

Local entomologist travels the globe collecting insects

By JOHN MONTGOMERY

Norman Tremblay is a plumber turned entomologist whose passion for collecting insects has led him to such exotic places as the Amazon Basin and the West Indies.

Mr. Tremblay, a Stouffville area resident for the past 30 years, first became interested in entomology when he was seven years old and although he has never received any formal training he has avidly pursued it ever since.

A plumber by trade, he abandoned this means of livelihood in 1971 when, along with some partners, they formed a company called World Nature Products.

The company, which has a warehouse just south of Ringwood, sells insects and some novelty items mounted in plastic. Among the most popular items they sell encased in plastic are butterflies, tarantulas, South American beetles, and piranhas.

No longer a partner in the business, Mr. Tremblay now handles the purchasing of all specimens and he prepares them for mounting.

It is in the preparation of the specimens that his experience as an entomologist comes into play. The tarantulas, for example, arrive crumpled and immersed in alcohol. His is the delicate job of straightening the legs and body so they assume a life like pose.

A very slightly miscalculated move can

rip off a limb and then the specimen must be repaired by gluing the appendage.

He says this is not particularly difficult but the most sensitive job is spreading the wings of butterflies. "You can always glue a leg back on a beetle but if you rip a butterfly there is nothing you can do about it and it is ruined."

It is rather a shock to walk into the World Nature Products building. The first thing you see on entering are rows and rows of beetles and great ugly tarantulas mounted on the wall.

The most fascinating aspect of his hobby — he insists on calling it a hobby, saying when something becomes a job it is no longer any fun — is his collecting excursions to the headwaters of the Amazon River.

He has made several excursions to this area and hopes, with the help of a fellow collector, who will do the photography to eventually put out a book on insects of this area.

The area he has visited borders on Brazil, Peru and Colombia. To get there he flies to Florida, catches another flight to Bogota, and then transfers to a small plane comparable to a Canadian bush plane for the last leg of the trip to a town called Leticia.

The pilots on the last part of the trip fly in visually, following the meandering Amazon River.

According to Mr. Tremblay it is a wild frontier-like area, complete with bandits, which is now being exploited for lumber and minerals.

He usually goes down for about three weeks to a month and while there he lives with the Ticuna Indians who also act as his guides.

On his relationship with the Indians, he comments, "You have to treat them with a bit of respect and they treat you with respect."

He admits to being scared the first time he entered the jungle "because of the movies I saw when I was a kid," and he adds, "It's all propaganda."

"I've never been bitten by anything that ever bothered me," he said. As a precaution, though, he wears heavy boots although the natives travel about in bare feet.

"The first time I went down I was very careful but I found I couldn't collect anything if I was watching every tree and fern."

During the day "the Amazon jungle is no more dangerous than walking across Highway 47 on a Friday night" but he was quick to add that not even the natives will travel in the jungle at night when the reptiles are feeding.

Deadly poisonous coral snakes and scorpions have come into his tent at night and if they could they would crawl into sleeping bags for the warmth. This can't happen though because everybody sleeps in mosquito-netted hammocks, well off the ground.

He catches moths and butterflies with a net in the daytime but night work requires more sophisticated techniques. Working at night is a necessity as many moths and insects do not fly during the day. Mr. Tremblay uses a blacklight which attracts the insects but filters out the glare, making it fairly easy to pick them up.

Some collectors obtain high flying specimens by shooting them with shotguns loaded with dust shot. He doesn't use this method as it damages the insects and when it comes to collecting he is a perfectionist.

