

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Sugar and Spice...



Photo by Esther Taylor

Has Canada Failed NORAD?

It is most unfortunate for Canada that a single issue - nuclear arms - has thus far dominated the 1963 election campaign.

We are now in the ridiculous position of holding a great national debate over issues which are not clear, public discussion on technical matters on which most of us are not informed, and a political campaign over issues which should be decided not on the basis of a popular referendum, but by responsible persons elected to act in the national interest.

Last week twenty-six editors representing Canadian Weekly Newspapers from the Atlantic to the Pacific visited NORAD headquarters at Colorado Springs, Colorado.

At NORAD headquarters the group inspected the combat operations centre. This can only be described as the nerve centre of the whole North American Air Defence System.

The briefings and discussions were by Air Marshal Slemmon, RCAF Deputy Commander in Chief NORAD, Air Vice Marshal Lester, RCAF Deputy Chief of Staff Operations, Wing Commander Rolfe, RCAF Intelligence Officer, Mr. G. Selks, Space Analyst, and formerly with the Polish Air Force, the French Air Force, the RAF and the RCAF. Four officers of the U.S. Armed Forces completed the briefing team.

Air Marshal Slemmon joined the staff at its inception in 1957 for a year or so. Since that time he has been in charge of NORAD two thirds of the time because of the absence of the Commander in Chief. In his opening remarks he pointed out that he had discovered U.S. thinking on NORAD was to

prevent the U.S. from ever being in the same position they were in, in 1941.

To make sure such a situation does not develop again they are prepared to expend vast amounts of time, energy, resources and money in North American Defense.

Each briefing was followed by a question period during which every question by the editors was answered without evasion or equivocation. Air Marshal Slemmon answered the questions which had peculiarly Canadian-political implications.

The nuclear arming of the Canadian units engaged in NORAD operations drew the most spirited questioning of the day.

We have armed ourselves at great cost with modern defensive weapons against a possible manned bomber attack from the north, but have not provided the ammunition. Our Bomarc and our Voodoos are "excellent" defensive weapons, but they are inefficient - the Bomarc practically useless without nuclear warheads.

Canada contributes well to defense against surprise with its far-north warning lines. By its non-nuclear weapons policy we are failing to make a proper contribution to keep an attack from being decisive.

A manned bomber attack from Russia is still, and will in all likelihood continue to be, a dangerous possibility for some years. If such an attack were to be launched it is of major importance that as many bombers as possible be intercepted, shot down, and their bombs "cooked".

NORAD is set to do this. For its success it requires that such a raid be detected early and the attacking force destroyed with small nuclear defensive armament in the far north.

Few seem to realize the possibilities of intercepting and destroying such an attacker. Here for this purpose other Bomarc and Voodoos have been acquired.

A Voodoo making a direct hit on an enemy bomber could bring it down. Its nuclear bombs would explode and even if brought down in the far north could cause tremendous damage. If the Voodoos were equipped with a nuclear rocket the enemy bombs would be "cooked" there would be no major nuclear explosion and damage would be confined to the point of impact.

It has been remarked that it is impossible to defend North America against a possible nuclear bomber attack except when we cannot protect ourselves against an intercontinental ballistic missile attack.

(Continued in Next Column)

20 YEARS AGO

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, March 4, 1943

It takes a Minstrel show to pack them in and raise money. This was the finest local presentation we have ever seen. The show played three nights in the town hall to packed houses. Local readers, most of whom saw the show, will bear with us if we give details for the boys in service.

The orchestra had A. Mason as leader, Fred Salt at the keyboard, Charlie Landsborough and A. Mason, cymbal, Rudolph Spielvogel and Wellington Hall, violins, Chas. Mason, cello, Ray Agnew trombone and saxophone, and Ollie Stapleton drums. They were in black tux and wigs with white trousers, cutaway coats and big red ties.

The musical play was entitled "Jealousy Plays a Part", directed by Mrs. J. C. Matthews. In the cast were Anne Holmes, Meryl Kirkness, Lois Dawkins, Garnet McKenzie, Beatrice Van Norman, Robert Sly and Mabel Harris.

For the minstrel part of the show the entire chorus appeared in blackface. There were 23 in the circle. The emcees were Charles Wilson, Charles Kirkness, Jack Grey and Joe Whitlam and the interlocutor, in white dinner jacket, who is the spark plug of the entire show, was R. R. Parker.

The dialogue is bright with local characters worked in.

Chorus quartet ticket were under the direction of Mr. Fred Salt with Mr. H. O. Boyes as his assistant accompanist. The quartet sang "Close Harmony" and in the midst the emcees interrupted with a little burlesque on the number. Jack Greer's song and shuffle were the favorite "Camptown Races" and "I'll give you a word picture. Jack had his own successful individuality in hockey. He hasn't lost any of it in this song. Jack puts everything he has into it.

Ezio Marzi and Jack Holmes made their first appearance in an accordion and clarinet team. The audience was vociferous in applause.

(Continued Next Week)

50 YEARS AGO

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, March 6, 1913

Very sudden was the death of Donald Mann of the third line. His father came to Canada from Scotland back in the forties and settled on the farm where his son has just died. In politics he was a strong Liberal. He was a cousin of Sir Donald Mann.

