

Editorial Page

No Easy Answer

With the good intent of encouraging parents to encourage their children to stay in school, it is suggested by education officials in a Toronto suburb that family allowances should be paid on behalf of children up to 18 years of age. At present of course, the \$8-a-month allowance ends when a child reaches the age of 16, or before that if the child does not comply with provincial school regulations. In proposing the resolution calling on Ottawa to extend the baby bonus age, the vice-chairman of the North York school board's advisory vocational committee said, "We keep harping away at parents to keep their children in school but we don't offer an incentive." The resolution was adopted unanimously.

With no criticism implied as to the motive of the committee, it must be questioned whether a \$96-a-year payment to parents would prevent many 17-year-olds or 18-year-olds from dropping out of school. It is a fact that probably does not equal the average teenager's pocket money for a year. And on a \$96 annual allowance could anyone hope

to finance an 18-year-old girl or feed an 18-year-old boy? Perhaps there are some parents who would force a son or daughter to stay in school for an extra two years for the sake of an \$8-a-month cash windfall, or to avoid the bother of getting a work permit if the school-leaving age were advanced to 18. But these pupils would be bodies, not students—a financial burden on the taxpayers, a physical burden on the school system, a handicap to serious students.

There are about half a million Canadian youngsters in the 17-18 years age group, and about 40 per cent are taking schooling of some sort. We can regret that the percentage is not higher, but more welfare spending is not going to create any more really good students. That is a matter of individual responsibility on the part of parents and children. In fact, the supposition that there can always be more welfare spending and that this is the easy answer to all problems is a pretty good way of discouraging individual responsibility.

Spook Spell Coming

It's a bit of a shock to learn that when children go out in costumes on Halloween night, asking for shall-outs (and more recently contributions to aid UNICEF), they are actually carrying on a rather morbid festival called Samhain, celebrated by the ancient Druids. In pre-Christian Ireland and Scotland on October 31st, witches and goblins were a lot less friendly than they are nowadays.

They used to carry off children, destroy crops, kill livestock, and generally terrify the population. Departed spirits revisited their families, people went from door to door demanding food to stock up for the long winter, and a pretty miserable time must have been had by all.

Nowadays of course it's a lot more fun. Children look forward to Halloween, excitedly and really let loose when the night arrives. We adults have the comfort of knowing that the ghosts and witches we meet are

harmless, and will probably disappear when given a handful of jellybeans.

Perhaps though, we have our own brand of lurking demons—accidents. They're a lot more likely to appear on Halloween than on any other night, and they spoil the fun in no time, which is why the Ontario Safety League once more offers you some tips to help ward off these evil spirits.

At home, try using a flashlight in the Jack o'lantern instead of the traditional, hazardous candle. Light your porch and clear obstacles from the garden to discourage pranksters and avoid tumbles in the dark. Help make your children visible to drivers by dressing them in light colored costumes, or decorating dark ones with reflective tape. And to help them see better, use makeup disguises instead of masks.

Above all, if you drive, be doubly cautious on October 31, and keep a watchful eye out for those 20th century Halloween spooks—our children.

Day In, Day Out

Tuesday was United Nations day. It didn't produce any spectacles or parades, no bands trumpeted its beginning and few knew of its celebration.

But actually every day is UN day. It is conceivable that if it were not we should long ago be blasted out of existence as the world's nations continue to spar with each other.

In his talk "The UN Stands for Man" on United Nations Day last year Mr. Hammarstrand just expressed more clearly than ever the vision that inspired his wise and patient efforts to bring the nations to work together, and which carried him to his tragic death. The following quotations from that speech contain a wealth of explanation for all of us.

"Give us time, give us years. The UN is not a world government, it is a framework for diplomatic operations."

"Here we maintain contacts across difficult frontiers, a forum for discussion, a schoolroom for the future, and, above all, an assortment of techniques and instruments

of reconciliation. Here the most constructive forces in international life can find increasing expression."

"It is because world community does not exist at a time when world interdependence has become a reality that world organization has become a necessity as a bridge which may help us pass from this immense period of transition."

"UN is not only Jaw-Jaw instead of War War... not only the world town meeting and world forum (it is all these)... it is becoming also a quiet room in which nations can come for a quiet settling of their disputes by patient diplomatic process. Here one can sense the impetus toward peace... and the obvious interdependence among mankind."

"When we give to this work, daily, what is in our power to give, and when daily, we meet the demands facing us to all the extent of our ability, this will lead to a world of justice and goodwill... to a world of nations truly united."

The Crimson Forest

Probably few fall seasons could be as beautiful as the present season experienced in this part of the country.

The warm bright days have served to highlight the beautiful colors of the leaves. October has a particular beauty of its own as the mantle of color spreads over the trees of Halton while the heights of land reveal the spread and magnitude of this colorful season.

