

# MARKHAM

News and Features

## Ontario Municipal Board Hearing

### Ex-planner opposes apartment

MARKHAM - A 5-storey apartment is presently under construction in an area bounded by Robinson Street, Water Street and Wilson Street in the old Town of Markham.

An application now before the Ontario Municipal Board is seeking permission to build another, 3 storeys high, directly to the north.

A strong opponent of the project is Kunio Hidaka, former Markham Planning Director. He was questioned for almost an hour by solicitor Donald Malcolm, Aug. 28, before the Chairman called an adjournment to Sept. 18 at 10 a.m.

Mr. Hidaka listed the following reasons for opposing approval of the structure: (1) The site would encroach on valley land to the west. (2) The use of the site for this purpose would increase the traffic problem in the area. (3) The apartment is not in character with other buildings in the vicinity. (4) Approval of the apartment would change the general nature of the whole Town of Markham.

Mr. Hidaka said that the preservation of valley lands had always been his policy. He noted that about the only part of the building that would be above the level of the valley bank was the driveway. The Planner admitted, however, that he had attended meetings when the project had been discussed and was

present when the site plan agreement was signed. He said that since the former Markham Council had approved the venture, the new Council appeared willing to abide by that decision.

Solicitor Malcolm, accused on several occasions of "badgering the witness", said that an apartment precedent had already been established on Dublin Street.

With regard to traffic, Mr. Malcolm compared any increase in volume, caused by the apartment, "like a bucket of water thrown into the Atlantic Ocean". Both agreed that Water Street and Dublin Street were "laid out in the horse and buggy age".

Mr. Hidaka argued that contrary to the Murray Jones Report, he did not consider such residential areas as compatible with apartment construction. "The old Town of Markham has an established character and the residents wish to maintain that character," he said. "I feel that, as much as possible, it should be preserved. I do not agree with wholesale re-development".

Hearing chairman Thompson voiced concern over availability of fire protection to a site served by such narrow streets. He wondered if this problem had been considered.

Mr. Hidaka replied that he had thought about it, but had made no mention of it.



Shades of the gay nineties, Grace Philip, Main Street South, models a once-popular flapper. Styles, both past and present, will be featured by Patricia Bridal and Dress Salon, at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church Antique Show and Exhibition, in the Markham Arena, Sept. 8 and 9. —Jim Thomas.

### Fashions - past and present

MARKHAM - With the exception of price, antique items change little with age.

Such is not the case with styles. Both will go on display, Sept. 8 and 9, when St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church hosts its 9th annual Antique Exhibition and Sale in the Markham Arena. The show chairman is Wm. Rutledge, Rougecrest Drive.

The fashion parade, featuring apparel through the century (1872-1972), is in charge of Patricia Bridal and Dress Salon, 8 Main Street North.

## Wilbur Reesor

# His garden - a masterpiece

90 years young

CEDAR GROVE - A fellow would need to get up pretty early in the morning to get ahead of Wilbur Reesor - say, maybe 5:30 a.m.

While few Cedar Grove chickens have their alarms set for that hour, it is a common sight to see Mr. Reesor out weeding his immaculate garden before sun-up, and the result speaks for itself.

On Sunday, Sept. 3, Wilbur Reesor marked his 90th birthday. On Monday, Sept. 25, Wilbur and Eva Reesor will celebrate their 65th wedding anniversary. Such recognizable milestones couldn't come to two finer people.

Wilbur Reesor, while considered a native of 14th Avenue, R.R.2, Pickering, actually claims Cherrywood as his birthplace. However, at the age of only two, his parents, Solomon and Emily Reesor moved to their present place, and Wilbur has continued to reside there ever since. He attended S.S.No. 20 Public School, as did Eva Hoover, now his wife, but then, "just a pretty little girl on the other side of the room". Their family also were

pupils there, including sons, Kenneth and Gordon and daughter, Esther (Mrs. John White) of Brougham. They have 10 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren.

Wilbur still retains three framed promotion certificates, dated 1891, 1892 and 1893. The teachers' signatures are Ralph Brodie and Maggie Irwin.

Wilbur Reesor's memory is amazing.

He recalls the days of barn-threshing when neighbors joined together with neighbors to get the job done before Christmas. Thresher units in the area were operated by Samuel Reesor, Whitevale; Oscar Petty, Cherrywood and Menno Ramer, Mount Joy. When the operation was completed at one place, the host farmer would hitch his team to the old boiler engine, and haul it on to the next.

