

# Editorial Page

## New Look, Old Subject

Six months after he graduates the average student has forgotten the little history he ever knew. To him "Locarno" might well be a famous battle or a Persian general; William Lyon Mackenzie and William Lyon Mackenzie King are virtually interchangeable, if not unknown; and Alexander the Great might even be a relative of Field Marshal Alexander.

That's what the University of Toronto's Dr. J. T. Saywell told the 100th annual convention of the Ontario Educational Association in Toronto last week. Few honest people will accuse him of exaggerating.

History, neither domestic nor foreign is a strong point with most Canadians. With many it is about as familiar as Greek or Latin. And

the fault, as the professor points out, does not lie entirely with the student. He said:

"Too many of those who so successfully resisted becoming interested in history who disliked reconstructing the past for pleasure and not for exams, become history teachers." The books they used are so compressed, added Saywell, "that every bit of life and color" has been squeezed out of them. History, like literature, as he maintained, cannot be taught like a science.

Canadians have sometimes been accused of having no national emotion, no real pride in their country or its achievements. How can they have if they are not stirred by and interested in the events and the personalities which have shaped our nation.

## Pennies to be Saved

Early in April the Dominion Bureau of Statistics reported that lower food prices in February brought about the fourth consecutive monthly decline in Canadian living costs. It sounds like cheering news until one examines the details. Then one learns that the decline in the index in the four months was for a high point of 128.3 on November 1 to 126.9 four months later.

The saving is equivalent to a saving of one dollar out of a housewife's weekly budget of \$50. If the average husband of that average housewife imagines he is going to get any benefit from that saving he is counting disillusionment in any event. The theoretical saving occurs at a time when local taxing authorities are setting their own budgets for 1960, and it is more than probable that increases in local taxes will devour any savings that controllers of household budgets may devise.

The Consumer Price Index means little to

the average consumer, except as an indication of the progress of inflation. Taxes do not appear to enter into it, except in so far as taxes are part of the cost of everything he buys. The decision of a local transportation authority to increase bus or street car fares will affect everyone living in a community but the increase will not show in the index, which is an average of consumer prices in many communities, including many where there is no public transportation.

What ever consumer knows, without reference to any index, is that it is costing him more this year than last for the things he wants to buy, and that he probably will have to pay still more next year. No doubt he could reduce his living costs if he really made an effort, but that is not in accordance with the Canadian pattern of living. No matter how much the economic pundits may preach the need for more saving, the consumer will pay the heed—at least until governments at all levels set him an example to follow.

## Co-operative Beautification

A recent world traveller was impressed with Singapore. He was impressed with the efforts of citizens, under the guidance of Ong Eng Juan, Minister of National Development.

Among the problems was how to build a park and swimming beach and yet not spend money. The outcome of the Minister's deliberations was that "any citizen worth his salt" would willingly give a little of his time to better and beautify his city. He asked for volunteers and got 17,000 names.

He used 700 volunteers to build a four mile swimming beach at no cost to the taxpayers.

The park took a little more planning. Every detail was worked out. Doctors, ambulance men, nurses, firemen, policemen and dozens of others gave time. Sandwiches, food, coffee, grass seed, cement, trucks, built

dozers and the hundred and one items that go to creating a park out of a jungle in one day, were all donated. At the end of a day there was a park complete with fluorescent lighting, flower beds, etc.

Planning, co-operation and a community spirit combined with a desire for something better accomplished in a metropolis of Singapore something that could have been accomplished in no other way.

Here we can do with some community improvements, too, and there is no use suggesting the town should pay for them. For too long we've used that easy way out. Now with tax bills climbing all over it's time we undertook the rebuilding of community spirit that converts dreams into realities.

May is Beautification Month and we could do with some of it here. Any amount of it.

## Spring Cyclists

Now that spring is here, cyclists all over the province are getting their bicycles out of garages and basements, cleaning and polishing and taking to the roads.

And every spring there is a rash of accidents involving bicyclists and motor cars.

We would like to give a word of warning to motorists to watch carefully for cyclists. They're small and can't always be seen out of a rear vision mirror.

One of the greatest dangers to cyclists occurs when motorists open car doors on the side of the traffic. The sudden opening of a car door can cause serious injury to cyclists who may be riding close to parked cars and who may be unable to stop in time to avoid collision.

A word of warning to bicyclists too. Keep your bicycle and its equipment in safe condition and remember the rules of safety.

