

At Stewarttown



QUIET WATERS in the mill pond at Stewarttown reflect the arrival of Spring. The tiny community on the Seventh line south of Georgetown is one of Halton's smaller rural municipalities, and has kept its rural beauty as indicated in a scene like this one.

Dubious Benefits...

Discussions on assessment in Halton County lately have centred around whether it would be wise for the county to establish a County Assessment Commissioner, who would operate over the entire county.

The program, as outlined to members of the North Halton Urban Board and representatives from other municipalities last week, includes appointment of a sort of super-assessor. The title would be assessment commissioner and he would be responsible for the assessment throughout the county with all the assessors working under him.

No longer would the local councils appoint an assessor. This would be done at the county level. The assessment commissioner would, through his office, process all the records and this, it was intimated, would lead to all the necessary IBM or other electronic processing equipment.

All of this is compared with the present system under which the county engages a county assessor. It is his task to coordinate the work of the assessors in the various municipalities to achieve some form of equalized assessment on which the levy of county expenditures can be based.

Why is there thought of change from the present system? Perhaps it is that the provincial government, through its grants, is encouraging such a change. The province will pay \$2,500 toward the salary of an assessment commissioner. They will also contribute to costs of setting up the office equipment and rental of necessary machinery. Underlying the considerations too, must be the possible efficiency of such an operation at a more centralized level and perhaps a more equitable assessment throughout the county under the direction of one assessment commissioner rather than through the

varied interpretations possible at the local assessor level.

There is an increasing trend toward the centralization of more and more services at the county level. It is impossible to weigh the advantages and disadvantages of such a trend and come up with a clear cut answer on the desirability of such a course. Just as there are efficiencies possible in increased size of a department whether it be assessment, fire protection or policing, so there is room for inefficiencies in the very bigness of the resulting structure.

The province is obviously trying to obtain more equitable assessment throughout the province so it may form a basis for its grant structure. To achieve this the beginning is made at the county level. Once the counties are equalized the province will also be on a more common base.

Frankly we don't think Halton's assessment is far off the desirable provincial base being aimed at, and the adoption of an assessment commissioner in the county would not seem to have any immediate benefits here. It would remove from the local area of responsibility the hiring of assessment staff. It would, however, add to the cost of county administration by a like or larger amount.

After having listened to a provincial representative recite passages from the act governing the appointment and operation of the assessment commissioner system of assessment, we developed a distaste for some of the powers that go with the position. For instance an assessment commissioner, once appointed by the county council and approved by the Minister, can only be removed by the council with the Minister's approval. This provincial power, at a local level, merely because of hand-outs from the province, leaves us dubious about the plan.

Hurry Up And Wait...

One of the most frustrating situations to confront council for many years has arisen in Acton. With the construction of new bridges on Brock Avenue and Church Street bogged down in inter-department red tape it appears the two bridges will not be completed until late summer. Two years ago the decision to go ahead with construction of the bridges was given the green light. Last year council budgeted for Acton's portion of the cost of the bridges. Through delay in the design and the acceptance of the design by the department, approval was not received until late in the year. Council at that time

decided it would be advantageous not to have the bridges constructed during the winter months and felt a start on construction could be made early this year.

Council received approval of the design, called tenders and tentatively accepted the lowest bidder. Now the contractor is ready, willing and able to start construction. The town is ready to proceed - but bogged down in a typical bureaucratic maze of red tape-in-Department approval of the project. The latest word is that approval may be given for the construction when supplementary road by-laws are considered by the De-

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

20 YEARS AGO

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, April 13, 1944.

Thirty-two hundred new ration books were issued from the Acton and district local Ration Board the end of March and first of April. They appreciate the work of the volunteer helpers and the industries for distributing the books.

At the convocation of Knox College, the degree of Bachelor of Divinity was conferred on Rev. Forbes Thomson, B.A., minister of Knox Church, Acton. The official visit of D.D.G.M. Bissell to Walker Lodge on Monday evening was an outstanding occasion. A feature was the presentation and recognition to three members of the lodge. V. Wor. Bro. John Kenney was presented by D.D.G.M. Bissell with his 50 year jewel, emblematic of 50 years a member of Walker Lodge.

