

The Acton Free Press

The only paper ever published in Acton



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TUESDAY, MAY 29, 1956

Start and Stop?

It is a common memory of any great adventure, when there were few pay roads or ways. At first, however, very little was known about many forms of local transportation. It was here, or perhaps there, where the road to the country was not made, or perhaps it was.

With a few exceptions, between a couple of years ago, we have had no paved roads, and the few we have, have been a very poor substitute for the sand of winter still remains a cause of great expense to town and county.

Every winter we have to have sand applied to the roadsides for the majority. This year, however, was just started to clear it away. The new roads have been a very poor substitute for the sand of winter still remains a cause of great expense to town and county.

Modern dwellings, though as far from the pioneer cabin as the car is from a saddle horse, still appear to be within reach of a large proportion of Canada's wage earners. Central Mortgage and Housing Corporation statistics indicate.

In 1955, the latest year for which figures are available, the corporation says 49.8 per cent of the families in urban areas that took out National Housing Act mortgages to build homes were in the middle third family income group of \$3,513 to \$5,423. They include incomes of dependents as well as of the family head.

But only 6.8 per cent of borrowers were from the lower third income group under \$1,513. This indicates large numbers of low-income families still cannot attain home ownership under the NHA.

With the longer evenings and the rains, our thoughts toward the summer days and summer vacation lead the Provincial Department of Transportation to issue a safety check-up card.

After the long and hard of fall, winter and early spring driving, they recommend a check by day for mechanics found at all gas stations, of steering wheel alignment, tires, brakes, exhaust system, horn, lights and wipers.

Locate the troubles before they cause further trouble, can make these summer drives more trips for more comfortable driving.

The simple check-up card also gives directions to stops in good advertising areas that can save you time, fuel and perhaps even your life.

The Art of Doing Nothing

The Canadian paradox in modern society is the fact that, though most of us work fewer hours and have more leisure than our grandfathers did, we appear to have less time. There is a boss, almost a slave to his boss society. The man who sits back to idle, idleness or even to indulge in the half-forgotten art of contemplation, looks down as something of an oddball.

Now, while the sensible people in town are constantly being badgered to join this organization or that one, or to accept this or that educational position, they yield to all requests of course soon leaves them loaded down with so many jobs that they can't do any of them properly.

The suggestion that the town is over-organized is often repeated. But which of the organizations are the superfluous ones? It would take more coverage than we possess to list an opinion even if we felt competent to advance one.

The situation is not a local one. The same situation exists in many communities and the amount of good work accomplished by the organizations is tremendous.

But a certain amount of idleness can be beneficial. And contemplation, the art of considering *an idea*—a problem with steady attention, has great positive values that we scorn at our peril. As our shorter work hours buy precious time for living, there comes an obligation to use that time to best advantage.

There is a great difference between waste-time and a healthful use-of-leisure.

Failure to Appreciate

We seldom appreciate a thing until we have lost it. A recent example is the loss Georgetown experienced in the burning of the theatre there. While the building is apparently being rebuilt, the citizens of this community are without a theatre.

There has been no such serious interpretation of the theatre business here and perhaps that is one of the reasons we still fail to appreciate its existence.

Usually, in continuing any business as experienced at there is little support for a small town theatre have not found it easy during the past several years to continue local facilities have been improved and many old pictures have been killed.

In one small town where the theatre closed, mechanics found it to their advantage to purchase the theatre and continue its operation even at a loss. In another smaller centre the movie policy actually purchased the theatre to continue its operation.

It is quite true that we seldom appreciate a thing until it is lost. Perhaps yet we'll come to appreciate the local loss as the people of Georgetown have done, as less by far.

Perhaps the decreasing crowds and interest are indicative of the trend back to the local theatre.

Those Modern Dwellings

Come are the days when a healthy young Canadian contemplation marriage and a house by one cleared a stretch of wood, tied with hay and using some of the fallen logs built himself a cabin in which to take his bride. Life now is more complicated and municipal housing regulations require standards, comfort and convenience un-dreamed of in pioneer days.

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Photo by E. H. Tamm

Perfumed Petals

G.A.D. About...

Decoration Day 1958

The observance of Decoration Day in Acton dates back only a few years, but already a short time has passed very popular. This year it occurs next Sunday, June 1st, and under the auspices of the Acton Masonic and Council.

I did intend to treat the event editorially this week, but as I thought it over and to many memories kept crowding in, I decided to write a little more personally in my own column.

Every year many former Actonians come back to meet old friends and say a few words more peace of mind, meeting where remains are interred in Fairview Cemetery. It provided such a fine time for old and former friends to coincide as the summer is just beginning and flowers are freely planted.

To those who participated in Decoration Day, and those who will be present this year, I hope to repeat that the observance is a quiet one, quiet when the sun is shining and the birds are singing.

These days, as in the past, Actonians have come to the protection of their beloved Fairview Cemetery.

For the law which binds us to the people buried in caskets, the law which binds us to the soil of our native land.

Decorations Day, like all other days, is a day of remembrance, a day of reflection, a day of quietness, a day of silence.

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