

## Leader in the audience

# But the band played on

MARKHAM — For the past three weeks, academic instruction at the secondary level in York, has been in a state of confusion.

Markham Dist. High School is hard hit by the current teacher strike, so much so, it appeared their senior Band, one of the best in the County, would be forced to withdraw from the Kiwanis Festival.

The reason? The Band had no leader, for Harold Hirons, the instructor, had

already resigned and the Federation advised him against going back, even for a practice.

That presented a problem.

But Bob Richards, a player in the trumpet section, had an idea. His father Lloyd Richards of Sherwood Forest Drive, is an orchestra leader at the O'Keefe Centre, Toronto. If free, he could possibly fill the bill. Members agreed.

So, on Saturday in

Lawrence Park Collegiate, with Harold Hirons seated in the audience and Lloyd Richards atop the podium, "the Band played on".

The adjudicator placed Markham second, only one point behind North Toronto Collegiate, the Class 'A' winner. Runnymede Collegiate was third. There were five school entries.

At the conclusion, Mr. Richards confronted Mr. Hirons in the wings.

"Your Band played great," he said.

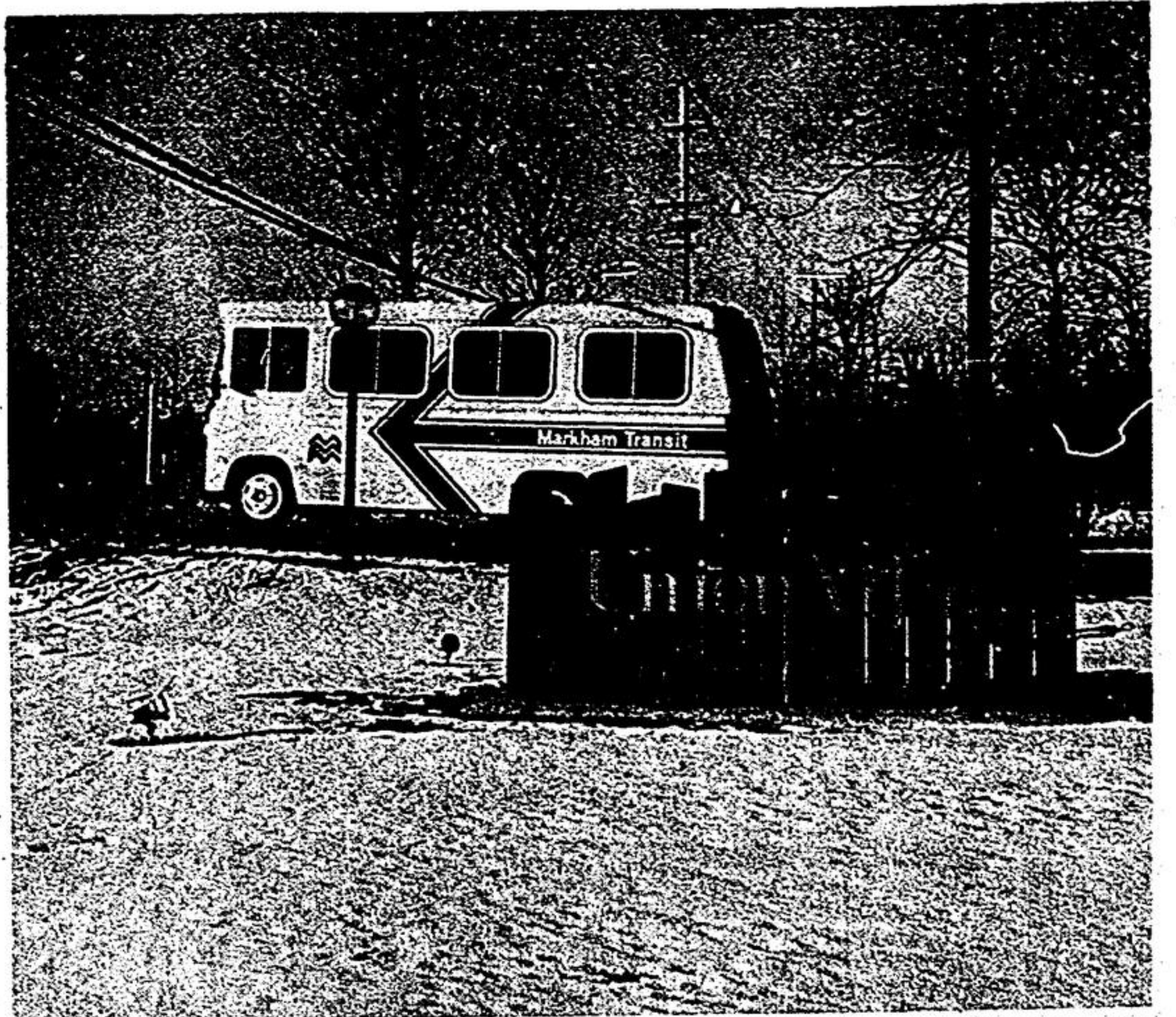
## Cheap brew proves costly

MILLIKEN—Imre Boroczi doesn't believe in a 'middle man' when it comes to buying booze.

