

Editorial Page

For Service

It often occurred to us that the man, or woman, who serves on municipal council, school board, or any other elected posts has little to show for his efforts after he's retired. He's done his best to serve his fellow citizens, has put in countless hours of time and effort for which he has received no remuneration and in the process has been subject to criticism, warranted and otherwise.

He has even accepted some honors, yes. No one can deny that some satisfaction, too, comes from his efforts. But he gets precious little else out of it, of course, he has rendered such

outstanding service, the municipality has named some project or building after him which is a rare honor.

We suggest that a simple little token of appreciation—a certificate of service—could serve a useful purpose in this connection. In a sense, it's a small thing and there may be some who might not appreciate it. Yet we suspect that in the majority of cases it would become a highly-prized memento for the recipient and his family through the years.

The use of such certificates would be an inexpensive, yet appreciated way of expressing the community's thanks for service rendered.

FORUM Times-Advocate

Obeiy

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Top Columnist

CANADA'S favorite humorist Bill Smiley, whose column "Sugar and Spice" appears each week in this newspaper, has won the distinction of being caricatured in more papers than any other Canadian columnist.

He has been named as one of the top columnists in the country.

Smiley, 40 years old and said to be the best of his kind in Canada, has graduated from high school when he was too big to play on the football team.

He went off to university in Toronto and commenced a course in honor English. In 1916 he joined the RCAF and served as a fighter pilot. He flew with the "Tactical Air Force" in Northern Canada and was shot down in France in October, 1918. He spent the remainder of the war in a German prisoner-of-war camp.

Returning to university in 1925, he fell in love with a girl who has since become famous as "Sugar and Spice" in the "Old Edition" of "The Canadian Encyclopedia".

In 1927, in his first year, he fell into the writing newspaper business and for the next decade was editor of the "Warrior", "Echo"

During that period, he began writing just for fun, a column in which he said exactly what he pleased.

A neighboring editor, George Cadogan of the "Daily Chronicle", asked if he might use the column. Smiley had a dozen editors were doing the same. Smiley's column increased in popularity.

A year ago the problems of distribution became so big that Smiley contracted the Toronto Telegram News Service for national syndication of the column. Since then, its circulation has increased steadily.

Last year Smiley decided to try something new. He went to teachers' college and is currently teaching the students at Midland, Ont., high school. In his own peculiar brand of English, he claims that teaching is about as "refrigerating as working in a steel mill."

The Smileys have two children, Hugh and Kim, 13 and 9, who have provided a lot of material for the column in the past.

Readers of "Sugar and Spice" are sometimes infuriated, often amused, but never bored, as they peruse the prose of a man dedicated to looking at life without benefit of rose-colored glasses.

Revolution in Agriculture

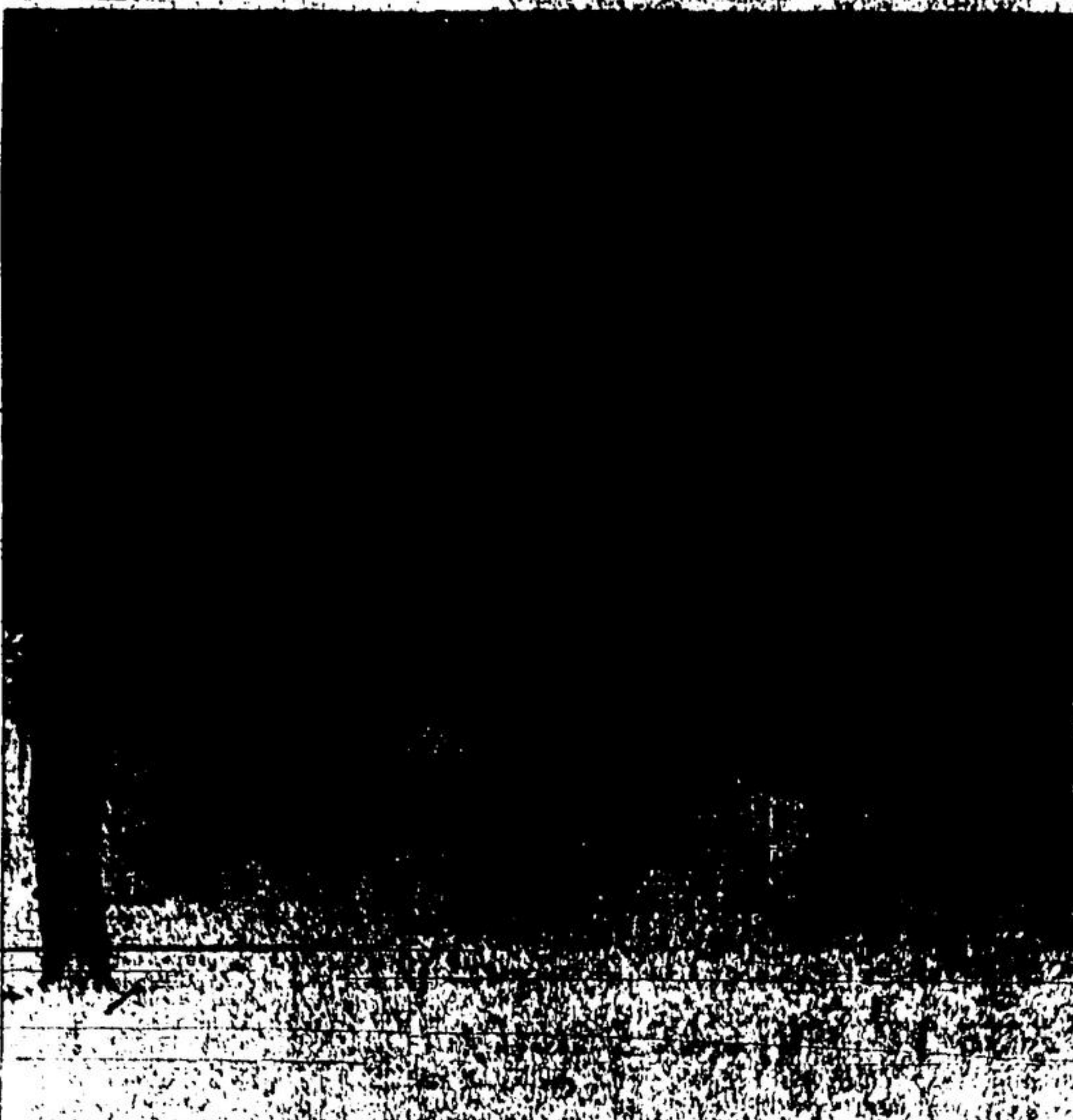
Enough food for himself and nine other persons was the average output of a Canadian agricultural worker twenty years ago; today, he produces enough food for himself and 22 other persons. And this revolution in agriculture, resulting of course from farm mechanization, has reduced farm employment as much as it has multiplied farm output. Twenty years ago agriculture employed 1,200,000 Canadians; today, the number is just over 700,000. Twenty years from now, estimates a bulletin just published by the federal Department of Labour, total agricultural employment will be just under 500,000.

