

# Views on Capital Punishment

(Reprinted from Red Deer Advocate)  
Not since December 11, 1962, has there been a hanging in Canada. Norman Latenser, aged 23, who was convicted of capital murder for being an accomplice in the shooting of a supermarket employee in a robbery in Trois-Rivières, Que., recently became the twelfth murderer to have his sentence commuted to life imprisonment since the Liberals took office. Thus, during their two-year government, the hangman has been excused from carrying out his revolting task.

This does not mean the end of capital punishment however. A change of government could also mean a change of policy, though it is only fair to point out that the last Progressive Conservative government was almost as reluctant as the Liberals to employ the rope as punishment for murderers.

Some time this year, assuming that the Liberals are not pushed into a general election, a free vote will be held on a proposal to abolish the death penalty for murder. Recent straw polls have indicated, that there is no certainty that such a proposal would be passed by the Commons.

The strongest proponents of capital punishment have always believed that the end of hanging would mean an increase in the number of murders because only capital punishment is feared by those violent enough to consider killing as a means to achieve their dishonest ends. This theory has long since been disproved in all countries where capital punishment has been scrapped. There is no noticeable increase in murder under such circumstances.

The old biblical yardstick of an eye for an eye is outmoded by modern living. Newer stand-

ards of justice and an insight into the minds of men have altered this crude and cruel standard. There is no longer any justification for judicial murder. The taking of life, under any circumstances is to be deplored, for it makes of man an animal instead of a rational human being governed by heart and mind and conscience.

If hanging does not discourage murder; then there is no other reason left for retaining it. A life sentence with its time for repentance and sorrow, is more than adequate as a substitute punishment for the man who breaks the most serious commandment of them all: Thou shalt not kill.

(Reprinted from the Trenton Trentonian)  
It seems likely that the question of capital punishment will be aired by Canada's Parliament in the near future. Local member for Hastings South, Robert Temple, who is a lawyer, has placed a private member's bill before the House suggesting the abolition of capital punishment. He would replace it with life imprisonment, which in the case of capital crimes, would not be subject to parole or shortening of sentence.

It is not likely that there will be unanimity on the subject. We should not be surprised in the least if the forces for the retention of capital punishment prove very strong, perhaps even in the majority.

A western Canada newspaper expresses one point of view when it questions the commutation of the sentence of a man convicted of rape-murder of two 14-year-old girls. The crime, particularly horrible and wanton, aroused great indignation, and the newspapers felt that it was an offence to public decency that the man had been

granted a commutation of the death sentence. This is a feeling which will not die easily. Murder is of many kinds. But there are crimes, especially those associated with wanton, senseless killing, and most notably those with which sex offences are associated, which affect the public conscience very strongly.

It may be asked what is gained by killing the killer in the name of the state. The only reason which can be given is that it seems the proper thing to do in certain cases. But if the person convicted is to be imprisoned for life, with no hope of parole, what is gained? Has society really shown any mercy to the criminal? Or is that important?

It is not difficult to see that the question is not a simple black and white one. The same difficulties which attach to execution, attach to imprisonment, as far as the prisoner is concerned. The one gain which can be seen is that society will have continued the humanizing of its penal system. While the penal element will be retained, in what indeed may be an even more terrible punishment, the element of seeming vengeance inherent in the death penalty will have been abolished.

Where questions of crime and punishment are concerned, the double matter of punishment and protecting the public is involved.

What is a suitable punishment for murder, and allied crimes, such as treason? We have already recognized that there are different degrees of crime, and we have already limited the death

penalty to a very few. Are the crimes for which it remains of such a nature that only the death of the convicted person is a sufficient penalty? And whom does it satisfy to have a murderer die? If punishment is the object, is not life imprisonment a much greater and more realistic punishment?

And if the protection of society is to be considered, then murderers such as the one whose commuted sentence the western newspaper laments must certainly be kept away from the public which they may harm.

Much is made of the deterrent factor in punishment. This is an element which cannot be overlooked. But is not the prospect of life behind bars, with no hope of release, just as likely to deter a potential killer? And what of those whom some inner mental sickness drives to crimes such as the one mentioned? Would anything deter them?

It is a complex question, and the final answer lies with no one. But when the debate finally comes to the House of Commons, as it will sooner or later, there should be no recriminations against whatever decision is finally reached, for on such a question a nation is seeking through its legislators to satisfy its conscience, and that is no light matter. The eventual aim is to do what is right, not what is popular. The pressure to abolish capital punishment has grown out of a feeling that a Christian nation must find some better way. We are groping upward toward truth on this matter. No one has the last word.

