

Days-old infants survived

from P-8

news from a hospital where close to 200 babies had perished. A child who had spent more than half its life buried in the rubble, was cut from its mother's arms. The woman had been nursing the newborn at the time of impact and the child had lived five days clasped to its mother's breast.

Doctors and nurses were uncovered as well as patients. All those alive complained of thirst when removed, not of hunger. One couple kept new born babies alive with all they had to give them — urine.

Children only days old survived. Later in the week another live infant was found attached to its dead mother by the umbilical cord. The stories of miracles continued as the seemingly endless news of more deaths resulted from the destruction.

On Thursday we drove to the airport past lines of people waiting to fill pails with drinking water. They had not yet been allowed to go back to their modest homes. Still, it seemed like a modest inconvenience when compared to the suffering of many others.

Somewhere over Texas I felt relieved to be returning with only good news to many friends in Toronto awaiting word on their loved ones. To one I could report that her grandmother had decided to stay with relatives and had not been home when the quake struck. Her building is no more, but she was safe.

For others there was welcome news that all were safe. As for my

own family, I was relieved that I found them all safe, but this feeling was partially offset by the emotion welled up inside of me by what I'd seen in the previous days.

An afterthought: Poor Mexico. A debt-ridden nation, partially illiterate, pollution blanketed in many urban areas, with a system of corruption and graft so entrenched as in many third world nations.

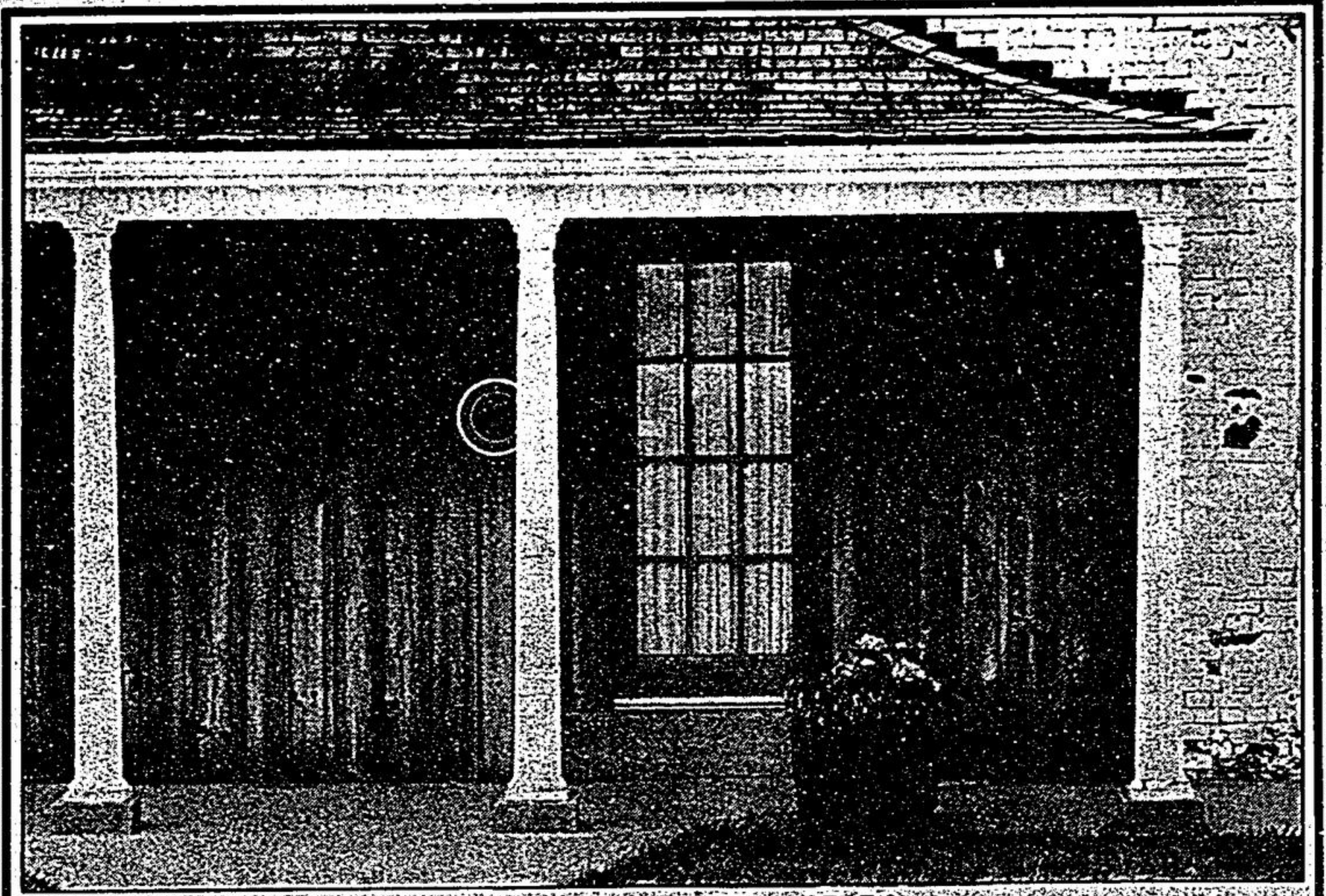
It is a nation ill-prepared for natural disaster. While there was no shortage of food, medicine, or blankets, one key ingredient was missing — money. But everyone knew the money would not come. No one in the world had confidence in the money reaching the proper hands. As usual, the poor suffer the most.

One wonders whether Mexico can rebound from its tragic state to provide for its millions of poor and displaced. But the Mexican people are resilient and have coped before.

Mexico is also a land blessed with such natural beauty that it will always be one of the leading tourism nations on earth. And tourism, that great earner of foreign currency, is so badly needed in the rebuilding of the country.

Tourism will return. In fact, the odds of another destructive quake hitting Mexico City in the next 30 years are much less than a hurricane hitting Florida or a Caribbean island every six months.

Mexican resorts were virtually untouched by the quake and continue as the prime centres of tourism in Mexico. Perhaps, therein lies the irony of all this tragedy.



Name That Building

Name this building and you could win \$25 in our town, no later than Thursday, Oct. 10 at 9:30 a.m. Name That Building contest. Bring entries to the Last week's winner was R. Sampson of Markham. Economist and Sun offices, 9 Heritage Rd., Markham, or the Tribune office, 54 Main St. W. Stouffville. — Sjoerd Witteveen

Town to listen to public on proposed daycare operation

The planning committee of Markham council will listen to the public on the issue of daycare operations in townhouses.

A representative from licenced private daycare operators, came to the meeting last Tuesday to ask the Town to permit home daycare, which allows five children per home — including resident children under the age of six — in townhouses.

The present by-law prohibits this business, although single family, semi-detached and street townhouses are acceptable.

Some councillors were concerned that running this sort of operation in a townhome could result in serious traffic problems within the development.

But Ward 5 Councillor Gord Landon said he has placed his child in several small daycare operations.

"I don't think I've ever met another parent when picking up my child. The working person is gone already and you can pull up into the driveway," he said.

Ward 7 Councillor Mike Popovich suggested sending a notice to all the townhouse condominium corporations in Markham to

make them aware of the public meeting.

Regional Councillor Bud Bonner suggested a scenario where four townhouses in a row offer private daycare. The existing by-law says home daycare operations have to be at least 200 metres from each other.

"Is there going to be a 200-metre limit or should it be different in block townhouses?" Mr. Bonner asked.

The committee will listen to the public's views on this matter at a public meeting Tuesday, Nov. 19 at 7:30 p.m.

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The Kitchen Door closes for the last time at 85 Main St., on Saturday, October 12th.

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