

## Report on the horizon...

There has been a more than passing interest locally in a report to the province on local government in the Niagara Peninsula. Its release, just prior to the expected Plunkett report on local government in Peel and Halton, has stimulated speculation on whether the two reports may have any similarities.

The Niagara report deals with some circumstances that are slightly different from the Peel-Halton situation. There are no cities separated from the county in the local review area. There were in the Niagara report, which may have stimulated the suggestion that county government be abandoned and a metro-type organization established.

Whether the disappearance of the counties of Halton and Peel may be a recommendation of the Plunkett Report, remains to be seen. It may be fairly surmised, however, there will be a recommendation to reduce the number of authorities dealing with such things as education. Whatever form of local government remains, we suspect, will bear responsibility for such things as parks

## Let's mark them...

One notices that the Ontario government has put plaques in many places, commemorating some historic event. Rarely do towns or cities make any attempt to mark their historic buildings.

As an extra centennial project in Acton, why would it not be good for owners of buildings to mark them suitably? A home or building might be 100 years old. With a little imagination one might find buildings throughout Acton which have historic connections. Visitors have no way of knowing

## District history

### Cemetery at Ballinafad subject for Miss Bea Hilts' next article

Miss Beatrice Hilts has written another installment in her current series on the history of Ballinafad and district. Again we remind you to clip these articles out and save them if you would like a record of local history.

The first record I have of Ballinafad cemetery is that a meeting was called for the purpose of appointing Trustees for two acres, more or less, lot one near the Seventh Line in the Township of Erin, County of Waterloo, in Wellington district and the Province of Canada with the first party being Nathaniel Roszell and his wife Hannah and the second parties being Obadiah Roy and Archibald Thompson of Erin Township and Joseph Hilts of Esqueping Township. For the sum of five (\$5) shillings of lawful money, deed registered September 5, 1845, witnesses, Donald Macbain and Arthur Thompson.

Mr. and Mrs. Roszell and some of their family are buried in the cemetery and descendants of the fourth and fifth generations are living.

Nathaniel's son George in later years looked after the cemetery till his death in 1908 and after that Mr. Eb Beswick. They usually had the grass cut with a scythe twice a year.

After Mr. Beswick moved to Acton very little work was done, but shrubs continued to grow so a few interested people arranged for a bee to clean up that part where the graves are.

Some time later Wellington County Council appointed three men, namely Messrs. J. C. Hains and Rutherford to see if they could get people interested in neglected cemeteries. They called on a few and had a meeting before arranging for a public meeting.

Those who had friends buried there were notified to attend a meeting in the former Methodist Church on July 17, 1936. A goodly number came. Mr. Beswick was appointed chairman and Bea Hilts secretary for the evening.

Fred W. Shortill was appointed Trustee for three years, Bea Hilts for 2 years and Clayton Beswick for one year and Bea Hilts as secretary-treasurer. A few years later, Richard Shortill Sr. and Fred J. Shortill were appointed Trustees in place of Clayton Beswick and Bea Hilts but Bea remained secretary-treasurer.

Plans were made for a bee in August that same year, 1936. In June 1937 there was another bee with two teams of horses and Harry Shortill with his yoke of oxen pulling out lilac trees and shrubs which were burned. Twenty men and some women were present.

As this has been a free burying ground there has been no funds from that source. Appeals were made to friends elsewhere and a number did send us contributions and a few still do occasionally.

In June, 1944 a new wire fence was put up on the west and north side of the cemetery, a few men helping the trustees. We appealed to Erin Council to ask if they could help us in any way, so in August, 1951 they did send trucks to remove the very old stone fence along the front of the cemetery. They also sent a bulldozer to remove shrubs and level the ground where there are no graves.

Some time later, in June, 1952, Wellington and Erin Councils did send us a cheque.

We engaged two local men with trucks to bring earth to level up the low places among the graves. A man was also engaged to fill those trucks with his loader.

At a meeting a decision was made to tear up that old sod on the open space

and recreation without delegation to other groups.

