

Estate auction sale tinged with regret



Ron Stevenson holds a shotgun while auctioneer Lloyd Wilson calls the bids during the estate sale, Saturday, of property belonging to the late George and

Bessie Pickett, Glen Major. Close to 500 people attended, many close friends and neighbors of the highly-respected couple. —Jim Thomas

By Jim Thomas
UXBRIDGE — For many of the several hundred who packed the Wilson Sales Arena, Saturday, it was no ordinary auction. It was the writing of a final chapter in the life of two people, a community had come to know, to love and to respect. George and Bessie Pickett were as much a part of Glen Major as the winding road, the shadowy woods and the sparkling streams.

While eager buyers weighed on every bid, others simply sat and listened.

"I found it rather sad," said one senior citizen, brushing a tear from her eye. Others agreed.

When auctioneer Lloyd Wilson asked how many in the audience knew the Pickett's as neighbors and friends, almost half raised their hands. Then it was back to reality, and the sale continued on.

Just about every item recalled a memory. Jennie Johnson told of finding a beautiful hand-made violin tucked away in a cubby-hole. Howard Colby of Sandy Hook knew its history, claiming it to be one of only 300 crafted by the late George Wilkinson. Howard McGuckin of R.R. 3, Mount Albert, bought it for \$200, a family gift, he said.

Hazel Jones remembered the Saturday shopping trips to Uxbridge. "They were friendly—nice and friendly," she said. The house has been sold—"it'll never be the same," she said.

Mrs Pickett was very active in the Glen Major Church. She played the organ, taught Sunday School and helped out in the Ladies Auxiliary. Mrs Johnson said. Mrs Johnson and others assisted in cleaning up the house since Mr Pickett and his wife died only a few weeks apart. She praised the work of Ron Stevenson, one of Lloyd Wilson's men. "He was wonderful," she said.

A .32 Colt revolver, one of several guns sold at the sale, brought \$220. The purchaser was Leonard Bain of Seagrave. The year 1884 was engraved in the muzzle.

Irene Lowe of Brooklin purchased a scrapbook containing photos and stories of King George and Queen Elizabeth, dated 1939. Her bid was \$40.

As the auction moved from morning to afternoon, the audience chose to stay; some to buy, others to sit, to listen and remember. In rural Uxbridge Township, the past is still important; and so are the people.



Honeymoon was a Caribbean cruise

Mr and Mrs Larry Gibbs sign the register following their wedding Oct. 1, 1983 in Stouffville United Church. The bride is the former Colleen Clarke, daughter of Les and Audrey Clarke, Lloyd Street, Stouffville. The

groom is the son of Denys and June Gibbs, Kanata, Ont. Their honeymoon was a Caribbean Cruise aboard the "Song of America". The happy couple are now residing on Main Street, Markham.

Chose York

YORK REGION — Elwyn (Ellie) Cavanagh is attempting to acquaint himself with the rural area of York. Before he's through, he'll know the Region as well or better than most. He's the new Agricultural Representative here, succeeding Alan A. Wall, now retired.

Ellie Cavanagh, 37, grew up at Kilmarnock, Ont., near Arncliffe. Following graduation from MacDonell College outside Montreal, he was named Associate Agricultural Representative for the County of Kent. Five years later, he was appointed Farm Management Specialist for Renfrew County, a position he held prior to coming to York.

Cavanagh's first choice was York Region, mainly because of the diversity of agriculture in the area. "I feel fortunate to have been given the region I wanted," he said.

He praised his predecessor, Al Wall, for assistance provided and said he hoped to have an associate within a month-and-a-half.

Ellie and Patty Cavanagh have two daughters, Vicki, 12 and Amy, nine.

Chesebrough-Pond's

Employees reach goal

MARKHAM — Chesebrough-Pond's (Canada) Inc., and its employees, have successfully completed their \$100,000 fundraising project for Markham's Participation House, a residence for the Cerebral Palsied.

In 1980, Chesebrough-Pond's agreed to spearhead a fundraising campaign for Participation House. For the past four years, employees have worked diligently to accomplish their goal.

Major fund-raising projects included: A Bowl-a-Thon, a Benefit Hockey Game, a Garage Sale, a Product Sale, a Cook Book, A Trip-For-Two To Nassau plus other in-house activities.

The official presentation was made by the company's President and General Manager, Robin D. Tait to Ann Pahl, Director of Participation House, at the firm's Christmas Party.

"It took a little longer than we had originally in-

tended," said Mr. Tait, "however, \$100,000 was the bottom line and we made it! We are extremely proud that our organization could make such a significant contribution for such a significant purpose."

Chesebrough-Pond's, through The Tribune, thanks the community for its support with particular thanks to employees who worked so enthusiastically to make this objective a reality.

Town's strength

Dear Mr. Thomas: Our town's strength is in its churches. Growth in this area of community life is apparent. The planned construction of a new sanctuary at Christ Anglican; the new edifice built by St. Mark's Parish;

the addition at St. James Presbyterian and a proposed addition at Stouffville Pentecostal, indicates a trend in this direction.

