

On the mall...

We must admit the adverse comments from some merchants over a trial period for a mall on Mill St. from John to Main Sts. comes as a surprise.

We thought the suggestion had much merit and would receive almost 100 per cent co-operation from merchants in the proposed area. The opinion was strengthened when Chamber of Commerce representatives asked council's endorsement of the idea and there wasn't a dissenting vote from the delegation.

Malls are fast becoming the most popular way of merchandising. They give buyers a relaxed milieu in which to shop and offer something a little different from the hasty-burly of fighting traffic noise and confusion.

Certainly the fact that No. 7 highway stretches along Mill St. does not assist the idea. Traffic would have to be rerouted, apparently along Church St., and residents there certainly aren't going to welcome it.

There are other problems, like shipments of goods to the stores in behind the barriers, but these are none from which the Chamber of Commerce hasn't worked out a solution. Whether their answers are acceptable or not is another thing, but we think their ideas deserve consideration.

Personal contact with newcomers to town and comments from relative old timers reveal an awareness of shortcomings in the business section. Some-

times these complaints pinpoint a lack of variety or comments like "they don't carry my size."

Personally we believe it is cheaper to shop in town but can recognize in many cases there are services not available here which can be readily bought elsewhere.

The proposed mall is the most imaginative suggestion to come in front of council yet to attract more people downtown. With more people buying, merchants can afford to stock more variety, both in quantity and price.

Planners recognize that new developments, two of which are already proposed here, with plazas, tend to cut the town into segments, and reduce business for downtown stores. If these developments proceed, piecemeal disintegration of downtown-business could take place if there is no counter attraction.

A mall may not be the answer. Reeve Hinton, an advocate of more off-street parking, may have the answer businessmen are looking for.

But how is anyone to speak intelligently on the proposal until it is given a fair trial?

No matter what decision the merchants in town arrive at — and it is their decision — we sincerely hope these discussions will initiate something constructive to make Acton a more attractive and enticing place to shop.



RANDY BARTHOLOMEW and Eric Fryers aren't disturbed by mud oozing up through bare feet as they look for tadpoles in the school creek. What would anyone collect tadpoles for? Fishing bait, of course. (Staff Photo)

Free Press Editorial Page

Battle of the fashions..

Men's fashions, a subject once taboo in male circles, are now being discussed — even among the rough and tumble types.

Why not? Turtlenecks, symbol of the hale and hearty look, have been adopted by those who set the fashions. They're sold the length and breadth of the continent.

Nehru collars, which resemble clergymen's collars, have turned some dandies into fascimiles of ordained ministers and priests.

Earrings and lace, the sole prerogative of American women since pirates sailed the Spanish Main, are being worn along with bracelets, chains and pendants.

A few years ago, a man wearing the paraphernalia some males don now would be sent for a psychiatric examination, branded a sissy or been the target of a fist. Now they hardly rate a second glance.

There have always been males who liked to dress up, wear the latest clothes. It's natural.

Look at nature. It's the peacock, not the peahen which preens itself, spreads out a beautiful tail for all to admire. The female bird in some species is usually a pale imitation of a brilliantly colored male.

How then did old homo sapiens get stuck with conservative cuts and colors while women went in for the splendor?

Let's turn the pages of the history book back to the days when our ancestors were emerging from their caves. Was the woman adorned then? Nope. It was the man who wore the ermine and mink. Melissa Herringbone had to be satisfied with scraps old George skinned from a bear.

Back in biblical times some of those Egyptian pharaohs, Syrian princes and Roman Caesars let their wives dress up for feasts and events at the arena but the plain Janes were in the majority. Abraham and Moses and some of the Hebrew prophets didn't hesitate to let the Jezebels know they were flirting with fire when they stuck their veils out of the tribal tent.

In medieval times, males outdid the women in outlandish garb, kept the gals locked up in castles or doing the laundry with paddles down the local river. Round about the time of Henry VIII some of the women got out of hand and ended up married to the king — a sure death warrant. The men were real dandies.

Over in France, male dandies who kept a wife in plumage and the odd extra as well, ended up headless under a guillotine — along with the lady. Victorian ladies were widely known for their modesty and plainness.

It wasn't until after the First Great War that the women kicked over the traces.

While men became more conservative and slavishly wore the same fashions year after year, the female stuck her ankle out of the cocoon, then her calf, then her knee. Now she's wearing skirts above her thighs, colors every shade of the rainbow and styles held up by who knows what.

The only way for the male to regain the dominance he exercised back in the history books is to assert his mastery as a fashion plate; wear fashions and colors which will put the female in the shade.

And this is what he is doing.

Sugar and Spice

by Bill Smiley

Nothing trivial this week. I'm going to ask, and answer, some questions about the more profound aspects of life. If you don't like the answers, supply your own.

