Editorial Page

Preparing the Park

Warm days seem to have appeared rather suddenly and besides getting everyone into the great outdoors they have brought extra spurts in the growth of grass and the desire for picnics.

Acton Park has become quite a well known spot for picnics and weekend outings and hence an early appearance of visitors on the weekend.

We understand the Parks Board has an adequate supply of new park benches for the season and their earliest possible appearance would undoubtedly add greatly to the park facilities. The present benches are broken in many cases and their removal would not be a serious loss.

In any park grass is one of the biggest headaches. If you've got it you have to cut it and if you haven't got it you're trying to get it. Acton's park has long had a good catch of grass and so the oldest problem seems to be keeping it cut. It is unfortunate it wasn't cut for the opening ball game and also the first band concert.

Through the assistance of the town foreman, however, the area for the ball game was looked after before the opener and this undoubtedly helped, as well as being appreciated. No doubt by the time this is read the balance will have been cut and everything in readiness for the weekend visitors. Erection of the slides and swings will also undoubtedly be appreciated at an early date.

But there's one other problem and that seems to be on the water. Last year a boom was placed which made it necessary for motor boats to slow down when they approached the swimming area and we have no doubt this was greatly appreciated by those who prefer to do their swimming in the area. We doubt too if it proved any handicap to those who prefer the sound of the motor over the water. In all it added a little more safety.

We sincerely hope the usual old and new park facilities will be in operation this week and that the problem of the growing grass will not be overlooked.

Don't Stab it

In two weeks some 47,000 Halton voters will have an opportunity to choose their provincial representative for the next four or five years as well as choosing the government.

The three provincial leaders have been on the usual heavy campaign scheduling touring and travelling, visiting and shaking hands but the crowds they have been addressing certainly haven't been large.

Here in Halton there seems to be little emphasis on meetings, mostly of course because people just don't seem interested in attending. The campaign seems to be more a case of door knocking and personal solicitation for the hoped-for vote.

While the often repeated admonition to vote as you like but vote has burned itself into the memory of many who couldn't care less, the more modern thinking on the slogan is that behind it there should be some interest, some awareness of the issues at stake, so the vote may not be just a vote but an intelligent vote backed by an awareness of what it stands for.

In municipal elections across Canada last fall only about 30 per cent of those entitled to vote exercised their franchise. Was it indifference, or was it protest? It is hard to say. There isn't scarcity of issues in these days. Political campaigns bristle with them.

If, however, voters assess the worth of candidates on the tinsel glitter of give aways they may be sadly disappointed when they receive the bill for such benefits.

Electorates should examine with scrupulous care the records of candidates and assess their abilities and ideals before making a stab at a ballot. To vote blindly or because a name is familiar is worse than not voting at all; it is committing a folly. Don't stab the ballot, think.

Litterbug Blight

Along with the annual appearance of mosquitoes and flies now comes the litterbug. None are welcomed.

Just as flies and mosquitoes leave their marks so does the litterbug. You can find evidence along the streets, along the country roads, near picnic sites, and in our parks. You can see the empty cigarette boxes, the chocolate wrappers, the brown paper bags, the popsickle wrappers and hundreds of items that leave a blight on the cleanliness of any town or city, any county road or park site.

While the bite of a mosquito will eventually disappear, even though it is for a time irritating, the removal of the bite of the litterbug runs into thousands of dollars annually. It's one more privilege we seem peculiarly happy to pay for although this may only be because we don't realize it.

Street sweeping is not only laborious but costly and yet this is the only way to heal the bite of the litterbug. Weekends seem the worst time as streets become loaded with the debris that requires constant sweeping to clean it up.

Down at Boston the massive deterrent of threatened $20 fines for second offender litterbugs and the addition of 300 new trash baskets is leading that city's campaign.

There the threat of rigorous enforcement and fines are expected to curb wilful offenders and the knowledge that others are no longer getting away with making the streets their garbage pail should restrain those who toss out their gum wrappers because "the streets are so messy anyway."

May is supposed to be beautification month and we can add a lot of beauty to our town as well as country by being a little more careful what we do with the wrappers. If you're travelling put your debris in a paper bag for disposal in a trash can. If you're picnicking remember others will also want to enjoy the spot. If you're walking look for a trash can before you drop the wrapper.

A little thought and co-operation can be most helpful.

