

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

20 YEARS AGO

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, Feb. 10, 1944.

The treasurer's report presented last Thursday evening at the annual meeting of the Acton and District Red Cross Society showed that a total of \$5479.03 had been raised during the year in the town and district. W. K. Graham gave the treasurer's report.

Following is the report of the workroom activities: raw materials on hand, 25 lbs. wool, 148 yds. material for handkerchiefs; volunteer workers, 50; articles wrapped, knitted, total 718 including gloves, helmets, bean caps, all caps, turtle neck sweaters, sleeveless sweaters, scarves, seaman's stockings, mitts, turtle neck turtens.

Hospital supplies, towels and wash cloths, total 370 articles; civilian supplies, 471 articles, blankets 2, quilts 65, 1 box of fur.

Chairman A. Mason announced that the quota for this community in the drive which started on February 28 has been met at \$1,500, an increase of \$300 over the quota of last year. As the days of invasion and of victory come closer, the need grows greater and many quotas had to be raised. All the officers were returned to office.

The annual meeting of the Scout Group Committee was held and a presentation made to Rev. E. A. Brooks, the Cubmaster, who is leaving Acton. The following officers were elected: past president, H. Boulton; president, T. G. Jones; vice-president, W. Cole; secretary-treasurer, D. Richardson; committee, L. W. Agar, C. Matthews, B. Pargeter and E. Kingsmill.

Andrew Baptie, who resided the greater part of his life on his farm at Osprunge, and was highly respected, passed away.

The Acton team in the O.M. H.A. group took their second game from the Fenwick team by the same score of 32. It was played at Fenwick. Acton goals were scored by Ken Allen, with Jack Stewart and Hartley Coles getting an assist. Vic Masters scored the second goal unassisted. The third goal was by Hartley Coles, with assists by Jack Stewart and Ken Allen.

50 YEARS AGO

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, Feb. 12, 1914.

One of the most deplorable railway accidents that has ever taken place in this section occurred on the sixth line, Esquimaux, last Friday afternoon during the heavy snowstorm. Robert Wright, one of the best known farmers on the Seventh Line, was driving home after attending Mr. Arthur's sale at Limehouse.

He picked up at Henderson's school, four Bessey children. The top of the buggy was raised and the sides were on, and they failed to see the train coming. Mr. Wright and the horse were killed and the children injured. The train was stopped, the injured put into a coach, which was coupled and taken to Guelph. Mr. Wright was 27 and was married a year ago last June. The funeral on Tuesday was one of the largest ever held at Ashgrove.

An outbreak of smallpox at Osprunge is causing considerable anxiety.

Acton is face to face with a problem that will mean considerable outlay to the village which must be dealt with, and that is the establishment of a water-works system.

A most deplorable event was witnessed after ten o'clock Tuesday when a Church St. resident between 70 and 80 years of age was seen staggering home ward from one of the hotels and fell headlong into a snowdrift. A neighbor helped him home. Of him that liquor is ever sold to an intoxicated man.

The London String Band and Variety Company will give a concert at the parish hall Friday 13th inst. Admission 10 and 15 cents.

A couple of boys in Toronto were sent to jail for 30 days for snowballing the occupants of a passing car.

The Literary Society of Acton High School met and current events were given by Misses A. O'Brien, L. Scott, N. Anderson and Mr. Lloyd Cooper. Debaters, on whether western Canada is superior to eastern, were Miss Lorna Kennedy, Mr. Gordon McLeod, Miss Clara Brown and Mr. Percy Ault.

Sugar and Spice ...

BY BILL BAILEY

Once in a while, it is the good fortune of an English teacher to come across a fresh, original piece of writing by a student.

When he does, it's a drink of cold, pure water, after days of wandering in the desert of mangled syntax, crucified spelling, howling triteness and tortured thinking through which it has been ordained that he should plod. It happened to me this week.

At first, I thought my judgment might be prejudiced because I was quite fond of the youngster in question. I read it again. It still sounded good.

To make sure, I had it mimeographed and read it to my Grade 11 students, as a piece for critical analysis. Their snorts and giggles confirmed my first impression. Then we discussed it in depth. They could find little wrong with it. It had unity, coherence and

emphasis. The tone was consistent. Well, here it is, just as it came written on an examination, under stress. See what you think.

The title was: The Wanderings of a Ten Dollar Bill.

"My mother was extremely large and could make only loud, whirring sounds in her throat. The thing that puzzles me is how I turned out so thin when she is such a fatso.

"Anyway, when I popped out feeling like a wet piece of cabbage, a long, dark man with a black mole beneath his left eye clutched me and cried, 'Oh, darling George!' He and the rest of the boys kissed me all over, even on the Queen's head. I was later to discover that I had the honor of being the first bill in any city batch of counterfeit money I was the one who would set the plot in motion.

"First of all, I was given to an unsuspecting old lady for a package of cigarettes. The decrepit old woman hesitantly handed them the change, all in nickels. They then turned and scampered out, leaving me to face the consequences. It turned out that the old lady was a trifle good.

