

1964 blast rocks Dickson Hill community

Here again are some items of interest called up from issues of *The Tribune* of years gone by.

100 years ago

Aug. 16, 1889: **LAWN PARTY**

It seems as if the weather conspired against the success of garden parties this summer, but the band fared rather better than was expected. In the morning it looked as if it were going to rain before night. However, the rain held off and by the time it was dark enough to show the lights to good advantage hundreds congregated at the Driving Park which was nicely fitted up for the evening. The Green River band marched on the grounds and played some selections in capital style.

The threatened rain came at about 9 o'clock, and the belt of the engine which supplied the power coming off, the electric lights went out and an adjournment was made to the hall. However, the rain lasting only a few moments and the lights shining forth again lighting up the grounds with great splendor, the crowd came back to the grounds again where they seemed to enjoy themselves listening to the strains of the bands, the comic songs of Messrs. Ellis and Darlington.

Markham, Unionville, Green River, Gormley and other neighboring places were well represented to the number of over 600. The receipts exceeded \$150 and the affair was a pronounced success.

50 years ago

Aug. 17, 1939: Despite the fact the Township of Whitchurch ad-



BYGONE DAYS

Walter Waterston

ded to its equipment this year a heavy road grader costing \$5,500, and placed the roads in better condition than for some years, the tax rate struck at the regular meeting on Saturday is still on the down trend, the total rate being half a mill less than last year when a marked reduction was made over the 1937 rate.

Reeve Toole and his council expressed great satisfaction when the final figures were compiled, showing that expenditures were being kept within the budget despite the unusual outlay fully paid up for new road machinery. The government subsidy of one and a half mills was an appreciable factor in the happy outcome, for it amounts to \$2,600.

25 years ago

Aug. 20, 1964: A thunderous explosion on the property of the Markham motel-restaurant at Dickson's Hill on Friday morning during a well-drilling operation sent a cloud of mud, sand and stones 150 feet into the air. The cause of the "blow" has been attributed to the penetration of an underground gas vein by the drill at the 154-foot level. Debris, including large rocks, was scattered over a wide area

but no one was injured. One worker, 20-year-old Harold Robertson of Schomberg, was drenched with water and mud but returned to his job after a change of clothing.

Rinus Vanderboom of Nobleton, in charge of the project, said it was the heaviest gas explosion he had ever encountered. Both Markham Twp. and Ontario Provincial Police were summoned to the scene to ensure that proper safety precautions would be taken. The noise of escaping gas could be heard many hours after the initial blast.

10 years ago

Aug. 16, 1979: **STOUFFVILLE** - An auction at the historic

Bartholomew farm, Ninth Line north of Stouffville Saturday will conclude four generations of family ownership. Initially it was Henry Bartholomew, who came as a pioneer and settled at lot 35, conc. 7 in 1801. He fought in the War of 1812 and died from wounds received in that conflict.

A son, Phillip, acquired this property and later purchased more land at lot 3, conc. 9 in 1850. He passed it on to a son, John, who built a sawmill at the

site. John's son, Audrey, was next in line and then the present owner, George Bartholomew, born at the farm 61 years ago. George and Mary Bartholomew have two daughters, Janet and Karen.

The sale, expected to draw a tremendous crowd, is in charge of auctioneers Norm Faulkner and Earl Gauslin and begins at 11 a.m. Many antique articles are featured, some dating back to before the turn of the century.

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