

Here come the brides of Stouffville



Walter Kempin leads Donna Friesen down the aisle at the Parkview Home. The pair participated in a fashion show of bridal attire last week.



Julie Murray looks demure in her wedding gown. She was accompanied by flower girl Alisha Kerswill at the bridal fashion show.



Clarence Summerfeldt escorted Karen Nugent down the aisle as she modelled a classic and simple bridal gown. The fashion show provided a good afternoon's entertainment.

Brides on parade

It was a display of wedding finery unlike anything seen in Stouffville before. The promenade that included both staff and residents, was held Friday in the auditorium of Parkview Home on Rupert Avenue. Several models wore their own wedding gowns, some dating back to the 1930s and '40s.

Participants were Lisa Fockler, Carolyn Reesor, Isabel Couperthwaite, Marg Jemmett, Jackie Wilson, Jenny McFadden, Donna Friesen, Charlene Pattenden, Cathy Paszat, Karen Nugent, Alisha Kerswill, Julie Murray, Gail Matthews, Lynn Poell, Anne Nikkel, Mim Jones and Ruth Fockler.

Their gentlemen escorts were Walter Kempin, Harold Spofford, Clarence Summerfeldt and Orland Elford.

The commentator was Mim Jones. In addition, Mim combined with Anne Nikkel in a lovely duet.

Pianists were Anne Nikkel and Shirley Gilham.

A number of wedding albums were on display along with an original wedding gift dating back to 1930.

Sesqui' fun in Claremont

By BRUCE STAPLEY

It's party time in Claremont as the village gets down to the business of celebrating its 150th year. Sesquicentennial activities will be running through the early part of June, heading toward the big celebration on the weekend of June 11.

Committee Chairman George Johnson said the whole town is getting involved in the festivities, and people are developing a greater awareness of their heritage.

"The main idea was to have a

heritage weekend where Claremont would get a better grasp of what's gone on in the past," Johnson says. "The people are working quite hard, and the thing is well organized."

The celebration has been in the planning stages for about a year, he claims, and there isn't a group in Claremont that is not involved. The Lions, Lionesses, the Legion, the Co-op and the churches are all pitching in to guarantee its success.

There is even a book chronicling Claremont's past, scheduled to come off the press in time for the big weekend. Compiled by local resident Jill Woolin, the effort is a collection of pictures and cap-

tions, and is expected to further awaken the awareness of Claremont's history.

Activities leading up to the big weekend include a fashion show tonight (Wednesday) at the Community Hall, a play to be performed at the hall Thursday at 8 p.m., and dances on Friday and Saturday nights.

There will be a Tour of Homes Sunday. Proceeds are going to help pay for a replica of the village's gazebo that was located at the centre of town for so many years. The structure will be used as a bandshell.

A Heritage Display will be set up at the library June 7 to 9, and the celebration weekend will be

- kicked off with a mixed baseball tournament getting underway Friday evening.
- The activities taking place on the weekend of June 11 follow:
- Saturday**
- 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. — Mixed Ball Tournament.
- 8 to 10 a.m. — Pancake Breakfast at the Claremont United Church; House Decorating Judging.
- 10 a.m. — Parade, including old car parade.
- 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. — Homecoming Welcome at Sports Pad.
- Noon to 4 p.m. — Children's games at the playground; Adult games of chance at the playground.
- Noon — Beer Garden at the Sports Pad; Ted Richardson at the Sports Pad.
- 12:30 p.m. — Play performance at the Community Hall.
- 12:45 p.m. — Shakespeare Magic with David Houston at the Sports Pad.
- 1 p.m. — Historic Display of artifacts at the Masonic Hall; Tug of War and Horseshoe Pitching at the Parkgrounds.
- 1:30 p.m. — Dennis Martin, Kids Folksinging at the Sports Pad.
- 3:30 p.m. — Whitevale Chimes Bell Choir at the Sports Pad.
- 4:15 p.m. — Junior Farmers Square Dance at the Sports Pad.
- 4:30 to 6 p.m. — Roast Beef Dinner at the Community Hall.
- 8 p.m. — Community Dance at the Sports Pad.
- Sunday**
- 11 a.m. — Church service at the park grounds.
- Noon — Community pot luck picnic lunch at the park grounds.
- 12:30 p.m. — Costume contest at the park grounds.
- 12:45 to 1:15 p.m. — Female Barbershop group, and games for all at the park grounds.
- 3 p.m. — Guided walking tour of the village.
- There is also a country night scheduled Saturday, June 25 at the Claremont Legion, which will feature the music of Don Lloyd and Country Gold.