Most significant point in the Niagara report that offered some encouragement locally was the recommendation that urban municipalities be enlarged. Milton's application for a massive annexation has already been sidetracked twice by a cautious and uncertain Ontario Municipal Board. If there is to be any extension of the town's borders it appears it will have to come in the Plunkett Report.

The Plunkett Report, however, is due in the hands of the Minister of Municipal Affairs in a few days. When it will be released remains to be seen. What it will contain will be subject to some intensive study by the local municipalities and there won't be time to dawdle. The municipalities affected by the Niagara Report were given a deadline by which to submit their comments. Those in local government should be prepared for a similar situation. More important, their opinions should be hammered out promptly if they are to bear any weight.

Few residents are aware which houses have such connections. Yet a series of clearly visible signs or plaques would help to commemorate some of our history. The town hall and stone school might be suitably marked with historic highlights as a good start for such a project.

Something like this would help to create an interest in our history, and would help to preserve facts which otherwise may be easily lost.

## Under the spreading eim



SHADY TREE that gives Elm Tree Farm its name is the natural awning over the pottery booth Saturday at the sale and show at the farm of Mr. and Mrs. W. A. N.

Hoey in Nassagaweya. An estimated crowd of 2,500 saw the work of professional craftsmen at outdoor booths and in the outbuildings.

## Free Press Editorial Page

### Witch hunting...

Nowadays all one has to do to silence free speech is claim that a dissenter is either Communist, influenced by Communists, or is playing the Communist game. Thus, if one opposes the Viet Nam war for instance, he is likely to be the subject of the denunciations of the hysterical witch hunters whose number in the United States is alarmingly large, and who have their counterpart in Canada.

One Toronto columnist is never tired of riding this hobby horse, and likes to suggest that everything and sundry is a Communist front, or is parroting the Communist line. Of all the sticks with

which to beat dissenters on the head, this is the one most easily at hand these days. One can make a plausible case for denouncing anybody who disagrees with the official line by painting him Red.

The truth is that some Communist influence is at work in the free world. But to lambast every person who differs as a Communist is to put a gag on all discussion, and sow suspicion without proof.

Today's Communist bogey is used much as the charge of witchcraft used to be made, and in some quarters it gets just about the same result. In the long run it cannot achieve its purpose, because thoughtful people know that every issue must be examined on its merits.



## Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

We did a fair amount of travelling this summer. There's nothing left from it but a pile of travel folders and 12 equal monthly payments at the bank. But I thought the least I could do was to pass along a few travel notes to those planning or wishing they'd taken one.

First of all, don't wish, just do it. If you wait until you can afford a trip you'll be too old to enjoy it. There's nothing more pitiful than those tottering old wrecks you'll see on any cruise, who have put off "The Trip" until the children are grown, the mortgage paid and Dad has retired.

It's easy, almost frighteningly easy, to take a trip without money. Railroads, air-lines and shipping companies are only too happy to take you to Timbuctoo if the never-never plan.

Just forget about that new dishwasher or wallpaper and sign on the dotted line. Your friendly travel agent will loan you a pen. By the way, it's a good idea to plan your trip through a travel agent. There's no charge as he's paid by the air-rail-hotel people. Also, it's reassuring when you arrive in a strange city at midnight, to be able to wave that reservation in the desk clerk's face, even though it's for the wrong date.

How to get there? If it's a long haul, and your time is limited, and your legs are short, flying's the best bet! It's dull, cramped, the baggage handling is little short of vandalism, and there's always a long ride into town from the airport, for which you pay. But you're there in a hurry.

Trains are lurchy and rather slow but you can relax. There's nothing like a stroll through a town to add color to your trip. Black and Murr's prices are fairly reasonable now, with family rates which include meals. The latter, while adequate, are a far cry from the old railway dining cars, where food and service were superb. Their chief aim now is to feed you and get you out of there.

Probably the best way to travel is by car, with tent or trailer. It's certainly cheaper, and you don't have to follow a time table. The drawback is that unless you like driving, it's just that — driving.

Mile upon mile, hour upon hour, day after day. No holiday there for me.

For the person travelling alone, on a budget, the bus is the best. It's drafty or hot or cold or dusty. And the lady in the adjacent seat is the biggest bore in North America and she's going to be with you right across the continent. But you can go a long way on 100 bucks.

