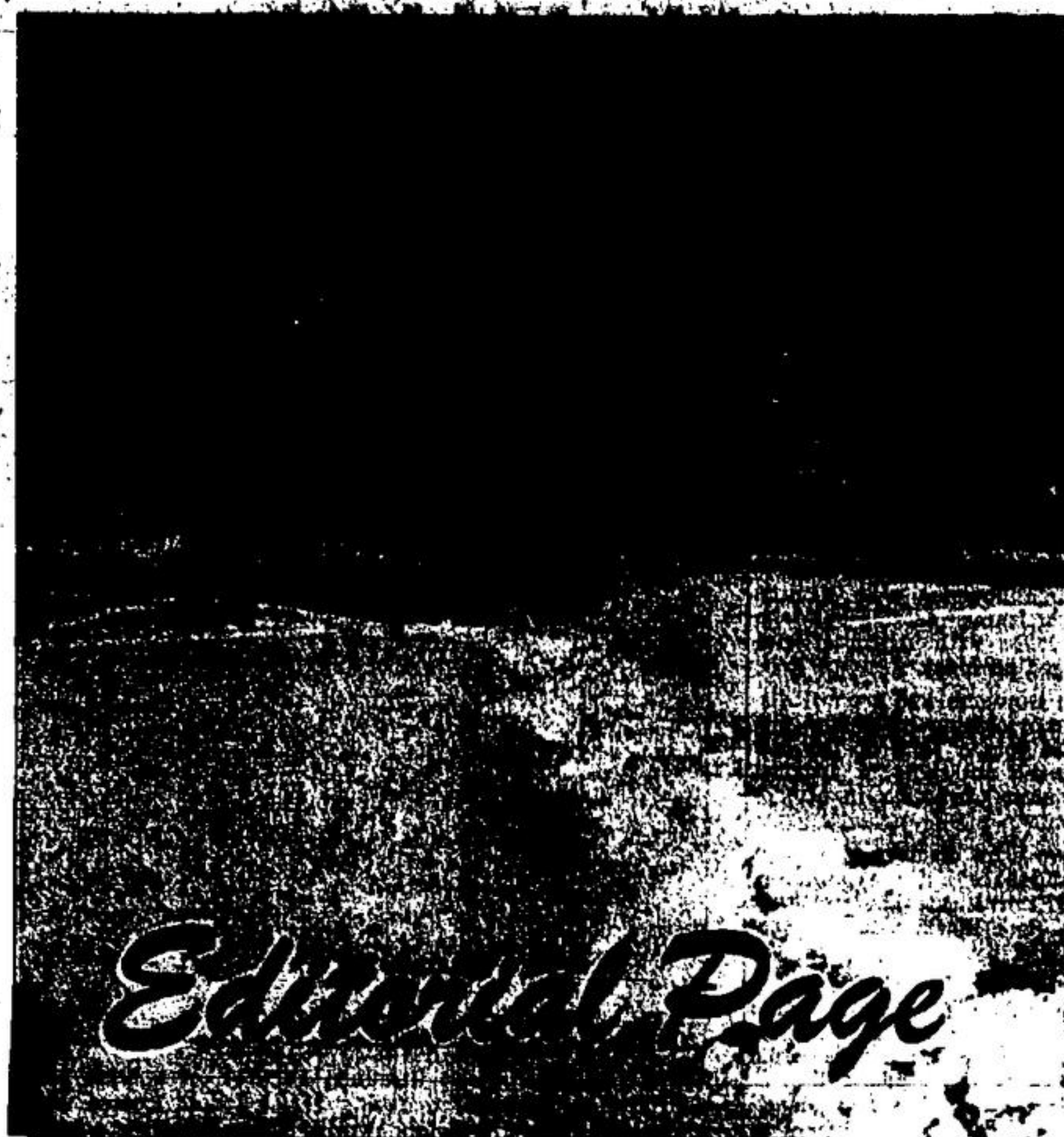


# "Path of the Abominable Snow Man"



## When Down is Up . . .

This year the town's assessment has been dramatically increased. Unfortunately that increase has not been a result of an influx of new commercial, industrial and residential buildings. It has been, quite simply, a juggling upward of the assessment figures on existing properties.