Ron Beckett closes books at Ballantrae Public School

By KATE GILDERDALE

Ballantrae Public School will lose a popular and respected member of its teaching staff when Ron Beckett retires at the end of the month.

Mr. Beckett was honored at a retirement party at the school last Thursday evening. Although his life has been largely devoted to teaching, he was in RCAF during the second world war and went into business for eight years in 1950.

Born in Weyburn, Saskatchewan, he moved with his family to Newmarket in 1934 and completed his high school education there. "I well remember the dust bowl days in Saskatchewan," Mr. Beckett says. "Life was very different then." After graduating from high school, he went to church college, and from there joined the RCAF.

Worked with radar

He worked with radar, which was then a very new invention developed by the Allied nations to detect the enemy's approach. "I was tied up with secrecy and my letters were censored," he remembers. "We were posted to Labrador, Fogo Island and the Maritimes; we were called the first line of defence to protect Canada."

"After the war I finished school and attended Toronto Teachers' College," recalls Mr. Beckett. Jobs were hard to find then and he took a post at a rural school. "Being a town boy I was shocked to arrive and meet 48 pupils in one room," he observes. He met his wife in the Air Force and they both taught at a school in East Gwillimbury.

No TV

The contrast between his experiences then and now are notable, he points out. "We didn't have buses and pupils walked one or two miles to and from school," he states. "There was no TV and when the kids got home they had to do chores. Classes didn't go on field trips—the big events were the local fair, which the school usually closed for; the inspector's visit and the Christmas concert."

They also had a special clean-up day, after which everyone would go out for a picnic and that was a very important date on the school calendar.

The old schoolhouse didn't boast modern conveniences such as central heating. "Rural schools were heated by wood stoves, and it was part of the

teacher's job to see that the fire was kept burning during the day," recalls Mr. Beckett.

"In 1950, he took a break from teaching and went into the retail lumber and building supply business, but his vocation kept calling him back. "I always had a yen to return to teaching," he smiles. He re-entered the profession and spent 17 years as a teacher and principal at Maple Leaf Public School in Newmarket.

The school population, initially small, rose to a peak of almost 900 in the '60s. During the last 14 years Mr. Beckett has taught at Sharon, Aurora Senior Public School and Ballantrae. He has seen a great deal of change in education since he started.

"The rules were set down by the old grey book," says Mr. Beckett, "that used to be the teachers' bible. Today with the expansion of inventions, rapid communications, computers and the global village concept, the curriculum has expanded to meet our changing needs. Many more opportunities and experiences are available in all areas."

