

Editorial Page

Room for Co-operation

The upheaval of Acton streets for the original sewer system has long been forgotten in most quarters. With it, thank goodness, seems to have gone the label of "bad roads" that Acton quite innocently acquired from those who had to navigate the upside down streets.

Today's streets are the envy of many municipalities because they are nearly all paved with the exception of the newer sections. Naturally the maintenance costs on the streets have been cut considerably and this has made it possible to cover the debenture payments that were necessary to put the streets in such good shape.

One big thing with paved streets though is the need for sweeping after the winter's accumulation of sand is bared in the spring. Many of the main streets have been swept but a number yet remain to be cleared. We would expect this will be done as quickly as time and weather permit.

Street sweeping in Acton, however, is done by hand and we can't imagine any task

more laborious. Experiments last year with mechanical street sweepers didn't prove too satisfactory but perhaps the problem could be tackled by the North Halton Urban Board.

As more and more pavement is added to urban streets in this growing north Halton section the problem of street sweeping will increase not only in Acton but in Georgetown and Milton.

We haven't any idea what street sweeping equipment costs but it is undoubtedly plenty. Would it be possible for one machine to sweep streets in the three towns with greater efficiency and economy than in one town or by hand methods?

In these days when industry is becoming more and more specialized, co-operatives are being formed and plants are being consolidated, it seems imperative that adjacent municipalities seek every economy possible through co-operation.

The streets may have to be swept by hand again this year but perhaps the subject could be studied for next year.

Roads Study Needed

Halton's proposal for a full-scale study of the County road system indicates the County's wish to keep up with these fast times, and comes not a moment too soon.

As announced recently, the study would peer into existing traffic requirements and formulate projected plans for road developments with the projected use of lands lining our roads system. A big undertaking, the probe would be carried out under authority of a local management committee whose work would be augmented by efforts of a technical advisory group made up of the county assessor, local planning directors, and Department of Highways officials.

And why such a comprehensive study of Halton's existing and future road needs? Progress can be blamed, for the explosion of population in the County, and especially in the southern section, has created an over-balance of people for the number of roads which serve them. For instance, Burlington's population increased 24,755 from 1950 to 1959 (including Nelson and East Flamboro

now in the town's limits); Oakville jumped 4,338 to 10,156; and Trafalgar added 18,973 for a 1959 population of 25,107. This represented two thirds of the county's increase over that period, and development in the southern section of the county still overshadows the north.

Halton's population has grown much more rapidly than that of Ontario, and there is no indication that the boom will cease. Nassagaweya and Acton are the only municipalities in the county increasing population slower than the Ontario average.

Higher traffic volumes brought by the population burst have developed the need for roads built to a higher standard. Changes in land use have brought the need of road development to an urban type standard. When the committee makes its recommendations, it must judge present land uses and traffic needs as well as those of the future.

Our hope is that their plan of action will meet these needs on an orderly, rational basis, commensurate with the county's ability to meet costs of the work.

Weakness at the Summit

The ladder of mutual fear leading to the summit talks is just as frail as it has been in the past, as evidenced by its recent crumbling. Since V-J day criticism has been levelled against the steps carried out during the war to secure Russia as a firm ally. The world should have learned by now the weaknesses of coalitions between powers. The instruments of Allied union were the "Big Three" conferences of Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin with their political and military advisers and experts. Grave military and political matters had to be ironed out. It was not easy to maintain even the Anglo-American collaboration, which was perhaps the closest military collaboration between two major sovereign powers. All down the line, an American in command always had a Britisher as his second and vice-versa.

At the highest level, the Combined Chiefs of Staff, in close touch with top American and British government officials did the over-all planning. The Russians were never brought into such close military co-operation, and in the field the Russians always fought on their own. There were a great many major

rifts among the summit members and only one fear kept them together to at least win the war. This was the fear of a powerful common enemy, which is now lacking between the U.S. and Russia, the two most powerful nations in the world today and foremost in leadership.

Within a number of years, possibly a decade, Red China may take Germany's old seat as the common enemy but until then all nations can sit under one roof and talk and possibly achieve some settling differences in an extremely gradual manner that may prevent such a repeat performance.

The U.N. is undoubtedly weak in many respects but all will agree it is better to talk than to fight.

Khrushchev's blasting of the latest summit conference may be his way of gaining prestige and favor from Red China and from dissenters in Moscow. It does, however, underline the frailty of the ladder that leads to the Summit. It does too underline how the good intentions and peaceful hopes of the western world can be toyed with by a less humane government.

Cleaning Hazards

Spring is a pleasant time of the year but it's also a time of special danger for children. Spring-cleaning, painting and work in the garden usually mean there will be boxes, bottles and cans about containing ingredients which are poisonous if swallowed.

