

"We Are There"

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Sugar and Spice...

BY BILL SMILEY

20 YEARS AGO

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, Feb. 18, 1943.

Mr. Amos Mason has been chosen chairman of the Halton War Finance Committee. Preparations are underway for the fourth victory loan.

On Saturday, February 13 a quiet wedding was solemnized at the home of the groom's parents, Maple Hill Farm, when Kathleen, younger daughter of Mr. and Mrs. W. D. Ferris, Egerton, Alberta, and Ross Melvin, youngest son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Swackhammer, were united in marriage by Rev. A. J. W. Foreman. The bride was smartly attired in the uniform of the R.C.A.F. (W.D.) The bride and groom after a short leave will return to their stations.

Mr. Archie Lowe's barn, three miles north of Ospringe, was struck by lightning and totally destroyed.

Sergeant Noel Cull, who lived here on a farm as a boy, has written from a German prisoner of war camp asking former friends to write to him.

Sgt. G. A. Seward R.A.F. Ferry Command visited for a few days with Mr. and Mrs. G. H. Lantz. Ferrying a bomber to Africa he was forced to make a crash landing and was taken prisoner. They were creating a prison in the interior to house allied prisoners when the arena changed hands, they were released, and their captors placed in the prison. Many friends here welcome him safely back again.

There will be a program in the town hall to mark Scouting Week. Native of the Acton district and a member of a pioneer family, Miss Barbara Cameron Warren, passed away in Toronto. She was born on the Warren homestead on the Fourth Line.

Life-long resident of Acton and Lincolnton, Mrs. Thomas Marshall passed away at her home on Elgin St. Rommel's tank forces have renewed their offensive.

At Orton men had to help shovel so the snow plough could get through.

50 YEARS AGO

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, Feb. 20, 1913.

The cigarette is coming in for further consideration and condemnation. It is declared anew that the cigarette has a most baneful effect on all those who use it and its use lessens the power of endurance and decreases a man's efficiency.

Preparations are being made for driving the piles for the electric railway across Fairy Lake while the ice is on. Logs and wood are coming in on the sleighs again. The sleigh bells' music is quite welcome.

Rev. Charles Jolliffe, missionary to China, was to have left Rockwood for China last week to resume his labors, but one of his children was taken ill with measles and the departure was necessarily postponed.

The annual meeting of Halton Liberal Association was held in the town hall, Milton, one of the largest and most harmonious assemblies of years. Mr. McKinnon, vice-president, was the speaker. A resolution unanimously endorsed the naval policy of Sir Wilfred Laurier and declared unbounded confidence in the leader of the Liberal party of Ontario, Mr. N. W. Rowell K.C.

Special efforts are being made in our churches to improve and strengthen the choirs. Knox Church has engaged a new leader, Mr. Wilson of Toronto and the Methodist church has engaged Prof. Chas. Kelly of Guelph to take charge until after Easter.

Mrs. Peter McNab passed away somewhat suddenly Friday last. She was a woman of queenly character and lovely disposition. Her first husband, P. H. Corrigan, was one of our early merchants and transacted business in a block of stores where Knox Church now stands. She came to Acton 50 years ago. She was born in Scotland and came with her parents to Upper Canada.

For some reason, Valentine Day brings out the worst in me. The idea of having a special day for expressions of love appeals to me, but not in the middle of a Canadian February.

At this time of year, I can hardly stand myself, let alone my wife; my neighbor's wife, and various other people I'm supposed to love. Bearing this in mind, perhaps you will excuse the faintly anti-romantic tone of the following.

Nothing disconcerts a woman, quite as much as the suggestion that she is not the finger-to-the-bone type of worker she claims to be. And that's a big statement, because an awful lot of things disconcert a woman.

Trouble is, most men swallow this, legend. They come home from work with their tails dragging, and barely have their coats off when the recital starts. They react in various ways to the avalanche that flows from their mouths. Some of them get out of bed this morning.

