

EDITORIAL

Perishable News Comment

It is truly remarkable how perishable news comment is these days. For instance, the editor of the Fergus News-Record made a holiday trip recently and wrote a very interesting story about it. The part that would interest our readers is, of course, his comment about Acton which read:

"The poorest and roughest streets we found anywhere were in Acton, Ontario. The streets of that town are familiar to all motorists in the district. They have been in that condition for quite a while. They get no better. Is Acton bankrupt?"

We don't know when the Fergus writer made his trip through Acton but we do know that when his article appeared in print last Thursday Acton streets were by no means the worst and that paving was well advanced on the highway in town and by the time this article appears in print Acton will have the best roadways of any town in Ontario or in the whole trip which the Fergus editor may make this week. That's how quickly things can go from worst to best in these days.

There is no need for further comment about Acton's financial state. That can readily be ascertained from information at hand for every editor and has nothing to do with the town's roadways. It is quite evident, however, that Fergus has not made any major construction recently, as has been done in Acton, or the Fergus editor would be more conversant with the work and time entailed.

We agree with the Fergus editor that three weeks ago our streets were terrible. We know he will be fair enough to comment favourably on the change when he drives through Acton the next time and that he'll appreciate the improvement as we all do.

What Is This "Thing"

Equalized assessment is an often talked of subject in the local news these days and yet it is a difficult one for people to understand. It is difficult for an Oakville business man to understand why he is assessed \$80 a foot while a business man in another community is charged only \$40 a foot. This is what the equalized assessment does.

The equalized assessment's prime purpose is to have each municipality bear a proportionate share of taxation. For instance properties in Oakville, Bronte, Milton and Acton should all bear their proportionate share of taxation.

Operation of the County, which is carried out by county council costs money and it is necessary for each municipality represented to contribute towards the operation costs, hence a county rate.

Each municipality is allotted a certain percentage based on the assessment of property in each town. For instance Oakville has property assessed or valued at \$11,688,000 so they must pay 21.427 per cent. of county costs. Milton has only \$2,250,000 worth of property and so pays the lower 4.124 per cent.

The figures used here are the ones adopted by the county council for use in 1952. Three of Halton's municipalities objected that the share was too high and suggested that property had not been valued with the same yard stick in each of Halton's 10 municipalities.

Burlington and Oakville objected to the 1951 figures established last year which had to be later established by the County judge. Since then Oakville's assessment has apparently jumped from the 1951 figure of \$4,813,057 to the 1952 figure of \$11,688,000. Little wonder Oakville hesitates at accepting the new figure.

Towns like Burlington and Oakville that have had rapid growth must share in an equally higher percentage of the county rate. Rules or "yard sticks" for evaluation of property in Halton's municipalities are supposed to be standardized as set out in the act and used under the guidance of the County Assessor. Burlington claims they were not standardized.

Equalized assessment allows a property purchaser to judge the value of properties by the assessment and affords a comparison with other locations.

Equalized assessment stated simply is, "as you grow so do you pay".

When the equalized plan was introduced to the county a county assessor was appointed with the hope of eliminating the holding of costly court cases to establish the basis of taxation. Burlington, Oakville and Georgetown have filed an appeal against the figures submitted by the County Assessor and a court case seems the next step.

Apparently the appointment of a County Assessor and the revaluation of property was a waste of time if the court case is still necessary.

Whose Alarm?

Alarm at the decrease in the amount of coal purchased at the present time is being expressed. It is claimed that consumers have purchased 30 per cent. less at this time than is usually put in the coal bins of the householders. Of course, there are grave warnings that unless more coal is ordered now there will be a shortage this winter and delivery systems may bog down. Truly these are days of alarm—perhaps an overworked alarm of selling.

Considering the rate at which householders are turning to oil for heating purposes the drop of sales for delivery in the coal bins of householders need not be alarming. High costs of coal might be taken into consideration for the slump in sales in a considerable measure. We don't know the answer to better sales for coal products but as long as ultimate cost to the consumer continues to rise other fuels and other methods of heating will find favour with the public.

Many of us can remember the days of wood heating when the fires went out at night and the memory of those cold and frosty mornings and a creaking house are not pleasant recollections. Coal and better heating put wood for heating largely in the discard in this section of the country. Maybe a better way of heating our homes is on the way and higher haulage and mining costs have been somewhat eased and more efficient bringing of fuel to our doors.

There definitely is cause for alarm on the part of those who have been supplying coal as a household fuel these days.

A Better Form

In the United States special inducements are being offered to have new defense plants located well away from crowded areas and especially from those marked as prime targets for atom bomb attack. In some cases President Truman has announced that only such plants will get certain defense orders and tax privileges will be offered to encourage this general program of spreading around vital industry. No doubt the same will soon be applicable here in Canada.