He prefers to brew his own. However, that practice can come costly too, as he discovered in Newmarket Provincial Court.

He was fined \$100 or three months in jail for keeping a still on his premises near Milliken.

Boroczi pleaded guilty to the charge, although police admitted no 'spirits' had been found in the place.



One of Markham's smart new transit buses had been anticipated. Route extensions, north heads west along Hwy. 7 near Unionville through Unionville and up to Mount Joy, are being considered. Passenger totals exceed 1,200 per day, according to co-ordinator Harvey Cox, far in advance of what

—Don Bernard.

The Tribune

# MARKHAM

WHITCHURCH—STOUFFVILLE—MARKHAM—UXBRIDGE, THURSDAY, FEB. 21, 1974

## Morale at 'rock bottom' teacher tells Forum

### Urge-students 'first'

MARKHAM — "Our immediate concern is for the students" was the one statement which came through loud, clear and unclouded by recriminations at an emotionally-charged Public Forum on the York County teachers-Board dispute, in Markham High School, Sunday.

The meeting, initiated by Markham students anxious for insight into the dispute and for a quick settlement of differences, invited comment from a panel representing the York teachers who resigned more than two weeks ago, the Board, parents and students.

"Concern for students" emerged as the only emotion shared by Board and teachers' representatives during the evening's debate which indicated that the two factions, deadlocked in contract negotiations since last May, were far from reaching a compromise.

Recognizing this fact midway through the meeting, Don Deacon (MPP York Centre), stepped into the discussions with the suggestion that both sides submit the matter to voluntary arbitration. "It's obvious from what we've heard tonight you are not getting anywhere with the issues," he interjected.

The news blackout, imposed

on current negotiations by the Minister of Education and contract mediator, irked many parents and students at Sunday's meeting. "What," they wanted to know in essence, "is going on? What is the dispute all about?"

If the audience concluded there was an even greater 'blackout' in communications between the Board and its teachers it was, no doubt, prompted by diverse reports given by both parties on past negotiations.

Salary, claimed teacher spokesmen, was not an issue. On the other hand, Trustee John Honsberger of the Board's negotiating team charged that the County was being asked to pay its teachers more money than Metro counterparts and more than any other area had settled for.

"Morale," contended Jim Bethune, an Ontario Secondary School Teachers' negotiator, "is our priority. The morale of our teaching staff has so deteriorated, education is in jeopardy. What must be aimed at is a clear understanding of the position of teacher and Board in education."

Relating this directly to Markham High, Don Nixon, a staff teacher for eight years before the mass resignations, censured the Board's lack of liaison with the staff as well as policies which dropped salaries of three Markham teachers (one after 29 years of service and a year before retirement). "Since the inception of the York County Board," he bluntly stated, "the quality of education and the morale of teachers have deteriorated at Markham from among the highest to the lowest. This has to be reversed. That is why I resigned. This is my school; these are my students. I

want to go back but not to this deteriorated situation."

As a Markham area trustee, Don Sim denied he had ever been given the opportunity to respond to the situation as presented by Mr. Nixon. "I have never once in the last year and two months been invited to talk to a teacher as an individual or to teachers collectively, nor have they come to me with any grievances." "You have made your point," he told the teachers present. "You have shown us morale is bad and that there are grievances. You have shown the Ministry that you have political power to be a real force. The Board is prepared to negotiate in good faith and submit the matter to arbitration. In the meantime," the trustee concluded, with an appeal echoed many times throughout the evening, "could teachers not go back to work?"

### 'Top level' debate refused

MARKHAM — Despite a rumpus in the audience and shouted demands that the relationship between York County Board's senior administration, its trustees and its teachers be discussed, Bob Adams, chairman of the Markham D.H.S. Public Forum, Sunday evening, refused debate on the subject.

The calibre of inter-relationship that exists between the three groups was questioned at the meeting by Keith Horton, R.R. 4, Stouffville.