# The Good Old Days...

## 20 YEARS AGO

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, July 12, 1945.

Secretary W. Middleton is in receipt this week of certificates awarded to pupils in Acton Continuation School, which will be presented at a later time. Graduation diplomas for the four year secondary course have been awarded Kenneth Allan, Lorna Frank, Clayton Fryer, Jean Harris and Annie C. Thompson. Intermediate certificates for completion of grades nine and ten have been awarded to John Barr, Frances Chew, William Clayton, Joan Coles, Doris Cripps, Shirley Elliott, Irma Kentner, Shirley Kentner, Olga Locker, Helen McLellan, Kenneth Papillon, Jean Robertson, Mary Smith, Martha Turkuaz and Ernest West.

There has been a great deal of conjecture and anxiety about when the arena would be clear of wool and back to its intended use for the benefit of Acton and district young people. Council has written down the terms of the lease and all hope that it will soon be clear. There are still a million pounds of wool stored there, some piled right up the gutters and all over the curling rink adjoining the main arena.

The elected officers were: president, Comrade Mrs. W. Colles; first vice-president, Mrs. L. Davison; secretary, Mrs. J. Maddox; treasurer, Mrs. Irwin; standard bearer, Mrs. Drysdale; executive, Mrs. J. M. McDonald; Mrs. M. McHugh; Mrs. W. Hargrave; Mrs. A. Wheeler; sick visitors, Mrs. Lazenby, Mrs. Finlay; social, Mrs. Bayliss; Mrs. Mason and Mrs. Wynne; pianist, Mrs. Byrne.

Farm help is essential if the crops are to be saved.

## 50 YEARS AGO

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, July 15, 1915.

Georgetown claims a population of 1,994. That's within a hundred or so of Acton now. Acton Citizens' Band was engaged by Erin Orange Lodge and played in the big demonstration there on the Twelfth.

One hundred and sixty-eight excursionists went to Berlin under the auspices of St. Alban's Sunday School yesterday and report a very enjoyable outing. Another change has been made at St. Joseph's parish. Rev. Father Flahaven has been moved to Markdale and Rev. Father Doyle of Brantford comes to Acton in the near future.

Mr. J. Victor Coleman was presented with a wrist watch by the members of the Epworth League before leaving to take a situation in Toronto. Everyone's good wishes go with him.

The garden party at the home of Mr. DeSue by the Ladies' Aid of Knox Presbyterian Church was very successful. Proceeds from this event were gratifying.

A letter from Pie G. Green to the Free Press says that the boys from Acton who are left are getting on fine. He said that Pie Fred Wright was mentioned in General French's dispatches, also that Pie Jack Sahly was wounded but is progressing favorably and is now on the road to recovery.

Born — Sellwood At Calgary Alberta, on Thursday, July 1, 1915, to Mr. and Mrs. F. S. Sellwood, a daughter.

Died — Colquhoun In Eden Mills, on Saturday, July 3, 1915, Miss Elizabeth Colquhoun, aged 75 years.

Died — Agnew At the home of Mr. Robert Agnew, Park Ave., Acton, on Thursday, July 8, 1915, Julia Sullivan, widow of the late Thomas Agnew, in her 82nd year.

# Editorial Page



VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL at the Christian Reformed Church has attracted 90 youngsters of all denominations. Three of the beginners' class are shown with projects as teachers look on. Front row left to right are Gerlie Riemer, Ronnie Kuiken and Wilma Duiker. Back row left to right teachers are Cory Doornbos, Mrs. H. Hofstede and Renee Leferink.

# Sugar and Spice...

BY BILL MARLEY

Year after year, we moan about the bitter winter, or dreary fall, or the backward spring... until July and August, when we take the rare felt heat as a personal affront and whine increasingly.

Along about the first part of July, we usually get a little whiff of that hot weather we have been looking forward to since Christmas. Nothing torrid. Just a little breath of warmth that a native of the tropics would sneer at. So what do we do? Do we cast off our long-handled underwear and burn it in the streets? Do we have a big welcome party for genial old Sol?

Not we. We totter around complaining even more bitterly than we did all winter. We adopt a harassed air. If we live in the city, we dash from one tomb-like air-conditioned building to another, inevitably catching a wicked summer cold in the process. We greet each other with anguished groans and that old folk-saying, "Hot nuff fer yah?"

Some idiots try to fight fire with firewater. With remarkable ease, they convince themselves that a long cool one is the only way to beat the heat. Which is about as effective as trying to put out a small blaze by pouring gasoline on it.

