

Editor's Mail

Fabulous

Dear Editor:

I read your Roaming Around column on 'Silence is Golden' (Oct. 7), with much interest.

I was the woman whose shrieks shook the rafters.

While I didn't think my shriek was quite that loud, I must admit the scarecrow, that I thought was stuffed, took me completely by surprise when it (he) suddenly looked my way.

For those readers that didn't see 'Silence', he is, in reality, Bob Hall, a gentleman who annually sets himself up as a scarecrow in the school exhibit at Markham Fair. He's fabulous.

This was my first face-to-face meeting with 'Silence'. I was nonchalantly checking the scarecrow entries with my two children: When the oldest said: "Look, Mom, he's breathing!" I paid no attention. Then the youngest asked: "Is he real?" It was at this very moment, he turned his head. The shock nearly bowled me over. Yes, I guess I shrieked.

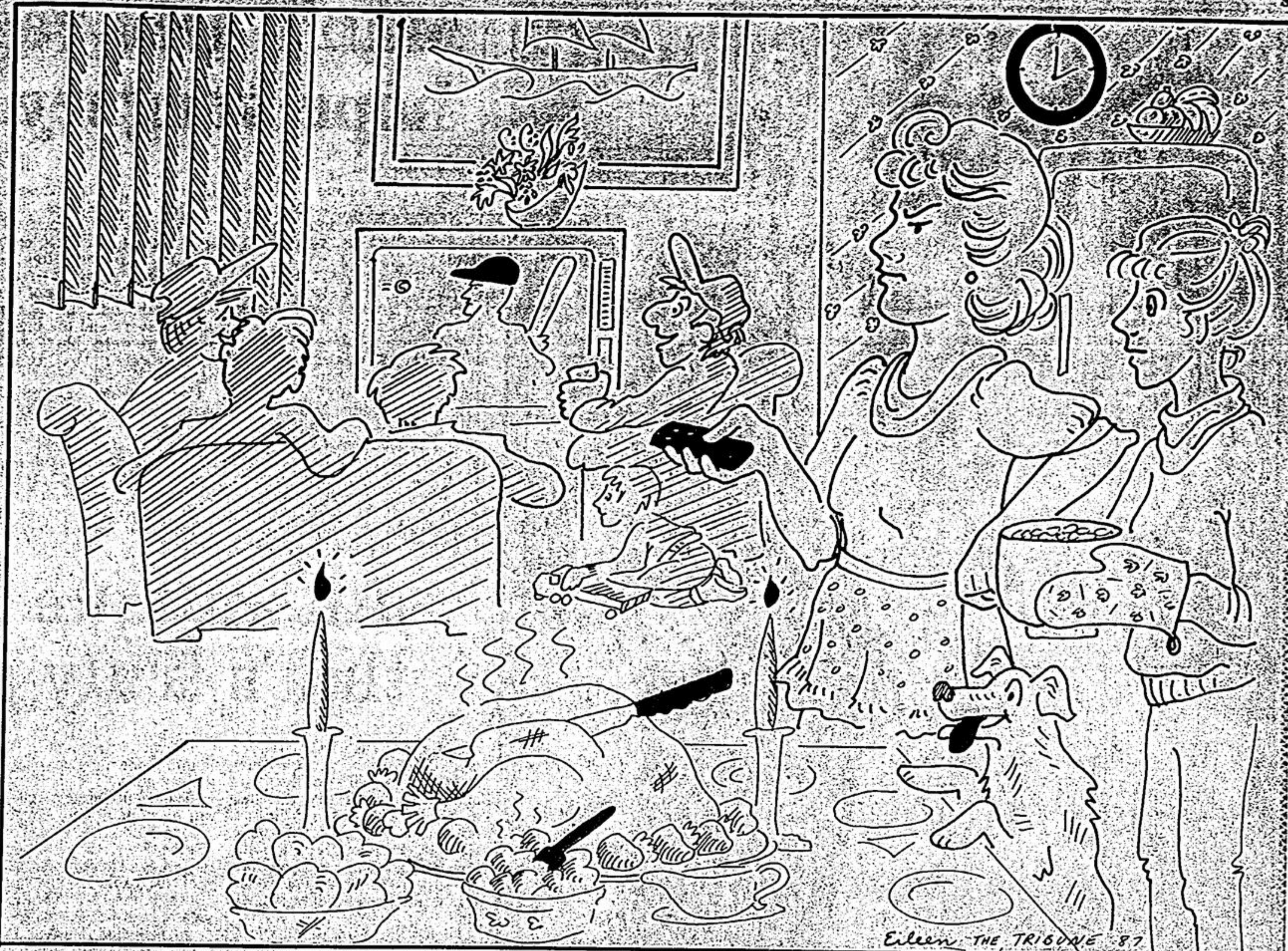
'Silence' is priceless. Seeing him was worth the price of admission. It's the thing I'll remember most about Markham Fair, 1987. My children won't let me forget!

