

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

50 YEARS AGO

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, April 17, 1913.

The contractors for the construction of the new electric radial line through Acton are really getting down to business. This week a car of horses and 75 men arrived to start preparations for filling in the span across Fairy Lake.

Tenders will close the end of the month for constructing a new post office and custom house on Mill Street. Several contractors have visited postmaster Mathews to see the plans before they submit their bid.

The compulsory licensing of all drivers of motor vehicles that they must carry lights after dusk and before dawn, so as to be seen before and behind was approved by the government last week.

The generous financial support afforded the committee appointed to solicit subscriptions for the fall fair is very encouraging and as a result a general meeting, open to the public is called for this Saturday, when it is hoped, a committee of officers can be appointed to prepare for Acton's own fall fair.

A Milton baker appeared before the magistrate this week charged with making bread under the required 24-ounce and 48-ounce. He pleaded guilty and paid \$5 and a bag of bread was confiscated. He claimed he could not make any money selling bread of full weight.

Henderson's saw mill is a busy place this week, as 39 teams are hauling logs from the bush to the mill. Processed lumber is also being hauled to the G.T.R. station for shipment.

Several complaints have been received recently regarding the illegal use of firearms. Complaint is made that two men on Beardmore Crescent were seen firing shotguns and residents in the area are fearful for the children. Two young boys were firing a 22 rifle in the park and officer Lawson confiscated the gun and apprehended the boys. Mr. J. C. Nelson reported that bullets whizzed past his daughter's car as she walked up the street the other day. Mr. John A. Henderson, in complaints bullets have been flying about in his mill yard. Anyone caught discharging firearms within the limits will be fined heavily and perhaps imprisoned, depending on the seriousness of the offense.

20 YEARS AGO

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, April 8, 1943.

Last Thursday evening the local committee was organized for the Fourth Victory Loan. In view of the fact several of the committee chairmen are now assisting the county unit some changes had to be made. Mr. A. Mason is county chairman. The following were chosen: Honorary chairmen, Reeve J. M. McDonald and Deputy Reeve J. W. Murray; Chairman, Mr. G. A. Dills; Vice Chairman, Mr. G. A. Dills; Chairman, General Sales, Mr. H. R. Force; Chairmen, Payroll Savings Section, Mr. E. S. Force and Mrs. G. W. Mason; Public Relations committee, Mr. W. J. Oakes, chairman; Mr. R. R. Arnold and Mr. G. W. McKenzie.

General Committee, Mrs. R. R. Arnold, Miss M. Z. Bennett, Messrs. Chris Moffat, George Muscille, Alex Orr, J. H. Creighton, W. D. Talbot, R. H. Elliott, R. R. Parker, J. H. Boulton, H. O. Boyes, F. S. Blow, F. Dawkins, W. K. Graham, W. H. Clayton, Wm. Coon, Harding Price, Chas. Cutsis, Wm. Benson, Lorne Mullin, M. M. Leitch, the Regents of the two chapters of the I.O.D.E. and the presidents of Acton's Bannockburn and Dublin Institutes and the Scout Mothers.

There's quite a movement of wood these days in and out of storage at the arena. It's processed at the plant here by the Wool Combing Corporation.

A special appeal for clothing for Russia has been received. Used articles should be left with Mrs. J. F. Wilds.

Another Acton young woman has joined the armed forces. Mrs. Joan Waldie has enlisted in the R.C.A.F. women's division.

Two feet of snow fell in a storm a year ago this week. Members of Acton Y.M.C.A. and their friends enjoyed one of the finest social evenings of the season on Friday, Mr. W. J. Beattie was chairman. Cards were played and Miss Jean Harris and Don Evans won euchre prizes. Prizes for brigade were won by Mrs. E. E. Barr, Mr. Ivan Harris, Mrs. C. V. Force and Mr. Bowman. Mr. R. E. Parker and some of the men of the minstrel show put on a program of fun.

Sugar and Spice...

BY BILL GIBNEY

Well, now that nonsense is over (and boy! aren't there a lot of dopey voters in this country?) we can get back to the important things of life.

I'd like, at this time, to pass along a vote of appreciation to the women of Canada. They have put up with a great deal in the past couple of weeks, and it's not over yet. It has been a harassing experience, but they've taken it as bravely as usual. No, I don't mean the election.