W. Bro. A. T. Brown was made a life member of Walker Lodge and the presentation was made by Wor. Bro. D. N. McTavish. The past master's jewel was presented to W. Bro. W. G. Middleton by Wor. Bro. C. A. Darby. W. Bro. W. M. Near, Master of the Lodge, was in charge of the toasts.

Sam and Mrs. R. Pfaff and babe of Guelph spent Easter with Mr. and Mrs. J. Chapman. Pie Reno Branda is home on leave from Prince Rupert, B.C.

The housing shortage in Acton gets progressively worse. The only way seems to be to own a home.

Snow on Tuesday stopped the town clock during the afternoon. The Scout Mothers' Auxiliary met and decided to make more lavettes for the bombed victims of England as the materials could be procured now.

Congratulations to Petty Officer Lou Edwards and his bride of last week, who spent a honeymoon in Backwal, having been on a hazardous trip to India, sailing through submarine infested waters and delivering cargoes in the face of Axis naval and air forces.

The Knox church choir took part in Easter services. Organist E. A. Hansen was assisted by Wm. Burton, E. Smith, A. Mann, C. Kirkness, W. Benson, C. Cole, A. Robinson, E. Lambert and F. Coley.

50 YEARS AGO

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, April 16, 1944.

The monthly meeting of the Board of Education was held Monday. The principal was authorized to secure apparatus and books to bring the school up to minimum standards required by the Department. Moved by N. Forbes, seconded by C. C. Speight, that no pupils be admitted to the school who are under six years of age and that beginners should be received only at the commencement of a term. The addition to the school grounds recently purchased from W. H. Storey and Son will be opened to the scholars as soon as the land is surveyed and fenced.

Our school system is a grand one and one of which we may feel justly proud. The value of education cannot be estimated and apparent neglect of some of our people to avail themselves of the opportunities available for the advancement of their children is a marvel to us Parents and guardians, see that your children attend school.

The eighth annual sale of R. J. Kerr's herds of pure bred Yorkshire and Berkshire hogs and cattle took place on April 6. The attendance was large and the bidding brisk. Good prices were realized, 29 sows bringing \$173. One young sow sold for \$70.

The roads are in very passable condition again. Gardening operations have commenced, pen up your hens and chickens.

The mufferless motorcycle is again hustling about the streets. Use the mufflers, please, out of respect to those who are ill or nervous.

Henderson and Cox children's colored wash dresses, starting at 25 cents each, misses sizes, 35 cents up. It is our intention to keep fully abreast of the season. The woman who has no time for sewing will find satisfaction in our department.

Mr. Boyd Clark left last week to assume a position on the staff of the Merchants' Bank in Georgetown.

Miss Margaret Bennett is home from Toronto for the holidays. Miss Daisy Foster is home from Scotch Block. Bertha Brown and Ruth Nelson are home from Hamilton.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE DISTRICT

OAKVILLE — A former stable that housed thoroughbreds and was later transformed into a stylish apartment building, is being destroyed in Oakville. Situated on the north-west corner of the Seventh line and Owen Elizabeth highway, it is being torn down after standing on the site for 30 years. A solid structure of concrete block, it was erected as a horse stable by thoroughbred trainer Hugh Wilson. Almost eight years later it was converted into an apartment building at an approximate cost of \$85,000.

BRAMPTON — Twelve bogus cheques valued at \$765.48 were passed in town recently, Brampton Police announced. The cheques, all for \$63.79, were scattered throughout the downtown area and in the Mall. Police discovered the cheques, when a victimized merchant became suspicious while talking to a friend who received an identical cheque.

BURLINGTON — Former world's heavyweight boxing champion Jack Dempsey spoke to High School students this week on the "dropout problem." The famed "Manassa Mauler" is crusading throughout the continent, speaking to students and advising them to "get a good education."

