

A tip of the chapeau...

Everybody talks about the weather but few do anything about it. Undoubtedly if the power to change the weather lay within our hands over the weekend there would have been more than a few hands reaching for the "stop" button. The snow, hard on the heels of what was almost a rain, dropped in quantities not seen here for some years.

Roads became almost impassible, walking difficult and hazardous, drive-ways were plugged up. It was just like the winters we're prone to exaggerate about when we were children.

We were fortunate in this neck of the woods. Although some country roads were plugged and hydro was off in one area, we suffered none of the inconveniences or hardships people in the London and Toronto areas endured. Under difficult conditions, the town work staff soon had roads around town cleared of snow and kept traffic moving despite strong winds which filled

in what had been plowed. The main business section was cleared off in time for Tuesday's reopening of stores and other business places without interrupting the flow of traffic or causing much inconvenience.

Township roads, blocked by huge drifts, were slower to be cleared but by Monday afternoon most were open and workmen were starting to win the battle against the elements.

Work staffs from town and township are to be commended on their efficiency in handling the emergency. It meant many more hours of overtime and sleepless nights but they responded with enthusiasm to the job of keeping the community mobile.

We are prone to criticize municipal work staffs until situations like the one on the weekend remind us they are an indispensable group on whom we lean heavily.

A tip of the editorial hat to them all.



EVEN WITH the desolate snows of winter sweeping around tombstones, Churchill cemetery is an ideal place for a vista of the surrounding countryside. (Staff Photo)

Free Press Editorial Page

Only selves to blame...

The main blame for traffic accidents rests with the driver of the vehicle. This is usually someone who lets his attention wander or who takes unnecessary chances.

That's the conclusion arrived at at a traffic safety conference of close to 1,000 community leaders in Toronto recently, among them Mayor Les Dubs, Councillor Bob Drinkwater and clerk-administrator Jack McGeachie from Acton.

The best way to prevent accidents is for drivers to stop trying to blame something or somebody else, to accept their own responsibility to drive with care and common sense.

There was unanimity on these points from representatives of the provincial government that makes the laws, the police who enforce them, the courts that uphold them, and a diversity of groups with a special interest in safety — educators, manufacturers, traffic engineers, civic, union and church leaders.

Homo sapiens, being what he is, however, it is going to be hard to get this message across. All of us are prone

to blame our failures on someone else or something beyond our power to control. It's only, as the old saw says, human nature.

We may accept the fact that our own foibles lead us into situations which we'd rather not have happen but it won't stop us from 'passing the buck' when it affects us personally.

We must admit that at times we've driven without proper attention to road and traffic, especially when familiar with the road. Other times we've taken chances, which when looked back on seemed foolish but at the time appeared justified.

We agree with the traffic conference 100 per cent. But even if we do accept the individual approach as being the correct one to take, how will the message be disseminated to those who don't just give a darn?

The conscientious people will listen and try to improve driving habits. Others will merely shrug it off and drive as they always have.

If everyone would heed there no doubt would be a real chance for a breakthrough in traffic safety.

Scrambled eggs...

Editors sometimes have nightmares about the possibilities of type from different stories getting "plod", a printer's term for scrambling.

Have you heard the one about one printer who dropped type from a wedding and an auction sale? With the deadline near, he hurriedly gathered up the type and placed them in the paper without separating them. Here's the result in the next day's paper:

Mr. John Katon and Miss Mattie Thompson were united in marriage at public auction on the premises, on last Friday at high noon, in the presence of two yearling heifers, 50 white leghorn hens and 13 two-year-old steers. The bride wore a beautiful gown of two tons of unbaled timothy hay and several hundred bundles of fodder, trimmed with two spring-tooth harrows and one riding cultivator. She carried a bouquet of sausage grinders, stuffers, iron kettles and cooking utensils.

The groom has been a life-long resident of Cedarville, being general manager for two dozen pigs, and about 10 milking goats. The bride was given in marriage by two draft mares, to foal by day of sale. The bridesmaids were: one oliver turning plow, a hoe drill and two shares of telephone stock. The groom's best men were a cider press, wheat fan and two barrels of cider vinegar. Miss Emily Johnson, a friend of the bride played "O Promise Me" on one New Deal manure spreader, a corn sheller, and two copper kettles and stands.

The color scheme of lavender and yellow was carried out, the room being decorated with a 1939 Ford Sedan, and 14 Jersey heifers, eligible to registration. After a luncheon and reception the happy couple left for a trip of two

months with two percent off for cash. Upon their return they will be at home with two sets of almost new work harnesses and two sets of fly-straps.

