

Fields of Gold



Photo by W. Merle Gundy

FIELDS OF GOLD are common in the district these days, as wheat ripens on the stalks.

Now One Thin Dime . . .

The price of your paper this week is equivalent to the price of a cup of coffee — 10 cents.

Since 1955 you've been asked to pay only seven cents for the news of town and district but increasing costs, as many publishers have found, makes the slight increase necessary.

Throughout the current history of the paper it has been necessary to make many changes to keep abreast of the times and the town. It is our firm intention to continue this policy and we feel the vast majority of our readers would not want to have it any other way.

There is no big secret about the economics of newspaper publishing. It is generally

Doesn't Pay Way . . .

Advocates of state-run lotteries who see such schemes as the end-all to financing hospitals and education might read with profit a statement made the other day by the governor of the State of New Hampshire. A year or so ago, members of the legislature of this New England state approved a bill making state-operated lotteries legal. The money derived was to be used to pay state education costs. The total population of New Hampshire is substantially smaller than that of Ontario. Therefore there

The Thin Edge of the Wedge . . .

In the changes occurring through our participation in a modern day world we experience deviations which do not always please us. We recognize the reasons for some of these changes and the necessity for them, however, we do not always appreciate them.

This year the post office department has instituted policies whereby the post office and mail service has been drastically reduced during public holidays. For as long as we can remember the first class mail has been sorted and the box lobby open for those who have boxes to pick up their mail.

This year on the July 1st holiday the post office was closed for the first time. We accepted this because it was a national holiday and we appreciate the idea that postal employees are entitled to a holiday as well as the rest of us. When the post office was similarly closed for the Civic holiday this week, it pleased us even less. We don't particularly feel critical of the local post office staff — the same condition existed in many communities.

We do object to the post office policy whereby a post office and thus the mail service is suspended for a civic — a municipally proclaimed holiday. Civic holiday is not a nationwide — not even a province wide holiday and we can see no reason why the postal service should be interrupted or interfered with in any way as a result of locally proclaimed holidays.

known that the price paid for single copies of the newspapers meets only a fraction of the costs incurred in its production. Without advertising a newspaper could not long exist. It seems, however, only fair that readers should pay a reasonable price for the local newspaper. We feel the price of a cup of coffee is not exorbitant when one makes a comparison of the labour involved.

In this age of dealing so extensively in pennies since the introduction of the provincial sales tax many will undoubtedly find it a convenience not to go penny hunting when they pick up their paper.

We trust you'll continue to enjoy the local news in your local weekly.

would be fewer children and correspondingly lower school costs. The governor revealed, however, that the state-operated 'sweep' would only yield \$15 per pupil after expenses had been deducted. Enrollment in Ontario secondary and elementary schools now approximates 1.6 million. On the basis of the New Hampshire experience, our boys and girls would not have much in the way of educational facilities if they were dependent upon sweepstakes earnings.

—Midland Free Press Herald

Editorial Briefs . . .

"People are like stained glass windows. They glow and sparkle when it's bright and sunny . . . but when the sun goes down their true beauty is revealed only if there's a light inside."

If the moon isn't made of green cheese, how come there's such a rat race to see who gets there first?

—Ord (Neb.) Quiz

The greater the obstacle, the more glory in overcoming it.

—Moliere.

Risking death from the bombs and bullets of pro-Castro terrorists, some 95 per cent of Venezuelan voters turned up at the polls. Risking nothing, 79.9 per cent of eligible Canadians voted last June.

—Brantford Expositor.

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

20 YEARS AGO

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, August 3, 1944.

This is another rationed holiday edition of your local paper. Two purposes are served by the smaller edition.

The finishing touches are being put on the remodeling of Mr. G. W. Benton's store and residence. The new premises with modern store front are quite an acquisition to the Mill Street business section.

The bricklayers are finishing the wall of the addition to the Johnstone and Rumley Funeral Home.

This is holiday week for employees of several of the manufacturing establishments in Acton. The following plants are closed this week: Mason Knit Co., Force Electric Products, Wool Combining Corporation of Canada, Canadian Wool Company, Baxter Laboratories of Canada and Ajax Engineers.

Caretaker George Mann has completed his painting and re-finishing of floors and desks in the Continuation School and is now getting the eight rooms of the public school all ready for school re-opening in September.

P.O. James Hufnagel was home on leave last week.

Mr. and Mrs. G. A. Dills attended the funeral Friday of the late A. W. Wright, editor of the Mount Forest Confederate.

50 YEARS AGO

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, August 6, 1914.

Private picnics were popular on Monday.

Milton bowlers were up for a friendly game on Acton green on Tuesday afternoon. The Acton players won by a few points.

Observe "Safety First" during your vacation. You'll be more comfortable in both body and mind if you do.

On Monday of last week, the cornerstone of Milton's new federal building was laid with appropriate ceremonies by Mr. D. Henderson, M.P.

Acton Fire Brigade was well represented at the demonstration of Ontario Volunteer Fire Brigades at Seaford on Wednesday. Chief Scott and secretary Coe, the delegates, went on Monday.

Sixteen Austrians, who have been employed in the tanneries here, left last week for Austria to take part in the war with Serbia.

Arnold and Son, Georgetown, are opening a branch of their glove works in Acton in the premises over Caldwell's ware rooms.

Mr. W. G. C. Kenney has been home from Appleby the past week, looking after the practice of Dr. Coxe during his absence at Seaford.



