

"Rural Route"



THIS SCENE is familiar to most Actonians. It shows the third line of Esqueting railway crossing near Acton Limestone Quarries. The bank on the extreme left is being cut back in order to take out a pronounced log in the road and give better visibility for operators of vehicles at the crossing. Many made the long trek down the tracks to the "Dolly", as the quarry was known a few years back.

Abandon Boundaries...

The boundaries of Halton municipalities are fair game for every politician in the county, it would seem.

Milton is seeking an annexation of part of Oakville and Esqueting while Georgetown is trying to lop off some industrial acreage from Esqueting.

Now the mayor of Oakville, addressing a group of ward one ratepayers, many of whom have made known their dissatisfaction with the amalgamation that placed them in the Oakville orbit geographically, has renewed the often-repeated proposal of amalgamating Oakville, Milton and Burlington.

One is inclined to wonder if the "good mayor" is simply trying to pacify the group by suggesting others will eventually be in the same subdued position, or whether he is proposing an alternative to Milton's annexation bid.

Actually geographic boundaries in Halton are immaterial, if it was not that they defined the limits in which taxes may be collected. With the heavy penalties of higher mill rates and business taxes that are placed on firms, such groups are welcome assets in any municipality for their greater contribution and lesser demand for services.

Rather than playing around with the boundaries of each municipality, which in themselves are no real problem, politicians might tackle the tax collection machinery.

Why not, for instance, have the county collect the taxes for all the municipalities in Halton? The county council then, with its reasonably proportionate representation could dole out the funds to local councils for their administration. This way the industry-rich south could bear a share of the costs involved in housing the employees who make their home in the north of the county. Equality of opportunity would prevail for the child attending a rural school as for one attending one of the slick new brickroomed palaces of the south. The technical facilities of the southern schools would not have to be wastefully duplicated in the north to save local consciences.

Naturally there would have to be concessions for the varying degrees of services in urban and rural areas, but this would not seem difficult if it were considered at the time of assessment. Naturally the assessing would have to be under the county direction and undoubtedly other services might also be ideally unified like police forces. Industry could choose a site anywhere in the county based on services desired, since the mill rate would be uniform.

Local municipal councils could have a

works crew based in their municipality that would concern itself with blocked drains, and other complaints that would be lodged with the local council.

Representatives at the county level are already embroiled in welfare services, roads, and to a certain extent, schools. Each municipal office in the county could have a direct telephone line to the central bureaucracy (county) to keep them in touch with the big machine. Complaints could be speedily handled through the municipal office connected by telephone with the county, barring a clash of coffee breaks or conferees.

Municipal councils, at their regular meetings, could bask in the sunshine of bigness and its accompanying protection. There would be no concern over deficits or finances because they would be in the realm of the tremendous, and people just can't think in terms over a million.

Yes, we could be one "big" (if not always happy) family and politicians could go back to "buck passing" instead of the "boundary battle." If we could just get that tax gathering machinery at the county level.

While the above is somewhat whimsical, it is intended to point up some of the conflict that politicians face as they wrestle with the need for bigness and the desirability of the closer-to-the-people type of government.

Battles of the boundaries will continue as long as they are related to income. The suggestion that Halton should form a buffer between the sprawl of Toronto and Hamilton puts the county in a difficult position. One thing, however is certain, that before Halton acts as a cohesive unit it will have to be one whether this is accomplished by ignoring boundaries, sharing taxes, or drawing up a whole new set of boundaries for the county.

Historically centres of importance change with the development of new arteries of communication. This is a fact that should be considered when boundaries are reviewed by the Solomons who might assume such a task.

People who are walking should remember that winter makes extra problems for drivers. If they persist in walking suddenly in front of motor vehicles on a "hit me if you dare" basis they are inviting death or injury. Even at slow speeds, sudden stops are very difficult on icy or snow covered streets.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

20 YEARS AGO

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, Feb. 17, 1944.

Concluding a ministry of over six years at St. Alban's, Acton and St. John's Rockwood, Rev. E. A. Brooks delivered his farewell sermon Sunday evening and evening services of other churches were cancelled. He announced that Mr. S. G. Bennett has given the church a considerable sum of money to provide a new pipe organ and decorate the whole of the interior of the church.

Three more names of men arrived recently overseas have been added to the War Service League list: M. Tyler, J. Waterhouse and E. Mowse.

