

EDITORIAL

A Good Day to Remember

This is a very active, interesting kind of world. Most of us have so many things to do, and a great many more things that we are planning to do when we have the time and opportunity. Our very activity keeps us so busy that we tend to overlook the fact that there are a great many people who are shut out from the normal type of life by being shut in. To remind us of these folk, and to urge us to do something for them, the first Sunday of June is set aside annually as Shut-in's Day.

Who are the Shut-ins? There is little need to ask, for every community has them: folk who are shut in through age, disability and various types of illness. Not only are they confined to the house, hospitals or other institutions, but many cannot even leave their beds. They all are compelled to lead a restricted life, and some of them readily admit that only the kindness of friends and the consideration of visitors enable them to remain normal in their thinking and attitude to life.

In His name who said, "I was sick, and ye visited me," let us unite in making June 6th a rare, unforgettable day for the Shut-in and ourselves.

Men Come and Go

It seems that the business life of Acton has had more changes than any other year we can recall. This week sees two more changes with W. D. Talbot retiring after 28 years in business and E. E. Barr closing his store after serving Actonians for 22 years. During the year we also recorded such business changes as Wm. Cooper, Elliott Bros., M. Pallant and B. D. Rachlin and the closing of the Storey Glove Co.

Ask anyone who has been in business the greatest number of years and they would never guess it was Harold Wiles. We had a chat the other night with Harold and his sister, Miss Laura Wiles, and in the recollections Harold told us that it was 1909 when he purchased the confectionery business from Miss Laura Ryder. Next oldest in years of business life we learned was George Edwards who has been harness making here since 1910.

We were glad to learn that Harold had no plans for retirement or selling out his business because we went to school with him and we didn't think we had reached the retirement age yet.

But it does seem that the past 12 months have seen more folks in business in Acton finding the pace a bit too strenuous or perhaps it's just the fact that we've known them for so long and have aged at the same time. We wish them many years of more leisure but we cannot help feeling lonesome sometimes and perhaps that is why we dropped in to see Harold Wiles.

The Last Straw

Every once in a while we run across a magazine article that makes us want to write the author. We suppose our readers feel the same way when we hit on a controversial subject. We do get letters to the editor and they are in both categories—for and against—but we never write the authors of these magazine articles which go against our thinking.

The one we have in mind at the moment was headed, "Teach your wife to be a Widow." We read it and we think that fellow is pushing men folk too far. It takes a man a lifetime to get successfully launched in team work. We've never yet found out which one did the teaching. Insurance folks meet you at every turn until you are past 50 urging protection for wife and family. Every day you are confronted with newspaper items which are grim reminders of the uncertainty of this life and more and more often you hear the funeral services of those you have known for many years.

Then along comes a fellow who injects in your short span of life the idea that you should take time to train your wife for widowhood. That article is the last straw. It's time for rebellion when such training is expected of any man. There just isn't time for such work to be added in the lifetime of the average man and we don't believe the average wife wants such tuition.

When Minutes Count

What would you do if it was your decision whether aid should be given a country home by the Acton fire brigade? That is the question that mayors and fire chiefs have faced in Acton for a period of years when a report was received there was a fire beyond the boundaries of Acton.

Understandably it is not a simple decision and one that still must be made on the spur of the moment. It is therefore gratifying to see that an agreement for fire protection has been reached between Acton and the two townships of Nassagaweya and Esquesing.

It will be extremely unfortunate if Erin township, when approached, does not choose to join the area. Fire can occur in Erin township as easily as in other municipalities and it seems reasonable protection should be obtained from the nearest point. At present protection for the whole township comes from Erin village which in miles is far distant from protection Acton could offer.

According to the plan equipment will be arranged on the old fire truck to serve in the emergency of a fire in the township and one in the town with a limited number of the men attending the township fire should such a situation occur.

The town of Acton itself has nothing to gain from having Erin township join the area. But the question of whether to save a man's barn is a weighty one indeed when seconds are precious. Undoubtedly a general ruling will be passed by council that the brigade and truck will not leave the town to answer fire calls out of the area.

It seems only fair to expect that Erin township will join the other townships of Nassagaweya and Esquesing in providing fire protection with the latest equipment from Acton.

Pushing Back

Those of us who recall the days when the lands along the lakefront were the garden lands of this province wonder sometimes what is going to be the outcome of the race to gobble up this land for industry and new housing subdivisions. It's been happening so fast in the past five years that few have had time to consider the impact.

What is happening in the outlying district from Toronto is also happening in other metropolitan areas of Canada.

