

Write Us a Letter

Action has no Hyde Park where idealists and those with ideas can expound their views to a limited audience. But those with ideas are free to express them to a pretty fair size audience through the letters to the editor of this newspaper.

Each week we editorialize on a variety of subjects but the written reactions, favorable or otherwise, are pretty scarce. It doesn't take any professional ability to express your ideas for publication as a letter to the editor on local or national subjects.

Of necessity however the authors must be prepared to sign their names on the copies this newspaper receives. Another title such as "taxpayer", "satisfied", "disgusted"

or similar designation can be published but the newspaper must have the author's name on file.

We ask also that any criticism you may make be of the type that is not libellous. Of course legibility in writing is important.

Often we hear criticism of local things. "Why don't you write an editorial about such and such a thing?" Our stock reply is to suggest they can achieve just as much an effect by simply stating their opinions in a letter to the editor for publication.

The opportunity to express your opinion is just as great as you want to make it. But please sign your name, avoid libellous statements and write legibly.

Anyone any views?

Community Boon

Normally, few of us give much thought to the impact of industry on a community. Only when there is a disaster or a major strike in a one-industry town - Springhill and Sudbury are recent examples - do we realize how much we ordinarily take for granted.

In this, as in most other matters, there is some advantage in beginning at the beginning. Thus, the building of a new factory in or near a community means, of course, more jobs for those who live in the area.

But it goes much deeper than that. Usually, this sets off a chain-reaction which results in the expansion of the whole community, making for a pronounced increase in the level of local prosperity. The availability of jobs attracts workers from elsewhere; there are more marriages, more sales for local merchants, more services, more development, more children.

These things are well brought out in the results of a study recently undertaken by the research and development department of Canadian National Railways, and published in pamphlet form under the title "What Increased Manufacturing Employment Means To Community Growth."

The C.N.R. study considered the economic changes which took place in nine different Canadian communities between 1941 and 1951. Six of the communities are in Ontario (Belleville, Chatham, Cornwall, Peterborough, Stratford, and Woodstock), and three are in Quebec (Granby, Joliette and St. Jerome).

Briefly, the study revealed that 100 additional manufacturing workers meant to their community:

- 427 more people
- 131 more households
- 66 more school children
- 117 more workers employed other than in manufacturing
- 187 more motor vehicle registrations
- 393 more telephones
- 3 more retail establishments
- \$939,000 more retail sales per year

Those responsible for the study stress the inadvisability of generalizing from the particular conclusions detailed in the pamphlet (all the nine communities studies conformed to certain important criteria). Nevertheless, this is a valuable guide that points up in vivid terms the effect of manufacturing expansion on community growth.

Demerit Plan Debut

Motorists in this district, along with all others in Ontario, have just a little more than three weeks to mend their driving habits to conform with the Driver Demerit Point System, which goes into effect on February 1. This system has been long in developing because the province sought to make sure the public would properly understand what it meant. It was originally scheduled to take effect on November 1, but authorities felt the impact would be too great because there has not been enough time to prepare the drivers of the province for it. By various means the Department of Transport is making certain there shall not be any misunderstanding about what the system means.

A driver convicted of criminal negligence, driving while intoxicated, driving while ability to do so is impaired, or obtaining a driver's licence fraudulently, can get 12 demerits, which calls for suspension of licence for three months.

Failing to remain at the scene of an accident will bring nine points and an interview with an official of the transport department, who will use some stern language. Careless driving (if it is returned as a driving infraction), racing and speeding at a rate of 30 miles or more over the legal speed limit brings five points. Three points are allotted for motorists who drive 10 to 30 miles an hour faster than the limit, or who fail to yield the right-of-way, fail to obey stop sign or signal, or don't report an accident. Two points go to those who are caught speeding at rates of ten miles or less over the limit. The same number go to those convicted of all other moving violations.

Since the points are piled up over a two-year period, casual disregard for speeding tickets can bring an offender's total quickly

to suspension of licence. Point accumulation is in addition to penalties which may be imposed in the courts.

But there is a very serious catch developing. The charge of careless driving is under review of the Court of Appeal. Careless driving is described as "Every person is guilty of the offence of driving carelessly who drives a vehicle on the highway without due care and attention or without reasonable consideration for other persons using the highway." In addition to a fine of \$10 to \$500, a person convicted under this law, if in effect, would get five demerit points.

