



"What am I offered for this set of spoons?"



"Did you people in the back come to buy or talk?"



"Do I hear two dollars, three dollars, three dollars . . . ?"



"Tell those ladies back there to get me a cup of coffee!"

## News of the district

### MILTON . . . . .

The status of regional government for the Halton area and the situation surrounding Milton's unsuccessful attempts to annex more land were "thoroughly discussed" at a special meeting in Toronto Thursday, January 9. Halton East M.P.P. Jim Snow, Halton West M.P.P. George Kerr, Minister of Municipal Affairs D'Arcy McKeough and his deputy minister W. H. Palmer had a meeting and thrashed out the two inter-related problems, Mr. Snow told the Champion. "We had a full discussion on it." Mr. McKeough expects to have a written report on suggestions emanating from the meeting, ready in time for the next meeting of Milton Council. If it is not ready by then, Mr. Snow expects to visit Council personally and discuss it with them.

### OAKVILLE . . . . .

The controversial Burlington-Oakville airport at Onagh is still a long way from reality. Inaugural meetings of both southern Halton municipal councils last week spent more gloom for the stormy issue. In Oakville, the whole project was turned back for more study. And at Burlington's inaugural, new Mayor George Harrington warned council he wasn't satisfied with the financial arrangements for the project. Oakville council, with Mayor McLean Anderson casting the deciding vote, agreed to a major review of the half million dollar airport proposal. The review was requested by Ian Scott, solicitor for the Ward One ratepayers who have been fighting the airport since it was first announced for a site at Onagh. Mr. Scott bore a 450-name petition opposing the airport.

### GEORGETOWN . . . . .

Over eight million dollars in building permits were issued during 1967 in Georgetown, according to figures from the building inspector's office. April topped the list with over two million dollars issued, followed by July with well over the million mark.

Mayor Joe Gibbons was pleased, slightly embarrassed and subsequently declined to accept the centennial medallion he and Walter Gray, an ex-councillor, were nominated for by Georgetown council. The mayor thanked council for the thought but felt as a member of council which makes the choice it would embarrass him to accept it. He commended council on their other choice but could not be dissuaded to leave his own name on the list.

Some classes in Parks public school are approaching the 40 mark and the school board declared the school saturated. Park school's enrolment has been swelling since the families began occupying homes in the Wimpey development in the west end. Two portable classrooms have been added to expand the number of grades to 11, and a third portable will be ready sometime this month.

### FERGUS . . . . .

The report of building permits issued in the town of Fergus in 1967 shows that there was what clerk D. J. Low called a "fantastic" growth here. During the 12 months, building totalled \$4,767,323, by far the highest on record. Of this figure, \$3,547,483 was industrial and commercial, \$946,300 was residential and there were no permits issued for industrial or commercial.

The two large flags that stood on each side of the war memorial at St. James' Anglican Church were taken in the latest act of vandalism in Fergus. They were on aluminum poles over seven feet tall. Someone bent the poles over, removed the decorative tops and took both flags. This is just one of the latest in a long series of acts of vandalism in the town. The cemetery has been plagued with tombstone toppling and such things as flower boxes on the bridge just don't stand a chance. The officials concerned, including the police, have been investigating all these occurrences but there is little they can do short of catching the culprits red-handed and it is to be hoped they do. Nothing can be more stupid than these acts that show a callous disregard for public property.

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### Auctioneer 53 years

## Frank Petch takes his hat out of auction ring

Auctioneering - a profession he's followed for over half a century - came to an end officially for Frank Petch when he conducted his last sale on Friday, December 15 at the home of Mrs. Caroline Collins, two miles south of Norval.

An afternoon sale in an implement shed with a greenhouse on one end, Frank's pitch wasn't lessened by the gloom. He sold antiques and fancy harness, garden tools and other bric a brac which accumulates in a country home, capturing the attention of a breed of buyers of every description.

Some were horsemen intent on fancy harness, others were antique lovers interested in an ancient vase or a piece of Canadiana, and some others come only for a good buy on some household furniture.

Included in the offering which Mr. Petch dispensed with an energy which belied his years, was a cannon ball from the war of 1812, a full set of Books of Knowledge, a stone dash churn, quantity of horse brass, a corn sheller, rhubarb cartons some lumber and a 250 ft. extension cord. Even a marketing expert would have trouble figuring the value of items like these.

But when Frank Petch put your goods under the hammer you got their full value on the market. His methods weren't coercive - he simply applied the auctioneering techniques he learned from his father Ben and which he has on-learned on in 40 years on his own.

How many auctions has he conducted in the past 53 years?

Mr. Petch has no idea. They run into the thousands. In the past year he has conducted over 50.

Why retire then, when business is brisk and demands for his services are at a peak? "I want to quit while I'm a-

head," explains this grey haired veteran of the auction ring. He simply didn't want to run the risk of breaking down during a sale, a risk several of his contemporaries took - and lost. Although he has lived in Georgetown and is best known there, Frank Petch was widely known in this area and lately he has conducted dozens of sales in the Oakville and Burlington areas.

No, he's not going to put his foot up and retire. He has an other job with the Dominion Seed House in Georgetown and he expects that will keep him out of trouble.

Frank Petch has always been a busy man. On top of sometimes arduous sale duties he found time to act as a Georgetown councillor, as secretary of the fair board and he also did a hitch on county council. His auctioneering talents have also been used for charitable purposes at sales where he didn't bother picking up the tab, Georgetown Rotary Club benefitted particularly at their yearly sales.



**SAMMY McCOMB**, the jockey who rode He's a Smoothie, top thoroughbred on Canadian tracks this year, discusses a bridle he purchased at the Mrs. Caroline Collins sale near Norval, with Mrs. Collins. A 20-year veteran of the tracks Sammy has rode mounts in the Grand National Steeplechase, Queen's Plate and at the International in Laurel, Maryland. He's now living near Norval. (Staff Photo)

### Induct Archdeacon at Guelph Sunday

The Rev. Canon William Robinson of Guelph was inducted as Archdeacon of the Diocese of Toronto (which includes local Anglican parishes) in a service at Guelph Sunday afternoon. Canon Robinson, formerly of Hamilton, is the new rector of St. George's Church, Guelph. He succeeds the Rev. Stanley Kirk, who died last fall, who was the archdeacon of the diocese for several years.

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by L. G. Denby  
your telephone manager

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Repairing telephones isn't a dull job, at least for one repairman in British Columbia. One day he went to the forest ranger's cabin to find out what was wrong with the telephone. He analyzed the trouble as a short circuit and traced it to a nearby vacant lodge which was on the same line as the ranger's telephone. Hearing movements inside, he rattled the door - and a huge, frightened bear bounded through the side window and disappeared into the forest. The repairman entered the cabin and found that the bear had knocked the receiver off the hook, causing all the trouble. After replacing the receiver, getting in touch with the owner to have the window repaired he calmly reported the trouble "all cleared."

Do you have a party line? It's a thrifty and convenient service. And, it can be very pleasant for everyone especially when simple party line etiquette is observed. It's really just following the Golden Rule. You appreciate having the use of the line when you need it - and so do your party line "partners". Being sure that the receiver is hung in place, keeping calls spaced out and brief, teaching your children good telephone manners, respecting privacy - these are things that help give all party line users full value from their telephones. In those areas where there are several "partners" on a line and different rings are used to identify the number wanted, it's courteous and thoughtful to answer your ring as quickly as possible. Especially in the late evening hours when youngsters or neighbors who are ill may be asleep, it's a real kindness to all the "partners" on the line to speedily answer your ring. That way, you get your call but others are not unduly disturbed.

*Lloyd Sturdy*

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