

# THE GOOD OLD DAYS

# Sugar and Spice...

BY BILL BAILEY

## 20 YEARS AGO

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, July 15, 1943.

Norma Eileen Krantz, 18-year-old former resident of Acton, died in a Toronto Hospital on Friday as a result of injuries she sustained when an explosion occurred at the plant at Cooksville at which she had been employed.

On Saturday afternoon, a car owned by Mr. Louis Atkinson was stolen as it stood on Mill St. in the block between Wilbur and Guilby Sts. The theft occurred about 5 p.m. Chief Harrop is investigating. The car was just filled with gasoline and fresh oil and the thieves would be able to travel some distance.

When a rear tire blew out on the car of William Chisholm on Saturday afternoon, the machine was turned around on the highway and turned over in the ditch. The car is almost a total wreck. All the windows and windshield were broken, both wheels on the right side were smashed and the body was badly damaged. Several of the occupants were injured.

Halton County will have three candidates in the coming Provincial election. Stanley Hall of Hornby is the Progressive Conservative choice; Thomas Blacklock of Oakville is the Liberal nominee; and John Wilkinson of Burlington will contest the seat for the C.C.F. party.

While the rains of the week have been helpful to the gardens, they have interrupted the haying operation.

Acton Public School again attained its record of all pupils successful at the entrance exams. In addition, half the class secured honor standing.

During the severe electrical storm yesterday afternoon, a big spruce tree on the lawn of Mr. S. Perry, Agnes St., was struck by lightning and splintered from top to bottom. The tree was about 40 feet in height. Splinters were thrown on the house, and some of them smashed two panes of glass at the front of the house.

The equalization of Halton County's assessment proves to be a contentious matter this year.

Despite a heavy shower of rain which temporarily halted events, the annual congregational picnic of Knox Presbyterian Church was voted a huge success by all those who attended yesterday.

Canada alone is turning out 80 planes per week, and launching six or more vessels, cargo, escort or patrol.

## 50 YEARS AGO

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

The large iron weathervane which surmounted the belfry at the school and which was an object of interest to many an Acton boy and girl during the last 50 years was, with the old bell, removed from its place last week in the work of demolition preparatory to the erection of additional school accommodation.

Mr. Ralph Swackhamer, who was himself one of the old-time pupils in the Robert Little days, did the work of removal.

The aluminum cable wire of the hydro-electric transmission line from Acton to Terra Cotta and Georgetown has arrived here and the linemen will probably commence their work of completing the line this week. There has been a delay of several months in getting this transmission wire, the old country mills being over-taxed with orders for its production.

K. Cooper, the contractor, has the new cement arch bridge over the stream on the Acton cross-road, between the farms of A. G. Clarridge and Mann Brothers, about completed. It is a very substantial structure and is located in the centre of the road allowance and 70 feet west of the old bridge.

Councillors — improve the appearance of the streets and gain the thanks of the community by having the hydrants, telephone and telegraph poles repainted.

Messrs. Beardmore and Co. recently purchased the property of George and Agnes Sts. The foundations are now being put in for a modern brick residence for Mr. John Clark, manager of the business, on this property. It will be a fine addition to the numerous fine homes in town and its construction will include all the latest conveniences.

A hired man from Nassagaweya, driving his owner's valuable mare, had a serious runaway on Mill St. on Saturday. The man was thrown out, the buggy smashed and the mare ran home.

The following candidates have been successful at the entrance examinations: Percy Auld, Vera Harvey, Harold Mowat, Barbara Platt, Charles McLeod, Jean Wilson, Margaret Wilson, Lloyd Cooper, Orwell Johnston, Lorna Kennedy, Bert Mowat; outside schools, Irene Anderson, Hazel Dennis, Lottie Johnston, Ellis McLaughlin, Edith Rath, Vida Ramshaw, Laura Sprawl and Jay Stewart.

Some people are addicted to drugs, others to drink, some to the weed, others to women. Teachers are addicted to summer courses. Why?

Ask a teacher and he'll tell you, "To improve my professional competence." Ask the chairman of the school board and he'll tell you, "So he can demand more money." Ask the teacher's wife, if you want the real truth: "So he can get down to the city there and have a big time running around and living it up while I'm stuck here at home with the kids." They're all equally right.