One of the most widely used methods of retaining sanity is to paste an interested look on your face, go right on eating your dinner and emit a repertoire of small sounds indicating incredulity, approval and sympathy, accompanied by popping the eyes, if your mouth is full, wagging your head from time to time and shrugging your shoulders at the opportune moment. This gets you through the meal. Then she says, "Why do you never talk to me?"

Another way of countering the vivid account of the way she got out of the ironing board is to say, "Oh, put a sock in it. Who the hell cares how long it took you to wax the floor?" But this method is not recommended unless your wife is paralyzed from the waist down. And up.

The more subtle and intelligent approach is one I have developed, and which I am too public-spirited to keep to myself. It is to read women's magazines. Practically every one of them these days contains an article about how to hold your husband.

For example, this week I found a couple of dandies. One reads: Stop Boring Your Husband! The second asks, Are

You Exploiting Your Husband? Just create the magazine! In the article, pull some fingerprints on it, and underline a few pregnant phrases. Then leave the open magazine in some place where she's likely to see it, such as the bathroom or inside the refrigerator.

Next, find a few murder mysteries in which husbands have done away with their wives. Or news stories in which a man has gone berserk and axed his entire family. Get into the habit of reading them aloud to your wife, jovially, and with relish. Start grinding up aspirin tablets and dropping them into glasses of milk just as she enters the room.

When she starts talking about working so hard, fix her with a piercing stare and ask softly, "Are you really unhappy with your life, darling?" This method is practically guaranteed to give her something else to think about besides what she told the milkman when he shortchanged her.

It's all very well for women to talk about how hard they work, and what a state their nerves are in, from the continual pressure of "kids, kids, kids!" But, for one, am not interested, and don't believe a word of it. Third of all, I'd rather talk about me.

If life is such a round of drudgery, why are they so frantic to get married? Oh, I know the answer to this one, too. It goes, "Certainly didn't expect it to be like this. You used to talk to me about everything. Now you just sit there with your nose in the paper. Other people's husbands talk to them."

Of course they do, and so would we, wouldn't we chaps, if our wives would only SHUT UP.

Don't expect her to admit it, but today's woman, if she is a fair mechanic, has a life that would make her grandmother turn green with envy. Some body else does her haking. A machine does her washing. The milk and groceries are delivered (unless she lives in the city, where the latter amenity has been dispensed with). She doesn't have to pump water or chop kindling or shovel snow or shoot Indians or drive a team or birth babies or preserve fruit.

She has so many time-saving devices she hasn't time to look after them all. And with radio, television, and telephone, she doesn't have to suffer the worst plague of her grandmother: loneliness.

Or does she?

On top of the mechanical aids that have removed the drudgery from her life, she has a husband who might think that a woman's place is in the home—but would not dare say it. Come on, kids, confess that you never had it so good.

Or do you?

Happy Valentine's Day. And even if it's only old Bill Smiley I love you.

Campaign Keynote - Decisiveness

Decisiveness must surely be the keynote of the election campaign in which this country finds itself.

There is clear evidence this campaign will see once again the active interest of a majority of the population well ahead of voting day. This, we suggest, is something long lacking in recent campaigns. Local organizations report supporters volunteering their services, something they are quite unaccustomed to in the opening days of the battle.

Canadians are now taking a serious look at this mess in Ottawa and their interest, we suggest, is long overdue.

The election is poorly timed. Not only is our Canadian winter season a deterrent in some sections of the country to voting, but the country itself faces major policy problems that cannot be settled by politicians busy on the huskings.

It is clear that decisiveness has been lacking in our operations at Ottawa for some time. An unstated defense policy and a wide split in opinion among those responsible for it; our loss of stature as a nation, abroad; our continuing difficulties with unemployment, and a host of other problems have been evident during the life of the present government.

The problem of decisiveness has, in our opinion, been absent for too long. The Canadian people have been "selling" their votes for too long. Promises of candy-coated palliatives for our national ills have grown a little sickening. Frankly we would like to see some national decisiveness in which the plain, hard, cold facts are presented in unadulterated fashion, accompanied by an equal measure of hard, cold cures in similarly unadulterated fashion. We cannot go on forever spending more than we are taking in and this is one of the hard, cold, facts few governments seem willing to cope with.

