

First Markham Baptist Church

# Voices raised in 'Amen' chorus at final service

## Chapel built in 1848

By Jim Thomas, Tribune Editor

MARKHAM - If Gabriel's clarion call had come on Sunday evening, the congregation within the hallowed walls of First Markham Baptist Church would never have heard a note.

For the blending of voices in a final 'amen', must surely have rivalled anything in heaven and certainly on earth.

Final - for some, too final. The little red brick chapel on the Ninth Line of Markham, dating back 123 years, is to be closed permanently.

Since 1848, through good times and bad, the church has remained a monumental landmark to all things upright and good. But the community, subjected to change, forced the cessation of regular weekly worship in 1958 as membership dwindled to only twelve. Mr. and Mrs. Russell Johnson,

Mr. Wm. P. Johnson, Mrs. George Lewis, Mrs. Mildred Walton, Dr. John and George Knight (missionaries in Jamaica), Mr. and Mrs. Murray J. Lewis, Mrs. Audrey Avery and Mr. and Mrs. Albert Stout. At present, six members remain.

The history of the church, prepared and represented Sunday by Mrs. Audrey Avery, revealed that a meeting, to establish the charge, was held as far back as March 25, 1837.

The Moderator was Elder Wm. Marsh of Whitby. Even before this however, a similar gathering was held (1834), with Bro. Joshua Miller, the Moderator. Of the 15 members on the roll, 11 were Millers.

In 1835, others were added, including William and Sarah Ratcliff, grandparents of Alex. Don, Howard, Floyd, Charles and Gordon Ratcliff, well-known in the Stouff-

ville-Whitchurch area.

Down through the years, pastors have included Bros. Gostick, Elder Anderson, Elder Wm. McLelland, Elder Moore, Elder Tapscott, Bro. Vansickle, Elder Freed, Mr. Barker, Mr. Bennett, Mr. Booker, Rev. R.C. Cameron, Rev. Wallace, Rev. Blundell, Mr. C.J. Loney, Rev. J.D. McGregor, Rev. Brown, Pastor Burgess, Rev. Fleischer, Rev. McGrath, Rev. Duncan McGregor, Rev. Pequegnat, Rev. Branton, Rev. Gibson and Rev. Williams.

Just previous to the church's closing in 1958, gifts of money totalling \$2,000 were received in addition to a legacy of \$18,000 from the estate of Mrs. Jessie Ness Miller.

The interior of the chapel is little changed from that recalled by most of the persons present. Sunday evening. The service was led by Jim Lewis with Clarion Baker at the organ. Two instrumental numbers were rendered by David Howard. Mr. Jessé Pike, a one-time community resident, sang a lovely solo. Merlyn Baker read the Scripture and Rev. H.J. Lafleur, delivered the sermon.

What lies ahead? Nothing is certain. The statement as read said only: "It is with regret that we feel unable to continue with our annual service, as



First Markham Baptist Church, conc. 9, Markham, held its final service, Sunday evening. Although closed for several years, it was re-opened one night annually, for worship. The building's construction dates back to 1848 with some cemetery stones going back to the early 1850's. —Jas. Thomas.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
Beach Disposal Site  
2nd Concession Uxbridge Twp.

**NEW HOURS STARTING**  
SEPT. 1, 1971

Open Tuesday to Friday 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.  
Saturday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.  
Closed Sunday & Monday.  
B. W. Peach & Son.

we are in the progress of making other arrangements for the care of the cemetery and the future of this Church."

The burial ground itself contains grave markers dating as far back as 1851. Names like Barkey, Miller, Campbell, Johnson, Blair, Boyd, Hamilton, German, Lot, Clendenen, Read, Gilham, Walden, Dorn and Gregory are prominent.

At the base of one such stone is inscribed the following verse:

"Reader, behold as you walk by,  
As you are now, so once was I,  
As I am now, so you must be,  
Prepare for death and follow me.

Like the future of the church itself! It all sounds so final.

**Truck bylaw to Region**

YORK REGION - The bylaws restricting trucks on South Road, Musselman's Lake, are now in the hands of York Region staff. Regional approval must be obtained before they are passed on to the Province.