After following the disputes that precipitated the resignations of teachers in the areas, secondary schools and considering information gathered from different sources, Mr. Horton said he had formed the impression that senior administration had been "manipulating the Board", antagonizing teachers and, at times, intimidating them.

## Markham transit ahead of schedule

MARKHAM — After three months' operation, Markham area residents are using the Transit Bus Service to a greater extent than planners had anticipated, Traffic Co-ordinator Harvey Cox told The Tribune this week.

A consultant's Study, he explained, had predicted 1,600 passengers per day after one year of operation. However, during the first week of February, the number had already reached 1,200 daily, 50 percent over December's figures.

"After three months, we are within 75 percent of the initial estimate for a whole year," Mr. Cox said.

So far, he explained, the only criticism of the system is that the buses do not run often enough and there's sometimes a difficulty in making T.T.C. connections at Kennedy Road and Steeles.

All three routes are well patronized, he said, particularly by students attending Markham Dist. High School and Thornlea Secondary School.

Studies are in progress to make some changes, the Co-ordinator went on, and this could include six 15-passenger buses. Some routes may be extended and pickups more frequent.

A suggested extension could be north on Hwy. 48 into Mount Joy and north on Kennedy Road through Unionville. One more bus would likely be needed.

Fares range from .25 cents for adults; .15 cents for students (with cards); and .10 cents for children and senior citizens. Senior citizens' passes are available at the Markham Town Offices, Buttonville.

### Flees court

MARKHAM — Mark Skinner, charged with armed robbery following the Feb. 10 holdup of the Shop 'N Bag store in Markham, briefly escaped custody, Friday.

Skinner had been placed in a cell area with four other prisoners in Richmond Hill Court when he pushed an attendant to the floor and ran from the building.

He was apprehended within fifteen minutes and returned in time to appear that day.

He accused police of ignoring his request for medical attention.

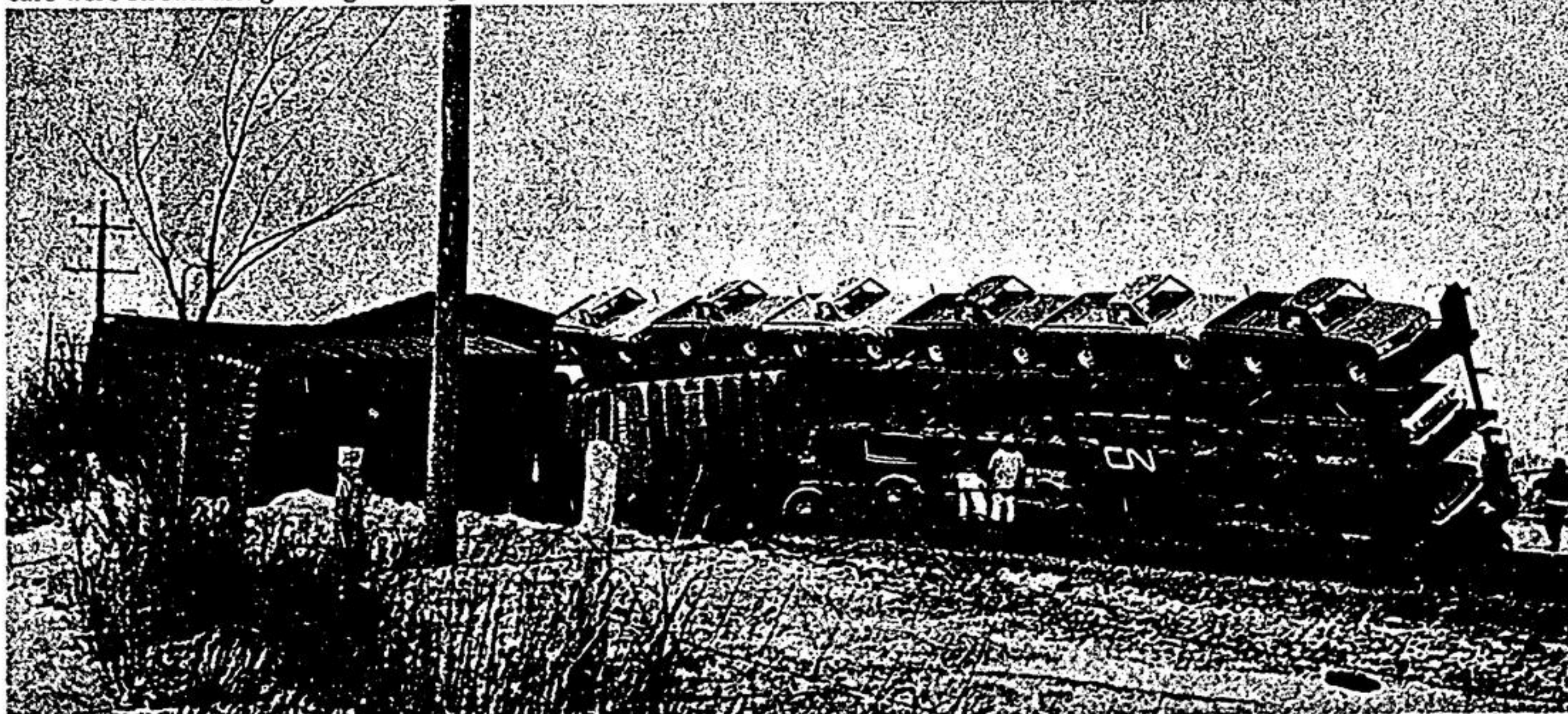
He is further charged with escaping custody, assaulting a peace officer and assault causing bodily harm.