The bulletin, Trends in the Agricultural Labour Force in Canada from 1921 to 1959, states that 33 per cent of the labour force was at work on the farms in 1921, and only 11 per cent in 1959. The rate of decline in the farm labour force has slowed down in the past two years, but this group will continue to make up a smaller proportion of the total civilian labour force. "It must be remembered," says the bulletin, "that the movement from the farms after 1940 was larger because people had been 'dammed up' in agriculture during the depression in the 1930's. If one considers the trend of employment in agriculture for the past 28 years, i.e., from 1931 to 1959, the average compound rate of decline has been about 7.75 per cent. Projecting this slower rate of decline into the future would lead to the conclusion that the number employed in agriculture may be slightly less than 500,000 by 1979 or 1980."

Hired help is becoming more of a problem for the farmer, partly because there are fewer year-round jobs offered and partly because of the competition of other industries. "In 1958," says the bulletin, "farm workers put in an average of 54 hours per week, compared with 40 hours for workers in non-agricultural industries. Wages for hired farm workers have been rising since the early 1940's. In August, 1951, the average in Canada for male farm wages, with board, was \$35 a month. In August, 1958, the comparable average was \$120. Despite this increase over the years, however, farm wages remain lower even than those for unskilled labour in other industries."

Also noted is the point that in 1948 agriculture was second only to manufacturing as a source of employment for Canadians, while in 1958 it ranked fourth to manufacturing, service and trade. Canadian farming has indeed undergone a revolution and although the physical volume of farm production can be expected to go on rising, both in terms of total output and output per worker, agriculture will drop farther back as a provider of jobs.

"Stately Sentinels"



Sugar and Spice...

BY BILL SMILEY



Something rather frightening is happening to the steady, reliable Canadian citizen. I don't know what's behind it but it's both unnatural and unnerving. He's beginning to enjoy the winter! Or, at least, he pretends he is.

For generations, Canadians approached the winter sensibly. When the first snows came, they put on their long underwear, a gloomy look, and a long-suffering air and stayed as close to the fire as possible for the next six months. Winter was something to be lived through and there was no nonsense about enjoying it.

But this dour and honest but look has been completely shattered within the last few years. Every weekend, thousands of people head out of the cities with their skis and a couple of crocks. Motor clubs hold races through the blizzards, over the icy roads. Curling rinks are crammed. People are spending weekends at their cottages, tramping through huge drifts to get in to them.

The other day, a friend told me he had taken his family out for a mid-winter picnic, on a Sunday. The temperature was about eight above. He dug a hole in the snow, built a fire and heated some soup. "The kids loved it," he said. No, ants. No, flies. And almost no fingers on the smallest boy by the time they got him home.

But it's not only the young who are reveling in the elements these days. Everyone is interested. Staff members at our school have organized a hockey team. You should hear them sitting around bragging. They may be short of wind on the ice but they're not when they don't have the skates on. Most of them haven't played hockey for more than 20 years. But they're awfully good at the local pee-wees.

Elderly gentlemen who should be sitting at home with pipe and slippers enjoying the peaceful twilight of their years, may be found on any curling rink, dashing up and down as though the devil himself were after them, and sweeping as though angina pectoris was a tropical fruit.