Defense is bound to be a key issue in this election campaign. If it takes on an Anti-American note, as we expect it will, the lack of decisiveness that has preceded the dissolution of parliament will have contributed greatly to that unfortunate development. It appears that all but one of the political parties have come out with strong and clear statements on their defense stand. The Liberals have supported the honoring of the 1950 agreements that would put nuclear warheads on our already acquired weapons. The Conservatives, it appears, still need more time to think, although some of the cabinet ministers felt this was not necessary as evidenced by their resignations. The N.D.P. has opposed such acquisition and it would appear the dual leadership of the Social Creditors is also united in opposing such acquisition.

The decision each Canadian takes on this and other issues that will develop will govern how they vote. It would appear that

every Canadian will be giving more thought than usual to his vote, too. At least we sincerely hope this will be the case.

The common complaint of recent elections, that there is no real difference between the major parties is no longer valid. On the defense issue alone there is a clear cut difference in policy. That sharp division in itself will establish some party lines. The evidence that this will be a hotly contested election is already gathering. Clearly the people of Canada want some decisiveness as we hope the election will not be looked on as an interlude of entertainment at the expense of Ottawa. The battle of the huskings is a vital one and its outcome must be decisive. No longer can Canada afford the luxury of a weak government quavering in its decisions before the threat of non-confidence votes.

The Utopian bubble every political party has been inflating around us has long since burst. No longer is our stature abroad something to be gloated over and no longer is our economic position at home something to crow about.

As a nation we are in for a dose of perhaps unpleasant medicine, but the leader who is strong enough and decisive enough to administer it is the one who deserves the support of the country.

Above all else this election must be decisive. In recent Canadian politics that seems to be a unique word.

St. John Volunteers

Acton can count itself among Ontario's more fortunate communities, for here in our town, we have "hidden assets" — our citizen volunteers of St. John Ambulance. The latest statistics show that 1,778 hours of voluntary service were given to us by these selfless men and women. In addition to this, they trained thirty-nine interested people in First Aid and Home Nursing, who can now help others who might be sick or injured. This is really quite a gift to our community, because no return is asked for or sought from us. All St. John Ambulance want from Acton during their annual appeal is \$1,000 to cover the incidental expenses for the necessary medical supplies they must have if they are to remain prepared to help us.

Surely Acton will come through with that necessary \$1,000 investment in our "hidden assets".

The only way to keep a good friend is to be one.

The main trouble with the younger generation is that it is so nearly like the older generation was when it was the younger generation. Welland Tribune

NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT

CALEDON—Smokey the cat, owned by Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Patterson, is not only a good mouser but a good rabbit-chaser too. The Pattersons' car disturbed a cottontail hiding in their rear bushes one recent evening, and it bolted into the path of Smokey. With one quick leap of his paw, Smokey snatched the bounding bunny and began a mid-night snack.

BRAMPTON—On a 4-3 vote, neighboring Chinguicousy Council agreed last week to hold a liquor vote in May. The six councillors were split on the decision and Reeve Cyril Clark cast the tie-breaking vote to give the plebiscite a green light. Five separate ballots are planned.

CLARKSON—Toronto Township will soon have a prestige lake-shore development on the former Major James Rattray estate, including a vacation centre surrounded by 150 "estate type" homes in the \$40,000 to \$60,000 category. Since the owner died three years ago several attempts were made to acquire the estate as a wildlife sanctuary.

ERIN—Local high school students have been taking part in a study conducted by the Ontario Department of Health to test food habits. Results showed the boys had better food habits than girls, but both groups leaned toward too many between-meal snacks.

STRETSVILLE—Councillors have decided to lower the boom on dog owners permitting their dogs to run at large through town. Regulations now in effect are to be strictly enforced.

GEORGETOWN—Only sympathy was offered by council when George Turnbull of Islington asked for some help with a property he purchased some years ago. After its purchase the town zoned it as a conservation area, and he can neither build on the land or sell it, yet must keep paying taxes. The Planning Board has been asked to review the situation.

