

Editorial Page

Minstrels à Hit

The history of Minstrel Shows in Acton has always been a good one and although 18 years have passed since the last we remember, a new generation has produced one that continues that fine history.

For three nights the Robert Little School Auditorium echoed to the laughter produced by the end men and cast of the Acton Lions Club Minstrel Show.

It's good to see that a cast of 50 can still be assembled, convinced they should devote time in varying degrees to an amazing number of tasks just to stage three nights of entertainment. Obviously the Lions Club had the motive of making money to assist in their varied program of community service. We will be willing to predict though, that they claimed a number of by-products

like renewed club enthusiasm, new members, and new strength as well as a lot of fun produced by the many rehearsals.

Before television the production of amateur entertainment was not a novel approach to raising funds. Then someone discovered it was considerably less work to sell some draw tickets and probably raise just as much. After the constant inundation of tickets perhaps the cycle is complete and renewed interest will be sparked in the production of amateur shows where every ticket carries a real value rather than a chance.

To the directors through the entire cast and those who served in the many minor but necessary tasks, considerable praise is due. We hope, probably like a lot of others, that there will be future appearances.

Suitable Facilities

As announced in the Legislature November 23 by the Honourable W. A. Goodfellow, Minister of Highways, the Government has decided on a policy regarding the establishment of service facilities on Highway 401.

While the details of this policy are still being worked on, the Minister stated that plans are being prepared to establish service areas at six or seven strategic points between London and Marysville, 14 miles east of Belleville, so that motorists can obtain the essential services required for their comfort and safety. The Minister stated that the construction of these areas will be proceeded with as soon as possible and that during the construction period it is planned to have temporary facilities available to provide the motorists with their essential requirements. The necessity of service facilities has been

clearly evident to those who have been driving some of the longer open stretches of the highway. Failure of any part of the car through lack of gas or any other cause can become quite serious.

We've heard of people climbing farm fences and heading toward the only light visible to seek aid. An accident with no telephone available conveniently to summon aid is equally a difficult situation.

The New York throughway has restaurant and service stations conveniently located that provide an opportunity to stop and at least a series of lights to break the road monotony that can develop on a long trip.

We're pleased to know that a policy is being developed on 401 that may lead to the provision of suitable facilities.

Campaign Time

Is seven days long enough for candidates to present their "wares" to the electors? Does it give voters time to hear the candidates, mull over the views and make up their minds?

Those who drew up the Municipal Act felt it was the shortest permissible time; nomination meetings must be held not less than seven days prior to election day.

The maximum length of time between nomination and election is also set down in the Act—six weeks.

Each municipality is at liberty to decide itself the nomination and election dates it wants, between Nov. 15 and Jan. 2.

The time interval allows, for one thing, meetings to be held, with an invitation to candidates to come and present their platforms. If you exclude election day and the Sunday which is bound to be present in a

seven-day interval, there aren't too many days left for campaigning.

In most districts various organizations would already have activities planned for that week and it becomes difficult for those interested to find a time free for a political meeting.

It is not only important that we get out and vote, it is equally important that we know for whom and for what we are voting.

The ways to find out, of course, are to meet the candidates personally, if possible, and to hear them speak. Much can be learned by reading of their activities in the papers but that can't take the place of personal observation. It's easier to judge the whole man if we see him and listen to him.

Leaving too short an interval between nomination and election day means running the risk of electors voting blind.

Sins of the Fathers

Most of the world's troubles today have their roots in history. To take only one example, the division of Germany, with the isolation of Berlin in the midst of communist territory, was possible because President Franklin D. Roosevelt and his successor, President Harry Truman, were more ready to agree with Stalin than with Churchill. There had been few causes of conflict between the United States and Russia, but United States history since 1776 had been fairly based on resistance to Britain and it would have been unrealistic to expect a statesman from that country to forget overnight all he had learned, true or false, about perfidious Albion.

This is not to say that the British have always been correct in their dealings with the United States or other nations. In the British diplomacy was inclined to favor the South and came close to recognizing the Confederacy as a legitimate government. In spite of the Alabama claims in favor of the States, the official British attitude at that time has never been wholly forgiven.

