

# Editorial Page

## Congratulations

Acton's mill rate for 1961 has been struck. With a rate set the same as for 1960 with no increase we feel we must commend the council and various municipal bodies who have pulled the reins on their spending.

In all the municipalities of Ontario of which we have heard no municipal council has been able to reduce their rate. Indeed it is very few who have managed to hold the rate and it is by far the great majority who have found it necessary to increase their rates.

With a deficit on 1960 operations of almost three mills it is really amazing that the council feels it can operate for 1961 on the same budget. Of course, the school requisitions presented to council are reduced this year through increased provincial grants. Paring of budgets and requests of all municipal bodies has made it possible to hold the line.

A budget, such as we have for 1961, leaves little hope for any additional request that come up through the year. If these items are not in the budget now it would appear they have little chance of anything but a sympathetic hearing by council.

It is encouraging to note that even with the tight budget council has included some badly needed municipal equipment for the municipal works department. If maintaining the budget had meant decrease in the maintenance of the town and services during the years the budget would not be very acceptable. However, this is not the case and Acton can look forward to 1961 as a year of steady progress and growth.

## Growth Problems

Growth produces its share of problems just as it produces its share of benefits. This is the situation a municipality, a county or an organization faces.

Such is the case in Halton. While we talk glowingly of the increase in population that places the figure at 111,867 we are sometimes not aware of other corresponding increases.

There was some plain talk at the annual meeting of the Children's Aid Society of Halton. The revelation that 25 per cent of the unmarried mothers assisted in the last six months were 15 years of age at the time they got into difficulty, was only one of the unvarnished truths. Half of the girls were 16 or under and three quarters were 18 or under.

There was concern at the annual meeting, too, of producing the necessary growth within the organization to cope with the tangled

problems that have multiplied with the increasing population.

Just how closely are the two related, we wondered. We uncovered a report of 1955 and compared it with the 1960 report. The figures were revealing. The unmarried mothers assisted in 1955 were 42, in 1960; 85; the children protected in their homes in 1955 were 393 in 149 families; in 1960 the figures were 750 children in 250 homes.

The population in 1960 is set at 111,000 while the comparable 1955 figure is 62,000. The budget of the years has also shown a comparison: it has more than doubled from \$38,000 in 1955 to \$88,000 in 1960.

As the population multiplies, so do the problems and so does the cost of coping with those problems.

The Children's Aid Society is just one of the organizations that is facing increasing challenges in the county while the population spirals.

## Manifold Occupation

The spring of the year is a time of refreshed energy when people of all walks of life approach their tasks with a hopefulness and renewed vigor.

Perhaps rightfully though the springtime really belongs to the farmer; and it is a time when those in other occupations could thoughtfully reflect on the farmer's contribution to our daily life.

In our modern society the farmer is considered so often only in the materialistic context... in terms of agricultural prices, subsidies and supports; surpluses; legislative action.

With the advent of the new season we must remember that farming is perhaps the most manifold and complex of all arts. The farmer's occupation is unique in that it is the only occupation that is productive in the real sense of the term. The earth is made to yield and increase and flocks and herds to reproduce, so that the stores of the world are added to as by no other means. There are other extractive industries but this one is essentially regenerative. To entice gifts from nature is the farmer's occupation. Others may tax her stores or change the form and place of nature already existent, but the farmer's task is to make nature bring forth a new product.

Mechanization may have changed the basic techniques of farming, but the tribute of a nineteenth century agronomist is as worthy today as it was then or the century before that and back century and century into history.

An ancient occupation pursued by countless generations, accumulates a vast fund of wisdom and skill, much of which escapes the pages of the written book, being transmitted from father to son on the thin air of oral tradition or of living example. Such an occupation is agriculture... In consequence of its antiquity and its universality there has developed a body of rural lore and technique, which has no counterpart anywhere else, but which is entirely underestimated by, if not absolutely unknown to the urbanite. But be-

cause so much of it is learned outside of schools, by the actual process of doing rural work, father and son working together generation after generation, it does not commonly go under the name of "learning".

## Potpourri

The Bell Telephone Company's underground cable program, with the advent of dial installation, is commendable. With the increasing use of the service it is encouraging to note the company attempting to give more reliable service in the event of winter ice problems. The plan to disturb as few trees and tree roots as possible is commendable in view of the diminishing number of trees lining our streets.

During the Easter school vacation this year hockey teams from Acton have played in tournaments in Milton and Georgetown. Figure skaters have been practicing in Guelph for their tests at the end of this week. The only way we can bring them back to Acton is to provide the facilities in Acton. It's NOW or never.

Principal McKenzie's efforts to conduct morning classes at the public school during Easter vacation are a real public spirited effort. Attendance is strictly voluntary and the opportunity to attend for additional instruction, we are sure, will be appreciated.