But aside from the thought of dropping bombs it is easy to see in Canada the general trend away from the larger cities that have become too large and unwieldy. On every hand we learn of city workers becoming dissatisfied with the hours wasted travelling to and from their day's work. The city rush hours of morning and night are things everyone wants to avoid. The gigantic plants where labor and management are miles apart do not make for better relationships in the day's work. School attendance in the downtown sections show the trend of city growth to be to the suburban districts adjoining.

The best answer would seem to be in the establishment of many large towns or small cities. Adding on to the fringes of Toronto, Montreal, Hamilton & Windsor is definitely not the cure but only a make-shift solution as has been proven in most of these large cities. War or peace, it would appear Ontario and Canada would grow better as a group of small towns and cities rather than densely populated cities.

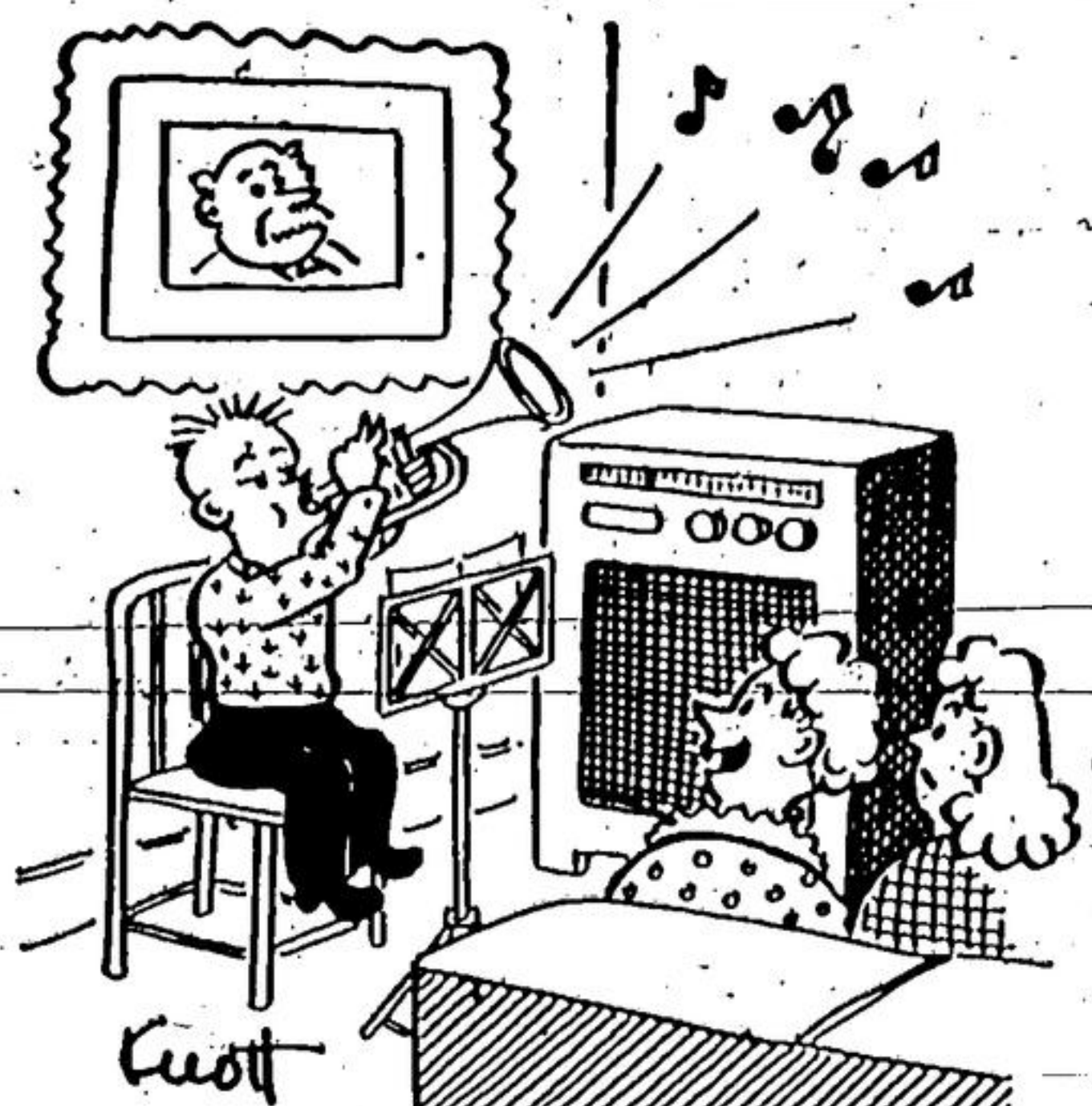
Lock Your Car

During the course of any year many cars are stolen. A goodly number of such vehicles are involved in accidents.

