

Editorial Page

Spelling it Out

In his inaugural address to Acton council on Tuesday of last week Mayor John Goy spelled out some facts that should be well understood by citizens.

It is not expected that anything startling will happen in 1961 but it is comforting to expect a "year of good, steady economic progress". That is the type of development that Acton can best use. To experience any more boom-type growth before the present can be coped with could be disastrous.

The need for eagle-eye-watchfulness on expenditures is one that should be extended not only to council members but to all those who serve on public boards. Actually the council finds itself with so much committed budget there is really little left for new projects or improvements.

Concerning expenditures too, the mayor explained that Acton ratepayers each year are contributing about \$10,000 a year to county hospitalization. Quite simply this is

included in the county rate to make construction payments to the hospitals in Milton, Georgetown, Oakville and Burlington. Even the rural citizens surrounding those centres get some value but Acton was certainly the municipality that got the poor end of the deal despite the efforts of Acton representatives at county council. It is hoped that the Georgetown or Milton hospitals will prove of more benefit to Acton citizens than has been the case during the past year.

Acton faces other problems: on ambulance service, arena improvements or maintenance, water rate revision, reassessment of the revenue division between sewer and water operations, and unfold other situations that will come under their scrutiny.

Approval at their first meeting of a plan to proceed with the construction of the water reservoir indicates development and augers well for the future 12 months.

New Interest Evident

The old pot belly stove around which political situations were discussed in general stores has changed considerably.

Now in off-election-year political activity there are study groups for the New Party, a rally for the Liberals, and a Spring meeting for Conservatives.

Even in some years when elections were a known event there hasn't been as much talk about politics as there seems to be lately. The Liberals from the ridings, including Halton, have been represented at the national rally in Ottawa.

The Liberals themselves seem to realize that to regain power they will have to do much more than rely on declining popular support for the Conservatives. They will have to present the voters with real alternatives to tackle national and provincial problems.

The New Party seems equally concerned. Study groups are being held here in Halton as well as in other ridings to lay the ground-

work for the party's formal formation and its program.

It seems that an election in 1961 on the federal front can be classed as unlikely, but then at this distance from Ottawa it's hard to tell.

Unemployment has been rough in this area. All the stories of it aren't written in the statistics of the Unemployment Insurance Commission.

In the field of foreign relations it would appear that Canada may be entering the more neutralist camp and it is here that she can undoubtedly do the most good.

Problems of small business have been tackled but it would appear there should be a new term for the really small business. A gross of \$250,000 a year is not really too small a business.

There are plenty of problems on the political front. We find new hope and encouragement in the fact that they are receiving consideration other than immediately in front of an election.

End of Encroachments?

Provincial legislators now have the problem on Sunday movies. Where the question was put to municipal electors in December, it called for direction on whether to petition the provincial legislature for permission to introduce Sunday movies. In the field of sports the permissive legislation already existed.

Where the 19 votes were held throughout Ontario there seemed little objection to Sunday movies. In fact 15 of the municipalities voted in favor of permitting them.

Because there was no permissive legislation at the provincial level, voters were being asked to buy something of a "pig in a poke". There was no stipulation of hours. It is understood that the operators will hesitate to gamble on afternoon showings only and will probably want a continuous run from 1 p.m. One political observer has suggested the provincial legislation might stipulate a 1 p.m. opening leaving the closing to each municipality.

"No Practical Value"

North America in the 19th century was by all accounts such a happy hunting ground for medicine men, bogus inventors and charlatans of every kind that we have often been moved to wonder, in our superior way, if our grandparents weren't more gullible than any generation before or since.

However, the following item, taken from a musty copy of a Boston newspaper published in the year 1873, would seem to indicate that there was, after all, a limit to what even they would swallow:

"A man about forty-six years of age, giving the name of Joshua Coppersmith, has been arrested in New York for attempting to extort funds from ignorant and superstitious people by exhibiting a device which he says will convey the human voice over metallic

wires, so that it will be heard by the listener at the other end. He calls the instrument a 'telephone', which is obviously intended to imitate the word 'telegraph', and win the confidence of those who know of the success of the latter instrument without understanding the principles on which it is based.

"Well-informed people know that it is impossible to transmit the human voice over wires as may be done with dots and dashes and signals of the Morse Code, and that were it possible to do so, the thing would be of no practical value. The authorities who apprehended this criminal are to be congratulated, and it is to be hoped that his punishment will be prompt and fitting, that it may serve as an example to other conscienceless schemers who enrich themselves at the expense of their fellow creatures."



"Shining Pathway"

Sugar and Spice...

BY BILL SMILEY

One of my grade 11 students is intensely interested in unidentified flying objects and visitors from outer space. I think he expected me to scoff when he told me about it. On the contrary, I assured him there was nothing ridiculous about such stories, and mentioned one such visitor I'd had myself. He spread the word, and next thing I knew, all the kids in the class were clamoring to hear the story.

There was no choice but to read it to them, just as I had put it down two years ago. Most of you will remember it, but I think it bears retelling. Only to prove that you can't tangle with the flu, eleven-year-old James and I, and the January blues and then out a scintillating column. So here it is.

It was about 10 p.m. My wife was out to a meeting. The kids were off to sleep. I was looking at a picture in the paper, conclusively evidence that the human race is mammalian, of Miss Jayne Mansfield, modelling a dress cut to prove that the young lady's bust is indeed bigger than her butt, or whichever it's supposed to be. I must admit I was enjoying myself, in a disgusted sort of way.

Suddenly I had a nasty feeling that someone was reading over my shoulder. I whirled around and there was Next thing I knew, I was up on top of the mantel, quivering: "Hooray!"

