

Home owner pays ...

Upset by spiralling taxes the St. Marys Journal-Argus comments:

"Judging by the way taxes on properties are going up and up each year, especially to pay for expensive schools and the staffs to man them, it won't be long before the public will decide it does not pay to own living quarters at all.

"The late W. A. Bishop, Canada's top ranking First World War fighter pilot, and a fairly wealthy man, decided long ago that owning his own house or any property was uneconomic. He always rented from someone else.

"In this way he averted direct payment of taxes, could move when he liked, and did not have to put expensive repairs on his domicile.

"More and more the wisdom of his actions are becoming apparent.

"A home owner today has to bear never-ending taxes for roads, sewers, education, recreation, and all the frills a modern municipality can think up, and

when he or she becomes old, these taxes still go on, regardless of whether the owner gets any benefit from the things he has to pay for or not.

"Now the Robarts government, thinking up ways and means to lure the voters, has come up with a real bright idea. It is proposed to allow municipalities to collect only half the taxes from old age pensioners, with the provision that the part of the taxes not paid, shall be taken as a mortgage on the properties, if and when the owner dies. These payments will be collected from the old ones' estate.

"Renters will receive no such relief but at least their estates will not be loaded with debts to pay for the frills of society, and they will have the option of moving to less expensive quarters if their finances so dictate," the Journal-Argus concludes.

Trouble with that idea in this neck of the woods is that houses to rent are few and far between and often more expensive than buying.

Free Press Editorial Page

Cereal box education ...

According to an article in the Salvation Army War Cry, Margaret Mead, the noted anthropologist, has seriously maintained that many youngsters get a significant part of their education early in the morning — by reading the information on cereal boxes.

You might call it the school of crispy-crunch. Graduates eat a degree and proceed to that bastion of higher learning — the School of Snap-crack 'n pop. It sounds far-fetched as the article says, but it has a ring of truth in it.

Who hasn't sat at the breakfast table with the family on any given morning in complete silence? Nearly everyone has their favorite cereal box in front of them and besides the contents they're devouring words printed on the box.

Think of the possibilities for the cereal manufacturers. They could rent space out on their boxes to the Department of Education. They, in turn, could put a few simple algebra problems there, or maybe a test in English, to whip off before school starts.

It could do away with the homework problem. The kids might end up smarter than the teachers unless they subscribed to the same cereal.

Adult education classes could be confined to morning sessions over a

bowl of corn flakes instead of grueling classes after a day's hard work. Indeed, the entire country could benefit.

Except, perhaps the cereal makers. They probably would not have any space left for their own advertising. It could cause a drop in sales and a subsequent drop in the education standards.

The wheat farmers would be affected as would oat and rice growers. There could be a depression.

Perhaps we'd better scrap the whole idea before people start jumping out of the tops of grain elevators.

Editorial notes

Manufacturers of small, imported cars may feel affronted at this notice at a car wash in Virginia, reported by the Ontario Safety League:

Special Today! Car Wash - \$1.50; Compact Cars Dipped and Towel-Dried - 50c.

A school trustee in Georgetown faced with a request from a class for a visit to see some old fossils enquired why the class wasn't just invited to a board meeting.

Centennial Picture Gallery



THE 16th BATTALION, marching from Camp Borden to Hamilton, stayed overnight in Acton in 1916. Top picture shows their field kitchen, set up in front of the old drill shed in the park. Bottom picture shows the troops lined up on Mill St., in front of the vacant lot where the Y.M.C.A. is now, between

Perryman's house at the corner of Mill and John (now Mainprizes) and Havill's store (now McLean's barber shop). Next door to Havill's was Acton's recruiting office, in charge of the late Wilfred Coles, in the former post office building located where the Bank of Nova Scotia is now.



FISHERMEN MADE GOOD use of the Victoria Day weekend to troll Fairy Lake for the big pike lurking there. This craft bobs empty in the cool spring breezes which have discouraged not

only fishermen but the spring hatches of bugs which usually provide food for the fish at this time of year.

