

Wilf was a genius



MARKHAM — Wilfred Burkholder, a former one-man engineering department in the Village of Markham, died suddenly Friday while sitting down to rest after cutting a neighbor's lawn.

It was the way he would have wanted to go.

Mr. Burkholder, a genius to those who knew him best, was born at Locust Hill. Even as a resident there, his abilities were recognized. He constructed the first buck rake in the area and built one of the first milk coolers.

After moving to Water Street in

Markham, he put his skills to excellent use with the village Water Works Department. It is said he could trace underground mains and hook-ups without the aid of maps and often assisted Town employees by telling them these locations.

Wilf Burkholder was a self-taught man. Anything he didn't know, he'd find out, mainly through books. He was an expert on diesel engines and his knowledge of things electrical was uncanny. One occasion, he built his own electric welder from a

hydro transformer.

A quiet person, he was continually helping those who needed help most, whether it was fixing refrigerators or cutting grass. His assistance was greatly appreciated at Wilson's Mill in Whitevale.

For years, he dug the majority of graves in the area, and later constructed his own back-hoe machine for this purpose.

He often helped out at the Markham Museum and assisted when needed at the Dixon-Garland Funeral Home.

One of those who

knew him best was Markham's Stu Allan. "He could repair anything," he said, "I looked on him as a good friend." Mr. Allan delivered the eulogy at the service, Oct. 10, with interment, Zion United Church Cemetery, Cedar Grove.

Stewart recalled Wilf Burkholder's closeness with nature, how the birds, squirrels and raccoons would congregate in his backyard and even eat from his hand. Many he would call by name and he looked on each as having its own personality.

Surviving are two sons, Douglas of Stouffville and Reginald in Edmonton; two daughters, Betty (Mrs. Metro Terentiuk), R.R. 2, Markham and Barbara (Mrs. John Clark), Main Street, Markham; two brothers, Stanley, West Hill and Leonard in British Columbia; one sister, Mabel Matheson, Vancouver and ten grandchildren.

Serving as pallbearers were Robert and David Burkholder, Bruce McLaren, Brian Carter, Bob Johnson and Jim Black.

Embroidery skill

Muriel McCann of R.R. 1, Cedar Valley is an expert when it comes to Japanese embroidery or "bunka" as it's called. Samples of her handiwork were admired at the "In Praise of Hands" Craft Show and Sale, hosted by Wesley United Church, Vancor, Saturday.

Muriel is an instructor in the art, operating an embroidery studio known as "The Threadpainters".

—Jim Thomas.

Hurricane taught us a lesson

From 7:00 a.m. Thursday, October 14 to midnight on Friday, October 15, 1954, an estimated 322,000,000 tons of rain fell on the watersheds of the Don and Humber Rivers and the Etobicoke and Mimico Creeks. The down-pour over the 377,600 acres of watershed lands, twenty-nine years ago, snuffed out the lives of eighty-one persons and caused an estimated \$25 million in property damage. Its name was Hurricane Hazel.

Only one of thirty-two recorded hurricanes spawned storms to pass over southern Ontario since 1878, Hurricane Hazel was by far the most devastating. Sweeping northward from Haiti, the rain-laden warm, tropical air roared its way across eastern United States, wreaking great damage all along its path. On the afternoon of October 14, the hurricane met a cold air front moving eastward across Ontario. By Thursday night, the soil throughout the watershed area had reached the saturation point and achieved a nearly 100% run-off condition.

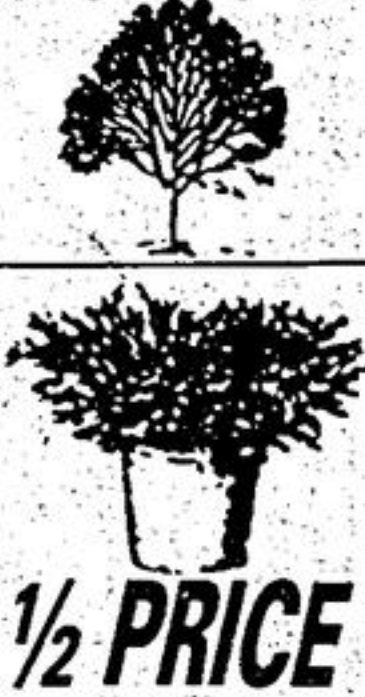
The rains continued to beat down throughout the following day, Friday, and then, with sudden, unexpected ferocity, rivers and streams throughout the region began to flood in a manner never known before. Now raging torrents of foaming water were ripping out bridges, upending automobiles, tearing houses from their foundations and sweeping all before them, as Nature went completely out of control.

