

A time of change

This week's issue is our first to be produced using offset-printing, as compared with letterpress printing that has been in use since the paper was established.

As this is written we are optimistic that the first issue will be an improvement on former issues in picture reproduction, ink coverage and general appearance. Hopefully, we will not be disappointed.

A complete change in production methods does, however, have its difficulties and if we aren't just as sharp this week as you may expect, please don't be too critical.

A special section accompanies this issue to tell something of the different process and of the organization of your local paper. It was designed to permit the press a trial run in advance of the actual pressure of final deadlines. You will notice a more generous use of color in its pages, which is one of the things possible with the addition of the new press.

Technical changes in the printing industry are more rapid and dramatic, as they are in every industry. Where a press was once considered good for an editor's lifetime, technical changes have now reduced the lifespan dramatically. It is increasingly becoming the age of automation, computers and work-saving features.

The one press that served this paper was good for 40 years, the next for

25, the next for 10. While we naturally hope this new press will be good for a considerable length of time, at least long enough to be paid for, it is impossible to predict.

Linotypes that set the material for the news columns have not changed in basic design since they were invented. The first one installed in Halton County about 1918, with normal maintenance and some rebuilding, is still in operation weekly in our plant. Now linotypes are being replaced with type-writer-like keyboards, equipped with computers that will not only speed their production but increase accuracy. They will probably be the next to be replaced in our plant, as progress dictates the adoption of new and more modern techniques.

As in every business there is never an opportunity to sit back and declare you have reached the ultimate. There is a constant pressure to be efficient, to be progressive and to maintain a product that is acceptable.

Changes will be a constant part of our program as we seek to maintain a weekly newspaper worthy of the town it represents. The current change is one of the largest steps we have ever taken and we make it with a firm faith in the town and area. We sincerely hope we may have the continued cooperation and good wishes of the community that will make it possible to produce a newspaper you will be proud to have as your representative.

Valid ideas don't deteriorate

Valid ideas do not deteriorate under the spotlight of public scrutiny. Quite often they find their strength and support as a result of general discussion.

It was thus surprising to find a meeting hosted by Acton School Boards closed to the public scrutiny when a far-reaching proposal for a single North Halton Board of Education was being placed before representatives of other boards in this part of the county.

The secrecy of the discussion was defended to us by the suggestion it was unwise to "get the people all excited" about something that might not materialize. We find it difficult to accept this train of thought. If Parliament were to follow the reasoning that only legislation which is an accomplished fact should be revealed to the public, much of our democratic system of checks and balances would be inoperable.

School board representatives at the elementary education level are elected by the citizens. Responsibilities, often weighty, are placed on their shoulders but we doubt it was ever expected they should be infallible or that they should accept their mandate as a right to sever the links of communication with those who elected them.

Neither is the press infallible, but it is a vital link of communication between the actions of the elected and those who elected them. When it is closer to sever that link and debate issues behind closed doors, emerging only with a minimum of information,

the seeds of suspicion are planted. This breeds neither progress or good government.

It was also suggested the discussions should not become public until some formalized plan of action could be presented to the County Consultative Committee. We fail to see the validity of such reasoning. The consultative committee is an appointed group named by the county council under provincial legislation. While it has definite responsibilities, it is hoped it is not more important than taxpayers. It seems far more valid that suggestions should first be communicated to the public who will be paying the cost of education.

We have no quarrel with a serious consideration of the proposal for a North Halton Board of Education or for a Halton Board of Education. Our information on the idea is unfortunately limited, as is that of the public, by the efforts of those who would be most knowledgeable on the matter and choose to cloak discussions.

If the idea is valid there seems little reason not to expose it to public scrutiny. There may even be citizens not represented on the boards who could contribute some sound suggestions, given the opportunity.

Discussion of education jurisdiction is of interest to citizens locally and there seems little reason to try to hide such ideas. In education week we've heard it said that "Education is Everyone's Business". It seems such a slogan should be just as applicable the year around.

A use for shimplasters

There was a time when the shimplaster — the 25-cent paper note — served a definite purpose, particularly where mailing was concerned. Today, however, a dotting aunt or uncle wouldn't dream of sticking one in a birthday or Christmas card, even if they were available. But that's creeping inflation for you.

Nevertheless, Finance Minister Sharp could do far worse than heed the suggestion that the shimplaster be brought back in a fresh centennial year issue. Some of them might linger around and prove a bit of a nuisance commercially. Tens of thousands, however, would be snapped up and be retired from circulation as souvenirs of Expo and the centennial year itself. It might be a very profitable operation.

The performer cannot always be sure whether the applause is enthusiasm or sympathy.

Flying low and slow isn't considered good practice, but it's what the timed traveler yearns for.

Some disapprove of cards, especially when the children have scattered the best deck in the house all over the floor.



LITTLE JENNIFER admires Santa Claus, maker and Sandra Patterson, who helped out during the Santa Fair Saturday.

Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

It's amazing how much a chap can accomplish when he gets off on his own for a day.

