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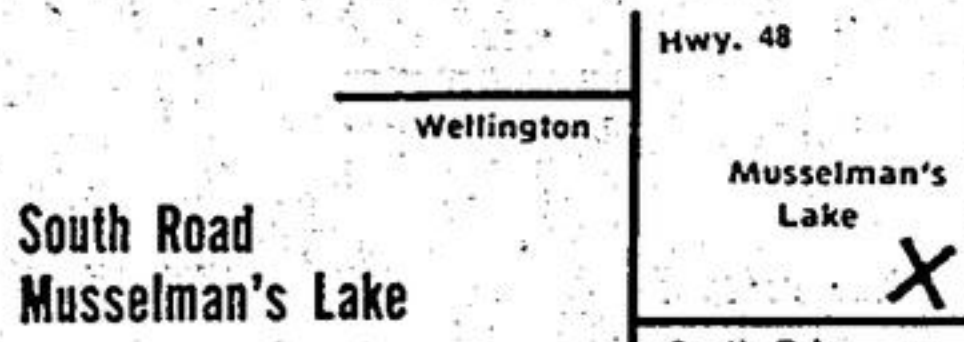
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By John Montgomery
YORK CTY. — The foyer of the old converted school house now used by the Board of Education was jammed with people before the Board's open meeting schedule began at 9:30 p.m., Thursday.

Reporters, photographers, radio and television interviewers and a sprinkling of parents stood around waiting patiently.

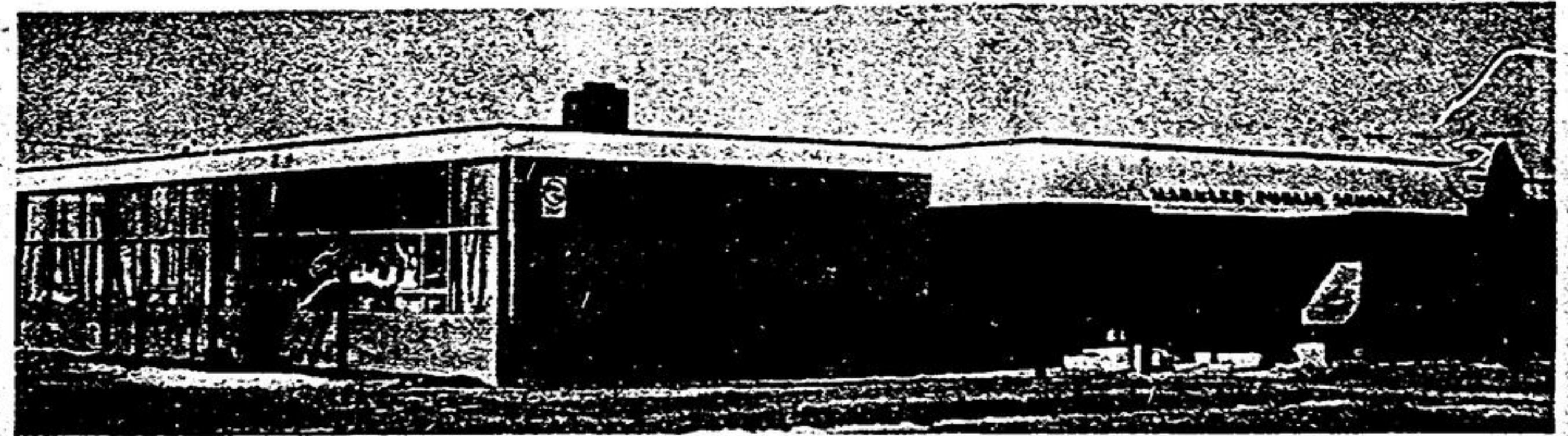
All the major newspapers (including The Tribune), radio and television stations were represented.

Media people stood among the clutter of cameras and lights all trying to casually quiz each other as to what they knew.

"I hear this is going to be something big," one person volunteered.

The OSSTF and the negotiating team are here to make a joint statement that this things been settled," someone else added.

"I hear William Davis is here," some unknown rumor monger stated and a stir went



Marklee School - it's days may be numbered

Marklee Public School on Lee Avenue, north of Milliken, may be closed at the end of June. Enrollment has dropped to 100 students, a trustee spokesman said. Pupils

through the crowd.

No one knew what was up but everybody knew it was something important. Margaret McLean the Board's information officer had worn a half inch off the end of her index finger telephoning the media that afternoon to advise them they'd better not miss this meeting.

By 9:30 the crowd was getting restless and by 10 when the door to the committee room still remained firmly closed, a group of parents and bystanders began pounding on it, stamping their feet and singing "We Shall Overcome."

Finally, the door opened and the public rushed to take their place

for this 'historic occasion'. The press table was packed with reporters with pens expectantly poised over their note pads. In the centre of the room was a welter of cameras, lights and trailing wires.

Chairman Merna Colbourne called the session to order and announced that John Honsberger, chief negotiator for the Board had a statement. Anything else she said was lost in the scuffle as Mr. Honsberger disappeared behind a barrage of microphones and cameras.

Mr. Honsberger made the earth-shattering statement that, "We are cautiously optimistic that we will

ultimately reach a negotiated settlement," and he continued, "we are making real progress toward settlement of all issues." He then went on to explain that they were all working very hard etc., etc.

The media people and the public were beginning to look around a little uneasily but most figured they were saving the best till last.

Don Cousens a trustee from Markham put forward a motion that the plan for final offer selection be deferred. This was passed. By now the crowd could barely contain their excitement. The Board next discussed the issue of whether, to deduct the teacher's retirement gratuity as well as a day's pay for the December 18 walkout.

This started as a simple issue but by the time it had gone around the room it would have taken a team of lawyers to understand what it was all about.

The motion was passed and then an amendment was added which was voted on and recorded as passed. A Board member then stated he thought the amendment had actually been rejected. It was decided to call another vote but by this time the Board couldn't remember, what it was.

Richmond Hill trustee Robert Houghton was called upon to repeat the amendment as he had originally introduced it. Unfortunately Mr. Houghton appeared rather confused and although he tried he couldn't remember what he had said either.

At this point, Ron Hall the acting education director was called on to clarify the position for the Board. He explained what they themselves had just voted on and the matter was quickly cleared up.

Mrs. Colbourne then announced the public part of the meeting was over and there would be a short recess before the

closed session continued.

Members of the press sat and stared at each other in disbelief, then casts around wildly to see if anybody else had picked up anything important that they had missed.

"Is that it?" floated around the room and the reporters hung back for another fifteen minutes still trying to get the "big scoop."

They then slowly filed out muttering uncomplimentary things about the Board and the information officer who seemed unduly worried about possible vandalism to her car.

Playoffs

STOUFFVILLE — Ontario playoff action continues this week on several fronts.

The I.G.A. Peewees, fresh from a Round 1 knockout over Campbellford, now take on Parry Sound. The first encounter is Friday in Stouffville at 8 p.m.

The Birkett and Hassard Atoms meet Uxbridge in Stouffville, Thursday (to-night) at 7 p.m. The two teams are in Uxbridge, Friday, also at seven.

Picton and Stouffville Midgets 'square off' on Stouffville ice, Saturday afternoon at 4 p.m. This will be game 4 in a best-of-seven series.

Nearly sold out.

Bob Miller's historic book called 'The Village of Brougham, Past! Present! and Future?', has enjoyed excellent sales' response with most of the 2,000 orders now sold or reserved. The Tribune has five copies left.

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