J. E. McGarvin, one of our local boys, has written to the Free Press from Mexico, the place of a military uprising. The victory is a popular one. It will take years to get the country back in peaceful condition. I have had enough fireworks to do the rest of my life. These rapid-firing guns are a terror and keep up a steady rattle.

The fire alarm on Sunday evening, just as the ministers of various churches were getting through their "firstlies" rather demoralized the reverent attentive listening. The cause was a burning chimney at the house occupied by Israel Boskev on Church St. The fire had subsided before the bell ceased ringing.

Mr. Henderson of the saw mills says there is no exaggeration in the statement there are 28 teams hauling logs.

It is 15 years this week since the death of W. H. Storey, Acton's first mayor, who had much to do with the incorporating of this municipality. He gave employment to large numbers of men.

Chorus quartet ticket respecting the causes which led to the wrecking of the Farmer's Bank was tabled in the House of Commons. It has not much comfort for the shareholders and depositors of Halton County who lost hundreds of thousands of dollars by the smash. Grees, ex-transporter, recklessness, incompetence - dishonesty and fraud were all cited.

A bill before the legislature would give married women who own property the right to vote in municipal elections.

Mr. Ed Ryder has returned from his trip to the Northwest.

Municipal Clerk McKinnon and Division Clerk McNabb have been confined to the house with colds.

Let's Play Bridge

By Bill Coats

This week's hand illustrates a rather rare case of the underdog of high cards at a suit contract. It is one of the few top boards that my wife and I got last week at the Acton Bridge Club.

Dealer - West Hand No. 14 Neither side vulnerable.

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

South S-K 4 H-K Q J 10 5 D-A K 4 C-A K 9 4 2

West Pass North Pass East Pass South 10 Pass 2D 1 Pass 2H Pass 3D 1 Pass 3H Pass 4H All Pass

North could have opened the bidding but I do not disagree with the pass. Once North has limited her hand by a pass then the jump response of two diamonds shows almost an opening bid.

West led the three of spades which I let ride to the king. Four rounds of trump were lead left with the pass. Once North has limited her hand by a pass then the jump response of two diamonds shows almost an opening bid.

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT

GEORGETOWN—Education Minister for Ontario, the Hon. William G. Davis was present last week to officially open the town's new million dollar vocational addition to the high school. Over 2,000 visited the new facilities during an open house. Electronics, electrical, automotive, drafting and woodworking classes are taught in the wing.

BRAMPTON—Investigation of the police department has been requested by a local resident, who claims he was "treated like a pig" by police when he visited the station to lay a theft charge. "Then conduct was unbecoming a police force," he said.

STRETSVILLE—Circulation at the public library has grown more than 1000 volumes in the past year, to a new high of 46,749 during 1962. The library acquired 1,000 new books during the year.

TORONTO TOWNSHIP—Bev Robert Speck talked himself out of a \$1,000 raise offered him as Warden of Peel County. He protested that the county's new committee system would lessen his duties and the raise was unjustified.

BURLINGTON—With two members of town council officially nominated as candidates for the next Provincial election, the town is virtually sure of losing one of them from municipal duties. Mayor Owen Mullin is Liberal candidate for Halton County while Councilor George Kerr is running on the Conservative ticket. Elections for councilors for a two-year term are due next December.

MILTON—There were 488 cars and 1,435 people visiting the Kelco Conservation area and Glen Eden Ski Club on a recent week end survey by the conservation authorities officials. They revealed the majority of the visitors came from Milton, Oakville, and Toronto areas, but Burlington, Hamilton and Guelph districts were well represented too.

(Continued from Editorial)

Air Marshal Slemmon pointed out that the project in the U.S. has to do with the number one priority in the development of a defense against an intercontinental ballistic missile attack. He suggested it was wise to protect ourselves against preventable disasters by vaccination and immunization. Even though there is a risk we will lose against cancer he suggested it was wise to take the best we can get when we have no other hope that in a relatively short time we will have a defense against the missiles.

It has been remarked that it is impossible to defend North America against a possible nuclear bomber attack except when we cannot protect ourselves against an intercontinental ballistic missile attack.

(Continued in Next Column)

67 More Phones Added in Acton

Another year of expansion in telephone facilities in Acton has been completed in a similar situation throughout the territory of The Bell Telephone Company of Canada during 1962. It was revealed in the company's 36th annual report issued this week.

Expansion of facilities and improvement of basic service required expenditures of \$279,000,000 in its operating territories of Quebec, Ontario and Labrador. It is the largest amount ever spent on construction during any year in the company's history.

This wide-scale expansion was also present in Acton with the addition of 67 telephones. C. J. Catalano, Bell manager for this region, said, totalling 1,768 in service here as of December 31.

The Acton Free Press. Published by the Bell Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd. Founded in 1875 and published every Thursday at 39 William St., Acton, Ontario. Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulations, the C.W.N.A. and the Ontario-Quebec Division of the C.W.N.A. Advertising rates on request. Subscriptions payable in advance, \$3.00 in Canada; \$4.00 in England and other Commonwealth Countries; \$5.00 in the United States and other Foreign Countries; single copies 7c. Authorized in Second Class Mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa.

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