Mayor Ken Laushway, at a recent meeting of Regional Council, enquired as to what was being done.

"Where are the bylaws?" demanded Mayor Laushway, "they've been here for weeks."

Administrator John

Rettie explained they would be submitted to the Engineering Committee at its next meeting. He expected they would come to Regional Council, Sept. 9.

# Air Show!

The Canadian International Air Show, Sept. 3, 4, 5, & 6 at the Canadian National Exhibition — 1:30 P.M.

One of the top three air shows in the world, the Canadian International Air Show, will take place over the CNE water front each afternoon at 1:30 p.m. from Sept. 3rd to 6th. You'll see over 100 aircraft brought together from around the world in 2½ hours of breath-taking aerial action.

Headlining this year's top flight programme are the famed U.S. Air Force Thunderbirds aerobatic team showing the best of light formation flying in F-4 Phantom supersonic jets. And the U.S. Army Golden Knights parachute team, rated as the world's top precision jumpers, doing a streamer drop from Twin Otters, plus an impressive parachute demonstration.

**And much, much more!**

- Precision performances by the Canadian Forces Air Defence Command.
- The world's largest aircraft—the massive 350 ton cargo and troop transport, the Lockheed C-5A Jet.
- The R.A.F. Twin Vulcan Jet Bomber and the Nimrod Troop Transport seen for the first time in North America.
- The U.S.A.A.S.—Tactical Demonstration Team in Helicopters, including a Flying Crane and a Huey Cobra.
- An exciting wing-walking act.
- An exciting demonstration of precision water bombing by the Ontario Dept. of Lands and Forests.
- Internationally famous Scotty McCray with his skillful aerobatics in a Schweizer Sail plane.
- A demonstration of Breezy Experimental a hand-built early Wright Bros. type aircraft.
- A World War II Spitfire and an Air Canada Boeing 747.
- And many, many more exciting aerial attractions.

There are exciting things going on every day at the CNE. Fascinating pavilions, demonstrations and exhibits for everyone. A rodeo water shows, fashion shows, a 7-ring circus. There are concerts, sports events, rock shows and live plays. And a mile and a half Midway Fun is where you find it, and you'll find it wherever you look at the Canadian National Exhibition.

**Canadian National Exhibition**

UNTIL SEPT. 6 - TORONTO  
Buildings open on Sundays at 1:30 p.m.  
Adults \$1.50, Students \$1.00, Children 50¢.  
Ontario Place admission extra—Adults 75¢, Students 50¢, Children 25¢.

WISE HOME OWNERS INSIST ON HYDRA-PREST SIDEWALK SLABS FROM brooklin concrete products LTD.

"hydraulically pressed for maximum durability"