Others have an even more silly solution. Their idea of getting away from the heat is to hit the highway, drive for four hours in extreme discomfort to a beach where they lie basking with similar sweaty citizenry, before retiring to sleep in a cabin like a steam bath.

Most of the preceding remarks have to do with the male population, poor devils. I must admit that women and children stand up to the heat better. Big reason, of course, is their attire, or lack of it.

Small fry have less clothing on them in this weather than there is in the handkerchief their old man totes around in his hip pocket. Women, whose name is vanity, are interested in acquiring a tan, so expose every possible inch and ounce to the dazed gaze of the men. Women's summer garments are a delight to the eye, and the ultimate in common sense. Maybe that's why ladies don't sweat, but just perspire.

Not so the men. Unless they are on their holidays, they face the heat with a surly lack of compromise that would be admirable were it not stupid. Most of them wear the same clothes in summer as in winter, except for an overcoat. The odd one will take off his jacket. A few sneakily remove

their ties. And the wild individual will roll up his shirt sleeves when it hits a hundred.

But that's about as far as they will go. The vast majority of men wear wool socks, heavy leather shoes, long trousers of wool or flannel, and the same shirts they wear in January.

One more thing that makes a man miserable in the heat is the amount of junk he has to carry in his pants pockets. In cool weather, he can spread it around in jacket and overcoat pockets. But when he has only trouser pockets in which to tuck cigarettes, lighter, handkerchief, comb, car keys, pen, notebook, pipe and tobacco, pull teeth, sinkers and about 50 other essentials, he looks about the shape of an old tree, covered with fungus.

Hot weather is not for men. They should all be given about six weeks off in the summer, while the scantily clad women and kids keep things going. The men won't be happy until they smell the first nip of fall in the air, and can start grumbling about the cold, and what it costs to heat the place.

## THE PROVIDENCE OF CARE

The holiday season is again upon us. The danger of highways, accidents by land and water beset our pathway. As you set out on your journey, remember to commit yourself to prayer to Him who knows the way that you take, your going out and your coming home.

