

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Sugar and Spice...

BY BILL SMILEY

50 YEARS AGO

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, June 3, 1913.

The old Halton-Peel League has been revived again under the auspices of the Methodist Athletic Association and the opening game was played here on Saturday between Acton and Brampton. The rove was in the box for the opening ceremonies with Rev. J. C. Wilson at the bat and councillor A. T. Brown catching while Dr. Lake "filled" the position as umpire. It was comical to see Reeve Hynds go through all the motions of a professional pitcher. After the preliminaries the real game started. On the Acton team were F. McLean, Ryder, White, Clarke, Wilds, Edmonds, Smith, Laird, Hildebrandt. Acton lost 10-7. A dainty tea was served to the players in the Methodist church by the members of the Epworth League. Acton lost a highly-esteemed family when Mr. Wilfred Coleman moved to Villa Nova last week. The foundations are being put in and the lumber laid down for Mr. A. G. Clarridge's fine new residence on his dairy farm.

The schools in town were closed on Tuesday in honor of the King's birthday. But the old tattered rag that flew over the school will surely justify the purchase of a new one.

The roll of honor of the pupils of the schools who won places of distinction in the May examination includes the names of M. McDonald, M. Masales, I. Anderson, E. White, K. Gibbons, N. Anderson, R. Nelson, T. Henderson, B. Brown, D. Harvee, L. Scott, H. Warren, M. McPherson, A. O'Brien, G. Wray, G. McLeod, M. Early, W. J. Johnstone, V. Masales, A. Anderson, M. Moffat, Jean Wilson, Harold Mowat, G. Anderson, George Agnew, R. Starkman, Olive Mowat, Stella MacLam, Herbie Ritchie, Bessie Woodhall, Elsie Stewart, Kenneth Henderson, Duff Wilson, Lloyd Kenney, Hugh Williams, Jessie Mowat, Sabra Nelson, Hazel MacDonald, Jennie Lashby, Willie Stewart, Elsie Lupton, Emma Scott, Pearl Wallace, Jessie Stuckey, Lloyd Forbes, Frances Hurst, Jimmie Ross, James Matthews, Jean Barber, Marie Mowat, Nellie Hall, Agnes Mara, Donald Kennedy, Jack Bristow, Willie Kelly, Clarence Babcock, Ivy Precious, Willie Cook.

20 YEARS AGO

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, June 3, 1943.

Principal G. W. McKenzie has joined the R.C.A.F. and will report for duty at the end of the school term. Leave of absence was granted by the school board. The secretary was instructed to write him expressing appreciation of his services and the wish that war conditions would permit an early return.

The annual business meeting of Acton Baptist church was held in the church. For the business meeting, Rev. J. E. Ostrom was appointed, chairman. The members were very happy to have with them Mrs. (Rev.) G. R. Eyster of Brandon, Manitoba, formerly of Acton. Officers elected for the year are as follows: deacons, Messrs. C. O. Plank, S. Cripps, H. M. Reid and D. P. West; trustees, Messrs. W. Worden, F. Cresson and D. E. West; church clerk, C. W. Landsborough; treasurer, Wilma West; S. S. Superintendent, S. Cripps; auditors, Messrs. W. Coles, Wm. Worden and L. Atkinson.

By telegram, airgraph, letters and postcards, the boys write each month telling how they appreciate what the Acton and vicinity War Service League is doing so regularly. There were eighty-five of these messages in the last bundle. Pilot Officer Reg. Finney writes from India "The toothpaste, shaving cream, candles have become rather friendly among themselves and with the socks." Johnny Moore writes "we hope it won't be long till we're lighting up cigarettes on Mill St." Duke Lindsay says, "they are so hard to get over here." James Lamb says "once you get accustomed to it, this country is quite alright." Jim McGeachie says "on a scheme and had to sleep in the bush with one blanket in the middle of February." Pie J. Scriven says "I don't know what we'd do if it wasn't for your good folks back home."

Mrs. Murray Smith is improving nicely after an appendicitis operation. To meet paper rationing regulations the Free Press has only four pages. Saturday is Wolf Cub tulip day. Tpr. R. E. Emmerson has arrived overseas.

June is back in town, busting up all over. She busts up those dream castles of young love, picks up the pieces and turns them into the mangled hangings of marriage.

Every woman's magazine in the land is loaded with articles giving advice to the bride. This is ridiculous. As though there were a woman alive who needed advice on running a marriage!

It seems to be an effortless transition for the damsel who forsake the wall of the jukebox for the roar of the vacuum cleaner, the Saturday night dance for the Monday morning wash.

But my heart goes out to the youth who is deserting the lights of the poolhall for the drudgery of bringing home the bacon, who is bidding farewell to the fascination of the "street-corner" to say hello to the horror of changing loaded diapers.

First of all, son, what were you do? You were in chaper. There you were: living at home cheaply; eating Mom's cooking; spending your own money on something, sensible like the '48 Dodge; getting slicked up and winking the chicks every Saturday night; and having a good roar with the boys now and then.

However, it's too late now, and I wouldn't try to turn you from your course, even if I could. In fact, I wouldn't want to see any young fellow miss the character-building institution of marriage. Welcome to the club.

