

Free Press Editorial Page

Grand parade spectacle ...

The old myth about it always raining on the Orangemen for their annual walk to commemorate the battle of the Boynes was exploded last Saturday here.

Lodges who flocked to Acton were rewarded with beautiful weather and the two mile long district parade was a delight for thousands of visitors as well as people from Acton and district.

One tradition — King Billy, on his white horse — had to be discarded when the horse went skittish at the sight and sounds of so many people and musical instruments in one place. That was the only serious hitch of the afternoon.

Lodge officials who served on the committee to promote the event in Acton are to be commended on the work and thought they put into the event. Visitors were loud in their praise of the parade. The fact it started only 10 minutes late, shattering a long tradition here for parades to be at least half an hour late starting, speaks well of the organization.

Orange parades aren't a new feature here by any means. Acton's Early Days refers to the Orange walks that centred around the Station Hotel in the days after the Crimean War, commonly called the "Roostian War".

In those days, says the book, Acton had Orange walks that were "some potatoes". No place in the country was more popular for spending the "Glorious Twelfth" than Acton and nearly every year there was an Orange demonstration.

The dining room of the tavern was entirely inadequate for the crowds of visitors so Mr. Bell, the tavern keeper, always secured, permission to erect a temporary dining room on the lot behind the hotel. Lumber was cheap in those days, and Orange helpers numerous.

New potatoes and green peas were the leading vegetables at the Orange dinners, since they were usually the first of the season for the diners.

A well-known fishman of the day, who superintended the outside dining room, used a rich brogue to shout, "Bring on some more of them new pitatoes and green peays."

All anybody paid for the huge dinner was a quarter, or two York shillings, as was the common term for a quarter dollar in those days.

Taverns were numerous and sometimes the enthusiasm for the day extended into the cups of hard liquor which were cheap and easy to come by. Arguments sometimes were settled by fists.

It's a big change today. Saturday's parade was a model of decorum. Fiery speeches, once a highlight of the "12th" are usually only a resume of what the Orange Order stands for.

The bitterness is gone. The day is a grand spectacle and a chance for Orangemen everywhere to visit one another and talk over previous "walks".



FRESH COATS of paint being applied on the Christian Reformed Church often mean ascending to dizzy heights. These large window panes and sharply descending eaves require a skilled brush as well as a liking for being up in the air. (Staff Photo)

Farmer depends on weather ...

This is a busy time on the farm. Newly mown hay, its fragrance wafting in the summer breeze, has to be baled and stored in the barn. It's often a race to dry the new hay and get it into the barn between rains which have been copious this year.

The large amounts of moisture have made the alfalfa, timothy and alsike thick, providing lots of feed for the long winter months. Continuance of the wet weather has, however, made the race for the barn more difficult, even with fast up-to-date equipment the modern farmer uses.

If the hay isn't properly dried the

farmer stands the chance of setting up a chemical reaction known as spontaneous combustion which has been responsible for the destruction of many barns in this area over the years.

Even with the latest in scientific methods and modern equipment, the farmer still waits on the vagaries of the weather.

Along the sideroads today there are thousands of bales of hay waiting to be stored in the barn.

Think of the farmer when you're cursing foul weather and your own troubles will probably seem smaller.

Alive and kicking ...

Outside of a few towns, the game of lacrosse has been in eclipse, says The Printed Word.

But it seems to be making a comeback and it has even been honored with a garish stamp by the Canadian Post Office.

So Canadian is this game that 95 per cent of all lacrosse sticks used in Canada and in foreign lands have been manufactured in a Cornwall factory that burned down on June 4.

In the Ontario Legislature the mem-

ber, for Peel South (Peel was always a great county for lacrosse) asked what was to be done "to alleviate a critical shortage in lacrosse sticks". He was assured that an official had already been despatched to Cornwall to see what could be done.

Most of the ninety employees of the factory are Indians. They invented the game.

Fergus, another lacrosse hotbed, isn't worried. They purchase sticks from the Ohsweken reserve.

Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley



If your family is anything like mine, you must sometimes put your head down on your arms and weep, quietly and bitterly.

We go through periods of passivity and morbidity to the point where mass suicide seems the only sane solution.

And with the perversity of life, suddenly the clouds break, the sun comes out, the rainbow appears, there's a pot of gold at its base and God is once again back in His heaven, instead of hanging around the pool-hall.

We've just come through one of these cycles, and I reckon that just about one more will finish me off.