## Truck-train in million \$ pileup



A collision between a steel-laden transport and a southbound CNR freight, near Richmond Hill, Thursday, caused an estimated \$1 million damage, but no one was injured. Twenty-three railway cars were strewn along the right-of-way. The truck driver, 26 year

old John Fox of Cottingham, escaped death by inches. "I thought I'd had it," he said later, "when I looked out, the engine was right on me". Parts of the trailer were hurled 100 yards down the track.



In spite of the impact, these triple-decked cars suffered only minor damage. The twin-diesel was moving at about 50 miles per hour when the crash occurred. They veered off the track but

remained upright. The crew remained in the cab. "Had we jumped, we'd surely have been killed," said engineer Albert Matthews of Rexdale.

—John Montgomery.

## Court compromise not acceptable

MARKHAM—Hwy. 48 ratepayers met last week with the Court of Revision and were offered a compromise which most found unacceptable.

Residents, protesting a 96c a foot assessment for a 10 inch watermain costing \$129,000 that they neither asked for nor want, were told by the court they would only be assessed for the cost of a residential size six inch pipe.

This lowers the assessment by 22 per cent to 77c a foot but did little to appease the delegation who feel they are being asked to pay for a main which was installed solely for Emerson Electric.

Property owner, Carman Wesley summed up the feelings of the delegation: "The town gets all the taxes and benefits and the ratepayer doesn't even get hooked up."

Angry ratepayers told the court they wanted the assessment dropped entirely but were informed by chairman, Harry Crisp, "the court does not have the authority to change the method of assessment."

The landowners' biggest complaint is they were never

individually notified and thus had no opportunity to protest. They would like the Town to assume the cost of the watermain and then charge them individually as they connect.

Mayor Tony Roman said, "There may have been a moral obligation for us to notify residents by letter but the decision was advertised in the newspaper."

Mr. Roman promised the whole matter would be reviewed by council.



### It talks

MARKHAM—The 'talking police cruiser' is coming to the Dominion Store Plaza in Markham, Saturday.

The novelty car that asks questions and answers them too, will be located in front of Appleton and Hughes' Men's Wear, from 10:30 a.m.

Children are invited to drop around and meet the 'mechanical' policeman in person.

### Still missing

Two years ago this week, Mrs. Aubrey Brooks left her home on No. 7 Hwy., at conc. 10, Markham, never to be seen again. The case, one of the most baffling on regional police files, is still under investigation, but no recent clues concerning her whereabouts have been uncovered, a police spokesman said.

### Concern for Grade 13's

MARKHAM — York County Board trustee, Don Sim, assured anxious parents attending Markham District High School's Public Forum that every effort would be made to enable Grade 13 students to complete the year's curriculum even if teachers did not return to classes for a few weeks.

He said there was no proposal to change the duration of the school year or to eliminate scheduled breaks, but Grade 13's would have the highest priority and a curriculum oriented program would begin immediately when teachers returned. "We hope," he added, "to do the same for Grade 12's." (Night school classes proposed at a recent Board meeting as a temporary measure for Grade 13 students would require the backing of the teachers. Although this has apparently been requested, no reply has been forwarded.)

Mr. Sim also indicated that parents were asking him with increasing frequency why the Board doesn't accept teacher resignations and advertise for new staff to get the system going again.

"If we hire new staff now we would not be able to take teachers back after settlement. It would not," he explained, "be the proper action for the Board to take while continuing to negotiate in good faith."