

The Acton Free Press

The only paper ever published in Acton



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Live and Learn

Removed from speculation and the news this week is the C.P.R. strike. Among all those affected there seems to be rejoicing that the matter has for the present been adjusted. Reading through our exchange papers this week, many of which come from towns and villages which are served only by the C.P.R., it was interesting to note that life was normal in transportation after the first day. One would not get this viewpoint if reading was confined to Canada's so-called greatest daily, The Toronto Star. One may sometimes wonder what constitutes greatness.

There have been some lessons that can be gained from the stoppage of services. Both sides may well ponder their importance to the Canadian economy. Perhaps there is more than firemen on dials to be considered. Sure there is inconvenience in any change but none of us are indispensable. Transportation in this day has bus, truck and airplanes as well as rail and water.

It was interesting to note, too, that voluminous speech is not always most effective in reaching a speedy agreement. Addressing a TV audience after the strike were three or four union leaders while only one representative spoke on behalf of management. When the announcement of the end of the strike was given in the House of Commons, the leader of the official opposition was not present to hear the message which had been so hot only a few hours previously. Only two senior members of the government participated in broadcasting comment after the announcement.

The news headlines go to other things of interest. Most of them are farther from home. They, too, are important, but of prime importance is that we learn from our day to day experience and live from day to day.

Frosted Panes

Our kitchen window faces out on an unheated sun porch and most every morning in this weather, with the temperature hovering near the zero, we have been admiring the patterns that are etched on the window panes. Some might call them lace designs, but we see them as bush and outdoor scenes, which might be found most anywhere about the countryside these days in Ontario.

There are sometimes rows of hydro and telephone poles, sometimes a lake surrounded by trees can be traced, sometimes a trail is blazed or the scene may stretch off into a wooded area or a mountain peak. The scenes vary from day to day. There are two windows in the porch which are screened. Right or wrong we never remove these screens the year round unless the windows are washed and that isn't in winter weather. There are no designs on the screened windows.

Many years ago our father bought a magnifying glass. Sometimes we were allowed to get it from the shelf and view through it many things that were revealed when enlarged. On a day when there was a heavy snowstorm and boys could not play out-of-doors great joy was found in examining snowflakes beneath the glass. It provided hours of fun and the only inconvenience was the constant opening of doors to get a fresh batch of snow flakes at which to marvel.

We haven't examined snowflakes under a glass since boyhood. We haven't noticed the frosty drawings on the window panes. They have been there all through the years but in these days of haste we overlook beauty that is all around us. The emphasis is on speed. The twenty mile limit of speed allowed us to see more on the trip. The speed today takes us farther but we miss the beauty as we go. The other day a story was carried in the papers in which it was recounted that a jet propelled machine travelled so fast that it could not be seen when passing other planes. Will speed be increased until we are blind to all about us?

Heavy Burden

Whether it be at municipal, provincial or federal government level in Canada; whether it be in England, Egypt, Russia or China those in authority and high position have a rough time in meeting the physical strain that leadership requires these days. Latest of these to break under the strain is Sir Anthony Eden. Just a few months ago in Canada we had Hon. George Drew, whose health broke under the strain of serving the public.

Fortunate are we indeed that there are always men and women with shoulders broad enough to take the yoke and carry the burden. It is human to err. History reveals that often. What appears as an error of human judgement to-day, may well prove to be a blessing in the days ahead.

Looking at the present case to-day of Sir Anthony Eden we might well temper our criticism. He made an important decision in stepping into action on the Suez situation. It was a brave and conscientious decision. Perhaps history will never reveal how momentous it was in world affairs. Men have physical capacities which are often overtaxed. In his retirement we hope he will be spared to see indication of his efforts. We are thankful that, always more public spirited citizens appear who by their effort keep alive our democracy.

When and How

With the installation of dial phones all around Acton, citizens may well wonder when Acton will be included in the change-over to automatic service. It may not be any improvement. Dial phones may even have disadvantages over the present system. There has always been a desire on the part of people to be alike. If the next door neighbor gets a new gadget, the tendency is to be uniform. Usually it makes for improved service.

We do not doubt that when the change is made a wider extension of service will be given, preferably one that will take in the North Halton Area. Halton has always had a north-south development. The Urban Board, the fire protection plan, high school administration and other developments have proven advantages for this area.

It is generally felt that an extension of the telephone service to cover Acton, Milton and Georgetown and the townships of Esqueping and Nassagaweya would be most advantageous. We know such a move will have its problems for the telephone company, but we hope that with two of the towns already with exchanges now designated as Triangle the Acton change to dial will be included in the same group. The earlier the change is made the more it will be appreciated.