Setting Precedents

A farmer in Wisconsin, it is reported, will receive an annual income of about $3,000 from the taxpayers of the United States over the next ten years in payment for placing his 60-acre farm in the "soil-bank" run by the department of agriculture. Soil-bank payments like this are already costing the taxpayers about $250,000,000 a year and are bound to keep on rising as more farmers appreciate the beauties of non farming.

Fortunately for Canadian taxpayers, the Canadian minister of agriculture has not yet come up with this particular method of bonusing farmers for not farming. Some Canadian farmers are assisted by support prices to receive more than their products are worth on the open market, but they still have to produce something to get paid for it.

The United States soil-bank scheme was devised to take a certain amount of farm land out of production so as to keep prices up for what was produced on the remainder. The way it has worked in some instances is to encourage more intensive production on the land left in cultivation, so that a farmer owning two farms may receive about the same income as he did before from the farm he works and an extra payment from the taxpayers for growing nothing on the other.

The precedent set by the farmers might be applied to other lines of production. Makers of widgets, when there is a glut in the market, might close down some of their factories and get paid for the widgets they no longer make. Lawyers and doctors, as their professions became overcrowded, could retire at the taxpayers expense.

The flaw in such schemes is that the taxpayers who are eccentric enough to keep on working have to pay for them. Some day they may decide that besides being eccentric they are suckers.

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G. A. Dills, Editor-in-Chief

David R. Dills, Managing Editor

BUSINESS AND EDITORIAL OFFICE PHONE 600, ACTON

—Photo by Esther Taylor

"May Adventure"

Sugar and Spice....

BY BILL SMILEY

Just this minute I looked at the calendar and realized that I have another birthday coming up next week. I'm never sure how old I am. I always have to remember the year in which I was born and subtract it from the present year. For the past three or four years, I haven't had a clue whether I was 37, 38 or 39, without doing arithmetic.

The figuring completed, it came as no shock to me that I'll be 39 on June 2nd, and I accepted the fact that I'm well past the midway mark with a reasonable lack of panic. After all, I've still got some hair, half a dozen of my own teeth, and one or two of my faculties.

Not that the relentless years haven't taken their toll. Thanks to an oft-broken nose, I have no sense of smell whatever. But this is not entirely a disadvantage. True, I can't smell perfume on dames, but this is safer. I can't smell food cooking, but it keeps me from gorging and growing obese. On the silver lining side, I can't smell onions, skunks, manure piles or whiskey breaths.

And I have a lot of little aches and pains. I don't leap out of bed any more, carolling "here hath been dawning another new day, think wilt thou let it slip useless away." I kind of edge out, groaning and grunting, swinging my bad leg to the floor with both hands. But it's amazing how much dancing, weeding and praying that bad leg gets me out of.

No, it isn't the physical disintegration that gets me down. What disturbs me is the automatic acceleration of time with the advancing years. The older you get, the faster it flies. Which is both unreasonable and unfair.

When you are five years old, life progresses at a barely discernible pace. It is made up of endless investigations of mud, breakables, dogs and similar interesting things, broken only by leisurely, messy meals and long, dreamless sleeps. A regular picnic.

When you are ten, life is still in no rush. A month away, or even next Saturday, seems like a long time. Summer holidays stretch lazily, interminably ahead. You can't conceive of becoming a middle-aged man of thirty, it seems so far off.

At fifteen, especially if you're suffering from a small case of unrequited love, some pimples on the day of the dance, or some such catastrophe, a few hours can be as endless as eternity. Even at twenty, time is limitless, something to be spent, not treasured.

In other words, during the formative years, when your appreciation of life is about as deep as that of a puppy, time dawdles, loiters, tarries, jokes and inches along. You waste great gobs of it playing, pretending, dreaming, mooning or just rushing about.

Then, when you begin to mature enough to enjoy life to the full, time begins to dangle along at an alarming clip. By the time you have acquired the wisdom and perception to savour every moment of life, every scent and sight and sound, your senses of smell, sight and hearing are dulled and time is careening past you like a fire truck.

And when you have grown old, and every second is infinitely precious, suddenly there is no time for anything except to prepare for death. Perhaps it is as well that we grow weary and full of aches and miseries as we get old. Otherwise, how could we bear to part with life, just when we have realized at last what a privilege it has been to be born and to have lived in this fascinating world?

When we become so absorbed in ourselves, so concerned with what happened yesterday, so worried about what will happen tomorrow, that we let time slip past unnoticed, we profane the gift of life. We are like blind men standing on the bank of a deep, swift, beautiful stream, arguing about the color of the water.

