"Spring Fever"

—Photo by Esther Taylor

Time Now to Forget the Line . . .

Now that the dust has apparently settled on the county voting power and its distribution between north and south Halton, we sincerely hope the issue and the imaginary dividing line can be quickly forgotten.

In recent years there have been very few issues of such a regional nature that support was split on a north-south basis. The question of voting power alone has been the most contentious problem of this type.

According to action approved by county council on Tuesday, the towns of Oakville and Burlington will have the same number of votes as Milton, Acton, Georgetown, Esquesing and Nassagaweya. If an increase in population in the north permits another northern vote, one also is added to the south. The reverse is also true.

In the event of a sharp north - south split on a proposal a majority of three votes will be required for approval. That is, if the south makes a proposal that is unacceptable to the north, they must swing the votes of at least one northern representative that holds two votes. The result would then be 19-15.

If there is an area of inequality remaining, it is that four representatives in the south control 17 votes while the same number of votes in the north are divided among 10 men. It is this that caused some members to observe it was a lot of power in the hands of a few men.

For clarity in discussions it has been necessary to make frequent references to the north and the south. No one has ever bothered to define what is north of where and what is south of where. It is quite an imaginary line and it does ring of Civil War days. We do hope this imaginary dividing line can now be forgotten in the much broader task of doing what is good for the whole county.

The increasing importance of the county in local government is repeatedly emphasized as it extends its influence through county-wide services. There is every reason to believe this will continue.

If the necessary private bill sponsored by Burlington and Oakville is now approved incorporating the solution arrived at Tuesday, perhaps the north-south interests can be minimized and the county interests elevated. It largely depends on the stature of the men sitting as county councillors.

A Serious Situation . . .

In this community we face a serious decision. We say in this community, but the situation is really prevalent throughout the length and breadth of Canada. As a country we need a government. The type of government we choose is to be a strong determining factor in the kind of country we plan to be.

The election campaign has barely warmed up yet but already we detect many "party" men torn in their loyalties and those loyalties are not limited to one or two parties. We have heard some suggest they just won't vote como April 8 because they've never voted against the "party" yet.

Surely we are a rational enough people to realize we can't bury our head in the sand in ostrich fashion to escape a responsibility to vote for the candidate we feel can best implement those policies to which we adhere.

Enumerators, we are told, were in some cases appalled when they called at homes to list voters for the April 8 election. Some citizens were in a quandary and asked what election the enumerators were talking about. It is shocking in these days of mass media; television in every living room, radios in every home and newspapers on every coffee table, to find there are citizens who are not aware of the election and its significance.

Surely as citizens we have an obligation to study the differences in party policies, the stature of candidates and the ability of men to carry out policies in the national interest rather than a regional or individual interest. Surely as Canadians we do not expect to be bribed by our parliamentarians to obtain votes. Surely we have come to realize that this land of milk and honey will not produce its bounty merely by wishful thinking and the largest of elected governments. Surely as adults we realize sacrifice is sometimes necessary and indeed essential if we are to play our part in the scheme of things.

As individual citizens in this community and across the nation we have an important role to play in the election April 8. But our role must extend even beyond that to become one of participation and continuing interest in the government of our country. To play that role adequately we must analyze events and reach conclusions on the issues that will affect the future of the nation.

Editorial Briefs . . .

Every man of courage is a man of his word. Pierre Corneille

The best proof that appearances are deceiving is the fact that the dollar looks the same as it did ten years ago.

Civilization is a movement and not a condition, a voyage and not a harbor.

Arnold Toynbee

The Acton Free Press

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THE GOOD OLD DAYS

20 YEARS AGO

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, March 11, 1943.

Last evening Mr. James Douglas sustained serious injuries when he was attacked by the Durham bull on his farm in Esquesing Township. Had it not been for the prompt action of the hired man, Joe Raven, the farm owner might have been gored to death.

