

Only a door apart

It is encouraging to hear there is a glimmer of hope in the dispute between the former Halton public health nurses and the county. One of the most exasperating experiences was last Tuesday when the nurses were present to hear discussion of County Council on the subject. The desire for negotiations was spelled out by the county while the nurses remained silent. When they left the chambers they were plied with questions by reporters. They indicated the same desire to meet as the county had and that they had advised officials of this desire.

The silent many

"Silence is Golden", someone once said and the extent to which many people have adopted this outlook, becomes frightening as each new inroad of freedom, on morals, and on everyday living is carved deeper.

Speaking out requires involvement. It requires formation of an opinion, it requires some thought process that demands involvement. But no one wants to become involved.

Citizens today pay their taxes at arms length. Many are paid through a mortgage company that collects monthly payments from the homeowner. This way it doesn't even take a trip to the municipal office to pay the taxes.

Citizens today are willing and able to speak about civic affairs on the street corner, at the club meeting or in a two way discussion. But such conversations rarely get to the forum of government

So here on one side of the door is one story while on the other side another story. Frustrated by the dispute and yet the closeness of positions one reporter stormed in to urge the councillors to meet the nurses here and now. Council was in recess and by the time they had reconvened and passed a resolution to permit the nurses to speak the nurses had left the building.

A meeting did result, however, and now both sides seem to be talking optimistically.

locally at the town hall because that would require involvement and the old adage about silence being golden leaps to the fore.

At what point do we quit rationalizing, quit being passively quiet, quit whispering on the street corner and quit involved. Democracy cannot long survive where laws are challenged almost weekly in every phase of life from the injunctions of the courts to the speed limits on the highways. At some point someone with enough strength will get involved and that individual may be interested enough to make a career out of directing other people until we all find ourselves being directed even more extensively than we presently are. The end of the trail, dictatorship, we say could never happen here.

Couldn't it?
"Silence is Golden".



TASTING AND TESTING for quality is judge Mrs. M. H. McKenna from Woodbridge as she samples jam at the Acton Fair. Lady members left to right assisting her are Mrs. R. L. Davidson, Mrs. Morgan

Madill and Mrs. William Thompson. Entries were many and Mrs. McKenna had her share of tasting jam before choosing final winners.

Free Press Editorial Page

Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley



A chap called Richard J. Needham writes a daily newspaper column in Toronto. Quality and content range from high-class to hog-wash, but it is eminently readable.

Needham is not a true humorist, but has a sharp satiric sense, a wild imagination, and a clear view of the ridiculousness of many of our moral, social, political and economic fairy tales.

Despite the clear view, he is an incorrigible romantic, a 1966 model Don Quixote who tilts at windmills with a typewriter, forces flowers on strange ladies, and thinks of life and love in capital letters. He's a literary burglar and a bellowing non-conformist. Interesting fellow.

But he has a couple of blind spots. He hates the educational system and has a blatant contempt for today's young people. Sounds psychological. Perhaps he was turfed out of school, or dropped out, or had some rotten teachers. But he despises the whole business.

For him, the educational system is a vast, soulless monolith, whose sole aim is to crush the spirit of youth, indoctrinate it with all the wrong ideas, and fail to teach it anything about LIFE. He's great on LIFE.

For him, teachers are a bunch of dull clods, whose only desire is to stuff kids with useless information and promptly squelch any signs of initiative or creativity.

For him, modern students are a sorry lot, unadventurous, inarticulate, security-minded and materialistic.

Well, I'm here to tell brother Needham it's time he got into the twentieth century. His ideas are pure poppycock.

Sure, the educational system is a vast monolith. What do you do with 6,000,000 kids? Shove them into the streets to learn about LIFE? But it's far from soulless. On the contrary, it's composed of men and women with intelligence, goodwill and understanding, who work tirelessly to improve the system for the benefit of the students.