Now that the United States has succeeded to Britain's place as the leading western power, assuming responsibilities all over the globe, she may be expected to realize how the sins of the fathers can be visited on the children. Foreign aid to underdeveloped countries seems to be winning her as few friends as Britain gained when she

was painting a good part of the world map red. The sincere good will of those who are trying to help the impoverished and backward to improve their lot is met with suspicion and remembrance of exploitations of the past.

Unfortunately, the maintenance of order in the world has to be the responsibility of one of the powerful nations. The choice, now that Britain can no longer afford to assume the task, is between Russia and the United States. It is certain that the United States will receive little gratitude from the people she helps, but she will earn the respect of the rest of the world for her effort, whether or not it is successful in the long run. Future generations may find there is justice in visiting the virtues of the fathers, as well as their sins, upon their children.

In Lighter Vein

The big dog licked the child's face and the youngster screamed.

"Did he bite you?" Asked the dog's owner.

"No," sobbed the child, "but he tasted me."

Husband: That's a beautiful necklace you're wearing.

Wife: I thought you'd recognize it. I found it on the back seat of your car.

"Indian Summer"



—Photo by Kainer Tatum

Sugar and Spice ...

BY BILL SMILEY



Do you know something? We haven't any national character. There's no such thing as a "typical Canadian." We're just a vague, unformed glob of human beings who happen to live in the same vast hunk of geography. Isn't that a fine state of affairs, Christmas coming on, and everything?

I learned this while reading a couple of new books about Canada this week. The authors seemed not only disturbed but displeased because they were unable to put down a list of adjectives, point triumphantly and say, "There you are! A typical Canadian!"

This search for a Canadian identity has become a regular parlor game among writers and intellectuals. I find the whole problem remarkably undisturbing. I'd rather be a typical human being than a typical Canadian. Have you ever noticed that when people say, "He's a typical American" (or Englishman, Frenchman, German), they don't mean it as a compliment?

However, in the interests of pure truth I thought I'd look back through a number of friends and acquaintances and see whether I could come up with a typical Canadian; after more than 40 years of consulting with the species.

There was a huge, happy, lively-tongued, quick-witted fellow with whom I once trained as a pilot, in the dead of a typical Canadian winter. He didn't have any special advantages of wealth, schooling or social position. But Jake Gandam, president of the Hamilton Tiger-Cats football club, is doing all right these days. A typical Canadian?

There was a skinny, starved-looking little guy at college who was so shabby, physically and financially, that I didn't think he'd graduate. But he had a wicked wit and a wonderful way with words. His name was Jamie. As Professor James Reaney, poet, playwright, novelist and editor of a new magazine, he's doing all right. A typical Canadian?

There was the French-Canadian kid who worked with me as bell-hop on the lake boats, before the war. When he started that summer, he knew only three words of English, all of them bad. I couldn't help hooting when I saw his name in the paper the other day — as distinguished member of the Clergy in Quebec. A typical Canadian?

There were a couple of young screwballs who wrote and played in comedy skits when I was at university. Next time I saw them was in a troupe show, overseas. They had improved. I saw them on television the other night. They're getting by, as Wayne and Shuster. Typical Canadians?

Then there's Dutch. Once a wild and woolly Australian, he taught me to fly Spitfires, in England. He came here after the war and is happy as a trout, hotly pursuing his first million in Toronto. A typical Canadian?

And Chuck. His old man was a Ukrainian. We were in prison camp together, and when the Russians were getting close he taught me to say, "Don't shoot!", in Russian. He was a fistrate cartoonist and last I heard he was in Vancouver. A typical Canadian?

And three Georges. One was a quiet student, who bought a Belgian pistol from me after the war and paid me \$10 more than it was worth, because I needed the money. He's managing these days, between directing plays at Stratford and on television. A typical Canadian?