The accident occurred when Mr. Douglas was taking the animal from the stable. He fell on the slippery ground and was immediately attacked by the bull. He was given medical attention at the time and later removed to hospital in Guelph.

Company Sergeant-Major Jack Alger of Acton, who is with the Canadian forces overseas, has been awarded the first clasp to the Canadian Efficiency medal. Congratulations are in order to the former Acton man who is doing an excellent job in the army.

Over 1,000 persons attended the three-night performance of the minstrel show in the town hall and we are happy to report gross receipts amounted to $339.40. The money will be used to help the boys in the armed services.

During a meeting of the school board this week trustees approved a resolution making it compulsory for children under the age of 16 to attend school. Permits will be granted in special cases of dire necessity. This action stemmed from a report the school attendance was being reduced on account of wartime conditions and permits were being granted unnecessarily.

In keeping with the salvage drive over 182 tons of material have been collected resulting in $2,000 collected. The committee in charge is doing a wonderful job and the citizen's response has been most encouraging.

The snow storm Saturday left piles of snow on the roads similar to those the early part of the winter.

50 YEARS AGO

Taken from the files of the Free Press, Thursday, March 21, 1913.

On Sunday morning about 10.30 the fire alarm pealed out and startled citizens generally as they were getting ready for church. It was ascertained that the alarm was rung by Walter Foreman, an employee of Messrs. Beardmore and Co., who has resided here for several months. He had not been working for several days and was in an angry mood.

Chief Lawson arrested him and placed him in the cells, the doors of which he shattered badly in endeavoring to escape. When he came before Reeve Hynds and H. P. Moore J.P. Monday morning, his wife gave evidence that he had assaulted her on Saturday night and threatened to take her life. He was committed for trial and Chief Lawson removed him to the county jail.

Five inches of snow fell last Friday and country roads were almost competely filled as the high winds swirled the snow around into heavy drifts. The entrance to the cemetery was completely blocked and a path had to be made across the grass.

One of the largest delegations ever to attend were present for council this week to protest against a proposal made in council a couple of weeks ago to lower the cigarette license fee. Several of the delegates spoke to council and stated their dissatisfaction against boys smoking. Before the citizens left, they were assured council would do everything within their power to please the delegation.

Mr. W. D. Anderson, expressman, left on Saturday for a prospecting trip to Hartney, Manitoba. He may settle in the west. In the meantime, Mr. Mack McDonald is running the express business.

The Acton quartette were guests during the anniversary church services at Crewsons Corners Sunday. Singing were Messrs. Gibson, Mann, Henderson and Williams with Miss Laurette Gray as accompanist.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT

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. "Their conduct was unbecoming a police force," he said.

STREETSVILLE—Circulation at the public library has grown more than 3,000 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—Reeve 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 Councillor George Kerr is running on the Conservative ticket. Elections for councillors for a two-year term are due next December.

TERRA COTTA—Two fires have gutted the history 105-year-old MacLaren's Castle near here, and owner James D'Rops of Brampton is afraid he can't afford to rebuild it. The Castle was built in 1858, probably an imitation of a Scottish castle. It contained 18 rooms.

Our Readers Write

ANSWER WITH UNITED NATIONS?

Acton, Ontario
March 5, 1963.

Editor
Acton Free Press
Dear Editor

In reading your editorial February 28th, on the Nuclear Arms issue, I would certainly have to agree with your comment regarding the brainwashing by the U.S. NORAD and R.C.A.F. public relations department. They seem to have done just that. I'm not suggesting that these parties are not represented by responsible men, but only that they have made it quite clear in the past where their stand is on this issue.

The U.S. State Department recently issued a statement saying that these weapons are obsolete and [illegible] reason for continuing their production was the great cost involved in developing them and the blow that would be felt if they were dropped. So the great question seems to be, what are we anti-missiles with obsolete weapons or [illegible] of developing them.