But just as I'd hate to see our dopy little spaniel tossed into a pit with a bad-tempered mastiff, I don't like to see you going into a battle that's going to last you

whole life, with no weapons but your own dim wits.

Therefore, and in view of the propaganda pouring out of those women's magazines, I think you could use a few tips to even the odds. Think of yourself as a young, untested soldier. Think of me as a scarred veteran of many a matrimonial skirmish, stiff with wounds, but bearing them proudly. Ready?

First thing to do, after the ceremony is over, and all those dumb relatives of yours have been shaken hands with, is to let her know who's boss. When you start on the wedding trip, have a quiet little talk with her. Don't get nasty; just be firm. When she stops crying and you stop apologizing, it will be all settled who is to be boss. But don't allow a little setback like that get you down.

When the baby comes along, don't let her pull that "little mother needs her sleep" routine. Stand on your rights. Demand that she get up every second night and walk with the little squawk-box. She won't, but you'll feel better because you stood on your rights. It's good practice. After awhile, when you haven't a leg to stand on you can always stand on your rights.

Another important thing in marriage is to be able to lie while looking her straight in the eye. Practice in the bathroom. Any old husband will tell you it can be mastered in no time. From then on, every time you look her straight in the eye she'll know you're lying, but you can't win them all.

Something else that will come to you automatically in a short time, is the ability to change the subject without seeming to. There's no particular set of rules about this. Just observe how your wife does it, and you'll soon find yourself equally adroit when you don't like the direction a conversation is taking.

Make it a point to hang up your clothes every night. In fact, it's not a bad idea to lock them up. Never, never get the idea that your wife is above such a thing as going through your pockets. And never, never leave in them such items as a book of matches with "Murphy's Tavern" printed on it. You know you've bummed the matches from a fellow at work. She knows you've been out roistering, and will never believe anything else.

Most important of all, perhaps, is this. Never admit anything, my boy, unless you are caught red-handed. If you are, of course, throw yourself first upon your knees, then on her mercy. Tell her you're weak and sinful. Tell her you need the support of her strong and lofty character. If you are to be saved from evil companions, such as poker, drink, women, or whatever you've been up to.

Suddenly, I feel better. With these few pointers dispensed, I can look with more equanimity on the procession of lambs to the slaughterhouse this month.

Let's Play Bridge

A while back I wrote an article on the power of distribution. Here is another board on which East does not seem to realize the power hand that he holds. The board was played five times and only one pair reached slam. This is amazing since 13 tricks are there for the taking. Dealer South. East-West vulnerable.

Bridge hand diagram showing North and South cards: North (S-8 3, H-Q 10 9 6 2, D-10 4 2, C-9 3 2) and South (S-A 9 2, H-K J 10 6 4 3, D-A 5, C-K Q J 9).

The bidding as shown is only one way to reach six spades. There are other routes that do not involve cue bidding. Let us look at each bid. South has 14 points and should open. North lacks 6 points and hence passed.

Now East has a problem. His hand is not strong enough for a cue bid of two clubs. A double does not do justice to it. If the partnership uses strong jump overcalls then 2 spades fills the bill. It would jump overcalls. West is happy to raise to three spades. Now the exchange of information begins. East four club bid is strong and guarantees first round control of clubs (ace or void). West shows the ace of diamonds and East then shows the ace of hearts. West bids four spades awaiting development.

East could now jump directly to six but uses a useful but little known convention. A direct bid of 5 N T is the Culbertson grand slam force. It requires partner to bid seven of the agreed suit if he holds two of the top three honors in it. Since West has only one honour, he just bids six.

With the even split in outstanding trump. East does not need the heart finesse. Two of dummy's hearts are discarded on diamonds and East makes 13 tricks - six spades, four diamonds, two high hearts and a heart ruff in dummy.

East must realize that he holds a powerful hand and opposite a reasonable dummy can do well. It is up to East to take strong action to see that a slam is not missed.

This week's winners: first, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Hooper, second, Tom Warren and Reg Williams tied, third, Miss O. Logan, Mrs. E. Hewson.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT

COLERAINE—The village has "adopted" a huge turtle, and residents of the village are so interested in its welfare, they recently saved it from heavy traffic. The 14-inch turtle got stuck in a service station culvert once and was picked up and carried across the road by a local resident.

COOKSVILLE—A \$200,000,000 project to be the core of a future metropolitan city of Peel, was proposed last week at Toronto Township council's meeting. The plan envisages a city made up of second city formed by Brampton and the surrounding area. Both cities would amalgamate to form a "Metropolitan Peel." First steps toward the city would be development of 1,000 acres south of Highway 401, which would be a core city of 40,000 people.

BURLINGTON—In a story headlined "Blithe Spirits," the Gazette reports councillors turned in a performance worthy of an Emmy or Oscar award for humor. "A carnival air permeated the council chambers and laughter and chuckles bantered back and forth," says the article. It took 12 men 45 minutes to approve buying boots, galoshes and shirts for the police department, but only 60 seconds sufficed to borrow \$1,000,000.