—Ella Jany's name was listed as successfully completing her year at Ontario College of Education. The former Acton girl is now married and living in Australia.

—Well, half the summer is gone by and we're the only newspaper we know that hasn't so far even mentioned the new

topless bathing suits. Today, we switch over to the other side with the news that Major Newman had a comely visitor to Halton museum wearing one of the surprising new suits. She came from out of the district and was perfectly willing to be noticed. (That should put attendance up at the museum.)



Will your tan keep you warm next winter?

Tans, unfortunately, fade. The sun loses its warmth and winter, inevitably, arrives with all its heating problems.

So don't get caught with your damper down—think cool for a moment and make the switch to natural gas home heating now.

Why gas? Well, to begin with, modern automatic gas heating equipment is low in cost.

You can rent a gas conversion burner for only \$2.95 a month installed into your present furnace and payable on your regular gas bill. Or you can buy a new gas designed furnace for as little as \$3.80 a month and you can take up to 5 years to pay, if you wish.

Natural gas is also low in fuel costs.

Whether your home has normal or extra-thick insulation, you'll find that gas fuel costs are consistently lower than liquid fuel or so-called "flameless" heating.

Do it right now!

It makes good sense to switch while the sun shines and while your heating contractor is readily available. Move up to modern gas heating now; you won't have to pay a cent until next October (even if September's full of frosty Fridays).

Call your heating contractor, department store or gas company soon. Then relax and enjoy your summer tan.

UNITED GAS LIMITED

The Friendly Fuel that never fails.

Sugar and Spice . . .

BY BILL BARRY

As a teacher of English and a former weekly editor, I note with despondency that standards in the weeklies are sagging rather woefully since the days when the weeklies found their finest flowering — The days of Smiley, that is.

Cannibalizing my favorite weekly today — that's what you do, you don't read it, you cannibalize it — I bit into an item that was soft, squishy, pulpy, tasteless and meaningless.

Both as an editor and an English teacher, I must protest. It. Pretty soon, there'll be nothing to cling to in this country but stumpy maple leaves and soggy twine fillers.

The "filler," as all newspaper people know, is an item, anything from one line to a paragraph, that fills out the page. The whole page is made up, and there's a hole left, a blank space. You stick a filler in it.

The filler is a vital component of the newspaper, and the main source of liberal education of some readers. It says, "The natives of Baffin Land are immune to lung cancer because they smoke only potato peelings dried in cow manure." Or something of the sort.

Another one might inform you, more briefly, that "Two hundred and twenty-four unwed fathers are born every third Wednesday." Or something of the sort.

My quarrel today is with the tampering that has taken place with what I consider the greatest filler ever written. It happened a few years ago. We were ready to go to press.

We had already used up all the supplied fillers about Baffin Land and unwed fathers. We had thrown in about eight red-hot one-liners like, "Support your Red Cross" and "A stitch in time saves 9" (no room to spell out the nine).

But still this gaping little slit eyed us. Like a cobra. Then it came. Genius. I wish I could claim it for my own, but one of the boys in the back shop had the flash of inspiration.

It read, "Harold Jones has the gout." Five words. One line. Perfect.

The statement was true. Mr. Jones, a respected local citizen, did have the gout. No room for a label suit. But what suggestions and implications and allusions and suspense were in those five words! What a turmoil of speculation and comment!

From those who did not know him — "Who is Harold Jones?" From those who had never heard the word — "What in the world is the 'gout'?" From those who had heard it — "I'm not surprised." From those who didn't know what it was, but wouldn't admit it —



"I wonder if he's taking anything for it."

This was all very well. I considered it my high point as a weekly editor. It was a short story that Hemingway would have applauded. The English was impeccable, stripped to the bone, true alive.

And what do I read in the same weekly five years later? This mushy, slushy, phony, wordy, sentimental filler, "Mr. Harold 'Skinner' Jones is suffering from the gout again."

Isn't that disgusting? He is now "Mr. Jones." He is now addressed in the false intimacy of a nickname. He no longer "has" the gout, he "suffers" from it, a hideously hackneyed phrase. And the word "again" has about as much impact as the statement that Canada "again" spent more on liquor than missions.

I think it's time I took an other whiff at weekly editing, if only to prevent such deterioration of genuine works of art.

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TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

GRAY COACH LINES

COACHES LEAVE ACTON

Daylight Saving Time
Eastbound
6:33 a.m. (Daily except Sun. and Hol.); 8:54 a.m. (Daily except Sun. and Hol. - Express); 8:58 a.m.; 11:33 a.m.; 2:08 p.m.; 5:04 p.m.; Fri., Sat., Sun. and Hol. (except Aug. 2 and Sept. 6); 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. and 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

Daylight Saving Time
Eastbound
6:52 a.m. to Toronto, daily except Sat. and Sun.; 7:38 a.m. to Toronto, daily except Sun.; (the 9:52 a.m. train is now cancelled); daily except Sat. and Sun.; 7:40 p.m.; Sat. only, 7:45 p.m.; Sun. only 7:20 p.m.
Westbound
7:38 a.m. to Stratford, daily except Sat. and Sun.; 7:38 a.m. to Stratford, daily except Sat. and Sun.; 7:08 p.m., daily except Sun.; 12:49 a.m. to Stratford, daily except Sat.

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 Ontario-Quebec
Division of the C.W.N.A. Advertising rates on request.
Subscriptions payable in advance, \$4.00 in Canada; \$7.00
in all countries other than Canada; single copies 10c.
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