

Editorial Page

The Silverware

We cannot help but have a measure of pride in the fact that this paper has been accorded Canada-wide recognition by fellow weekly newspaper publishers.

We sincerely hope that you as a reader, advertiser or correspondent will share in that feeling of pride because winning honor of any kind is not a one man or one woman achievement.

Just as a runner has trainers, a boxer sparring partners, a baseball club a team, so a newspaper is a combination effort. It takes an interested staff, loyal correspondents, advertisers, readers and contributors to turn out any really worthwhile newspaper.

When we accepted trophies for the paper in Halifax last week it was impressive and

encouraging but it was not without thought of all who make a paper possible.

It is helpful too we hope to the municipality to bring honor under its name. While we were honored under several headings, the title "best all around newspaper" is the most satisfying. A good front page or a good editorial page doesn't make a complete newspaper which is what we really strive for.

Our thanks to all those who have taken the time and trouble to express their congratulations. They are appreciated and serve to strengthen the challenge to continue to produce for the town and district a good newspaper. With a contribution of the co-operation and helpfulness indicated in the past the role should not be too heavy a one.

East Coast, West Coast

Weekly newspaper editors like other groups need a convention once a year not just to chart Association policies and projects, but to exchange reports, ideas, and share a better understanding of difficulties across this very broad land.

Last week this paper was represented in Halifax where members of the Canadian Weekly Newspaper Association held their annual convention.

There were the items of business that had to be dealt with but more important were the informal discussions. Western editors were kept busy discussing the drought conditions, eastern editors talked about the problems of the fishing industry and declining coal production.

Never having gained any great first hand knowledge of the west we were interested in the on-the-spot reports of drought. One publisher noted the drought condition was not as bad in some areas as others. Where it was bad you could stand in soil of talcum powder fineness up to your ankles.

Something for Everyone

It's Exhibition time again and after an annual jaunt to the World's largest event of its kind it gets our stamp of approval whether it wants it or not.

Sure there were some negative comments we could make like why there was an American flag flying at one side of the band shell. Or we could comment on the real beauty of the gardens free for the looking and wonder why the sweeper we saw in the Food Building threw the wrappers from the coffee sugar on the floor.

But there were bigger and more important things that far outweighed any petty criticisms. Attendance was a family event for us and it was a pleasure to find some mid-way rides that were designed for young children. They got more fun from them than we used to get from the ones that scared any rider.

It was with some tamerity that we took in the grandstand show with youngsters but

This picture like description gave us a better understanding of what farmers in the drought areas faced.

Then there was the discussion with the publisher from Springhill, Nova Scotia. The name still conjures up the scene of a mining disaster that rode the headlines of the nation for days. How are things in Springhill? With the mines closing down there is unemployment but we are impressed with the optimistic attitude. Prior to the mine disaster this man's newspaper plant had been completely levelled by fire and he had the determination to rebuild and the optimism to face the future in Springhill.

A publisher from Newfoundland was noticeably concerned about the forest fire situation in his province as evidenced by his perusal of news reports.

The breadth of Canada has its regional problems but while we heard "gripes" we never heard of a publisher planning to abandon his province or his profession.

We were pleasantly relieved. In fact we were amazed at the success with which Jack Arthur had put together a show that appealed to all age levels. What olderster or youngster isn't thrilled with the precision and color of the R.C.M.P. musical ride?

The grandstand show can certainly not be accused of ignoring Canadian talent, Olympic stars, Toronto policemen, a half hour pageant of Canadian history involving Army, Navy and Air Force cadets as well as area high school students, music by Dr. Leslie Bell and of course the R.C.M.P., stamp the production as Canadian.

There are new buildings and new features too. One of the most impressive things that we were able to leave the grounds after the grandstand show without any frustrating traffic tie-ups. This is surely an innovation in itself.

The Ex is many things to many people. It probably always will be.

A Basic Freedom

"Freedom is the right to be wrong, not the right to do wrong", Prime Minister John Diefenbaker told weekly newspaper editors in Halifax last week.

The prime minister found an interested audience when he talked of freedom. He also impressed us with the government's attitude to maintain the unity of the western nations in the face of the growing Berlin crisis.

The prime minister's comment on freedom struck a responsive chord with weekly publishers and co-incided with the scheduled unveiling of a plaque by the government of Nova Scotia. The plaque was to honor Joseph Howe, who in a famous trial in 1835 defended himself in an action for criminal libel and established forever freedom of the press.