That's why I've been taking a Refresher Course in English and don't think it hasn't been refreshing. It started off in rip-roaring style and the pace hasn't let up for a minute. Girls, drink, heavy conversation and wild reunions with old comrades.

I hadn't really intended to get involved in anything beyond a few late affairs and half a dozen nights on the town. That's why I picked out what I thought was a fairly quiet spot to stay. My illusions were dispelled even before I got dressed in the morning. There was a surreptitious tap on my door. I opened it and was confronted by two young ladies, both stark naked and grinning broadly.

Talk about your Profumo at Elm-Hill! "Eric-Bill" charmed my nerves. Jenny and Susie, aged four and three. Well, that wasn't so bad. I'm used to bare-bottomed little girls, and these were the only ones I had anything to do with while I was away, so help me, Mom.

But the drink was another matter. I couldn't seem to stay off it, without the old trouble in 'Nirle there to keep an eye on me. Morning, noon and night, I was into the stuff. I'm so sick of coffee it'll be a joy to get home.

Then there was the shocking conversation I was exposed to. At home, the dialogue runs on pretty conventional lines. You know, stuff like, "When are you going to cut the grass? The place looks like The Petrified Forest." "Hey, Dad, will you take us for a swim and play bagginton?"

## EBENEZER

## Gideon in Charge Of Sunday Service

The Sunday service at Ebenezer was in charge of Mr. Burnham of Guelph, representing The Gideons. The Scripture passage was Psalm 19, which, like a sonnet, is divided into two phases—the first six verses describe the glory of God's creation, and the last eight verses tell of His Word. The stars teach us the glory of God, for that, we must go to God's word. Seek ye first the kingdom of God, and all things shall be added. Mr. Burnham illustrated his remarks with anecdotes of the good accomplished from the Gideons' distribution of Scripture—the little white New Testament given to student nurses at the New Testaments and Psalms to Grade V students and the Bibles placed in prisons, hotels, and motels.

Mr. John Kitching, a one-time pupil of Mr. Burnham, sang the twenty-third psalm accompanied by Mrs. Don Blacklock.

**Picnic**  
The Mission Band picnic will be held at Mr. and Mrs. Stuart Miller's 5th line Nassagaweya, on July 31, at 2 o'clock.

**New Minister**  
Inductio services for our new minister, Rev. Walter Leighton will take place on August 1, at 8 o'clock.

There will be no church or Sunday school service at Ebenezer the last two Sundays in July.

## Caledon Land Bought For Conservation

Purchase of 300 acres of land west of Caledon Lake in Caledon Township at a cost of \$30,000 was approved recently by the Credit Valley Conservation Authority.

The area is being bought for conservation lands, not for parks. Chairman Roy McMillan said the Authority already owns 100 acres in that district.

More parks are needed in Chinguacousy Township Council for Frank Lewis said. On Sunday, June 15, the Heart Lake Park was closed at 2 o'clock in the afternoon, with 7,000 persons in it, he said.

**District People at Park**  
A survey made at the Terra Cotta Conservation Area Park last year showed that approximately 75 per cent of those attending came from the water shed.

Eight grants of \$100 each for construction of farm ponds were approved. Most of the ponds were built in Chinguacousy Twp.

with us and go bowling with us and give us our allowance and buy some watermelon and ice cream and a boat so we can go waterskiing and can I drive the car?"

Pretty tame stuff. But on the course, there were no restraints. Just a bunch of men, out for a good time, and no holds barred. You should have heard us throwing the heavy talk around. Like, "Yeah, my old woman's the same. Sorta only." And, "Vap, these modern kids are spoiled rotten." And, "Guess I gotta getta new car. Body's shot." And a lot of stimulating stuff like that.

But this was nothing compared to the wild times at night. That's when we really cut loose. I'll never forget the first night I threw caution to the winds. Met a couple of the boys downtown in a bar and had a pretty raucous time, talking about how they had a heck of a time getting their kids to practise the piano, etc.

Well, sir, they just couldn't stay with me. They faded. There I was, at 8:30 p.m., raring to go. And by sheer chance, I got into a terrific reunion with some old mates. It was the night of the premiere of The Great Escape, and I was passing the movie house. I wandered into the lobby, told the doorman I was an old prisoner-of-war (what the film was about) and he told me to go on in.

It was a thrilling show. At least that's what the critics said about it, in next day's papers. I annoyed. After the show, the old P.O.W.'s came out, grand in rented white dinner jackets and fat wives with borrowed mink stoles.

