

Where Niagara Falls...

Niagara Falls is one of the few places in Canada which retains its charm for tourists the year-round. Tourists don't come in the same numbers as they do during the peak seasons, of course, but many of the Falls' attractions are now open all year to accommodate sightseers.

It's a standing joke to ask those who've been to Niagara if the Falls are still running. There's no doubt the correct is still the main attraction despite all the glitter which surrounds them.

We've been to the Falls many times during the spring, summer and fall but a visit recently for the Ontario Weekly Newspapers convention, was the first time we had the opportunity to see them in the winter. Included in the visit was a tour of the Sir Adam Beck power plant where among other things we learned there is some substance to the old joke about turning the Falls off.

Water is cut off for power production during the winter months on a larger scale than in the other times of the year but it makes little difference to the observer. Both the Canadian and American falls still thunder and spray a fine mist which among other things turns hair straight, builds into fabulous formations of ice and keeps adjacent streets perpetually wet.

Living as we do only a few miles from an attraction which draws people from all over the world, perhaps we don't appreciate the magnitude of a heritage which an explanatory film at the power station proves is a hang-over from the ice age. If you were from the prairies, for instance, or the British Isles with its smaller scale natural phenomena, you'd no doubt appreciate it more.

What better place than in this setting of modern motels, tourist glitter and parkland to hold a newspaper convention. The area has double significance for the publishers and editors for this is historic ground — the frontier — where many of the differences between Canada and the U.S. were resolved, the first provincial newspapers were published and the scenery unparalleled.

Convention headquarters was at the Park Motor Hotel, only a few blocks from Lundy's Lane, once the scene of a bloody battle in the War of 1812. Imagination was kindled. To think the busy street now still holds American invaders. They come not with booming cannons, muskets and long bustling bayonets but with big cars, inquisitive eyes and money. The reception is more cordial.

Only a few yards away once stood Clifton House where Confederate generals and politicians came to plot the downfall of President Lincoln and his anti-slavery government, futilely as it turned out.

William Lyon Mackenzie once published an early newspaper near here, at Queenston, a sheet which drew the ire

of the Family Compact. The irate, red-headed Scotsman turned the rage into political ammunition against the establishment.

Among the new wrinkles at this "In" convention was a life-sized wax figure of William Lyon, borrowed from a nearby wax museum, with which you could have your picture taken. Several publishers and editors took advantage of it.

Highlight of the convention which included dinners sponsored by Imperial Oil, Canadian Bankers Association, the C.N.R., Ontario Hydro and various other firms, was an address by the Hon. Robert L. Stanfield, P.C., Q.C., L.L.D., leader of the Opposition.

Mr. Stanfield, labelled by Maclean's Magazine as an "austere, Calvinist patrician" was disappointing to this writer as a speaker and in remarks he made at a press conference prior to his speech. He looks like a latter day Canadian Abraham Lincoln, someone who'd strike you as being more approachable than the ordinary man in politics.

Perhaps because the job of leading Canada's Conservatives is relatively new to him, he hasn't got the answers for every aspect of Canada's problems — a fact he modestly admits — but he spoke in generalities and seemed to have no solutions to the pressing problems which afflict the country.

In contrast to Mr. Stanfield's address we found the speech of the Hon. Robert Welch, Q.C., on the Saturday night vibrant, inspiring and easy to listen to. Mr. Welch is provincial secretary and he must be a live-wire in the Ontario government.

Maybe we're partial to him because of the remarks he made about the weekly press, describing weeklies as an "eloquent" form of communication that has preserved an "intimate" relationship with Ontario's reading public. He said weeklies are a vital link in the chain of communication that reaches out across Ontario and across Canada.

That is sweet music indeed for weekly publishers and editors and when Bob Welch proved he read the weeklies in his own riding he could have spoken for another hour or two without any one stifling a yawn.

There were several technical features at the convention including one by I.B.M. which much like the modern day church afflicted the comfortable and comforted the afflicted about trends in printing. Automation is here and the old, tried and true methods are passe. Modern printers must be electrical technicians, mechanics and mathematicians as well as holding the old skills.

Of course the most attractive feature of any convention is meeting the people in the same line of work, renewing acquaintances and discussing common problems.

Tomorrow is Thursday, March 21 — the first day of Spring. At this writing, even the weather agrees.

It seems not to occur to indigent countries that Uncle Sam got rich through hard work.

failure to win would be a shattering blow, and the failure of others to support him already appears to him as an unaccountable betrayal.

What's the purpose, you may ask, of subjecting well-fed, bourgeois teenagers to such an experience. Well, it's rather like shock treatment. It makes them wake up, examine their values, think about the world and the part they must play in it, rather than what they'll wear to the dance-Friday night.

