

# UNIONVILLE

News and Features

## Classroom — his 'second home'

By Mark Niblett  
UNIONVILLE - The sign over the door says

"Silence! Genius at work". Behind the door is Alf Hill, head of Unionville's Parkview School. Mr. Hill is a principal of the old tradition; he graduated from teachers' college in 1926.

But the intervening 45 years - 44 of which he has spent in Unionville - have done nothing to slow him down. He is still alert, forward-looking, taking advantage of what he considers the best in present educational trends.

This will be Alf Hill's last year in school. In June he will close the door of his office behind him for the last time, and step into retirement. Perhaps it is this which makes him reflective.

"Time flies by so fast, you can hardly realize it's gone", he said.

He remembers fondly his younger days - in Stouffville, when he worked in the bakery for Ambrose Stover - "the best boss a man every had". This was the man, he recalls, who bought a new suit for him when he left to attend teachers' college in North Bay.

There have been a lot of changes around Unionville since Mr. Hill first arrived there in the autumn of 1928. His first job was teaching at the old S.S. No. 10, which at that

time had two rooms. His classroom held 65 students.

"These young teachers who are always talking about teacher-student ratios", he said, "they don't know what it's all about, really".

For this job, which involved working from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. three or four days a week, Mr. Hill was paid \$1,100 per year. He had no complaints, however.

"I've always been treated very well as far as salary went", he observed.

At times, though, he had to fight for it. When the Depression began, Mr. Hill was earning \$1,400 a year; the schoolboard - composed of three men at that time - tried to cut this to \$800.

"I didn't move an inch. I told them I'd rather take my chances on the market. Around 2.30 in the morning, we compromised and I got \$1,250".

While Mr. Hill was at S.S. No. 10, he saw the school grow to its present size. He saw the three-man board replaced by a Township board, and finally by the County system which now contains 18 trustees. During that time, two more schools had to be built in Unionville to take care of the new residents.

In 1966 Mr. Hill came to Parkview as principal, at a time

when construction was still in progress. He is proud of his school. "We don't need the palaces they're building these days", he declared.

He is also proud of his staff.

"I don't think we've got any freeloaders here", he said. "We all get along pretty well. Last year only one teacher left the school, and that was because she had to retire".

He gives credit to the County board for allowing the principals to hire staff; but he criticizes some of the new policies and methods.

"We don't do a good job of selling our country, we Canadians", he said. "Children by and large have no knowledge and little pride in Canada".

At Parkview, students still begin the day by reciting the Lord's Prayer, listening to a Scripture

lesson, and singing "O Canada".

Alf Hill is also sharply critical of some teachers.

"I think it's an absolute crime for people to go into teaching if they don't like children", he exclaimed.

He hastens to add, however, that his own staff is very good in this respect. Interestingly, three teachers presently at Parkview were students of Mr. Hill's in grades 7 and 8.

While Mr. Hill firmly believes in "controlled freedom of pupils" as far as possible, he draws a definite line.

He considers that "open" schools have been a dismal failure, for example, and is critical of "vague" directives from the Department of Education.

His plans for retirement are still not settled, although he

expects to do some travelling.

Alf Hill has spent 44 years in one town, essentially in one job. By modern standards he might be considered narrow, limited.

But he can look back, with pardonable pride, on a lifetime of solid accomplishment. He has been a part of Unionville, and a part of growing up there, for more than two generations of children. He is entitled now to retire with satisfaction for having done a job well.

"And there are very few people who can do that."

"You know, dear", the young wife said to her husband, "you don't seem as well dressed as you were when you married me".

"I don't know why not", he replied. "I'm wearing the same suit".

### Contrast in homes

By Mark Niblett  
UNIONVILLE - This area provides a sharp contrast in life-styles, especially where houses are concerned. Along Kennedy Road, in the old part of town, are some of the finest homes to be found in Southern Ontario. These houses date back, in some cases, to the early 1800's.

West of the old section, is Varley Village, an area of new homes. Here, the houses date back to the late '60's - the 1960's, that is.