During the Scout Week the lads will have a church parade, give a demonstration of their work and raise and lower the flags of the town at sunset and each morning.

President and Mrs. R. I. Davidson and Mr. and Mrs. C. B. Swacklamer attended the annual fair convention in Toronto last week.

March 9 is the date set for the annual badminton tournament at the Y for the beautiful Force Electric trophy. Winners receive miniatures to keep, too.

Announcement has been made that within the next few weeks rubber bands will make their appearance in stores and if consumers do not purchase more than their requirements there will be a steady supply from then on.

An active service list took up four full columns, listing everyone alphabetically with rank and numbers, who had joined the services. Women in Active Service in Canada, Lamb, Wren Helen; Waldie Juan, R.C.A.F., W. D. Overseas, Young, Nursing Sister, Jessie; Kenney, Nursing Sister, Lt. Nora; Buchanan, Daisy C.W.A.C.; Overseas casualties Morris Wing Commander D. G.; Taylor Sgt. Pilot L. C.; Anderson A.C.E.A., Molozzi, Sgt. G. A. Prisoners of War in C.S.M. J. Doble Sgt. J. R. Turner, Pte. W.L.; Boves, Sgt. Jack. Over 200 are overseas from Acton and district.

The Boys' Band gave a splendid concert last week, under the direction of C. W. Mason with Mr. J. H. Creighton as chairman.

50 YEARS AGO

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, Feb. 19, 1914.

Valentine parties were much in vogue on Saturday evening. One of the prettiest reported was at Sunderland Villa where Miss Bertie Smith entertained a number of her girl friends.

A carnival will be held on Acton rink next Thursday.

The High School Literary Society program contained the following: a reading by Miss Anna McPherson "St. Valentine's Day"; current events by Miss Wilma Johnstone, Margaret Wilson and Mr. Harvey Ruth; reading by Miss Lina Britton. A very beneficial address was given by Mr. H. P. Moore on "Character Building". The contents of the "Gazette" were read by its editor, Miss Isabel Anderson. Principal Stewart acted as postmaster and district historical Valentine, salute to the young ladies. The critic's report by Miss Nellie Anderson was just and generous.

The boys at the school have had great sport with their sleighs down the school lane pavement. A dozen or so on a pair of bobs, after a little push for a starter, will come from the school whizzing down the slope and across the street up to Mr. Ebhage's door. The grade is so gentle there is positively no danger except if Farmer Davison should happen to be driving into town at the time of crossing the road.

The last Dominion Census shows there are 16 Mormons in Acton.

The Ladies' Aid of the Baptist Church will give a Shrove Tuesday social in the church next Tuesday evening. Pancakes will be served. Ice cream extra. Admission 15 cents.

Trafalgar is now considering taking Hydro-Electric for that township. A representative of the Commission will meet the council Monday.

The concert by the Killarney Girls and clever little manager Miss Rita Rich of the Redpath Bureau, Chicago, in the town hall Saturday evening was a rare treat by cultured artists.

Free Farms for Far-Sighted Farmers-250,000 homesteads in Western Canada.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT

BRAMPTON — A new industry from Windsor, Windsor Converters Ltd., is moving to Brampton to take advantage of the premises to be vacated by Union Metal Mfg. Co. of Canada Ltd. at 45 McMurchy Ave. N. Strategic proximity of this town to central Canadian Markets was cited as a factor in the choice of location. Windsor Converters has been doing packaging operations for the Ford Motor Company in Windsor for 21 years. The Company should be in operation in Brampton in April.

OAKVILLE — An Oakville crocodile and alligator lover got heavily fined recently when the Supreme Court ruled that he pay \$4,500 to cover damages, court costs and legal fees. Peter Strickland of Oakville has been keeping the reptiles in his basement since 1961, despite complaints by the Oakville Council and the Department of Health. Neighbors have charged that the alligators are "smelling" and cause "loss of enjoyment." The charges led to the court case. Friends of the Stricklands are starting a fund to help pay for the court costs.

GEORGETOWN — A bid by Georgetown to annex 45.4 acres of Esqueting Township land in the vicinity of the Smith and Stone plant is being strongly opposed by that firm, by the township and by Georgetown Mayor Joe Gibbons. Mayor Gibbons is against the move, because "I'm concerned about anything which could affect the good feelings between town and industry? The industry is against the annexation because it would cost them \$6,400 a year more in taxes.