Sure, teachers are dull clods. Some of them. Just as some doctors, lawyers, ministers and columnists are dull clods. But the great majority work their heads to the bone, shoving, urging, exhorting, encouraging and leading the youngsters to adulthood.

And the students? Are they a sad, beaten crowd, cowed by authority, eager for security, afraid to think for themselves? That is what Mr. Needham, with his Victorian view of schools, would have us believe. Hah!

A few are. But the majority are just the opposite. They are rebellious, daring, adventurous, and just basting to have a whirl at life, as youngsters have been since the time of Socrates.

Right now my son, who is 19, is either hitch-hiking across Canada, on his way home, or heading for Mexico. We're not in a hurry to talk songs which she writes herself, to keep her mind off her sore ears. She had them pierced yesterday, for earrings.

And right now, all over town, 1,200 kids from our high school are ignoring their homework and watching TV, or shooting pool, or gassing on the phone, or falling in love, or riding motorcycles. They're certainly not cowed by authority, or squelched by the system, or indoctrinated by anything, except human nature.

Don't be naive, Mr. Needham.

CENTENNIAL REPORT

by john w. fisher
centennial commissioner



I wish the Centennial Commission could buy a ticket and the travel fare for every person in Canada to see Expo 67 next year. But I just don't have the budget to do that.

Millions of Canadians won't see Expo Montreal will be able to see some Centennial spectacular in the nearest city. Canada's leading events are shared by all parts of the country.

It could be a performance of the Canadian Armed Forces Tattoo, one of the largest spectacles of its kind ever to be presented in North America. It could be the touring Centennial air show with thrilling flying by the Forces' formation aerobically team of pilots specially picked for the 1967 celebrations.

Those living on or near the coasts and waterways will be able to see impressive naval assemblies of the majestic ships of Canada's forces and the navies of a number of other countries.

In major cities there will be dazzling performances on stage by top artists from Canada and abroad. There will be art shows and there will be sporting events such as the Pan American games at Winnipeg and the winter games in Quebec.

Proposed international events in Canada next year include: a balloon race across the prairies; world snowshoe championships; a North American ski championship meet and international ski jumping competitions near Ottawa; an international air show at Abbotsford B.C.; international motor cycle races near Tor-

onto; world hydroplane championship races at Valletfield, P.Q.; and a water ski world championship meet at Sherbrooke, P.Q., to mention a few.

The point I make is that no one who can't afford the trip to Montreal should be disappointed about Centennial Year. In the realm of spectacular events there will be something to see in every major Canadian city.

The small towns as well, with visits by the touring Centennial Caravans, carrying fascinating exhibits of Canadiana and their own community Centennial events, will be gay attractions during 1967.

For those unable to leave their own homes — even shut-ins — the year 1967 will be a special one. With our coast to coast radio and television communications of today all will be able to witness or listen to the great sporting events, see or hear Centennial performers, follow the 4,000 mile canoe race — in fact, they will be able to enjoy many of the events I mentioned above by electronic means. The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation has great plans for Centennial coverage and so have the magazines and newspapers of Canada.

It's going to be a big birthday celebration and no-one is going to be left out of the party. There will be something for everyone — young or old — to do, to see and to be happy about. Not the least important event to be happy about is that this young, vigorous country is moving into its second century of Confederation with a bright future ahead.

Free Press Back Issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, September 26, 1946.

Oldest established church in Acton, the Baptist congregation marked their 104th anniversary on Sunday with special services.

The second wage increase this year for employees of Wool Combing Corporation of Canada Ltd. was announced last week. The minimum wages will now stand at 50 cents an hour for experienced women operators and 60 cents for men.

The nearly 300 honored by Citizens of Acton at the Town's Recognition Day Ceremony last Saturday were:

Overseas casualties — Buck K. H. Elwood Wm. R. Gibbons John, Gordon Wilson, Molozzi G. A., McNabb N. L., Murphy W., Near F., Smethurst Bert, Simpson Harold, Taylor George.

