

He's got the cutest little baby face

By PAULA CROWELL
Staff Reporter

If you piled his trophies on top of one another they'd be about twice as tall as him.

But the awards don't mean much to Markham's little William Tyler ('just call me Will') Porteous.

This sweet-faced tot is Canada's entry into a baby contest in the United States. His charming smile and twinkling, hazel eyes won over judges at a local contest and a Canada-wide competition two weeks ago.

And he's been invited to compete in another contest in August, 1987 in Atlanta, Georgia where babies from every state may be entered.

His mother Linda is almost apologetic, she's so modest about her only child.

"We read the ad (about the initial contest at Markville Shopping Centre) in the Economist and Sun and I thought 'what the heck we might as well enter him'," she explained adding, "I never expected him to go to bigger things."

Will was entered in the overall beauty pageant as well as photogenic and sportswear competitions and won in all three categories for his age group (under a year) and sex.

The Canadian pageant was held at the Cara Inn on the airport strip where babies came from as far as Manitoba to the west and Prince Edward Island to the east.

Judging was conducted over two days by 12 judges — six different ones each day. The judges, nine women and three men, are all involved in beauty, fashion, sports or promotional careers.

The son of a disposal business owner and a part-time legal secretary will celebrate his first birthday July 23. He's a solid little boy at 30 inches and weighing 21 pounds who keeps his mother slim.

He's not walking yet, but finds it easy going on his hands and knees. And while he may not know he's a beauty contest winner, somehow Will understands that he can right any wrong with his engaging smile and a coo of laughter.

He'll be out of the limelight until next spring when he competes in the Markville contest. By the time the Atlanta pageant rolls around, Will will be competing in the two-to-three-year-old category.

Mrs. Porteous explained that paperwork slows the contest down so that so-called international events take place one year after Canadian winners are chosen.

Along with his six trophies, Will received \$200. The winner of next year's pageant wins a car as well as an undetermined amount of money which could be more than \$1,000.

But this little guy seems unconcerned about material goods. He's content to be the cutest little baby face in Canada.

Fire gutted Coppard house just prior to demolition

By PAUL PIVATO

A two-alarm blaze early Wednesday morning gutted the historic Coppard farmhouse in the Wycliffe Homes housing development on McCowan Rd.

When trucks from the Unionville and Milliken fire stations arrived at approximately 12:30 a.m., flames had already devoured the roof of the house and engulfed the ravaged interior.

After firefighters quelled the blaze, all that was left of the historic building were the charred red brick walls.

Markham Fire Chief Ken Beckett said arson was the probable cause of the fire.

The Coppard house was slated for demolition later this month after Heritage Markham told Council that it felt the house was no longer worth preserving.

The 6-bedroom brick farmhouse, built around 1840, was to be part of the original subdivision site plan.

But the house was severely vandalized over a period of several months this spring.

Vandals smashed windows, tore down wall panelling, cracked sinks and toilets and scattered rubbish on the floor.