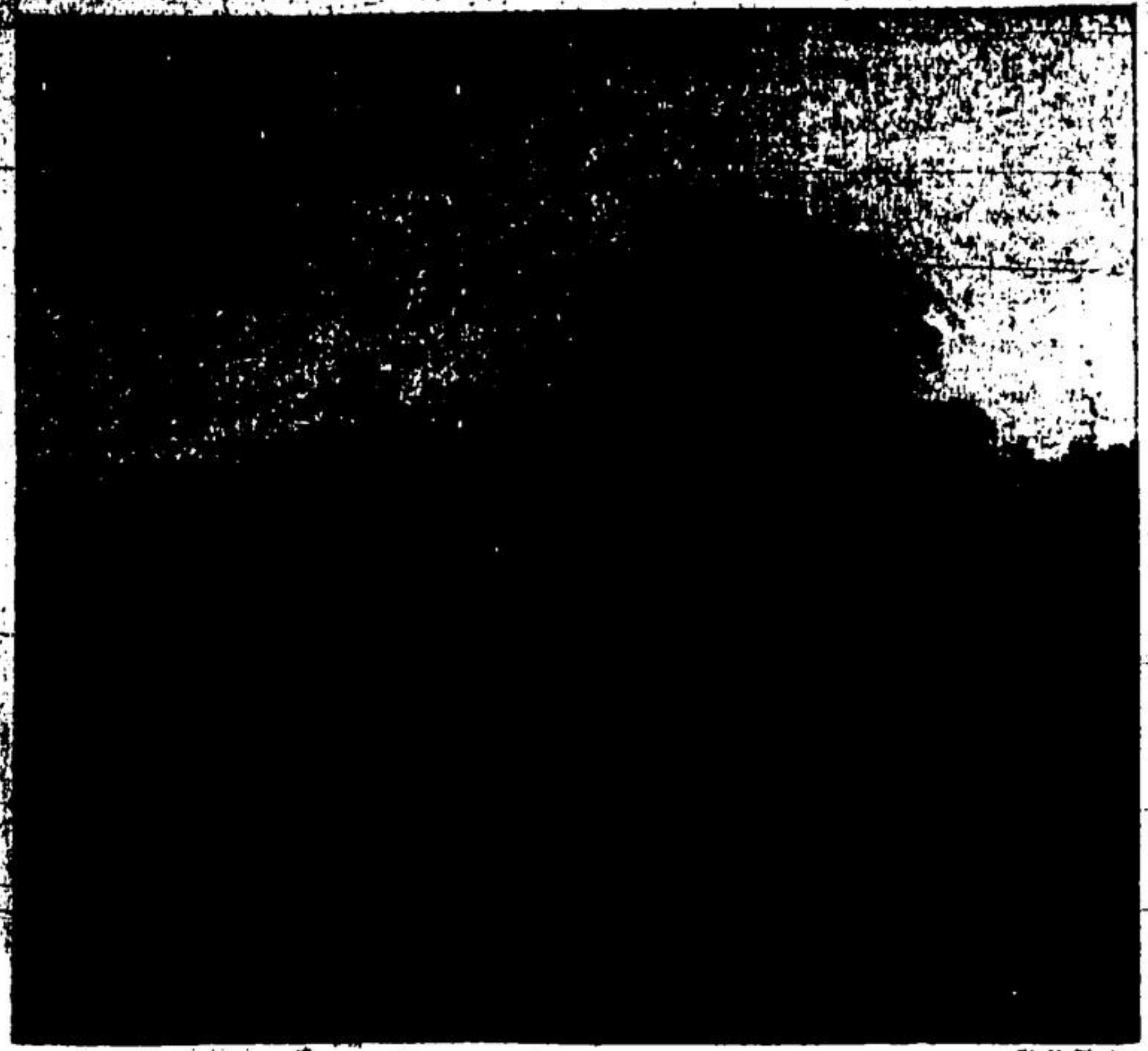
And there was old Elmer, large as life. In fact, twice as large.

I hadn't seen old "Bl." as I called him, since the day the Russians liberated our camp, back in May, 1945. He hadn't seen me since then, either. As you can imagine, it was a hilarious reunion. Nothing would do but that I'd have a drink with him. We went off with our arms around each other's shoulders. At least, as far as they'd reach. Mine wouldn't go much past the nape of his neck. He had grown. Sideways.