With a shave, a clean shirt and a pure heart, a man on his own can see more and do more in 18 hours than a family can in 18 days. Last weekend, I reaffirmed this theory, which I have held since I got married.

I had a whole day, a wild and wicked day in the city all by myself. No work; no domestic bliss; not a single crisis to solve for 24 hours.

Last summer, I travelled about 6,000 miles, but I didn't seem to get anywhere. The reason, of course, was that I had along my wife and daughter.

Women complicate things beyond measure, and sometimes almost beyond endurance. In the first place, they never know what they want to do. Before every excursion, there's a two-hour discussion about what shoes to wear; where to eat; what show to go to; whether we have time for both or should we eat later; how much it's going to cost; what time we should get to bed; and why it will probably be a lousy evening anyway.

Then, at the crucial moment, when it's time to get cracking, and there isn't a minute to lose, they have to shave their legs or paint their toenails, or change their girdles, or put their hair up or down.

Last summer, I covered more miles pacing up and down hotel rooms waiting for them, then I did on our trans-continental trip by plane, train and car.

Now, if I'd been taking my wife and/or daughter with me last weekend, it would have been about as simple as setting up the United Nations. Write and reserve a hotel room. Write and get tickets for a show or concert. Make elaborate plans for meeting each other for lunch in the city, after our chores were done.

But this time it was different. I tossed a pair of socks and an extra shirt in a bag, and took off with a light heart, but a sober face. The sober face is essential. Everytime I get away from her, my wife fears that I'm going on some Bacchanalian binge.

As a result, I have to lay the groundwork. Serious talk about business conferences, seeing a lawyer, maybe taking in a good show, and getting in a good night's sleep in a good conservative hotel. "Good" is the key word.

And, of course, I always have to do some of these things, or I'd never get away. I had two business meetings, one with a publisher, one with a syndicate man. Both were completely unnecessary, but pleasant, like most business meetings that involve writing.

I skipped the lawyer bit. Not much fun in seeing one's lawyer. Substituted for a smug stroll past the big, phoney Christmas windows of the big department stores, secure in the knowledge there were no wild horses or women around to drag me into the manic interiors.

Somehow, wound up at the Press Club, where an eloquent and learned discussion was taking place about something or other. Joined it. Some time later, discovered it was some time later.

Whizzed up by cab to see college boy son. Not at home, as usual. Now seven o'clock. Time to find a hotel. No rooms anywhere. Bunked into a sordid, old dump I used to stay at in war-time. Cheap.

Picked up hot salami sandwich, ate it on way to theatre. Got a dandy seat, saw a great show, went back to hotel. Ate huge slice of rare beef while watching an entertainer.

Bar closed, entertainer packed up. Not lucky. Went to coffee house, paid two bucks for half-cup of lousy coffee, enjoyed Irish singer whining about the wrongs of dear old Ireland. Artist wanted to do sketch of me for six dollars, then three dollars, then one dollar. Bought him a coffee and discussed hard life of an artist.

Back to hotel, still not sleepy. No TV in this dump, so watched neon signs, read morning paper, went to bed at 4 a.m. Rose at 9 to rumble of buses, cleared, cleansed of sin and feeling about 69.

Now, how could you do all those things with a couple of women, or even one, trailing along?



CENTENNIAL REPORT

1867/1967

by john w. fisher centennial commissioner

"I expected that everyone here would speak with a real English accent and I didn't think Toronto would be as friendly as it is."

The quotation above, from a 16-year-old visiting Toronto from northern British Columbia, was used by Michael Ignatieff writing about centennial "youth travellers" in the Globe and Mail. From another, a young Montrealer, came this comment: "After visiting Vancouver I realize we have the most beautiful country in the whole world."

This year more than 4,000 young people in 160 groups will have participated in the Centennial Commission's Federal-Provincial Youth Travel pro-

gram. The total since 1964, when the program was started as a pilot project, will be more than 8,000 by the end of 1966.

The aims of the federal-provincial program are to give young Canadians the opportunity to meet and know other Canadians and to develop an understanding of their countrymen in regions other than their own. Another is to provide them with a first hand knowledge of the geography of the country and of the political, educational, cultural and artistic achievements of other provinces.

The Centennial Commission underwrites costs of travel, pays a per capita (Continued on Page B6)

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, December 5, 1946.

Members chosen for the Group Committee at the annual meeting were George Mason, William Middleton, Dr. G. A. Sirrs, John Lambert, R. P. Watson, G. A. Dills, Johnny Goy, C. Rognvaldson and Leonard Lovell. George Mason was elected chairman of the group.

The James Davidson Scholarship for general proficiency with a high standing in mathematics at Cuthbert Collegiate was this year won by an Acton Student who completed his studies there last term. Jack Malmprize, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Malmprize, Acton, was presented with this award at the commencement exercises in Guelph.

Correspondence was read from Mr. Hughes Cleaver enclosing agreements and brief for a contract for erecting 50 wartime houses in Acton at the council meeting.