GEORGETOWN—A \$120,000 expenditure to provide free downtown parking will be paid for by the merchants. The town won't be levied over the whole town. Mayor F. Hyde told council the town's debt is too high for another major debture issue, and most of the merchants favor paying the levy out of their own pockets.

OKAVILLE—The streets were full of uniformed volunteers on Sunday when Okaville's 4000 Scouts, Cub Scouts, Sea Scouts, Rovers and Rangers marched in their annual parade. Four bands helped the marchers keep in step as they paraded to a service and presentation of the colors ceremony.

MILTON—Holy Rosary Separate School will be getting a four room, \$80,000 addition this summer bringing the school to 14 rooms. One classroom will be used as a kindergarten. The rest of the school's history. Holy Rosary opened in 1944 with two rooms.

Milk Producers Hold Annual Ladies' Night

Farm management was the subject of the annual ladies' night program of the district 12 Toronto Milk Producers on Wednesday May 29. The meeting was held at the Esqueving town hall. Stewarttown, with R. C. Alexander, president of the producer group, as chairman.

D. A. McArthur, extension specialist in farm management at the Ontario Agricultural College, was the guest speaker. Mr. McArthur stressed the importance of setting goals, and planning to achieve a sound farm management program. He also expanded the methods of making decisions that would improve a farm management program.

J. W. Pawley, secretary of the association, reported on changes in the milk market in the Toronto area. Mr. Pawley also outlined the milk promotion program presently being carried on by the association. This program is centred around a portable milk unit where demonstrations of modern milking methods are presented to the consumer.

The Safest Township Assn. Daffy-nitions: Good turn one that gets the blankets back on your side of the bed. Legend a he that has attained the dignity of age. Imagination something that sits up with a wife who sits up waiting for her husband. Sophistication the ability to do almost anything without feeling guilty.

PROFESSIONAL DIRECTORY AND TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

Professional Directory and Travellers' Guide listing various services: Medical (Dr. W. G. C. Kenney, Dr. D. A. Garrett, Dr. Robert D. Buckner, Dr. T. B. Moore), Dental (Dr. H. Leib, Dr. A. J. Buchanan), Legal (C. F. Leatherland, O.C., A. Braida, B.A.), and Travellers' Guide (Canadian National Railways, Gray Coach Lines, Westbound, Eastbound, etc.).

Easy as Falling off a Log...

Since water recreation has grown to be the number one family recreation, learning to swim has become an obligation for every parent. Modern apartments, hotels, motels, schools and recreation centres are all turning to the installation of swimming pools and water recreation facilities. Recreation and physical fitness have become necessities to offset the more mundane aspects of our existence and to improve the state of human health in Canada.

Unfortunately, water recreation continues to take its death toll. Drownings number about a thousand every year and most of these are caused by falls into the water. This indicates that water safety knowledge is just as important as learning to swim, for an individual cannot always control himself when confronted with an accident situation.

Status Starts at \$4,300...

For anyone who worries about his financial status, and feels anxious about whether he is getting ahead or falling behind in the race for dollars-per-annum, there are some measurement guides in the latest survey done by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics, of the spending habits of Canadians.

As a starting point for study of the way the typical Canadian spends his money the Bureau had to decide where to look for the typical Canadian. Their answer to that first question is to be found in the group of taxpayers who declare income of at least \$4,200 a year, but not more than \$4,299. There were 89,270 Canadian taxpayers in this group at the most recent count, which means by simple proportioning, there should be about 100 in Stratford who are typical, with neither more nor less income than falls in the range selected for study.

The average of the income taxes paid by this group is \$187 a year, but this amount is only a fraction of the taxes that come out of income. If the taxpayer owns his own home, he sees the \$187 of income tax, and his local municipal tax, as the visible tax bites. The invisible bites include \$71 of tax hidden in the \$189 he spends annually for gasoline, \$34 in tax hidden in the \$42 he spends for liquor, \$36 in tax hidden in the \$1,170 he spends on food; \$55 in hidden tax included in the \$1,000 this typical Canadian pays for his used car; \$62 in tax hidden in the \$385 he spends for clothing.

Considering all the taxes, visible and invisible, it appears that this Canadian of typical income works at least 11 weeks in every 52 for the tax collectors. Anyone with an income above the \$4,299 upper bracket has the privilege of paying proportionately more taxes, and is entitled to pat himself on the back for patriotism, as he works for longer than 11 weeks in each year to keep feeding the tax-collection machines.

Stratford Beacon-Herald in Canada is edging up. The Bureau of Statistics has just announced that the cost-of-living index went up again in March. The index is computed on the basis of 1949 prices equalling 100. At April 1st the index figure stood at 132.3, compared to 130.2 one year earlier. In percentage terms, that increase of 2.0 points amounts to a 1.5 per cent rise in the over-all price level.

However, in view of the fact that over the course of the past year prices have been subjected to the influence of higher wages and higher costs of materials - particularly for industries that have to buy devalued dollars - the consumer has fared pretty well. A rise of just 1.5 per cent in the cost-of-living index indicates there is no need to push the panic button.

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