However, now that police may charge careless drivers as negligent drivers under the Criminal Code, the situation changes. Section 191 of the Code says: "Every one is criminally negligent who in doing anything or in omitting to do anything that it is his duty to do, shows wanton or reckless disregard for the lives or safety of other persons." A person convicted is liable to a fine of not more than \$500 or six months imprisonment or both. But under the demerit system 12 points are chalked against him and that means licence suspension.

So the time is all too short for a great many motorists to mend their driving habits.

Brief Comments

NO ARSENIC HERE - Canadians needn't get too scared about new U.S. findings on cancer-causing arsenic in cigarettes, says Leonard Bertin, Science Editor, The Financial Post.

Cigarette men and Ontario government agriculture officials say no arsenic sprays are used on Canadian tobacco, which supplies all domestic needs.



"Glistening Snow"

Jim's JOTTINGS

BY JIM DILLS

● ACTON'S 1959 Council held a "caucus" on New Year's Eve at the building of the Mayor. That's just about the most foolish piece of nonsense I've heard of in a long time. In any other town or city in Canada, the administrator has been able to await the inaugural meeting, usually set by by-law, to consider committees.

● IT'S SURPRISING how many of the Christmas decoration lights burned out during the holiday season. The strings with the stars that had to operate night and day of course showed the worst toll.

● THE APPEARANCE of the annual almanac tells us that the weather from the 15th, milder with sleet and snow. Have to keep that in mind and see how close they come.

● THIS IS one of three days that we didn't publish all we know," went the newspaper editorial. "For which many may be thankful."

● IF IT WAS rolled along on its edge, the main balance wheel of today's average watch would travel somewhere near 3,500 miles in a single year.

● THE TABLOID size newspaper drew a number of favorable comments over the past two weeks but it is not without its problems. I'm glad to be back to the regular size week.

● I CAN'T HELP but sympathize with those who must rise daily at 5:30 a.m. in what seems to be the middle of the night. The dull days outside don't add any joy to that time of day. Weekly I'm reminded of those who do it every

day as I get an early start on press day.

● AS JIM concluded his hectic days, one wise soul remarked, "If you are not confused, you just don't know the facts."

● IT IS A FAIR cry from employment conditions today and those of 100 years ago. The following instructions to employees in a department store in the London, Ont., Rotary News:

"Store must be open from 8 a.m. to 9 p.m. the year round. Shoes must be clean, sweaters, hoses, shaves and brushes dusted; kimonos trimmed, filled and chimneys cleaned; mats made; doors, windows opened, a pot of water, also a bucket of coal, brought in before breakfast. Sabbath must be observed on the Sabbath unless necessary and then only for a few minutes. The employee who is in the habit of smoking Spanish cigars, being shaved at the barber's, of amusement and other places of amusement will surely give his employer reason to be suspicious of his integrity and honesty. Each employee must not pay less than \$5.00 a year to the Church and must attend Sunday School regularly. Men employees are given one evening a week for reading and two if they go to a prayer meeting."

● A YOUNG husband who had agreed to the purchase of a television set for Christmas, protested when he found that his wife had ordered the deluxe model instead of the standard "But dear," his wife explained, "it won't cost more. All we have to do is to pay a little longer."

● MEN WHO never do any more than they get paid for will never be paid for more than they do.

● A GIRL, meeting a former flame at a party decided to snub him.

"Sorry," she murmured after the hostess had introduced them, "I don't get the name."

"I know you didn't," said the unabashed ex-suitor, "but it wasn't for the want of trying."

day as I get an early start on press day. In India the Hindus are divided into many different religious groups and each group marks the beginning of the year on a different date.

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THE GOOD OLD DAYS

BACK IN 1909.

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, January 1, 1909.

A couple of hockeyists from the Royal City, "The Lemon Club," arrived in town Monday night for a game with the Acton juniors, "The Rovers." The game was brisk throughout in spite of the inequality of the result, 10-2 in favor of the Rovers. The stiff checking of the Acton "jeds" paralyzed the Lemon attack, but the visitors hung on gamely, playing hard until the ring of the bell that signalled the end of the game.

A former resident of Acton and employee of the Beechmore Company, Donald McIlvride, jumped into the Welland Canal last week and saved the life of a young girl who was drowning, after breaking through the ice.

There has been fine sport skating on the glossy surface of Fairy Lake and Anderson's Pond the last week. The rink has also been in good condition.

But the pavements on Saturday and Monday were in fine condition for skating all over town. Scores of young ladies and gentlemen and of the younger population took advantage of this unique condition and Mill Street was a veritable skating rink.

