

# THE GOOD OLD DAYS

## Back in 1943 Back in 1913

**Taken from the files of the Free Press, Thursday, Feb. 4, 1943.**

For months, the Acton Junior Band has been practicing under the direction of Mr. Charles W. Mason. Next Wednesday, they will make their first appearance in the Town Hall.

At the annual meeting of the Halton Union Farmers' Mutual Fire Insurance Company, \$500 was voted to the Canadian Aid to Russia Fund. In the Victory Loan, \$21,000 was purchased in Victory Bonds and a donation of \$1,000 was made to the British Aid Fund. Mr. A. T. Moore was again chosen to carry on the work of secretary-treasurer.

Dr. Allan J. Buchanan has been promoted to the rank of Major. He served in the last war in the 16th Battalion and enlisted in the present war in January, 1941. A host of Acton friends join in congratulating him on his steady advancement.

Mr. and Mrs. David Drysdale have received a cable from their son, Pete, John Drysdale, telling of his safe arrival overseas.

An inspector was in town on Tuesday checking up on radio licenses. Haven't heard how many were able to supply the necessary paper that costs \$2.50 a year.

Miss Officer George Sultzer has graduated with high standing in a course in electrical engineering at the University of Alberta, Edmonton, and has been appointed to the naval staff there as an instructor.

The Duke of Devonshire I.O.D.E. held a very enjoyable travelling bridge and euchre Wednesday at various homes, assembling at the home of Mrs. W. G. Boalty for refreshments.

At the Duke of Devonshire meeting, it was decided to present Miss Daisy Buchanan of the C.W.A.C. with a pen and pencil set as she is the first lady to leave Acton for overseas service.

A presentation was held at Bannockburn school for Miss Vera Neages prior to her leaving for active service in the R.C.A.F.

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J. M. Devery, B.A., has been named-inspector to fill the vacancy created by the retirement of Mr. J. S. Deason.

The honor roll for public and high school includes the names of top students: D. Nelson, N. Kenney, I. Anderson, B. Clark, T. Henderson, E. Brown, E. Malson, H. Warren, C. Scott, A. O'Brien, G. Wray, W. Johnstone, V. Matas, G. McLeod, L. Kenney, J. Smith, W. Douglas, Jean Wilson, Margaret Wilson, Harold Mowat, Vera Harvey, George Agnew, Olive Mowat, Marguerite Stewart, Joe Swackhammer, George Anderson, Stella McLain, Ethel Starkman, Kenneth Henderson, Ray Agnew, Charlie Mann, Edwin Landborough, Sabra Nelson, Willie Stewart, Margaret McNabb, Hazel McDonald, Laura Scott, Jimmie Ross, James Matthews, Frances Hurst, Laid Montal, Jean Barber, Willie Hollaway, Earl Cooper, Miss M. Z. Bennett taught the senior public school class.

A plethora of entertainments in the town hall the past month evidently interfered with the attendance at the Tait Alexander concert last Friday evening. An understudy for Harry Lauder, Mr. Alexander is a far cry behind his chief.

Acton Old Boys, home from the North West, will give an assembly in the town hall next Monday evening.

Work on the electric railway is being rapidly pushed forward, both east and west of the "Dolly" kilns. Considerable grading has been done already.

Unproductive expenditure of labor and material in preparation for war is given as a reason for the high cost of living in Canada.

Lorne school report shows top students: Orwell Johnston, Bert Davidson, Herbert Dron, Norman McEachern, Wilmer Watkins, Alex McDonald, Pearl McDonald, Angus McEachern, Gordon Johnstone, Joe McDonald.

# Sugar and Spice ...

BY BILL COOPER

Look, I take it all back. I didn't mean a word of it. I'm sorry. I apologize. I'll never say it again as long as I live. Truly, I mean that part about loving snow.

Ever since that column I wrote about us skiers reveling in real winter, things have gone haywire around here. It has snowed (about 24 hours a day) and about one inch per hour) and blowed (gale force) and the temperature has plummeted like a hawk going down for a fat hen.

All I can deduce is that either Songbody Up There has no sense of humor, or that the Lord is my side. I'm not quite sure which. But it will be a long time before I try getting flippancy about the weather again.

One kid's in bed with the flu. The other is outside, some how, wearing a snow shovel, and we'll be lucky if we ever see him again. The Old Battle case has those midwinter blues, and the dog and cat have to be literally kicked out of doors.

The only cheering note we have had this week was a letter from our sister-in-law, who is wintering in balmy old, sunny old, sweaty old Puerto Rico, in the Caribbean, stating that she had just recovered from the worst cold she had ever had in her life. Hah!

To top it all, the inspector is coming to the school this week. This event causes roughly the same panic among school teachers as an announcement that Princess Margaret would be around for tea on Friday would cause among a gaggle of housewives.

Instead of joining the officers over their Scotch and steaks. Or one of those nuts who actually drew a white glove along that window sill, looking for dust. Or one of those flacks who actually believed that soldiers, or airmen, or ratings, were human beings, and asked them questions, to the complete and utter detriment of ordinary discipline, unit morale and the divine right of officers. You never know what you were going to get.