Varley Village is not, at first glance, very impressive. It looks the same way all subdivisions look; with minor changes, it might be in Scarborough, Winnipeg, or Los Angeles.

On closer inspection, though, there are certain features which put this development in a more favorable light. The names of the streets - Krieghoff, Emily Carr, Fred Varley - show some taste and imagination. Moreover, all the signs are lighted at night; to any motorist who has ever cursed his way around dark, unfamiliar streets, this is a major blessing.

Also, the styles of the homes are not offensive. They do not grate on the viewer the way many suburbs do. While there is repetition, it is done with a light hand, avoiding the "card-board box" impression given by many developments in Toronto and elsewhere.

The Tribune visited one house, built by Hallmark Homes. This model, "Harmony", is the highest-priced house built by the firm, selling for just under \$44,000. It seems to be a well-planned design, taking full advantage of a three-level "split".

The older homes have, inevitably, a great deal more charm and character. Particularly impressive was the "Munro Residence" at the corner of Kennedy and Euclid, and the "Kathleen MacKay Residence" on Kennedy Road.

The Munro house,



Mr. Alf Hill, principal of Parkview Public School and a member of the Unionville teaching term, 1972. He anticipates retirement at the end of the June term, 1972. —Jas. Thomas.

dating from 1852, is built along classically simple lines, employing the somewhat unusual "snowball" brick. The MacKay dwelling was built around 1840, and displays elaborate decoration on the eaves.

In the older houses, the rule is hardwood or broad pineboard floors, 10 or 12 foot ceilings, and generally small rooms. They exude a feeling of contentment and continuity, and you suddenly realize that generations of Unionville residents have been born in these houses and lived in them; some even died in them.

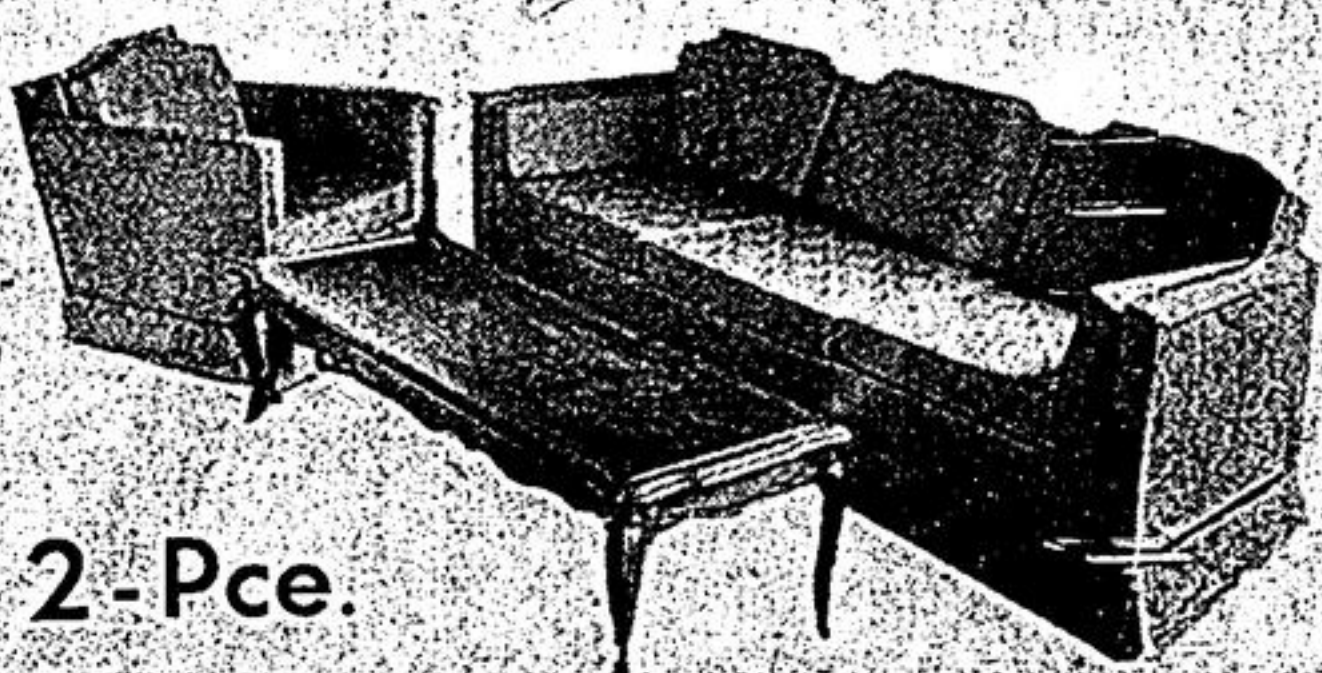
Which is the true character of Unionville? It's hard to say. There are few middle-aged houses, built between about 1910 and 1950; the gap is profound.