It began about 10 weeks ago. For the fifth time in the last couple of years, Hugh, the wandering boy, took off to make a new start and his fortune. This time it was to be in the mines of northern Quebec.

A week later we received a card from the flesh-pots of Montreal, urging us to write and saying he had a job at Expo Jr. We all wrote. Silence. Nothing. For weeks and weeks. Momma worried. I didn't.

At about the same time my wife got sick and couldn't write her university exams. Had a small operation, came home and lay around the house, driving me mad.

Kim, of course, had to get into the act and came down with mono-nucleosis. She was forbidden to study. Would she fall her year?

Your humble servant, as usual, had nothing wrong with him except a rotten family. However, he just put his nose to the wheel and his shoulder to the grindstone and kept on running in circles. He's used to it.

Things got steadily blacker. Hugh maintained silence. His mother learned she had to have a big operation and spent a month chewing her fingernails right up to the wrists as she waited for the hospital to call, the ghastly operation, and the news that she had cancer. Kim got surlier and surlier from being cooped up.

Did my best. Wrote Hugh a strong letter. Talked to my wife for endless hours about hysterectomies, ovaries, uteruses, malignant fibroids and such delicacies. Tried to humor Kim into eating and sleeping.

Then everything started to pop at once. The hospital called and the old lady went off to her doom. For three days I sweated out the operation and at the same time Kim's promotion from Grade 12, which lay in the hands of the gods, her teachers.

Finally, the dam broke. All in one day we hit the crisis. Hugh phoned from Quebec City, to learn that his Mum was likely

breathing her last. Kim was granted her year at school. And that night, a shaky old lady of about 90 called from the hospital to tell me that she was alive, though not exactly kicking.

During the next week, the tide rose and the old family ship which had been high and dry on the bleak beach amid the rotting weeds, began to float again.

Hugh phoned his mother in hospital, and she was so glad to hear from him that she forgot to give him hell for not writing. The missus came home from hospital with an all-clear, a beautiful scar and feeling remarkably perky. Kim recovered her health with amazing speed.

So, as it stands now, Hugh has a job as a waiter in Quebec City, is happy and has stopped smoking and biting his nails. My wife is overwhelmed by the flowers and cards from friends. Didn't think she had many. And she's feeling great, on the whole. Kim is riding on a cloud because her brother has invited her to visit him in Quebec City, and she's going all the way by herself, with no parents to ruin everything.

All of this is rather uninteresting, but it is written as inspirational material for those thousands of gallant men across the country who are about ready to burst into tears.

Don't let it get you down, Jack. Behind every dark cloud there is a darker one. Just keep that in mind and you'll be amazed at how you feel when the sun suddenly comes out.

If you can live so long.

Free Press back issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, July 8, 1948.

Jack Malprize, son of Mr. and Mrs. Harry Malprize is a member of the crew of the destroyer, Athabaskan, which is now on the British Columbia coast under quarantine. Seven members of the crew have been stricken with infantile paralysis and one member has died. Friends will be glad to learn that word received by Mr. and Mrs. Malprize from Jack, is that he is well.

A large group of neighbors and friends of Mr. and Mrs. Ralph McKeown (nee Eleanor McDougall) gathered at Greenock school on Thursday last. The occasion was a presentation to the recently married couple by the residents of Greenock and Woodside school sections.

The McCutcheon reunion was held this year at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Murdo McCutcheon, Ospringe with an attendance of 85.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Denny and Miss Lucy Denny, Mr. and Mrs. Harold McIntyre and Lloyd visited Mr. and Mrs. Roy Denny and family at Porcupine last week and also visited at Timmins.

Miss Gertrude Chalker of East London, Africa and Miss Sophie Chalker of London, England are visiting their sister, Mrs. Charles Cuits for a few days.

The campaign for Acton Community Swimming Pool is now on. Meet your canvasser with a smile and do your best to assure a new swimming pool for the sweltering days of next summer.

Greatest Matched Race This Year July 13 between Canadian Champion Trotter Billy Stout owned by Frank Plam, Celia Lee owned by Hon. W. Earle Rowe and Dorothy Biggar owned by Clarence Lockhart. Purse \$500. Winner Take All.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, July 13, 1893.

London, July 6 - The marriage of the Duke of York and Princess Victoria May of Teck, an event to which all England has been looking forward with great interest, took place at half past twelve o'clock today in the Chapel Royal, St. James' Palace. The wedding was a brilliant function, and was attended by a large gathering of the members of the British Royal family, continental sovereigns or their representatives and many members of the highest nobility.