It wasn't the fact that he was stark naked and four feet high that startled me. Nor that he was a peculiar specimen all over. Nor that he had only one eye, and that of deep purple, set right at the end of his short square nose.

What really shook me, and continued to alarm me through-

out the ensuing exchange, was that he had something that might resemble a stalk of celery growing out of his navel, and that every few minutes he'd snap off a piece, sprinkle some salt on it, and, showing it into his mouth, which, of course, located in his left armpit, crunch happily on it.

Then he spoke. At least, I'm not sure whether he spoke. He may have used some type of mental telepathy, or thought transference. At any rate, we carried on a conversation.

"Don't be alarmed," he soothed. "They told me to find an average Earthman, and you are about as average as they come. Crunch, crunch. Well, thanks," I retorted, trying to get some saksam into my shabby tremolo. "Thanks very much, I'm sure."

"They wondered," he went on rather indifferently, snapping off another piece, crunch, crunch, "if there was any point in taking over this third-rate planet, as planned, and trying to do something with the natives. Far as I'm concerned, you're not worth the trouble we'd have with you. But I'm only the chairman of the investigating committee."

"Hey, wait a minute!" I protested, albeit faintly. "We're not so bad as all that. We may have our little faults, but after all, we're all human and..." But I stopped talking and shook in my boots when his purple eye turned red and angry-looking.

"Human, eh?" he snorted. "Oh, you are a grand! In, you humans. You preach brotherly love and every 20 or 30 years, you murder each other, by millions. You boast of human kindness, but you hold your grain for the right price while millions of

Tips on Touring

By Carol Lewis
Women's Travel Authority

Parking your car outside every night is no problem during the warm seasons but the cold weather of winter is another story. Here are some tips that can help you to solve your winter parking problem.

If the car is not protected by a building, make sure it is parked with its back into the wind, radiator grill facing away from it.

Cover the hood of the car with an old blanket or strip of canvas. Anchor it by catching ends between the hood and the car's body.

Newspaper or cardboard over the windshield and rear window prevents snow and ice from caking on the glass. The windshield wipers should keep the front window covers from blowing away, or you can buy a special vinyl windshield cover. For the back window, a little cellulose tape should do the trick.

During these cold winter months, the car's finish is going to take a beating. Protect it by frequent washings. Then give the body a coat of car wax. Cover all the chrome trimmings with a light film of oil, and retouch rust spots with paint.

If you always park your car close to the house, here's a trick you may want to try. Run an extension cord from the house to your car. At the end of the cord is an electric light bulb which you rest on the car's engine block near the radiator. When you get up in the morning, plug the end of the cord into the house socket. The heat from the bulb will help ease cold weather starting.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

20 YEARS AGO 50 YEARS AGO

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, January 16, 1941.

The temperatures hovered near 20 below on Monday and indication of the cold could be noted as everyone had mufflers pulled up around their heads and coat collars turned up.

Acton players are helping out the Georgetown Intermediate and Jupior teams this year and comment from Georgetown fans indicates the boys are doing a good job in providing plenty of entertainment for the fans.

Acton Y.M.C.A. and high and public schools will sponsor local juvenile hockey this season and principals M. Leitch and G. W. McKenzie met with the arena commission and completed arrangements for ice time. The boys will be divided into three groups and already two practices have been held. A large group of boys has turned out already and everyone interested in playing is asked to contact Mr. Benson at the Y or either of the principals.

The Force bowling team rolled their best game of the season Tuesday night on the Guelph lanes when they whitewashed the Royals 7-0. Trailing until the last frame in each game, a whirlwind finish turned apparent defeat into victory for the local squad. The win puts them only one point behind the Royals for first place.

Miss M. Z. Bennett was guest speaker during the monthly meeting of the Rockingham Institute and gave an interesting talk on her recent trip to Cape Cod. A good attendance of members was present and during the evening a contest on "Know Your British Empire" was held under the supervision of Mrs. B. Ramsden.

Because of blocked roads last week, a number of members were unable to attend their respective meetings and attendance was reported low at several of the ladies' organizations. The snowfall, combined with the cold snap, made travel very awkward and even the horse and cutter was found to be a difficult vehicle to buck the huge drifts.

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, January 12, 1911.

Officer Hareely is going to get after some careless householders in town who have been allowing the snow to drift in over the sidewalks in front of their homes. There is a by-law making such negligence as this an offence and the officer has been instructed to carry out the law. Everyone neglecting to do their duty would be well advised to pay attention.

With the good sleighing, some of the farmers have been busy hauling in turnips to the G.T.R. siding for transport to other centres. On Saturday afternoon, Bill Miller, teamster for Walter Lamb of Crewson's Corners, delivered at the car on the G.T.R. siding a load of 100 bushels lacking 50 pounds. R. N. Brown has been shipping a large quantity of turnips as well as several others in the district.

Mr. George Wallace has moved into his fine new store next to Soper's grocery store and has a fine stock of goods for sale. The contrast between the new place and his old store is quite noticeable and the new surroundings are well lighted, bright and clean.

We regret that Mr. W. E. Moore has decided to dispose of his business and stock here in Acton. It is understood he will be leaving for the west, where he has several business connections in the real estate line.

During the inaugural meeting of council Tuesday evening, Reeve Hynds stressed the need for additional water tanks spread around town for additional fire protection. He noted the fire brigade could do a more efficient job of coping with any blaze if they had an adequate supply of water on hand. Quite a number of the local youths are enjoying themselves on the pond and a large area has been snowed off and several games of hockey have been played. Others are taking advantage of the recent snowfalls and are sleigh riding down the hills in the neighborhood.

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