

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Sugar and Spice ...

BY BILL SMILEY

20 YEARS AGO

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

(The minstrel show played three nights to packed houses in the town hall. The account is continued from last week.)

For the close dance number, it's hats off to the ladies. Dressed as a cute little pickaninny, Mrs. Johnny Gray did one of the numbers that captivated the audience. George Fountain of Toronto kindly came along and gave a monologue, "A Little Bit of Army Life."

As a solo, Joe Whitham did that old-time favorite, "Alexander's Ragtime Band" and did it mightily well, even to actions. Joe has to be seen gliding across the stage to be appreciated.

The chorus, "Cornfield Melodies" introduced a lot of numbers. Rustis, played by Charles Kirkness, puts a riot of song, pathos, dance and breath-taking action into the number when he sings "O, You Beautiful Doll" to his doll (George Muselle). The young folks of today will recall it when they tell of minstrel shows to their grandchildren.

Final solo is the rousing Irish song "Harrigan," sung by Scotty Burton.

The closing song was conducted by local rhymster Fred Coles, as was the opening chorus.

50 YEARS AGO

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, March 13, 1913.

Action is now one of the best lighted towns in Canada, with the section off the Main Streets completed. The lights were turned on last Wednesday. The result was very satisfactory. Every street is brilliantly illuminated and nearly every home in town has its exterior well lighted. The council has certainly accomplished a wonderful transformation over conditions previously prevailing.

Mrs. A. J. Lehman, and family, who were in the hotel business the past 10 years in the Dominion Hotel, left Monday. Miss Gladys Helman was the very recent manager of St. Joseph's church. They will live in private life in Berlin.

A very enjoyable evening was spent by the audience which gathered to hear an organ recital by Gatty Sellers in Knox church. The rendering of the coronation music, with the able assistance of Miss Lauretta Gray, was the feature of the evening and the chimes were operated with Miss Lillian Williams' assistance. Miss Gray certainly upheld her reputation.

Mr. Robert Watson has purchased a farm from Mr. Alex Lawson, and Mr. Blake Leslie has bought a farm from Mr. Leslie Thompson.

Miss Florence Murray has removed her military rooms to the Perryman Block.

Asghrove post office has been closed. The rural delivery is doing the work now.

Pauline Johnson, poet of the Canadian outdoors died this afternoon. She visited Acton several times and delighted large audiences. On these visits, she was the guest of Mrs. C. S. Smith at Fairview Place and of Mr. and Mrs. Alex Secord at Villanore. She proved herself a charming guest at both these homes and also a delightful correspondent. Mrs. Smith had a letter from her just a few weeks ago.

Not without regret, and with a few secret misgivings, I made a big change a couple of years ago. Frazzled, scrambled, and slightly added, I took myself aside, and we had a serious talk. Just the two of us.

"Smiley, old boy," I said to me, "how much longer do you intend to keep up this nonsense? Is this what you fought in the war for? Is this what you really want out of life, to be a seller of four-dollar ads, a chronicler of endless meetings about nothing, a pacifier of old ladies of both sexes who have a beef, a logger of papers to the post office, a member of 40 organizations, a paver of mortgages, a fighter of lost causes, and a lousy husband and father?"

"I don't," said me in my straightforward, Canadian way. "Watcha gotten mind?"

As a result, soon after, I dog-paddled my way out of the turbulent stream of life as a weekly editor into the quiet backwater of life as a school teacher. I figured I would like back and float there for a while, resting up before I sank quietly out of sight among the bullfrogs and the pollwoggy and the tepidly and the mud of the academic pond.

But I must have fallen asleep in that pond and been washed out to sea, with a force-eight gale blowing breakers every where, my collapsible life-belt doing just that, and my emergency rocket flares in my other pants.

It's just not that simple. You can't just turn your back on life. That aging but still bristling mistress you kept in stink for years, had so much fun with, doing so many crazy things with, and expect her to let you walk quietly into the sunset.

Our Readers Write

NORAD QUESTIONS

Milton, March 3, 1963.

To the Editor, Acton Free Press and The Canadian Champion, "Has Canada failed NORAD?" Mr. David Dills inserted in his very convincing editorial for the support of nuclear arms the following sentence: "We will no doubt be accused of having been browbeaten by the RECAF public relations in that order."

The peculiar thing to me was that 27 weekly editors, who by their own admittance are always too busy with local news to pay any attention to any other news, should be chosen for a free trip to NORAD HQ at Colorado Springs.

If the issue is so important would it not have been more reasonable to invite some of those who have come out loud and clear against nuclear arms in order to prove to them how wrong they are?

