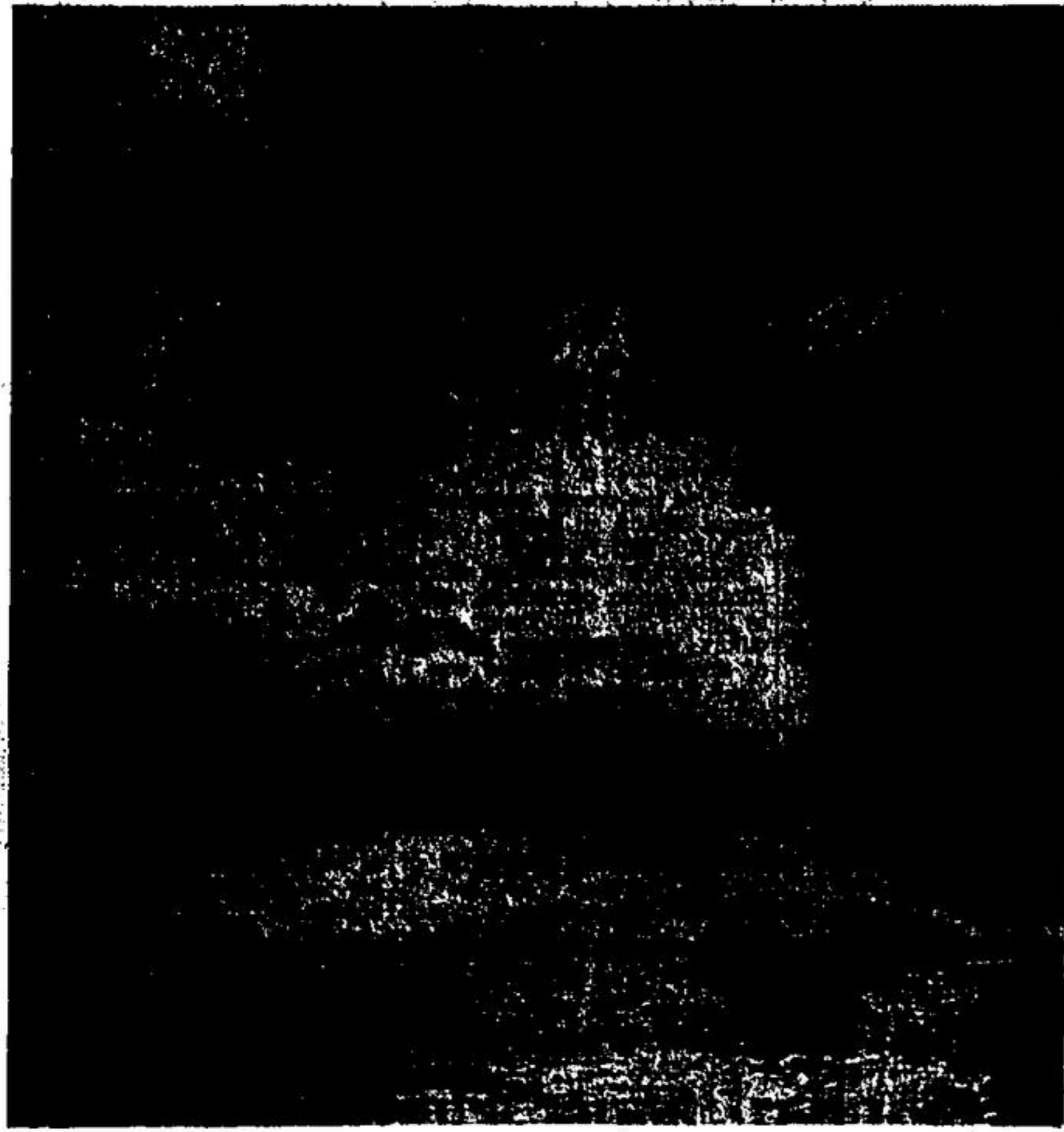


"Deserted Beach"



—Photo by Esther Taylor

Where Do We Go From Here? . . .