I think it's great when an individual comes up with an idea like this on his own. Quite obviously, (from your column), Mr. Hall enjoys the experience as much as do his viewers.

Bringing joy and happiness into the lives of others, be they adults or children must be extremely satisfying.

I think 'Silence' deserves a medal.

Sincerely,
(Mrs.) Shirley Andrews,
Unionville.



Ellen THE TRIBUNE '87

The Tribune

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ROAMING AROUND

A 'lousy' column

BY JIM THOMAS



I attended the first fall meeting of the newly organized Orchard Park Home and School Association, Wednesday.

Like 400 other fathers of Orchard Park students, I didn't feel much like being there. But I considered it my duty. The reason? The main subject of interest, at least my interest, was Head Lice!

HEAD-LICE!!! Just mention those words and parents cringe. Me too, mainly through ignorance. I wouldn't know a head louse if I met one face to face. Nor do I relish a formal introduction.

Like with so many things, lack of knowledge breeds confusion. "Bring back a full report," Jean warned as I disappeared out the door, "and not just in your notebook."

I nodded okay.

I fully expected the place to be packed; that I'd find it hard to park. Strange as it may seem, it wasn't; less than 50 moms and dads, and only three of these were fathers. We males felt like onions in a petunia patch, at least I did.

Fifty parents out of a possible 850 is a pretty low average. Where are all the rest? I wondered to myself.

Surely, I thought, if any issue's going to spark interest it's a school rampant with head lice.

I obviously thought wrongly.

Regardless of the ho-hum reaction, it does present a problem. If you don't believe it, ask the parents of pupils at Summitview. What they endured last spring Orchard Park parents are enduring this fall. At Summitview, it led to the formation of a parent attack group called 'Bug Busters' that now seem to have the situation under control.

Something similar's been organized at O.P. Several mothers are giving of their time to do head-checks every day. Dozens of kids have been sent home.

While much serious discussion, Wednesday, was marred by misplaced humor, I found it anything but humorous. A 'lousy kid' is, in reality, a pretty serious thing. I know, for one night, we thought we had one: Our Mary-Lynn spent the whole of the evening in front of the mirror, convinced she was contaminated.

She, in fact, was so sure, she had the rest of us itching and scratching. A psychological reaction, I guess.

"See; there it is," she called to her mother, "that white thing half way up."

Jean searched and searched, even with a magnifying glass but couldn't find anything.

We agreed to let the 'Bug Busters' have a look. They couldn't find anything either. The itching and the scratching has since subsided.

But this doesn't mean we're home free. As long as these creepies are still crawling, there's a chance of infestation. Jean's on her guard, washing, scrubbing, vacuuming everything in sight. Even 'Susie', the family beagle is suspect. And she knows it, spending most of her time outdoors.

While cynical concerning most government agencies, I commend both the Ontario Ministry of Health and the York Region Public Health Department for its easy-to-understand brochures; also the Orchard Park Home and School for its swift response to a pressing problem!

I now know more about head lice than I ever knew before.

For example, they don't fly. In fact, a louse doesn't even have wings. Neither does it jump.

They can infect not only the hair but eyebrows, eyelashes and beards.

An adult head louse is only one-eighth of an inch in length. This makes it ex-

tremely hard to see. Even worse, it changes body colors to match its environment.

Although the adult's life span is only ten days, the female can produce between 50 and 150 nits, (eggs). These nits, only half the size of a pin head, lie close to the scalp and are firmly attached to shafts of hair by means of a cement-like substance.

A fine-tooth comb, a stiff brush or tweezers are required to remove them. Each nit must be placed in a plastic bag and disposed of carefully.

Medicated shampoos are available at local drug stores.

Care must be taken in their use, otherwise the cure can be worse than the cause.

Treatment isn't confined to heads only. All clothing, towels, bedding, etc., used by infested persons must be washed or dry-cleaned.

"Don't panic," Community Health Nurse Pam Yousset told her audience, Wednesday, "head lice won't kill you or your child. They're mostly a nuisance."

