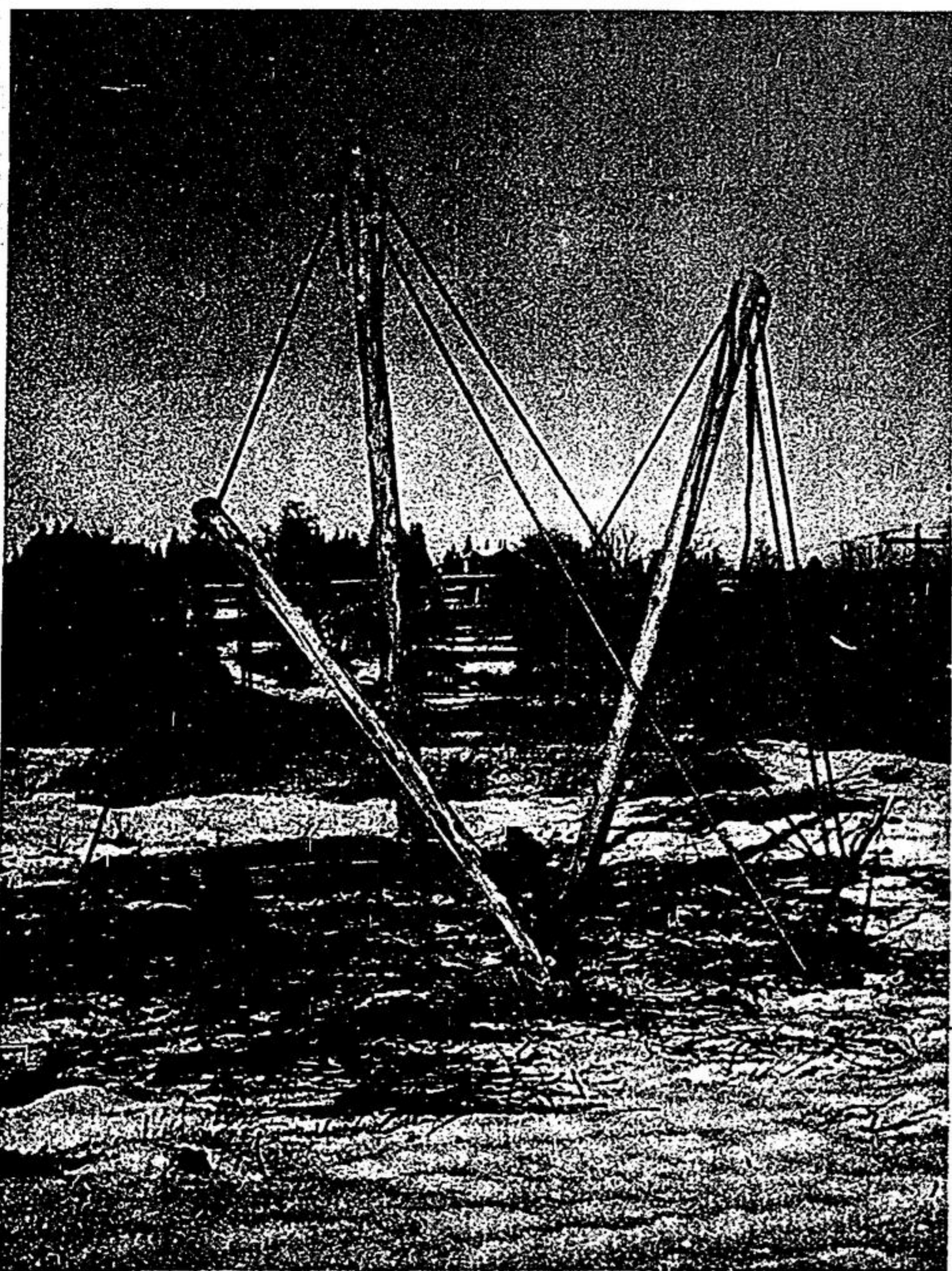
You pay up to \$17 for a mailbox, and along come a group of hooligans and rip off the flag and the lid.

If I was a Judge, I'd lay them over a desk and give them a few healthy whacks with a

cane. That's the kind of medicine they deserve.

North of Island Lake, four mailboxes were ruined by vandals. A car was used, so they certainly weren't children.

MRS. H. B. WAGG, Stouffville, R.R. 3.



It's a 'whatsit'

This tripod, three of them in fact, are located on a vacant piece of property, north of the cemetery at Dickson's Hill. Their

purpose has residents curious. The Tribune is curious too. Jim Thomas

### ROAMING AROUND

## 'The Thing'---out of sight-out of mind

By JIM THOMAS

On the south side of Main Street near Civic Avenue in Stouffville, sits a small gray-colored box-a harmless looking thing.

Dozens of times each day, folks walk past it; around it; even over it. But no one ever looks under it. And lucky too. For its content should never again be bared to the outside world, not even for an instant.

Its presence has caused enough pain and suffering already.

Natives have cursed it and kicked it; rammed it and damned it; admonished it and now banished it-out of sight, out of mind.

What is this 'thing' that has so infuriated residents (and non-residents) of town?