- COMPLETE RANGE OF SIZES
- SQUARE AND TRUE FOR EASY PLACING AND PROFESSIONAL RESULTS

IMMEDIATE DELIVERY

HIGHWAY 12, BROOKLIN 655-3311  
YONGE ST., NEWMARKET 895-2373

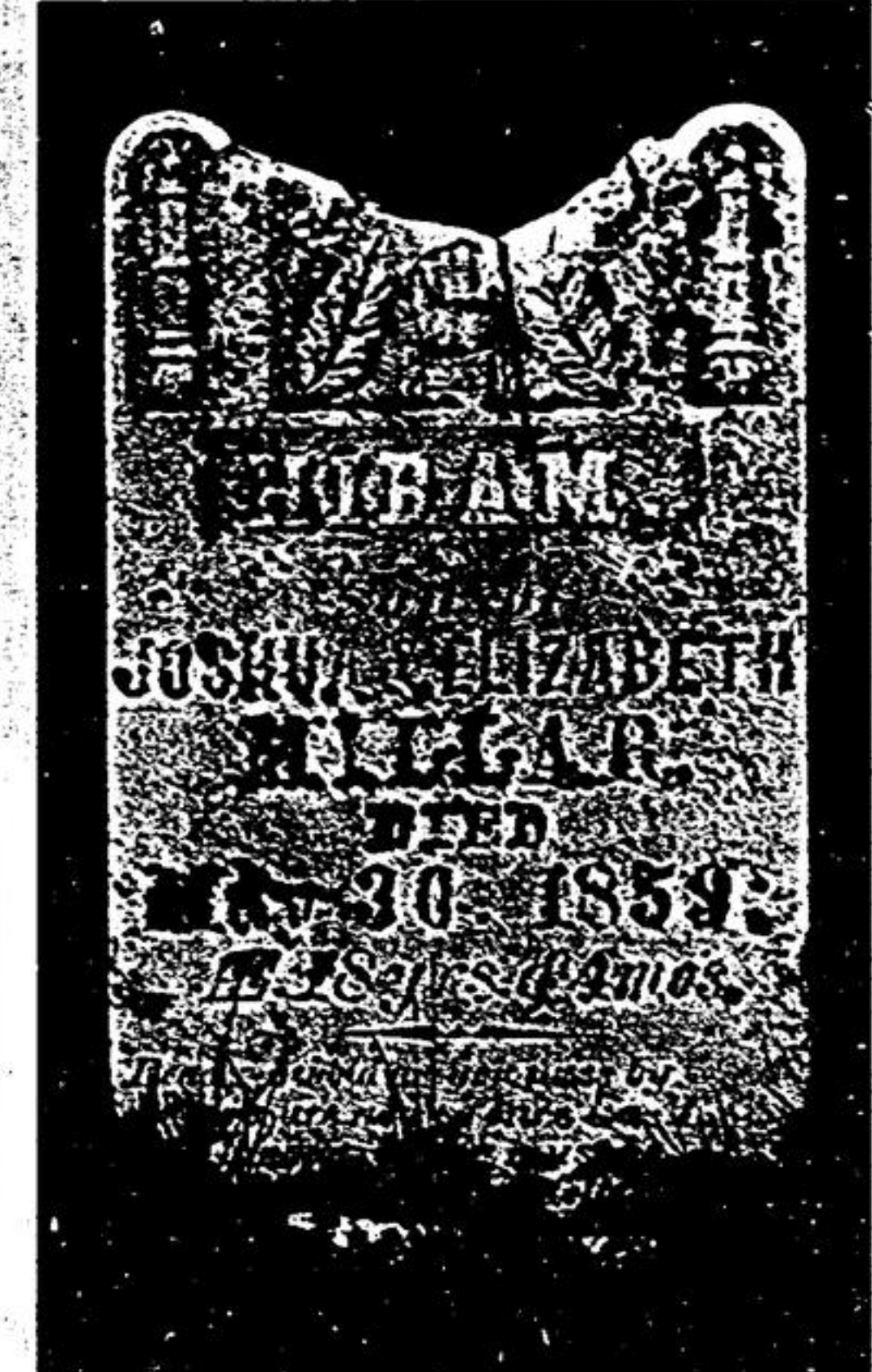
Sponsored by **DEAN WATSON AUTO SALES**

**CANADIAN HELL DRIVERS!**  
USING A FLEET OF 20 DATSUNS!

Sutton Speedway  
**FRI., SEPTEMBER 3rd.** at 8:00 p.m.

tickets ½ price at  
**DEAN WATSON AUTO SALES**  
UXBRIDGE — 852-6332

**DATSUN**  
PRODUCT OF NISSAN



This stone, located over a plot in one corner of the cemetery contains the following inscription: Hiram, son of Joshua and Elizabeth Millar, died May 30, 1859, age 18 years and 4 months. Another marker, in memory of John Miller is dated 1851.

**SCHOOL SUPPLIES AT THE TRIBUNE**

**Arrow**

**CAR & TRUCK RENTALS**  
Hourly - Daily - Weekly  
PICKUPS, STAKES AND VANS  
Available at Low Rates  
MARKHAM SUPERTEST SERVICE CENTRE  
HIGHWAYS #7 & #48 — MARKHAM  
PHONE 294-5112 — 297-2927  
"Smile A Mile With Arrow"

that's the life!

# Canadian

that's the beer!

**MOLSON CANADIAN LAGER BEER**  
Trademark of Molson's, Independent, Canadian since 1786