About clothes. Pack carefully, everything you think you're going to need, and then leave exactly half your luggage at home, and you'll be just right.

About food. (The price of good meals wherever you'll make a strong man weep great salt tears. Only solution is to take along a large plastic bag filled with bologna sandwiches, dill pickles, cheese and other goodies. About the third day on the trip, it looks, smells and tastes like pemmican, but you'll have lots of privacy, and you won't have to tip any waiters.

About tips. The dime's a quaint coin that became obsolete during the '30's and is now used only in vending machines. The quarter is rapidly going the same way. But have one pocket stuffed with them and the other with dollar bills, and you'll see nothing but smiling faces and friendly, outstretched hands all along your route.

About service. The country is going to pot. Remember all those smiling, assistant managers, supercilious desk clerks and lacemakers' bell hops during the post-war period? They've all disappeared. To the place to which I frequently consigned them, I hope. This summer I was rather severely shocked to meet a friendly assistant manager, a bell-hop with a sense of humor, and no less than three courteous cab drivers. My wife nearly fainted when one of them jumped out and opened the door for her. Needless to say, this was in The West.

There's only one thing wrong with travelling. It costs you the shirt right off your back. Best way around this is to steal a credit card belonging to Joe P. McClutch and sign for everything. If this is not feasible the only alternative is to sell your wife and children into slavery. Either way, it's worth it.

Now, have a happy, happy trip.

## Free Press

## Back Issues

### 20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, September 12, 1946.

Acton Council met in special session with councillors J. H. Creighton, C. Cook and W. Benson present and Reeve C. L. Kirkness president. Details in connection with servicemen's recognition day were discussed by council. The parade on Saturday, Sept. 21 is to form at the park. This will have a band, floats, wagons, riding horses, etc. and servicemen and women. Prizes will be offered for the best decorated residence and place of business. It was decided to have a fireworks display for the evening.

There are to be ball games in the morning and following the presentation ceremony in the park, Acton Branch of the Legion will operate a midway. There will be a grand dance operated by the Y's Men.

Georgetown fair marked its 100th anniversary and a fine pylon in the park was officially dedicated.

Legion News — A list of war brides in the vicinity is asked to be handed in as soon as possible. Comrade Owen Masales, after returning from Christie St. hospital for treatment for a dislocated vertebra, has now acquired broken bones in his left hand at a recent baseball game. Tough luck, Owen.

There was a large gathering in Bloomsbury school to honor two returned war veterans and their brides, Mr. and Mrs. Jack Van Goozen and Mr. and Mrs. Ernest Wilson.

Gordon Batty successfully passed his first year examinations at the University of Toronto.

Mr. Sarah Patrick, wife of Alfred Patrick, passed away suddenly at her home.

### 75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, September 17, 1891.

If all the money squandered in the recent military displays in Europe were put to useful work, how much of the world's suffering might be relieved!

At a recent meeting of the Toronto school board a motion was passed favoring the adoption of a public school curriculum which would only include what is absolutely necessary and practical, relieving the students of the murderous forcing system now in vogue.

There is a great strike of 1550 mill workers at Ottawa, and the militia has been called out to suppress the strikers.

The sensation of the week in this quiet little town was the union in holy wedlock of Mr. R. E. Nelson, Merchant Tailor, Guelph, and Miss Maggie Nicklin, second daughter of Edward Nicklin Esq. In Guelph they whitewashed the defective planks in the sidewalks to warn the pedestrians of danger. If this was done in some towns we're pretty well acquainted with the streets would present quite a dazzling appearance.

Advertisement — J. V. Kinnawin drug store, Mill St. — All school requisites, school books, scribbling books, slates and pencils, pens and ink.

A monument is being erected over Louis Riel's grave by Quebec sympathizers.

The explorer Stanley is going to Australia.

Great excitement prevails at Drummondville. Bodies of British soldiers from the war of 1812 have been found in a trench. Some of the red coats are intact.

Already 11,000 pilgrims have died of cholera at Mecca.

### 50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, September 14, 1916.

Acton fall fair is the next event of importance in the public affairs of the people of Acton and the surrounding townships.