The usual car thief is desperate. Accordingly, he is inclined to be reckless. He does not own the car. He has no investment tied up in it. He is anxious to get somewhere as quickly as possible. He is not as greatly concerned about his own safety as is someone within the law. Accordingly, he is more inclined to speed. He is more likely to take chances. The odds that he will become involved in an accident are so much the greater.

The owner of the car is, of course, indignant. He is put to considerable inconvenience and expense. He feels very badly about the whole matter. That is only to be expected. Foresight is better than hindsight. The time to lock the stable is before the horse is stolen. So the old adage goes. The same may be said about cars. Too many people leave their cars unattended and unlocked. They extend a tacit invitation to the potential thief. Then they complain when that invitation is accepted.

Locks are placed on car doors for a purpose. They are not particularly things of beauty, enhancing the appearance of the vehicle. Hence, motorists should use them. When leaving their vehicles unattended they should lock them, particularly during hours of darkness when the thief is not so likely to be apprehended. To leave a vehicle unattended and unlocked in circumstances in which it can be easily stolen is to invite such action. And there are plenty of car thieves waiting to receive and accept such an invitation.



"JUNIOR IS JUST ALLOWED TO PRACTICE DURING THE COMMERCIALS."

THE GOOD OLD DAYS MAY HAVE SEEMED BETTER

BACK IN 1937

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, Sept. 10, 1941

Tomatoes at twenty cents a basket seem a price, low enough surely.

Almost like the good old summer time yesterday, with the temperature over eighty in the shade.

A rink of Acton bowlers participated in a tournament at Elora on Labour Day and won fourth prize. They each received beautiful walnut library tables.

In the removal of Mr. and Mrs. G. T. Beardmore and family to Montreal, Acton lost citizens of real worth who will be missed in many community activities.

The tug-of-war championship was captured by Acton again this year. Beardmore's entered two teams and both reached the semi-finals but the "A" Team were the championship team.

The local young men have the past few weeks been trying their hand at box lacrosse in the Arena. On Wednesday evening it was decided to organize a club and officers were chosen for the season.

A large new boy house on the farm of Mr. L. O. Johnson caught fire on Monday evening and was completely destroyed along with five hundred laying pullets.

BURNS—To Mr and Mrs. Harry Burns of Toronto, on Wednesday, September 2, 1941, a daughter.

DIED—SWACKHAMER—On Saturday, 3th, 1941, at the residence of her son, Toronto, Mary Jane Ryder, widow of the late Danforth Swackhamer, formerly of Acton.

Don't Worry About Your Operation

Approximately ten million people will undergo an operation this year. If you are one of them you can draw comfort from the fact that advances in surgical techniques have made the great majority of operations completely safe.

Author Greer Williams looked closely at 18 operations, from minor to major, and reports reassuringly in a Reader's Digest article condensed from Nation's Business: "Taking all operations as they come, on young and old, on patients in good condition or poor, your risk of death in the hands of the skilled surgeon is about one in 100. Thanks to the great advances of the past 20 years in the control of pain, infection, shock, relapse and physical well-being it is now said that any patient with normal heart, lungs and kidneys should have 100 per cent chance of recovery."

The anesthetist can put you to sleep, beyond all pain, in 45 to 50 seconds, and hold you there for the length of the operation. Surgeons no longer have to operate with lightning speed, as they once did, when one out of every four patients died after a major operation. The shock of long anesthesia and much loss of blood made speed imperative. But today, hurry is regarded as a hazard. The anesthetist can give the surgeon all the time he needs, and blood loss is a minor problem now that all hospitals have blood banks. Transfusions, once signifying that the patient was in critical condition, are today routine practice in many operations. Pleasant dreams!

BACK IN 1901

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, Sept. 12, 1901

President McKinley to-day lies with his life in the balance at the home of the President of the Pan-American exposition on the grounds of which, yesterday afternoon, a too successful attempt was made to assassinate the head of the national government. He was smiling and bowing when the sharp crack of a revolver rang out twice in succession and the Judas-like assassin—a Polish anarchist—was almost successful in his dastardly crime.

At council meeting, Reeve Williams reported that he had been approached with reference to the probability of granting license for a pool table in town. He explained that he had discouraged the idea and felt sure that council would sustain him in this.

The new granolithic pavements are now all open to the public and will no doubt prove to be what they are by name permanent roads.