In this increase there is an inherent danger. The increase has been largely achieved by raising assessments on commerce and industry.

Now in the field of municipal finance we are inclined to judge the health of the economy on the basis of the mill rate. If a town has a high mill rate, taxes are high and a low mill rate indicates taxes are low. However the value of a mill is determined by the town's assessment. So increasing the assessment can achieve a low mill rate but that mill rate will produce more revenue for the town.

In Acton last year the mill rate was 74.78 on an assessment of \$5,540,237. This a mill last year was worth \$5,540. This year the mill will raise \$6,850 on an estimated assessment of \$6,850,000.

Unless the mill rate drops this year by several mills little will have been accomplished other than a juggling of figures and taxes on an individual property will be increased in direct proportion to the increase in the assessment of the property.

## Looking Ahead in Space . . .

The 25th Anniversary issue of "Science Digest" published an interesting and informative article by Mr. Willy Ley, entitled "The Next Twenty-five Years in Space." Here are some of the points emphasized by Mr. Ley.

By 1970 we shall know enough about the two neighboring planets, Mars and Venus, to plan manned expeditions to both. The travel time with minimum fuel consumption is about 260 days for the trip to Mars and about 145 days for the trip to Venus.

## Circumstances Dictate Policy . . .

For the past several generations the leaders in India have professed firm pacifist views, condemning the use of force in the settlement of international disputes. Now, however, with trouble in the Portuguese colony of Goa, the Government of India used

## Cause of Accidents . . .

Recent tests, by the Institute of Forensic Medicine in Bonn, have shown that alcohol causes over half the road accidents and that crashes caused by drunken drivers result in three times as many killed and twice as many injured as other accidents. The experi-

However, Acton's last year's budget raised \$417,433. This year that same amount could be raised by a mill rate of approximately 61 mills on the new assessment.

Costs are bound to increase to a certain extent and the new mill rate may not get that low. Indeed the mill rate now seems to be only slightly controlled by council. Debentures and education costs, the largest items in the budget, are figures over which the council has little control.

Committees and Boards making requests to council should, however, keep in mind that the public purse is not bottomless. Council should keep in mind too that a drop in the mill rate must be generally expected. It will climb back again all too soon.

It is unfortunate that commerce and industry have had to bear the large share of the assessment increase this year. Besides that they must pay business tax of from 25% to 60% of their assessment beyond what the homeowner pays. Then for good measure they have to pay three or four mills more than the homeowner on the mill rate.

Little wonder commerce and industry are so widely sought by Ontario municipalities. They are far less vocal in their demands for additional services than homeowners and far more liberal in sharing the tax burden. The town's mill rate will be eagerly awaited.

By 1975 the earth probably will have several manned space stations in different types of orbit.

By 1987; that is in 25 years from now, the space stations, the lunar base, the Martian colony, and the probes circling Jupiter and Saturn, will be taken for granted. Speculation in 1987 will be concentrated on the first interstellar expedition, to the nearest star in the category of the Sun, which is in the Alpha Centauri system.

armed forces by land, sea, and air. This confirms the view that expediency is decisive and that policy depends upon circumstances. Such a state of affairs is a serious obstacle both to disarmament and the reduction of armaments.

ments showed that 'accident proneness' starts with only a half of one per cent of alcohol per thousand in the bloodstream—the result of drinking one pint and a half of beer. Columnist Anthony Terry, "Age"—January 24, 1961.

# THE GOOD OLD DAYS

## Back in 1912

**Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday Feb. 29, 1912.**

Last Thursday Albert Ranshaw, Peel Street, was crossing the tracks at the C.E.R. station when a snowplow was coming in. The whirling cloud of snow confused him and he thought the train was coming in on the main line and stepped to the siding. This was the track the plow and engine were on and the young fellow was struck and hurled into a snow bank at Hill's coal shed. Fortunately he sustained no serious injuries and was able to get up and walk away.