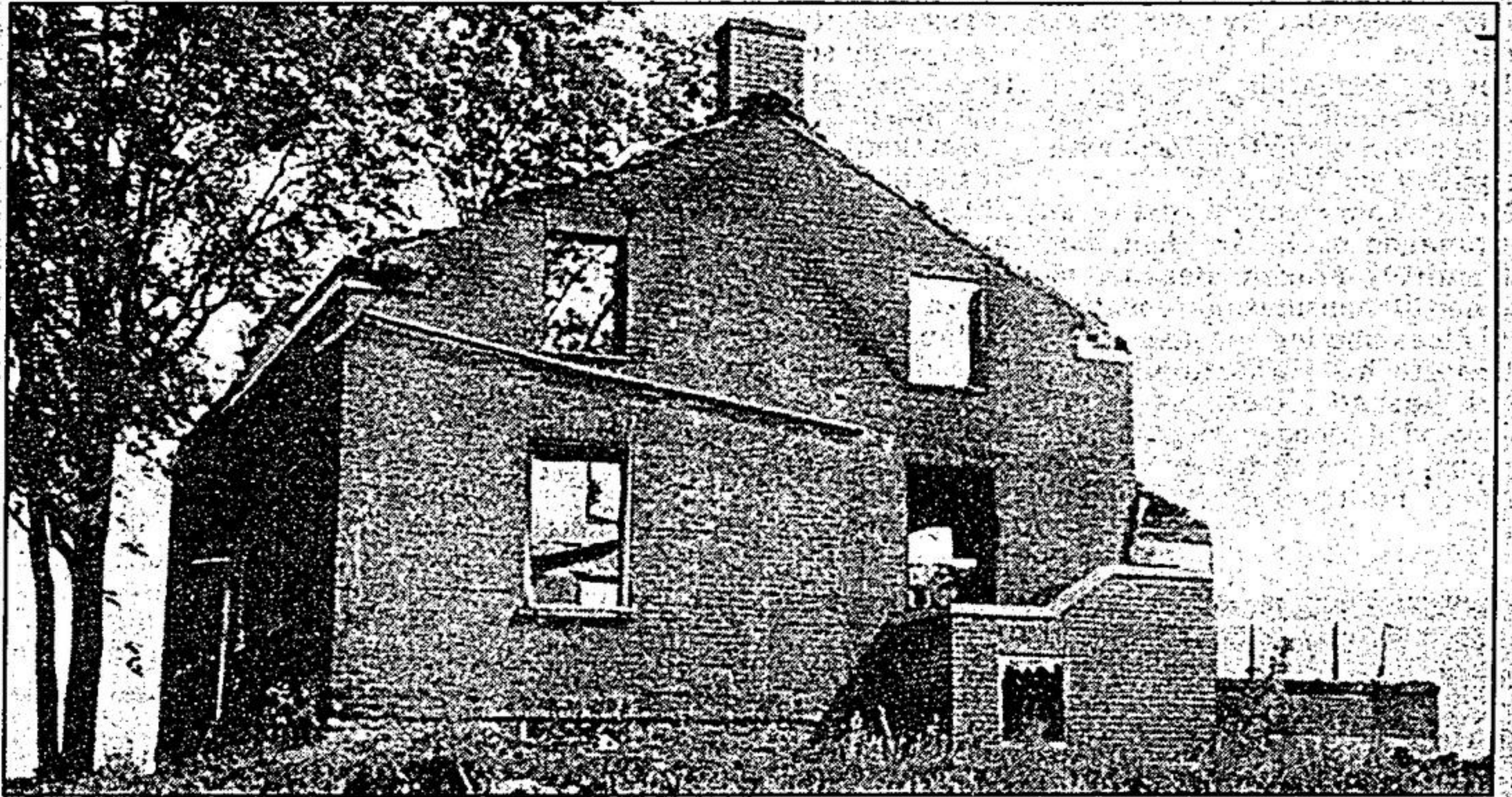
Members of Heritage Markham inspected the heritage property on May 14 of this year along with representa-

tives of the builders, Wycliffe Property Management.

In a letter to council the Heritage Markham committee wrote that it "was astounded and dismayed at the extensive and apparently methodical vandalism."

The committee further stated that "much more could have been done by the developer to protect this well documented heritage house and regrets that there appears to be no alternative to demolition."

Not long after Heritage Markham presented its letter to council, the developers filed for a demolition permit, which they received on July 1.



The historic Coppard house in the Wycliffe Homes development off McCowan Rd. burned to the ground Wednesday, having already been so severely vandalized that Heritage Markham no longer deemed preservation feasible. — Paul Pivato

Markham holdup

Armed men escape

Two men armed with a sawed-off shotgun and a snub-nose revolver escaped with an undetermined amount of cash after a lunchtime holdup of the Canada Trust branch at 8545 McCowan Rd.

The men, hooded in black balaclava masks, entered the bank through the front door Tuesday July 8 at approximately 12:20 p.m.

Police said the man armed with a shotgun ordered customers and staff to lie face down on the floor with hands outstretched.

The man's partner jumped over the counter and removed cash from trays at the central teller's desk.

According to an eyewitness account the two men then fled in a red sedan.

York Regional Police Detective Sergeant E. Kelly said the heist was "well-planned" and probably took less than a minute.

Police say the robbery has similarities to bank holdups in the Metro area and are investigating any possible links.

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