Why, just a little old fire hydrant, that's all-so little, no motorist could see it, and so old, it leaked into the basement of a nearby store.

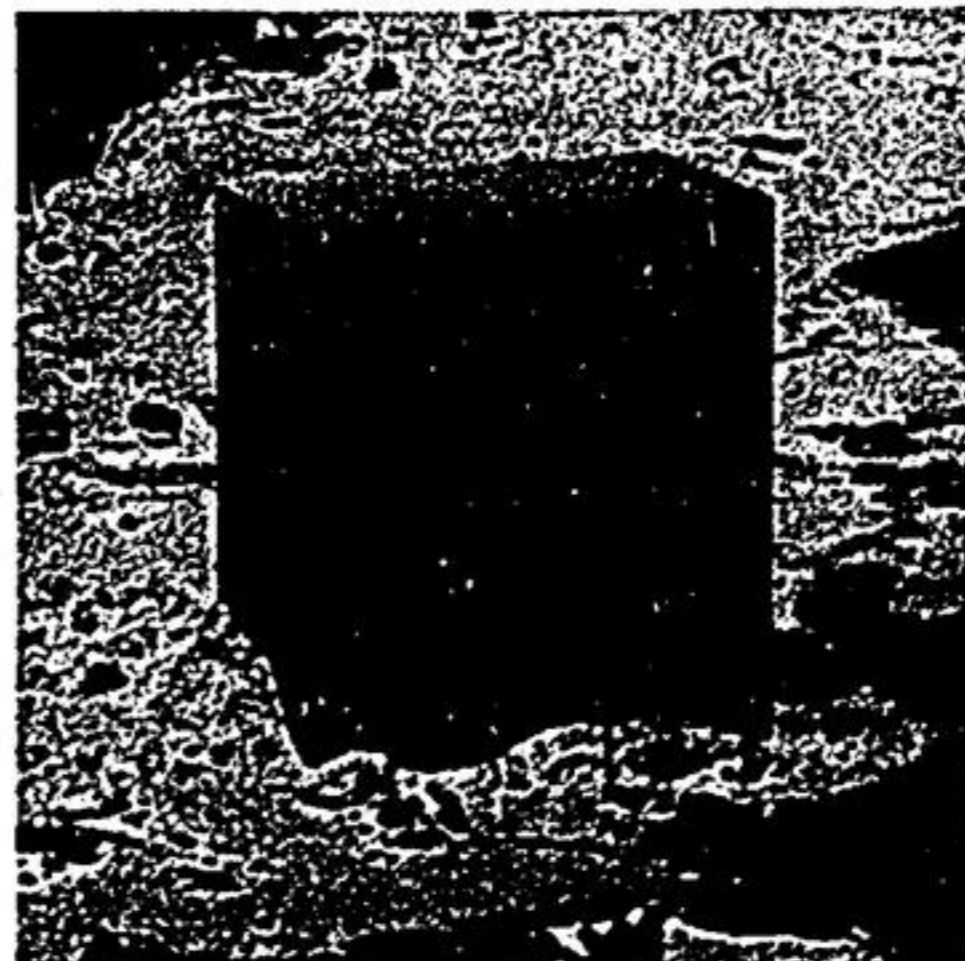
While the space between this curbside 'urinator' behind, and the 'no parking' sign ahead was sufficient to accommodate a Fiat or a Volkswagen, normal size chariots like Buicks, Mercurys and Chryslers were 'sitting ducks' for every pad and pencil policeman on the beat.

The courts reaped a 'harvest' in fines. Admittedly, any driver with time to spare and plenty of patience, could likely have pleaded his case and won. But for the sake of \$3, who could spend \$30?

So the 'outrage' continued-tickets by the score.

However, everyone knew that, sooner or later, the 'travesty' must end. For the penalized, it ended too late. For one constable, it came too soon. His day of duty was shattered by such a verbal 'blast', the repercussions were heard in Newmarket.

On the afternoon in question, it was a new-model Mercury parked in the 'haloed' zone. And since it possessed no distinguishable features to warrant such privileges, the ticket-



'The Thing' - a safe refuge for cars, but not for dogs!

routine was repeated. That's when the owner arrived on the scene.

Alice (Hamm) it seems, had slipped into the I.G.A. to pick up a few items. However, between the time of her entry and exit, a 'visitor' happened by. The 'U-O-ME' note was already attached to the windshield when she returned.

Now the usual kind of individual would have marched straight to the Town Office and paid it: grudgingly, mind you, but paid it just the same. But not Alice. She has principles, the kind worth fighting for. She decided to fight.

Her first 'skirmish' was with the constable, with no success. "Tell it to the Judge," he said, or words to that affect.

Next, the clerk. "Pay it and forget it," he advised. On to the mayor; then the councillors. It would take time.

But Alice had no time. She phoned regional headquarters and was put in touch with a Sergeant.

"There's something down in Stouffville, you have to see," she told him, "make it as fast as you can."

He did-an on-the-spot inspection. She explained the problem. And he agreed-Alice was right; the Town was wrong.

Hence the box; out of sight, out of mind. But Alice, being a very compassionate (but determined) person, still has one concern. "What about all the poor dogs?" she asks.