This practice changed around Cedar Grove, Mr. Reesor remembers, when several went together and purchased what was known as a traction steamer. Levi Ramer was the chief operator.

The hauling of milk to the station at Locust Hill was quite a chore, with from 12 to 14 shippers taking a regular turn, loading the cans on the train. Each farmer kept a "loading chart" in his milkhouse.

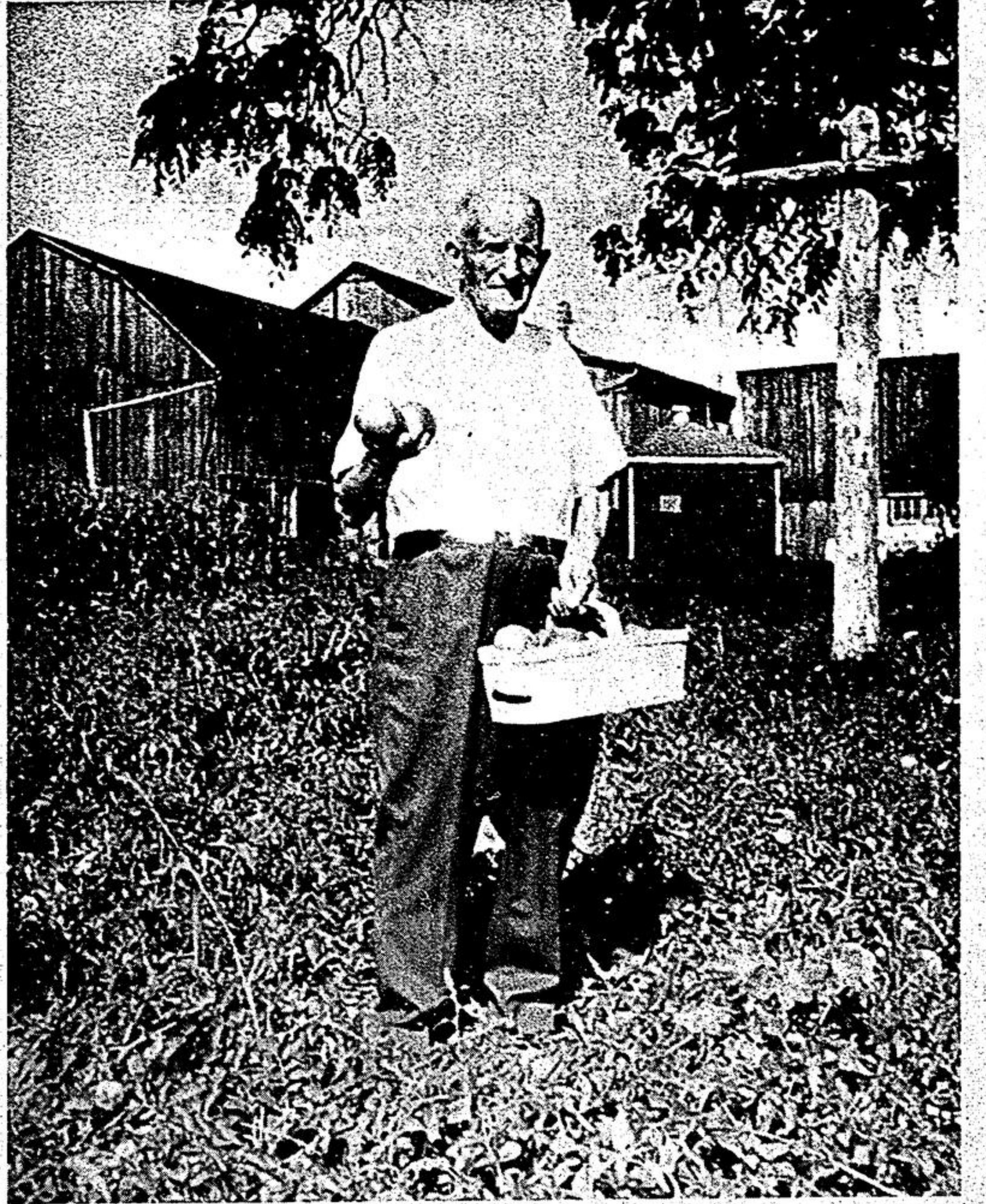
Wilbur Reesor was an excellent athlete, and still retains a keen interest in sport, particularly hockey and baseball. He played with the Locust Hill 'Clippers', with the 'home' football field, in Armstrong's flats. In 1901, the team won the York County championship, and in 1905, they captured the Ontario title. Mr. Reesor has framed pictures to prove it.

