

# THE GOOD OLD DAYS

# Sugar and Spice ...

BY BILL SMILEY

Back in 1912 Back in 1942

**Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, May 3, 1912.**  
Contractor Mackenzie is busy remodeling the front of the jewelry and fancy goods store owned by Reeve Hynds. A plate glass window will be installed with a large show window and other improvements. Mr. Hynds has occupied this premises on Mill Street for over 30 years.

During a meeting last Thursday evening, the Acton Lawn Tennis Club was organized for the season with the following officers being chosen: president, John Cole; vice-president, J. C. Matthews; secretary-treasurer, Miss Clara E. Moore; greens committee, William Burling; Fred Smith and W. Perkins; social committee, Miss Minnie Bennett, Miss Florence Holmes, Miss Bertha Spight, Miss Mae Moore and Mrs. Dr. Holmes; purchasing committee, Miss B. R. Humphries, Miss R. Clark and J. C. Matthews.

B. F. Caldwell narrowly escaped serious injury while splitting wood on Saturday. The axe he was using for chopping with caught on the clothes line and fell on his head, inflicting a bad gash. Fortunately, it was more or less a glancing blow and the wound was not of a serious nature.

Mr. Robert MacPherson has purchased from Ernest Macklin, his residence on Bower Avenue, at a cost of \$975. Also purchased by Harry Waits on Bower Avenue was the frame house owned by the Misses Littley for a sum of \$800.

Citizens have been complaining that some of the men and boys are loitering on the streets at night and some of them are making impudent remarks to or about women and girls who have to pass them. These offenders might be well advised that a by-law forbids this and if it continues, immediate action will be taken. There is no reason why the women or girls should not be able to enjoy the beauty of the outdoors without being offended by loafers.

The vote on the church union at the Methodist church here was announced as follows: Official Board for union 18, against 4; members over 18 years of age, for 97, against 52; members under 18 years of age, for 4, against 3; adherents, for 17, against 4; total, for 136, against 63. Number of votes cast 199, votes possible 300.

The buds are beginning to show and the flowers are sticking their necks out of the ground. Officer Harvey has the streets swept up and things are really looking like spring.

Two more milestones of 1962, Easter and Opening Day, have whizzed past, and I managed to come through it not with flying colors, at least without disgracing myself.

Easter was a regular fan-dango around our place this year. With an organist, an altar boy, and a girl chorister in the family, and about six church services on the weekend, the dog, the cat, the kittens and myself had to walk warily, as the bodies hurtled by at the speed of those in an old silent movie.

Climax of the weekend arrived on Easter Monday, when Kim Smiley made her television debut, with a recorder group. I drove a carload of the kids to the studios, my ears ringing with last-minute instructions from the boss, about combing the child's hair, making sure her slip wasn't showing, and about 14 other items.

I did my best. But I'd like to see some of you fathers trying to comb a kid's hair when she's wild with excitement about appearing on TV in a few minutes. It's like trying to lasso a hummingbird with a lawn hose. And sure enough, her slip was showing; plenty of it.

During the Easter holidays, les girls went off to visit Granny, while Hugh and I stayed home to work. Something was proved which we had both suspected. Females are directly responsible for 97 per cent of the noise and confusion in the average household. It was as peaceful as a lamb while they were away. And just about as interesting.

Then along came Opening Day of the trout season, the annual shedding of winter's ceremonies. Usually, it's an exhaustive ordeal. You stay up until two in the morning, the night before, making plans for next day, over a noggin, with a couple of wild-eyed friends. Two

hours later, you groan out of bed, totter into the cold blackness, and spend the next 14 hours lurching through swamps, frozen, frustrated and wishing you were 18 again.

This year, I tried a new technique, and it was the best Opening Day I've ever experienced. I passed up the night-before session. When the alarm went off, at 4 a.m., I shut it off, chuckled fiendishly, and went back to sleep. I rose at 10, had a leisurely breakfast, and arrived at the trout stream about the time the others were going home. Three hours later, I had had a pleasant outing, had taken as many trout as any other year, and didn't feel like the wreck of the 99.

Now, that those two landmarks in the year have been successfully negotiated, we can turn our thoughts to more trivial things. Like politics, for example. Yes, gentle reader, the mighty siblings of that big, lazy hibernator called Democracy are being heard in the land. The big-game hunters are sharpening their spears and arrows, and the beaters (that's us voters) are being harangued before we start out to flush the beast into the open.

As nearly as I can make out, from listening carefully to spokesmen of the various parties, the Tories are going to be turned out without mercy. The Liberals are going to be turfed out with a shellacking, the NDP hasn't a hope, and the Socreds' claims are in the realm of dreamland.