There are few farms or even market gardens left on Montreal Island, once the most intensely cultivated tract in Quebec. There are few farms left along Queen Elizabeth Highway in Ontario and here again the production per acre was among the highest in all Canada. And the same is true of the amazingly rich Lower Fraser Valley in British Columbia. New housing, factories, service stations, airfields and super highways are pushing farming and commercial gardening farther and farther back and most of this new encroachment unfortunately, takes the choicest agricultural soil, because both farmer and builder have similar preferences.

Many of us can recall when the Dundas highway was best known for its market gardens and its fresh fruit and vegetable stands. There are still some of them, but no longer are a shopping centre for city folks who took a little drive out into the country. How many years will it be before they disappear entirely.

Perhaps there is cause for alarm but a drive off the highways and on the county roads reveals there is still plenty of good fertile land to feed Canada's growing population. With the methods of travel and transportation of today it isn't much more distant either than the market gardens of a decade ago.

Other Papers Say:

Taxes are high and will probably go higher says the Wingham (Ont.) Advance-Times, but "it costs plenty nowadays to pay for such luxuries as baby bonuses and bombers."

Revival of Conservative party in Quebec is much to be desired, says the Victoria Times, "But in supporting the anti-English and racist forces of Quebec Mr. Drew, to win short-run gains, apparently is willing to risk grave damage to the unity of the nation."

Reading Between The Lines

HOLIDAYS LACK LOCAL EVENTS IS COMMUNITY SPIRIT WANING?

By Jim Dills

An interesting poster was hung up this week. It announced the coming band tattoo. Probably that will be the only major general attraction exclusive of garden parties presented in Acton this summer.

The annual May 24 holiday has slipped by and no organization has found the effort to produce entertainment worthwhile. July 1 is coming, Civic Holiday and Labor Day are also on the calendar again this year. But as in other recent years it is not expected local celebrations will be held.

Evidently the automobile, the faster train service and improved bus service have taken away the individual drive and enthusiasm that made celebrations on special days a regular event.

I don't think it's possible to blame television with this loss since it seems the trend was on the down and out before television was introduced.

As I said earlier it is pleasant to note that the Band is still sufficiently active and enthusi-

astic enough to provide what will probably be the only major fund raising event this summer. Of course there will be all kinds of lucky draws. Evidently the gambling instinct is stronger than it used to be.

Checking back, I find the baseball club, band, hockey team, and other similar clubs provided the backing and planning for the special celebrations. Of course all the blame does not lie with organizations who fail to expand the necessary effort. Obviously the public demands more in the way of entertainment than formerly. The sincere efforts of local citizens to add to the entertainment are not appreciated as much as they used to be.

The unprecedented success of comparatively recent attractions such as the Mistletoe Show and "Soup Stock" were a long-waited productions when a laugh was a welcome thing and the funds were for a worthy cause.

It does seem that the community spirit in town is disintegrating into a lackadaisical attitude.



Provide Water and Sewers
In Georgetown Council last week promised to provide water and sewers for a planned 12-house subdivision in the park district. Contractor is William McNally who reviewed plans for the subdivision with the council. Entry would be off Charles, on a continuation of Joseph Street.

Enviably Community Spirit
In Erin the story is told of an enviable community spirit last week when some 15 neighbors converged on the farm of Jack Glass, R.R. 1, Orton, to plant 42 acres of land in one mammoth operation with tractors and other machinery. Glass was unable to do the seeding because of further surgery on an arm after losing the hand in an accident in Acton last year.

More Space—More Members
In Burlington architects have put the finishing touches on plans for a new curling rink. At the same time, present members are in the throes of a campaign to recruit 200 additional members which, it is understood, are needed to provide part of the building funds necessary to begin the project.

"Ridiculous Today"
In Oakville a protest letter from the Lord's Day Alliance against the Oakville arena having skaters on the ice Sundays brought this comment for Mayor Lachlan McArthur: "That might have been all right 100 years ago, but such a complaint is ridiculous today."

To Plan, Zone Bronte
In Bronte council has been invited by Col. A. L. S. Nash of the Planning and Development Department to Queen's park to discuss planning and zoning the village. For some reason it is up to Councillor Robert Mason to promote the trip.

Burlington's County Rate
In Burlington Reeve Robert Shannon presented to council a copy of the Halton county assessor's report and pointed out that the town's 1953 assessment was up \$1,000,000 for purposes of county levy. Actual payment, however, will be down to \$51,000 from last year's \$55,000.

Need More Money
In Oakville ratepayers were told an additional \$140,215 would be required this year to run the town as a new mill rate of 45 was set. The four mill increase will bring about a total of \$615,414 into the town's coffers.