The more we think of the purchase of the old post office building for use as municipal offices the more we are convinced such a move would be unwise.

While we do recognize the fact that administrative problems of the town have increased tremendously in the last ten years and we are convinced the increase over the next ten years will be just as great, if not greater, we do not think the ownership of real estate is going to solve any of these problems.

We are convinced that the solution to many of the municipal government problems lies in amalgamation of municipalities. We feel that within a few years amalgamation will create one large municipality of the area known as Halton. A super-town formed of all the municipalities in Halton could eliminate many of the problems each individual town now endures.

Instead of six assessing departments, assessing could be consolidated in one office under one chief assessor. This would not only give us a truly equalized assessment but should make the best use of the staff available.

In welfare we have six administrators at the present time which could be reduced to a full time professional staff, trained to do the job.

Fire departments, even now co-operating very closely, would benefit through amalgamation. Four police departments and the Provincial Police detachment now working in the county could join with obvious advantage.

In finance the preparation of even the tax bills is now probably being done in six different methods on six different pieces of equipment, each used for a relatively short period of time each year.

We can see no place where amalgamation would not be of benefit in every municipal field, from garbage collection, through schools, dog control, planning, hydro, libraries to cemeteries.

Obviously, such a radical change in administration would require a different method of selecting county councillors. Probably a city form of government would be the answer with a board of control elected by the county at large, with the warden being the controller polling the highest number of votes. Aldermen could be elected by the ward system with wards set up to represent an equal number of ratepayers in each locality.

If there is any possibility of any administration being established such as we have outlined then it is obvious it would be un-

wise to acquire further administrative municipal real estate at the present time.

As we see it the problems evident at the present time are:

1. Lack of adequate administration of finances.
2. Inadequate library facilities.
3. Future possible expansion of the area requirements for the police department.
4. No band practice facilities.
5. Insufficient space for a full YMCA program.

To increase the municipal administrative office space we suggest the town should continue to rent the office in the YMCA and add to it office space from the area now occupied by the library. Minor structural changes could produce reasonable office facilities.

A new library building should be built to provide adequate service for readers who will not decrease in numbers or concentration even through a change in municipal government methods. We feel this library could be built as Acton's 1967 Centennial project. While the total cost of construction cannot be expected through government grants a start now will ensure completion by 1967.

Expansion of police office requirements is something suggested for some later date. Under a change to a county government calls would not be required in Acton. In the meantime we feel the services of the OPP should be continued.

For the band we suggest an agreement with the town for the second floor of the present town hall. With a long-term lease band members would feel satisfied in spending time and money to renovate the building to their own requirements.

To enlarge the YMCA program we suggest the use of the excellent facilities at the Robert Little School and the District High School. To have the gymnasium in the High School dark and unused most nights of the week is a ridiculous waste. Some of the night school activities could be transferred to the YMCA where the program could be expanded to many times a week rather than the one evening as at present. For instance classes could leave equipment, such as looms, or easels, set up for use any time during the week.

It is more than likely these suggestions may have one or two minor problems which would develop as they are implemented. However even though these plans may not be universally acclaimed, we offer them as suggestions for starting points in the preparation of Acton's five-year plan to produce a Utopia flowing with milk and honey.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Back in 1912

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, October 24, 1912.

Several small boys, following an example of old ones, amused themselves in the vacant machine shop of Mr. Peter Savers, corner Mill Street and Park Avenue. They came before H. P. Moore, J.P., on Friday evening. The magistrate had a quiet talk with them and let them off upon their promising to pay their respective share of the cost of repairing the windows, and never to damage other people's property again.

The farmers generally are complaining about the potato crop. They say the potatoes seem to be all right when they are dug, but in a few days they begin to show signs of rot and many have to be thrown away, especially those that have been grown in very low land. As a consequence, the city folk are afraid to buy their winter supply for fear they will get a lot of bad ones. They were ranging from 80¢ to \$1.00 a bag on Saturday's market.