Matronly ladies, who should be at home, knitting booties for their grandchildren, may be seen hurrying down some near-perpendicular slopes, bowling over everything in their paths, from fellow skiers to small trees.

Winter carnivals are spreading across the land with the speed of bubonic plague. At these, a few good-looking young ladies are named Queen of the Carnival, and are never quite the same again, while thousands of young ladies who know they are equally good-looking are not named Queen and are never quite the same again.

Where is it all going to end? When are we Canadians going to stop running around with frozen grips, pretending we just love our big, white beautiful Winter? How soon will this hysterical nonsense collapse and let us revert to our old, happy misery?

I, for one, can't stand much more of this jolly, healthy love affair that we are trying to carry on with that frosty old termagant, Madame de Winter, who has been planting her icy feet in the small of our warm backs for so these many years.

Ah, it's easy enough to be trapped into this false delight in winter. Each of us has within him the tattered remnants of a small child who once followed in snow with the prurient pleasure of a small pig rolling in wet mud. And it's this buried memory of the joys of winter that gets us in trouble.

The other day, for instance, I was out with my son, who was leaning to ski, rather gingerly. I was egging him on to

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

BACK IN 1941

Taken from the issue of the *Free Press*, Thursday, Feb. 13, 1941.

Sliding off the shoulder of the highway just at the outskirts of Rockwood Thursday night, one of the 15-ton buses of the Gray Coach Lines lodged in a 16-foot ditch but not one of the 14 passengers was injured. Traffic on Hwy. E. Webb who investigated, credited the driver with saving the lives of his passengers by his keen ability in handling the vehicle.

The bus was travelling east to Toronto at an estimated speed of 25 miles an hour and pulled out to pass a car. The snow had been plowed well back on the shoulder and when the heavy vehicle struck what appeared to be a wild surface, it sank into the snow and pulled out of control. The driver was able to keep the vehicle moving at a 45-degree angle along the ditch until it was brought to a stop. A wrecker crew came along and removed the heavy bus from the ditch.

The hundreds of pigeons that make their camping grounds the section near the fair mill have become a disturbing nuisance by reason of their numbers that cost only their report damage to the buildings.

Acton and district hockey will get a chance to see O.H.A. hockey at the Acton arena tonight when Guelph and Georgetown will clash. Several of the farmers will be in the foreground to support their local support. In one will be, with Georgetown. This war has certainly brought some good news.

Chuck Cox is prevalent among many of the school children in the community, necessitating advice from classes until reported ready to return by the family doctor.

Over 150 people at dinner at a Phunkett dinner at the United Church Monday evening when the Women's Association catered for the affair. Following the dinner, several sets of colored film were shown and gift packages were distributed.

BACK IN 1911

Taken from the issue of the *Free Press*, Thursday, Feb. 9, 1911.

Not many public officials would do as school caretaker Colman did on Tuesday morning to assist the children and convenience of those in his care. After the big storm, Education Lane and walks surrounding the school were blocked with snow. In order to have the pavement cleared, Mr. Colman left from a four o'clock that morning before nine, everything was in a state of confusion, the walks clean and the rooms ready.

Acton played the Milton series at the Milton rink Tuesday evening and everyone who saw the first and exciting goals got their money's worth in spite of the score winning 6-4. Play was hard and there was little for losses between the two teams. Plant and Clark started for Milton, getting two goals. Clark has been in hard luck this season but although he has not scored in some time at the end of the first half he discovered his goal from a long shot. Milton led 2-0 until the end of the second half when the score was tied.

After operating under the name of William H. Miller, Mrs. Miller has moved to 1111 Main St. Her new address is 1111 Main St. Her new address is 1111 Main St.

Going to Monday, March 5th, the 100th anniversary of the birth of the late Sir John A. Macdonald, the former prime minister of Canada. The celebration will be held at the Acton hall. The program includes a concert, a play, and a lecture.

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AROUND THE DISTRICT

WITH ROY DOWNS

GEORGETOWN—The new Georgetown Junior Chamber of Commerce officially became chartered recently and a crowd of well-wishers from all over the province witnessed the birth of the bouncing, energetic baby. Bob Burke is the charter president. . . . Indicative of a business revival is the fact that 28 Georgetown families are on relief.

OAKVILLE—Watch for more female candidates in the future. Women voters here have formed an Association of Women Electors and decided there is a definite place for women's political action in the municipality.

BRAMPTON—From aircraft to vending and money-changing machines—that's the picture at Avroy Avroy Aircraft has provided employment for an extra 100 men as a result of a new contract with Automatic Canteen Co. of Chicago. The firm will produce new operated music machines and \$1 and \$5 bill changers for Canadian distribution.

BRIN—Village council held an emergency session last week to figure out how to alleviate a serious water shortage. Not only is water short in supply, but many homes' water lines were frozen and town workmen had to import a machine to clear the lines.

STREETSVILLE—This is Arena Month in the town and to open the campaign for arena-building funds, close to 700 attended a bonfire, hockey game, basketball game and skating night in the outdoor rink.

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