

Editorial Page

Thank You, We'll Continue

Apparently Mayor Cook is unhappy that the Free Press published the fact that Acton Citizens' Band vacated the Town Hall in the face of a \$7 nightly rental fee imposed by council.

We take it that he objected to our interviewing the president of the Band and that he is very much opposed to seeing the council "put in a poor light".

He has even made a rather preposterous suggestion that it is too bad council can't control what is printed. Such things have been tried many times before in many other countries and always with disastrous results to the freedom of those countries.

Admittedly this newspaper has to sell newspapers. That should be a fairly apparent fact very similar to the suggestion that councils have to impose taxes. It's nothing to be ashamed of or scoffed at.

But if Mayor Cook would care to study the 83 year history of the Acton Free Press he will not find at any time such base journalism as that devoted to the sensationalism he is trying to imply. We dislike very much attacks on an integrity we jealously guard.

If the Mayor and his council dislike being "put in a poor light" he should remember that the newspaper's only chore is to provide the illumination and not the staging.

Undoubtedly we will be accused of misrepresentation or misinterpretation or mis-

quotation but this has become a popular pastime and a convenient exit.

We feel certain the Mayor and Acton Council have more important and progressive things to do than be critical of reports of their decisions. Along the line of such subjects we might wonder just what type of organization is to replace the Public Utilities Commission that voters agreed to abandon at the end of the year despite our editorial objections that no concrete replacement had been outlined. We might wonder whether a town manager system is in the making, what is to happen to the present staff, and how much larger the new staff might be. We wonder about the maintenance of such buildings as our arena, our band stand and our town hall. We might wonder if the town hall facilities, since the necessity of a fee, will be any more widely used for such municipal events as the annual nomination meeting. If not we wonder if the band might not just as well have been allowed to continue to use it in the face of such little other use.

We might wonder about the progress on a remedy to get the original town spring back into use through elimination of pollution that took it out of operation.

Yes. There are many things for an Acton Mayor and Council to be kept busy on and we'll continue to operate the Free Press until they have a little respite in their numerous tasks.



Photo by Esther Taylor

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Back in 1909 Back in 1939

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, June 24, 1909.

Messrs. C. C. Speight, W. R. Sayers, R. Sinclair and John Bauer returned home Tuesday evening from their annual fishing trip to Waicaga Beach, at the mouth of the Nottawasaga River. They had splendid success and brought home 180 pounds of prime bass, pickerel, pike and shad, generally remembering their friends in the distribution.

"Move on men, please," has been the popular request of Constable Smith to all loiterers at the corner of Mill and Main Streets and the result has been most satisfactory. Ladies pass freely without the indignities complained of to council. The constable intends next to direct his attention to the crowds who needlessly block the pavement at the post office.

A one armed Irishman from Guelph came to town on Tuesday morning well loaded with whiskey and imbued more at the first bar he reached. Constable Smith arrested him and he spent the afternoon in the cells. He came before H. P. Moore, J.P., at five o'clock and was given 15 minutes to get out of town.

A large number of citizens witnessed the game between Acton and Georgetown in the park on Saturday afternoon. It was a fine exhibition of baseball. Mr. McCallum, the umpire from Georgetown, made several decisions which were manifestly unfair and the crowd made it rather hot for him for a while. Spectators generally declare that in one or two notable cases, the decisions were erratic. In response by leading citizens, the game has been protested and the umpire's resignation demanded.

During the raising of T. P. Watkins' new barn on Tuesday afternoon, a gly rope broke and caught Capt. Gamble under the chin, severely abrading the skin on the neck and cheek. He was knocked off the foundation by the impact and was severely shaken up.

Fifteen members of the Acton Shakespeare Club had their annual outing on Monday afternoon. They drove to Georgetown in two double carriages, visited the paper mills where they were shown the various processes in the manufacture of paper, took a drive around town and then dined at the Bennett House.

Mr. Alex McDonald's fine new barn on the second line has been raised and is now enclosed.

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, June 22, 1939.

Acton council last Thursday night struck the mill rate for the year after studying estimates and reached a 4 1/4 mill rate which is half a mill above last year. The total amount to be raised by taxation this year amounts to \$30,702.41.