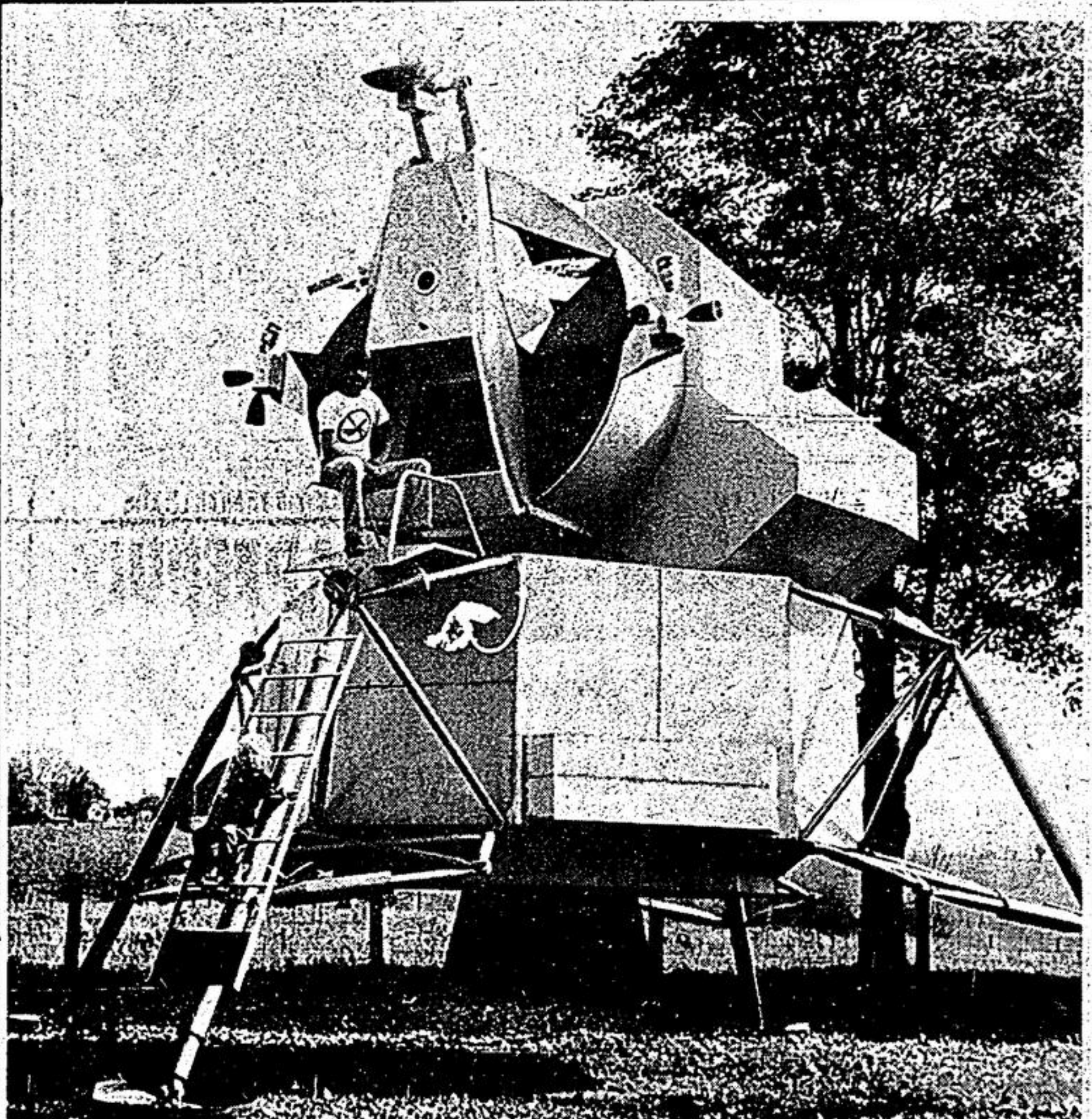
His approach to this problem is to have the Indian guides build a platform in a tree. This can be rather uncomfortable as the treetops are frequented by such monsters as bird-eating spiders and snakes.



Norman Tremblay displays an Indian Saturniid (silk moth) that he reared from an ova. Saturniids are his specialty and he has devoted considerable time to studying them. Next month Mr. Tremblay will travel to the

Amazon Basin for a three week collecting expedition. With a fellow entomologist he hopes to someday publish a book on the insects of this region.

— John Montgomery



Bill Lishman sits on the replica of a lunar module which he created. It sits on the land adjoining the old Mount Pleasant school. — Ted Wilcox

'I got carried away' artist builds moon ship

By TED WILCOX

BROUGHAM — In Michaelangelo's day, painters and sculptors were often popular figures. Today, we'd have difficulty naming a single Canadian sculptor, or if we could, telling anything about his work.

At least one sculptor creates, sculpts and promotes his work in this area: Bill Lishman of near Blackstock, has a workshop at the old Mt. Pleasant school building on Pickering airport property.

The most striking feature of the location is a full-scale model of the lunar module that carried American astronauts to the moon in 1971.

The structure had been started in 1972 just as a place for Bill to escape from the family, but, as he put it, "I got carried away." Now, it is worth about \$30,000 and plans are underway to sell or lease it.

Motorists passing through the country are reportedly stunned by the huge module, when they come upon it. To Bill, that's good. "Sculpture should shock and turn people on," he said.

Bill has also made cast iron representations of animals, which were displayed at the Western fairground, and made large murals for Pascal hardware in Montreal.

Also, he received a large commission for a series of signs he made for a development in Baltimore, Maryland.

Bill has also designed and manufactured space-age looking furniture, and has a scheme pending on a vehicle he calls the "pie in the sky", which would use a combination of principles learned from hot-air

ballooning, hang-gliders, parachutes and frisbees.

On the side, he does some repair welding as well.

Bill started out in wood-carving and worked out of the old blacksmith shop in Greenwood for awhile. For six months he had attended the Ontario College of Art, but most of his expertise he "just learned from other artists."

He bought the Mt. Pleasant schoolhouse in 1968 (built 1858), but it was expropriated by the federal government in 1972.

Bill quips that (Federal MP Norm) Cafik and I have similar problems...we can't stand our landlords." In the last federal election, Bill ran against Cafik in Ontario as the NDP candidate. Recently, Mr. Cafik has been reported to have had problems with his Ottawa landlord having been alleged to have struck him twice with a broom.

His memories of the 1974 election are not pleasant ones. "I learned," Bill said, "not to do it again."

He added that he also learned that "getting somebody elected is a case of proper merchandising...Between 75 and 90 per cent of the voters are...very poorly informed."