- Obey all traffic signs and signals.
- Never carry another person on the cross bars, handle bars or rear carrier.
- Always ride on the right hand side close to the edge of the roadway.
- Ride single file and keep a safe distance from the vehicle ahead.
- Ride in a straight line and never dart in and out of traffic.
- Do not attempt to pass a moving vehicle

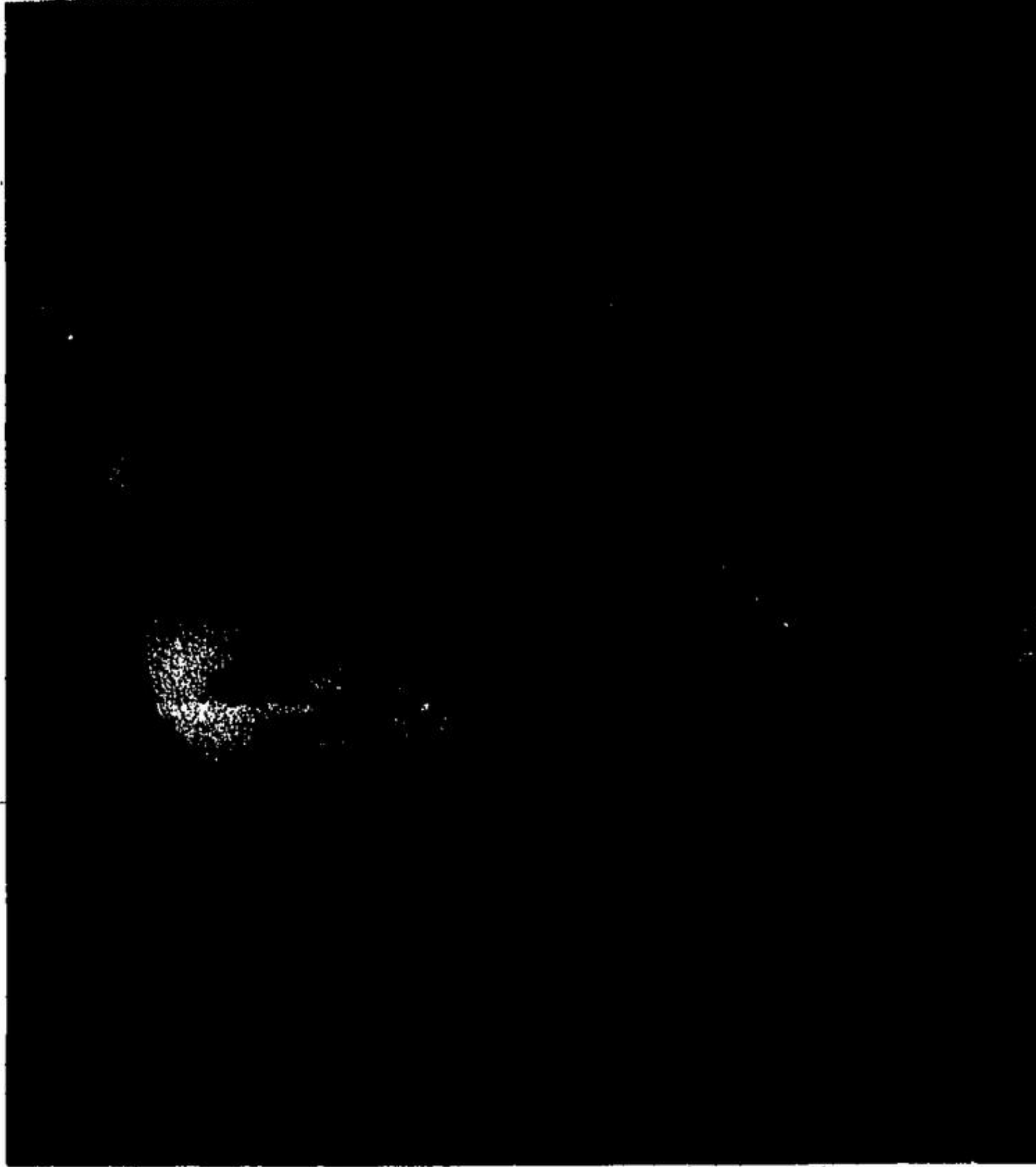
at an intersection—wait until you have passed the intersection.