"One fine day, she traded me for pennies, all pennies. I was pushed wildly into the buyer's pocket, where I met a girl ten

dollar bill. It was so cosy and dark in there that I have to admit I was a little fresh.

"Suddenly I was jostled out and traded for more cigarettes. The store owner grabbed me and yelled, 'The Queen doesn't have that many bumps on her nose.' The trial was hot.

"Well, my boys were found. Unfortunately, they had already died from lung cancer because they had smoked so many cigarettes when setting bills in motion.

"I write this while sitting amidst coals in a large furnace. The penetrating heat is beginning to settle me. My breath is coming shorter, the happy hunting grounds are coming nearer.

"But the moral of my story is, if you're going to produce counterfeit money, make only one bump on the Queen's nose and always buy gum, not cigarettes."

The above essay was written by my daughter, Kim, age 12, Grade 8. A chip off the old block? I'm only surprised that her second last sentence didn't say, 'My breath is coming in short pants.'



OCCUPATIONAL HAZARDS for bulldozer operators include breaking through ice with the heavy weight of the machine. Workmen from the Credit Valley Conservation Authority are busy this week removing stumps from Fairy Lake. Tuesday the heavy bulldozer broke through a section of the ice and one track sank slightly into the soft muck below. A few charges of dynamite dislodged some of the stubborn stumps which refused to budge with a cable line alone.

Taxes Encourage Sellouts ...

The American penetration of Canadian business, says The Financial Post, is by any measurement staggering in its proportions. Americans are now very close to having the majority voice in all Canadian business and in some industries it is the overwhelming voice.

Over-the-border business deals each in themselves nearly always make good economic sense. They are a natural exercise of managerial imagination; they usually turn out all right for employees, shareholders and for the communities involved. It is the cumulative effect, not the individual deals, comments The Post, that Canadians wonder about. Thoughtful Canadians wonder where all this is leading to. Do we survive as a separate country?

There has been violent criticism of the methods the present Canadian government currently proposes to slow down the sell-outs. Here is one basic fact that has not been tackled: In this country, federal and provincial succession duties have been a very important cause of a great many of the sellouts. The punishment of people who have

built significant assets for themselves, their heirs and their communities has been politically popular. Has this tax, which raises so little revenue yet produces so many unintended results, served the interest of this nation? Has violent taxation of nearly the same intensity as we had at the worst part of a desperate war made Canada an unattractive place in which to carry the burdens of business management for those who can afford to get out of them?

Canada, adds The Post, is a country unique in all the world in having such an enormous proportion of its enterprise foreign-owned. Some countries have long regulated foreign economic penetration. Would Britain, France, Germany or the U.S., for instance, look on with calm indifference if outsiders were getting control of half or more of their total industry? Foreigners have concerns of loyalty and pride about the future of their own countries. Would foreigners respect Canadians for having little or no concern about the future of this country? No thoughtful Canadian can look at this course of events with indifference.

Who Are You ...

The federal government has announced that as of April 1 it will begin the job of assigning every working Canadian a life-long, multi-purpose, nine digit identification number. The date this project gets underway may have some significance. It is All Fools' Day.

Prime users of the numbers, states the Ottawa report, will be the National Revenue Department, the Unemployment Insurance Commission and, if and when it is established, the administrative office of the Canada Pension Plan. The number will be printed on what is referred to as a social insurance card, which suggests benefits to be received and seems somewhat of a misnomer since the income tax collector will have a record of all the names and numbers.

The cards are to be issued in triplicate, one copy to be held by the employer, and two to be given to the employee - who will be asked to carry one and store the other "in a safe place." The card will list the individual's name, date and place of birth, mother's maiden name and type of employment. It was emphasized by an unnamed government official that there will be no photographs and no information such as color of hair, height and weight. "This is in no sense a police identity card," he said. "The registration is merely designed to maintain our records of people." Despite that assurance a good many people may feel that

the whole thing sounds like a national fingerprinting scheme.

Most published comment on Ottawa's new proposal has been in a humorous vein - a cartoon showing a minister with a couple kneeling before him, and the outline "Do you, 672-439671, take 443-221962 ... ?" One editorial concluded, "Things could get worse. Who knows? If Malhius' theory of over-population proves up, the world may yet see numbers, instead of names, issued at the baptismal font." It seems rather grim humor.

If the difficulty in remembering direct distance dialing number is any indication, we doubt that common names will ever really be replaced by numbers. And we doubt if the numbers will ever play a very significant part in our way of life.

NOT CHEAP ...

"Peace and freedom do not come cheap, and we are destined ... to live out most, if not all our lives in uncertainty and challenge and peril.

"However close we sometimes seem, to that dark and final abyss, let no man of peace and freedom despair ... If we can all persevere, if we can in every land ... look beyond our own shores and ambitions, then surely the age will dawn in which the strong are just and the weak secure and the peace preserved." —John F. Kennedy.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT

HURLINGTON — Of the 251 juveniles who committed criminal offenses in Burlington last year, 150 were the products of normal homes. Chief Constable Kenneth Skerrett said he was particularly concerned with the juvenile figures. "For our juvenile population, we have a greater problem than we should," Chief Skerrett said.

