

Rejecting shot at Music Mania fame

I blew it! It was an opportunity that, for me, could occur only once in 50 years. And I let it slip through my fingers.

The historic event was a lead role in the golden anniversary edition of Music Mania scheduled for Stouffville District Secondary School April 29, 30 and May 1. And I turned it down.

It was Rick Lightfoot, the show's director who called.

"We have the perfect part for you," he said. "That is, if you're willing to accept."

Before explaining what the perfect part might be, he made note of the fact I had attended the first Music Mania performance way back in 1960. Not as a performer but a reporter.

"You've been seated in the audience every year since," he said. "It's time to get up on stage."

There was a long pause at my end of the line.

"We think you'd be right for the role," he said. "The character's all about an old newspaper guy back in the '60s. He, I mean you, would be recounting highlights of past Music Manias through five decades, one decade at a time."

Each appearance, he said, would take about 60 seconds or five minutes in total. There would be nothing to memorize. All I would have to do is read.

He even granted me permission to write my own script, subject to editing.

Props would be no problem, I replied, since I still have a 1940s Underwood typewriter; a 1950s Graphic camera and a 1960s desk with the inscription "Scoop" carved on top. (That was my moniker back then).

Adding to the enthusiasm of the moment was the fact I suddenly felt much like a modern-day Glenn Ford, Jimmy Stewart and Gregory Peck rolled into one.

"Take a couple of days to think about it," the director suggested. "Then give me a call."

It was during this interval, my head left the clouds and my feet hit the floor.

I refused.



Roaming Around

with Jim Thomas

While reasons are many and varied, the thought of four shows plus several rehearsals had my wits in a whirl.

"Life's too short," I said to myself.

However, with me or without me, the show will go on. Rick Lightfoot and company will see to that. And with a cast loaded with talent, success is assured. It was 50 years ago and will be again.

As proof, I dusted off a copy of an old Tribune dated March 5, 1960, and discovered the following:

Music Mania No. 1 was hosted by the United Church Couples Club. The director was Peggy Topping; the master of ceremonies Bud Sanderson; Ron Mercer, (choir); Jerry Waite, (accompanist) and Molly Mumford, (dance). Admission was 75 cents adults, 50 cents children.

"It's been many a day, so many people, received so much enjoyment, for such a wonderful cause," read an accompanying editorial. "The true meaning of community co-operation and good-natured fellowship has returned. It was entertainment at its best."

The same will undoubtedly be said April 29, 30 and May 1. But, seated in the audience where I've been for the last 50 years, will be different.

For I'll forever wonder what it would have been like to look out rather than look up; to act rather than react.

I'll never know. But one thing I do know. Music Mania has made our town what it is today.

Jim Thomas is a Stouffville resident who has written for area newspapers for more than 50 years.

S - CHORIZO - SAUSAGES

These boys are hot!and spicy too! If you've been hankering for a little excitement in your bun, look no further than these. Caution: You may need a beer in hand to keep the heat down! Reg. \$3.99/lb

25 % OFF THIS WEEK

PORK NEWS

Around May 1st, we will be starting to deal with one particular farmer who raises pork which is grown much more naturally, is Omega and Selenium rich.....and is delicious. We will be paying a premium to get this product, and we will need to pass some of this, but not all of it, on. We are confident that we will be improving our offering, and that the idea of additive-free product will resonate with you. We'll keep you posted.

MAPLE WALNUT SHORTBREADS

This is one of the more seasonal items that we make, but I'm thinking that since maple syrup is now in full season, why not now? What we are doing is making: (a) a lot of these, and (b) featuring them on a buy one, get one free basis. My thinking here is that real good stuff doesn't last long, so often you need two..... like these. Regular \$9.95 container

PS: Our new crop maple syrup is now in stock.....Light Grade!

WHAT'S COOKIN' AT THE DELI.....

We'll be working late making large bowls of our Old-Fashioned Rice Pudding. This can be had with or without raisins, if that is an issue. It will be.....

25 % OFF THIS WEEK

— ALSO —

Our fresh salad feature is our Danish Tomato-Cucumber Salad, which is dressed-up sweet and sour with a touch of sweet onion and dill.....the things that make it Danish. It will be featured at.....

1/2 PRICE THIS WEEK

AND.....we'll be making a few kinds of soup too! The flavours will be Mixed Vegetable (with no cream), Sweet Potato, Cream of Mushroom (really chunky) and Chicken Noodle with no salt. All these will be available in the end-aisle cabinet, priced at.....

25 % OFF THIS WEEK

WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

Our frozen entrée feature this week is our Beef Stroganoff. We make it with julienne strips of sirloin which have been browned and simmered in the amazing gravy that makes this dish. What to serve with it? Try some of the Cipriani pasta — it's amazing too! Serves 3-4 Reg. \$17.95 each

25 % OFF THIS WEEK

WHAT'S HAPPENIN' OUTSIDE!

This week we've got loads of new product for your spring gardening needs. Mandevilla vines trellised in pots and in hanging baskets, geraniums in small pots and in hanging baskets, and boston fern hanging baskets are all in for the first time this season. A fresh shipment of pansies and our first batch of hardier herbs are coming in this week.

This weeks' special is large Rosemary Pots, 10" pots for \$14.99 or 12" pots for \$19.99 each.

DO YOU PLAY BALL?...