Oh how cunning is the political ploy responsible for picking a bunch of "greenhorns" for the bromishing, especially "greenhorns" who could influence so many voters!

Mr. Dills failed to mention whether any of those present were qualified to keenly question any of the facts put before them. This would be most interesting to know.

Mother of Two's PS: I would refer readers to page 26 of March 1963 Readers Digest which says: By the Ballistic Missile Early Warning System, SAC (American) could detect in quick time any missile launched from the Soviet Union. Why then does Canada need to arm obsolete Bombers and Voodoos?

Milton, March 5, 1963
To the Editor, Acton Free Press
Two questions and a comment on Mr. Dave Dills' editorial last week please.
1. Are the Russians who are able to put a man in orbit and return him to earth successfully, also a member of our parliament?
2. Assuming that the Russian who is a member of our parliament, would he be able to put a man in orbit and return him to earth successfully?
3. A little more adequate information given by Miss Dickinson in her recent nomination meeting is that the U.S. intelligence estimates that the Russians have 1000 intercontinental ballistic missiles, many of which are in the hands of the military. All of these are in the hands of the military. The American has three times as many. If either side, by accident or design, ever started a war, the whole world would be destroyed in my opinion. It is urgent and imperative that Canadians everywhere support the candidates who will form a strong and strong government, and instead pour every effort into working for world peace.
Sincerely,
Mother of Two.

arms of that Other Woman—dear old dim, dull Peace.

She won't do it. She'll hurl abuse at you in public. She'll throw gravel at your window on moonlit nights. She'll trip you as you march heavily toward respectability. She'll put black squirrels in your attic and black thoughts in your head. She'll just plain raise hell until you take her back.

I've tried. I've looked the other way when she flouted herself. I've held her at arms' length until I ran out of arms. I've put my head in the sand when she approached (and received a kick in the rump for my pains).

But she's given me the works. I determined I would never act on another committee, join another organization, donate any of my free time to anything, or do anything for anybody, unless it were life or death.

What happened? Life cackled with glee, and I find myself on numerous committees, a member of several organizations, lunching out of bed to teach Sunday School, collecting for the Red Cross, putting out the school yearbook, and giving help to backward students, after hours.

I determined I would be a better husband. Life sneered. Every time I tried to oust a bad habit, she was right there, tantalizing. So I still lug home the box of suds, light one fag from the end of another, stay up till 4 a.m. reading, occasionally try to tell my wife she's wrong, and avoid any discussion of repairs, renovations or renewals.



I decided to be a better father. Like cholera. When I took up skiing, the kids were embarrassed. When I come home ready for a fatherly chat, everybody disappears. When I ask them if they'd like to go for a nice family drive, they look at each other significantly and roll their eyes. Only this morning, Kim said, "Dad, you don't seem happy any more. You're acting kinda strange lately."

I swore I'd never have anything to do with politics again, on any level. Life snickered: I'll wear it was she who put the skids under Diet, just to make a fool of me. At any rate, not one, but two of the local candidates have asked me to give them a hand, and I've promised both.

These are only the major obstacles she has thrown between me and my courtship of that cool but complacent lady known as Peace. She has also: Hashed in the rear end of my car; loaded my eaves-troughs with ice to the perilous point; arranged for my cat to get in the family way again; tracked me into getting five specks behind in my work; broken the zipper on my snowboot, and put my hot water system on the blink.

I give up. Come back, you old trullion, and I'll embrace you as of yore, and forget about Peace, who never did appeal to me much anyway.

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Dear Mother of Two ...

Last week we carried an editorial, "Has Canada Failed NORAD?" We are naturally gratified that this editorial comment has created some interest with our readers—we have received several letters to the editor on the subject, some of which are printed in this issue. While we do not always agree with the thoughts expressed in letters to the editor, we do uphold the right of every person writing a letter to the editor and signing his name, to have his views published.

However, we did not write our editorial last week to create interest. What we tried to do was to present an honest, clear, unemotional assessment of the facts and fallacies, based on our observations during a visit to NORAD headquarters. Apparently we did not make one major point quite clear. The point is that NORAD's mission is to defend the North American continent against aerospace attack. The role of SAC (Strategic Air Command) of the U.S. is the counter-offensive portion of deterrence. The two should not be confused. NORAD is the only field in which Canada has agreed to co-operate. SAC is strictly a U.S. project. Canada has not been asked, and it is highly unlikely to be asked, to participate in their activities.

The editorial was printed in the Acton Free Press and the Canadian Champion; therefore we are publishing letters from readers of both papers. Since one letter has asked some questions we will reply to it in this column.