Yet we say that it was [illegible] by the U.S. [illegible] in this issue. Is [illegible] of my opinion that we did not have to let NORAD [illegible] for my much [illegible] attack and that we must resist attempts by communist infiltration into underdeveloped countries.

Now, I know that we must do something to protect ourselves against a very small extent from manned bombe attack from the north by matching these nuclear arms but let's look a little beyond that. If the Russians are going to invade, even if we could stop their bombers, do you really think that they would stop at that when they have intercontinental missiles in great abundance to fall back on? And thinking further, what is to stop them from sending these missiles over first and destroying these nuclear bases we have set up, leaving a clear way for their bombers? So what are we really protecting ourselves against by accepting these nuclear warheads? I think very little.

So this brings us to the third and by all means the most important of the three communist infiltration into underdeveloped countries. Now, if we are really going to concern ourselves about communist attack this is where we must concentrate. While we are debating about an obsolete weapon, they are moving further and further into these countries and more than likely sitting back laughing at us. And we are doing next to nothing to stop them.

So the real answer is not at NORAD but I think more likely with the United Nations. So unless we start devoting more time and money and try to free these countries from this communist infiltration we are not really protecting ourselves against communist attack.

Bob Plunkwalter
180 Churchill Road

Dr. Best Named Landrace Pres.

At a recent meeting in Montreal of the Canadian Landrace Swine Association provincial and federal breed associations director Sandy Best of Georgetown was elected President.

Dr. Best has served on the Government Advisory R.O.P. Board for Swine, as Canadian Landrace breed representative and at the Montreal meeting he proposed the establishment of a Swine Industry Council for Canada.

Sugar and Spice . . .

BY BILL SMILEY

A month from now it will be all over. Have you decided yet which way you're going to vote? It's tough, isn't it? The experts tell us there's only one real issue in this election—that of nuclear arms.

Well, I'm telling them right now, if they can't think of something a little brighter than that to vote for, or against, they needn't expect me to vote at all.

Let's say, just for the sake of argument, that I'm an ordinary Canadian voter, which I am, who is flatly opposed to nuclear arms for Canada, which I am. Who the heck am I going to vote for?

Diefendummer says we won't have any of these atrocities in Canada, sort of. But if a war starts, he'll blow his whistle and stop the play while we send a couple of trucks down to Detroit or somewhere and pick up nuclear noses for those Bonieheads or whatever they call them, that the Yanks unloaded on us. Makes me go all hot and cold when I think that I voted for that fellow one time.

Then there's Lesser Person. Lesser reminds me of the girl who sang in the choir and taught Sunday School, but took a drink one night on a sleighride and now dances third from the left in the chorus line at the Purple Garter. Lesser, who once remarked sensibly that he'd rather be red than dead, who once won the Nobel Peace Prize, now wants to press those hideous heads into the hot little hands of our gallant lads in uniform. How could I vote for him?

And of course we have that new party, Tweedledum vows that the party wouldn't touch nuclear arms with a 10-foot Tory. Tweedledee says the party will accept limited use of nuclear arms. Tweedledum says to Tweedledee, "Comment ca va, Bob?" "English translation, ("How's that again, Bub?"). Tweeldedee informs Quebec audience that the party wouldn't touch nuclear arms with an 11-foot Tory. I'd like them to be a little more explicit. Is it to be no nuclear arms for anybody, or just a sprinkling here and there, or no nuclear arms for Quebec?

There's only one party left. It's been left for years, and will probably be left again on election day. The grinning leader of the Indeepees, somewhere in there among all the jokes, has stated unequivocally that his party is against nuclear arms at home or at school, at work or at play. Does this mean that, because it's the only party that agrees with me, I have to vote Socialist, whether I want to or not?