(Staff Photo)

Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley



When you write a column like this, you get some reaction. If you didn't it wouldn't be worth writing, because it wouldn't be worth reading.

A recent column has produced reaction. It dealt with the load we heap on teen-age kids generally, and contained a list of what my 16-year-old, specifically, had to do in the next few weeks.

Two letters arrived smartly, then a third. The first was from K.D., of Owen Sound. "Your column is not up to your usual standard. Not quite so frank. It might have been if you had turned the X-ray on yourself as well as on the critics of the young people of today — whoever they may be."

Critics? K.D., meet L. E. Taylor of Toronto. Admitting that he had met a few decent teen-agers while on summer vacations in a small town, he adds: "But not so in this big city.... A great many of the teen-agers here are the pushing, impolite, immoral bores to be shunned and avoided wherever possible."

K.D. says: "Any sane person would know your daughter is trying to do too much. Result of having two over-ambitious parents.... Each of you wanting to realize in each of your children your own ambitions. Selfish, I'd say."

Now wait a minute, there, K.D. You can say what you like about my wife. But by gorry, you're all wrong about me. All I want is for my daughter to stop driving her mother nuts, pass her school year if possible, get married (preferably by elopement; I'll spring a \$50 ladder in lieu of a \$1,000 wedding), have about five kids, and get as much fun out of them as we have out of ours.

Back to Mr. Taylor. He doesn't blame the parents, but the kids. They have it too soft. Say they have more advantages than we had but lack initiative and drive. And he lists about 30 things he was doing, while in high school. Come on, L.E., be sensible. Sure you did them. But how many others of your age did. There was darn little initiative and drive during The Depression.

He goes on: "Matric had to be studied, and written off in sweltering hot June days, with air-conditioning nowhere." It still does, old boy, in most places and furthermore, its about three times more difficult than the matric you and I passed. And the universities demand standards far higher, for admission.

Back to K.D. "Bet your mother would have had more sense." (She didn't have time. Ed. note.) "Whose fault is it that your daughter and others want to do so much in and out of school? Yours and others like you. What kind of training, advice, guidance have you given her apart from 'strive, strive, strive' and 'achieve, achieve, achieve'?"

K.D., you are hereby invited to give my daughter some of that stuff. But don't blame me if you emerge from the conference bloody and bruised.

There's more of the same from K.D., and a lot of it good sense. It ends: "Baloney to your sex, LSD and drinks — mere red herrings to drag in and show how up-to-date you really are! Not stuffy at all! Ho! Ho!"

Well ho-ho to you, K.D. You've been reading too many articles about punk parents and not enough about punk kids. If you think drink and drugs and sex are red herrings in relation to teen-agers,

you'd better pull your head out of that sand-pile.

There you are. One correspondent says it's the parents' fault. The other says it's the kids'. They're both wrong. And both right.

And then came the third letter, balm to tortured nerves. It was from an old friend, Edith Rudell of London, Ont. She is not exactly an amateur commentator. Six boys and a girl. I quote: "I will frame it (the column) and amen! The fantastic amount of time and energy and nervous tension expended by my group is not possible to describe. Furious? Anyway, it exhausts me just being an on-looker. So bless you, Bill, for putting the thoughts into words."

And bless you, dear heart. And bless K.D. and L.E.

Editorial Notes

Canada had the first hospital in North America. In 1639, three Sisters of St. Augustine from Dieppe, France, established the Hotel Dieu at Quebec City, making it the first hospital on the North American Continent.

"The measure of national change is shown by four startling facts: one, nearly everything that we know today had not appeared in any book when I went to school; two, the sum total of human knowledge doubles every four years; three, 25 per cent of all people who ever lived are alive today; four, 90 per cent of all the research scientists who ever lived are alive today...."

—Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson

Free Press

back issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press, Thursday, May 22, 1947.