Now, Bill puts his full efforts into his sculpting and designing in and around the old Mt. Pleasant schoolhouse. With antiques inside the building and the module outside, both the past and future are represented there.

When people see the module, Bill says, "they realize they're on a great planet travelling through space."

Land freeze question raised

Councillor wants it lifted

DURHAM REGION — The land freeze around Pickering airport property ought to be lifted, Pickering councillor Alex Robertson feels, and last week he urged regional planning and development committee to take a stand on the subject.

Mr. Robertson asked the committee to recommend to council that a resolution be

passed asking Housing Minister John Rhodes to lift the freeze if the airport isn't to be built.

Among those opposing the suggestion was Coun. Bill Ballinger (Uxbridge) who said "we could make up our minds now and two weeks later the government has changed its mind."

Mr. Ballinger told The Tribune he believed the province "should

make it quite clear what their position will be" before the region should take a stand on the issue.

Recently, 24,000 acres of land was lifted from the minister's freeze order, which included land thought most likely to be affected by noise from a potential airport.

Mr. Robertson said that in the present situation, that people

affected by the minister's order are not free to do anything with their land. Impetus for his remarks was a letter received by the committee from the ministry of housing saying that the freeze had been revised.

Mr. Robertson argued that people under the freeze "have rights too."

Another local politician who has gone on record as favoring

lifting the freeze is Pickering councillor Jack Anderson.

Committee member Keith Ross of Oshawa

told members he favored leaving the matter alone. "They started playing the game — let them play 'em," he said.

Approval granted 'first' subdivision

UXBRIDGE — This municipality has had its first plan of subdivision approved since regional government was established on Jan. 1, 1974.

Construction on about 40 homes, at the Leaskdale subdivision in the former township of Scott, is expected to begin in the spring, according to Councillor Bill Ballinger.

The expected population of the subdivision will be 152.

Servicing for the homes are to be by drilled wells and septic tanks. The development had first been approved by Uxbridge council in August of this year.

The plan was approved last week in the regional planning and development committee.

Architects hired

Plan for region offices

DURHAM REGION — The design of the region's future headquarters buildings will be handed over to the Toronto architectural firm of Neish, Own, Rowland and Roy.

Response 'quiet'

UXBRIDGE — This council's resolution in favor of the Pickering airport brought a quiet response from federal and provincial officials. MP Norm Cafik replied in a letter that it was up to the province to decide to support the airport and that the federal government would be quite ready to reconsider their decision at a later time. The response from MPP Bill Newman was simply to thank council for taking the time to present their view on the matter.

Planners urge region to oppose Cedarwood

PICKERING — Durham Region planning and development committee wants regional council to come out on record against the North-Pickering project. The committee passed the recommendation unanimously last week. Pickering Councillor Alex Robertson said that since the project would incorporate farm land that he couldn't in good conscience support it.

Date set for Dec. 8

Cops face court trial

DURHAM REGION — Charges against 11 Durham Region police officers will be heard by a Halimand County judge Dec. 8 in Whitby.

The decision was

reached at a meeting of the regional police commission after a 1½ hour closed session last week.

According to Commissioner Chairman J.P.

Kelly, the reason for the decision was so that "the public and the officers have someone who is independent of his commission and this area."

Commission member Jack Anderson, however, fears the public trial will have a detrimental effect on the officers' families.

He told The Tribune that the commission itself "should have been able to set down penalties for them." Only one criminal charge had been laid, Mr. Anderson said: That was against Const. Dennis Simcock, a 12th officer who since resigned after a charge of gross indecency.

Hearing the charges against the 11 officers will be County Court Judge Wilfred Leach. Ten of the officers face charges of discredit conduct.

Barn burns near Brougham

BROUGHAM — A barn fire here last week may have been caused by two juveniles, according to Pickering firefighters. The Highway 7 barn owned by Jim Alfred was valued at \$2000. Apparently youths were playing in the barn shortly before the fire was reported.

'Snow White' plans parade float

UXBRIDGE — Councillor Eleanor Todd as Snow White?

Mayor Carl Putebaugh as one of the children in the "Old Woman in the Shoe"?

There is a chance we may see one or the other of those possibilities at this year's Santa Claus parade in Uxbridge.

After Councillor Todd was appointed head of council's float committee, she offered two suggestions. In one, the male members of council, plus clerk Ron Kester, would be the seven dwarfs while Mrs. Todd would be Snow White.

The other plan would have Mrs. Todd cast as the Old Woman in the Shoe, with the other councillors serving as the children.

Mrs. Todd said she hoped "something silly like that doesn't seem undignified," but the

mayor told her "we will co-operate."

Clerk Ron Kester remarked that "if I can't make it, I'll send my assistant."

As part of the Old Woman in the Shoe scheme, Mrs. Todd suggested Councillor Bill Ballinger, being the youngest, could play the part of "the baby with a bottle."

Coun. Ballinger said he was agreeable to the plan provided there was beer in the bottle.

Another item of discussion was who would play Santa Claus this year. Mr. Ballinger said, "I hope he has better breath than he had last year."

Last year's Santa was apparently Councillor Mauston McKnight. Council also voted at last week's meeting to donate \$500 towards the operation of this year's parade.