The Rotary Easter Seal campaign is still short of its objective. The local cancer society's fund raising will get under way this month. Both these campaigns are for worthy objectives and should be supported.

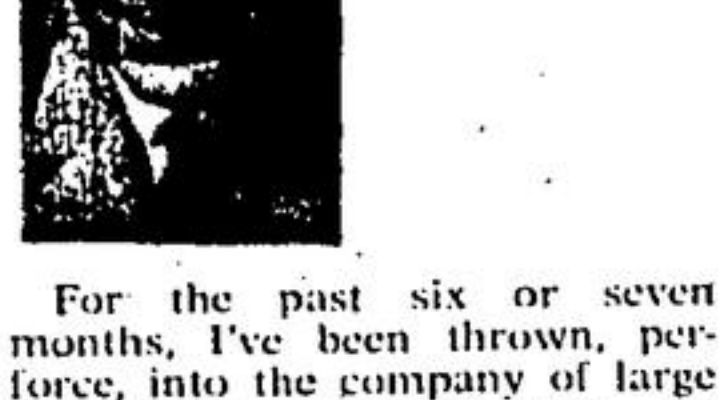
Toronto newspapers say the gas war started in Toronto and spread to the outlying areas. Seems to us we had reduced gas prices all winter. But then, Toronto the good starts everything.

## "Just Testing"



## Sugar and Spice...

BY BILL SMILEY



For the past six or seven months, I've been thrown, perforce, into the company of large gobs of teenagers. It was the one thing about teaching of which I was leery. Like most other people, I was fed up to the ears with talk about teenagers.

It seemed as though they had almost taken over our society. We read lurid accounts of vicious delinquents and teenage mothers. We listened to the crude beat of their favorite music, and watched oily punks with sickening half-dos sob it into microphones. And even on the more wholesome side, it became monotonous, with the constant emphasis on teen-fashions and teen-clubs.

Mind, I had nothing personal against them, though they seemed more than necessarily insolent, unkempt and unlovable. I was just bored by all the fuss made over them. Perhaps I was a little envious. Nobody had been very enthusiastic about us when we were teenagers. I missed.

At any rate, I was somewhat less than enthralled at the prospect of being thrown into the pit with them every working day. In fact, I was downright aghast at the idea.

I know what you think. You think I'm leading up to the conclusion that I've changed my mind completely, that I've swallowed the teenage myth whole, that I think they're just a swell bunch of youngsters, a little mixed-up and crazy, but pretty darn wonderful underneath it.

Not at all. No such pap. But when you cope with a couple of hundred of them every day, and then reel home to try to handle one of your own, you're bound to develop some reaction to them a little stronger than mere annoyance.

My own responses vary between quaking rage, when I can barely keep my hands away from their ears, and waves of warm benevolence, when I find them absolutely lovable, and would do anything in my power to make them happy or help them.

Not strangely, it's when they are acting most like adults that they are most unbearable. And it's when they are most like children that they are most delightful. It figures, eh?

When they try to build a wall like that behind which most of us terrified adults crouch, they are selfish, cruel, vain, sneering, pompous, perfidious, sneaky and cold. But when they're NOT trying to keep from being hurt, they're like a different species—loyal, courteous, honest, generous, eager, fair, high-principled.

Parents, even the most calm and sane of them, can never quite adjust to this fact—that their teenagers are true Jack-

Hydes. As a result, they do all the wrong things. They loar at them when the kids want to act like adults. They spoil them when the kids act like angels. They throw up their hands when they should be throwing down the gauntlet. And so on.

Even teachers, after years of exposure, are not immune. Just the other day, one of them strode into the staff room, purple in the face, and roared, "Either that kid by-god goes or I go!" And five minutes later, when several had agreed that young Joe was a veritable monster, same teacher was hotly defending young Joe as "not a bad kid, really, underneath."

These views on teenagers, of course, are only generalities, based on a few months' observation. There are some teenagers who are plain slob, mentally and physically, and like it that way. There are others who are astoundingly mature. The first class will become the domes of our society. The second will make our leaders.

And in between comes the vast majority, even as you and I. These are the kids who are a little lazy, but work enough to get by, who are a little crooked, but wouldn't take the parties off a blind man's eyes, who are soft as egg-yolk inside, but tough

## G.A.D. About

### A Little Tin Box

So this is April. As usual it started off with April Fools' Day but it will bring back other important events in its thirty days. The end of the month will see that income tax payments are due. We will likely see some opportunity for participation in a community project to rejuvenate the arena property and give it greater use, but more about that as the plans unfold.