From spring through summer, the green pigments in the leaves subdue the other colors until, as is often proclaimed, Jack Frost wields his paint brush.

Actually there's no need to change that imaginative description but really the fabulous fall color spectacle in Ontario is caused by the chemical processes of plant life reacting to the lessening hours of daylight as the sun passes through its autumnal equinox and recedes beyond the equator.

As the green chlorophyll forsakes the leaves and the trees prepare for winter, the brighter pigments, heretofore unseen, are revealed in all their dazzling glory. Because red is a sugary pigment and the Ontario maples are high in sugar content it is this species that accounts for the brilliant scarlet to soft russet tones that so effectively enliven Nature's annual pageant.

But we didn't mean to really get that serious about the subject and introduce a nature lesson. It's just that we've noticed, a drive through the country is often less rewarding than a walk through the bush about this time of year. Whizzing by in a car a glance is all that is caught. Walking along the colorful panorama seems to reveal new colors and splendour at every turn.

"Along the line of smoky hills the crimson forest stands... someone caught the atmosphere so well."

"There's Something in October"



Photo by Esther Taylor

Sugar and Spice...

BY BILL SMILEY

cher, or a soft-jawed lawyer, but beneath that disguise lurks the adventurer, the real lang-and-claw killer. This killer has reaped about 4,000 years. That red-veined nose sniffs the air as cautiously as did that of his stalking ancestor. Behind those bifocals, piercing eyes sweep every inch of ground for a range of as much as a hundred feet. That's not really a shotgun he's carrying, loaded, cocked and pointing at his left foot. It's a bear spear.

Some people would like to take all the fun, danger and excitement out of life. Quite a few of them are editors. They're worse than preachers—always scolding away at us about something. If it isn't highway accidents, it's fire hazards, and if it isn't that, it's boating safety. They keep nagging at us to stay alive, but what we want is to live.

They're at it again, right now. They're rewriting last year's editorials about hunting accidents. It's the same old song. The only concession they make to novelty or variety is to stick a new title on it. Last year's warning was called "Death Stalks the Woods." This year, it might be "Hunters Harvest Annual Crop," or something of the sort.

I wonder who reads those editorials. I would lay a small bet that the only people who peruse them are the same ones who read and shake their heads over the editorials—about highway accidents, foolish fires and unnecessary drownings. I have a mental picture of this reader audience.

It is made up of gentle old ladies who have never learned to drive a car, never smoked a cigar in bed, never ridden in anything faster than a row-boat, and never hunted anything wilder than a husband. This puts the editors in the same position as the preachers who blast away at sin on Sunday morning to a handful of the faithful, while all the sinners are at home in bed recovering from their Saturday night activities.

All I can say is that it serves the editors right. They're trying to take all the thrill out of hunting. It's a damp, dreary, cold sport at best. The only element in it that appeals to the man of spirit is the danger. And since there is little danger of being trampled to death by a rabbit, torn to bits by a partridge, or smashed to a bloody pulp by the charge of a wild duck, the hunter must get his kicks in this country. From the constant awareness that there is probably another hunter drawing a bead on him at this very moment.

We used to satisfy our ancient lust for blood with wars. But there's no fun in it any more, no man-to-man combat, nothing but a monotonous manipulation of slaughtering machines. As a result, the only way in which a man can assure himself of his physical endurance and courage in this effete age is to take to the woods in the fall and pit himself against the rest of the fellows in the red coats, every man for himself.

Let's take a look at this hunter. He may look like a port-bellied merchant, or a flabby school tea-

cher, or a soft-jawed lawyer, but beneath that disguise lurks the adventurer, the real lang-and-claw killer. This killer has reaped about 4,000 years. That red-veined nose sniffs the air as cautiously as did that of his stalking ancestor. Behind those bifocals, piercing eyes sweep every inch of ground for a range of as much as a hundred feet. That's not really a shotgun he's carrying, loaded, cocked and pointing at his left foot. It's a bear spear.

Who can point the finger when this hunter hears the snarl of a sabre tooth tiger, drops to one knee and cool as only a born killer can be, lets go with both barrels, right through the rear tire of the tractor the farmer has been trying to get started, just the other side of that coupe?

Preach on, you editors. But you're wasting your time. There's no thrill in life to equal that of creeping through the woods on a freezing fall day, with the bird-shot ripping through the leaves just above your head, the high-powered shells slamming into the tree four inches left of your heart, and the hope that you may get him the next time he lifts his head.

All-Number Calling Plan Starts Soon in Rockwood

The All-Number Calling plan, a system of listing telephone numbers as seven figures, instead of two letters and five figures, will soon be introduced in Rockwood. C. S. Keith, Bell Telephone manager for this area, said recently.

The new method of listing telephone numbers will go into effect coinciding with the effective date of the 1961 telephone directory, delivery of which will begin in this area soon, Mr. Keith added. He said there were several reasons for introducing the new numbering system.