Women's Division — Bayliss Pat, Buchanan Daisy, Clayton Dorothy, Dills Frances, Lamb Helen, Nicol T., Wood Dora.

Men's Division — Allen Burt, Allen C. E., Anderson Robert, Arnold Beverley, Atkinson Tom, Blackwell Steven, Bauer M. G., Bayliss G. H., Beatty Gordon, Beirnes Geo., Biggin R. E., Binnie, P., Blanche W. E., Boulton Geoffrey, Bradley H. E., Braida N. J., Braida R. J., Brown O. R., Brunelle Samuel, Bruce John A., Buchanan A. J., Byrne C., Buchanan W., Barber John.

Carnochan W. H., Chapman John, Chisholm John, Chisholm Roy, Clements N., Clifford E. A., Close D. Leo, Coles E. W., Coleman W. S., Cook Gordon, Cook H. O., Cooney J., Corless Ben, Courtney M. F., Cripps Henry, Cripps L. A., Cripps Leonard, Cross R. A., Cutting Melvin, Cutting Lloyd, Dair, Clifford Davidson, Earle DeForest, Harold, Dron H. V., Dron Herb, Drysdale John, Dills David, Duly Les, Dumarsh W., Dunk J.

Elliott E. G., Elliott P. A., Elliott Victor, Emerson R. F., Evans Don, Elliott W. R., Fields Bill, Fields S. P., Finlay W. J., Fisher W. F., Ford A. R., Ford Jim, Freuler H., Fryer Kenneth, Gamble A., Gervais Aubrey, Gibbins Gordon, Gibbins Cecil, Gibbons T., Gibbons W. J., Gordon Allen, Goy J. H., Graham C. J., Graham H., Gray Johnny, Grischow E. F., Graham Jack.

Hargrave George, Harris Jack, Harris Harold, Harris A., Harris T. W., Heatley Robert, Henderson W. J., Henderson W. B., Henderson John A., Hepburn Bev., Higgins J. A., Hinton H. H., Hollinger George, Holloway F., Holmes C. H., Holmes F. J., Hurd J., Hubbell Charles, Hufnagel Eddie, Hurst Jos., Hufnagel Jas., Hollinger Jack, Hansen Ted, Hassard Harvey, Hassard Martin, Hassard Kenneth, Harrop Ted, Ingles Geo. F., Jocque J. C., Johnson A., Jones W. C., Jones Frank, Jones Jas.

Karley Gerald, Kelly F., Kenney P., Kirkness T. A., Lamb T. R., Lamb James, Lamb W. R., Lambert Len, Lambert Harvey, Lambert Gordon, Lambert H. N., Lambert Roy, Landsborough E., Langford R. G., Lantz Stuart, Lasby Elmer, Lasby Joe, Lazenby G. Jr., Lazenby G. Sr., Leishman Allan, Loutitt Bob, Loutitt Albert, Lovell R. G., Lutz Z. J., Lindsay C. H., Marshall James, Marshall Robert, Marshall Bill, Martin Ivan, Martin Archie, Masales Owen, Marzo Ilio, Marzo L. P., Massey A. E., Masters Lorne, Mattocks

Free Press Church Notices

THE CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR ANGLICAN
Corner Willow and St. Alban's Drive
Rev. Ritchie McMurray, M.A., S.T.B.

Trinity XVII
SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1966
9:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist.
10:30 a.m.—Church School.
10:30 a.m.—Holy Eucharist.

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, OCTOBER 2, 1966
CHURCH SCHOOL
10:00 a.m.—Nursery Class to Grade 4.
11:15 a.m.—Grade 5 to Grade 8.

SERVICES OF WORSHIP
10:00 a.m.—Trinity United.
11:15 a.m.—Churchill (3rd Line).
The Sacrament of Holy Communion will be administered at both services.
Nursery provided.
8:00 p.m.—Meeting of Teen-age members of the congregation at the Manse (29 Bower).