Policy Unchanged

We had another inquiry the past week on whether we would accept liquor advertising in our columns. These inquiries come along every so often. Possibly the idea is to keep files up-to-date or see if the paper is still under the same management. At any rate this one came from the Ontario Weekly Newspapers' Association. The answer was the same as it has been for many years. No.

For over seventy years it has been the policy of the Free Press to refuse to accept liquor advertising or advertising paid for by the brewers or distillers.

We have no objection to the constant inquiry, but it seems necessary every so often to register our stand. The Association of which we are a member is only fulfilling its duty when it sends out inquiries to all members.

In the light of present day happenings we feel however that intoxicating beverages need no advertising. We are told time and time again that alcoholics are sick people and need to be treated as such. Institutions for treatment of these sick people, as well as organizations to help alcoholics are becoming more necessary and doing fine work. We'll be most happy to accept advertising from any of these fine groups, but we refuse to publish more bait publicity to lure people to become alcoholics and sick to fill our institutions.

Acceptance of liquor advertising would, we feel, nullify our freedom to express our opinion on the subject. We know our thoughts are contrary to those of many people. We do not want to be looked upon as a martyr in any sense.

Our stand gives us more personal satisfaction than the funds we would derive from the liquor advertising. We do believe we have a duty to our fellow men and women to assist them in their fight against temptation and help them, stay well. You do not cure people by administering more of the same poison.

That is our stand. We see no reason to alter it and would not be happy if we accumulated. If our sole object in life was to accumulate money at any cost we would never have chosen newspaper publishing in the first place.



Photo by Esther Fayor

Warm Spot on a Cold Day

Chronicles of Ginger Farm

Train Whistle is Music Now

By Gwendolyn P. Clarke

Isn't it grand to hear the train running again? Who would have thought the shriek of a whistle would be music in our ears? But so it is. At night you can hear the chugging of the trains along the track the warning whistle as they approach the crossing and you can lie in bed and feel happy about the whole situation, at least until October 1. After that, who knows? It seems strange such a crippling strike should go on around us and we suffer so little from the effect of it.

Our only inconvenience was getting our daily paper a day later. So it is for the people as a whole more than for ourselves that we are glad the strike is over. Whether it was justified is another question.

This is a busy time for farmers. Some folk have the idea that the winter months are the farmer's slack season. That is a situation that belongs to the past. Now there is no slack season. Last week, for instance, the farmer would go out to his morning chores, milk the cows, come into breakfast, listen to the news, hear that Sir Anthony Eden had resigned and that Harold Macmillan was the new British prime minister. Startling events, it is true, but they all seem very far removed from the farmer's problems.

Seem to be, but they are not. Everything that happens in Britain, the Middle East, Russia, Europe and the United States eventually has some indirect influence on us all, including the hundred-acre farmer, the livestock breeder, and the market gardener. No one can or should listen to the news these days and then shrug his shoulder and exclaim, "Well, that

doesn't concern me." Any thinking person knows that whatever happens, and wherever it happens, concerns us all. But thank heaven we don't have to deal directly with the mighty issues of the day. We can go about our ordinary work, the farmer caring for his livestock, the farmer's wife busy in the home, some of them cleaning eggs and washing the cream separator, baking for a sale of work, going out to a quilting or sewing for children or grandchildren.

If we stop to think of it, this is a wonderful country in which we live. Just imagine being able to lead an average, normal life without great problems of the day are being solved, men at the helm protecting our interests from coast to coast. Politically, some may think one way and some another, but at least they are doing what they consider to be in the best interests of the men, women and children across Canada at whatever level of life, from the highest to the lowest, even to one's own little family affairs.

Which brings me back to Ginger Farm. We have had a very busy time since the new year started, a few worries and one or two surprises. Really, it is a small world. One day, a man called here on business, an absolute stranger to both of us. It was very cold, so while Partner and our visitor were talking in the living room, I went out to the kitchen to make a cup of tea. When I got back, I found the two men talking like old buddies. "do you remember so-and-so?" Sure I do—but what about old Joe—what happened to him?" Naturally, I wondered at this sudden intimacy. Well, it turned

out that during World War I our visitor was attached to the same Battalion as Partner, the 28th, but not in the same company. Not only that, but this man came from the same district in which we lived when we were farming in Saskatchewan and by there were two fields to explore for memories of mutual friends and acquaintances. Believe me, when two old first war vets get together, business is suspended as they swap stories of army life in general and combat experience in particular.

Our new found friend had even known a Dr. Vincent Black of Moose Jaw, who attended me when Bob was born. As well as being a clever doctor, he was kind, friendly and sympathetic. It grieved me to learn that some years ago, while crossing the main street in Moose Jaw, he was knocked down by a car and killed.

When Bob was a few months old he was not expected to live, and he was in hospital over a month under Dr. Black's care. When we went to bring Bob home, we stopped at Dr. Black's office and asked for a bill. "Bill?" just forget it—you've had enough trouble already."