If this is true, why have an election that will cost the voter 22 cool millions? Why not just go bumping and stumbling along? Everybody says the Yanks will own the

place in a few years, anyway.

I have a suggestion which would save us all those millions, as well as a lot of potential earache. It's simplicity itself. Every four years, let each party nominate its choice for each seat in Parliament. Then we accept them all. This wouldn't cost a penny.

In this way, we'd have about 1,100 candidates, all good men. This is too many. We don't want to have to build an addition to the House of Commons, with all those school additions still to be built. Well, here's what we'd do. We'd have the 1,100 draw lots, for the seats available.

The lucky ticket holders would become MPs. Each would retain his own party membership, so that we'd still have a loyal opposition. The party with the most luck would form the government. We'd save all that election money, and we wouldn't have all those broken hearts on election night.

There'd be just as much suspense, under my plan, as there would be with a regular election. And I'll bet you a spotted ballot to an ancient senator that we'd have just as good, or as bad, government.

The only improvement I can see to the suggestion would be to combine the event with a national sweepstakes, based on the draw. All profits would be applied to the national debt. Who is with me in promoting this sensible policy?

## Spring Dust-Up ...

While it may have resulted in sore backs and strained muscles the grand spring weather we have enjoyed for the last two weekends has been a great boon to the annual spring clean-up. Rakes and paint brushes have blossomed forth to take away the results of the spring thaw, elsewhere throughout the province various towns have endorsed beautification programs which last anywhere from a week to a month. Main objective, of course, is to wheedle the citizens into a spring clean-up. The main device used to accomplish this seems to be a high pressure publicity campaign to get people doing what they're going to do anyway.

Instead of issuing proclamations and forming more unnecessary committees the council here has shown the way, and started the annual spring clean-up without a great fanfare of publicity. Street-patching has started on the surfaced roadways in town.

The new street sweeper has arrived and gone to work like a tornado. Apparently the watering system on the sweeper doesn't work too well — in fact, hardly at all — and the approach of the sweeper has been likened to a Texas duststorm. However, after the rain on Tuesday, the dust created was considerably less and with the repair of the watering system the machine should do a good job.

Tuesday the stump removal program began when the tree experts moved in with equipment that chews the stumps into saw-

dust. After years of growing and providing shade the trees were cut down for one reason or another and again for years the stumps remained stumbling blocks to progress.

The tree planting program announced a few weeks ago has not received the public acceptance it should have. Under the plan the town will supply six-foot to eight-foot trees. The cost is \$5 and \$2.50 is absorbed by the town while the property owner pays the other \$2.50. After listening to the talk that occurs when a tree in town is cut down we expected there would be no problem in finding places for 80 new trees. The program has been expanded and is now available on more streets.

The clean-up at the sewage plant continues and while this can hardly be classified as beautification, the fact remains that it is a clean-up. The brush and foliage removal at the bridges on Brock, Church and Main Streets will improve the appearance. A rebuilding and paving project on Main St. North, will improve the western entrance to Acton. An expanded sidewalk repair program is something we've all looked forward to for some time.

However this is the town's contribution to beautification. Your contribution is going to remain those tired backs, aching muscles and run-down feeling you end up with as you continue your "beautification."

## Warning—Protection Ahead ...

There is one well-known traffic signal that is never likely to be described in official driving manuals. That is the flicking of headlights that many drivers use to advise others that there is a police radar speed check point ahead.

Helpfulness towards other road users is a very desirable attitude in drivers, the Ontario Safety League stresses. And enlightened police authorities make no effort to suppress this camaraderie that has saved many a speeding driver from a ticket.

But is there anything really commendable in shielding other drivers from deserved penalties for breaking the law? Or is it good fellowship to band together to out-smart the police, in their work of trying to reduce the kind of driving that adds unnecessary danger to our streets and highways?

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Warning. We appoint police officers to enforce those laws, to make the protection effective — and in Ontario there are thousands of police (though still, not enough) doing a fine job of intelligent enforcement, to the benefit of the great majority.

Our roads would be safer and pleasanter places to travel if more people believed in co-operating with authority, instead of dodging it. The mature driver realizes that we are fortunate to have police officers, cruisers and radar sets ahead.

Trouble that looks like a mountain from a distance, usually is only a hill when you get to it.

Temptation may be strong, but it seldom overtakes the man who runs from it.

Some orators don't seem to understand the difference between eloquence and endurance.

Today's youngsters don't leave footprints on the sands of time — just tire tracks.

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT

**OAKVILLE**—Half Canada's Chambers of Commerce have decided to support an Oakville chamber resolution calling for legalized sweepstakes. The proposal will become the policy of the National Chamber and will likely be placed before the federal cabinet.