The Unionville Men's Slo-pitch League has a few spots available in our league. You must be over 25, live in the area, have some skill with ball, and be ready for a lot of fun. The league has 18 teams and has been in operation for 35 years. To register: visit <http://www.leaguelineup.com/uspl>, call 905-910-0594, email cag63@rogers.com or visit Kelsey's on Woodbine, Tuesday April 27 at 7:00p.m.

F - MARINATED - FLANK STEAKS

When I am at the mall buying new shoes and people see me.... and they think 'flank steaks' out loud, you know that you've made your mark, at least in local culinary circles. These are a handy way to have good steak at home, either for 2 or for 20. They cook easily, they are very simple to serve, whether on a plate or on a bun, and they have that quintessential flavour of beef. Something else that's appealing no doubt is the price. It's awesome to serve so many for so little. Regular \$9.95/lb.

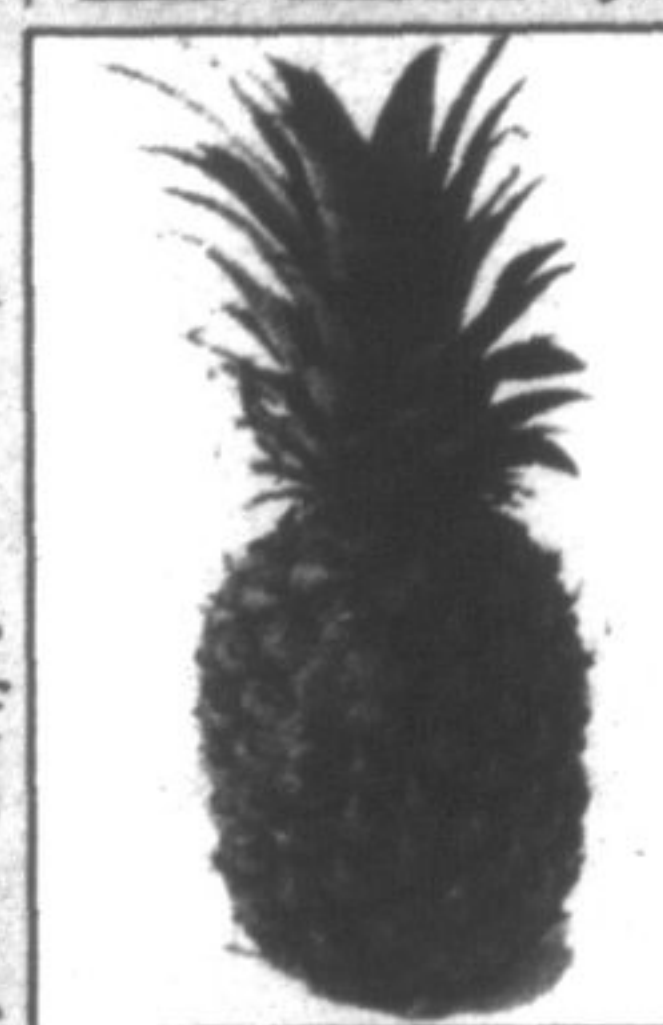
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T - ALBACORE - TUNA

This is not the big, thick Yellowfin cut into steaks, but filleted pieces more like chunks of salmon in size. Cooking is similar to Mahi-Mahi or Grouper and probably grilling is best. We will have 3 or 4 recipes from my James Beard Fish Cookbook.

\$14.95 LB THIS WEEK

GOLDEN PINEAPPLES



These are the super-sweet variety from the Caribbean. We buy size '5' (which is the largest generally available) because you get a larger reward for the work involved in preparing them.

\$2.99 EACH THIS WEEK

WHAT'S BAKING! - THIS WEEK -

We're going to be a bit cheesy this week, actually, more than a bit.....but it's all in good taste. We'll be making..... NEW YORK STYLE CHEESECAKES.....these are made in a hand-pressed shortbread crust and have a 3-inch layer of vanilla cheesecake, topped-up with a layer of whipped sour cream, which is then baked on top. This is definitely one of those room temperature dishes.

Regular.....\$22.95 each RASPBERRY CREAM-CHEESE COFFEE CAKE..... this is a butter based cake, with a layer of raspberry preserve and a layer of cream cheese baked in, then decorated with a pile of fresh raspberries.

We will be making two sizes..... \$14.95 and \$22.95 each THREE-CHEESE SCONES.....and the three cheeses are.....(drum role now).....shredded Swiss, xxOld Cheddar and Parmesan (Reggiano). Still fluffy and good-natured as usual. Regular..... \$1.69 each

CREAM CHEESE BROWNIES.....decadence comes in all shapes and sizes, but in this case, 3" x 3" squares. The base is dark-chocolate brownie, topped with vanilla cheese cake and then drizzled with chocolate, just to be sure. This is another item that best enjoyed at room temperature.

Regular..... \$2.99 each STRAWBERRY CHEESECAKES.....these are the mini version, made with fresh strawberries and maple syrup. Regular..... \$3.49 each

STRAWBERRY-ALMOND STRUDEL...this is made with a yeast dough, with almonds as part of the foundation, followed by a layer of cream cheese and diced strawberries which have been sparked-up with maple syrup. Reg.....\$8.95 each and as you already know, all these items will be featured this week at... While supplies last.

25 % OFF THIS WEEK

SPECIALS IN EFFECT UNTIL CLOSING SUNDAY APRIL 25 TH

Hours:

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