The weather generally shows a greater inclination toward more of the summer variety, and that is something we have been waiting for since last December. Then the end of the month will see the change of time in this section to Daylight Saving Time. Remember what a future that used to create when it was first introduced. We usually had two kinds of time each year for a period. I can recall when factories, schools and some of the churches, were on slow time. Most every town had its own time and what a commotion that was for the travellers that travelled from town to town. It was the opening years to reach the present state whereby most folks adopt Daylight Saving Time and the railroads stick to Standard Time every summer. Well, April is the month now for the changeover. It now seems to be an accepted fact.

One day this week I got out a little tin box I have had since my boyhood days. Naturally it contained quite an assortment of items, many of them personal items but none of them of any value. I used to have a collection of coins, among them a two dollar and half American gold piece. One evening when we were all out of the house for a few hours the house was ransacked from cellar to attic and the little box is empty now. Some of the things the thieves discarded were fairly found under the old Crescent Bridge so the other day I threw out the little box.

But there were other things I kept. There was a faded photograph of my great grandmother on my mother's side. There was an old tin type of a frame house, a picture of my father in a soldier's uniform, a picture of my grandfather and grandmother on my father's side, a wide assortment of newspaper clippings, mostly only of family interest, and a few funeral cards relating to the family. Most of it went back in a box and back for storage in a closet shelf.

It made an interesting half hour for my wife and myself. Perhaps some of my readers may have a little box stored away some place which will have some interest for them if brought to light in a leisure half hour. You may not have as many leisure moments as I happen to have at present, but the day may come when you will seek something that brings back memories of other days. Sometime I plan to get out a group of old photographs I know is around and housecleaning is a time when everything is gone through pretty thoroughly anyway.

## THE GOOD OLD DAYS

### BACK IN 1911

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, April 6, 1911.

A number of young men have been indulging in playing football on Sunday afternoons lately in a field south of the tannery. These players evidently were not aware of the fact that this is a violation of the Sunday laws of Canada. The penalties for infractions are heavy and it is not likely the practice will continue once the provisions of the laws are understood.

A new post office has been opened at the Toronto Pressed Brick Works near Milton to be known as Milton Heights. John Appleby was appointed postmaster this week at the new place.

Mr. R. E. Griggs, the new manager of the Metropolitan Bank, assumed his duties here on Monday. He has been manager at Sutton for a number of years and comes to this locality with considerable experience.

The school inspector visited the schools here last week and voiced pleasure with the results of his investigation to Principal Stewart. It was noted that in both the high school and public school, there are 256 pupils on the rolls. Last month, the examinations were completed and the honor roll will be released this week.

J. P. Downer's barber shop and contents will be sold under chattel mortgage by Bailiff Lawson next Saturday.

The people of Guelph are enthusiastically projecting their campaign to raise \$50,000 in 10 days for the erection and equipment of a Y.M.C.A. building in that city. The campaign opened on Monday and already over \$30,000 has been realized.

Electrician Snoddy, who has been working on a month's trial basis, was engaged by council permanently Monday evening during their meeting after a discussion. His starting salary will be \$55 a month. The entire council voiced their approval of Mr. Snoddy's work during the past month and the necessary agreement outlining his duties was prepared for his signature.

### BACK IN 1941

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, April 10, 1941.

On Friday evening, April 4, a social was held in Lorne school. The function was quite a success and well attended. The first part of the evening was taken up with crokinole games, which included 40 rounds. After the scores had been tallied, it was found that first prize for ladies was won by Mrs. Hugh Metcalfe. Gen's first prize was won by John Aljun and consolation prize went to Hugh O'Rourke. After the social, a bounteous lunch was served. The remainder of the evening was spent dancing to the music supplied by Fisher's orchestra.

Congratulations were in order on Saturday for Mr. and Mrs. Duncan McArthur who celebrated their 53rd wedding anniversary. All members of the family were present when the get-together was held at the home of their daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Vern Acher, Erin-dale.

Monday night was the big annual night in Walker Lodge A. F. and A. M. when District Deputy Grand Master St. W. H. E. Cosford paid his official visit to the lodge. The work put on in the lodge was the subject of much favorable comment. It was quite unique, too, in the fact that W. Bro. E. J. Hassard took an important part in the ceremony of conferring a degree in Masonry when his son Harvey Hassard became a member of the order.

The regular meeting of the Knox Y.P.S. was in charge of Marguerite Roszell, on Monday in the church Sunday school room. Mrs. R. O'Hara read the scripture lesson and Ada Thompson led in prayer. The study book was given by Wanda Smith. During the showing of a very interesting number of slides on Manchuria, the explanation was given by Jean Bennie and Inez McLellan.

During the recent meeting of the Linchouse Women's Institute, the ladies turned over \$115.22 for war work. This amount had been realized by various projects during the month of March.

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