The last of the Fall Fairs in this section last Friday was a great success. The entries were numerous and creditable and the attendance was 8,000. The visitors included almost the entire countryside. Every available rig in Acton was put into commission.

Preparations are being made for the erection of a new coal and bark trestle at the works of the Acton Tanning Co., which will greatly facilitate the handling of the commodities which are used so extensively. The trestles will be built to connect with a switch on the new siding at the foot of Elgin St. and will be carried over the roof of the bark mills building and the boiler house. Cars of bark will be dumped direct into the bark mills and coal to the fire holes. The new trestle will eliminate the necessary for a large amount of teaming and handling of the two commodities.

It behooves us all to give thanks on our national Thanksgiving Day next Monday. Let us all give thanks.

The 18th annual convention of the Women's Missionary Society of Guelph District was held in the Methodist church here last Thursday. It was in all respects successful and encouraging, the true missionary spirit characterizing all the proceedings. Miss Uberta P. Steele, a missionary on furlough from Kaiating, China, gave most interesting details of her work in connection with a Chinese girls' school.

Public school inspector Deacon was in town on Wednesday discussing with Principal Stewart a new system of physical training, military drill and rifle shooting which the Department of Education is proposing to establish in the schools of the various counties.

Oakville has been favored with the august presence of the Halton school marm and daddies who assembled in solemn convention on Thursday and Friday in the high school. There were 80 or more in attendance. Principal Smith of Burlington was chosen president and Miss M. Z. Bennett of Acton was re-elected secretary.

Back in 1942

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, October 29, 1942.

Orchids to the Friendly Circle for a pleasant evening and a very original program which featured a fashion show last evening. Miss Bennett said a few words of welcome. Wee Marilyn Rognvaldson toddled up the aisle with Ena Jennings. Freda Harris and Virginia Johnson skipped in, dressed in appropriate frocks. Others participating included Joanne Veldhuis, Erna Wilderspin, Eleanor Beatty, Mabel Harris, Betty Mae Fushbury, Mrs. Doris Kentner and Mrs. Helen Waterhouse. Plans for the event was Miss Ethel Franklin.

The Duke of Devonshire Chapter IOOE requests that everybody save recent issues of magazines for men and boys in the armed forces. These will be collected by Acton public school children and forwarded to camp libraries.

Halfway through the Third Victory Loan Campaign and just reached the halfway mark in Canada with our own community in a relative position. Acton and district has never failed. If all of us back here in Canada realized all the boys are going through, we would hasten to increase our purchases of Victory Loan bonds.

A petition was presented to Council on Tuesday evening from the businessmen of town. R. H. Elliott appeared in support of regulating store hours. Amendments would close stores in Acton Friday evening at seven o'clock and also include October in the closing hours. Saturday evening closing would be at 10 o'clock. The changes are in accord with those now in force in neighboring municipalities as a wartime measure.

On Monday evening, a surprise shower was held at the home of Mrs. Etta Grindell by the neighbors for Miss Margaret Grindell and Mr. Ralph Webb of Toronto, whose marriage takes place in November.

Hallowe'en comes on Saturday night and usually among the young folks it is a time of much fun and sometimes damage to property. Young folks as well as older ones fully realize that in these war days, there is no place for damage of any kind. It is suggested that able young folk might collect salvage on Hallowe'en. This would give Mr. Lowrie a rest if volunteers took over his chores for the day.

More letters and cards of acknowledgement have been received by the Acton and Vicinity War Service League this week. They came from Ted Clifford, H. W. Godfrey, R. M. Storey, Florio Tourmour, Frank Holmes, Wilfrid Waldie, Jack Van Goozen, Gordon Gibbons and C. W. Douglas.

Thirty-two boys turned up at the bean feed at the Y last Monday and did justice to the very large pot of beans, many of them having two helpings of both beans and chocolate milk. First, the boys had a game of floor hockey. Thanks goes to Mrs. Helwig, Mrs. Stan Norton and Mrs. John Cameron.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT

STREETSVILLE — Deputy-Reeve George Parker has suggested that a new sewage disposal plant be built on the Credit River, upstream from the town of Streetsville, for processing Township of Toronto sewage. The township has asked to use the surplus accommodation of the present Streetsville plant.