The Canadian Association of Consumers offers a timely warning, noting that children under five are the most frequent victims of accidental poisoning and suggesting special precautions to assure their natural curiosity does not lead to serious consequences.

"It is difficult for an adult to believe that children will eat or drink bleaches, solvents, detergents, waxes, polishes, paints, varnishes, thinner, turpentine, brush cleaners, paint removers, fly sprays, weed killers," says a CAC bulletin.

But it happens more often than most people realize and you cannot be too careful about putting such things out of reach. The association offers this good advice for homes with children:

1. Store with care all potentially dangerous substances. This means medicines should be kept in locked cabinets and other things locked in basement storerooms, the garage or workshop or on high shelves.

2. Handbags, which often include medicine, should be kept out of reach and this includes those of visitors.

3. When housecleaning, place all the cleaning agents in one basket and carry it with you when you move about, even when you go to the telephone.



—Photo by Esther Taylor

"Snow Petals"

Sugar and Spice...

BY BILL SMILEY

There's never a dull moment, and seldom a quiet one, around our house. Scarcely out of the throes of the music festival, we were pitched into a weekend that contained confirmation for Hugh and Dad, plus an all-day hike to the city for a fashionable wedding.

What a hustle and bustle there was, getting us ready for confirmation. Carried and combed till we glistened, the males of the family sat shoulder to shoulder in a front pew and heard the bishop tell us it was the most important day of our lives. And I guess maybe he was right.

When it came to that solemn moment of the laying on of hands, I could not restrain an unchristianlike pride within me. I was proud of the straight little fellow just ahead of me. And I was proud of myself, for not having bolted at the last moment. It's not easy to cast off the arrogance and stubbornness of mind that have been nurtured with care for nearly 40 years.

At that moment, I couldn't help thinking of our womenfolk, seated behind. The little one would be all eyes and excitement. And the Mum would be as proud and pleased with herself as only a woman can be who figures she now has her old man hooked, not only for this life, but the next one as well.

After the service, the kids reverted rapidly from Christians to children. Hugh gave me the devil because I hadn't knelt properly. I have a trick knee, and when I go down on it wholeheartedly, there's liable to be a

crunch, accompanied by a loud and unipious groan. The kids were both sore as blazes because we wanted them to bed early for the long trip next day, and wouldn't let them stay for the eats.

But they cheered up when we got home and the girls produced some loot. Hugh was tickled with a baseball glove and some new pants. I was handed a fancy box, thought it was a pocket knife or a fishing lure, and joked: "You shouldn't have bought me a watch. It's too much." Kim was deeply annoyed and burst: "Oh, Daddy, how did you know?" thereby giving the show away.

Nicest present of all came last: huge confirmation cards, made by Kim. Each bore a large cross, colored with crayon. At the top was the message "Happy Confirm Night", and at each end of the arms of the cross, a quarter was scotch-taped to the paper. I'll cherish mine.

Bright and early Saturday morning, off we hurried on a 140-mile drive to the wedding of a cousin in the city. There was no time for lunch and Kim got some grease on her new coat, so we were in a fine state of rage and starvation when the reception began.

But from then on, the kids had a ball. Food and drink were present in lavish measure. Their parents were too busy meeting people and talking to relatives to keep them under the usual surveillance. They dodged through the crowd like rabbits in a lettuce-patch, went at the food like refugees, and put away a shock-

...Dodging 'Round the District

BY ROY DOWNS

Brighter Outlook on Ratio

GEORGETOWN—A new three-stage program for residential development looks as if it may assist Georgetown's future growth program. Provisions for subdividers would mean the builder could fill one-third of a subdivision, then balance the homes with a 60-40 industrial-residential ratio. When this is done, a second one-third of the subdivision could be released, with the same provisions. On the third and final parcel a subdivider could have the option of paying \$500 per lot instead of finding industrial assessment to balance the homes.

Boasts Driving Course

OAKVILLE—Figure skating ace Henry Jelonek has demonstrated he performs with spiked track shoes as well as with steel shod boots. He took first place in four dashes at the Blakelock Intra-School Track and Field meet. A high school trustee has blasted an extra-curricular course in safe driving for students, claiming that if such courses are taught, the students should also receive instruction aimed at preventing alcoholism, divorce and mental illness.

Stop Subdivision Swamp Streets

BRAMPTON—Council ordered all subdivision streets paving stopped, pending an inquiry into construction practices. Councillor Fred Beckett charged some fully-paved streets were not fit for driving, with 18 inch eaves and centre hollow. He said some roads are being built on swamps. 1,800 feet of curbs collected by Brampton students will aid World Refugee Year. The \$565 worth of pennies were collected on strips of tape on the Main St. and a penny race by high school students added another \$200 to the tally.