In your second paragraph you suggest the editorial was "for the support of nuclear arms." I would like to point out I favor the arming of our Bombers and Voodoos with nuclear warheads, which could only be used for defence. I did not suggest we should have nuclear arms for all our armed forces.

In your third paragraph it is peculiar to you that 27 weekly editors who are always busy, etc. should be chosen for a free trip to NORAD. Weekly editors are busy in a weekly newspaper, local news is the primary concern. When national and international news has a local interest it too becomes of local interest. The weekly editors were not chosen for a free trip. The editors through their national association requested information and the trip was arranged by the RCAF. The trip was not free. The three days of the trip were part of my 1962 holidays. I'm sure if you would like to use your holidays to go to NORAD they would welcome you.

Paragraph 4: The issue is important. It has been important for many years and the main point we made last week was the distressingly small number of our now vocal parliamentary experts who have visited NORAD. If there had been a committee on defense in the last parliament these com-

mittee members at least would have visited NORAD.

Paragraph 5: No political party "picked a bunch of greenhorns." The group was composed of editors, members of the board of directors of CWNA, representing newspapers from coast to coast in Canada. I don't know the personal political views of each of the editors but I do know each of the major Canadian political parties was represented. What the influence of our editorial opinion is, we cannot hazard a guess.

Paragraph 6: Who is qualified to question facts? No person or group of persons can in one day check the work of specialists who have been working on the subject for over six years. Editors and reporters make their living by being able to uncover and evaluate facts.

Paragraph P.S. The Bombers and Voodoos when armed are not obsolete. Manned bombers carrying nuclear bombs are and will continue to be for some years to come, the major threat.

Letter 2, Question 1 -
What the Russians are likely to use as a means of attack is a question to ask the Russians. There is certainly a possibility they would use manned bombers. While the number of Russian bombers in service has decreased, the reduction in numbers has been more than offset by the increased capability and capacity of their modern aircraft.

Question 2: The building of the necessary launching pads for Bombers has ceased because they're finished. All that remains to be done is the arming of the missiles.
Paragraph 4: Russians and Americans both have ICBMs. At the present time there is no defense against them. Whichever country develops a defence against ICBMs first will certainly be in an advantageous military position. Both countries are working on defence systems. Americans have assigned the project a No. 1 priority.

At the present time there are four countries in the "nuclear club": Russia, Britain, America and France. These countries can produce atomic weapons. By assigning priority to the project Canada could produce an atomic device in four to five years. But accepting nuclear warheads for our Bombers and Voodoos for defence could not be construed as joining the nuclear club. The range of these two weapons would not permit them to be used offensively. We are not going to pay anything additional for the nuclear arms for our Bombers and Voodoos.

There is nothing, and has been nothing for many years, to stop us from pouring every effort into working for world peace. I too would like to pour every effort into working for world peace. I believe, though, that a strong deterrent is insurance that would permit a continued effort toward world peace.

FATHER OF ONE

Our Readers Write

HAS CANADA FAILED NORAD?
51 Meadvale Road,
Acton,
March 3rd, 1963.

The Editor, Acton Free Press,
After reading your editorial under the above heading, I have come to the conclusion that it is just as well that no more than 118 Canadians have seen fit to visit NORAD headquarters. I will admit however that in making up your mind for nuclear arms for Canada, you did at least make an honest attempt to assess the facts. And did not base your opinion on the ill-fated Liberal Gallup Poll.

Before going any further in this discussion and running the risk of being accused of not knowing what I am talking about, I would like to point out that I have been closely associated in Canada for the past 12 years with both ground to air and air to air radar. I will state without fear of contradiction that the Early Warning System now in use in the D/W. MidCanada and Bowling Line is the most efficient system designed and operated for the detection of attacking aircraft and is stated in your editorial "Canada Combines Well".

However, we now come to Canada's other role in NORAD: interception and destruction of enemy aircraft. I do not doubt for months ago, the RCAF were using the now obsolete Avro C100 as a primary interceptor. The Air Force planned to replace this aircraft with the Avro C100 Arrow. The USA were using the F-100 and they intended to replace them with the F-105 and F-106. The Arrow was cancelled and the F-105 and F-106 were cancelled. We are now using the F-102 and F-104. The Arrow was cancelled and the F-105 and F-106 were cancelled. We are now using the F-102 and F-104.

At the moment we are using the F-102 and F-104. The Arrow was cancelled and the F-105 and F-106 were cancelled. We are now using the F-102 and F-104. The Arrow was cancelled and the F-105 and F-106 were cancelled. We are now using the F-102 and F-104.

The USA is in possession of countless ICBMs buried deep in underground silos. They have

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