The storms of the past week have rendered the roads almost impassable. The mail carriers have performed their important and responsible duties with great difficulty. Postmaster McDonald of Speyside, was from nine in the forenoon until two in the afternoon getting to Acton with the mail on Thursday and was unable to get to Kingshill at all. He thinks the farmers generally should take an interest in opening the roads after a storm.

Charlie Wong Fao, the Chinese laundryman who stepped off the midnight train last July while it was in motion and suffered a fractured right hip returned to town on Tuesday after spending the past eight months in the hospital. He is still quite lame.

According to a report from Sir William McKenzie, the Canadian Northern Railway will have their electric road completed from Toronto to Guelph by next fall. Citizens in Acton will be able to enjoy the facilities and amusements of Guelph to Toronto in travelling from Guelph to Toronto to can arrive within two hours.

Mr. McKenzie said the road would not be built with a view to ultimately changing from electrical to steam operation.

Austin Lehman, a student who goes from Acton to Guelph College, had a narrow escape from serious injury this week when he attempted to board a moving train and lost his footing. Fortunately by one hand he saw him dangling by one hand from the hand rail and hauled him aboard the train.

## Back in 1942

**Taken from the issue of The Free Press, Thursday March 5, 1942.**

According to a report from Government officials only one license plate will be issued for each car this year. The move is to conserve steel for war purposes. The market will be placed at the rear of each vehicle. For this year's plates 450 tons of steel were required and for the 1943 plates only 180 tons will be needed.

Dublin Institute held a very successful evening last week in BamooKurn school when they staged a variety show. Songs were given by Mrs. Wilmer Watkins and Miss Vera Webster and readings by Miss McLaughlin and Mrs. George Somerville. An instrumental was enjoyed by Miss Margaret Somerville after which everyone joined in singing the National Anthem. Sandwiches and coffee were served at the conclusion of the program.

A large crowd jammed the town hall to see the play put on by the Acton Y's Men's Club last night. All local talent participated in the play much to the delight of the audience. Cast for the evening included Gordon Hearty, Jell Bradford, Monty Rrote, Dora Wood, Rita McNabb, Dorothy Foght, June Powers, Mabel Harris, Madge Hough, Lois Dawkins, Francis Rawlings and Cal Rowles. Proceeds from the play will be used to send children to summer camp.

During the school board meeting Tuesday evening, principal G. W. McKenzie informed the members that surplus money raised by the pupils by means of 2000 tickets had been invested in a \$100 Victory Bond. The board commended the children for their fine effort in keeping with the Victory Bond drive.

The McCutcheon bowling team squeezed out a close 24 win over the Barber team in the Guelph Commercial league Tuesday night and are now within two points of top spot. They must win three games next week to be able to tie the Central Ontario team for first place.

Elsewhere in the aircraft, some older pilot will be hammering away at empty powdered-milk tins, turning them into cups.

Some other character will be setting out a batch of pure, unadulterated kriegle brew. It's made from potatoes, turnips, prunes, or anything else that will ferment. One hooker of that stuff, and an angel can turn in his wings. He doesn't need them any more.

Johnston Neelands, chairman of the Halton Farm Safety Council, presented an outline of the First Aid Courses sponsored by the Safety Council in Halton. One of the projects of the Farm Safety Council is to promote First Aid Courses for farm people in Halton.

During the past year, 40 persons have taken the course of instruction offered in co-operation with St. John Ambulance.

The Conference delegates were addressed by the Hon. Wm. A. Stewart, Minister of Agriculture. Mr. Stewart reviewed the need for farm accident prevention programmes in promoting prosperous Ontario agriculture. In outlining the need, he pointed out that it does not help to have a successful farm operation, if at the end of the year profits are drained by medical expenses or property damage, or if injury occurs to the farm family.