Unionville means something different to everyone, and its houses are one of the features that make it unique.

## Unionville Furniture & Appliances

### Early Bird

# CHRISTMAS SALE



2-Pce. **Chesterfield and Chair**

Reg. \$289.00 SALE **\$199.00**

- FEATURING -

### HASSOCKS

**\$9.95**

Cash & Carry



### RECLINER

### CHAIRS

From

**\$99.00**

# boaski

boaski is A BETTER BUY...

Some people say it's the all new aero-dynamic design! Some say it's the new Salisbury automatic drives! Others claim it's the gas tank cap with gauge. Others still maintain it's the longer chassis on the Mark II wide-track.

There's something special about Boaski all right and that's the people who build it. We put more into Boaski so you get more out of it.

We Are Now Featuring  
A Full Line of  
**TELEFUNKEN**  
STEREOS - TAPES -  
RECORD PLAYERS -  
and  
PORTABLE & TABLE  
RADIO'S

### LAST CHANCE

TO ORDER YOUR  
RCA or ADMIRAL  
COLOR TV's  
In Time For  
Christmas

CREDIT TERMS  
EASILY ARRANGED

COME AND SEE OUR FULL  
LINE OF BRAND NAME  
Chesterfields & Chairs  
Dining Room Suites  
Bedroom Suites - Beds  
Occasional Chairs  
Lamps

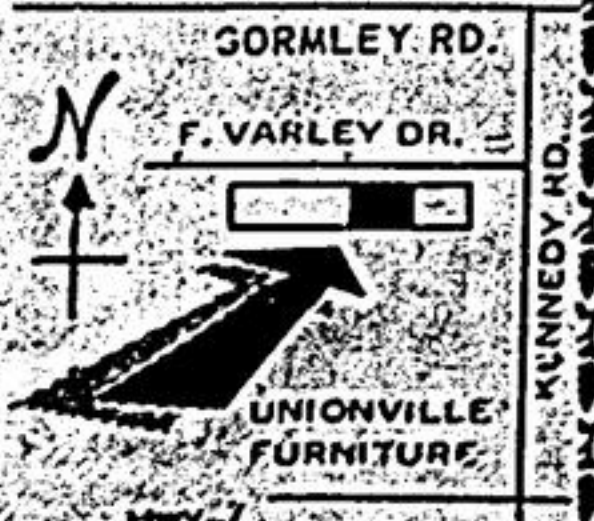
6 MONTHS TO PAY ON FURNITURE — NO INTEREST

## Unionville Furniture & Appliances

Open Mon., Tues., Thurs., Fri., 10 AM to 9 PM.  
Saturday, 10 AM to 6 PM  
Closed Wednesdays

11 FRED VARLEY DRIVE, UNIONVILLE (Unionville Plaza)

**297-3636**



**WEAL AND CULLEN**  
21 Sheppard Avenue East  
Windsor, Ontario  
(416) 225-7705

**REIDS LAWNMOWER**  
210 Markham Road  
Richmond Hill, Ontario  
(416) 881-7716

**WEAL AND CULLEN**  
27 Highway North  
Woodbridge, Ontario

**McKINZEYS PLACE**  
John Street (North of  
Steeles, West of  
Woodbine Avenue)  
Gormley, Ontario  
(416) 415-1702