About a dozen of the members of Acton Lodge A.O.U.W. attended service in the Presbyterian Church, Rockwood, on Sunday evening. Rev. R. J. Beattie of Guelph preached the anniversary sermon.

There was quite a lively scattering at Charles and Co's grocery the other day when a lively tarantula crawled from a bunch of bananas to investigate its northern surroundings.

Messrs. Robert Brown and Son raised a 36' by 80' addition to their bank barn. They have now a fine building about 60 by 100.

The masons are at work on Peter Gibbons' new bank barn in the second concession near Speyside.

James Vanwyck, the new butcher, commenced business on Tuesday with a good stock.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, Milton, July 9, 1868.

The "Small Potato" government of John Sandfield, not satisfied with charging magistrates 50 cents each for a copy of the Ontario Statute, have seen fit to refuse Reeves, Mayors, and others who are ex-officio magistrates, a copy at even this reduced rate. It is really too bad that Magistrates are mulct in this sum as their fees are seldom charged, and even if charged, are not adequate remuneration for their arduous and often disagreeable duties.

The Montreal Telegraph Company intends opening all their principal offices on Sundays, from 9 to 10:30 a.m. and from eight to 9 p.m. — this will be a great boon to the public in many cases; though, of course, it is not likely it will be taken advantage of, unless where absolute necessity, such as dangerous illness, death or business of momentous importance demands.

Tuesday last the engine of Mr. Thomas Gowdy's saw mill in Esquipping was badly smashed on account of the breaking of what is known as the connecting rod. Fragments of iron flew in all directions, and one piece as thick as a man's arm shot through a thick beam. The engine is wrecked to pieces, but fortunately the engine room was vacant at the time of the accident and nobody was injured. The cause of the mishap is supposed to have been in some of the bolts of the connecting rod springing out.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, July 11, 1918.

That Canada is at war will be brought home to every man, woman and child now when all bread made from standard wheat flour must be labelled "Victory Bread" and mixed with a percentage of substitutes for wheat flour. This is the effect of a recent order issued by the Canada Food Board in a vigorous effort to save the existing wheat supplies so as to make them last out until the wheat of the coming harvest reaches the flour mills and the new flour is distributed for consumption.

A letter received yesterday from Pte. Ernest Brown, formerly foreman of the Free Press, written at Fensham Camp, England, says he had a most enjoyable trip across. The day he was writing Sergt. Rolph Swackhamer, Sergt. Perry, Pte. J. D. Burt, Pte. Cameron Leishman and Pte. D. Carri enjoyed part of the day together.

The bricklayers are hustling up the walls of the new shoe factory. Holmes' new barn on the Gamble farm was successfully raised yesterday.

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.

SUNDAY, JULY 14th, 1968 Trinity V 10.00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist. Lay Reader — Rev. Robert Foster.

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

SUNDAY, JULY 14th, 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 YABERNACIL P.A.O.C. 33 Churchhill Road Rev. S. M. Thoman, Pastor, 853-2715.

SUNDAY, JULY 14th, 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. 1 John 5: 4 — For whosoever is born of God overcometh the world, and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.

TRINITY CHURCH (THE UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA) Minister: Rev. Gordon B. Turner, B.A., B.D. Director of Music: Mr. George Elliott, M.A., Ph.D.

SIXTH SEASON — COMBINED SUMMER SERVICES IN KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH. Preacher, Rev. Andrew H. McKenzie. SUNDAY, JULY 14th, 1968 10.00 a.m. — Divine Worship. Sermon theme: "Discipline, Comfort and Peace."

ACTON BAPTIST CHURCH Founded 1842 Pastor: Rev. Stanley Gammon Res., 144 Tidey Ave., Phone 853-1615.

SUNDAY, JULY 14th, 1968 9.45 a.m.—Church School and Adult Bible Class. 11.00 a.m.—Morning Worship. No Evening Service. Wednesday, 7.30 — Prayer Meeting and Bible Study. Thursday, 8 p.m. — Choir Practice. "He that hath the Son, hath life, and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." 1 John 5: 12.

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

SUNDAY, JULY 14th, 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 677-6665

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

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 Leader

Photos from the past



SUMMER EXCITEMENT for Acton's children one day years ago was the appearance of this dwarf, playing a flute, with a travelling photographer. The family

of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Brown purchased this picture since daughter Fern is sixth from the right. The year must have been about 1900.