BRAMPTON — Council has been asked to annex 200 acres from Chingacousy Township, between Highway 10 and the First Line West at the junction of Highways 10 and 7. Plans for the area call for a 100-acre industrial basin.

OAKVILLE — Payroll deduction plans from Oakville residents who work in offices and plants outside the town are needed, because the loss of payroll deductions from these employees is cutting into the United Appeal canvass. Twelve Oakville agencies rely on the UA for funds to carry on their year's activities.

BURLINGTON — Dental bills for Burlington children playing hockey this winter may run as high as \$10,000. Authorities base this guess on past experience which says approximately 100 minor hockey players will suffer damage to their front teeth this season. Hockey officials suggest boys wear a mouthpiece and helmet.

GEORGETOWN — Town workman Thomas Slater was knocked unconscious by potent gas poisoning last week, while working in a sewer manhole. Fellow workers pulled him from the hole before the fumes could kill him.

MILTON — The town is a guinea pig for the studies of 25 students from University of Toronto's planning school. Students from around the world are interviewing officials and studying the town in preparation for production of an official plan document.

Busman's Holiday

Teachers Head for Kitchener
About 118 public school teachers in Esquew, Georgetown and Nassagaweya schools — Halton Inspectorate No. 1 — will take a "busman's holiday" Friday (tomorrow) when they head for Kitchener and their annual teachers' convention.

During the day they will split into groups to visit 40 teachers in 17 Kitchener schools, enjoy a noon banquet and a speech by Dr. Finlay Stewart, Ex-Moderator of the Presbyterian Church General Assembly of Canada, then go on a one-hour guided tour of Kitchener with the Chamber of Commerce.

Knox Communion

On Sunday, October 14, 287 persons received Communion at Knox Presbyterian Church. This is the second largest number in recent years, being exceeded at Easter 1940, when 296 persons communicated.

Sugar and Spice . . .

BY BILL BAILEY

For the past two weeks, I've been "bitching it." That is, if there's such a thing as a bachelor with two great, galumphing children, I have. No, my wife hasn't left me. Nothing as exciting as that.

I hadn't been left alone with the kids for years—not since they were quite small. In those times, we all enjoyed it thoroughly when Mom went away for a few days. Not only did we get the Old Battleaxe off our necks, but reverted joyfully to the pigs that men and small children really are at heart.

We ate whatever and whenever and wherever we pleased. We let the dishes pile up in the sink and the dirt pile up on the floor, with equal indifference. We wore the same socks for days. It was a real holiday, even though we always caught supreme x'l'l when the boss got home.

But something has happened since those days. Either I've grown a lot older, or the kids have grown a lot more complicated, or our household arrangements have increased immensely in complexity. This time, it was no fun. It was just plain boring, not to mention exhausting. I've never been so glad to see anyone as I was to see the old Trouble 'n Strife when she walked in the other evening and started glaring around to see what kind of a mess we'd made.

In the old days cooking was fun when I was left in charge. There was flair and imagination, vision and variety in our menu. We might start off with a bowl of Pabulum garnished with pineapple. The next course might turn out to be meat pies and ice cream. We'd wind up with chocolate.

CHURCHILL Tidy Teens 4-H Club Hold Second Meeting

The second meeting of the 4-H Tidy Teens was held at the home of Linda Linham. Good grooming and care of clothes was the topic of discussion.

The elected officers and members are as follows: president, Carol Swackhamer; vice-president, Lynn Waldie; secretary, Marilynn Kirkwood; press reporter, Linda Linham; Linda Swackhamer, Gail Stewart, Susan Mellor, Sandra Fletcher, Gayle Spear, Trudy Spear and Lois Kirkwood.

The 4-H club is under the capable leadership of Mrs. W. Linham and Mrs. W. Storey.