We talked about it later. They thought it shouldn't be seen by children, but that everyone else in the world, on both sides of the fence, should see it.

They tried to explain why there is comparative silence these days about the Bomb and fall-out, compared with the obsession with it, and the wave of shelter-building that occurred a decade ago.

We discussed the moral implications of



THIS TREE has grown into a veritable Gordian knot, an impression heightened by the gnarly section of stump fence out of which the tangle of limbs and twigs seem to protrude. It must be of feminine gender or perhaps a male which couldn't make up its mind in which direction to grow. (Staff Photo)



Sugar and Spice

by Bill Smiley

Took about 300 of our senior students to the movies first thing Monday morning. They looked forward to the outing, a change from the classroom. It was quite an experience.

There were about 500 normal, noisy teenagers in the theatre, altogether. Normally this is asking for bedlam. Modern kids, conditioned by television, are equally inclined to laugh jarringly, mockingly, at scenes of horror and scenes of poignancy. Brutality and violence are their daily bread.

But after the reels began spinning on Monday morning, there weren't any laughs. When the lights went up, there was none of the usual horsplay. There were 500 shaken, subdued and in some cases stunned teenagers.

The film was "The War Game," a short British movie. It depicts, in a matter-of-fact documentary style, what would happen if a nuclear exchange broke out.

No exorcising detail is spared. Blatantly anti-war, it is a bitter satire on our society and man's stupidity. The film is crude, the message blunt, and the effect harrowing. The BBC banned it as too shocking to be shown to the public on television.

It's all there: the public ignorance; the government apathy; the triggering incident; the profiteer who sells sandbags at an exorbitant rate; the man with two bomb-shelters and a shot-gun to keep others out; the little boy whose eyeballs turn to jelly when he sees the flash; the ordinary family crouched, like terrified animals, under the kitchen table; the fire-storm that destroys everything in its path; the grotesque burned faces; the people shocked into idiocy; the break-down of law and order.

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shooting people who wanted to share your shelter. Of the police in the film shooting victims of Burns who had only a few hours to live, and those hours in extreme agony. Of what they, themselves, could do about it all.

Some of them were shaken out of their cosy, conformist little box. Others were overwhelmed by a feeling of futility. And some were filled with a fury at the idiocy of their elders, who had allowed this to happen. And others were just plain scared and wanted to know what preparations we were taking for such an eventuality. And a few believed that man could prevail and overcome the evil.

We ranged from Vietnam to hippies and escapism, from morality to the instinct for survival, from whether they would rather be Red than dead to what they would do if the Yanks decided they must take over Canada, for their own military safety. (Most of the boys would fight, take to the hills.)

I think it was good for them. The world of the future is theirs and they can't go on blaming us forever. See the film yourself, if you can. But take a paper bag if you have a weak stomach.

School teachers and children have the weather co-operating with them for the first winter holiday week. Generally, comment seems to favor keeping it on the same date each year instead of moving around like Easter.

Free Press back issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, March 18, 1948.

The Tanners took the first round of the O.H.A. playoffs, eliminating Port Dalhousie 5-3. Leno Marzo, Norman Morton and Ilio Marzo were most effective for the locals.

There aren't many subscribers on the Free Press mailing list who have been there since the first issue 73 years ago but on Thursday Mr. G. Brown renewed his subscription for the 73rd time. He recalled that the first issue in 1875 was much smeared with grease. Only two of his old classmates are still in Acton. He rarely misses a day in the shipping department of the Storey Glove Co.

Walking along the pavement on Mill St., Mr. A. M. McPherson was struck by a car and sustained cuts and bruises.

Miss Mamie Malprize who has come to Acton to live with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Wm. Malprize, was a guest at a dinner in her honor in Toronto when friends and fellow teachers presented her with gifts.

At the last Y's Men's meeting new members inducted were Claude Cook, Ray Cannon and Foreman Lawrence.

Balmfad Church Women's Association put on a play "Henpeck Hollar Gossip" in the hall. In the play were Mrs. Flindall, Mrs. F. Smith, Mrs. F. W. Shortill, Mrs. Robt. McEnery, Mrs. Nakor, Mrs. Mitchell, Mrs. J. Cole, Mrs. L. Marshall, Mrs. W. Burt, Muriel Hillis, Mrs. John Snow.

Born - To Dr. and Mrs. Garrett, twin boys.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, March 28, 1918.

While trimming apple trees at his home, Mr. George Leslie, treasurer of Exquisite, had the misfortune to fall and fracture his arm in three places.

Photos of Corp. George Cook, who is now in the trenches in France, have been received this week by Mrs. Cook. The Corporal is wearing his sheepskin coat and steel helmet, and looks well and fit.

