

The Action Free Press

The only paper ever published in Acton



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Summer Adventure

A dozen university students are spending the summer doing voluntary work among the Eskimos at Frobisher Bay in the eastern Arctic. Male students are busy at construction work, painting houses and unloading ships. Girls are cooking and doing clerical work.

The desire of these members of the Student Christian Movement to get to know the Eskimos better by working among them is an indication that the spirit of adventure is still alive in Canada.

They are not the only civilization dwellers spending all or part of the summer in remote parts of Canada. To mention a few:

The Mines and Technical Surveys Department is sending out 75 survey parties, mainly to Arctic regions, to do the field work from which will come 200 new topographical maps, air navigation maps and charts of coast and inland waters.

Army engineers, who spend nine months of the year in centrally located bases while they work at surveying points in Ottawa, are surveying wilderness areas in every province and the territories. They are assisted by vacationers on supply staffs and travel by canoe, horse, mukks, mire or helicopter.

Doctors and Army technicians, working from the government supply ship C.D. Howe, are surveying 25 remote Eskimo settlements in the Arctic Archipelago in the north of Ellesmere Island, a former mining colony where mineral and physical and dental examinations

Settling for somewhat smaller doses of the outdoor life, thousands of holidayers, including families with small children, are leaving the city for the vast areas of provincial and national parks.

Add to these the city saved workers now busy on the CNR's 17 fair, Early Warning radar line and mapping the North Canada line and remote weather stations and it becomes evident the call of the wilderness you beckons to you.

Reporting on Health

Halton County Health Unit has made its annual report to the people covering their 1956 operations and giving some idea on what their plans are for the current year.

Medical Officer Dr. A. Bell notes in his report that the population of Halton continues to grow at the rate of 1% per cent per year. There were no epidemics during the past year. Heart disease and cancer continue to be the two greatest causes of death, considering all age groups.

Not too many reports ago there would have been some serious sections devoted to pneumonia, but the chief mention now is that injections of a vaccine are being continued and only two cases of the dreaded pox were reported for the fall of 1956.

The report notes, too, that a preventive dental programme was approved last year. This starts work in the schools and child health clinics to prevent dental disease by examination and education. Of course these preventive programs haven't always been carried out. One wonders if they are all really necessary. Then a little further we find that the average number of treated decayed teeth per school child examined during the 1956 fall term was 4.1. Only one out of ten in the age group 5 to 8 years had all the necessary work completed or had no need of treatment.

Undoubtedly disease can only be defeated by a constant awareness of its presence and a continuing education towards its early treatment. Perhaps someday we will have the generation of parents and children who have the more complete understanding of the need for early treatment.

The \$138,950 business of the Health Unit appears to be assisting in maintaining and improving the health of the country that is burdened with the pains of a rapidly growing population.

A Little Chuckle

We were interested in the following comments of our contemporary on the Bolton Enterprise.

"If you had followed the newspaper reports of the Royal Commission's hearing into the Peterborough Police situation you will have seen how the publisher of The Peterborough Examiner, Mr. Robertson Davies, gave evidence recently.

"It is not for us to delve into the intricacies of the evidence, nor the reason for the inquiry being held at all, but what did seem interesting from a newspaper standpoint, was the fact that somebody as prominent as a judge had endeavored to influence Mr. Davies as to how his editorials should be written. It was suggested that The Peterborough Examiner should "get behind" the City of Peterborough Police Department, and that "favorable" editorials should be written accordingly. This is interesting from a journalistic point of view and particularly when the man in question was no other than Robertson Davies, a rugged, Canadian individual if there ever was one. An outstanding personality, an author-playwright, and certainly the type of publisher that is needed in much greater quantities in this growing country of ours."

"Nevertheless, it is the part about a publisher being asked to change his editorial attitude which is more interesting, however, and while a request of this kind might be justified (if you want to look at it like that) the newspaperman is more than justified in turning such a request down flat."

"On the same page some pointed comments have appeared regarding the freedom of the press, and it is this same freedom which is the very basis of the life we live. The alternative is a controlled press, with no free expression and even though some cities and countries seem to have almost a sensational license in allowing their newspaper to say what they like, this is preferable to any kind of regulation."

Whether it be weekly or daily a journal must be able to function freely, and it is doubtful if there were many newspapermen in Canada who did not have their own little chuckle about the Peterborough incident."

Those Eating Habits

Reading a recent article about the possibility of man weighing something like 275 by 2057 if he continues his North American eating habits, ones doubts to, or perhaps away from the business of eating.

Our eating habits on this continent have often been regarded as a little opposite to the ideal. Recently, however, we noted that King Saud of Arabia has just ordered a dinner service from London. The largest items are eight soup tureens to hold 50 pints each.

But these soup tureens will be nothing unusual by Middle East standards. If they are the hottest bits of china from the Arabian Majesty can show, no chef will never be able to serve a delicacy described by Glubb Pasha (otherwise Lt. Gen. J. B. Glubb) in his book about the Arab Legion.

During his long career in the Middle East, cut short when the King of Jordan unmercifully sacked him last year, Glubb Pasha was often a dinner guest of Arab potentates.

At one of these feasts the main course was a whole roasted camel, served in kneelings position. The camel stuffed with six sheep, each sheep studded with six chickens, each chicken studded with six hard-boiled eggs. Carrage with rice and a sauce of raisins and wine. Steve piping hot.

Glubb Pasha doesn't say what size of dish was needed to entertain the camel, but it must have been a lot bigger than a finicky 1000-jar soup tureen. Father King Saud is a piker of Middle Eastern hospitality if he's not.

One begins to wonder just how our North American eating habits can even be measured against such Middle Eastern standards.

Smaller Cities Lead

Opportunities for the individual have always been in the city, it has often been suggested. Of course, this is still the case in some of the professions but there is a glimmer of hope for the average Canadian in a recent article that notes there are many smaller places where wages are higher and sometimes considerably higher than they are in the big cities in the same province.

It wasn't too many years ago that the bigger the city the bigger the wages. That was one reason for the concentration of industry. Higher returns naturally attracted more labor.

Dominion Bureau of Statistics survey shows only four cities where average hourly earnings in manufacturing exceeded \$1.80 per hour in 1955. These were Oshawa, St. Catharines, Sarnia and Victoria—not really a big city in the lot. Almost touching that hourly figure were Windsor, Fort William, Port Arthur, Hamilton, Niagara Falls, Peterborough and Vancouver. Only the latter, it will be noted, is classed among the biggest cities in Canada.

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Photo by Esther Taylor

Sand Castles

G.A.D. About...

A Columnist With a Record

On April 11, 1929, a new column was started in the Free Press entitled "Just Plain Folks" by Judy O'Grady. A week later the column introduced the "Chronicles of Ginger Farm." For the more than 28 years which have followed, every week "Chronicles of Ginger Farm" has been a feature of this paper

which has been enjoyed by hundreds of thousands. Once or twice in those 28 years, Mrs. Clarke has written another column for the Free Press. It will continue to do so, as will the "Chronicles of Ginger Farm," until she decides to make a break in the new column.

Several years ago, the penname of Judy O'Grady was dropped and the writer contributed under her

true name of Gwendoline P. Clarke. The column was syndicated and appeared in another newspaper. It was a good success. It will continue to do so, as will the "Chronicles of Ginger Farm," until she decides to make a break in the new column.

We ask her a favor for our readers. For over 28 years, Mrs. Clarke has had the best of the humor and interesting thoughts that can be found in the average home. For all these years, she has taken our readers into her life and the lives of visitors and for all these years, she and her readers have been a family affair. Who may well ask why this column is now discontinued.

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