Worst offender of this sort I've ever experienced was Winston Churchill. One time in France, we were warned that a Very Important Person would visit our wing, which was flying dive-and-rocket fighter-bombers from a field in Normandy. We sneered. Figured it would be some crummy Air Commodore who would try to convince us that our young juicy, fresh lives were fair exchange for some vague crap labeled "freedom" or "democracy" or "home-and-the-loved-ones."

Nonetheless, we spilled and polished. And cursed. On the big day, we were drawn up in a hollow square, on the field. Pilots' silk scarves were exchanged for shirts and ties, flying boots for polished shoes, bare heads for caps at the right angle, beards for clean-shaven faces. Officers in front, other ranks in the rear, where they jolly well should be, in a democracy.

A little plane hopped the nearest hedge and butterflyed into the middle of the square. The noise was cut. A massive figure, rather like an old sea-lion, struggled out of the rear cockpit, and

stood on the wing. We didn't need the jutting cigar to tell us who he was. He grinned. I'll never let my eyes twinkled, as he looked us over.

Then he lifted his right arm, as though to make the famous V-sign. Instead, he made a rude gesture, then beckoned. The "other ranks" safely in the rear where nobody would be offended by their cheap uniforms and low pay, could take a hint. They gave one wild cheer, and ran toward the plane. So help me, several officers in the front rank of the hollow square were trampled so deep into the mud of Normandy that they weren't found for days.

The old man with the great heart, who should have been safely at home in England, not dodging about the airfields of France, in a tiny, unarmed aircraft, gave us five minutes of the famous Churchillian prose. Not the kind you'll find in the history books, I'm afraid. More like the kind that Julius Caesar used to give his legions. Ruars of delight, answered him.

Now, how in the world did I get from the white wilderness outside to a blistered, baked, octane-stinking, converted pasture in Normandy? Frankly, I've no idea. I keep telling my students to stick to one topic, to write in logical sequence. I hope the inspector doesn't read this.

# The Old North-South Battle Line ...

The north versus the south takes one back to the American Civil War days, but to Halton's leaders it starts a discussion on the voting power of municipalities in the County.

There is merit in the case for more voting power to the southern municipalities, and we're sure most municipal leaders recognize it. The fears of the north can be understood when they view the possibility of being snowed under on any north-south division. Similarly, there must be considerable frustration on the part of southern leaders when they realize a measure they propose can be handily defeated by the north, despite the south's payment of 80 per cent of the cost.

The matter of county voting power is not one on which short-sighted thinking should be allowed to hold sway. One of the most important underlying factors should be to retain the county as a strong municipal force that can withstand the increasing pressure from the direction of Toronto and Hamilton.

If these pressures are allowed to continue, the county will be dissected piece-meal and scattered to positions of less and less municipal authority in a complex of sprawling metropolises. Within the county structure there is a strength that can withstand some of these pressures.

Oakville and Burlington are applying for a private bill in the provincial legislature to increase their voting power. At present the municipalities of Acton, Milton, Georgetown, Esquimaux and Nantawegawa are lumped together as the north while Oakville and Burlington are considered the south.

The north now has 16 votes, the south eight votes. The private bill sponsored by the south would give the north 16 votes to the south's 17.

Northern representatives hasten to point out, however, that considerable growth in the south could soon overwhelm the north.

The case for the south can, however, be seen after a brief glance at some fairly current history. In 1937 the south had 18 votes

and the north had 14. Then Burlington took over Nelson township and those county votes were lost. The trend continued with Trafalgar taking over the village of Bromley, and Oakville amalgamated with Trafalgar. Each was a loss in southern county voting power. Thus we now have the south with eight votes and the north with 16. The result is that Burlington representatives have four votes and a population of 48,000 and Milton representatives have four votes and a population of under 6,000.

The only time this very sectional line ever really gets drawn is on a matter of this kind. Very rarely does the north ever go out to beat the south. County action just doesn't lead itself to this kind of division.

Sometimes County roads are a point of controversy, but a recent check shows almost equal number of mills in each of the municipalities. Like Oakville, Burlington, Esquimaux and Nantawegawa.

The private bill sponsored by the south would give an additional vote for every 3,000 electors or part thereof. Such a formula would raise Burlington's strength to 9 votes, Oakville's to 8.

A maximum of 12 votes to any one municipality is proposed, and this allows room for an all-powerful southern voting bloc. If this could be reduced to say 10, and provision written into the legislation for a review every five or 10 years, we could see nothing wrong with the act. It would seem to be a realistic way to deal with a unique situation.

If the matter of county voting power cannot be settled on a realistic basis the first green seeds of discontent will have been sown to ripen into a disquieting harvest of secessions. This would rob the county bloc of its power of financing, welfare services and a number of the features that would not be available to a split county.

Some statesmanlike leadership is essential so that an acceptable solution can be found and agreed on in the matter of the county voting power.