Another University graduate whose success many Free Press readers will be glad to learn is that of Dr. John McDougall, who graduated in medicine this year and has received his degree. He is the son of Mrs. Jennie and the late Malcolm McDougall of Acton.

Next Sunday, Rev. Dr. E. M. Morrow will deliver his farewell sermons, concluding four years of successful work in the United Church here. He moves the following week, with his family, to the new field in Preston.

The Acton School Board last Friday evening, during a special meeting, considered 700 applications for three positions on the staff. Also, hundreds of applicants had personally canvassed board members during the week.

The 300 applicants for the principalship were first considered. G. W. McKenzie of Honeywood was finally favored for the position. There were 400 applications for the position in teaching grades two and three and they were given to two applicants whose homes are in Acton, Miss. Emily Young and Miss Mildred Hollinger.

Acton nine showed great class here on Saturday when they defeated Milton by a seven-run margin with Hyder again pulling the hat trick, allowing only four hits and no runs in six and one-third innings. Redfern started for Acton, but it took only one inning for the Milton sluggers to get next to his pitching.

Bill Waterhouse made his first appearance of the season and collected four hits for a neat 1000 average. Herb Woods replaced Mooney at second and collected three hits for four trips to the plate.

Milton used three pitchers before the onslaught of the Acton batters. John Brushy is Milton's leading hitter.

Mrs. V. B. Blumley very graciously opened her beautiful home and was hostess to a large number of ladies on Thursday at an afternoon tea and travelogue by Mrs. M. M. Leitch during the Knox Ladies' Aid meeting.

"Waiting for Supper"

Sugar and Spice....

BY BILL SMILEY

Father's Day is but a pallid imitation of that great commercial orgy known as Mother's Day, but apparently it is with us to stay. Each year father receives gifts that he neither needs nor wants and before the wrappings have been put away, he realizes the family has put him in hook for the price of said gifts.

I don't know what the rest of you birds want for Father's Day, but I know what would please me most. The most thoughtful gift the family could procure for me would be if they packed a lunch, got in the car, and disappeared for the day.

I find the whole business of Father's Day revolting. The mere existence of such a day is an indication of the new low to which the father has sunk in the family unit. Just a few decades ago, every day was father's day, and there was no fooling about it.

When I was a kid, there was none of this dam' foolishness of father helping around the house. Nowadays fathers scrub the kitchen floor on their day off and help with the dishes after dinner. In the good old days, father didn't have a day off in the first place, and mother wouldn't have let him help with the dishes, in the second, because she knew her place, and his.

Perhaps it's the increase in his leisure time that has turned the head of the house into a substitute baby-sitter, a domestic animal, a handy washing-woman, and in general, a pale reflection of his dignified, respected male forebears.

Until a couple of decades ago, father worked a six-day, sixty-

hour week, but he didn't get ulcers. And do you know why? Because he didn't see as much of his family as the poor, crippled creature who brings home the bacon today.

Nowadays, father gets a day or half-day off. Does he potter in the garden? Does he go fishing? Does he get away for a game of golf? Would it were so. He is kicked into the street with the children, while mother does whatever modern women do around home, with \$200 worth of labor-saving machinery.

There is nothing more pitiable than the sight of a father, on his day off, wandering forlornly about a supermarket, trailed by two or three little monsters of children, as he does the weekend shopping. When he gets home, he is allowed to put the groceries away, and spend an hour mowing the lawn, before dinner. After he has put the kids to bed, he is supposed to emerge from his pyjamas, as a full-fledged social butterfly, and go off and get all juiced up at somebody's Saturday night party.

No wonder nerves are rubbed raw today in the old days, fathers weren't particularly concerned with "getting to know the children". They didn't worry about their children liking them. They took it for granted and everybody was a lot happier.

When my Dad got home from work, he didn't have to set the table, run around looking for the kids, then jump in the car and go and get a quart of milk. No, he had to "pick up" a few things on the way home, because mother looked after her own shopping.