The heartbreak and the heroism that were so much a part of that dreadful Friday night and Saturday morning reached far beyond any depiction of tragedy or bravery in book or film. Police, firemen, soldiers, sailors, and ordinary citizens battled through the night saving those who had been trapped on river flats by the rampaging waters. Sometimes their rescue attempts were successful but, sometimes, on the very brink of saving a life, the rescuers were battered by a sudden surge of water and the ones they sought to save were swept away. Among the hurricane's victims were brave would-be rescuers who, like five volun-

teer firefighters from Etobicoke, were swept to their deaths in ill-fated efforts to reach marooned and endangered citizens. The five firemen lost their lives when the aerial ladder truck they had driven to the bank of the Humber River, to try to reach a trio of youths trapped atop a car, was toppled into the frenzied waters.

The fate of Raymond Drive, a quiet street of modest homes in Weston, can never be erased

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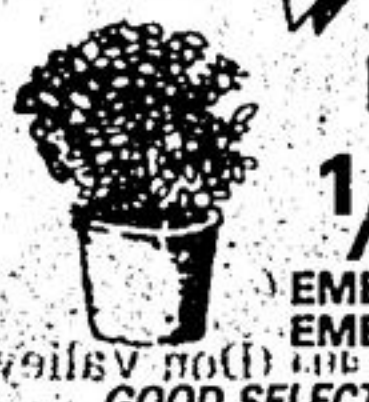
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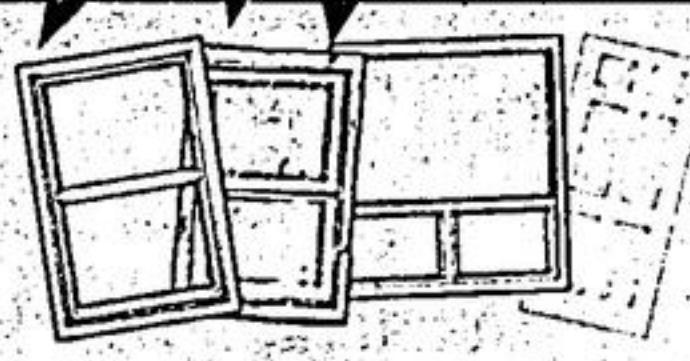
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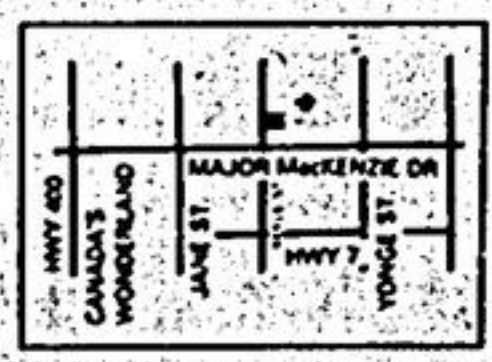
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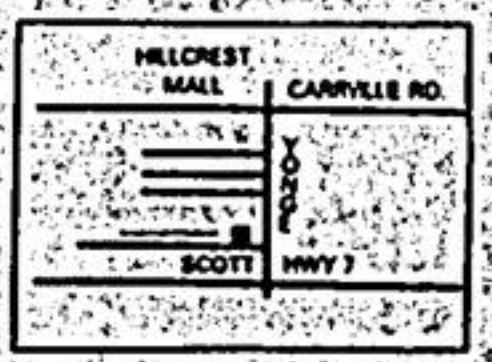
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