The Soviet, says Mr. Dallin, has nothing but contempt for the concept of international law. As evidence he quotes a welcoming speech made by Premier Khrushchov to Ghana's President Nkrumah: "Even if all the countries of the world adopted a decision which did not accord with the interests of the Soviet Union and threatened its security, the Soviet Union would not recognize such a decision and would uphold its rights, relying on force."

It is not only the Soviet that has refused to rely on the U.N. as a main instrument of national policy, of course. But, submits Mr. Dallin, only the communists regard the U.N. solely as an area of combat, not at all as an instrument for peace.

# NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT

**GEORGETOWN**—The garbage dump, according to a picture feature in one of the town's newspapers, has "scenes reminiscent of Dante's Inferno or the smoldering ruins after a nuclear blast". A fire began eating its way around the fringes of the dump, gradually creeping inward beneath the fill.

**OAKVILLE**—The P.U.C. is going to tighten restrictions on delinquent hydro and water customers who don't pay up on time. But they tried disconnecting the service of one man, who indignantly took his family to the police station and demanded accommodation there. The commission decided to disconnect on accounts 15 days after the discount date.

**BRAMPTON**—A Supreme Court Grand Jury has condemned the 86-year-old Peel County Jail, terming it overcrowded, "substandard and un satisfactory." The jury recommended that before a new jail is built, the former jail governor's residence could be used for women prisoners to give the male inmates more space.

**BURLINGTON**—A proposed new band hall and attached band shell — a needed new "home" for Burlington's bands — will cost an estimated \$60,000 the recreation and parks committee was told. The proposed centre could also be used for theatrical presentations.

**WATERLOO**—It was "Stan Hill Night" recently when East Flamboro Township officials and friends gathered to honor retiring clerk-treasurer Stanley H. Hill. He served three years as deputy-recvee, then the past 17 years as clerk treasurer.

**MILTON**—The hospital is "bursting at the seams" under a rash of illnesses that has filled all available beds, plus a few in the hallways. The hospital has been operating at 97 per cent capacity but last week every bed was occupied and there was a waiting-list of patients seeking admission for less serious treatment.

# Choose Brock Harris Holstein Club Prexy

At the annual meeting of the Halton Holstein Breeders' Club held on January 15, Brock Harris was elected president. The day's program was under the direction of J. Cameron Marshall, the 1962 president of the Club.

Speaker for the program was Dr. L. H. Ferris, of the Health of Animals Branch, Canada Department of Agriculture. Dr. Ferris commented on Herd Health Management—Tuberculosis and Brucellosis.

Other speakers included D. S. Dutton, President of the Holstein-Friesian Association of Canada; E. R. Seysworth, Vice-President; J. A. Francis, Agricultural Representative; and Joe Snyder, Holstein Fieldman.

Awards were presented to winners at the County Black and White Show, and for herd production. Receiving certificates for production with herds under 20 cows, was Fred Nice, Georgetown. In the class for over 20 cow herds, the award was made to McDonald Bros., Georgetown, B.R. 3.

Officers elected were president, Brock Harris; first vice-president, Jas. Carney; second vice-president, Ralph Ford.

Directors: Esquimaux Township, W. Brownridge, F. Wickham, J. Reid, Jas. Carney, C. McDonald, Nantawegawa Township, J. Klasing, Burlington, Fred Bell, Brock Harris, Morley Sherwood, Don Four-Deville, Hugh Beatty, Ralph Ford, Johnston, Howard Combs, Past-President, J. C. Marshall.

The Order was organized in 1900 by Mrs. Clark Murray of Montreal and now has 97 chapters reaching from the Yukon to Newfoundland. It co-operates with the National Chapters of the I.O.D.E. in Germany and by-hamam. It is associated with the Victoria League in England, and the Daughters of the British Empire in the United States of America.

The I.O.D.E. is one of the largest voluntary patriotic women's organizations in Canada. It stimulates patriotism through education and service. Success unity within the Commonwealth, provides an efficient organization for helping needy and less fortunate in times of calamity, and works for the betterment of Canada and the people.

# Area of Combat ...

"I don't foresee to you the action of Russia," Winston Churchill said in a radio broadcast just after the outbreak of World War Two. "It is a riddle wrapped in a mystery inside an enigma."

Since Churchill delivered that famous judgment another element has been added to the riddle — the purposes of communist policy in the U.N. It is a vital question, and perhaps it is made less of a mystery by a book by Alexander Dallin, The Soviet Union at the United Nations. In brief, Russia intends to keep the U.N. alive so that it may be used as a propaganda vehicle and political tool, but weak so that it cannot interfere with communist interests.

## The Acton Free Press

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6:33 a.m. (Daily except Sun. and Hol.); 8:56 a.m.; 11:33 a.m.; 2:06 p.m.; 5:06 p.m.; 6:23 p.m.; 8:33 p.m.; 10:08 p.m. (Sun. and Hol.).

**Westbound**

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