

An Unhappy Need

Thoughts of Acton's municipal budget are not the happiest at the moment and we hesitate to make any suggestions of what might be included, but we hope some provision is made to maintain the town's paved streets.

The first heavy thaw on Friday gave some indication of what may be anticipated. One of the most obvious problems to us was the development of a six-foot long hole about four inches deep in the hard top in front of the Free Press. We have no doubt there will be others appearing as the full effects of the heavy winter are uncovered.

Drainage is obviously one of the major problems. Snow and slush that have been allowed to build all winter to above the curbs on the main street will naturally contain the water on the road rather than allowing it to find its way to the storm sewers that are presently well buried with ice.

The town's other streets, where snow fall has been equally heavy, will be in a similar situation and a recurring freezing and thawing can have disastrous effects on the hard top.

It seems important to us that this hard top be adequately maintained too, since there must still be a good number of years to pay off the balance of the debentures covering the installation. It will indeed be an unhappy day if inadequate funds are budgeted to take care of the necessary maintenance on these roads because the town is going to have to have them for a good many years yet.

Evidence of inadequate maintenance in years gone by is already too plentiful in town when one takes a close look at the arena and the town hall. There is little in them to foster town pride.

A Woman P.M.?

Will Canada ever have a woman Prime Minister? Or the United States a woman President?

Someday, perhaps. But not, we fancy, in the lifetime of anyone now living. Women show no sign of challenging man's dominance in the field of politics either in this country or any other.

Here in Canada, as in the United Kingdom and the United States, there has never been more than a mere handful of women legislators at any time. This despite the fact that women voters outnumber men. As a result, no Prime Minister or President has ever had more than one woman in his Cabinet.

The reason for this sad (?) state of affairs is, quite simply, that women, having secured the right to vote 40 years ago, have been content to let it go at that. The fears once expressed that votes for women would

result in a political war of the sexes at every election have not been realized.

In fact, women appear less inclined to run the risk of "petticoat government" than men. Rarely do they select, much less elect, a woman over a man.

Politics, then, is still pretty much the "man's game" it has always been. Women, it seems, prefer it that way. Or, if they don't really, are not yet prepared to do anything about it.

Hence, male solons will long continue to rule the roost in Ottawa (and the provincial capitals, too). And man will reach the moon (and probably the other planets, too) long before any Canadian political party with a chance of power takes the plunge and chooses a member of the fair sex as its parliamentary leader.

Which in some ways is a pity, for such a development would certainly bring added spice and interest to politics.

Slowly, Slowly

Slowly, slowly the right of a municipality to administer itself through its elected officials is slipping away.

Evidence is increasing even as grants to the municipalities are increasing. The most recent threats in the fluoridation of a town's water supply. No longer can a municipality decide for itself whether it wants to add the fluorides to the water in an effort to minimize tooth decay in children. The provincial government in a recent policy statement on the subject indicated that no votes would be acceptable.

Presently eight municipalities adding the fluorides to the water will be allowed to continue, but there is now no legislation that will permit other municipalities to choose the course they may take.

It is unfortunate that almost every forward step in health has met obstacles that

are often quite unreasonable. From pasteurization to the latest polio vaccine the scientists have had to overcome not only the disease itself but the opposition to the solution.

It is not unusual then that the fluoridation of water supplies has encountered similar obstacles. The proof of its effectiveness will only be decided when all the "experts" agree on the subject one way or another. That may be some time away.

In the meantime municipalities will not be considering the addition of fluorides to the water, apparently, since there is no ground on which they could implement a plan if they did choose.

One more discussion has been taken from the table of councils, from the forum of public opinion, and from the ballot booth of local municipalities.

Abandoning Thinking

"Why do newspapers print conflicting reports?" a reader queried us recently although his reference was apparently directed more to our larger metropolitan daily friends.

Perhaps another question might serve as a simple answer, "Why don't people agree on everything?"

Newspapers are charged with presenting information. While their editorial comments endeavour to sort out answers and express opinions, the news columns are charged with presenting the ideas, the statements and the actions of others. The fact that opinions vary on some things is the reason newspapers present conflicting views.

Perhaps most important though, is the desire so many have to have the answers provided to the problems rather than the problems.

News magazines that offer opinions only,

with of course the supporting facts, are increasingly popular. They've digested the news and provided a conclusion. Our thinking has been done for us and we willingly accept their conclusion rather than sift the facts to form our own conclusions.

The declining interest, even in municipal affairs, has been evident every nomination and election day for years. Basically we're happy to leave the problems of growing towns, high tax rates, rate property owners, service extensions and the host of others to someone else.

Let us not abandon completely our thinking processes to someone else as we complain that newspapers carry conflicting reports. As long as people are thinking and thinking different things on the same subject, there is bound to be the difference of opinion that provides "conflicting" reports.



—Photo by Esther Taylor

"Postscript"

Jim's JOTTINGS

BY JIM DILLS

ALTHOUGH THIS has been a hard winter on the people, it has been a remarkable one for making ice at the arena. With the Minor Sports hockey schedule completed, it's good to remember those responsible for making the ice at the arena, the minor sports officials who looked after more than 200 boys who played hockey and the many others who acted in the capacity of referees, coaches and managers.