"But Doctor, you were in to see the baby every day," I exclaimed. "Yes, but I was going to the hospital anyway. Immediately, we moved 'down east' and lost touch with Dr. Black. And then, out of a blue sky, came this visitor, reviving old memories. A visitor who came as a stranger and went away as a friend."

But—his cold outside! Sunday was cold and bright, so sunny our Toronto folk came out as previously planned. By the time they got here the car radiator was boiling—thermostat stuck. Bob came along in answer to an SOS by telephone, ready to take over if things couldn't be fixed. However, by eight-thirty they were all on their way home again. And at that time it was 20 below zero. It rose 10 degrees during the night. I think we had better make Doe and Art a present of an outdoor thermometer!

Runs From Home For \$20 Award

Mrs. Gordon Adams, who heard her name called from her home on a 10 per cent coupon on Saturday afternoon at the Appreciation Day draw, came running from her house to receive \$20 in vouchers. Winner of the \$5 award is Ray Arbie. Due to the small awards handed out, the jackpot has gone up to \$222.

Fire at Acton Dump Cause Thursday Call

Blowing smoke from the town dump on Churchhill Road Thursday of last week resulted in a fire call. Reported by a Churchill Road resident, the smouldering fire was not extinguished by the brigade. The five o'clock call in freezing weather followed a recent rash of fires in the town. Firemen determined the dump blaze was not endangering surrounding property and returned to town.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

BACK IN 1907

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, January 17, 1907.

The city of Kingston, Jamaica, was ruined by an earthquake this week.

There will be held in the town hall next Tuesday evening under the auspices of the ladies of St. Alban's church, an entertainment unique and enjoyable. It will be a spatters' tea and the young ladies will enforce rules which will require all the wits of the young men to observe without forfeiture of more than the admission fee. Any gentleman found taking tea with his right hand, passing anything, or making remarks about the tea or the promoters of it will be fined five cents.

A meeting will be held in the town hall this evening for the purpose of organizing a retail merchants' association.

Thomas Scanlon, an early resident of Rockwood, passed away there at the age of 90. He came from County Kerry, Ireland, and settled in Rockwood in 1847 and had remained there ever since.

At Esqueping council meeting on Monday, Mr. George T. Thompson was re-appointed assessor at an annual remuneration of \$150.

Acton Fire Brigade has at 104 secured quarters for their meetings in the town hall. Citizens generally will be glad the firemen are thus provided for.

The Women's Institute met in the town hall on Friday. Mrs. A. T. Brown gave a fine report of the provincial convention at Guelph. A hearty invitation was given to all members to prepare useful articles between now and the May meeting. Judges from outside town will exchange them and awards will be given.

The first hockey match was played on the rink between teams picked from Beaufort and Cossart tanneries and the town. Playing for the town were Hamill, Anderson, Nicklin, Ryder, Holmes, Taylor and Hynds and for the tannery, McEachern, Brown, McDonald, Oliver, Malone, Beaufort and Garden. Goal umpires were J. Clarke and A. M. Smith and the referee was George Hynds Jr. Several other matches are being arranged for.

BACK IN 1937

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, January 21, 1937.

The initial meeting of the Acton School Board was held on Wednesday evening. Trustees F. S. Blow, H. J. G. Ryan, W. K. Graham, J. M. McDonald and P. W. Pezzen were present. The high school inspector's report, by A. J. Husband, was read. It suggested that the pupils be given more homework. The public school staff was empowered to purchase a sand box for the junior pupils. Stormy winter weather failed to deter a good and enthusiastic crowd at the annual meeting of Acton Fair yesterday afternoon and directors had every reason for optimistic confidence in the success of the report was presented by Messrs. A. T. Brown and F. Beaufort. Prize money for stock and exhibits set a new high at \$1,304.94, about \$112 over that paid last year.

G. A. Dills was elected president of the fair board for 1937. F. E. Wright was the unanimous choice for the position of secretary-treasurer.

The first athlete to have his name engraved on the Lou Marsh trophy was Dr. Phil Edwards, who was selected as the most outstanding athlete in Canada for 1936. Gen. Albert Nugent, French resident general in French Morocco, has taken over command of 100,000 troops ready for any emergency which may arise from the possible landing of German troops in Spanish Morocco. This is currently the focal point of European fears.

Rebel bombers are continually making raids on Madrid. Hundreds of lives have been lost in flaming wreckage.

The heavy rains last week caused floods even here that threatened a good deal of damage.

The boys from the Tannery Town had a sweet revenge when they handed Georgetown a 5-3 trimming. Georgetown roughened it up. Acton were content to take the punishment and slip in goals. Captain J. M. McDonald is again president of the League. Special ratings for the Coronation now being looked.

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