GEORGETOWN — A spirited complaint by a King St. East resident has prompted council to seek immediate action from the Canadian National Railways to overcome a situation which the resident says is "driving residents up the wall." Evidently diesel engines are parked and left idling on nights and weekends to avoid engine freezing. The residents complain that the engines constantly rattle windows and keep King St. residents awake. Councillors agreed to act immediately on the complaint.

WATERDOWN — A plan by the Waterdown branch of the Royal Canadian Legion to provide apartments for Senior Citizens at a low rental cost, came before council recently. The plans call for a 12 suite apartment which would be rented to senior citizens for \$40-\$50 per month. Council advised the Legion to obtain the land option, the required list of names and the actual plans for the building for CMHA approval and then council will fulfill their part of the plan.

MILTON — Milton Council dropped the town's mill rate one mill for 1944 despite a finance committee recommendation that the rate be cut by two mills, at a marathon budgeting session. Total estimated expenditures for the year will be \$809,894.72. This will be offset by revenue of \$102,409.66 leaving a deficit to be picked up by the taxpayers of \$617,485.06. The rates of 67 mills for residential properties and 74 mills for commercial properties will be applied on total assessment of \$8,869,200.

Bannockburn W.I. Hosts for Annual

Mrs. C. Sinclair was hostess for the April meeting of Bannockburn Women's Institute. This was the annual meeting and after the secretary-treasurer and the committee convener and their annual reports. Mrs. S. Matthews, retiring president, called on Mrs. M. McCullough to preside for the election of officers.

The baking contest was held among the members with Mrs. McCullough as judge. Mrs. W. C. Colley, second vice-president.

Hurry Up And Wait apartment about the middle of June. Construction should take five weeks. It will be interesting to watch progress to see how much more hurry up and wait can be thrown in progress path.

Linhom was awarded first prize for her cherry pie and Mrs. C. Colley received first for bran muffins. These winners will compete at the district annual meeting in May. Bannockburn Institute will act as hostess when the district annual convenes in Knox Church Acton, in May, so plans were made for this event.

The officers elected for 1944 are: honorary president, Mrs. G. S. Matthews; president, Mrs. W. S. McDonald; 1st vice-pres., Mrs. T. Gordon; second vice-president, Mrs. A. Damm; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. W. Linhom; district director, Mrs. S. Matthews; alternate, Mrs. W. Storey; press reporter, Mrs. C. Colley; auditors, Mrs. W. Storey and Mrs. A. Damm; flower convener Mrs. S. Matthews.

Committees: agriculture and

Sugar and Spice...

BY BILL BAILEY

If ever you decide to do some research on the lower forms of life, I can tell you how to go about it. Just get yourself a black eye.

I had a dozer recently. My wife gave it to me. All right. Not that way. She was sitting in the car, waiting for me to carry the groceries into the house, through the rain. Just as I bent and reached for the car door to open it and ask her if that was all, she opened it smartly from the inside to ask me why I hadn't brought out an umbrella.

When the door nailed me in the eye, I thought I was a goner. My wife shrieked and ran straight into the house to see whether my "loss of limb or eye" accident policy was paid up.

Within a few minutes, the eye was the size and color of a bartender's bezel. But by the time we'd finished arguing about whose fault it had been, it was obvious that I'd live.

We didn't have a piece of steak and if we'd had, I doubt

Let's Play Bridge

By Bill Bailey

In this weekly bridge column, I have mentioned frequently the need to make a plan before you play to the first trick. Included in your plan should be ways to make extra tricks. One of the most important ways to promote tricks is to lead up to your high cards. If you have to lead up to them more than once, then your plan must include how to do this.

Here is an example which occurred last week at the Acton Bridge Club.

The dealer is South and both sides are vulnerable.