SINCE THE RECENT layoff at Milton, the unemployed workers have formed their own Self-Help Bureau. To date they have come up with a few ideas that no doubt have much merit and could spark the foundation for a future industry in Acton.

UNEMPLOYMENT has by no means curtailed the contractors active in the building programs in Acton. Ten houses are being built in Lakeview subdivision, the high school addition is well under way and building is being continued in the Glenlea subdivision. It all adds up to a continuing optimism and confidence in Acton.

EVEN HIGHWAY 25 between Acton and Milton is developing some real bumps as the first sad evidences of winter frost show up.

PEOPLE WHO like to be waited on are the hardest ones to be cured of their ailments.

THAT NARROW bridge that crosses the Sixteen Mile Creek on Highway 5 will soon be a thing of the past. Construction has been progressing for some time to bridge the gully where Proudfoot's Hollow was once located. Evidence of that historic Acton community still exists but you'd never know it if you just cross the highway bridge.

I HAVEN'T seen too much of those famous hula hoops but of course the weather hasn't been particularly suitable. Reading the other day though and found the hula hoop which netted \$25 million to set a North American record. It seems that now the spinner-plate, a plastic plate put on the end of a stick, is supposed to replace the last year's best seller.

ONE HOUSEWIFE had a stopper for a salesman who suggested that she could pay for something on what she could save on something else. Her answer: "Trouble is we are paying for our house on money we save from rent, paying for the car on money we save from car fares, paying for the washing machine out of money saved from laundry bills, and right now we just can't afford to save any more."

WITHOUT BENEFIT of star sights, sun lines or radio direction systems, an area where magnetic compasses "spin" hopelessly, the atomic powered submarine Nautilus completed a journey of 1830 submerged miles and surfaced within sight of a pinpointed destination. That's better than I can do with a road map sometimes.

TAKING THE fifth amendment to obtain protection from the law has become quite popular south of the border but this is a new twist. "Sloppy Joe" Bellinger, alleged gambling king, can't go on trial on a gambling charge until he loses at least 200 of his 425 pounds, doctors said recently. He keeps falling asleep during questioning. A court appointed physician said Bellinger, 41, has a full blown case of Pekiwekian Syndrome which means he can't help falling asleep whenever he's asked an embarrassing question.

THOSE WHO SHARE the occasional din and tumult of an apartment may be sympathetic of why Harvard's famed Charles Townsend Copeland insisted on occupying a couple of small, dusty rooms on the top floor of Hibbs Hall. The distinguished professor was often urged to move into quarters more befitting his position on the campus. "No," he finally exclaimed one day. "I shall live on the top floor. It is the only office in Cambridge where God alone is above me. He's busy, but he's quiet."

GERTRUDE EDERLE the first woman to swim the English Channel, has been deaf for many years but she hasn't let her handicap impair her spirit or her useful life. Unable to get a job because of her deafness, she volunteered to teach deaf children to swim. Today she teaches swimming in pantomime to deaf youngsters.

THEY'VE REACHED the apex, the absolute, the crowning glory. Now they've named some top notch official the "woman of the half year." It's hard to tell whether she's only half as good as the "woman of the year" or whether no one can take the job for a full year. It's a good lesson in the sublime to the ridiculous.

OUR BURLINGTON counterpart, The Gazette, reports a reader with 15 tulips blooming in his back yard. Must be in the banana belt there.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick Hostess to Institute

The regular monthly meeting of Lamehouse Women's Institute was held on Thursday afternoon at the home of Mrs. Kirkpatrick, with Mrs. Roughley presiding. The meeting opened with the Institute Ode, followed by the Lord's prayer.

The roll call, Name your First Teacher, was answered by 14 members.

Arising out of the business were a donation to the Halton Musical Festival, and two memberships to the Retarded Children's organization in connection with the Sunshine School, Milton. Program Presented.

Mrs. Mitchell, convener of citizenship and education, was in charge of the program which included current events by Mrs. E. Sanford, two minute reports by convener, Mrs. Harry Brown, culture and Canadian industries convener, Thoughts for Seed Potatoes, Mrs. English, home economics and health, Medicine Music, Mrs. Kirkpatrick, historical research and current events, Georgetown Merchant gives Credit to Avro Jobless.

The motto, Think Well Before You Speak, was well taken by Mrs. Kirkpatrick. If we take time to think before we speak, how many less hurts there would be.

An interesting paper on Mental Hygiene and Recreational Guidance was read by Mrs. Sanford. This was followed by a contest. The winners were Mrs. Ted Brown and Mrs. Roughley.

The meeting closed with The Queen, after which lunch was served by Mrs. Gishy, Mrs. Brown and the hostess. A social half hour was enjoyed.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Back in 1939

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, March 16, 1939.

It was a roaring crowd that packed Acton arena last Thursday night and were treated to the biggest ice thriller seen in many a day when Vic Rumley led the Acton Tanners to a 6-2 win over Bolton and a win on the round by one goal.