ACTON BAPTIST CHURCH
Founded 1842
Pastor: Rev. Stanley Gammon
Res. 144 Tiltley Ave., Ph. 853-1615

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1966
9:45 a.m.—Church School, Adult Class.
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship, "More Than These."
7:00 p.m.—Evening Service "Apostolic Worship" (Third of a series.)
Monday — Mission Circle 8 p.m.
Wednesday — Prayer and Bible Study 7:30.
Thursday — Choir, 7:30.
Friday — B.H.F. 7:00. Adults 8:15.
All visitors welcome to our services.
Doctrines we preach and believe: The Virgin Birth, The Deity of Christ, His Bodily Resurrection, The Second Coming.

Bill, Massey Jonas, McBride James, McCutcheon Harvey, McCutcheon Gordon, McDoowell T., McKenzie Garnet.

McKersie L. R., McKeown E. H., McLellan M. S., McMillan M. J., McEachern W. A., McNabb Neil, Miller K. E., Mills Albert, Moore J., Morton Bus, Morton Norm, Møysé E. B., Mooney Harold, Nichol J., Nichol T., Nicolak W., Nodwell J. C., Norton Howard, O'Hara R., O'Rourke J., O'Rourke H., Otterbein H. A., Papillon Francis, Patrick Neil, Patrick Emerson, Patrick Bert, Patrick Victor, Peal W. H., Peardon P. W., Perkins Ted, Phenix A. W., Plourde R. J., Price N. A., Price D. C., Price H. C., Price C. H., Purdy P.

Reid M. J., Reid T. G., Ridley J. L., Ritchie James E., Robinson Lloyd, Robson W. L., Rogers W. H., Roste Monty, Roszell Harold, Roszell Elmer, Rowles Calvert, Ryder D. G., Ryder Glen, Scriven J. W., Shepherd J., Simpson G. T., Sinclair A. W., Skilling H. W., Smith Gordon, Sterritt Clifford, Switzer George, Taylor H., Taylor W. J., Taylor F. H., Terry Frank, Toth F., Tournour F. L., Turner F. G., Turner W. L., Turkosz P., Turkosz J., Turkosz G., Tyler C. A., Tyler M. A.

Van Wyck F. A., Valey E. C., Vickers W. G., Wagner G., Waller E. F., Waterhouse John, Waterhouse C., Waterhouse T. E., Waterhouse James, Wedge Clifford, Wheeler V. A., Williams G. W., Wilson R. C., Wilson Andrew, Wright N. B., Weaver A., Williams Wm., Wilson Wm., Young J. D., Younglout Lorne.

Mr. and Mrs. Norton have sold his garage business and Ford Sales and Service to Mr. Ray Thompson who has been associated with him as mechanic for some time.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, September 28, 1916

Acton Fall Fair is over and it was a gratifying success. The showing of horses was magnificent. The showing of cattle was splendid.

Acton Fall Fair have every reason to be proud of its organization. President Havill and Secretary Hynds are a great combination and every director was at his post to give service.

Married — Butcher-White. On Saturday, Sept. 23 at St. Alban's Church, by the Rev. C. H. E. Smith, Eric, elder daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wm. White, to Alfred Butcher of Oshawa.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, October 1, 1891.

Fall Millinery Opening. Miss Stoddart who was with us last season will be pleased to show the ladies a large and fine assortment of hats and bonnets at reasonable prices. Henderson, McKee & Co.

Considerable grain is coming in this week. The following prices rule on the market here: wheat 87-90, barley 38-45, peas 58, oats 25.

The carpenters are just completing Mr. Jos. Perkins' new house on Bower Avenue.

Acton Union Exhibition next Tuesday and Wednesday.

First hall at Ballinafad thought built by Templars

Miss Beatrice Hills continues writing of the history of this district with an account of the first hall in Ballinafad.