U.C.W. Worship
The U.C.W. rally held at Acton United Church last week was attended by Mrs. F. McArthur and Mrs. A. Damm. A very enjoyable day and a lot of information was obtained by the ladies.

The Sunday service was taken by the laymen of the congregation. Mr. Griffin read the scriptures and the service was taken by Mr. M. Norton. The senior choir sang.

This Sunday is Communion Sunday and all are welcome.

Don't forget to turn your clocks back this weekend.

Fair Board Meeting
The Acton Fair Board journeyed to Collingwood on Tuesday for the district No. 5 Ontario Agriculture Society. The meeting was held in the United Church in Collingwood.

The time of worship at Churchill United will remain the same, 10 a.m. until the end of December.

The Young People's group will be having their annual banquet on November 17 at Churchill. The U.C.W. of Churchill will be holding their Bazaar on November 30 in the Acton United Church.

EVERTON

Weekend Visitors In District Listed

Weekend visitors with Mr. and Mrs. Percy Peavos were Mr. and Mrs. Gordon Cox and Bill Conn. Mr. and Mrs. Cecil Holmes, Livetown. Mrs. Elizabeth Alexander, Erin and Mr. and Mrs. Archie Bagg of Guelph.

Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Jestin visited on Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. MacLeod and family of Thornbury. Mr. and Mrs. Harold Rossell of Sarnia visited on Sunday with Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Cutting and family.

Mrs. McGregor of Chesley spent a few days with Mr. and Mrs. William MacNeill. Mr. and Mrs. MacNeill visited Mrs. Thornhill, Southampton, last week.

Many Hear Speaker At Evangel Crusade

Many heard guest speaker the Rev. De Loss M. Scott during the week-long crusade at Evangel Baptist church. The pastor, the Rev. James Wilson, estimated a total attendance of 300.

chocolate bars and pop, or cherry tarts and French fries. The kids loved my cooking, and there was never a scrap left over.

Somewhere in the intervening years, these youngsters have been ruined. They've turned in to horrible little conformists. They want meat and potatoes and regular dessert and milk and all that sort of junk that dirties a lot of dishes and is also pretty dull. And in between meals, they have 12 little snacks each, strewing a sordid trail of cookie crumbs, banana skins and apple cores from one end of the house to the other.

I did learn one thing during this appalling fortnight. I found out that my wife was not just an old crab, as the kids and I had firmly believed for years. During the last decade, she has informed us at least twice a week, that we are a trio of "filthy bums" or, alternatively, "dirty slops." She has told us faithfully, and to our faces, that we are selfish, thoughtless and useless. We just shrugged it off. We thought all women talked like that.

Well, let me be the first to admit publicly that she was right. At least, she was right about the kids. It's inconceivable that two children who have been trained for years in the good, old-fashioned virtues of industry, cleanliness, helpfulness and obedience could be so lazy, dirty, unhelpful and lippy.

Here and now I make some promises. Never again will I walk out of my shoes and leave them lying in the middle of the kitchen.

Never again will I leave empty bottles and heaped ash trays all over the joint. Never again will I hang my jacket on top of the refrigerator. Never again will I snort contemptuously when my wife wails about the sloppiness of the kids, and hand her that old hamster. "They're just normal children." Never!

And I do further promise that hereinafter, I will pick up my socks, wash the ring off the bath tub, wipe my feet at the door, and force the kids to help with the dishes every night. With a whip, if need be.

And I hereby retract every snide remark about running a house being a soft touch. It's not. Looking after a house and raising a family is all right for the birds — birds, then, feed them for a few weeks, then kick them out and move to a new house — but it crushes the sensitive spirits of such people as me and all the housewives in the land.

However, every skeleton has its closet and there's a black cloud for every silver lining. With this in mind and in the light of the last two weeks, I know that, should I be turned out of my present job, I could easily find another: capable, middle-aged housekeeper; willing, experienced cook; good with children; to live in; top salary; no scrubbing.

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