A most enjoyable match was played on the golf links here on Saturday afternoon between a team of nine members of the Spadina golf club, Toronto and nine Acton men, W. Stark, R. McInnes, A. J. McKinnon, H. S. Holmes, G. Hayward, Rev. MacPherson, J. Wallace, Rev. J. J. Feeny and H. P. Moore. The home team won in a closely-contested and well-matched game by five holes.

In St. Joseph's Church last Friday evening the ceremony of placing the stations of the cross was performed by Rev. Father Feeny. The new stations are an improvement to the interior of St. Joseph's and are another evidence of the interest of Father Feeny in the church and people here.

Mr. Richard Cook has disposed of his dwelling on Lake Ave. to Mrs. Thomas Scott, who with her brother and sister, Mr. and Miss McDonald, Main St., will take immediate possession.

Tell Easier Steel Maybe On Its Way

Barring a turn for the worse internationally the great steel shortage may start easing off sometime next year, states The Financial Post.

This doesn't mean that we're going to have so much steel it will be running out our ears, as a United States mill operator predicted some time ago. But the word in the trade is that some improvement is due in Canada about the middle of next year.

Recently, U.S. reports said the first glimmering of inventory correction was showing up, but warned that it might take until the first quarter of 1952 to unsnarl current U.S. confusion raised by the new Controlled Materials Plan.

In Canada, between now and the time an improvement could be expected, things may get worse for some steel users notably in the construction business. There, the shortage has been and still is hurting the most.

The jelly fish is one of the greatest exasperations of Canadian coastal fishermen. It is unmarketable and fouls up gear.

AT THE Churches

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Rev. E. A. Curvey, B.A., B.D.
Minister
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Organist and Choir Leader

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th, 1951
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Morning Worship, Subject "Our Estimate of Our selves"
7:00 p.m. Evening Worship, Subject "Our Hope of Patience"

Baptist Church
ACTON
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th, 1951
10:30 a.m. Sunday School
11:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. — Rev. F. J. Heaps, Toronto
Wednesday, 8:30 Prayer Meeting
Friday, 8 p.m. B.Y.P.U.

Presbyterian Church in Canada
KNOX CHURCH, ACTON
REV. ROBERT H. ARMSTRONG
M.A., B.D., Minister

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th, 1951
10:00 a.m. — Divine Worship
10:00 a.m. — Sunday School
7:00 p.m. — Evening Service
ALL ARE WELCOME

St. Alban's Church
(Anglican)
Rector—Rev. W. G. Linton, B.A.
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th, 1951
Trinity XVII
10:00 a.m. Sunday School
11:00 a.m. Holy Communion and Religious Class
7:00 p.m. Evening Prayer
A Welcome Awaits You

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TRAVELLERS' GUIDE
GRAY COACH LINES

Daylight Saving Time
COACHES LEAVE ACTON
Eastbound
6:30 a.m., 8:30 a.m., 11:23 a.m.,
2:00 p.m., 4:00 p.m., 6:33 p.m., 8:32
p.m., 10:15 p.m.
Westbound
10:17 a.m., 12:52 p.m., 2:57 p.m.,
5:27 p.m., 7:27 p.m., 9:12 p.m., 11:32
p.m., 11:2 a.m. (Sun. to Kitchener
only)
a—Daily except Sunday and holidays
b—Saturday, Sunday and holidays

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS
Standard Time

Eastbound
Daily 5:55 a.m.; Daily except Sundays 9:54 a.m.; 7:10 p.m. Sunday only, 8:16 p.m. Daily except Sunday Flyer at Georgetown, 9:02 a.m.; Daily Flyer at Georgetown, 10:11 p.m.

Westbound
Daily except Sunday and Monday, 1:56 a.m. Sunday and Monday only, 12:08 a.m.; daily except Sunday, 8:48 a.m., 6:50 p.m., 7:44 p.m.; Daily except Sat. and Sun., 5:48 p.m. (flagstop); Saturday only 1:36 p.m.; Sunday only 8:43 a.m. (flagstop); Sunday only Flyer at Guelph, 7:06 p.m.

The Acton Free Press
The Only Paper Ever Published in Acton

Published each Thursday at 56 Mill St.,
Acton, Ontario

Authorized as Second Class Mail, Post Office
Department, Ottawa

G. A. DILLS, Publisher

Member Audit Bureau Circulation, C.W.N.A.
and Ontario-Quebec Division C.W.N.A.

Advertising Rates on Request

SUBSCRIPTION IN ADVANCE, \$2.50 IN CANADA, \$3.00 IN UNITED STATES
6 months, \$1.50 Single Copies, 6c

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