● When riding at night you are required to have a white light on the front and a red light or approved reflector on the rear. There must also be white reflective material on the front forks, and on the back fender red reflecting material covering a surface of not less than ten inches in length and one inch in width.

- Never hitch to a moving vehicle.
- Keep out of car tracks and ruts.
- Park your bicycle in a proper place.
- Always ride with courtesy and caution.

## Need for Premiums

There is growing concern at the number of persons, wishing to be admitted to hospitals who either have not kept up their Hospital Insurance premium payments or who have no record on them for their premium number. This in particular applies to elderly people or to 19-year-olds who, under the Hospital Insurance scheme are no longer carried in the family group and must have a separate policy with their own number. If you know of some older person or a 19-year-old that might need a reminder as to the seriousness of either not being paid up or covered, you would be doing a good deed to check with them.



—Photo by Esther Taylor

## "Geese on Guard"

## Sugar and Spice...

BY BILL SMILEY

Mothers of the nation, I take this opportunity to wish you a Happy Mother's Day. I know, I know, it's all over. It was last Sunday, and you have your potted plant to prove it.

But in my opinion, Mother's Day as practiced is a big farce. That's why I've chosen to wait until today to urge you to read this, take the next 24 hours off regardless of cries of outrage, and let those bums in your family learn some of the hard facts of life.

They get off too easily on Mother's Day. Its name should be changed to Family Conscience-Easing Day. That's all it amounts to. And mothers are utter idiots if they let the old man and the kids off the hook with a one-day display of respect and affection. In short, mothers of the world, you have been taken again. But get with it, form a union, demand fringe benefits, go on strike, and you'll finally begin to occupy your proper position as acting, unpaid centre of the universe.

If your Mother's Day program went anything like ours, you are fertile ground for the seeds of rebellion I'm scattering. Let's see, now. One of the kids woke you at 7 a.m. on Mother's Day to tell you that you were not to get up for breakfast.

So you lay there waiting for your annual breakfast in bed. Two hours later, the tray arrived. Lukewarm coffee, a congealed egg, and carbonized toast. But ah, look there, they put a flower in a little jug, and your big, fat, soft heart was filled to overflowing at this evidence of love.

When you came downstairs, swallowing hard to keep your

breakfast down, you found Father had prepared breakfast and dressed the children. The kitchen looked as though there had been a New Year's Eve party. Your daughter was wearing a green sweater, blue skirt and orange socks with her black shoes.

But you got some big, smacking kisses. And then came the presents. An exhausted azalea in a pot from dear son. A nice new, pink plastic dishpan from darling daughter. And a pair of lovely foam rubber kneeling pads from sweet old Dad. Your heart swelled at their thoughtfulness.

Then Dad cried heartily: "We're not going to church. No, you're not to touch those dishes, Mother. The kids and I will do them when we get home." So you got dressed, still feeling pretty good, undressed your daughter and dressed her all over again, and shined all their shoes, while Dad was shaving.

Off you sailed, and you were mighty proud of them, with their red carnations in their buttonholes, proving that you were alive. During the services, you sneaked fond, sidelong glances at them and you had to admit that they did love you and appreciate you after all.

After church, there are more treats in store. Dear Dad has given up his entire day for you. You'd have liked to get the kids home and out of their best clothes. You hunch at the thought of all those egg plates in the kitchen. But nothing's too good for Mum, and you're whipped off with a flourish to a roadside hamburger joint for lunch.

By this time, the glamour of the occasion is waning a little. The kids start bickering. Father stares gloomily at the perfect Sunday afternoon going to waste. Your daughter gets ketchup on her new spring coat.

When you get home, the kids ask bravely if there's anything they can do to help. Then they disappear like startled deer. Dad tells you to sit down, put your feet up and have a cup of tea, while he tackles that filthy mess in the kitchen.

Half an hour later, your legs almost paralyzed from keeping your feet up, and no tea in sight, you totter to the kitchen. No sign of Father. Dishes stacked neatly in sink with cold water running on frozen egg. Dad is located out at the back, craftily exhaling worms.

"Ha ha," he smirks. "Another surprise for you. Thought I'd get a few worms and take the kids out to the trout stream and get them out of your hair so you can have a real rest."

When you have finished the breakfast dishes, it's time to start peeling the spuds for dinner. Your loved ones arrive home at six, tired and starving. Dear old Dad tosses three small trout on the cupboard for you to clean.