# Professional Directory and TRAVELLERS' GUIDE

## This Sunday's Church Calendar

<p><b>ACTON PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE</b> P.A.O.C. 33 Church Hill Road Rev. S. M. Thomas, Pastor 853-2715</p> <p>SUNDAY, JULY 18th, 1965 10:00 a.m.—Sunday School for all ages.</p> <p>11:00 a.m.—The Musical Byskal family.</p> <p>7:00 p.m.—The Byskal family.</p> <p>Tuesday, 8 p.m.—Prayer Service and Bible Study.</p> <p>Thursday, 8 p.m.—Christ's Ambassadors.</p>	<p><b>ACTON BAPTIST CHURCH</b> Founded 1842 Pastor: Rev. Stanley Gammon Rev. 144 Tuley Ave., Ph. 853-1615</p> <p>SUNDAY, JULY 18th, 1965 9:45 a.m.—Church School for all ages. You are welcome.</p> <p>11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship. "What Does It Mean?" No evening services.</p> <p>Wednesday — Prayer and Bible study, 7:30.</p> <p>Thursday—Choir practice, 7:30.</p> <p>Text: "Be not deceived; God is not mocked; whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." Galatians 6: 7.</p>	<p><b>MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH</b> (Formerly Evangel Baptist Church) SUNDAY, JULY 18th, 1965 Sung leaves YMCA at 9:15 a.m. Calling at Limehouse 9:30 a.m. For information call Acton 853-1956 Georgetown 877-6665</p> <p><b>BETH-EL REFORMED CHURCH</b> Acton, Ontario. Rev. Wiebe Van Dijk Phone 853-1585</p> <p>SUNDAY, JULY 18th, 1965 10:00 a.m.—English Service. 2:30 p.m.—Dutch Service. 3:45 p.m.—Sunday School.</p>	<p><b>TRINITY CHURCH</b> (The United Church of Canada) Minister The Rev. Dwight I. Engel, B.A., B.D. Organist Mr. George Elliott, M.A., Ph.D.</p> <p>Sunday School discontinued for summer.</p>	<p><b>PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA</b> KNOX CHURCH, ACTON Rev. Andrew H. McKenzie, B.A., B.D. Minister Mr. E. A. Hansen, P.A. Organist and Choir Master</p> <p>9:45 a.m.—Church School in departments at Knox church.</p>	<p><b>COMBINED SUMMER SERVICES</b> SUNDAY, JULY 18th, 1965. Service at 10:00 a.m. in Trinity Church Preacher — Rev. Dwight I. Engel</p>
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<p><b>MEDICAL</b></p> <p>DR. D. A. GARRETT Physician and Surgeon Corner of Willow and River Sts. Lorraine River St. Acton, Ont. On Vacation July 1 - August 2 inclusive</p> <p>DR. ROBERT D. BUCKNER Physician and Surgeon 19 Wellington St., Acton, Ont. Attends by appointment. Closed Wed. &amp; Sat. evenings. Phone 853-1240</p> <p>DR. T. B. MOORE DR. C. HUICHISON Physicians and Surgeons 2 Main Street North Corner Main and Mill Street Acton, Ontario Phone 853-2180 By Appointment</p> <p><b>ARCHITECT</b></p> <p>DONALD E. SKINNER B.Arch. — M.R.A.I.C. 17A Mill Street, Suite 2, Acton Telephone 853-2730 Office Hours by Appointment 20 Stavebank Rd., Port Credit 274-3438</p>	<p><b>LEGAL</b></p> <p>C. F. LEATHERLAND, O.C. Barrister and Solicitor Notary Public Office Hours: 10 a.m. - 12 p.m. 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. Saturdays by Appointment only Phone Office: 853-1330 - Res. 853-1745 Acton</p> <p>A. BRAIDA, B.A. Barrister, Solicitor, Notary Public 173 Main St. S., 853-1160 Office Hours in Acton Monday - Friday evenings 8 p.m. - 9 p.m. Saturday 1 p.m. - 5 p.m. 28 Paisley St., Guelph, Ontario Phone TA 4-2242 Office Hours in Guelph Saturday 9 a.m. - 12 a.m. Daily 9 a.m. - 5 p.m.</p> <p>KAPLAN &amp; ORD Barristers and Solicitors Sidney Kaplan and John D. Ord, O.C. 116 Mountaintop Road S. Carretal Building, Georgetown 877-6956</p>	<p><b>DENTAL</b></p> <p>DR. A. J. BUCHANAN Dental Surgeon Office — 90 Church St. E. Office Hours — 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Closed Wednesday afternoon Telephone 853-1750</p> <p>DR. CEDRIC DEY Dental Surgeon Suite No. 3, Hinton Bldg. 173 Mill St. E., Acton, Ont. For appointments phone 853-1300</p> <p><b>OPTOMETRISTS</b></p> <p>L. L. BUCHNER, O.D. Optometrist 6 John St. S., Acton In Acton Wednesdays only 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. For appointment, phone 853-1041 If no answer, phone Waterloo 742-8867</p> <p>ARTHUR A. JOHNSON, O.D. 184 Main St., Milton Phone 878-9972 Res. 878-9678 Tuesday Afternoons Thursday, Evenings Friday Mornings</p> <p>ROBERT R. HAMILTON Optometrist Office hours by appointment PHONE GEORGETOWN 877-3971 116 Mountaintop Rd. S. Acton Office: 109 Mill St. E. Open Monday afternoons and evenings after 4 p.m.</p>	<p><b>APPRAISING AND INSURANCE</b></p> <p>F. L. WRIGHT 20 Wilbur St. Acton, Ontario Phone 853-0720</p> <p>Appraiser and Insurance Over 50 Years in Acton</p> <p><b>CHIROPRACTIC</b></p> <p>G. W. CORBETT, D.C. Doctor of Chiropractic 11A Main St. N., Georgetown. PHONE 877-6631 By Appointment</p> <p><b>FUNERAL DIRECTOR</b></p> <p><b>Shoemaker</b> Phone 853-0350 night or day Bruce E. Shoemaker, Mgr.</p> <p><b>AUCTIONEER</b></p> <p>ALFRED R. SPENCE Auctioneer Glen Williams A Complete Service Telephone Georgetown 877-3306</p>	<p><b>TRAVELLERS' GUIDE</b></p> <p>GRAY COACH LINES COACHES LEAVE ACTON Daylight Saving Time</p> <p>Eastbound</p> <p>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.; Sat. and Sun., 5:08 p.m.; 6:23 p.m.; 8:33 p.m.; 10:08 p.m. (Sun. and Hol.)</p> <p>Westbound</p> <p>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).</p> <p>CANADIAN NATIONAL RAILWAYS Daylight Saving Time</p> <p>Eastbound</p> <p>6:50 a.m. to Toronto, daily Mon. to Fri.; 7:31 p.m. to Toronto, Sunday only.</p> <p>Westbound</p> <p>12:15 a.m. to Stratford, daily except Sunday; 6:31 p.m. to Stratford, daily Mon. to Fri., change at Guelph for London etc.</p>
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