Photos from the past



OSPRINGE SCHOOL, June 1914, the teacher and staff posed for the photographer beside their one room brick school. Mrs. A. J. Elliott, now of Rockwood sands this picture. She is the former Louisa Gray, the teacher at the school then; Mrs. Elliott identifies her pupils as: Front row, seated left to right, Billy Martin, — Martin, Wilfred Webb, Kenneth Leitch, Ross McPhail, Roy McCutcheon, Jim McPhail, Elgin Sinclair, Gordon Aitken. Front row



Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

Whatever you want most in 1968, I hope you get. But don't count on it. There's nothing much you can be sure of except those old reliables, death and taxes. And with the government taxing us to death, the twin will soon be one.

When you're young, a year seems an age, and each new year is filled with promise and hope of new experience, new adventure. As you get older, the years begin flipping past like the pages in a book, and you realize the new is going to be pretty much like the old one.

There'll be wars and rumors of wars. There'll be one crisis after another. There will be scandal in high places. There'll be race riots and protest marches. There will be a lot of rotten TV fare. Canada will be linked in the world hockey playoffs.

And a lot of the other old inevitables will be there: higher taxes and lower morals; shorter skirts and longer faces; louder music and softer boilers; more people and less housing; great political promises and minuscule political action. And so on. Make your own list.

On the personal level, the picture is about the same. If you're a man, you're probably going to lose some hair and gain some girth, pick up another ache or two, grow a little more grouchy or pompous and wonder loudly what the hell the world is coming to.

If you're a woman, you're probably going to lose some shape and gain a chin, pick up a few more furrows in the face, grow a little more bossy, and nudge your husband another degree toward an early grave.

Whatever your sex, if you're over 30 you're going to find that a little more of your get-up-and-go has quietly got-up-and-went.

But don't worry about that. Gird up your loins, seize fortune by the forelock, spit in the face of fate, get some hormone shots and face another year with courage, dignity and bursts in both shoulders, like me.

For, whether we like it or not, we happen to be living in one of the most exciting times in human history. Many of us often wish we could be living in a simpler age, when black and white, right and wrong, were clearly established. Alas, we ain't.

But perhaps, when we feel a twinge of regret, we should also remember that in those "good old days" it was every man for himself. The rich were richer and the poor were starving. The strong grabbed from the weak. The white used the black as an animal. The mentally ill were swept under the carpet. And closets were crowded with skeletons.

—Now, today's technological advances are frightening, but fascinating. Everyone's going to the moon. Personally, I don't want to be on the first scheduled flight, but the very idea is staggering in its reflection of man's eternal curiosity and ingenuity.

But even more exciting, in my opinion, is the social revolution that is sweeping our world. Modern man is examining himself as he never has before. He is literally picking himself up by the heels and shaking. As a result, long-held ideas are revealed as poppycock, rigid dogmas are shattering like shards.

It's as though an ancient, dusty attic, piled with valuable antiques, had had its roof blown off, and a fresh clean wind had blown away the must and dust and showed most of the relics for what they were — junk.

Today's society is, perhaps for the first time ever, concerned with being its brother's keeper. We are trying to do something about our weak and our poor and our old. Prejudice and intolerance are still with us, but they are attacked rather than accepted.

Divorce, abortion, homosexuality and mental illness have been dragged out of the shadows and into the light. Capital punishment is almost obsolete.

Mind you, it's painful. The whole process of growing up is always painful. But I don't want to live in ancient Greece or Elizabethan England or 2068 AD. I want to live in 1968 and see what happens. How about you?

Free Press back issues

20 years ago 75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, January 15, 1948.

Municipal elections were held in Naamagawa with a contest for the reeve and council. In spite of the wintry roads there was a fair vote out. In a close contest Wm. Van Stickle polled 306 votes to J. Robertson's 251. For Council, M. Storey, Geo. Stokes, S. Norrish and E. Eilerton were the choice of the electors.

Mr. and Mrs. William Malgryze quietly observed the 64th anniversary of their wedding.

At the inaugural meeting of Esquimaux township council members taking their seats were George Cleave, Reeve; George Currie, deputy reeve; George Leslie, Craig Reid and Wilfred Bird, councillors.

Thursday night's hockey game was the roughest seen in the arena and the third period had little but fight as Oakville Legion won by a one goal margin. The penalty box was the liveliest spot all night.

Peter Federko embraced a grandson he had never seen and a daughter Mrs. J. Frystach, he had not seen since 1928 after they arrived from the Ukraine.

Ernest West represented Halton in the Junior Farmers zone public speaking contest.

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, January 18, 1933.

Rev. H.B. Christie, the pastor, held a baptismal and reception service at the Brick Church (north on the second line, no longer in existence). He administered the rite of baptism on five adult candidates and 14 persons were received into full connection.

At the annual meeting of Ivanhoe Camp of the Sons of Auld Scotia the following were elected: J. McTavish, Chief; J. Agnew, Chieftain; Arch. McNabb, Past Chief; H. Swackhammer, T.M. Harding, R. Johnson, D. Grant, A. Ramshaw, T. Chisholm, E. Forbes, T. Millar, J. F. Uren, J. Lasby, J. Stalker and J. Kennedy.

