

"Robbed"

(cont'd from Page 14)
 surprised myself by firmly declaring, "There sure are some miserable bastards in the world! Thank God for all the good guys!"

During the fifty-three years of his banking career I was confident that Sandy Stewart was one of the 'Good Guys' yet it was with some trepidation that I married him a few years after the

Thistletown incident. Our wedding day was July 10th, 1937 and, wouldn't you know, it was the hottest day on record.

Every banker's wife knows that there is always a risk of holdups just as every policeman's wife knows the risk she is taking when she marries a cop. Fortunately, Sandy and I were two of the lucky ones who were spared to live a long, happy life together.

Gas projectile subdues man

YORK REGION — For a first time, York Regional Police have introduced what is known as a "non-penetrating tear gas dust projectile", with satisfactory results.

The need for such a measure occurred July 30 at 6:55 p.m., when officers from No. 23 Division answered a call to a residence on Sussex Avenue, Richmond Hill. There they were confronted by a man brandishing two knives.

refused to put away the weapons and threatened to kill the constables, the tear gas dust projectile was discharged from a shotgun. The distraught man was immediately arrested and taken to York Central Hospital for treatment.

Although used by police in Metro Toronto, the gas projectile is new to the force in York Region. Deputy Chief Bob Hood described the result as "very satisfactory".

Kingbirds' image hurt

BY ART BRIGGS-JUDE.

Although it's a good many years since we first were shown a "beemartin" by an elderly farmer near Vineland, this local name often comes to mind whenever I see a kingbird. Actually to the owner of an apiary (myself included) the presence of a kingbird would indeed seem just cause for alarm. The bird's deadly pursuit of flying insects and its hovering habit over the hives were reasons enough to make it somewhat of a suspicious character. Just how far some of these beliefs have gone though, is hard to imagine. One favourite folklore tale still persists even to this day. It concerns the kingbird's hidden crest, which when flashed in the sun is supposed to lure the bees to their doom on the mistaken identity of a bright red flower.

By and large, kingbirds do devour some bees. In fact, a biological survey was conducted some years ago in the United States Department of Agriculture for this very reason. Surprisingly enough, after examining the stomach contents of more than 600 kingbirds, only 22 were found to contain honey bees. Again, this 22-bird total yielded only 61 bees all told, which worked out to less than three bees per kingbird. An even closer look at these findings shows that 51 of the bees found were in fact drones, whose loss in such small numbers would in no way affect the nearby hive.

Thus it would seem the name "beemartin" is, in most cases, detrimental to the good image that should prevail about the kingbird. From a high perch that commands an unobstructed view of the surrounding territory, it plays the kingly role that its name suggests, putting all intruders to bay whether they be hawk, crow, or greedy grackle. There are even cases on record of kingbirds attacking some of the smaller types of low flying aircraft, while eagles are set upon with the same vigor used in driving away egg-hunting jays.

But while the predator species of birds are put to route with almost reckless abandon, the smaller songbirds by contrast are quick to discover the protection this aerial fighter affords. These tiny creatures readily build their nests within the boundaries of the kingbird's territory without fear of conflict from the aggressive ruler.

For its own nest, the kingbird builds a shallow cup made of rootlets and small twigs in an orchard, roadside tree, or grown up fencerow. The three to five white eggs blotched with brown take about two weeks to hatch, after which the young remain in the nest another week or so. And despite the stories sometimes heard, these birds are in reality highly beneficial, capturing almost all their insect food on the wing. Scores of beetles, flying grasshoppers and moths were among the many species of harmful insects found in their stomachs during the survey mentioned.

Though most paintings depict the bird with a red crown patch, this is not a good field mark to look for when trying to identify the eastern kingbird. Most of the time this patch lies well concealed and only is visible when the bird is excited or aroused. A much better sign is the white band across the tip of the tail, which, by the way, no other Ontario bird can duly match. Add to this its dark back and white breast and you quickly see the striking picture it presents. Striking too are the aerial manoeuvres it performs as it deftly snatches an insect from the air or sends a hawk to cover with its persistent and varied attacks.

Sinclair Stevens VIA loss inflated

STOUFFVILLE — Sinclair Stevens, M.P., York-Peel, says he hopes the provincial government will step in and help subsidize the VIA commuter lines which operates to Stouffville, Barrie and Havelock, but he added, "I'm not satisfied the federal government has any right stepping out."

Stevens disagreed with what he called the federal government's "confrontation tactics", saying that "the government is very wrong in its approach," because the province should have been consulted before any ultimatum was issued.

While the M.P. said he thought the \$1.1 million projected loss on the Stouffville line was an inflated figure, he found the government's action further unjustified because of the heavy financing it provides for air travel services. Stevens cited the \$500 million cost of Mirabel north of Montreal, as an

example of federal preference for air travel. Stevens said that rail service is important right now because the majority of people use it as a less expensive alternative to flying.

Last week's announcement by federal Transport Minister, Jean-Luc Pepin that Ontario would suffer drastic cuts in its commuter rail service was followed by a promise to grant the Stouffville, Barrie and Havelock lines a year's period of grace until it can be decided if the provincial government will take over subsidization of the line. About three weeks ago it was announced that Quebec would receive \$40 million in federal funds to improve its Montreal commuter trains which have become old and rundown.

Stevens added also that Go-Transit might be considered an alternative.