Night after night, our women have wheedled, coaxed and threatened, trying to get small boys and grandfathers to bed at a decent hour. Night after night, they have received only blank, uncomprehending stares from their husbands.

But hold, ladies. Reck naught of the scowls of young Wilber, the snarls of grampa. Don't be distressed by the utter nothingness of your hitting half. Bear with them. NHL playoff time is to them what Paris is to a middle-aged French teacher, what Stratford is to the faded chap who helped paint the scenery for the Havfork Centre Drama-Festival.

Stanley Cup time is a wonderful spring tonic. It is Alice in Wonderland and Peter Pan to the males in your family, from eight to 80. Where you see only a lot of large young men rushing at each other, they see a ballet. Where you see only brutality and bloodshed, they see the drama of a bullfight. As you slobber at the bestial roar of the arena, they are thrilling to the skill and gallantry of the gladiators.

You see, mum, hockey at its best is poetry in motion, music in flight. An NHL goalie has all the grace and delicacy of a toreador. Maybe we don't think of these comparisons, as we sit on the edges of our chairs, watching the warriors weave their intricate design of combat, but we're aware of them. It's a national disease, pretty well restricted to the male species, and it makes the so-called "fever" of the World Series or the Grey Cup game look like a mild case of the sniffles, in comparison.

Now did we get this way? Well, it's a little embarrassing to explain. But nine out of 10 boys in this country are exposed to hockey at an early age. And eight out of 10 of them have had, at one time or another, a desperate desire to become a truly great hockey player. The urge may have lasted five minutes or five years, but it was so powerful it hurt, when it was in force.

And about 90 per cent of us know perfectly well that if it hadn't been for sheer bad luck, or bad management, we'd have made the NHL. Some of us were too heavy, some too light. Some were a little slow; others could not hoist the puck. Some started to smoke; others to go out with girls. It was just some lousy break like that that kept us out of the big time.

Even knowing this, however, we're not envious. We watch the best players in the world with the complacent camaraderie of a movie extra watching the "stars" at work, with the friendly concern of a baroque stripper watching a prima ballerina. We sit there as they flash about the ice, and muse, "There, but for the fact that I always went over on my ankles, go I."

During my own hockey career, in the days when we used department store catalogues for shinpads, I played in the same pee-wee league as a fellow who later went up to Detroit Red Wings. I still think it was only the fact that he could skate six or eight times faster than I could that made him outdistance me in our hockey careers. Many a time I tripped him as he went by.

Go through any family and you'll find they have some great hockey traditions like this. That far-fellow watching TV, once scored the winning goal with only eight seconds to go, if the lousy ref hadna called it back for an offside. That old gentleman in the rocker remembers the time Howie Morenz came to town, when Howie was still an amatcher, and he'd have seen him play if he hadna been working the night shift that night. That urchin gnawing his nails in the corner, why, he was the third highest scorer in the third-best team in the Squirts league, this very winter.

Oh, it may all seem very childish to you women. But it's in our blood. It's part of the simple, strong poetic heritage of the Canadian male. Have patience. The plague wanes shortly. And then, but not until then, will you retrieve us in the dull, ordinary rumb of family togetherness.

Let's Got Down to Business

Monday's election in Halton County did not reflect the indecision of the contest of last June. Harry Harley amassed a majority of the votes cast to top the polls and join the larger group in the Commons.

It was Halton's first experience with five candidates on the ballot. In comparing the returns with those of June 1962 indications are that the N.D.P. lost support, probably to the Liberals as did the Conservatives. The Social Credit candidate made an even poorer showing in this latest contest and the effect of the Independent Conservative candidate was negligible.

Indications are that the trend toward a Liberal government was strong in Halton as it was nationally. The strength was, however, not sufficient to take Canada out of the grips of a minority government.

We still feel, as we did after the last election, that a minority government, properly directed in the interest of the country, is not as disastrous as some would have us believe. As Canadians we are in need of decisive leadership undoubtedly. If a minority government brings in legislation in the best interest of Canadians, opposition parties would be foolhardy to obstruct.

The Liberal government is now on stage, a stage vacated by a poorly performing Conservative government. If the new cast works as a team with adequate supporting bit players Canada will be the beneficiary. If the cues are missed, the lines fumbled and the production lacks the co-operative team effort, we will be in the midst of another

command performance of electioneering.