"By eliminating the letters, we are removing the chance of misspelling and misinterpreting exchange names—something that has happened in the past," Mr. Keith said. "The change also removes the possibility of confusing the letter 'I' with the figure one and the letter 'O' with the figure zero."

Many More Numbers
The Bell manager pointed out, however, that the most important reason for making the change to all-figure numbers concerned the necessity of substantially increasing the number of possible telephone numbers in North America. He said that under the two-letter-five-figure system there were fewer combinations on the dial which could not be expanded into exchange names. This restricted the number of telephone numbers that could be formed.

Mr. Keith stressed that the switch to all-figure numbers will not constitute a change in the present numbers, since the letters will merely be replaced by their corresponding figures on the dial. In the case of Rockwood, the figures "2" and "5" will replace the letters "U" and "L" of ULEster.

New number cards for the dial plates of Rockwood telephones will be going out to Bell customers in that community next week.

Mr. Keith stressed that the cards should be attached to the tele-

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

BACK IN 1941

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, Oct. 26, 1941.

The hunting season is here, but most fellows in these parts go north for their deer hunting. On Saturday afternoon, John Donaldson beat most of the hunters to a near catch when a deer collided with his car on No. 7 Highway west of Acton. The animal collided with the front right fender but scrambled up and bounded over the fence into a field. Little damage was done to the fender.

Citizens of Acton were surprised last Tuesday evening as excited youngsters knocked on doors tracking down clues to a treasure. It was the United Church Young People's Society and they were staging a treasure hunt. It was in charge of Mrs. James Admonson. Following the excitement, everyone enjoyed hot dogs, pumpkin tarts and tea.

The Acton High School dance staged by the students was a huge success last Friday evening and funds raised will be sent to the Sick Children's Hospital in London, England. Winners of the lucky door prize were Wilda McLaughlin and Jack Block.

Work has commenced on the Mill Street East home of Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Lythland. The footings have been poured and carpenters on the site are ready to begin work.

Four persons had a narrow escape from death Wednesday when the car they were riding in collided with the rear end of a truck. A car driven by Jack Glendinning, Eramosa, and carrying Billy and Grace Stewart, 16-year-old twins and Jean Major, all from Eramosa, was proceeding north from Rockwood when the truck in front stopped suddenly when a child ran in front of the driver, Louis Waxman of Acton. The truck stopped in time to avoid striking the young child but the approaching car was unable to stop in time and crashed into the rear of the truck. The four passengers in the car were taken to Guelph hospital.

BACK IN 1911

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, Oct. 26, 1911.

A large crowd was present Monday evening and heard Sir Adam Beck explain the details of Acton obtaining hydro electric power. Acton is fortunate that Guelph is a supply centre and all that is left to be done is erect a number of poles and run a single line down from the Refractory to Acton. In the event it is desired, a line can be brought in from Brampton and if a failure occurs, the switch can be thrown and power received from this source.

Members of council from Georgetown and Milton were present and interested citizens from Rockwood. Mr. Beck told the gathering it was to everyone's advantage to join together and reduce the cost of power. If the people of Acton decide to take advantage of this power, Mr. Beck stated the lines would be erected immediately.

Burglars attempted to blow up the safe at Milton post office on Monday night, but were frightened away by a nearby merchant. Before they were arrested, the burglars had set off two loud blasts which left the door handle off and the door badly damaged. The door did not budge from its position, however, and the robbers went away empty-handed.

Detectives are after the boys who smashed the electric lamps in the Methodist church shed. Serious fines will be levied and a term in the cells will be given the culprits when they are caught.

Officer Harvey is working overtime in an attempt to have all drains and watercourses cleared before the first strikes and the ground freezes.

Butchers are anticipating a scarcity of turkeys for Thanksgiving this year and urge everyone to place their orders early. Perhaps it will be the same as last year and the birds were quite plentiful in spite of early predictions.

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY AND TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

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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.); 8:56 a.m.; 11:33 a.m.; 2:08
p.m.; 5:08 p.m.; 6:33 p.m.;
8:33 p.m.; 10:06 p.m. (Sun. and
Holi.)

Westbound

10:27 a.m.; 12:57 p.m.; 2:37
p.m.; 5:27 p.m.; 7:27 p.m.;
9:12 p.m.; 11:32 p.m.; 1:12
a.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; 10:33 a.m. to
Toronto; 8:07 p.m. to Toronto Daily
except Saturday and Sunday;
9:01 p.m. to Toronto Sunday Only.

Westbound

9:30 a.m. to Stratford; 6:26
p.m. to Stratford; 1:07 p.m. to
Stratford; 1:29 a.m. to Stratford
(7 days a week); 2:22 p.m. to
Stratford Saturday Only.

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