Bronte Soccer Dispute
In Bronte, hotly lamenting a display of refereeing they claimed was the worst ever seen here, the local United Football Club last week registered formal protest against a 3-1 decision that went to Hilo-Canadians at Bronte A.A. grounds in a soccer contest.

Rejects Police Request
In Oakville a board of arbitration will likely sit sometime in June to deal with the application of local police for a wage increase which was rejected by council. The police association asked for a \$300 annual pay increase and a 40-hour week.

Milton Planners Suggest
In Milton it is reported the Milton-North Trafalgar Planning Board recommended that Milton hire a planning consultant immediately on a part-time basis and that a full-time engineer be utilized for local work. Certain building-by-law changes, affecting size of single dwellings, were also approved by the Board.

One Dies, Three Hurt
In Georgetown it was reported four ladies were injured, one fatally, in an accident near Norval when the car they were driving left the highway and plummeted through a shallow gully into a large tree. Dead is Mrs. William Davidson, Glen Williams. Injured are Mrs. Cecil Smith, her mother, Mrs. Mary Wilett and Mrs. Mark Clark, Georgetown.

To Trash Out Problems
In Milton the ratepayers' association is working to arrange a public meeting with citizens, council and school board to trash out problems and misunderstandings connected with the rough course of the proposed new public school had recently in trying to reach the construction stage.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS MAY HAVE SEEMED BETTER

BACK IN 1934

From the Issue of the Free Press of Thursday, May 31, 1934

The work of renewing and repairing the bridge on Maria St., over the Beardsmore Co. railway siding was completed on Saturday. New top timbers have been put in and a complete new floor and sidewalk. The railing has been rebuilt and strengthened and this structure is again in an excellent state of repair.

On Sunday night a large congregation attended the opening of St. Joseph's church. It has been undergoing redecorations during the past seven weeks and is now all completed. Rev. Father O'Brien of the Basilica of Christ the King, Hamilton, offered the prayer, the Rev. J. L. McBride, and the people of St. Joseph's church, his heartiest praise on the work they have accomplished. He said it was one of the most beautiful small churches he had ever entered.

The Empire Day concert sponsored by the Duke of Devonshire chapter of the I.O.D.E. has come to be an event of keen interest. There was a splendid audience at the event last Wednesday evening and J. M. McDonald, chairman of the school board, presided. The 80 voices of St. Joseph's choir, his heartiest praise on the work they have accomplished. He said it was one of the most beautiful small churches he had ever entered.

A life that has been spent entirely in this district and has witnessed the development of this section from pioneer days was closed on Friday when Mrs. Thomas Statham passed away at her home on Church St. in her ninety-third year. The young couple started in the baking business in Georgetown, later moving to Acton.

Mosquitoes are one crop that have not been winter killed.

BACK IN 1904

From the Issue of the Free Press of Thursday, June 2, 1904

The dog question is a vexed one in this community. This was evidenced at the session of the Court of Revision on Monday evening. It was there alleged that a number of dogs, absent from town during the time of the assessor's peregrinations, have since appeared. The tag system would certainly be more satisfactory.

At the meeting of the Board of Education, the work of the principal, Mr. W. H. Stewart, was referred to in very complimentary terms and he was re-elected as principal of the high school for another year at a salary of \$625.

Mr. George Statham, baker, now drives the most handsome delivery rig ever driven by an Acton merchant.

With the weekly prayer meeting on Tuesday evening, the pastorate of Mr. W. S. McAlpine, who for six years has been the popular pastor of Acton Baptist church, has come to an end. Prayers and good wishes follow him to Brampton.

The Japanese continue to advance upon territory heretofore held by the Russians. In an engagement last week they lost 3,500 men but captured 70 Russian guns, and drove the Russians in rapid retreat from their entrenched positions.

Fine weather again favored the baseball league on Saturday. Berlin was Acton's opponent and a large concourse of citizens greeted the contestants. Acton won by a considerable margin, making it three straight wins in the race for the Canadian Amateur Baseball League pennant.

Yesterday afternoon there was laid to rest in the cemetery at Ballinafad one of the first-born residents of this vicinity in the person of Mrs. Jeremiah Kentner, who died on Monday morning after a lingering illness. Mrs. Kentner was a native of the Ballinafad vicinity, having been born here 80 years ago. Butter and eggs were both quoted at 13 cents this week.

PRACTICAL HINT
Before emptying the vacuum cleaner, sprinkle water on the newspaper or bag to keep down dust.

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