Last Thursday evening, Mr. A. O. Heardmore formally opened the club house of the Acton Aquatic Club when members and guests sat down to dinner in the spacious club room.

Charles Guthrie of Toronto was arrested in Acton at noon yesterday and charged with horse stealing when he attempted to offer a horse and buggy to citizens at prices that aroused suspicion.

Chief Lawson was called and upon examination of the rig, found the proper owner's name on it. It was found that the horse and rig had been hired at Palmer's Livery Station in Guelph. In the afternoon, Mr. Palmer and Guelph authorities were notified.

In the meantime, Guthrie had escaped and gone to Georgetown, where he was arrested and returned to Guelph. Guthrie had attempted to pass a worthless cheque in Guelph prior to committing the crime of horse stealing.

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BACK IN 1939.

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, January 12, 1939.

J. J. Stewart was selected to head the 1939 Fall Fair activities when the annual meeting of the Acton Agricultural Society was held on Tuesday afternoon in the town hall.

When the treasurer's report was given, it was found that the prize money was at a new high when \$7,500.00 was paid out last year.

Acton's Junior hockey team held last year's Junior "C" championship, the Grandville team, in a 3-1 tie last night when they visited away from home. The Acton boys skated circles around their hosts time and time again and carried the play throughout the entire game. Play got a bit rough at times but referee Joe Kettner kept the lads under control by handing out well deserved penalties.

Bloomington Literary Society held their regular meeting in the school on Tuesday evening and had somewhat of a unique program when stump speeches were given. Maxwell Nellis was in charge of the speeches and the program was accepted very heartily by the group.

Following the meeting and program, each was enjoyed with prizes going to Mrs. T. Near and Dr. Van Gosen. A delicious lunch concluded a pleasant evening, served by the host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. Alex Near.

R. J. Kerr was once again named chairman of the Public Utilities Commission at their inaugural meeting on Tuesday evening. Present at the meeting were commissioners Kerr and C. Hansen and Reeve F. McCutcheon.

Acton's Tammy, intermediate hockey entry in the O.H.A. gained first place in the league when they defeated the Fergus Thistles in the arena here last night. Vic Rumley had the Acton team hitting "top stride" as the lads outplayed the Fergus team.

If it had not been for Brown in the opposing net, the score might have run higher than 5-1. He saved shot after shot and fooled the Acton forwards on several rushes down the ice.

The Gung Coach Lines started new highway crossings through the Acton run today and the new lanes appear quite streamlined.

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THIS SUNDAY'S CHURCH CALENDAR

<p>ACTON PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE 33 Churchill Road P.A.O.C. Rev. Kenneth J. Reid, Pastor 75 Cook St., phone 649-W</p> <p>SUNDAY, JANUARY 11th, 1959 10:00 a.m. - Sunday School 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship 7:30 p.m. - Evangelistic Tuesday, 8 p.m. - Prayer and Bible Study Friday, 8 p.m. - Christ Ambassadors "Christ is your Answer" A Friendly Welcome To All</p> <p>BAPTIST CHURCH ACTON Rev. Gordon M. Holmes, B.A. B.Th. 115 Bower Avenue</p> <p>SUNDAY, JANUARY 11th, 1959 8:30 a.m. - Onward Christian Soldiers 11:00 a.m. - Bright Song Service 7:00 p.m. - "The Night when the Sea Threatened"</p>	<p>THE CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR ANGLICAN Rector: The Rev. H. B. Stokroff, L.Th. S.T.B. 185 Jeffery St., phone 263</p> <p>SUNDAY, JANUARY 11th, 1959 THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER THE EPIPHANY 8:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist 9:45 a.m. - Church School 11:00 a.m. - Beginners' Class 11:00 a.m. - Matins</p> <p>UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA Acton, Ontario Rev. Gordon Adams, M.A., B.D. Mr. George Elliott Organist and Choir Leader</p> <p>SUNDAY, JANUARY 11th, 1959 9:30 a.m. - Morning Prayer 11:15 a.m. - Morning Worship 10:00 a.m. - Junior Church and Church School Children under 5 will be cared for at all services</p> <p>PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA KNOX CHURCH, ACTON Rev. Andrew H. McKenzie, B.A., B.D.</p> <p>SUNDAY, JANUARY 11th, 1959 9:45 a.m. - Church School 11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship 7:00 p.m. - Evening Worship</p>
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The Acton Free Press

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G. A. Dills, Editor-in-Chief
David R. Dills, Managing Editor.

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