No, sir, when my Dad got home from work, he was greeted affectionately, but politely, and left alone. He returned to HIS chair, with HIS paper, until he was called for supper. During the meal, he was not forced to listen to a 20-minute harangue about the terrible day mother had had. Nor did he have to break up quarrels among the children. Nor did he have to jump up and make the tea because mother was called to the phone and was still there, talking about the bake sale, 20 minutes later.

And on the weekend, my Dad wasn't expected to turn into a party boy. He was tired Saturday night and went to bed. If he felt like going to church, he did. If he didn't, he didn't. But he wasn't pestered all day Sunday by kids wanting to do for a swim, or a wife wanting to go for a drive. He made the decisions. If he just wanted to sit on the verandah and regroup for the coming week's struggle, he did.

Usually, we went for a picnic. But there wasn't any nonsense about Dad doing the cooking on an outdoor grill. Mother made the lunch, and Dad would sit on a stump, in his Sunday best, gazing with dignity and a certain amount of distaste, at nature. After lunch, he would recline on a blanket, in the shade. He was relaxed, that man.

Another reason for his unquestioned head-of-the-house status was that we didn't argue with him. The most I would dare was an "Aw, Dad." But fancy the old-fashioned clip on the ear for lippy kids has become a symbol of psychological disturbances or something. Now you have to discuss everything with the brats. Today's father can get into a 20-minute argument with any kid over the age of 5 at the drop of a suggestion, and come out whimpering.

'Twas ever thus. The world is going to hell in a hot-dog, which is considerably faster than the proverbial wheelbarrow. And I can hear my kids telling theirs, 30 years from now. "You children should show a little respect for your father. Why, when we were kids, we wouldn't dare disagree with our Dad. He was the boss and we had to walk around afraid of him. You kids get away with murder these days."

Electrical Hazards Should be Studied

Many a serious fire has staged from a short circuit. And many a shock result has started from a frayed lamp cord. Your Fire Chief would like you to take stock of the possible electrical fire hazards in your home.

Have you any of these common electrical fire hazards in your home? Double ends run under rugs or under baseboards? Cord extensions for an electric kettle cover your toaster by being plugged greater than 18 inches in your plug and receptacle circuit? If you have any of these potential electrical fire hazards in your home correct them now.

It's History Now

Ontario's provincial election is now history. Election posters still on posts are the only evidence of the combat and the ravages of the weather will eliminate them over a period of time.

Haltom voters have returned Stanley Hall for his sixth term in the Provincial Legislature under a Progressive Conservative government. Premier Frost will be heading that government facing a strengthened majority.

The Liberals, in doubling their numbers from 11 to 22 seats, and the CCF with five over the former three seats will be a more effective opposition group, it is expected, with their increased numbers.

Under 50 per cent. of Haltom's 48,000 eligible voters cast ballots in the contest.

It was encouraging to see the three parties' leaders returned to provide the direction of the party action in the new legislature. All have capabilities which may contribute to an effective type of government.

Few supporters of any party are anxious to see overwhelming majorities given any one party although a working majority is essential to the progress of legislation. The reduction in the majority of the Conservative Party in this election, then, should assist in keeping all groups on their toes.

Here in Haltom, despite a quiet campaign, the election itself proved an interesting contest, with the close returns leaving the decision in some doubt until most polls were heard from. Mr. Hall's win was conceded about 10.45 by the Liberal candidate despite earlier, and in part erroneous reports, of a Liberal lead.

A victory celebration was not long in the making when the decision became clearer.

But the smoke of the event has cleared and our congratulations to Mr. Hall on his win and to Mr. Mullin and Mr. Henry on the campaigns they conducted that made the Haltom contest a close one.

His Day

Dad is just about the most popular guy alive - particularly, of course, with his family on Father's Day.

Back in the stone age, Dad must have been looked upon with something less than affection. He was a tyrant and his word was law - until one of his sons was able to dispose of him in hand-to-hand battle and himself take command of the family.

The man of the house remained something of a despot throughout much of his history. In biblical times, a son took his life in his hands to disagree with his father. If he did, the law held that he could be put to death.

And in early Rome, only by running the chance of being cursed by the ancestral "Numina" or family gods, could young people cut themselves loose of parental authority.

The ancient Greek father's authority extended to matrimony. He decided - with no questions asked - who his son's bride would be. A similar practice was carried on in India where youngsters were betrothed in childhood.