Halton's representatives to the Conference were: Johnston Neelands, J. H. Taylor, Mrs. A. R. Coulter, Mrs. Velma Norris, Mrs. B. Oates, Mac Spruwel, A. R. Coulter, and J. A. Francis, Agricultural Representative.

Finally got there. A tombstone salesman and a widow were discussing the epitaph to be inscribed on the late husband's grave.

"How would a simple 'Gone Home' do?" asked the salesman. "I think that would suit nicely," replied the widow. "It was always the last place he thought of going."

Resolved that farmers should process farm products.

# NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT

**BRAMPTON**—The first lighted street signs have been installed in town. According to the local hydro superintendent, Brampton may be the first town in Canada to install illuminated street signs of this kind. They're in Peel Village.

**OAKVILLE**—Growing population causes growing pains, school trustees are finding. This week there's news of a new public school for the former village of Bronte, estimated to cost \$260,000, and plans for another new high school which will probably be needed in four years. Oakville's third high school is presently under construction.

**BURLINGTON**—An arsenal of 12 rifles was unearthed beneath the stage of the Nelson Township Hall, causing town officials to wonder if they had the makings of a rebellion on their hands. The breach-loading Enfield Mark 1's, first issued to British troops in 1850, were obtained for drill purposes for Nelson Township Civil Guard during World War I.

**GEORGETOWN**—Councillor Fred Harrison feels Equestrian Township should be contributing to the upkeep of the Georgetown Arena, because a large number of township residents use the facilities without having any tax to cover the use.

**ERINDALE**—Last week was "triplets" week for both South Peel Hospital here, and the Oakville-Trafalgar Memorial Hospital. Triplets were born to Mr. and Mrs. Jerry McCarthy of Erindale Woodlands, and to Mr. and Mrs. Bernard McTherral of Oakville—in each case the first for each hospital.

**MILTON**—Topic of many recent council debates has been the enforcement of the town's zoning by-law. Now the council has named the clerk, town solicitor and planning board secretary as a committee of three to investigate alleged violations of the 1937 by-law.

## Halton Junior Debaters Will Compete in Finals

The Halton county entry in the Ontario Junior Farmer Inter-County Debating Competition was successful in making the finals. In the semi-final round, the team defeated the Northumberland team at a recent debate in Bowmanville.

The final debate will be held between Halton and Waterloo county on Friday, March 9, at the Ontario Agricultural College, Guelph. The final debate will be part of the annual conference in the debating program. The inter-university system is used and each county provides an affirmative team and a negative team. The county having the high aggregate score in both debates is declared the winner.

The first debate in the finals will be between the Waterloo affirmative team of Ruby Weaver and Elsie Bos, and the Halton negative team of Mary Lou Taylor and Ed Segsworth.

The second debate will be between the Halton affirmative team of Jack Robertson and Tom Hunter, and the Waterloo negative team of David Brudie and Paul Bauer.

The topic for the final debate is, "Resolved that farmers should process farm products."

Two Delegates Re-elected to represent Halton in District 6 were Roy Coulter and Walter Rovie, Oakville, and as elected delegates will attend

the District Wheat Producers' Committee's annual provincial meeting to be held in Toronto on March 20, and 21.

Latest statistics show that while the number of wheat producers in Halton was slightly less in 1960 than the previous year, average production and marketings increased. A total of 8,800 acres produced 278,100 bushels, of which 116,938 bushels were marketed.

1959 figures were—acres 3,700; production 101,000 bushels; marketings 83,187 bushels.

## 8,800 Acres Wheat Production Up

Halton County wheat producers held their annual county meeting Wednesday afternoon of last week at the Department of Agriculture office in Milton.

Roy Coulter, Campbellville, second vice-chairman of the Ontario Wheat Producers' Marketing Board, addressed the meeting which was called to market wheat, board activities, and to elect the 1962 County Wheat Producers' committee and delegates to the District Wheat Producers' Committee.

Before you criticize the old folks, remember that even though a clock is rundown, it's right twice a day.