BOLTON—Here's one town where a volunteer ambulance service is paying off. The local drivers showed a \$700 surplus at the end of last year. The drivers have turned down a proposal to pay themselves a small remuneration on a part-time basis.

BURLINGTON—Is it Lorne Ave. or Lorne St? Signs on the road say Arate at one end, and St. at the other. The town map says Street, but the Post Office says it's Avenue.

OAKVILLE—Two Oakville Police constables have been suspended from the force for failure to comply with a directive from the chief. No date has been set for a hearing under the Police Act.

MILTON—Vandals have destroyed six of 21 flowering crab trees planted on the Martin St. boulevard last fall as part of the town's beautification project. The trees, valued at \$12 each, were snapped off about shoulder high, despite metal stakes to which the trees were tied. They were guaranteed, but not against this," said town foreman Bruce McKen.

O.K. School Sale

Name Village Centre Board

Nassagaweya Council Feb. 4th gave its approval in principle to the proposed sale of Milton's Martin St. high school to the public. The school board at \$60,000. The township is one of the five owners since it was part of the former North Halton high school board.

Council member Len Andrews, Ken Moore, Doug Agnew, Bill Coulter, John Robertson, Dr. C. Young and Calvin McIntyre to the "community centre board" at Campbellville for 1963.

Four applicants for the job of assessor were interviewed by council in the near future.

Members endorsed a resolution from the County of Wentworth suggesting manufacturers be prohibited from making mineral-base detergents, blamed for pollution of waterways and damage to sewage disposal plants. A "salvage" yard license renewal was granted Tom Renetti, Lot 1, Con. 5.

Arrangements are being made for councillors outside the Campbellville exchange to use a telephone "credit card". Explain Plans PSI and Halton Medical Co-Op Services explained their health plan enrolments to councillors.

Stuart Camp was named to the planning board.

TO MY VALENTINE The sun shone out in beauty upon the rain-drenched earth. And souls returned to duty. And hope was given birth. The birds, again were winging. And on my heart went, singing. Because you smiled at me. Label Anderson.

In the first nine months of 1962 labor income in Canada was \$910 million, or 6.5 per cent. higher than in the similar period of 1961.

Let's Play Bridge

Board No. 17 produced some interesting results at last Monday's meeting of the Acton Bridge Club. The hand was always played in hearts by east and the results were: bid 4 down 1, bid 3 made 4, bid 2 made 2 and bid 1 made 4. Let's look at the hands.

Dealer—North. Neither side vulnerable. North: S-A H-4-3 D-K Q 10 7 4 3 C-8 6 3 2. West: S-Q 9 7 4 H-A Q 10 7 5 2 D-J 9 8 5 2 D-6 C-K Q 5. South: S-J 8 6 3 2 H-3 8 6 C-J 9 7 4. Suggested bidding: North: 1H Pass. East: 1H Pass. South: 2D Pass. West: 2D Pass.

You may wonder why I suggest four hearts as a final contract. There is really only one lead that will beat four hearts. Provided east does not get careless. If south leads a spade (and there is no reason why he should) and north returns a diamond, then south can give north a spade ruff. Now a diamond return should set up a heart trick for south.

However, most souths would lead the diamond ace and now the spade shift is too late. North will return a diamond and as I said, if east does not get careless, he will ruff high. He can lose two aces and one trump and still make his four. If he is careless and ruffs low, south will overruff and give north a spade ruff.

When south leads the diamond ace and does not continue with a second diamond, he is marked with a singleton in that suit. East is warned and must ruff high.

It could take his diamond ace and lead a club or heart, east simply takes out trump and loses one diamond and one of two spades, depending on his guess. He can still make four. This week's winners: first, Tom Warren, Dick Anderson, second, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Cooper; third, Bruce McQuarrie, Earl Emmond.

Bring your favorite partner out to the Acton Bridge Club and show him or her that "Bridge is a partnership game."

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