I told you this one-issue business was ridiculous. The sooner the politicians get back to some good, old-fashioned election issues, the sooner we'll all know where we're at. You know the sort of thing I mean: higher salaries for everybody and lower taxes for all; free dentures for everybody who believes fluoridation; government subsidies for credit card carriers; free twist lessons for all over 80; a month's supply of oil free, on April Fuel Day. We want something the voter can get his teeth into, not this tasteless, rubbery nuclear nonsense.

What about a shot in the arm for bilingualism, and thereby Canadian unity? More French in the schools would do it. And I don't mean text books. The party that promised it would import a few thousand Parisian models and plunk them on our teaching staffs would be doing more to create national unity than all the shredded wheat boxes printed in French and English between here and Trois Rivieres.

What I'm looking for is a straightforward party of the old school that will offer a solid program of the type we're familiar with: outlawing liquor and lowering the legal drinking age; free medical care for every man who can prove, in triplicate, that he's dying of an incurable disease; polygamy, with all household expenses to be shared equally by the working wives; a chicken in every Jaguar.

Nuclear arms my foot! If they keep up that foolishness, I'll vote (and I think I can swing my wife) for Mahatma Ghandi.

Let's Play Bridge

By Bill Coats

For the past three years, my wife and I have been using the "Weak No Trump" to help solve our opening bid problems. An opening bid of 1 No Trump show 12 - 14 points and balanced distribution. The hand may contain an unguarded doubleton. The weak no trump has several advantages, one of which is a rather negative one. If your partner does not open 1 No Trump, then the hand is either stronger than 14 points or has distributional advantages.

Naturally, we have had some poor results because we have opened 1 No Trump, but until last Monday at the Acton Bridge Club, I cannot recall getting a good result because we did not open a regular 1 No Trump with 16-18 points.

This is Board No. 11.

Dealer—South.

Neither side vulnerable.

North
S—8 6 5 4 2
H—K 10 7
D—7 5 3
C—4 3

West
S—A
H—Q 4 2
D—A K 10 9 6 4
C—J 7 6

East
S—Q J 10 9
H—J 8 3
D—Q 8
C—10 9 5 2

South
S—K 7 3
H—A 9 6 5
D—J 2
C—A K Q 8

South	West	North	East
1 C	1 D	Pass	Pass
Dble.	2 D	Pass	Pass
Pass			

When the board was played at the other tables, South opened 1 No Trump. This is not good with a weak doubleton diamond but sometimes you cannot cover all possibilities. Even 3 diamonds in South's hand would not change the final outcome. West led a low diamond and every South went down one.

With our weak no trump, my wife could not open 1 No Trump and chose 1 club instead. West's overcall is very reasonable and when the bid came back to South, she doubled for take-out. Although I would have liked to show my spades, I passed West's rebid of 2 diamonds. This ended the auction.

West can only make seven tricks. Even if he tries a ruffing finesse in spades, which works, there is no re-entry to the good spades. The diamond queen is needed to get to dummy for the spade finesse. Notice that North-South must not lead hearts as that gives declarer a heart trick. If West is left to his own devices, he can never win a heart.

One success does not mean that a bid is good. If you feel like trying the weak no trump, do some reading on it first and be prepared for some failures as well as some success. Don't use it if you do not like playing no trump contracts.

Last week's winners: first, Duke Wilson, Frank Ferguson; second, Tom Warnes, Dick Anderson; third, Lloyd Kerr, Earl Emond.

This week's winners: first, Mike Lorusso, Manny Dalton; second, Earl Emond, Bruce McQuarrie; third, Tom Warnes, Dick Anderson.

—The two skin divers who were practising in Barry Lake last year have written to the Free Press. They have established a full-time business, went to the east coast and discovered a sunken wreck. They are going back there to search for more wrecks and also work on wrecks, they say.

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Westbound
10.27 a.m.; 12.57 p.m.; 2.57 p.m.; 5.27 p.m.; 7.27 p.m.; 9.12 p.m.; 11.32 p.m.; 1.02 a.m. (Sat. only).

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