Our congratulations go to Harry Harley on his victory in Halton as well as to all the candidates who battled long and hard for the local vote. It has been one of the most exciting elections in our recollection and the campaign was carried out without mud slinging or defamation of the characters of those who sought to serve.

The all-candidate meetings became popular in Halton with one held in most urban centres. This, we suggest, may be the spark needed to get politics back in the interest of the people. They did not always play to capacity houses but the meetings did give the voters an honest opportunity to see the candidates in action and to compare the merits of the platforms offered.

As a nation we have much work to do. As voters we sincerely hope we have commissioned "big boys" to go to Ottawa to do the job. We're not interested in hearing of childlike antics from any of our representatives. The situation we've been led to believe, is too serious and we look for action.

There are plenty of matters requiring decisive action, things to be set in motion following the paralysis an election inflicts on the business of a country, cabinet ministers to be named, courses charted and legislation prepared. If reports indicate this is not the co-operative intention of the representatives elected, those of us back at the "grass roots" are going to be more than a little displeased.

Let's get this country back down to business... now.

When Summer Comes

Soon the warm weather will be here; freshly cleaned summer furniture will be set up in gardens and on patios — and windows will be thrown open all across the land.

The prospect makes us receptive to a release from the Ontario Safety League. "In Britain", it says, "it is an offence to use a motor horn on a moving vehicle between 1.30 a.m. and 7 a.m. in built-up areas, or at any time on a stationary vehicle."

Civilized folk, the British, they have better mastery of gracious living, whether in the pub or on the streets and roads than have city dwellers in Canada. The only question may be if silence in summer worth freezing in winter?

But this time of year we think so — too often the loud blast on the street means only that a driver is just too lazy or discourteous to get up off his well-upholstered seat cushions, walk up to a door and knock on it or ring the bell, and escort his companion to his heap in person.

In the old days (ah yes, always the good old days!) what well-bred young swain would train his horse to neigh or whinny ferociously as a notice of his arrival? Dad would fall out of his hammock, and Mother run for the flat-iron.

It's just too easy for people to make noises these days. We need to impress upon some that bells and knockers aren't just fitted on doors as conveniences for brush salesmen and solicitors of subscriptions, and horns on cars aren't trained to say "Hello" on busy streets.

It's okay to play dumb if you're really playing.

Back in Grandpa's day there was something to make you sleep well. They called it work.

Conscience is a dreadful bore. The more you listen to it, the more it talks.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT

MILTON—Officials of the Hand Chemical Industries, Cooksville, have announced their intention to purchase a 44-acre industrial site on the Third Line east of Milton, for a new plastics and metal industry and licensed warehouses. The purchase is dependent on services from the town. The firm would also locate its head office here.

BRAMPTON—A resident has petitioned the Brampton Water Commission for a giant water softener for the town's water supply. One has been used in Weston as a master softener for the whole town, from 1948 to 1955. A preliminary study is being made by the water commission.

STREETSVILLE—A smoke and atmospheric pollution by-law has been approved by council and will become law when the Ontario Municipal Board lends its support. The by-law limits any solid, liquid or gas pollution to specific densities and amounts.

GEORGETOWN—It was an embarrassing mess for a local lady who was nearly arrested for stealing a car she thought was her own. She had borrowed a car from a local garage while her own was being fixed. Returning to the car from shopping, she spotted what she thought was the borrowed car. Her key fit the ignition, so she drove off in it. Police later apprehended her and returned the car to its rightful owner. Her borrowed car was still sitting near the spot she had left it.

COOKSVILLE—Within five years, a new university, is expected to be established somewhere in Toronto Township (South Peel), to serve the Oakville, Burlington, Peel County and west Metro areas. No site has been announced but Education Minister William G. Davis said last week it would definitely be in the township. A similar college is planned in Scarborough.

ORANGEVILLE—The "Order of the Brush" is being bestowed upon 65 of the town's citizens who have entered a beard-growing contest for the approaching centennial, next August.

BURLINGTON—The town's "Progress Park" industrial subdivision—valued at \$800,000, may pass into private hands. Council is considering a proposal by LePage Realtors, acting for unnamed principals. They propose to build five new factories on the 102-acre site.

Indoor Citrus Plants Interesting Project

The glossy-leaved citrus plants with their colorful fruits are not too difficult to grow indoors. Seed of the common citrus fruits such as grapefruit, oranges and lemons are excellent to start with, say horticulturists with the Ontario Department of Agriculture.