Agricrew A summer work project

By GREG COATES
 The Ministry of Agriculture and Food's (MAF) Agricrew Summer Works Project is now in its fourth year. The eight week program offers employment and valuable farm experience to youths ages 15-21. It is organized through "Experience 81".

The program is made up of 54 crews which serve eight counties across Ontario. Each crew is made up of four members.

keeping books and by working on different farms we learn different techniques of farming," he said.

All crews start the program off with an orientation day. Here, they get to meet the other crews, learn some first aid from St. John's Ambulance, learn some farm safety, and how to drive a tractor.

Anyone interested in hiring a crew can contact Diane Jensen at the Agricultural Office in Uxbridge.

These crews can be hired, at \$90.00 per day, to work on farms or with agricultural societies. Each crew is only allowed to work a maximum of five days in one particular place. This aids in the experience by ensuring a variety of jobs.

The agricrew employed for York County is made up of Charlie Warriner, 19, foreman, Steve Harvey, 15, Mike Belling, 16, and Denise Duggan, 18.

Radios hamper radar

WHITCHURCH — Trucks equipped with CB radios are making it tough for police to nab drivers on speed violation charges in the area of the Bloomington Road between Warden and Woodbine Avenues.

Replying to critics who claim officers aren't paying enough attention to speeding trucks and motorists on this highway, Chief Bruce Crawford said "everything possible is being done to control the situation."

Chief Crawford explained that through the use of radios, truck drivers warn one another about radar locations.

The chief warned, however, that there'll be no let-up in a campaign to slow drivers down, even if it means providing constables with stop-watches.

Speaking about his crew Charlie Warriner said, "It's very good for them to get out on the farms and get some experience, and it's also fun for them."

This particular crew, which is already booked until the end of July, has done such jobs as hoeing strawberries and peppers, painted fences, trained and led cattle, and loaded and unloaded hay. "We get the jobs in vegetable gardens," said Charlie Warriner.

Charlie, who lives on a farm, says that the job is also very good experience for him. "It gives me experience at

300 attend

Cober reunion

STOUFFVILLE — If the late John Cober was present in spirit at a family reunion in the Stouffville, Park and Latcham Hall, Monday, he was undoubtedly proud. For close to 300 attended, many from a distance.

Mrs. Gary Cober of Victoria.

The most senior in years was Mrs. Elizabeth Byer from Wroxeter, Ont., 99 next month. The youngest was 5½ month old Ryan McQuade of Whitty.

A sketch of the Cober homestead, completed by Paul Burkholder of Markham, was engraved on a commemorative plate and made available to reunion guests. An eight-page history of the Cober clan was delivered by Mary Cober of Gormley.

The reunion's master of ceremonies was Bruce Steckley, Gormley, RR 2. "It's nice to see so many relatives together, other than at a funeral," he said.

Mr. Cober Sr., farmed on the Altons Road, north of Cherrywood. Following retirement, he took up residence at Gormley. He was the father of six sons and seven daughters, five children by his first wife and eight by his second.

Travelling the farthest distance for Monday's gathering were Mr. and Mrs. William Bowen from Campbell River, Vancouver Island. Also from B.C. were Mr. and



Ballantrae Beavers 'swim up' to Cubs at ceremony.
 At a ceremony held in the Ballantrae Community Centre, members of 1st Ballantrae Beavers "swam up" to Cubs. Promoted were: Rear row (left to right) - Michael Perushek, Trevor Wawryk, Todd Wawryk, David Turner and Paul Woodward, Front Row (left to right) - Danny Gladman, Leslie Hartal, Scott Given, Phillip Voight and Clint Griffen. Jim Holt

Critical of police response

Two Markham residents who wrote to the York Regional Police Commission deploring a lack of response to their call for help last May 22 will receive a full report from Police Chief Bruce Crawford.

The chief has been requested by the police commission to fully investigate the complaints of Mr. and Mrs. C.W. Shortis of Markham, who claim police didn't react as

they should have to their calls and those of other residents in the Lakevista Avenue area of Markham.

The couple phoned about a party in progress, involving more than 100 teens, which they stated was getting out of hand. In a letter to the board Mr. and Mrs. Shortis, said teenagers were screaming cars around the block for two hours, driving the vehicles onto lawns, drinking, using

offensive language, jumping fences, yelling, screaming and urinating and being sick on private properties.

The Markham couple told the board it was an hour and a quarter after they made the first call to police that an officer showed up. He was met by a barrage of beer bottles thrown at him from the roof of the house where the party was being held, and from neighboring roofs where the

teens had climbed.

According to the letter, the officer called for assistance but it was some time before three more cruisers made the scene.

The Shortis's complained that, during this period, the teens were allowed to drive off in their cars when they were obviously not in any condition to drive at all.

The Markham couple questioned why something could not

have been done, and pointed out that by not acting, police ensure the disturbances will continue.

Mr. and Mrs. Shortis say police told them they do not have enough time or men to do anything. They claim one police officer dismissed their complaint by telling them he could do nothing since the occurrence was not in his jurisdiction.

"If this is the case, then we suggest the time

has come to hire more men to police our community," the Markham couple wrote.

While sympathizing with the one lone officer who had to try and cope with a rowdy mob, the Shortises say if the kids are allowed to continue with such escapades, worse may be in store for the community.

The letter claims that the whole matter should be investigated in order to alleviate the problem.

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