When is a politician, during an election campaign, going to promise the populace the moon, and then remind us out loud that it is we, not some other-worldly essence called The Government, who will have to pay for it.

Answer: When we find out, which may be any day now, that the moon is really made of green cheese, after all.

Why are teen-agers so often so unbearable? Because, like babies, they have learned quickly that the best means of getting attention is to raise a stink, literally and figuratively.

What happens to my socks?

Every time my wife washes, I lose one sock. Never a pair; always singles. Just checked my drawer, and I have nine single socks, no two matching. They're about as useful as antlers on a rabbit.

Answer: There is a little man with a bizarre taste in socks built in to these new fangled automatic washers or dryers. It never happened with the old upright and the clothes-line. At least the dealer could tell you, before you bought the machine.

Solution? Buy all my socks the same color. But this would spoil my image. I've always been noted for my dashing socks: gray, light-gray, dark-gray, dark-blue or black.

Where did this vile canard begin that men are babies when they are sick? They're supposed to be whining, querulous, demanding sympathy. This is poppycock, at least in our family. Hugh and I want only to be left alone when we're ill. It's the females who talk endlessly about how they feel, discuss every twinge, demand fresh tea every half-hour and complain about the slowness and stoppiness of the service. After three weeks of it, I know.

Why do black people loot during riots? For the same reason white people do: partly to get something for nothing; partly for the sheer heck of it.

What has Pierre Elliott Trudeau, who is older and has even less hair, got that I haven't? Not much, really. Except a million dollars, a brilliant mind, bags of charm, no family shackles, and a couple of million females who would like to be his mother, wife or in a pinch, sister.

Why are so many draft-dodgers coming to Canada? First, because they don't want to defend the U.S. and rot or be shot 10,000 miles away in a jungle. Second, it's too hot in Mexico and they don't know the language.

Why is it warm and sunny all week, cold and rainy on weekends? Because the weekend is the only time you have a chance to golf or fish, that's why.

Why all the fuss and admiration about the teen-agers marching for money on May 4? They had a ball. Try to sponsor one into marching around behind a lawnmower, with proceeds going to the underprivileged of the world, and see what response you get.

When are the clots in this country going to stop cutting down avenues of beautiful trees in towns and cities in order to widen roads and create speedways? Never, unless we non-clots start a holy war about it.

When are governments going to get rid of that vast, strangling afterbirth of a bureaucracy? Answer: When there are only 300 people left in the country who are not working for the government.

How many people would stop smoking if weeds went up to \$2 a pack or drinking if booze went up to \$12 a crock? About as many as a one-armed man with a wooden leg could count on his toes and fingers.

Why is teaching school like washing dishes? There's always another stack coming along, unless you want to stop eating.

Any more questions? No? Well, I guess that clears up a lot of things that have been bothering you.

Free Press back issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Free Press of Thursday, May 20, 1948.

There was nothing but exclamations of delight and words of congratulation Thursday when Acton's new theatre, the Roxy, opened its doors. The feature picture was Mother, Where's Papa?, a fine production rather badly titled. There were opening ceremonies in the afternoon when Reeve McCulloch and Mr. R. L. Gregory both spoke briefly. A reception was held afterward.

The Community Variety Concert Monday and Tuesday played to large, appreciative audiences. The local players banded under Mr. R. Parker to raise money for the Save the Children Fund. Included were numbers by eight girls of the United Church; R. Sly playing a "hot" number of his own composition; Mr. H. W. Baxter's solo accompanied by Mrs. Gowdy; Miss Nancy Gordon, tap dancing; the mixed quartette of the Presbyterian church accompanied by Chas. Landsborough; public school choir under Miss Lynda Stewart with Miss Warner accompanied; "Jock" Anderson Scottish songs; Male Quartette, W. Burton, T. Hansen, N. Baird and G. Musselle; Scotty Burton, a Scotchman, sang an Irish song; the Haystack Quartette with Les Doby at the guitar; Wolf Pack demonstration under Akala Taylor; Chas. Landsborough trumpet solo.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Free Press of Thursday, May 20, 1918.

By an amendment to the School Act, passed at the recent session of the Legislature, the holidays may be extended to September 30. If adopted by local boards it will leave the boys on the farms for an additional month at a time of the year when they are greatly needed.

Girls becoming engaged to soldiers make a special point of acquiring out-of-the-common engagement rings. All these have been very successfully and artistically made from the bands of shells melted down and inset with the prospective wearer's favorite stone. On the inside is inscribed the day on which the fragment was originally picked up, and a few particulars.

Miss Frances Mullin was home from Toronto for the holiday.

Nursing sister Miss Cole spent the holiday at her father's home here.

R. L. Gregory of the Wonderland Theatre, has secured the great film, "The Submarine Eye" for tomorrow evening.

Mr. and Mrs. J. H. Denny and Mr. and Mrs. Fred Cooper motored to Rockwood on the 24th and spent the holiday with friends there.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Free Press of Thursday, May 25, 1893.