That's why, as another birthday approaches, I pledge myself afresh to try to slow life down. Maybe it's too late to plunge into the stream anew and savour its myriad wonderments. But at least I'm going to sit on the bank and dangle my toes in it, rather than try to build a bridge so I can get to the other side as quickly as possible.

THIS SUNDAY'S

CHURCH CALENDAR

ACTON PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE
33 Churchill Road
PAOC
Rev. Kenneth J. Reid, Pastor
75 Cook St. phone 649-W

SUNDAY, MAY 31st, 1959
10.00 a.m. - Sunday School
11.00 a.m. - Morning Worship
7.30 p.m. - Evangelistic
Evangelists P. Mason and E. Parmenter will be singing and preaching at both services.
Tuesday, 8 p.m. - Prayer and Bible study
Thursday, 8 p.m. - Christ Ambassadors
Christ is Your Answer
A Friendly Welcome to All

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

SUNDAY, MAY 31st, 1959
9.45 a.m.—Church School
11.00 a.m.—"This is the Life"
7.00 p.m.—Song Service. "Christ Meets Everyone's Case."
Wednesday, 8 p.m. - The mid-week Service for Bible Study, Witness and Prayer
All are Welcome

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

SUNDAY, MAY 31st, 1959
9.00 a.m. - Morning Prayer
10.00 a.m. - Junior Church and Church School
11.15 a.m. - Morning Worship

THE CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR
ANGLICAN
Rector: The Rev. H. B. Stokes-Ford, L.Th., S.T.B.
153 Jeffery St. phone 263

SUNDAY, MAY 31st, 1959
THE FIRST SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
8.30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist
9.45 a.m. - Church School
11.00 a.m. - Beginners' Class
11.00 a.m. - Choral Eucharist
All are Welcome

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

SUNDAY, MAY 31st, 1959
9.45 a.m. - Church School
11.00 a.m. - Morning Worship. Sermon theme: "The Grace of Keeping At It." Children three years and under cared for during service at manse.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Back in 1939

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, June 1, 1939.

Acton's baseball entry for 1939 dropped the opener to Georgetown 4-3 after an extra inning Monday night. Both teams fielded aggregations with lots of young material.

Acton had a number of new faces including Bob Footitt, Russ Brush, Ben Bayliss and George Malozzi, along with Bill Dumarch, who all made their initial appearance. Henry Cripps pitched a steady game but erratic fielding in spots spoiled his attempts to pull out a win.

The Lorne Scots occupied prominent places and were the subject of much favorable comment on the appearance of the regiment at the recent visit of their Majesties in Toronto. About 400 members took part in this event and made a splendid showing. The Acton platoon was in charge of Lieutenant Sutherland and composed about 50 men.

On Saturday the Beardmore Company were hosts to about 75 of the Shoe Manufacturers Superintendents and Foremen and Allied Trade Association members of the Kitchener area. The group was conducted through the plant in small parties and the various processes of leather making were explained.

At a luncheon which followed on the lawn of York House, the party was welcomed by S. G. Bennett on behalf of the Beardmore Company. J. M. Macdonald, sales representative, also addressed the group.

Word has been received here that on June 6, when the Royal Train passes through Acton, their Majesties will appear on the observation platform of their special car.

Fire destroyed a large stone dwelling on the farm of Duncan McDougall, one mile south of Erin. The family was absent at the time. The fire had made such headway by the time the Erin fire brigade arrived it was impossible to check the blaze. Only a few pieces of furniture were saved and the damage was estimated at $3,000.

Russ Salmon of Brampton, a member of the first Acton O.H.A. hockey team, was in town for the hockey banquet and was feted along with other members of the team following the team's championship.

Back in 1909

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, June 3, 1909.

A further examination of Mr. P. Morales' horse, which escaped being killed by the G.T.R. express last week, showed that the jaw was broken and several teeth knocked out by the terrific impact. The animal is doing well under treatment and it is hoped will recover.

A subscription list was circulated among our citizens and neighboring farmers and the energetic committee who had the matter in hand were able to present Mr. Morales with $122 toward the purchase of a new horse.

An exhibition game of ball was played in the park last Saturday and it was a very fine game, with Milton being the contesting team. Both teams played a fine game of ball and at the end of the nine innings the game was a tie, each having one run to their credit.

The tenth inning gave Milton a run and sent the players home in time. Little Acton's new pitcher, Nawn, is a wonder, and he will help very materially in aiding Acton to retain the league championship this season.