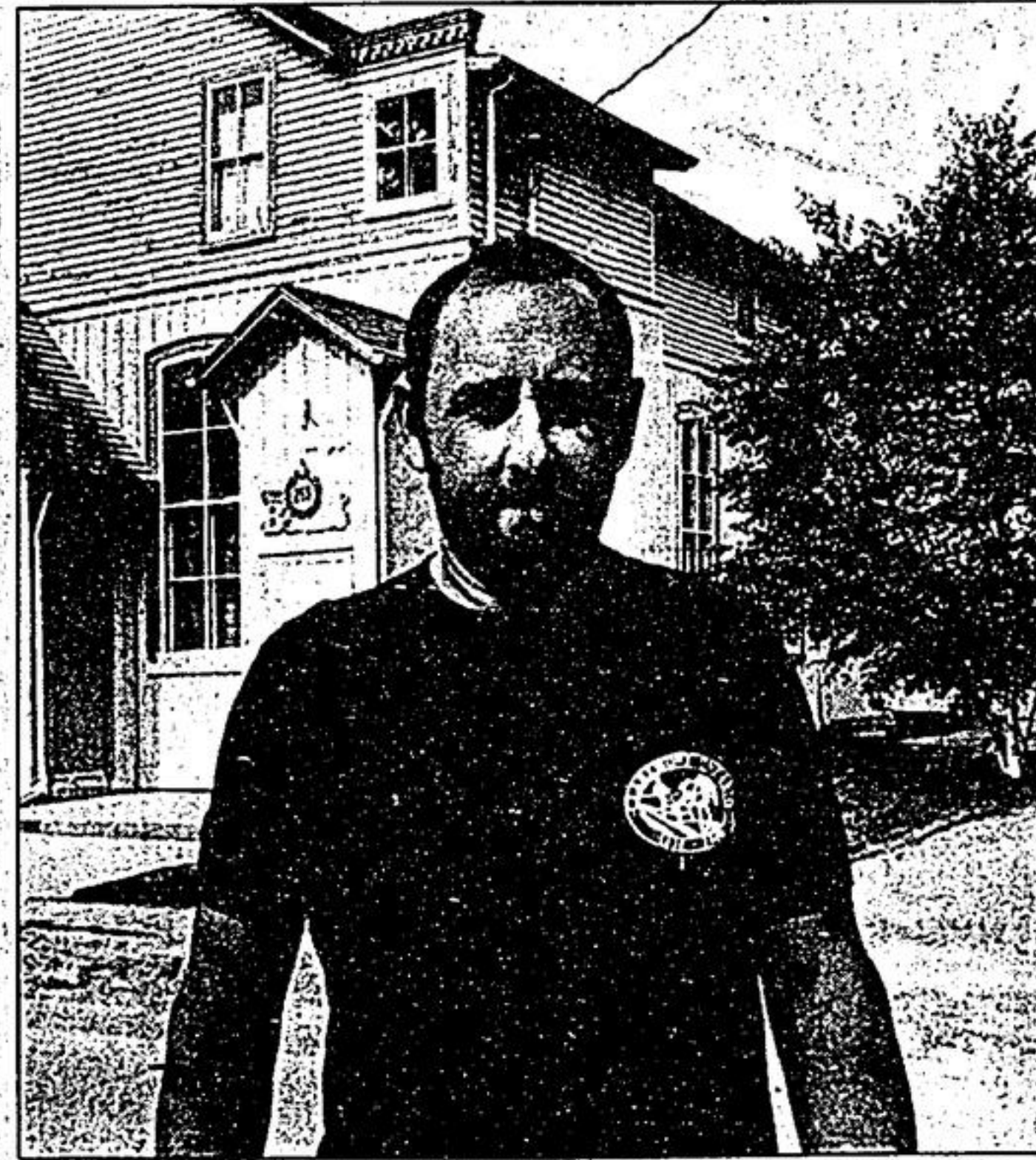
Children know more

He feels children nowadays are much more knowledgeable about current events, but at the same time he sees value in some of the earlier educational procedures. "I tend to retain a more traditional approach, using contemporary methods," he comments. "The basic premise is honesty and consistency," he claims, noting that students respond to firmness tempered with common sense.

While Mr. Beckett is looking forward to retirement, he acknowledges there will be a period of adjustment for both him and his wife. "I'm sure I'll miss it for a while," he admits. He is very keen to do some travelling. "My wife wants to go to Alaska and the Yukon," he declares, "I'm interested in the Middle East." They would also like to visit Australia.

With missionary friends in Japan, it seems unlikely the Becketts will run out of places to visit for a long time to come.

In the meantime, he plans to develop his cottage up north for year round use and spend some time doing wood work. Clearly, Ron Beckett will have plenty to keep him busy after he says goodbye to his many friends at Ballantrae Public School.



George Johnson and his sesquicentennial committee are ready and raring to go for the Claremont celebration next weekend. There are activities to suit every taste on June 11 and June 12. —Jim Thomas



A parting gift

Teacher Ron Beckett (second from right) accepts a camera tripod from Ballantrae Public School principal Jim Jeffers. Mr. Beckett is retiring at the end of this month. Also present when he received his retirement gift were (from left) his son Paul, daughter Geneva Ruegg and his wife Ruth. —Jim Thomas

Scenes from nature

Olive Murphy stands with her painting of a winter scene at the Stouffville Silver Jubilee Art Club. Her art was included in the Silver Jubilee Art Club's show and sale last week. —Jim Thomas



Art show in Stouffville

Joyce Hyde of Ballantrae painted this winter scene for the Silver Jubilee Art Club's show and sale. The show was held last Wednesday. —Jim Thomas