After the big roast dinner, Dad yawns, admits he's bushed after such a hectic day, and drops down for a nap. The kids vanish into the outdoors. And as you labor through the dishes, faintly steals the realization that you have once more again been had.

That's why you have my blessing when you quit for 24 hours after reading this. If they get belligerent, tell them it's Mother's Day in the new order, and demand a cup of tea in ringing tones. Keep your feet in a stool if it kills you. Eat a whole box of chocolates. Harden your heart to pleas of hunger, your eyes to the sight of dirt.

They'll be glad to have you back on any conditions, and that's the time to make your terms as stiff as that egg you scraped off the plates on the old-fashioned Mother's Day.

## ...Dodging 'Round the District

BY ROY DOWNS

MILTON—Five must be lucky for Mrs. Ann Sampson 417 Kingsleach Court. She was born the fifth day of the fifth month, 1955, the fifth girl in the family and weighed five pounds, 15 ounces. She was five last Thursday, May 5.

Plant Enlarges—GEORGETOWN—A new factory with 40,000 square feet of floor area will begin operations this fall. It is the P. Graham Bell Associates Ltd. plant, producing architectural porcelain on a custom-made basis. The firm has been operating with a staff of 30 in rented quarters in Georgetown for the past two years.

Paper Changes Name—BRAMPTON—The Conservator newspaper has changed its name to The Times and Conservator partly to be in the name of the Conservator's predecessor and partly to ease worried town-folk who dubiously pronounced it Conservator for and Conservator. The paper will be called The Times for short.

Chief Officer Named—STRETSVILLE—One man control of Toronto Township was announced last week when Dean Henderson, township coordinator and treasurer, was named township manager. His new position is described as Chief Administrative Officer.

Crackdown on Weapons—BURLINGTON—Police and merchants have banded together to prevent the sale of single shots to children. The devices were blamed for a rash of broken windows, \$325 in one building alone. Police fear the youngsters may harm people as well as racking up a big toll of property damage.

Auditor Resigns—GEORGETOWN—After auditing the town's books for 25 years, H. A. Lever resigned last week, with "many happy memories of my associations with town officials." "After 25 years, I think you need a change," he said.

## THE GOOD OLD DAYS

### BACK IN 1910

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, May 13, 1910. The Merchants' Bank is returning all United States silver. None is now given out in change. Our own better silver will have an improved opportunity for circulation, 100% of the republic's silver was returned to headquarters on Monday.

Mr. John Gibbons, who has been one of the best landlords to ever run the Station Hotel, moved out on Monday. Mr. Sam Lashby has returned to conduct the hotel.

The stone walls for the new sheds at the Baptist church are being built this week by contractor Forbes. The superstructure will be built by Mr. E. Cripps, well known carpenter and contractor in town.

Mr. J. R. Anderson has purchased the well known thoroughbred Percheron stallion "Napoleon Bonaparte." Mr. R. Gibbons has charge of training the animal for future races and other events.

A few unmarried debs are having a Con table Harvey's eagle eyed attention. Creation of companies about their railroad for or favor.

During the Board of Education meeting Monday evening, pastor John S. Coleman requested an increase of salary to raise his wages to \$900 per week. After a lengthy discussion the board approved the increase. Chairman Williams and other members of the board spoke in very complimentary terms of Mr. Coleman's excellent work at the school.

During the annual meeting of the Halton Labor Association in Milton last Friday, Mr. W. E. Fisher succeeded Mr. George Havill of Acton as president. Mr. Havill presided at the meeting and thanked all who supported the organization in the past.

Uncomplimentary comments were frequent by citizens during the week respecting the council's neglect to have the flag at half mast on the town hall out of respect to the memory of good King Edward VII.

The hotel men deserve credit for their manifest observance of the new local option laws so far. Several favorable comments on conduct displayed on the streets have been forthcoming to this office.

### BACK IN 1940

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, May 16, 1940. Y.M.C.A. secretary Bill Benson and the boys at the Y are to be commended for their fine efforts on raising money for a trip to summer camp, when they staged a circus on Saturday. The event was a huge success and everyone enjoyed the affair which provided all kinds of entertainment.

Parades, ponies, fortune tellers and all kinds of games and skill were prominent throughout the day. Prize winners during the evening's draw included G. A. Dills, Monty Root, H. R. Force and R. Spilvogel.