On January 1, 1835, Howe published a letter accusing the magistrates of Halifax (who administered the city prior to its incorporation) of neglect, mismanagement and corruption. The magistrates determined to prosecute him for libel. Two or three law-

yers to whom Howe showed the notice of trial told him the case could not be successfully defended. He borrowed books and spent two weeks preparing himself.

When the case opened, Howe spoke six and a quarter hours in an ingenious and masterful defense. "Will you permit the sacred fire of liberty, brought by your fathers from the venerable tables of Britain, to be quenched and trodden out on the simple alters they have raised? ... I conjure you to judge me by the principles of English law, and to leave an unshackled press as a legacy to your children ..."

The verdict was "Not Guilty" and the freedom of the press was established in a small room in Nova Scotia.

There have been abuses of it, but it's still one of the mighty bulwarks against the total totalitarianism that is Communism.

The 14 weekly papers that exist in Russia can have little power or influence in relation to more than 500 that serve the people of Canada in the communities outside the orbit of mighty metropolitan complexes.



Sugar and Spice...

BY BILL SAILEY

Disgruntled but dignified, I walked out, ready to head back to the books and brood on treachery of mankind. But, Monday's lunch money already shot, I was caught up in that wild, devil-may-care frame of mind familiar to the crap shooter who has lost half his paycheck on the way home. Either you try to get it back, or you go home, a failure.

Throwing family ties and moral principles out the window, I walked right around the corner and went to a bad movie, the one that had "Shocked The City," according to the ads. I got the first shock when I produced my 75 cents to get in. "It's a dollar and a half," sneered the young lady. Well, you know how it is. You don't want to look like a hick. So, muttering "There goes Tuesday's dinner" through clenched teeth, I paid.

I suspected I was in a pretty avalanche-guard place the minute I went in, because people were smoking, right and left, in their seats. And I was sure of it when some of the characters in the film swore, right out, clear as anything. Why, they

said things I wouldn't even say to my own wife.

But it wasn't until I left the movie that I was sucked into the red whirlpool of vice, sin, hope and gawker that has turned The City into the Sodom, to say nothing of Gormorath, of our time. The first thing I walked past, for example, was a place with people eating outside. There they were, sitting at tables right beside the sidewalk, eating away just as though they were foreigners and had no morals at all.

Just a few doors down, caught up by who knows what mad impulse, I turned into a ... I'm sorry, I can't go on. When I remember that I was once president of the Young Men's Bible Class of our church, I feel a wave of something going over me. Besides, I've run out of space.

I may be able to tell all, to relate the remainder of that dreadful night. But it will have to be in next week's issue. Watch for it—the simple, but affecting story of one small town chap's descent into the pit that is The City after hours.

G. A. D. About

Back to Fall Activities

Last Friday I attended the opening of the Canadian National Exhibition and heard the Men of Brass play a few numbers from the bandshell and another Canadian band contributed several numbers. I have often wondered why bands invariably choose for the majority of their selections many numbers that were written for symphony or orchestra and quite often introduce strange instruments to perform them. This year was no exception. Why don't bands play music written especially for bands? I am still wondering.

Prize lists for Acton Fall Fair are now being distributed and it is just two weeks until the children will be going back to school. Some of the weather the past week has been a reminder that fall days are just ahead of us.

Around town I notice the old United church building has been completely levelled, and the grounds prepared for a parking lot. Down at the park, work has begun on preparing the building and grounds for the new Community Centre. There will be much of interest here for the months immediately ahead and I will make many trips to watch the progress. Last week it was also reported that the site for Acton's new \$90,000 post office and customs office had been secured and work will likely start soon on demolition of the present buildings. Looks like a busy time for us sidewalk superintendents around town.

The new fall programs are now being announced on televi-

sion but who wants to be shut in for this diversion until one really has to be, and there will be all winter to get accustomed to this form of entertainment, and to get all the remedies sorted out and all the diseases illustrated. What about the exhibition child if he had seen the exhibit in the old flower building but I did not go into the show. Could not however help hearing the comments of some of the folks who had been in. One of them was directed to a youngster and the adult asked the child if he had seen the exhibit of appendix. I was reminded of the old days when the travelling medicine man used to go around with his bottles showing the parts of humans who had been relieved by his potion. Some exhibits are perhaps not so new after all. Well that is enough for this week.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

A. P. Green Grateful For News Releases

Weston, Ont. August 17, 1961
Acton Free Press,
Acton, Ontario.
Attention: News Editor

Dear Sir: We wish to thank you for your having inserted the news release in your paper pertaining to Mr. Twyman's 25th anniversary with A. P. Green Fire Brick Company Limited.

We appreciate very much your having published in the past any releases which were mailed to you, and certainly it is most gratifying to see them in print.