At the annual meeting of Esquimaux Agricultural Society the treasurer reported \$110 in his hands. Directors elected are president R.D. Laidlaw, Vice-pres, R. Logan, director W.S. Chisholm, H. Cunningham, M. Brown, F. Ruddlell, Geo. Campbell, D. Little, W. Shortill, Jas. Leslie, and David Cook.

Tuesday was a Red Letter day in history of the Rockwood Royal Templars. For years they met in the old M.E. church building and now they moved into a fine large old hall over Mr. J. Linn's new stone building where the Foresters, Workmen and Select Knights are also to hold their meetings. This is one of the finest society halls in the country, nicely furnished and having an organ, etc.

The social at Churchill congregational church was one of the most successful, five large sleigh loads of visitors coming up from Acton.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, January 17, 1918.

An enthusiastic and well-attended meeting of citizens was held in the Council Chamber last Friday evening for the purpose of organizing a Horticultural Society for Acton. 105 persons have paid their subscriptions of \$1 each. Officers elected were: President William White; 1st Vice-pres., G.H. Brown; 2nd Vice-pres., Mrs. H.P. Moore, auditors, John Cameron and N.F. Moore; directors Lawrence Williams, H.P. Moore R. Unwin, Henry Bauer, Geo. Mann, D.T. McTavish, Miss Laurette Gray, Miss Martha Graham and Mrs. Ed Gamble.

The superabundance of fleecy whiteness blocked roads and halted trains from Friday to Monday. Naamagawa residents claim roads were never so completely blocked. Rural and town church services were almost all cancelled. Very little business was done in town on Saturday.

Our Austrian residents spent the first part of the week celebrating the New Year. One of them (named) got hilarious and ran into the arms of Inspector Harvey who turned him over to Chief Lawson. He was convicted and fined. He says this is his last experience with the intoxicating delver.

In general, prohibition gave quiet, sober streets.

On Monday afternoon the plucky little electric railroad beat out the G.T.R. and landed the first car here.

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THE ACTON FREE PRESS

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Free Press Church Notices

- 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, JANUARY 21st, 1968**
Epiphany III
9:00 a.m.—The Holy Eucharist.
10:30 a.m.—Church School.
10:30 a.m.—Holy Eucharist.
- BETH-EL CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**
Minister — Rev. P. Brouwer
Acton, Ontario.
- SUNDAY, JANUARY 21st, 1968**
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 a.m. Everyone Welcome
- MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH**
81 Maple Ave., Georgetown
Pastor: Rev. Robert C. Lohnes
- SUNDAY, JANUARY 21st, 1968**
Here is our sincere invitation to the whole family to attend church.
9:45 a.m.—Sunday School. All ages.
11:00 a.m.—Morning Service.
7:00 p.m.—Evening Evangel.
7:45 p.m.—Wednesday, 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, JANUARY 21st-1968**
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School.
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship.
7:00 p.m.—Evangelistic Service.
Tuesday, 8 p.m. — Prayer service and Bible Study.
Thursday, 8 p.m.—Christ Ambassadors.
Friday, 7 p.m.—Crusaders.
- TRINITY CHURCH (The United Church of Canada)**
Minister: Rev. Gordon B. Turner, B.A., B.D.
Organist: Dr. George Elliott, M.A., Ph.D.
- SUNDAY, JANUARY 21st, 1968**
10:00 a.m.—Morning Worship (Nursery provided).
"What is this Thing Called Religion?"
7:30 p.m.—Hi-C for young people.
- SUNDAY SCHOOL**
10:00 a.m.—Junior School (to Gr. 4).
11:15 a.m.—Senior School (Gr. 5 to Gr. 8).
- ACTON BAPTIST CHURCH**
Founded 1842
Pastor: Rev. Stanley Gammon
Res. 144 Tidey Ave., Phone 853-1615.
- SUNDAY, JANUARY 21st, 1968**
10:00 a.m.—Sunday School Classes for all ages.
11:15 a.m.—Morning Worship.
"Sequences of the Second Advent."
7:00 p.m.—Evening Service.
"Some Precious Things."
Tuesday, January 23 — Annual Meeting.
6:30 and 8:00 p.m.
Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. — Prayer, Bible Study.
Thursday, 6:30 p.m. — Explorers.
Thursday, 8 p.m. — Choir practice.
Friday, 7 p.m. — B.H.F.
Text: "As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be at the coming of the Son of Man." Matt. 24: 37.
- 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, JANUARY 21st, 1968**
9:45 a.m.—Church School for ages 3 to 15 years.
9:45 a.m.—Minister's Church Membership Class for Teenagers.
11:00 a.m.—Divine Worship.
Sermon theme: "Our Worries and Christ's Peace."
7:30 p.m.—Church School staff meeting at 111 Elizabeth Drive.
Everyone Most Welcome