We were just getting nicely into our reunion, and swearing we'd reforge the strong bonds of those days behind the wire, and bring our families to visit each other, when Bl. asked if I'd gone straight back to Calgary when I was discharged from the air force. As I've never been in Calgary in my life, I was rather taken aback.

A few minutes later, it had been revealed that Elmer's name was Elwood Middlehouse, and that he thought mine was Bill Wiley, who'd slept in the bunk above his in Stalag Luft 3. I was in Stalag Luft 1. We parted rather coolly, trying to outblame each other for the check.

There's nothing quite as refreshing as a refresher course. At least, I can tell my wife that I led my class down to the cafeteria every day, for coffee break.



CAMPBELLVILLE RESIDENTS wondered why firefighters had to pump water back into Campbellville pond when their parched, brown lawns were within hose distance during the Mutual Fire Aid exercise in the village Thursday. For fire protection, firefighters returned all they pumped out. Acton firefighters took part in playing streams of water which passed through three trucks and 1,950 feet of hose lines. The mock fire had the "main street of Campbellville" on fire.

## Pound of Flesh...

A pound of flesh and then some is what the federal government's succession duties demand from widows, according to the complaints of various women's organizations appearing before the Royal Commission on Taxation. Several very sensible reforms of the Estate Tax Act were recommended by the groups.

As the federal law now stands there is a basic tax exemption of \$40,000 on all estates, and an additional \$20,000 to a widow. There was a time and not too long ago, when \$60,000 was a lot of money. But if a widow of today were left that sum entirely in cash and invested it at a reasonable five per cent, her \$60-a-week income is not going to go very far, particularly if there are children to be fed and housed. It would seem, then, that succession duties are based on a quite unrealistic appraisal of the real value of the current dollar.

That view was echoed by the Canadian Federation of University Women and the Canadian Committee on the Status of Women. They proposed that a widow's inheritance should be exempt up to a value of \$100,000. The two groups also proposed that the tax collector should start off by acknowledging that a wife directly contributes to the creation of family property and therefore, one-half of a husband's estate should be considered as belonging to a surviving widow and not subject to tax. In support, the Committee stated that 65.5 per cent of working women are married and obviously are contributing to the family's wealth.

## A Type of Tyrant...

A "Parliamentary commissioner" to whom the public could turn with its grievances against the government is the recommendation made in the concluding paragraph of the final volume of the report of the Glasco Royal Commission.

In their summing up of a two-year investigation of government organization, the commissioners state that the increasing magnitude of the activities of departments and agencies tends to remove cabinet ministers from the operating level of government. In short, a citizen with a complaint—real or imagined—may find there is really no one to complain to. Moreover, adds the report, "because the minister is held politically accountable for all actions of his subordinates and it is the practice in party strife to make issues of such matters, however trivial, the minister may too often be impelled to defend official conduct when the real need is for a remedy."

The office of the Auditor General is a precedent of sorts for the appointment of a "Parliamentary commissioner." The Auditor General is an officer of Parliament, and responsible only to Parliament. He is the auditor of the financial operations of all departments and agencies, has the right to examine all files and documents relating to accounts, and to receive from officials such information as he may require. He reports annually to Parliament, stating in his report any irregularity or abuse that has come to his notice.

Any bureaucracy tends to become a type of tyrant. There is merit in the proposal of an officer of Parliament to whom the public could report any incident of bureaucratic indifference or injustice.

Our praise last week for the flag on Acton streets during senior citizens' week was apparently aimed in the wrong direction.

It has been brought to our attention the "Decoration Day" committee purchased the flags with money set aside each year. The project began shortly after the Confederation.

For special events, hydro employees erect the flags on the light standards. This year the committee purchased eight new flags—all Red Ensigns.

The idea is a splendid one.

The point that one-half of an estate should be regarded as belonging to a widow, and thus tax exempt, was also made by the National Council of Women. The Council also argued that pensions and annuities should not be taxed at their capitalized value; a widow, said the Council, now must pay estate tax on capital she has not received, and since she must then pay income tax on most of it she is subjected to double taxation at a time when she needs the money most.

In the same vein, the Professional Institute of the Public Service of Canada urged that annuities that cannot be commuted to cash should be tax exempt, as is now the case under Ontario law. The Institute suggested, too, that a widow should be considered as a half-owner of a family home, up to a maximum exemption of \$10,000, and that all normal household appliances and furnishings should be considered as the property of the widow.