Mrs. W. Hall, Main St., received a very chatty letter from Clarence Matthews, who has been in the trenches in France for several months. He is doing his part as a soldier with characteristic tenacity.

The demands upon Acton Public Library are growing and accommodation is now entirely adequate. Rev. Mr. Wilson Reeve Hynds, Rev. Mr. Large and H. P. Moore were appointed a committee to inquire about a Carnegie grant to build a library. Since the number of readers has grown

considerably larger the board decided to reward the faithfulness and efficiency of Miss Lettie Scott, the librarian, and her assistant, Miss Margaret Wilson, by increasing their salaries to \$10 per month for the librarian and \$5 per month for the assistant.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, March 23, 1893.

Tramp, tramp, tramp. This does not refer to the actions of our noble volunteers. As spring advances the number of tramps calling on his worship, the reeve, increases. Nearly every night the downy couches provided over by Officer Graham are in requisition. Five of the fraternity dreamed dreams in the cells on Sunday night, three on Monday. The demands of the perambulating gentry are nothing if not presumptuous. One, when refused meal tickets, said he didn't expect such an insignificant place as Acton to know how to treat a gentleman right. The lack of food is fully supplied by goodnatured citizens.

The lanterns are now well protected against fire. A quantity of new hose and reel has been put in.

Those who celebrated the Seventeenth of Ireland thought the slippery side of the ice was up.

Mrs. Bardwell of Eden Mills has been given up by her physician. About 170 horses were offered for sale last week in Milton.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, Milton, March 19, 1868.

An attempt is being made to start a Grammar School in Georgetown, which we trust may be successful, as there is a good opening for such an institution in that rising village. It will require very little effort to secure a flourishing school, there is no doubt that it could be well supplied with pupils, and between fees, government and county grants, it would be amply endowed financially. We have often wondered that the idea was not mooted before, as the want of a High School has for a long time back rendered it necessary for the citizens of Georgetown and vicinity to send abroad for a collegiate education.

The party who took the bottle of Brandy off the shelf in G. Smith's Store, on Monday the 16th inst., is hereby requested to stay out of the shop in future, as he is known. He has also taken money at other times.

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, MARCH 24th, 1968
Lent IV
9.00 a.m.—The Holy Eucharist.
10.30 a.m.—Church School.
10.30 a.m.—Morning Prayer.
Mid-week services are cancelled until further notice, but Sunday services will continue as usual.

BETH-EL CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
Minister — Rev. P. Brouwer, B.A., B.D. Acton, Ontario.
SUNDAY, MARCH 24th, 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. Lohmes
SUNDAY, MARCH 24th, 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 Church Hill Road
Rev. S. M. Thoman, Pastor, 853-2715.
SUNDAY, MARCH 24th, 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.

This is an invitation to attend the Church of your choice on Sunday.

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, MARCH 24th, 1968
10.00 a.m.—Morning Worship (Nursery provided).
"The Cross of Christ and the Christian (4) My God, Why Hast Thou Forsaken Me?"

ACTON BAPTIST CHURCH
Founded 1842
Pastor: Rev. Stanley Gasson
Res., 144 Tidey Ave., Phone 833-1615.
SUNDAY, MARCH 24th, 1968
9.45 a.m.—Church School and Adult Bible Class.
11.00 a.m.—Morning Worship.
7.00 p.m.—Evening Service.
Wednesday — Prayer and Bible Study, 7.30 p.m.
Thursday, 6.30 p.m. — Explorers.
Thursday, 8 p.m. — Choir practice.
Friday, 7 p.m. — B.H.F.

Text: "Behold we go up to Jerusalem; and the Son of man shall be delivered unto the chief priests, and they shall condemn Him to death." Math. 10: 33.

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, MARCH 24th, 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 and Reception of new members. Sermon III in series "Deviations from Historic Christianity — Christian Science."
8.30 p.m.—Adult Study Group at Swallows, 186 Tyler Ave.

Preaching next Sunday: Rev. Dr. Hugh Davidson, Secretary of Board of Stewardship and Budget. Everyone Most Welcome

Editorial notes...

One thing the parliamentary crisis in February showed, says a report in the April issue of Maclean's Magazine, was how various Liberal leadership candidates do or don't keep cool heads. Ottawa correspondent Blair Fraser says Mitchell Sharp and Paul Hellyer remained reasonably calm. But Paul Martin says Fraser, has shown extreme, almost frantic, distress because of recent events. The report adds: "Alone of all the candidates, Martin is so emotionally committed to the leadership contest that

Photos from the past



MILL ST. was photographed about 1901 from in front of Soper's store, where Milton's store is now. George Campbell, grandfather of Mrs. Fred Anderson, is shown walking down the board sidewalk. Mrs. Anderson lent the picture. Who has more pictures to lend us?

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