GEORGEOWN — The Georgetown Public School Board has estimated that the Seventh public school to be constructed next year will mean a capital expenditure of \$205,000. The planning committee made the estimate for the benefit of council, which is completing a five year prognosis of capital expenditure for the second year in a row. It was the only capital expenditure anticipated in the next five years.

OAKVILLE — There is imagination at the department of works on the Seventh Line and a keen eye for cutting costs, thus saving Oakville taxpayers money. With some scrap odds and ends and a lot of ingenuity, Jack Orr, Works Superintendent has come up with an original paint stripper. The Orr Wright machine, as it might be called (George Wright, the department's welder helped put it together), could cost about \$1,100 to buy. As it stands, it costs about \$1,300 less than the old one, now out of commission.

CHINGWAGANSY — Reeve Civil Clark asked for a pipeline to carry water from Lake Ontario to Brampton and the township at a recent meeting with the Ontario Water Resources Commission. Bearing a 5,000 name petition from township residents, he asked the OWRC to prohibit Brampton from digging any more high pressure wells in the township. The Reeve insisted that continued drilling would have an adverse effect on the domestic wells of area farmers and fruit growers.

World Day of Prayer Service Held Friday

Prayer was the continuing theme throughout the World Day of Prayer service which filled St. Alban's church last Friday afternoon with women from all participating congregations. Sheets with the entire prepared service had been printed and were distributed, included were the words of appropriate hymns, prayers and responses.

Leader for this service was Mrs. John Rol from St. Alban's and others taking part were Mrs. Pamela of the Christian Reformed Church, Mrs. George Hartrop of the Baptist church, Mrs. Alice Dwyer of the United Church, Mrs. Fred Anderson of the Presbyterian church, Mrs. McMurdo of the Pentecostal Tabernacle and Mrs. H. E. Holmes of St. Alban's.

\$5 for Literature — Mrs. B. Bayliss and Mrs. Jack Creasey Sr. acted as ushers and took the offering; this amounted to \$57.77 which is sent to the Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada, to be allocated to more than 100 Christian organizations throughout the world to be used mainly for Christian literature work.

Mrs. Frank Oakes played the organ and the soloist was Miss Dorothy Simpson, who sang Teach Me to Pray.

ROADS TRAFFIC

It is reported that Toronto police Chief James Mackey is seeking approval for greatly increased penalties for illegal parking; the fine for parking in a Rush Hour Zone to be increased from \$10 to \$25. "Highway robbers" is the indignant reaction of many motorists. The Ontario Safety League points out that the real "highway robbers" are the illegal parkers. Just one car left by the curb on a rush hour route "robs" the street of much of its traffic moving capability and delays hundreds.

Fire Prevention Budget is \$1,350

A 1964 budget of \$1,350 was approved by the Halton County Fire Prevention Bureau at their February meeting in Milton. The Bureau operates on a generous grant from the Halton County Council, and contributions from the five fire departments in the county.

The budget includes \$1,000 for the Bureau's various fire safety education programs, including literature, films and colored slides, newspaper and radio advertising and publicity, and trophies for the annual grade-five poster competition in the schools. Another \$200 is earmarked for the special Christmas fire safety program—the spring clean-up blitz—and the door-to-door industrial and commercial inspections during Fire Prevention Week. In this year the inspection "blitz" will be conducted in Acton and Georgetown. The remainder of the budget will be used for office supplies and stationery.

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 OntarioQuebec
Division of the C.W.N.A. Advertising rates on request.
Subscriptions payable in advance. \$1.00 in Canada; \$1.00
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
David R. Dills, Managing Editor

BUSINESS AND EDITORIAL OFFICE PHONE 853-2010

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TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

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COACHES LEAVE ACTON
Standard Time
Eastbound
6:33 a.m. (Daily except Sun.
and Hol.); 8:54 a.m. (Daily except
Sat. Sun. & Hol. - Express); 8:58
a.m.; 11:33 a.m.; 2:08 p.m.; 5:08
p.m.; 6:23 p.m.; 8:33 p.m.; 10:08
p.m. (Sun. and Hol.)

Westbound
7:37 a.m. (Daily except Sat.
Sun. & Hol.); 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).

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS

Standard Time
Eastbound
6:50 a.m. to Toronto, daily except
Sat. and Sun.; 7:38 a.m. to
Toronto, daily except Sun.; 9:52
a.m., daily except Sunday and
Monday, direct connection from
Owen Sound etc.; 7:42 p.m., to
Toronto, daily except Sunday;
7:47 p.m. to Toronto, Sunday only;
9:25 p.m. to Toronto, daily,
board at Georgetown only.

Westbound
8:01 a.m. to Stratford, daily except
Sun.; 8:23 p.m. to Stratford
daily except Sat. and Sun.; 7:04
a.m., daily except Sunday; 12:49
a.m. to Stratford, daily except
Sat.