Mrs. Reesor's athletic interests, (when not watching Wilbur booting a football), was playing basketball. Her team used the grounds at Locust Hill school.

Mr. and Mrs. Reesor are members at Locust Hill United Church.

Besides being able to bake and prepare meals, Wilbur Reesor's most energetic enterprise is his garden - the produce from which he shares with friends and neighbors.

"I've got the best crop of tomatoes ever," he said. And "ever" for him, spans a good many years. Happy birthday.



Wilbur Reesor of Cedar Grove, displays a sample of tomatoes grown in his 14th Avenue garden this summer. Growing things is his favorite past-time. Mr. Reesor marked his 90th birthday, Sept. 3. —Jim Thomas.

### Airport hearing

Sept. 7

BUTTONVILLE - A public hearing will be held Thursday (tonight) at 8:30 p.m. in the council chambers. Town of Markham, to hear argument, pro and con, concerning an application by Toronto Airways Limited, Buttonville.

The Port owners are seeking approval of re-zoning that would permit extension of the north-east, south-west runway, a distance of 1,200 feet.

Applicants feel the longer "strip" will decrease hazards presently encountered while landing and taking off. While unwilling to give positive assurance that "jet-powered craft will never use facilities at Buttonville, they say it would only occur on rare occasions and even then, the plane would have to come within noise limitations established in advance.

### Stuart Watson

## Top wheat entry

MARKHAM - Stuart Watson, 18th Avenue, R.R.2, Markham, has submitted the 1st prize entry in the Wheat class section of the Field Crop Competition, sponsored by the Markham Fair Board.

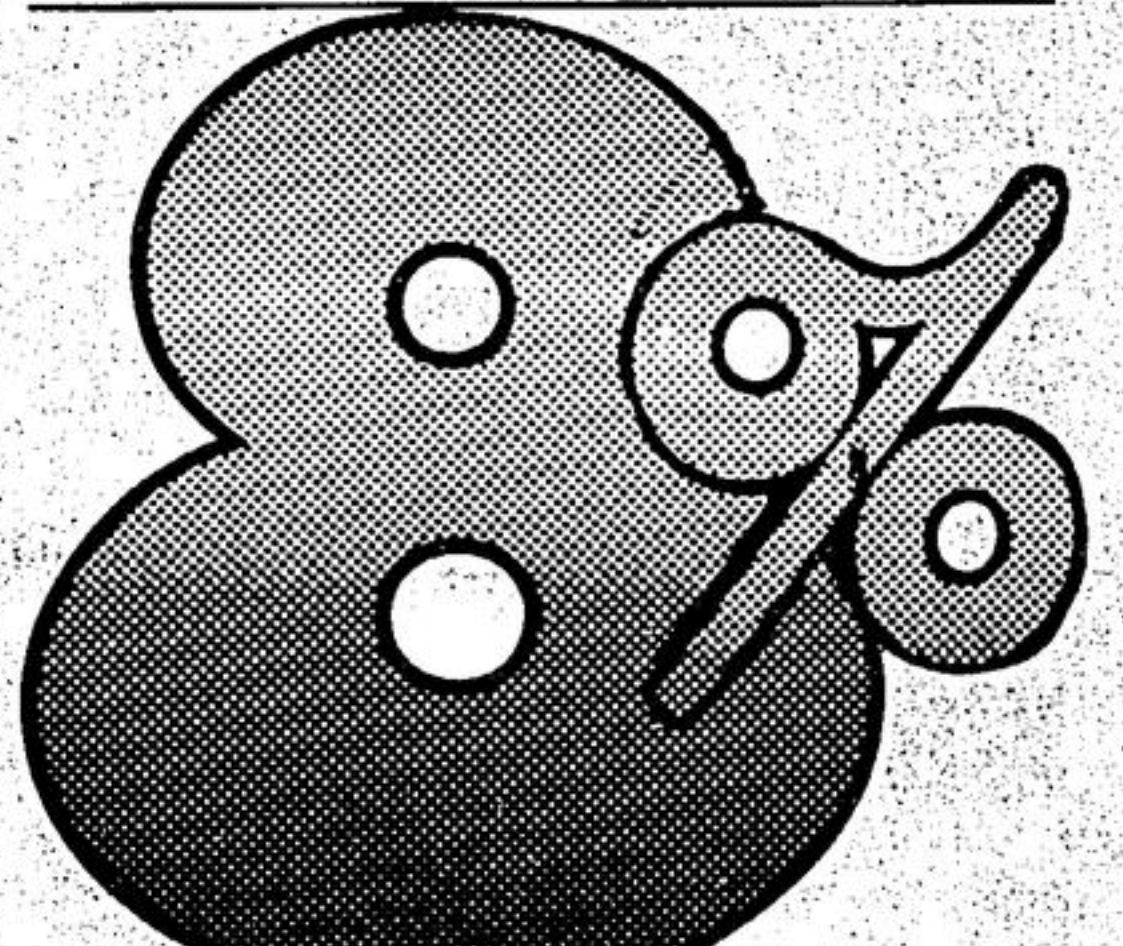
Results were released this week by Board Secretary, Miss Cora Brodie.