MILTON — Milton Library Board recently received Council's blessing on a move that will give the library a new home... temporarily. Council agreed to the board's rental of the R. S. Adams Store (across from the town hall) for a five year period at \$125 per month. Renovations were also approved up to \$10,000.

CHINGUACOUSY — Reeve Cyril 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.

County Council Briefs

Halton County Council, meeting on Tuesday:

• Approved rebates for overpayment to the county of \$215.53 to the town of Acton and \$254.65 to the town of Georgetown.

• Approved the purchase of 25 to 30-gallons-of-industrial-lacquer paint from British Paints, Oakville, at \$4.25 a gallon for **OBITUARY**

Mrs. Neil McGill Passes Away in B.C.

Mrs. Neil McGill, the former Sarah Jane Brownlee, an old resident of Acton and Nassagaweya, passed away in Kamloops, B.C., February 10, in her 94th year. She was the last remaining member of the family of Hugh and Sarah Brownlee, who immigrated from Northern Ireland to Acton and Nassagaweya in the 1870s and passed away in Nassagaweya.

The secret of success is consistency of purpose. — Benjamin Disraeli

Sugar and Spice...

BY BILL BAILEY

"I wooden live in that Tronra, if you gave me the whole dump on a silver platter." This is an expression oft heard in the vast hinterland of our dominion, the true north, strong and free.

It is echoed with equal emphasis about Montreal, Halifax, Vancouver, Winnipeg and the other dozen or so cities of any size.

The statement above is usually followed by a diatribe against "city living." Its high rents, its heavy traffic, its unfriendliness; its distance from the demitasse table, the speaker's home town.

"Ya, I know it's nice in the summer up north there. But wuddaya do all winter in that dump?" This is equally familiar.

It is asked in the tones of simple incredulity of sophisticated suburbanite who spends all winter doing exactly what you do in that dump up north: working, playing, bringing up your family, trying to pay the bills, and growing older.

On most matters, I take a stand. But in this denunciation of the other fellow's mode of life, I take two stands.

The first is gentle agreement with my small-town friends. I go along with their belligerent argument that the city is no place to live; that I'd hate to battle that traffic; that living is cheaper in a smaller centre; that it's wonderful to live within five minutes of fishing, curling, golfing and friends.

When I'm listening to some old buddy who lives in the city, I nod sagely when he points out that the city is an exciting place to live; that it's wonderful to be able to take in all the shows and concerts; that it's grand to be able to go out for an exotic meal in a fascinating place; that the small town doesn't provide the same cultural opportunities for your kids.

Privately, I chuckle at both points of view. Both are full of contradictions. The city fellow claims there's no privacy in a small town — everybody knows your business. The small-town fellow explodes, "Privacy! How

can you have privacy in the city when you're jammed into a two-by-four lot, in a house beside people you don't like and who have horrible kids?"

The small-town fellow raves about that mythical "rat-race" in the city and goes out and roars around in service clubs and fraternal organizations and athletic clubs and church groups at a pace no city fat could stand.

The myths multiply. In a city of a million, theatres are half empty, concerts play to small crowds, exotic restaurants go broke. In a small place, one-tenth of two per cent of the population is reveling in that fishing, hunting and so on at the front door. The rest are at home watching the same TV program as the fellow in the city.

On Saturdays, the whole problem is brought into perspective, on a four-lane highway. Down to the city, in one stream, pour the thousands of people going in for a day to shop, see shows, suck up some fast culture.

Up from the city, in the other stream, pour the thousands of people going north for the skiing or swimming or fishing. They don't even wave to each other.

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Standard Time
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Westbound
7:37 a.m. (Daily except Sat., Sun. & Hol.); 10:37 a.m.; 12:37 p.m.; 2:37 p.m.; 5:37 p.m.; 7:37 p.m.; 8:12 p.m.; 11:32 p.m.; 1:02 a.m. (Sat. only).

CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS
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Westbound
8:01 a.m. to Stratford, daily except Sun.; 6:23 p.m. to Stratford, daily except Sat. and Sun.; 7:04 p.m., daily except Sunday; 12:49 a.m. to Stratford, daily, except Sat.

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