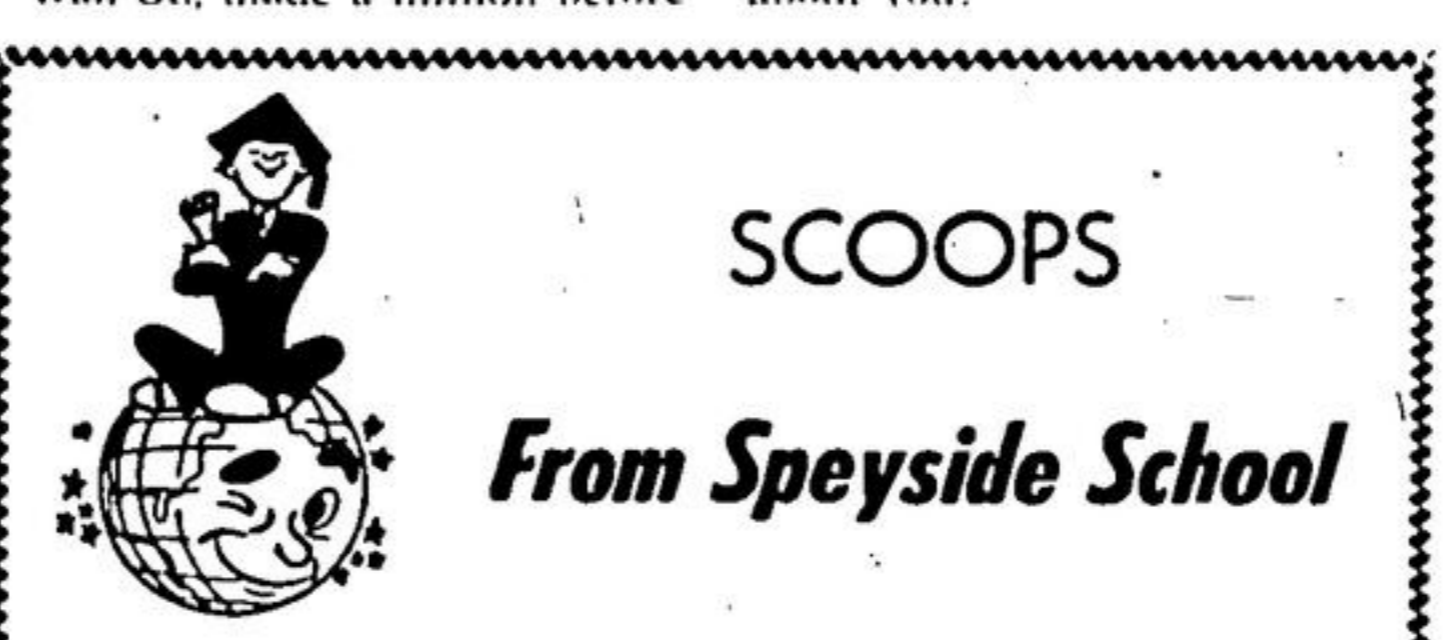
Another George repaid the Yanks for burning York in the war of 1812. He went over to Wall St., made a million before

he was forty, and carried it gleefully back to his northern lan. A typical Canadian?

The third George used to be a Czech. He was in a concentration camp during the war. Now he's a dentist in Canada, has a split-level home, a two-car garage and a real aversion to paying so much income tax. A typical Canadian?

I can think of a dozen others. The country is full of characters, but there's no such thing as a "typical Canadian" any more than there is an "average man." I, for one, am heartily glad of it. Who wants to be a "typical"? Do you want to be a typical farmer, or typical merchant, or typical laborer, or typical housewife? Or even a typical millionaire? Not a bit of it. No more than I want to be a typical school teacher.

The only thing the characters above have in common is that they live in this country and love it. And that goes for me, too. How about you?



(Intended for last week)

ROOM 1 — The Grade one and two pupils have been busy all last week writing their examinations and are glad they are finally over. The late Mr. Doan is missed greatly by the teacher and the grade two pupils whom he was teaching. Mrs. Rogan's old position on "The Santa Claus Parade" — The following was written by Dennis McClure and was chosen as story of the week in Room 1.

The Santa Claus Parade — We went to the Santa Claus Parade. We saw the wooden elephant. We saw a wooden horse in the big book. We saw the Queen of night with stars. We saw Santa Claus with a red hat.

ROOM 2 — On Thursday, November 9 our school had parents' night.

BALLINAFAD

Hold Bazaar United Church

The W.A. held a very successful bazaar on Saturday afternoon in the church basement.

Mr. and Mrs. James Millar and children, also Mrs. Millar Sr. of Toronto visited at Mrs. Lloyd's home with Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Marshall.

Two representatives from the hydro, and Mr. Hall of Guelph attended a meeting of the hall committee last Thursday night at Mr. Norman Simel's.

Mr. and Mrs. Al Himes was called to Windsor to see a brother of Mrs. Himes who had a very serious operation.

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THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Back in 1911

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, Dec. 7, 1911.