Finally, it might be noted that Uncle Sam is far more realistic in taxing a widow's inheritance. In the U.S. the basic exemption is also \$60,000, but in addition a widow has a tax-free ownership of the first half of her husband's estate—and the tax rate starts at three per cent as compared to 10 per cent here. On a taxable estate of \$10,000 a Canadian widow pays at the rate of 11 per cent, while the American tax reaches that rate at \$35,000.

The recommendations of the women's organizations should not be ignored.

Over half the persons apprehended by Burlington Police Department during the first six months of this year, were juveniles. Reports show 107 juveniles apprehended of the 192 persons police caught.

The East and West Hamboro and Waterdown fire areas were amalgamated last week, with fire departments operating out of Waterdown, Greensville and Freedom. Radio equipment has been ordered for the trucks in each district.

MISSISSAUGA CITY may soon replace the name Caledon. Lorne Park, Cooksville and Malton, it Toronto Township councillor, Hilford Chappel gets his way. He wants council to ask the Ontario Municipal Board to change the name, and apply for city status for the township.

A \$6,000,000 high-rise apartment project is planned for the lakefront just east of the village of Bronte, by developer John Grogan. He wants permission to erect five buildings ranging in height from seven to 14 stories, for a total accommodation of 575 suites plus underground parking.

On this basis, United's rate base for the test year—the 12 month period end March 31, 1962—was set by the Board at \$19,807,255.

The Board further determined that the rate of return earned by the Company on this rate base was 4.8 per cent during the test period. The Board felt this rate of return was reasonable and is within the limits that would be fair and just, and that there was no need to fix, specifically, the allowable rate of return.

The hearing opened more than a year ago on May 1, 1962. It was recessed until January of this year and after a further recess was concluded in March. The Energy Board staff used the recesses to carefully examine the Company's books.

Production allowed limited has been operating on essentially the same rates on an interim basis for a number of years. A seasonal rate reduction effected in 1961 is included in the approved permanent rate schedule.

In its reasons for decision, the Board held that, in determining

# NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT

**MILTON**—Council pitched in with the Chamber of Commerce, in an effort to promote the Labor Day weekend steam and antique show, by contributing up to \$500 worth of donations. The town has selected town employees to dress up in old fashioned costumes during the week.

**GEORGE TOWN**—Mayor E. T. Hyde claims telephone bills for the town phones are "not out of line," but councillor Jim Young claims \$26 per month is exorbitant. All councillors are allowed to charge long distance business calls to the town's phone number.

**BRAMPTON**—Ho hum, Brampton has another new industry! This newest one is Wheaton Glass and Plastics Ltd., a 25,000-square-foot building due to be completed by October 1. To manufacture glass and plastic containers, the firm will employ 30 to start, with future expansions planned.

**BURLINGTON**—Over half the persons apprehended by Burlington Police Department during the first six months of this year, were juveniles. Reports show 107 juveniles apprehended of the 192 persons police caught.

**WATERDOWN**—The East and West Hamboro and Waterdown fire areas were amalgamated last week, with fire departments operating out of Waterdown, Greensville and Freedom. Radio equipment has been ordered for the trucks in each district.

**TORONTO TOWNSHIP**—Mississauga City may soon replace the name Caledon. Lorne Park, Cooksville and Malton, it Toronto Township councillor, Hilford Chappel gets his way. He wants council to ask the Ontario Municipal Board to change the name, and apply for city status for the township.

**OKAYVILLE**—A \$6,000,000 high-rise apartment project is planned for the lakefront just east of the village of Bronte, by developer John Grogan. He wants permission to erect five buildings ranging in height from seven to 14 stories, for a total accommodation of 575 suites plus underground parking.

## Present Rates OK.

## No Natural Gas Price Boost

Ontario Energy Board today approved as "just and reasonable" the natural gas rates currently being charged by the United Gas Limited in the Hamilton area.

As a result, there will be no change in the cost of gas service for the Company's 50,000 customers in Hamilton, Acton, Burlington, Dundas, Georgetown, Milton, Oakville, Stoney Creek and Waterdown and adjacent townships.

The ruling followed a general Board hearing into United's rates, called when the Company applied for designation of its rates on a permanent basis.

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David B. Dills, Managing Editor

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