Last Thursday evening Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Van Goozen, assisted by Miss Lydia Snow, entertained the members of Nasagaweya School Area Board and their wives, Mr. and Mrs. Skuce, also the area teachers and their husbands and wives in Bloomsbury School, S.S. No. 9. After a full evening of contests and games the gathering enjoyed a chicken supper. When the tarts and ice cream were disposed of prizes were awarded to the following contest winners — Mrs. Skuce, Mr. Dudley, Mr. Bryant, Mrs. Carbert; euehre, Mrs. Alex Near, Dr. Young, Miss V. Nightingale, Mr. Roy Lambert, Miss L. Snow, Mrs. T. Snyder.

Moore, Fred Ryder, Jr. iv — Bella Lawson, W. A. Lawson, Sarah McClure. Sr. III — James Toveil, Elsie Qulter, John McDonald, Maggie Warwick. Thos. T. Moore, Teacher.

Second Department: Sr. — Nettie Cobban, Edna Millar, Artie Moore, Nellie McPherson. Inter. — Effie McKeown, Leona Holmes, Ella Anderson, Jr. — Mabel Craine, Jessie Harvey, Maud Ryder, C. McPhail, Teacher.

Third Department: Sr. — John Moore, Mabel Rae, Bella McDonald, Jennie Smith, Eva Matthews, Tater. — Clara Cobban, Charlie Towers, Mabel Lambert, A. M. Smith, Jr. — Jane Gray, Howard Crane, Charlie Holmes. J. K. Cleveland, Teacher.

Fourth Department: Sr. — Lizzie McDonald, Thomas McKeown, Myrna McIntosh. Inter. — Bertie Speight, Joseph Gibbons, Willie Harding, Othner Grant, Jr. — Minnie Nelson, Teacher.

The Waterloo Junction Railway from Waterloo to Elmira was officially opened yesterday. An excursion was held and a banquet at Elmira terminated the day's proceedings.

The new Victoria College building is advancing rapidly. The walls are completed, and the roofing has been begun. The architectural design is imposing and effective from whatever point one looks at it.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, December 7, 1916.

A number of farmers who sold land to the radial railway for right-of-way have had their arbitrations and values fixed; others are still in an unsettled state. Those settled with appear to be fairly well satisfied.

One of the most successful sales held in Erin for some time was conducted by auctioneer Kerr for Oswald Evered. Horses, went up to \$210, grade cows with calf \$152. Nine cows and heifers brought \$1,020.

Work on the new Welland ship canal is to be discontinued at the close of the present season. Six ships were sunk in one day by German submarines.

Records show that diphtheria has been prevalent throughout the province during the past month.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, December 3, 1891.

The pupils of Acton Public School were examined in various departments last Friday with the following results: Sr. IV — Chas. Lowry, Rollic Smith, John McGill, Chester Matthews, Charles

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, DECEMBER 11, 1966
9:45 a.m.—Teenage Church Membership Class.
11:00 a.m.—Divine Worship. Sermon Theme: "Christmas — Spectacle or Revelation?"

3:00 p.m.—Annual Church School Christmas Program. Parents and friends invited. (Regular session of Church School withdrawn in morning.)
Everyone Most Welcome.

MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
(Georgetown)

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 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 877-6665

EVANGEL PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE
P.A.O.C. 33 Churchill Road
Rev. S. M. Thoman, Pastor, 853-2715

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1966
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School for all ages.
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship Service.
7:00 p.m.—Evening Service.
Tuesday, 8 p.m.—Prayer and Bible Study.
Thursday, 8 p.m. — C.A. Service.
Friday, 6:45 p.m. — Crusaders.

BETH-EL CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
Acton, Ontario.
Rev. Wiebe Van Dijk. Phone 853-1585

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1966
10:00 a.m.—English Service.
2:30 p.m.—Dutch Service.
3:45 p.m.—Sunday School.
Friday, December 16, 8 p.m. — Sunday School Christmas Program.

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, DECEMBER 11, 1966
CHURCH SCHOOL
Church School—Juniors (up to Gr. 4) at 10 a.m.
Seniors (Gr 5 - Gr. 8) at 11:15 a.m.

DIVINE SERVICES
10:00 a.m. — Trinity Church (Nursery service provided.)
11:15 a.m.—Churchill (Churchill Rd. N.)
Sermon Title: "An Orderly Account"

Sunday, 8 p.m. — Classes for adults for church membership or learning about:

- Biblical Interpretation
 - Church History
 - Denominationalism
 - Doctrine
 - Morality
- All Welcome

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

Advent III
SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1966
9:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist.
10:30 a.m.—Church School.
10:30 a.m.—Matins.
1:30 p.m.—Children's practice for Christmas concert.

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

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1966
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship. "Who Crucified Christ?"
7:00 p.m.—Evening Service. Senior Citizens to be our guests. "A Christmas Message"

Tuesday, Dec. 13 at 8 p.m. — Special Church meeting — members and adherents — of vital interest to all.
Wednesday—Prayer and Bible Study 7:30
Thursday — Choir Practice, 7:30
Thursday — Explorers at 6:30.
Friday — B.H.F., 7:00.

Text: "Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name... (but Jesus) whereby we must be saved." Acts 4:12