**GEORGETOWN**—Council has declared war on delinquent taxpayers and fixed an eight per cent annual interest charge on overdue taxes over \$1,000. "They are using tax money for other purposes because they can borrow from the town at a lower interest rate," said finance chairman Bob McNeilly.

**BRAMPTON**—Miss Helen Wilson, 90, who died recently, was a teacher in Brampton's public schools for over 45 years. "I would say she taught just about everybody in this part of town," said Mayor Carman Core, who was her pupil in 1914.

**STREETSVILLE**—Cecil Robertson, dog control officer for Georgetown and Acton, has been chosen this village's canine catcher. Councillors agreed the dog population has been "getting out of hand" in the past.

**TORONTO TOWNSHIP**—The Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals has condemned Toronto Township's dog pound and the method for killing unclaimed animals in a gassing chamber.

**MILTON**—Hanging baskets of pretty flowers, new trees to line the Martin St. entrance, street flower-beds, town hall flower boxes and a complete town-wide cleanup are slated in Milton's "May is Beautification Month" campaign.

## "Floundering Ship" M.P.P. Stan Hall Lashes Out At Opposition in Government

Halton M.P.P. Stanley L. Hall, who has represented the County in the Provincial parliament for 18 years, took a long swing at the Liberal opposition's "political ship of state that has floundered on the rocks of frustration" in a recent speech in the House on the budget.

Explaining you've got to spend money to serve the rapid population boom with highways, schools, hospitals and public buildings, he claimed the opposition's charge that Conservative government was thrusting the country further into debt was "far from the truth." The budget, he said, "was more than a balanced budget when you consider the assets that have been created by this government."

He listed the schools, hospitals, homes for the aged and other assets whose values cannot be counted in dollars and cents, then swung back in history to the laying of the C.P.R., the Ontario Northland Railway, the Ontario Hydro (all established under a Conservative government) and other accomplishments.

New members to the opposition had his sympathy, the M.P.P. said. "It is a shame to see such bright, intelligent young men joining the crew of a Political Ship of State that has floundered on the rocks of frustration — there is no hope left — the crew has joined the Order of Doom, Gloom and Despair."

"The port holes of this ship are so barnacle infested that the crew can see no distance into the future, even the Hon. member for York Centre, the self-appointed King Fish and his Mystic Knights of the Sea are providing little assistance to their captain."

Turning to the New Democrats, he recalled how they once referred to the Conservatives as nothing but the dregs. "I would say those dregs were very potent, for that political party in the last 48 years has given the Province of Ontario the best government it has enjoyed since Confederation. It is much different with this political party that has recently changed its name. There are no dregs left — just the froth. I am sure that little bit of froth cannot last long against the blast of hot air we have to listen to from that section of this Assembly."

## Let's Play Bridge

By Bill Coats

Bridge players, even with years of experience, often underestimate the power of distribution. In today's hand, the combined point count is only 23 points including the usual count for distribution, and yet game is easily made with a finesse in the trump suit.

Dealer — South.  
North - South vulnerable.

North	South
S-8 7 3	S-K Q 9
H-A Q J 7 4	H-K 10
D-8 5	D-10 3 2
C-9 6 4	C-A O 8 7 3

The bidding:  
South 1D Pass  
North 1H Pass  
South 4H Pass-Play

I do not agree with South's first bid of 1 Diamond. However, the bid did work out all right. Actually, if South is going to open the bidding, it should be 1 Heart, or else the suit can never be shown by South over Spade or Club responses by partner.

West has a good informative (take-out) double, requesting partner to bid his best suit. With 10 points, North could redouble, but too much strength is concentrated in one suit.

South's leap to 4 Hearts is a bold bid. Partner has shown less than 10 points, so South knows that they do not have the required 26 points to make game. However, nothing ventured, nothing gained, was South's motto.

The play is easy. Three tricks are lost in the black suits, and with the heart finesse working, 10 tricks are assured in the red suits.

When you play bridge, always try to picture your cards along with your partner's cards. This way, you can better evaluate the potential of your hand.

**Bridge Tip:** Even though you hold only 13 cards, you must build up a picture of the partnership holding. Never underestimate the power of distribution.

So long for this week and while you play bridge, always be considerate of your partner, for "Bridge is a partnership game."

**DR. W. G. C. KENNEY**  
Physician and Surgeon  
Office in Symon Block  
43A Mill St. E., Acton  
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Physician and Surgeon  
Office in Symon Block  
43A Mill St. E., Acton  
Office Phone 853-2111  
Residence 113 Church St. E.  
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