A nuisance is right.

We've had Mary-Lynn under a microscope ever since the epidemic erupted and 'Susie' too.

Neither am I out of the woods. But Jean insists it's only dandruff.

"How could it be anything else," she insists, "we haven't had our heads together in months!"

Editorials

Guard and protect

The opponents of industrial zoning on a section of the Oak Ridge moraine at Woodbine Avenue and the Bloomington Road have emerged victorious; to the betterment or to the detriment of the municipality no one will ever know.

A bookbinding plant, described as a 'class industry', will not be built at this site. Hopefully, the proponent will find another location in Town. Whitechurch-Stouffville can ill afford to lose this kind of quality firm.

While the majority of Council sup-

ported the Fitzhenry-Whiteside application, we have grievous misgivings concerning industry of any kind in so sensitive an area. In fact, the Town would be well advised to take a long, hard look at all applications that might, in any way, disturb this stretch of land, be they industrial or residential.

There are too many unknowns related to what lies below this escarpment. We do know it represents the dividing line for the north-south flow of water to Lake Simcoe and Lake Ontario. This alone represents a danger signal to human tampering.

We feel the Oak Ridge moraine should be made a natural buffer zone, totally undisturbed by developers. Fifty years from now (or less), politicians may more readily appreciate this hard-nosed planning approach.

Burn 'em

With respect to the burning of leaves, we think the Environment Ministry is pushing the panic button; the Town too.

Of all the environmental problems the province must face in day-to-day investigations, leaf-burning is one they could well overlook; the Town too.

We would suggest the amount of leaf smoke dispensed into the atmosphere in Whitechurch-Stouffville during an entire fall wouldn't equal the volume of diesel fumes dispelled by gravel trucks on the Bloomington Road in one day.

We feel home-owners are doing the municipality a favor by collecting leaves dropped from Town-owned trees. To bag them for garbage pick-up or rent a machine to do the job is an extravagant waste.

Like with other legal non-conforming activities, let the Town and the Province turn a blind eye to this pleasant autumn practice.

Car lots

Recently, we had occasion to drive west from Main Street, Markham, along Raymerville Drive. It looked much like Danforth Avenue of the 50's; an area 'littered' with cars.

There were two and three vehicles parked in every drive. 'Ugly', best describes it.

While the 'sardine approach' to home-building isn't as obvious in Stouffville as in Markham, we fear a similar car-parking practice is developing.

Looking up and down some streets, this is what one sees, cars, cars, and more cars. It's not a pretty sight.

Little wonder some home-owners became so upset at the thought of sidewalks being constructed. Cars would block the pedestrian right-of-way.

As with trucks and trailers, it would appear Council will be forced to take action with regard to outside car-parking as well; like a maximum of one per residence.

With the majority of homes sporting two car garages, exterior parking is, for the most part, unnecessary.



Parkview folk possess wealth of talent

There's a wealth of talent at Stouffville's Parkview Home, Parkview Village and Parkview Apartments. All contribute to the enjoyment of Residents. Here Bill Brodie and Ann Nikkel harmonize on the violin and accordion at a recent musical program at Parkview Home. Ann is a member of the Life Enrichment staff at Parkview. Mr. Brodie resides at Parkview Village.

—Jim Thomas

Editor's Mail

Support

Dear Editor:

As a regular reader of The Tribune, I look forward to receiving my copy in the mail each week; not always on Thursday, but appreciated just the same.

I look forward in particular to the issue following Markham Fair. I always know it will provide Fair coverage unlike any other weekly newspaper I've ever seen.

Your Oct. 7 edition was no exception.

I appreciate the fact there are many areas of editorial and pictorial interest at a Fair like Markham's. At the same time, I appreciate the time factor involved in covering each of these events. To come up with so many stories and pictures with limited staff is mind-boggling.

Some of your people must have worked day and night.

Most readers, of course, don't understand the hours that go into the publishing of a quality newspaper. As a journalist, I do. You and your staff are to be commended.

While writing this note, I'd be remiss if I didn't mention the excellent follow-up Markham Fair story in The Tribune Weekender on Alex and Bruce Davidson. A tribute such as this is so deserved. Most of us wouldn't have known about it if we hadn't read about it.

This is what makes The Tribune so interesting. It's mostly about people.

In closing, I wish to thank you for your continued fine support of an age-old institution. May Markham Fair and your newspaper continue to flourish.

Sincerely,
Cecil W. Gibson,
R.R. 1, Unionville