The Y.M.C.A. display drew a big crowd in the Acton Arena. Johnny Gray had charge of the program. Leading off was the nursery class in their blue and pink bunny suits and their cute little hopping and singing numbers with Mrs. M. Roope in charge. Presentation of trophies and prizes was an event of keen interest. Baxter table tennis trophy was won by Ron Salt. The hockey team received crests presented by Mr. Fred Dawkins. Miss N. Simpson and George Williams won Force Electric trophy for badminton. Crests for floor hockey champions were presented by Mr. Thos. Jones, president of the Board of Acton Y.M.C.A.

Workmen are now modernizing the store front of Watson's Dairy Bar. A new store is being erected in Crescent Street.

A splendid crowd attended the first annual High School Cadet Dance on Monday evening. Bobby Gimby and his 13-piece orchestra were the popular name band for the music on this occasion.

Honorary Mayor E. Brillinger of Guelph, a former rector of St. Alban's Church, here, will be presented with the O.B.E. at an investiture in London on May 29. Presentation will be made by Viscount Alexander.

Reeve F. J. McCutcheon has started construction arrangements this week for a new store on the property recently purchased by him next to Hargrave's Service Station at the corner of Mill and Young Streets.

The following officers were elected at the annual meeting of the Lawn Bowling and Tennis Club. Honorary presidents — Col. A. O. T. Beardmore, Mr. S. G. Bennett, Mr. W. J. Gould; president, Mr. John Wood; first vice-president, Mr. T. Watson; second vice-president, Mr. R. Bean; secretary-treasurer, Mr. R. Canham.

The council has arranged for 4,000 feet of water mains to be laid.

from Mr. A. E. Nicklin the splendid town lot at the corner of Bower Ave and John Street. Mr. Kerr will erect a home this fall or next spring.

Jolted off the platform of a freight car on the C.P.R. siding at Exhibition Park, Toronto, Thomas Alger met instant death when he fell between two cars at 9.45 a.m. last Friday.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press, Thursday, May 19, 1892.

The monument of Sir John Macdonald in Montreal will be erected on Dominion Square, opposite the Windsor.

The Band will give their first open air concert of the season on "Franklin Square?" this evening.

Universal regret will be felt that Dr. Lowry has decided to leave town and make Guelph his future home. He has purchased the office and residence of Dr. Howitt of that city. Dr. Lowry has disposed of his residence and a portion of his property to Dr. S. A. McKeague of Welland Port. He is a brother-in-law of Rev. J. W. Rae.

The palatial dry goods store of G. B. Ryan and Co. presented a brilliant appearance on Saturday evening, when it was lighted for the first time with incandescent electric light. There are some 52 lamps on the first storey, 16 in the second, 4 in the third and 4 in the basement. These are connected with five currents and controlled by four switches. The system of lighting is what is known as the Thomson-Houston.

If you want Boots and Shoes cheaper than ever you bought them call at Kenney Bros., Acton.

Hoist your flags and bunting on the 24th.

Mr. L. G. Matthews has opened his icecream parlor and is now supplying the public with delicious ice cream and cooling summer beverages. A new recipe for ice cream enables him to turn out a superior article.

100 years ago

A serious accident occurred on Monday evening to Mr. Alexander Robertson. As he was driving down Main St., a bolt imperfectly secured allowed the shaft to fall on the horse's heels causing him to

kick the dash-board to pieces and fly onto the sidewalk opposite the Halton House. Mrs. John Henderson, who was in the buggy, was thrown out but not hurt, but Mr. Robertson was not so fortunate. He has been confined to his room since, with a severe internal pain, and he will be fortunate if he escapes without internal inflammation. The horse tore along the sidewalk until he came in contact with a telegraph pole, where he tore the buggy off, leaving it a perfect wreck, and flew down the sidewalk until he came to Dr. Street's corner. Fortunately those on the sidewalk gave him a wide berth and no further accident occurred. We have since learned that Mr. Robertson is recovering.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Acton Free Press, Thursday, May 17, 1917.