I doubt if there's a municipality our size in Ontario where church association, on a per

capita basis, is greater than ours. This, I feel, says something for the area and the type of people who live here.

Sincerely,
 Helen Booth,
 Manitoba Street,
 Stouffville.

Dining with Cal

BY CAL AVERY

Winter brings with it numerous exhilarating outdoor activities which tend to work up hearty appetites. Cathryn and I have spent our day near Bolsover, north of Beaverton, hiking in the bush with our dog and some local friends. To satisfy our hunger, we decided to dine at the River Valley Restaurant in Uxbridge.

One major drawback we discovered, is the rather strange entrance. On our first visit, we almost turned and walked out until Cathryn spotted the dining room located to the rear of the building. This evening, a somewhat boisterous group of gentlemen are seated in the booth style entrance area and probably would not provide a conducive atmosphere for good dining.

Airy would best describe the main dining room as the windows provide a panoramic view of this week's newly-created winter wonderland. Dress tonight is casual to formal so we don't feel out of place in slacks and sweaters.

Following a before dinner cocktail, I elect for my entree, the half barbecue chicken served with mashed potatoes and julienne style carrots. Previously, my chicken at this establishment arrived Sahara desert dry and very unsatisfactory. Tonight, it's terrific. My main reason for ordering this entree again is the thick, rich, spicy and peppery sauce. I'm not disappointed: The carrots and mashed potatoes are served in generous portions, enough to satisfy even my ravenous appetite.

Cathryn has always had delicious meals here and tonight is no exception. She decides on the 'Greek Souvlake'. The pieces of sirloin are very tender and ever so tasty—a subtle hint of garlic and other seasonings make this a most delightful dining experience. This is served with a mound of fluffy rice and a fresh Greek salad.

Following the meal, we have a light dessert of ice cream and a cup of tea.

This family restaurant is located on Toronto Street North, just off Brock Street. Prices range from \$15 to \$25.

COMING SOON—The Duchess of Markham.

Enter Joe Dales

Three interested in regional post

YORK REGION — Although Regional Chairman Bob Forhan has yet to decide whether to step down and accept the Chief Administrative Officer's (CAO) position, the race to succeed him is already heating up.

Former Georgina Mayor Joe Dales became the first to make his intentions known last week when he announced he'd be interested in replacing Mr. Forhan as Regional Chairman. He said he expects opposition for the post to come from Mayors Tony Roman of Markham, Eldred King of Whitchurch-Stouffville and Al Duffy of Richmond Hill. Despite the political heavyweights lining up against him, Mr. Dales views himself as a "compromise candidate."

"I'm finding surprising acceptance of the idea amongst Regional Council," Mr. Dales, told the Economist and Sun. "I played with the idea for quite a while, then decided to test the waters to see if there is some support."

Mr. Dales, who had previous Regional Council experience while Mayor of Georgina, has been active in politics for 20 years. Despite his experience, it didn't carry any weight with Mayor Duffy.

"I think there are many qualified people on Regional Council already that should be given consideration first," said Mr. Duffy.

"It's normally something that is done."

When asked what his intentions were, Mr. Duffy replied: "I might be interested."

"I'll wait and see what Mr. Forhan decides."

On the other hand, Mayor Roman didn't have any complaints about Mr. Dales entering the race. But didn't say he'd support him either.