A society known as the "Good Templars" either built that hall or helped to get it built. This was on the land of Mr. Nathaniel Roszell's farm.

This hall was situated just west of the Methodist Church with a driveway between. There was a low stone foundation on which the frame work of the building rested with the hall above the shed.

The double doors leading to the steps were on the east corner facing the town line. There was a small hall upstairs with another door to get inside.

For a number of years this was the only exit until in the 1940's when a door was put on the upper side with steps to go down.

I do not know what year the hall was built but have the names of the early trustees, Messrs. Joseph Henry Thompson, George Beswick and George Yermen. Some years later Mr. Eb Beswick was appointed in place of his father and Robert Henderson in place of Joseph H. Thompson. George Yermen went west to live with some of his family after the death of his wife.

Around 1890 or later I, with some other children, became a member of a Juvenile Temperance Society. Meetings were held in this hall every two weeks, our leader being Miss Jennie Yermen.

At that time there was also an adult society. About twice a year both groups would meet in an evening and put on a good program. There was an adult group earlier than that, I know.

Each one signed a pledge never to drink any intoxicating liquor. It may be that is the reason two hotels in or near the Fad closed up, leaving one which continued. For some years this hall was called The Temperance Hall.

This shed had an open front so in 1907 a bit of mason work was done and on top of that boarded up which kept snow from drifting in and made it warmer for horses. A door was placed in the centre of the front.

Before elections took place, each

party held a meeting in this hall. On voting day it was a busy place.

Usually in December the Methodists served a supper; these were then called tea-meetings. A good program followed in the church, mostly by the Sunday school classes.

The Presbyterians also had a number of tea-meetings there and Sunday school entertainments.

A Literary Society was organized and meetings held in the hall on winter evenings for a few years. There was a short program followed by a good debate. Rev. Milne would give a bit of advice to those taking part. Good crowds attended and really enjoyed it. This would be around 1905-1915.

The two public schools had a number of entertainments there during the years, usually before Christmas.

A number of good plays were put on in that hall, mostly by home talent. Quite frequently dances were held there.

Down through the years several dozen chairs were bought, a new roof put on and a hardwood floor put in.

A wood stove provided heat and oil lamp gave light till hydro power was available.

In later years more conveniences were added but water still had to be carried there. Numerous showers were held in the hall for newlyweds or those to be wed. Presentations also took place there for people moving from our community.

As I stated once before, Sunday School and services were held there from September till December while our church was being redecorated and a basement put in, in 1954.

Fowl suppers had been served in that hall for a number of years before there was a basement in our church. A few times we served 400 people, other times 300 or more. It was much more convenient serving at the church — it made much less running.

In the past our lives were centred in our homes, in our church and in the many good times we had in the hall when there were no cars. We made most of our own amusement or entertainment. Those were the Good Old Days! We did not need to worry about bombs or going to the moon and tensions were unheard of.

Each group using the hall paid a certain amount for rent which went for improvements. The work usually was done by the trustees free of charge.

Some years ago the hall was considered unsafe so stood idle. Arrangements were made to have it sold by auction. It was supposed to have been there for nearly 100 years.

The sale took place on the evening of August 21, 1961. The man who bought it had it taken down and got out what he wanted, then anyone could pick up shingles, lath, boards, etc.

They were glad to get rid of it as much as possible. Some parts of it were in rather poor condition. We wonder it stood as long as it did.

The Women's Institute here thought Ballinafad should have a new hall so decided to raise money for that purpose. They worked hard to raise funds and were promised assistance by Erin and Esquering councils, so a lot was bought back where the Methodist Church stood and the work got started in 1962.

The rubbish from the old hall was disposed of and the land where it and the former Methodist church stood was leveled and used as a parking space for the new hall.

A large crowd gathered for the opening of the new hall on Friday evening, March 8, 1963.

I have been writing ancient history of this district lately so will leave that subject, for someone who knows more about it than I do.

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