At the meeting of the Board of Education on Monday there were present Robert Scott, Chairman Robert Macpherson, C. C. Speight and John R. Kennedy. A letter from the Engineer of National Equipment Company, who recently visited the school premises with the members of the Board, to consider the installation of closets with water supply, suggested the erection of a new building for lavatory and closets. No action was taken.

It is against the law to sell or set off fire crackers in Acton.

Quite a number of homes have potatoless days now. For the first time in history there have been no potatoes to be had in town for several days.

Auctioneer R. J. Kerr has purchased

Free Press

Church News

TRINITY CHURCH

(The United Church of Canada)

Minister: Mr. John May, B.A., B.D.

Organist: Mr. George Elliott, M.A., Ph.D.

SUNDAY, MAY 28, 1967

SUNDAY SCHOOL

10.00 a.m.—Junior School (to Gr. 4).

11.15 a.m.—Senior School (Gr. 5 to Gr. 8).

SERVICES

10.00 a.m.—Trinity Church Acton. (Nursery provided.)

11.15 a.m.—Churchill Church (Churchill Rd. North).

7.30 p.m.—Choral Service, Trinity Church Church: (Music of the Church Year).

CHURCHILL UNITED CHURCH

June 11 — Anniversary Services. 11.15 a.m. and 7.30 p.m. Guest preacher, Rev. William Gibb.

All Welcome

BETH-EL

CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH

Acton, Ontario.

SUNDAY, MAY 28, 1967

10.00 a.m.—English Service.

11.10 a.m.—Sunday School.

2.30 p.m.—Alternating Dutch and English Service.

Saturday — Bible Classes, 10-12.30 a.m. Everyone Welcome

ACTON BAPTIST CHURCH

Founded 1842

Pastor: Rev. Stanley Gammon

Res. 144 Tildy Ave., Ph. 833-1615

SUNDAY, MAY 28, 1967

10.00 a.m.—Church School and Adult Class.

11.15 a.m.—Morning Worship. Rev. Joseph E. Harris of White Rock, B.C., will be the guest speaker. Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Reid of Campbellford, B.C., will sing.

7.00 p.m.—Evening Service. "Camp Hermona Night" featuring our B.H.F. Wednesday, 7.30 p.m.—Prayer and Bible Study.

Thursday, 6.30 p.m.—Explorers.

Thursday, 7.30 p.m.—Choir Practice.

Friday, 7.00 p.m.—B.H.F.

Thought for the week: Your faith should show in your face.

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, MAY 28, 1967

9.45 a.m.—Church School for ages 3 to 15.

10.30 a.m.—Devotion Meeting

11.00 a.m.—Divine Worship, including Confirmation of Young People and Reception of New Members. Sermon Theme: "The Thirst for God."

Everyone Most Welcome.

EVANGELISTICAL TABERNACLE

P.A.O.C. 33 Churchill Road

Rev. S. M. Thoman, Pastor, 833-2715

SUNDAY, MAY 28, 1967

10.00 a.m.—Sunday School.

11.00 a.m.—Morning Worship. Speaker, Rev. Carman Lynn, our newly appointed National Overseas Director.

7.00 p.m.—Evangelistic Service. Great Young People's C.A. Rally with Weston Nicholson, President of West Indies' C.A.'s. Everyone is welcome to these great missionary services.

Tuesday, 8 p.m.—Prayer and Bible Study.

Thursday, 8 p.m.—Christ Ambassadors.

Friday, 6.45 p.m.—Crusaders.

MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

(Georgetown)

SUNDAY, MAY 28, 1967

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 833-1956 Georgetown 877-6665

THE CHURCH OF

ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR

ANGLICAN

Corner Willow St. and St. Alban's Drive

Rev. Ritchie McMurray, M.A., S.T.B.

SUNDAY, MAY 28, 1967

1st Sunday after Trinity

9.00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist.

10.30 a.m.—Church School.

10.30 a.m.—Matins.

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