If J. McNabb is one of the most successful disciples of Izaac Walton in town and many a wary trout has succumbed to his skillful angling. Last Wednesday he caught one of the finest fish ever caught in neighboring streams in the district. It measured 17 inches in length and weighed two pounds. It is unnecessary to say Hube was proud of his catch.

Complaints are made by citizens who are attempting to maintain tidy boulevards that certain persons are in the habit of tethering cattle and horses on the streets. This is a violation of the by-law.

The plot owners who are endeavoring to beautify their plots in Fairview cemetery by planting flowers, etc., are much handicapped by the lack of water. A well there, or a tank at the slough, or better still a well and windmill, would be much appreciated and would result in the cemetery being greatly beautified.

After nursing a sprained right hand for over a month, Mr. Henry Bell is just able to get it out of the sling and do a little work. It has been a painful injury.

SILVERWOOD

Reveals Plan to Buy Home for Museum

(Intended for Last Week)

Highlight of the May meeting of Silver-Wood W.I. was the interesting talk given by the guest speaker, Mr. A. MacLaren of Georgetown, on the objects and accomplishments of the Credit Valley Conservation Authority. The idea was broached by Mr. MacLaren himself in 1948 but was not voted into being until 1952, and a great deal of progress has been made since then in conserving the soil and water supply in the valley of the Credit.

He spoke on the work of the six advisory boards, which cover: Farm Planning and Land Use, Flood Control and Pollution, Recreation, Parks and Recreation, Historical Records and Publicity.

Of interest to many who think that Halton County should have a museum, is the tentative plan of the Authority to buy an old home to contain early records and relics and a proposal to save the old Dynamo as a memorial to the first electric power produced in Canada.

The meeting was held at the home of Mrs. D. Polk when a display of the member's Coronation Events. After the singing of the 23rd Psalm as the Opening, a good deal of interest was evinced by the R. Coll, who was in charge, the combined weights of the president and secretary, and Mrs. E. C. Lindsay won the prize for making the closest guess. Mrs. Clive Wilson gave a good reading on the motto: "No one is rich enough to be without a neighbour."

It was decided to obtain spoons to sell as mementos of the Queen's visit and Mrs. Norton, Mrs. Bell and Mrs. Marchington were named as delegates to the annual meeting.

An auction sale of plants and slips brought some fast and furious bidding under the hammer of Mrs. Harry Scott and put a nice sum of money into the treasury.

A social cup of tea rounded out the evening.

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY AND TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

MEDICAL

DR. W. G. C. KENNEY
Physician and Surgeon
Office in Symon Block
43A Mill St. E., Acton
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Residence 115 Church St. E.
Phone 150

DR. D. A. GARRETT
Physician and Surgeon
Corner of Willow and River Sts.
Entrance River St.
Acton, Ont.
Phone 238

DR. ROBERT D. BUCKNER
Physician and Surgeon
39 Wellington St., Acton, Ont.
Phone 679
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Afternoons by Appointment

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Saturdays by appointment only
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ACTON

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Phone 991

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A. D. MOORE, D.C.
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111 Mill Street
Phone 40 or 66
Office Hours
Wed. 2 - 7 Sat. 2 - 5

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212 King St. W., Toronto 1, EM 4-9131

EARL G. BLACK
B. Comm., R.I.A., C.A.
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT
Farmers Bldg., 163 Main St.
Milton, Ont.
TR 8-6542

TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

GRAY COACH LINES
COACHES LEAVE ACTON
Daylight Time
Eastbound
6.33 a.m. - Daily except Sun. and Hol. 11.31 a.m. 2.00 p.m. 5.00 p.m. 6.23 p.m. 8.23 p.m. 11.30 p.m. Sun. and Hol.
Westbound
10.27 a.m. 12.57 p.m. 2.57 p.m. 5.27 p.m. 7.27 p.m. 9.12 p.m. 11.32 p.m. 1.12 a.m. (Fri., Sat., Sun. and Hol.)

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS
Standard Time
Eastbound
Daily 5.40 a.m. Daily except Sundays 10.00 a.m., 7.14 p.m. Sundays only 8.01 p.m. Daily except Sunday Flyer at Georgetown 9.02 a.m., 6.27 p.m.; Daily Flyer at Georgetown 10.11 p.m.
Westbound
Daily 11.44 p.m. Daily except Sunday 8.30 a.m., 6.53 p.m., 7.40 p.m. Saturday only 1.22 p.m.; Sundays only 9.03 a.m. (flagstop); Sundays only Flyer at Guelph 7.05 p.m.; Daily except Sat. and Sun. 3.31 p.m.