# Sugar and Spice . . .

BY BILL SMILEY

There's an aircraft flight scheduled for this coming July that I'd like to be taking. I read all about it in a letter received the other day from the air force branch of the Prisoner of War Association. Some of the boys, with their wives, are chartering a plane to take them to the United Kingdom, where they will visit old haunts.

Former prisoners of the Germans call themselves "kriegies." It's an abbreviation of the German word "Kriegslangenheit" — or something of the sort. It'll be a lively jaunt. There is to be a well-stocked bar aboard. I can visualize the antics when some of the old kriegies get into the grape.

At one end of the aircraft, the singers will be serenading O'Riley's Daughter and other ladies of that ilk. In the galley, somebody will be mixing up a kriegie cake; pulverized tin snips, powdered milk, marg, and prunes. There was never a cake recipe to beat that one for sheer weight — 12 pounds to the square foot. You can have your Duncan-Hines only.

Some other character will be setting out a batch of pure, unadulterated kriegie brew. It's made from potatoes, turnips, prunes, or anything else that will ferment. One hooker of that stuff, and an angel can turn in his wings. He doesn't need them any more.

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## Halton Delegates Attend Conference

Eight representatives of the Halton Farm Safety Council attended the Ontario Farm Safety Conference held at the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph, February 5th to 7th.

The Conference was made up of delegates from all counties and districts in Ontario, and was sponsored by the Farm Safety Council of Ontario.

The Conference objectives were threefold — To focus attention on the extreme urgency of the farm accident problem; to mobilize effective public support for farm accident prevention activities; to encourage organized rural groups to develop continuous and effective farm safety programmes.

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plates, jewelry and high-powered machinery.

But I doubt if the expedition will ever make it to the U.K. Some kriegie, who cut his way through a six-foot concrete wall with a nail file, 20 years ago, and was on the loose for three days before he was caught, will insist on demonstrating how he did it. And when the whole bottom falls out of the aircraft, the others will have to agree that he hasn't lost his touch.

Every old kriegie is larcenous at heart, and the pilot of that aircraft is going to have his hands full convincing them that he hasn't room on the return trip for a few things they picked up in England such as The Tower of London, Princess Margaret, Big Ben, and the entire saloon bar of The Gate Hangs High or The Dirty Duck.

There's to be a grand reunion party in London, with former RAF kriegies. That'll be a good one. I wonder if we'll have any there with hisilver-tongued tongue that could peel your hide? Will Paddy B. make it, and if he does, will he get drunk and want to fight every body? I wonder if Dave will show up and infuriate one and all with his calm English view that it's time somebody "took those colonialists in hand," meaning us?

Trouble is, I see them, and many like them, as they were then. Wee Jock with his nobbly schoolboy face. Paddy as strong as a bull and quick as a rabbit, slim, blond Dave with his casual manner, lean face, huge mustache. And all of them just a year or two older than the lads I'm teaching in school right now.

Wouldn't it be terrible if they turned up for the reunion party looking just like the rest of

us: thick around the middle and thin on top; a whole lot less interested in staying up all night, and meekly murmuring "Yes, dear" to some strange woman with a cold, suspicious eye in her head.

That letter about the trip brought back a host of memories of prison-camp days. All of them were good ones. That's a beautiful piece of machinery built into us humans — the ability to forget the bad times and remember only the good ones.

In retrospect, the life in prison camp has a great attraction for old kriegies. The reason, of course, is because it was completely free of complication. There were no jobs, no homes, no mortgages, no cars, no children, and no women to worry about.

All the decisions were little ones. You had to decide whether to have turnip soup or turnip stew for dinner. You had to decide whether to go on smelling like a goat or to have a mid-winter bath with ice water in the unheated washhouse. You had to decide whether to gamble your slice of bread in one gluttonous mouthful or nibble at it for an hour.

Looking back from the welter of payments and problems and children and wives in which they are firmly morassed today, it is little wonder that old kriegies heave a sigh of nostalgia for the simple, ordered existence of the camp. Even though they'd have sold their own grandmothers into slavery to get out of the place while they were there.

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