Prior to the removal of the family of Mr. W. J. Johnstone to Sutton Bay, the school ma'am, Miss Lily Johnstone, and Miss Folster, her teacher, presented her with a beautiful Bible, a book and bottle of choice perfume.

A complaint was made last week that on the previous Sunday, several employees of the construction company, making the cuttings and fillings for the Beardmore siding were engaged in plowing on the excavations. Last Sunday, Chief Lawson went to the works and found one team and several men at work and another team being driven up. He advised that the work be stopped immediately as it was a violation of the Lord's Day Act. The work was stopped.

The young men engaged in skating on Corporation Pond on Sunday afternoon did not grow in the esteem of the citizens who witnessed their Sabbath breaking. This practice of skating on Sunday should be stopped immediately and citizens who are bothered by these acts left to enjoy the Sabbath properly.

Mr. W. Frer has leased the farm of Mrs. Albert Stewart, second line, for a number of years.

The three-day bazaar held by St. Joseph's Church Improvement Society was a huge success and the ladies in charge realized \$1,000 for their efforts. Lucky draws were plentiful and everyone marvelled at the quality of the goods sold. In charge of the events were Mrs. A. J. Lehman, Mrs. George Mulholland, Mrs. Neil McIntosh, Mrs. John Mellor, Mrs. M. Lawlor, Mrs. John Gibbons, Mrs. D. Carv, Mrs. James Gibbons, Mrs. G. Benton, Misses L. Holmes, M. McIntosh, Aggie Mulholland and A. Gibbons.

Tommy Morton's barber shop has been moved to the Second Block and Mr. Morton lost no time in getting the shops working after the last of the equipment was installed.

Back in 1941

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, Dec. 11, 1941.

During the council meeting on Monday evening, a letter was read from the school board, requesting that some protection be afforded children at the corner of Willow and Mill Streets. It was agreed by council to have Chief Harrop arrange for protection for the children crossing the street at this busy intersection. Chief Harrop is also instructed to give safety education to some of the older pupils at the school and when this course is completed, the boys will handle the duties of directing other children across the road.

During the council meeting, E. Waxman was present to discuss the garbage collection contract and only after he was given explicit instructions regarding the pick-up was the contract amounting to \$1,100 for the year signed.

One of the highlights of the Acton Women's Institute December meeting was the Christmas program and roll call was answered by "Where I intend to spend Christmas Day." Miss Nellie Anderson gave an interesting talk on Christmas in Korea and Japan and described the decorations and preparation in the church and homes. Mrs. Gardiner sang a Christmas solo in her usual happy way and also led the group in Christmas carols. A hearty vote of thanks was given to the hostess, Mrs. E. F. Collier, after which the meeting closed by singing a Christmas carol. Lunch was served to conclude a happy evening.

Some conception of the value of scrap and waste materials can be observed from figures secured from the Acton and Vicinity War Service League, under whose auspices this work is carried on with Mrs. (Dr.) W. G. Cullen superintending. To date, 95,925 pounds of scrap have been collected since the drive started and \$480.70 has been received for the fund-raising work. The committee aim to make it \$100 a month and everyone is asked to help.

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Standard Time
Eastbound
6:33 a.m. (Daily except Sun.
and Hol.), 8:58 a.m., 11:33 a.m.,
2:08 p.m., 5:08 p.m., 6:33 p.m.,
8:33 p.m., 10:08 p.m. (Sun. and
Hol.)
Westbound
10:27 a.m.; 12:57 p.m.; 2:57
p.m.; 5:27 p.m.; 7:27 p.m.; 9:12
p.m.; 11:32 p.m.; 1:02 a.m. (Fri.,
Sat., Sun. and Hol.)

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CANADIAN NATIONAL
Eastern Standard Time
Eastbound
6:44 a.m. to Toronto Daily ex-
cept Sunday; 9:33 a.m. to To-
ronto except Sunday; 7:07 p.m.
to Toronto Daily except Sat. and
Sun.; 8:01 p.m. to Toronto Sun-
day Only.

Westbound
8:30 a.m. to Stratford daily ex-
cept Sun.; 6:26 p.m. to Stratford
daily except Sat. and Sun.; 7:07
p.m. to Stratford daily except
Sun.; 12:29 a.m. to Stratford
(7 days a week); 2:22 p.m. to
Stratford Saturday Only.

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