In his annual report to the county council Inspector Deacon said, "Acton has now the most ample accommodation and the finest public school in Halton county. For a number of years the fourth department had been located in a small room in the town hall. The board built a beautiful and commodious four-room building at the front of remaining two rooms. The cost was nearly \$6,000."

A high-class, refined and interesting entertainment will be given in the Brick Church, above Acton, on Thursday, Messrs. Fred Dixon, dialect reader, and Will A. Dixon, ventriloquist, are the artists for the occasion.

A school room has been built as an addition to the Christian Church at Everton. Queen's Birthday was quietly observed. In the afternoon a lacrosse match was played.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, May 21, 1868.

A rather rich sell took place at the Champion office yesterday. A farmer who has "the oil in the brain" entered the sanctum with a tall and mysterious stranger, whose name we afterwards ascertained to be Meacham. We were gravely informed that Meacham was an oil witch and would for a small sum inform us whether the Milton oil-hole contained the precious fluid, and as one of those interested, we were asked to bear our part of the test. The other directors had been seen and were willing to go on with the trial. Being rather skeptically inclined as to the wonder-working powers of the Oil Changer, we ventured to inquire how it was that the Oil Witch was not "clothed in purple and fine linen", as his knowledge of oil locations ought to have enabled him to make his fortune before this. Meacham offered to test his charm on the spot, and in the presence of a number of gentlemen called in for the purpose, he produced an instrument in the form of an arch with two waving steel arms, surmounted by an Indian rubber band, from which was suspended a small bag and needle. This he poised over a lamp containing oil, and on it being moved to various parts of the room, the instrument pointed to the oil. As he stated that it would operate more powerfully on crude oil than refined, we quietly slipped out, with water, and producing it as the real "crude" the machine operated more powerfully than ever. After a thorough trial the dodge was revealed, and with some confusion Meacham tried to explain that it was the wick that did the business. After a hearty laugh the oil witch was allowed to go in peace.

Free Press

Church Notices

THE CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR ANGLICAN
Corner Willow St. and St. Alban's Drive
Rev. H. J. Dawson, B.A., B.Th.

Ascension Day, Thursday, May 23 — 10 a.m. Celebration of Holy Eucharist.
SUNDAY, MAY 26th, 1968
Sunday after Ascension
9:00 a.m.—The Holy Eucharist.
10:30 a.m.—Church School.
10:30 a.m.—Morning Prayer.

BETH-EL CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH
Minister — Rev. P. Brouwer, B.A., B.D.
Acton, Ontario.

SUNDAY, MAY 26th, 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

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

SUNDAY, MAY 26th, 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.
"Blessed is he whose transgression is forgiven, whose sin is covered."
Psalm 32:1.

MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
81 Maple Ave., Georgetown
Pastor: Rev. Robert C. Lohnes

SUNDAY, MAY 26th, 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 Evange.
7:45 p.m.—Wednesday, prayer meeting.
Acton 853-1956 Georgetown 877-6665

TRINITY CHURCH
(The United Church of Canada)
Minister:
The Rev. Gordon B. Turner, B.A., B.D.
Director of Music:
Dr. George Elliott, M.A., Ph.D.

SUNDAY, MAY 26th, 1968
Trinity United
10:00 a.m.—Morning Worship (Nursery provided)
Churchill United Church
11:30 a.m.—Morning Worship
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 Tildey Ave., Phone 853-1615.

SUNDAY, MAY 26th, 1968
9:45 a.m.—Church School and Adult Bible Class.
11:00 a.m.—Morning Worship.
7:00 p.m.—Family Night.
Wednesday, 7:30 — Prayer Meeting and Bible Study.
Thursday, 6:30 p.m.—Explorers.
Thursday, 8 p.m.—Choir practice.
Friday, 7 p.m.—B.H.F.
"My son, hear the instruction of thy father and forsake not the law of thy mother."
Prov. 1: 8.

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 26th, 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, "Secret Discipleship."
8:30 p.m.—Adult Bible Study Group in Mary Ellen Anderson room.
Everyone Most Welcome
This is an invitation to attend the Church of your choice on Sunday.

Photos from the past



YEARS OF SERVICE with Beardmore and Co. totalled 542 for the men in this picture taken at Guelph June 25, 1936. Included in the "old timers" and executive are front row, left to right, Wes Beatty, John Kennedy, S. G. Bennett, Jim McIntosh, Torrance Beardmore,

John Dunne, Eric Smith, James Wilds, William "Gunner" Gould; back row, John Gibson, Tom Gibbons, Jack McArthur, Tom Marshall, William Mainprize, W. Hall, John Mellon, George Benton, W. Chapman.