In some African countries, the man of the house was able to put his wife on the auction block. But in India and the African Sudan the shoe was on the other foot.

In India, the husband had to watch that he didn't get into debt. If he did, the little lady could sell him into slavery to pay off the creditors.

In Canada and the U.S., Dad's authority in

the family seems to be slipping. Some sociologists say that Mom and not Dad has the final say at home. And each year, women are gaining control of a bigger chunk of the country's national wealth.

But while Dad has lost some of his authority, it's obvious that he still enjoys as strong a place as ever in his family's heart.

Revamp Rural Roads

It's time for some revolutionary thinking on rural municipal geography to keep pace with the revolution that is taking place in Canadian agriculture, declares the Financial Post.

The average size of the farm in Eastern Canada today is 50% larger than at the beginning of the century and at the present speed of expansion it will double in a few more years.

Yet township roads and many other services remain as they were when settlement started 150 years ago.

One suggestion is made by the editor of the Durham (Ont.) Chronicle.

He says close up half of our little-used side roads and concession lines and relocate the few scattered homes concerned along the main roads. This would reduce road mileage for the average township from about 150 to 100 with an enormous saving in maintenance costs. Of even more importance, there would be a better and happier life for farm families living closer together, far less isolation and inconvenience.

THIS SUNDAY'S CHURCH CALENDAR

UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA
Acton, Ontario
Rev. Gordon Adams, M.A., B.D.
Minister
Mr. George Fisher
Organist and Choir Leader
SUNDAY JUNE 21st 1939
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
ANGELICAN
Rector: The Rev. H. B. Skelton
L. Th. S.T.B.
152 Jeffrey St. phone 263
SUNDAY JUNE 21st 1939
THE FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER TRINITY
8:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist
11:00 a.m. - Choral Eucharist
All are Welcome

ACTON PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE
32 Church Hill Road
P.A.O.C.
Rev. Kenneth J. Red. Pastor
71 Cook St. phone 648-W
SUNDAY JUNE 21st 1939
10:00 a.m. - Sunday School
11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
7:30 p.m. - Evangelistic
Special Services commencing Tuesday, June 20th

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA
KNOX CHURCH, ACTON
Rev. Andrew H. McKenzie, B.A., B.D.
SUNDAY JUNE 21st 1939
9:45 a.m. - Church School
11:00 a.m. - Morning Worship
Subject: "The Book of Books"
Church Song: Sunday June 20th - "Worship Playground"
Children three years and under are invited to during services at home.

BAPTIST CHURCH
ACTON
Pastor
Rev. George M. Holmes, B.A., B.Th.
122 Bower Avenue
SUNDAY JUNE 21st 1939
9:45 a.m. - Church School
11:00 a.m. - Public Worship
7:00 p.m. - Gospel Service
Wednesday, 8 p.m. - The mid-week Service for Bible Study, Witness and Prayer
All are Welcome

The Acton Free Press

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

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PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY AND TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

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Phone 150

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Entrance River St.
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TRAVELLERS' GUIDE
GRAY COACH LINES
COACHES LEAVE ACTON
Daylight Time
6:33 a.m. (Daily except Sun. and
Hul.) 8:58 a.m. 11:33 a.m. 2:08 p.m.
m. 5:08 p.m. 6:33 p.m. 8:33 p.m.
m. 10:08 p.m. (Sun. and Hol.)
Westbound
10:27 a.m. 12:47 p.m. 2:57 p.m.;
5:27 p.m.; 7:27 p.m. 9:12 p.m.;
11:22 p.m. 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.; Sun-
day only 8:01 p.m. Daily except
Sunday Flyer at Georgetown 9:02
a.m. 8:21 p.m.; Daily Flyer at
Georgetown 10:11 p.m.
Westbound
Daily 11:44 p.m.; Daily except
Sundays 8:50 a.m.; 6:50 p.m.; 4:40
p.m. Saturday only 1:22 p.m.; Sun-
day only 9:03 a.m. (flagstop); Sun-
day only Flyer at Guelph 7:05 p.m.;
Daily except Sat. and Sun. 5:21
p.m.