Soak the seeds overnight in warm water, and sow them just below the surface in a sandy soil. Germination may be slow, so put in many seeds. Then you need plants. Cover the container with a sheet of glass or plastic, and place in a warm room. When the seedlings emerge remove the cover, and move the container to a window sill where it will receive good light.

When the young plants have several leaves, transplant them into 2 1/2 inch pots, using a sandy potting soil containing 1/2 loam, 1/2 peat moss or leaf mould, and 1/2 sand. Keep moist as growth develops but do not overwater.

Citrus plants need to be repotted annually using the next size pot. During the summer, the plants should be kept outdoors. Choose a shady location and plunge the pots to the rims. Make sure they do not dry out.

Bolton Choir Gives Anniversary Concert

The United Church Women will be bringing to Acton, a musical evening to suit a variety of tastes when they sponsor the Bolton Community Choir in its tenth anniversary concert at Robert Little auditorium on Tuesday, April 23.

Bolton Community Choir for the past ten seasons has brought to the community music of all descriptions. It started out as a ladies' chorus in 1953, then with the singing of the "Cantata" and the "Messiah" in 1954 and 1955 the present mixed Community Choir was formed.

It performs each year in Toronto, Brampton, Alliston and Orangeville and Guelph as well as its home base, Bolton, and is unable to accept many invitations to other centres due to lack of time in the schedule. There are no stars or outside soloists in this choir. The only requirement for a prospective member is the love of music and the joy of singing. All time and talent is freely given.

This year's concert, under the direction of Dorothy Addison, is titled "Scrap Book" and be-

4-H Electrical Club Sponsored by Hydro

Membership in 4-H agricultural clubs in Halton county has been on a general increase over the past five years.

In 1962 over 185 4-H projects were completed by 115 members in the county. These 4-H members were enrolled in 10 separate clubs, of which five were 4-H Call Clubs. In January of 1962 a 4-H Forestry Club was organized under the direction of the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests in Hespeler. There were 11 members in this Club. In 1963 two such clubs were organized, with a total enrollment of 56 members — a 500% increase over 1962.

All other 4-H clubs for 1963 will be organized on April 17, at 1.30 p.m., in the Agricultural Hall, Milton Fair Grounds. All rural young people between ages of 12 and 21 are eligible to join in 4-H work at this date.

4-H Clubs are organized under the direction of the Extension Branch of the Ontario Department of Agriculture, with offices in each County or District in the Province. Most actual instruction is carried out by a staff of volunteer 4-H leaders.

4-H members receive training in up-to-date agricultural methods, as well as a basic training in good citizenship, during the five summer months while in club work. Milton, Acton and Georgetown Fall Fairs mark the completion of 4-H work for the year. At these Fairs, 4-H members exhibit their project (calf, swine, grain, corn, etc.) which is scored, and the results of Club standings are issued that day.

Many awards are donated by farm operators, agricultural industry and service clubs, to 4-H Members in specific clubs. All 4-H awards will be presented on Friday, December 6 this year.

Following the annual meeting of the 4-H Club Leaders' Council on Thursday, January 31 of this year, it was announced that the following 4-H Clubs would be offered in 1963:

- 4-H Calf Clubs (both dairy and beef)
- 4-H Field Crop Clubs (grain and corn)
- 4-H Forestry Clubs
- 4-H Swine Club (market hog club)
- 4-H Farm and Home Electrical Club

The farm and Home Electrical Club is a new club which is sponsored by the Ontario Hydro. It is designed for members 16 years of age or over, who are interested in the cost of maintenance of electrical appliances. All members interested in this club are asked to contact the Ontario Department of Agriculture, Milton (Phone TR 8701), prior to April 17.

Indications point to a very busy and interesting 4-H program for 1963. New members will have an opportunity to take part when they attend the organization meeting on April 17.

Presented are the highlights of performances of past years. It is assured there will be something for everyone in the program offered in Acton this year.

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The Acton Free Press

Published by the Dills Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd. Founded in 1875 and published every Thursday at 59 Willow 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 as Second Class Mail, Post Office Department, Ottawa.

The only paper ever published in Acton
G. A. Dills, Editor-in-Chief
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BUSINESS AND EDITORIAL OFFICE PHONE 853-2010