The Force bowlers wound up their 1939-40 season in the Guelph City Major league when, after an excellent performance all year, they were ousted in the final. Norm Morton turned in a 647 triple during the game and Monte Root came up with a 640 and also a high single of 298.

A meeting was held Monday night in the council chambers to form an Acton Business Men's Association and during the meeting, the following officers were elected: president G. A. Dills, secretary-treasurer H. H. Hinton and executive members composed of C. F. Leatherland, B. D. Rabin and R. H. Edson.

An effort is being made to have the community participate in a ball and one of the members of the Acton Y, which always suggests new projects, Ottawa and many elsewhere are trying to arrange a ball on the night of the 30th at the park. Many merchants have expressed their willingness to participate in the plan and help to finance the cost.

Many of the Halton rural grade mail carriers met at the home of S. H. Webster, secretary for a social evening, a meeting of the association and a discussion regarding summer activities. A good part of the evening was spent discussing the problems encountered during the heavy winter months.

Lack of interest by the fans and failure to organize an executive resulted in Acton dropping out of the intermediate ball ranks this year. The juveniles may hold a team this year and possibly a few exhibition games will be played by some of the intermediate players. It doesn't appear as though baseball will occupy much time at the park this year.

## PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY AND TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

<b>MEDICAL</b>	<b>FUNERAL DIRECTORS</b>
DR. W. G. C. KENNEY Physician and Surgeon Office in Symon Block 43A Mill St. E., Acton Office Phone 78 Residence 115 Church St. E. Phone 150	<b>Rumley Shoemaker</b> Phone 690 night or day Bruce E. Shoemaker, Mgr.
DR. D. A. GARRETT Physician and Surgeon Corner of Willow and River Sts. Entrance River St. Acton, Ontario Phone 238	<b>CHIROPRACTOR</b> A. D. MOORE, D.C. Palmer Specific Chiropractor 17 Mill Street Phone 40 or 66 Office Hours: Wed. 2-7 P.M. Sat. 2-5
DR. ROBERT D. BUCKNER Physician and Surgeon 39 Wellington St., Acton, Ont. Phone 879 Office Hours 6-8 p.m. Afternoons by Appointment	<b>OPTICAL AND HEARING AIDS</b> E. L. BUCHNER, R.O. Optometrist and Hearing Aids 48 Mill St. E. Office Hours Wednesdays only 2:00-6:00 p.m. Evenings by appointment House calls for invalids
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F. L. WRIGHT 20 Wilbur St. Acton, Ontario Phone 95 Appraiser, Real Estate and Insurance	<b>AUDITING - ACCOUNTING</b> LEVER & HOSKIN Chartered Accountants 51 Main St. N., 212 King St. W. Brampton, Ontario Phone: GL 1-4824 EM 4-9131
<b>DENTAL</b>	<b>TRAVELLERS' GUIDE</b>
DR. H. LEIB Dental Surgeon Office—Corner Mill and Frederick Street Office Hours By Appointment TELEPHONE 19	<b>GRAY COACH LINES</b> COACHES LEAVE ACTON Standard Time Eastbound 6:30 a.m. (Daily except Sun and Hol.) 8:58 a.m. 11:33 a.m. 2:08 p.m. 5:08 p.m. 8:33 p.m. 8:33 p.m. 10:08 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. 11:22 p.m. 1:12 a.m. (Fri., Sat., Sun. and Hol.)
DR. A. J. BUCHANAN Dental Surgeon Office—5A Mill Street Office Hours—9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Wednesday afternoon Telephone 148	<b>CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS</b> Standard Time Daily except Sunday 6:44 a.m. (Daily except Sundays 9:12 a.m. 8:01 p.m.) Daily except Sunday Flyer at Georgetown 6:37 a.m.; Daily Flyer at Georgetown 10:11 a.m. Westbound Daily 12:20 a.m. Daily except Sunday, 8:20 a.m. 6:44 a.m. Saturday only 1:31 p.m. 8:01 p.m. (Daily except Sunday Flyer at Georgetown 8:37 a.m.; Daily Flyer at Georgetown 10:11 a.m.) Daily except Sunday 8:20 a.m. 6:44 a.m. Saturday only 1:31 p.m. 8:01 p.m. (Daily except Sunday Flyer at Georgetown 8:37 a.m.; Daily Flyer at Georgetown 10:11 a.m.) For appointment call 601.

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