As the ringing tones of the school bell floated over town on opening morning scores of Young Canadians were gathering up their books or were already well on their way to the seat of learning at the head of the green-arched Education Lane. To many it must seem a sort of nursery where the youngsters are housed from danger of storm, or horse, or auto, and incidentally imbibe a few elements of futur: knowledge.

A new well has been sunk at the park for the convenience of exhibitors and visitors.

Acton's Boy Scouts left town on the 7 a.m. train for Toronto Tuesday and were escorted to Scout Headquarters at the Exhibition grounds. After dinner in the Government Dining Hall they paraded again. The provincial secretary complimented the Acton Scoutmaster, W. Coles, on their appearance and asked them to lead the parade, each scout carrying a large Union Jack. At the Dufferin Gates they awaited the arrival of the Toronto Scouts and here Reeve Hynds and other Acton citizens greeted with evident pride on the Acton troop. The parade moved 1,800 strong to the parade ground.

## Free Press

## Church Notices

**TRINITY CHURCH**  
(The United Church of Canada)  
Minister: Rev. Dwight I. Engel, B.A., B.D.  
Organist: Mr. George Elliott, M.A., Ph.D.  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1966  
Services provided at morning service.  
ANNIVERSARY SERVICES  
10 a.m. and 7 p.m.  
The Rev. G. W. Bruch, B.A., B.D., D.D. (see larger advertisement in paper)  
A warm welcome awaits you at both services.

**ACTON BAPTIST CHURCH**  
Founded 1842  
Pastor: Rev. Stanley Gannon  
Res. 144 Tuley Ave., Ph. 853-1615  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1966  
9:45 a.m.—Church School, Adult Class.  
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship. "Water Comes Wine"  
Evening service cancelled for United Church Anniversary Service.  
Tuesday 8 p.m. — Deacons Meeting.  
Wednesday—Prayer and Bible Study, 7:30  
Thursday 7:30 p.m. — Choir practice.  
All visitors welcome to our services.  
Doctrines we preach and believe: The Virgin Birth, The Deity of Christ, His Bodily Resurrection, The Second Coming.

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA**  
**KNOX CHURCH, ACTON**  
Rev. Andrew H. McKenzie, B.A., B.D., Minister  
Mr. E. A. Hansen, B.A. Organist and Choir Master  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1966  
9:45 a.m.—Church School for ages 3 to 15.  
11:00 a.m.—Divine Worship, Sermon  
Theme: "Three Necessities of Life"  
7:30 p.m.—Church School staff meeting at Knox Manse.  
Everyone most welcome.

**BETH-EL CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**  
Acton, Ontario.  
Rev. Wiebe Van Dijk, Phone 853-1585  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1966  
10:00 a.m.—English Service.  
2:45 p.m.—Dutch Service.  
3:45 p.m.—Sunday School.

**THE CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR**  
ANGLICAN  
Corner Willow and St. Alban's Drive  
Rev. Ritchie McMurray, M.A., S.T.B.  
Trinity XV  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1966  
9:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist.  
10:30 a.m.—Church School Commencement Exercises.  
10:30 a.m.—Holy Eucharist.  
Wednesday, September 21 — Feast of St. Matthew.  
10:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist.

**EVANGEL PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE**  
P.A.O.C. 33 Churchill Road  
Rev. S. M. Thoman, Pastor, 853-2715  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1966  
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School for all ages.  
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship Service.  
7:00 p.m.—Evangelic Service.  
Tuesday, 8 p.m.—Prayer and Bible Study  
Thursday, 8 p.m.—C.A. Service.  
September 16 to 23—Max Subbrekken — salvation healing "Crusade" — prayer for the sick, lame, blind and deaf (no charge)  
Every night — Sept. 16 to 23 — 8 p.m.  
Sunday, 18th—11 a.m., 3 p.m. and 8 p.m.

**MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
(Georgetown)  
SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1966  
9:45 a.m.—Sunday School.  
11:00 a.m.—Morning Service.  
7:00 p.m.—Evening Service.  
Wednesday, 8 p.m. — Prayer meeting.  
Acton 853-1956 Georgetown; 877-6668