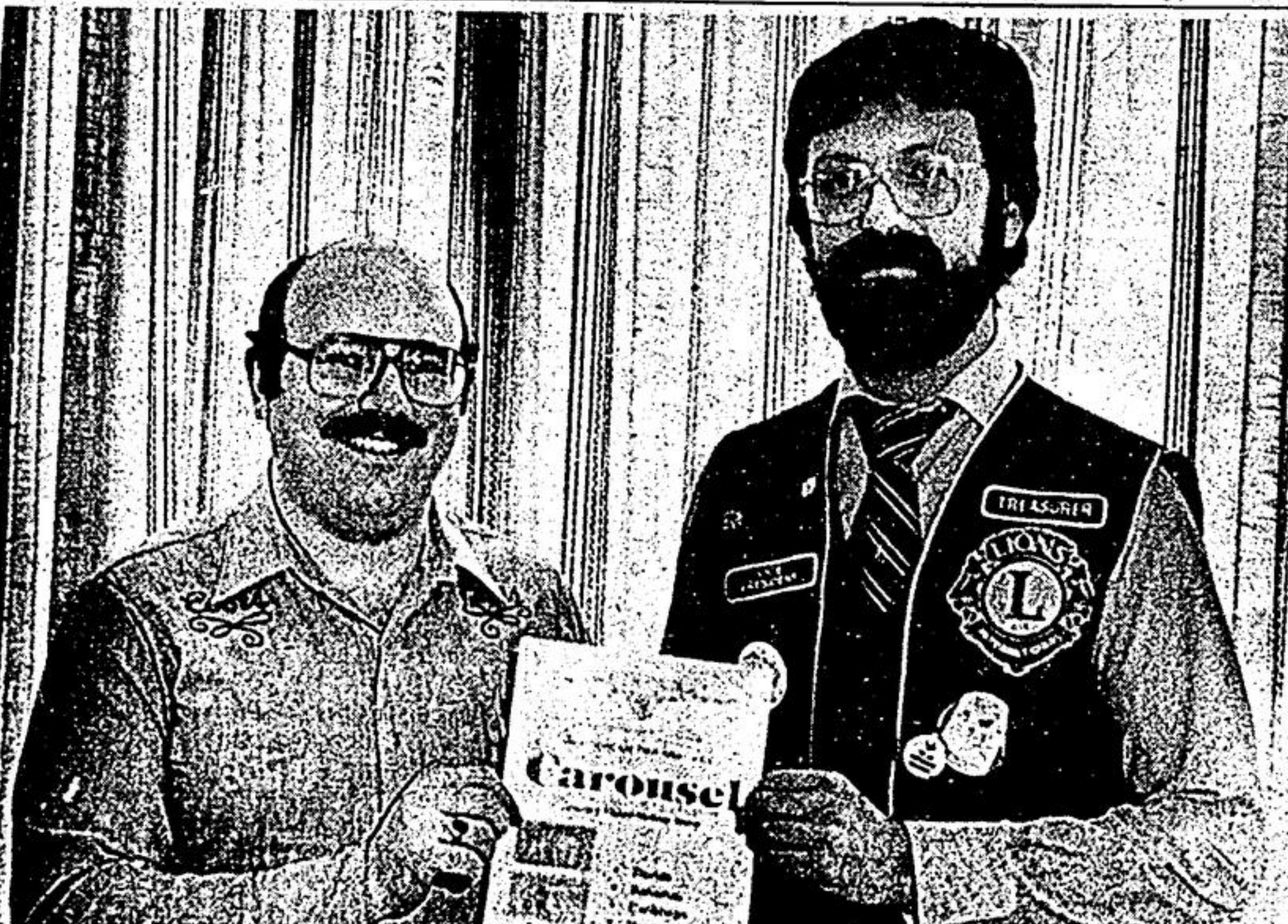
"It's a free country," noted Mr. Roman. "Mr. Dales can do anything he wants. Anyway, it's all sheer speculation. Mr. Forhan hasn't accepted the job yet."

Mayor Roman did not indicate whether he'd be interested in the Regional Chairman's job. He said: "I have an opinion, not to have an opinion. Beside, no one on Regional Council has talked to me about the position."

"Sure, I might be interested. But so may Mr. Duffy, Mr. King, and perhaps, everyone on Regional Council."

Noting Mr. Dales had a right to enter the race if he wished, Mr. King said he'd make up his mind about seeking the chairman's seat, after Mr. Forhan had made his decision. He said if Mr. Roman was to run, he "would support" him. However, if the Markham mayor declined the bid, it would be "a whole new ball game. I'm just adopting a wait and see attitude," he added.

Mr. Forhan is expected to make his plans known at tomorrow's (Jan. 12) meeting of Regional Council. Should he accept the \$76,000 post as CAO, it is expected a special meeting of Regional Council will be called before the next regular session (Thursday, Jan. 26) in order to name a new regional chairman.



Wins Lions-sponsored dream trip to Hawaii

Businessman Sandy Aivaliotis, (left), of Ballantrae was the winner of a trip to Hawaii in the December draw sponsored by the Ballantrae and District Lions Club. The draw chairman is Lion John Bare (right). The January grand prize is a holiday in Nassau. All flights are supplied by Carousel through Stonehouse Travel, Stouffville.

Only 200 tickets are sold each month. The cost is \$10 per month or \$100 for the year. Proceeds from this project will be divided between the Markham-Stouffville Hospital Fund and the Whitchurch-Stouffville Recreation Centre Fund.

—Jim Thomas.

Top athlete

UNIONVILLE — Ruth-Anne Wideman, daughter of Ray and Lois Wideman, R.R. 1, Unionville and a senior physical education major at Messiah College, Grantham, Pennsylvania, plays hitter on the Messiah College volleyball team.

Ruth-Anne recently helped her club take first place in a seven-team Salisbury Tournament with a 6-0 match record, enabling them to meet nationally ranked rivals, Western Maryland for the second time this season. The Messiah Falcons hold a 22-3 record, with losses only to Western Maryland and York.

Coach Joan Chamberlain believes consistent ace serves have been a significant factor in the team's success. Coach Chamberlain took over the team's reins in 1977. She's a graduate of Wheaton College.

Stouffville Dance

Workshop

Classes in Ballet and Modern Jazz



Registration for second term beginning WEDNESDAY, JAN. 18th

Classes in Ballet & Jazz

Ages 5 to teens

LOCATION: St. James Presbyterian Church

For more information or to register call Pirkko Eagar at: 640-1499