Yours very truly,
A. P. Green Fire Brick Co. Ltd.
John Corby, Adv. Manager.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Back in 1941

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, August 28, 1941:

Three persons, one of them a baby only two months old, escaped serious injury and death by a few inches when a motor car belonging to Dr. W. G. Brown, Toronto, went out of control and mounted the curb at the corner of Mill and Main Streets.

The accident occurred late last Thursday afternoon. Miss Anne Dunn and Mrs. R. P. Watson were standing on the sidewalk in front of Wm. Cooper's store. In its carriage with Miss Dunn was her niece, little Rose Marie Harrop, two-month-old daughter of Doctor and Mrs. Neville Harrop. The car of Dr. Brown's came from number 25 highway and when it reached the corner, the driver seemingly lost control and drove the car over the sidewalk. Both Miss Dunn and Mrs. Watson were thrown to the pavement. By miracle, the bumper of the car caught the lower part of the buggy and the little one was only raised up on the pillow by the impact.

Both Miss Dunn and Mrs. Watson were badly bruised and shaken up but escaped without further serious injury.

Three prisoners who escaped from the Ontario Reformatory at Guelph on Monday afternoon were recaptured in Acton on Tuesday night after 30 hours of freedom. Although the group still had in their possession a 22 rifle they had stolen from an Arkel farmer, they offered no resistance when confronted by a reformatory guard at the C.N.R. crossing on Main Street.

All night Monday and all day Tuesday, Ontario Police and reformatory guards combed the area when it was believed the men had not gone any further. About nine o'clock Thursday evening, Gordon Smith stopped for a few moments to talk to one of the guards and shortly after they noticed the three men who were stopped by the guard. The escapees offered no resistance and were soon back in their cells on Guelph.

Capt. A. J. Buchanan had the honor of being presented to the Duke of Kent when he made his visit to Toronto last Friday and inspected soldiers at Manning Pool.

Back in 1911

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, August 24, 1911.

Mr. Warren desires the public to understand that while the public are welcomed to free use of the Warren Park for picnics and recreation, the gates must be kept closed and fences left in good order. Disregard of this on Saturday caused considerable inconvenience through cattle straying the following night.

Among the rural mail routes which have been approved is the one from Acton to Ovington and return by rural mail carrier. Carriers will also be shortly posted to Ballinacraig and return.

The annual picnic of the Methodist Sunday school, held at Warren Park last Friday afternoon, was attended by between 300 and 400 children and groups. It was a most delightful event even though rain threatened about noon. There was a two minute dash of moisture when one of the races was being run but the sun came out bright and warm and the proceeding were enjoyed by all. There was an abundance of fine cookery and tempting dishes were served as the primary grades were first called to tea and later the adults were served.

A very interesting gathering was held yesterday at the home of Mrs. C. C. Speight, Church Street, when the members of the Women's Missionary Society of the Methodist church assembled to enjoy a social afternoon with Mrs. Thomas Easton, prior to her removal to Guelph. Mrs. Easton was for many years president of the Auxiliary and took a keen interest in its work. Kind words of farewell were spoken by Mrs. A. T. Brown, president, and others and cordial wishes expressed that Mrs. Easton would enjoy her new church relationships in the City.

Interest has been quite keen since the electric lights were installed at the bowling greens and everyone is taking an active part in lawn bowling under the artificial lights. According to reports the game is not hampered any by the use of the lights and players are enabled to participate of the game for a considerable time longer during the evenings.

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TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

GRAY COACH LINES

COACHES LEAVE ACTON
Daylight Saving Time
Eastbound
6:33 a.m. Daily except Sun and
Holi. 8:58 a.m. 11:33 a.m. 2:08
p.m. 5:08 p.m. 11:32 a.m. 1:12
p.m. 1:08 p.m. (Sun and
Holi.)

Westbound
10:27 a.m. 12:37 p.m. 2:37
p.m. 5:27 p.m. 7:37 p.m.
9:12 p.m. 11:32 a.m. 1:12
p.m. 1:12 a.m. (Fri., Sat., Sun and
Holi.)

RAILWAYS

CANADIAN NATIONAL
Daylight Saving Time
Eastbound
6:44 a.m. to Toronto Daily except
Sunday; 10:28 a.m. to Toronto; 8:07
p.m. in Toronto; 9:01 p.m. to To-
ronto Sunday Only.

Westbound
6:50 a.m. to Stratford; 6:58 p.m.
to Stratford; 8:07 p.m. to Stratford;
1:30 a.m. to Stratford (7 days a
week); 2:30 p.m. to Stratford Sat-
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