Long Time in Business

ORANGEVILLE—After 46 years of active auctioneering, Jack McAlister of Shelburne announced his retirement. Some years he conducted over 100 sales, he noted. Mr. McAlister learned the business from his father, who had conducted nearly 2,000 sales over 40 years.

Brick Plant Shut Down

MILTON—Most of the 33 employees were laid off indefinitely when the Milton Heights plant of Cooksville-Laprairie Brick Co. was ordered closed last week. Company officials gave no explanation for the closing, and the men were told to take other jobs if they could get them. Nobody could say how long it would remain closed.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

BACK IN 1940

Taken from the issue of The Free Press, Thursday, May 30, 1940

On Tuesday morning, the Attorney General's department of the Province of Ontario notified Mr. R. J. McPherson that he had been appointed as Justice of the Peace for the county of Halton. Mr. McPherson, with his 17 years' experience as chief of police in Acton, is well acquainted with the work involved and can admirably fulfill the duties.

A business change of importance has been consummated this week when the Acton Creamery changed management. Mr. M. Nixon retired from the business and Mr. Chris Anderson of Toronto is now in charge. Mr. Nixon has been in charge and owner of the business for the past ten years and under his direction, it has grown and expanded.

A bolt of lightning did some freakish maneuvers that might be termed "jitterbuggish" in an electrical storm last week in Nassagaweya township. At the farm of Arthur Paulbury, a bolt of lightning hit the pole in the yard carrying the electric wires to the barn. The bolt went along the hay rack track, down through a pile of hay to the basement. A valuable cow in the stable was injured but not killed. Just how the building missed being set on fire is one of those things that can't be explained.

Mr. Theo Papillon suffered injuries to his shoulder when he was thrown from the bicycle he was riding when in collision with a car driven by J. Sheldon. The accident happened in the grounds at the Beardmore plant.

The sixth annual Halton County Scout Jamboree failed to have its spirit quenched when it was held at the Blue Springs Scout Reserve and encountered one of the biggest rainstorms in years. 18 troops participated and not all of them weathered the deluge but most of the 250 were in on the lynch of the outing.

The Acton troop were the only ones who hoisted a full time cook and many were envious of the food dished up by Mr. W. Coles. The Acton boys were well equipped with three sleeping tents and a number of pup tents and were prepared for the wet weather as they had raincoats, rubber boots and raincaps.

BACK IN 1910

Taken from the issue of The Free Press, Thursday, May 26, 1910

In their desire to economize on public funds, caretakers Harvey and Coeman, of the town hall and public school respectively, put their heads together and as a consequence there was put together part of the school flag which was whipped to pieces earlier in the week and part of the old discarded town flag, so that for King Edward's funeral day, a neat but smaller flag floated at half-mast from the school staff. A large part of the original school flag will be put in the school archives, properly labelled as a memento of the King's reign.

Mr. Charles Ebbage, who has conducted a successful cement business in Acton for a number of years, has opened a branch in Georgetown and will manufacture all kinds of cement tiles.

A large crew of sectionmen have been in Acton the past week and all "frogs" on the switches in the G.T.R. yards have been replaced.

Last Thursday little Sarah Rice, young daughter of Mr. Lewis Rice, Dolly Varden, had a remarkable narrow escape from strychnine poisoning. The home had been troubled with rats and Mrs. Rice had distributed pieces of cheese coated with strychnine in the pantry and locked the door. Having occasion to go in later, the little girl followed her and obtained one of the pieces of cheese. The mother noticed her with it about immediately and took it from her, thinking she had not got any of the poison.

She went to the well for a pail of water and when she returned the babe fell to the floor and went into convulsions. Mr. Rice hurried to Acton but found all the doctors out in the country. Dr. Holmes was the first to return and went immediately to the "Dolly." He found the parents had placed the child on the bed, declaring that life was extinct. He administered antidotes and after working over her for about three hours, she was revived and soon recovered.

The brick walls at the mammoth new Beardmore warehouse at the G.T.R. station are well under way.

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The Acton Free Press

Published by the Dills Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd. Founded in 1875 and published every Thursday at 59 Willow St., Acton, Ontario. Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations of the C.W.N.A. and the Ontario-Quebec Division of the C.W.N.A. Advertising rates on request. Subscriptions payable in advance. \$3.00 in Canada; \$4.00 in the United States; six months \$1.75; single copies 7c. Authorized as Second Class Mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa.

The only paper ever published in Acton

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