Runners-up in order follow: Jack Warriner, R.R.2, Markham; Davidson Bros., R.R.1, Stouffville; Leit-

cheroff Farms, R.R.2, Gormley; Don Williamson, R.R.1, Locust Hill and Charles Hooper, R.R.2, Gormley.

In the class for Barley, results were: Jack Warriner, Davidson Bros., Don Williamson, Mike Larkin, Stuart Watson, Chas. Hooper.

In the class for Oats, results were: Leit-cheroff Farms, Stuart Watson, Ellis Britton, Jack Warriner, Chas. Hooper.



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At Sterling, we put your money to work.

## "Not for me to say - but only for to do"

MARKHAM - Former Markham Planning Director, Kunio Hidaka, who resigned his \$19,000 a year job in March of this year, startled an Ontario Municipal Board Hearing, Aug. 31, during questioning by solicitor Donald Malcolm.

Mr. Hidaka spoke in opposition to an application that, if approved, would permit the erection of a 3-storey apartment, at the west end of Wilson Street, in the old Town of Markham.

When asked by the lawyer why he had not made his feelings known earlier, Mr. Hidaka said the majority of members in Planning Committee appeared willing to abide by a decision made back in 1969, before amalgamation. "When one is employed by a municipality, he cannot express his views as freely as in private," he said. He said further, that in certain situations, decisions are made and it is only for the staff to carry out these decisions.

A similar line of questioning was followed by Wm. H. Thompson, the O.M.B. Chairman. He asked if the objections Mr. Hidaka had raised at the Hearing, had been "present in his mind" in the past.

Again, the former Director said he had very definite views, particularly in respect to site encroachment on Valley Lands, "but I didn't come outright and say it was a serious situation."

### Sanctuary

MARKHAM - A water-filled gravel pit, on 16th Avenue, east of Hwy. 48, has become a sanctuary for dozens of birds, including Canada Geese.

On Friday, an estimated 45 of the graceful fowl settled down on the man-made "lake", once part of the Lorne and Roy Grove farm and now owned by Warnock and Johnson Sand and Gravel. The birds appeared quite tame.

### GOLFERS' SPAIN

Included in the Cost of Golfers Spain Round trip economy class airfare from Montreal to Malaga via Iberia Air Lines of Spain Transfer between airport and hotel 7 nights accommodation at the Atalaya Park Hotel Continental breakfast and dinner daily Green fees daily at the Atalaya Park Course Welcome Sangria Party Personal Golf Bag Hotel, tea and service charges A golf excursion to the Los Monteros or Guadalupe Course, transportation included Local taxes and service charges

### Wellington Way

TRAVEL SERVICE  
8 Wellington St. W., Markham 294-1262

# MARKHAM FAIR

## IS COMING

### SEPT. 28 - OCT. 1, '72

**CATTLE \* HORSES \* EXHIBITS \* MIDWAY**

"BE FAIR MINDED - COME TO THE FAIR"

# Farmer JACK'S a-boilin' CORN

C'MON OUT 'N' BRING THE KIDS

## SAT. - SUN. & MON.

FRESH! RIGHT OUT O' THE GARDEN

# Farmer JACK'S Garden

WOW! 19¢ COB

ALSO PICK YOUR OWN TOMATOES & PEPPERS

BEETS 75¢ a 6 qt. \$1 a 6 qt.

ALSO LOADS OF BARGAINS AT OUR ROADSIDE MARKET