Married: Ramsden - Young. At the home of the bride's parents, on Saturday, March 11, 1939, by Rev. J. E. Gamble of Port Rowan, Jessie Mabel, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Albert Young, Acton, to Mr. Harold Bingham Ramsden, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. John Ramsden of Muncie, Indiana.

The fire brigade had a run on Tuesday morning to a fire at the double dwelling house on Main St. opposite the Presbyterian church. The tenants are Mr. and Mrs. Morris Gordon and family. Smoke was discovered, coming through the floor on the second story about eight o'clock and the alarm was turned in. Damage was only slight and the blaze was soon extinguished.

Arrangements have been completed where Rev. Dr. E. M. Morrow, who has been pastor of Acton United church for four years, will exchange charges with Rev. G. Clifford Gifford, B.A., of Preston. Mr. Gifford occupied the pulpit here in Acton recently and a unanimous call was extended to him to come to Acton. Dr. Morrow likewise has been invited to go to Preston.

Mrs. W. J. Gould was hostess to the Duke of Devonshire chapter I.O.D.E. ladies on Tuesday afternoon. The officers' monthly meeting, the officers' reports were read and other items dealt with. Those fine new catch basins installed on Mill St. last year can hardly be expected to function as long as they are buried under ice and snow.

John Hilson crashed into the side of a fast moving passenger train and wrecked the front of his car but escaped with only a bruise and a knee laceration. When the train crew stopped the train and returned to where the car was sitting, they found Hilson, shaken but unhurt, at the side of the road.

Back in 1909

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, March 5, 1909.

To fill the vacancy caused by the leave of absence granted Miss Kate Kennedy, teacher of the primary department of Acton public school, the Board of Education have been very fortunate in securing the services of Miss Edith Nicklin. Miss Nicklin will take charge of the primary department until midsummer.

One day last week, James' DeCoursey, one of the shippers at the warehouses of the G.T.R., while engaged with loading a car with leather, received painful injuries to his back and shoulder through the impact of a shunting train against the car where he was at work. He was knocked out ten feet and was knocked over the end of the platform and has been unable to work since.

Eighty-six members of the Epworth League visited the Silom and Crewson's Corners League at the brick church on Tuesday evening. Acton League provided the program and the home leagues provided generous refreshments at the close.

The Rovers on Saturday evening journeyed to Erin for the third time. The second time the game was won by the Rovers in a very rough match. Erin was determined to have revenge for the previous game. When the teams lined up, there were four new faces on the Erin team. The game started at half past eight and was very fast.

At half time the score was five to four in favor of Acton. Shortly after the second half started, the puck was shot on Erin goal and was broken in two. Half of it went into the net and the other half stayed on the outside. However, this goal was not allowed. The game ended in a 7-7 tie with both teams tired out.

Mr. Robert Moore has purchased the property formerly owned by Mr. Harry Jeans, Park Ave., and will move there shortly. A Coughlin man was fined \$100 and costs on Monday for shooting a woodpecker.

One of the local butchers, N. Patterson, is putting in a rendering machine and a steam boiler in his abattoir.

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THIS SUNDAY'S CHURCH CALENDAR

ACTON PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE
33 Churchhill Road
P.A.O.C.
Rev. Kenneth J. Reid, Pastor
75 Cook St., phone 649-W

SUNDAY, MARCH 15th, 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
Thursday, 8 p.m. - Christ Ambassadors
"Christ is Your Answer"
A Friendly Welcome to All

THE CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN
THE MARYT
ANGLICAN
Rector: The Rev. H. B. Stokreef,
L. Th. S.T.B.
185 Jeffrey St., phone 265.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15th, 1959
THE FIFTH SUNDAY IN LENT
Passion Sunday
8:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist
9:45 a.m. - Church School
11:00 a.m. - Beginners' Class
11:00 a.m. - Choral Eucharist
MID-WEEK CELEBRATION
Wednesday, 18 March, 1959, 8 p.m.
- Lenten Services. Guest
preacher, the Rev. K. Richardson,
Rural Dean of Halton.

BAPTIST CHURCH ACTON
Pastor:
Rev. Gordon M. Holmes, B.A. B.Th.
115 Bower Avenue

SUNDAY, MARCH 15th, 1959
9:45 a.m. - Morning Prayer
10:00 a.m. - Junior Church and
Church School
11:15 a.m. - Morning Worship
Children under 5 will be cared for
at all services

UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
Acton, Ontario
Rev. Gordon Adams, M.A., B.D.
Minister
Mr. George Elliott
Organist and Choir Leader

SUNDAY, MARCH 15th, 1959
9:00 a.m. - Morning Prayer
10:00 a.m. - Junior Church and
Church School
11:15 a.m. - Morning Worship
Children under 5 will be cared for
at all services

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA
KNOX CHURCH, ACTON
Rev. Andrew H. McKenzie,
B.A., B.D.

SUNDAY, MARCH 15th, 1959
9:45 a.m. - Church School
11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
7:00 p.m. - Evening Worship
Semi-annual Laymen's service
All male choir.

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