North		East	
S-A K 7 6	H-K Q J 9 2	S-10 4 3 2	H-10 6 4 3
D-K	C-9 8 4	D-10 9 8 5 2	D-6 4 3
		C-0 6 5 3 2	C-K 10

Suggested bidding:

South	West	North	East
1S	Pass	3H	Pass
3NT	Pass	4S	Pass
6S	All Pass		

It is very difficult to reach six spades on this hand. In fact, everyone at the Acton Bridge Club reached only four spades. North's hand is valued at 18 points in support of spades. Thus it rates a jump bid. Only by this jump can South begin to see a slam.

A club lead would make things difficult but not impossible for declarer. However West is more likely to lead a diamond from the solid sequence. A diamond lead is not likely to give away a trick.

Even if declarer reaches only four spades, it is necessary to duplicate to make as many tricks as possible in order to get a good result. Suppose West leads the diamond jack and you win in dummy. Your best plan is to set up dummy's hearts.

If trumps break, you will have no trouble. Say you take the spade ace and find East with four trumps. Now you must proceed carefully. A low spade from dummy to your nine. Now lead a heart towards dummy's high hearts. If West plays low, then lead another spade from dummy to your jack. Now your last heart. West must win with the ace and lead a minor suit. You win and take out East's last trump with the king in dummy. Your hearts are good and you make 12 tricks.

Learn to lead towards your high cards so that at least one opponent must play his cards before you decide what to play in the suit.

Canadian industries Mrs. M. Bentall; home economics and health, Mrs. S. Morrison; resolutions, Mrs. J. Fox; historical research and current events, Mrs. A. Brooks; citizenship and education, Mrs. H. Colwell; lunch, Mrs. Griese, Mrs. Uphall, Mrs. Colles, Mrs. Collett; program, Mrs. O'Rourke, Mrs. Morrison, Mrs. Bentall, Mrs. Sinclair.

From 1956 to 1961 the number of Canadians in the \$4,000-\$10,000 income bracket increased by 788,000 to 1,852,000; in the same period the number of persons in the under-\$4,000 bracket declined by 263,000 to 2,495,000.

that it would have been sacrificed. But the Old Girl, bless her, dug out some hambug that was going a bit blue, and made me lie down with a big hambug poultice on the injured optic.

Right off the bat, it felt pretty good at that, and I dropped off to sleep, moaning but brave. During the night, the bandage worked loose and when I woke in the dark, I thought the eye had fallen out. But it was only hambug, all over the pillow.

Next morning, the orb looked like a purple golf ball. We patched it up as best we could and I set off to face the wits.

The comments were hilarious. They ranged from the simple, dry brilliance of "How hitcha?" and "Forget to duck eh?" to the coy, insinuating "I knew she'd catch up with ya some day." They ran the scintillating gamut from the inevitable "I suppose ya ran into a door" to the merrily humorous sally, "Meet the former welterweight champ of the Smiley household."

I came back with some real funnies myself. "My wife," I replied. "Footwork isn't what it used to be." I admitted. "Yotta see the other guy." I quipped. "I can go along with a joke as well as the next bird."

But after a while, in fact, if I remember rightly, it was just after the fourth "How hitcha?" I began getting a little sore. I mean, fun's fun, you know, but after all.

So when the next joker made his move, I told him, dolefully, that a maiden lady who didn't like my column had thrown acid in my face, and that I'd never have the sight of it again. He turned green.

My next customer was a woman, who inquired, "That'll teach ya to write things about your wife in that column of yours." I gave her a gentle, sad look from my good eye, and suggested that she not let the divorce alternate her from my wife. I left her with her mouth open.

I quickly disposed of an elderly lady, strong in the temperance movement, by informing her the inquiry had been received from my young daughter, when she clattered me on the eye with a half empty bottle. It's good sport. Next time the old trouble and strife hangs one on you, Jack, you'll know what to do.

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 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
 6:56 a.m. to Toronto, daily except Sat. and Sun.; 7:18 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 Sat.; 6:23 p.m. to Stratford, daily except Sat. and Sun.; 7:09 p.m. daily except Sunday; 7:09 a.m. to Stratford, daily except Sat.

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The only paper ever published in Acton
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