

## Call of the Wild . . .

Although accident statistics commonly report the number of injuries and the amount of damage to vehicles there's another tragic waste which receives little attention.

Last year there were 1,434 accidents reported which involved animals, an 8.4 percent increase over 1966.

Probably the majority of drivers have at some time in their driving experience either hit or swerved to avoid collision with an animal crossing the road. Some drivers callously think nothing of it when the animal, be it domestic or wild, is maimed or killed. Others are shaken, often blaming themselves for accidents impossible to avoid.

Last year in Ontario, 458 deer ran into the paths of oncoming motor vehicles. Second most accident-prone group was cattle, 437 of them were involved in accidents.

According to the figures, dogs were luckier than you might expect; only 196 collided with motor vehicles. This does not sound realistic, however; there must have been many that went unreported. Man's best friend is the victim along highways and sideroads often in places where scant attention is focussed.

There were also 196 ponies, and horses; 153 moose; 45 bears; 22 pigs

and one hippopotamus involved in accidents. Hippopotamus - In Ontario? Yes. A hippo, not a hippie, escaped from a roadside zoo near Brockville and staged a shoving contest with a car. Result - the car was damaged but neither hippo or driver was injured.

And, of course, summer carnage on the highways includes thousands of smaller animals like cats, rabbits, coons, skunks, porcupines, mice, squirrels and chipmunks.

The wild animals must not only contend with survival of the fittest laws but with the automobile as well.

There's also danger for the occupants of vehicles when they collide with animals. Nine lost their lives - five in one accident - and 236 more were injured.

Nature has its way of compensating for the loss - with rabbits, anyway. There are probably more rabbits of the sideroads now than there has been for years, in spite of the numbers killed there are plenty more to take their place.

The figures don't tell the whole story either. Think of the number of animals killed on the roads never reported.

As traffic increases, so will the toll.



SHADY COUNTRY ROADS make a pleasant summer afternoon's drive as the surrounding area basked in strong sunlight during the month of July. Luxuri-

ous growth of crops prodded by the warm weather will keep farmers busy during the month of August at harvest time. (Staff Photo)

## Salt and Pepper

By Hartley Coles

Since even old Bill Smiley couldn't convince the posties they should relax the strike enough to let his copy make the week's deadline, I wasn't presumptuous enough to think I could do it.

The only alternative for this huge, looming space would be to write something witty myself. The suggestion others might like to do it met with a frosty stare and a hasty departure for other parts.

It really isn't fair. Old Smiley's got a wife and two kids he can take apart and put together again before he reaches the end of the column. If I tried the same trick my old "battle axe" would react so quickly, I'd never pass the end of the first paragraph. The only column I'd make would be the weekend accident statistics.

I don't even know any funny stories. Not the printing kind, anyway. About the only thing that's happened to me in the last six months was a visit to the dentist. Even he was boring.

I thought of all the funny people I know. No reaction. It looked hopeless. Like old Bill last week, I was at that little place, Wit's End.

Then it just came to me you might like to hear about the family dog. It hates being clipped. It starts every winter out looking like an advertisement for Scotties. Spring comes and goes and the resemblance to a bushy bear grows more remarkable each day.

The problem is to sneak up on it unaware, give it a bath and remove some of its long hair before it removes your arm or leg.

It's become a spring ritual for the whole family to dehair this doghouse hippo and bring it to heel with scissors, a pair of hockey gloves, a scarf and about four pairs of hands wrestling 20 pounds of dog.

In the early days before all the dog clipping houses within a 50 mile radius got wise that it was the same cute little Scotie that upset them for a month every spring, the pooch used to make an annual junket to one of them. She came back drooping like a lily without water for a week. Attendants fumed and fussed and advised giving the dog tranquilizers before making another trip there.

In view of this it was decided that the same job could be done at home as at any expensive clip joint. In fact, we could probably do it better. That was back in 1 B.C. (before clipping).

This pooch has got ears that can hear worms boring through the ground over on the next block. She likes to let them know of her acute hearing with a few shrill barks. You can imagine what it's like sneaking up on her with intent to wash and clip.

Every hair on that dog must have its own radar set. The first announcement that dog clipping days are here results in a retreat behind the furnace. There, her back to the wall, Scottie dars all and sundry to come and do battle.

That's where we devised equipment for clipping dogs. Donning a pair of stuffed hockey gloves number one son creeps under the stack and makes a grab for dog. If he's lucky 20 pounds of dog will come dragging out behind him.

Next job is to get the scarf around the jaws. That's like roping a steer. A miss and you'll have a nip that leaves the impression of several little teeth in the arm. That's where the hockey gloves come in handy again.

Did you ever try to tie a knot around a dog's jaw with hockey gloves on? It's like knitting socks with a basket on each hand.

Somehow, after four pairs of hands have subdued the canine's capers and scissors are wielded by an expert mother-in-law, the job begins and ends on a note of triumph. Scottie snarls and trembles, alternately bringing the compassion of all the participants one moment and a desire to swat her the next.

When the job is finished, she runs off, tall between her legs, behind the furnace again. There she sulks for two or three hours resisting all efforts to cajole her out with hang-dog looks and large mournful eyes.

By this time she has the sympathy of everyone going for her, convinced us she's been badly treated and will take all the compassion she can get. It's lavished on her in huge doses like hot, sticky syrup.

Instead of the household pot taking the tranquilizers it winds up that most of the adults in the act are swallowing them with huge gulps of water, relieved the bi-annual ordeal is over for another six months.

Scottie, meanwhile, her coat growing back in glossy black, has resumed her job of barking at the worms burrowing over in the next block.

An inferiority complex would be a blessing if only the right people had it.

A noise abatement help would be warmer water, so bathers wouldn't scream the moment they hit it.

Bridge is just the game for people who wear glasses and like to play sitting down.

Free Press

back issues

20 years ago

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, August 5, 1948.

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, August 3, 1893.

Archie McDonald, son of Mr. J. D. McDonald had a narrow escape from serious injury on Monday when he was knocked down by a bull on the farm of the Fourth Line. After knocking Mr. McDonald down the bull trampled him on the chest with his front feet. Treated by Dr. W. G. C. Kenney it was found he had escaped without any broken ribs but he is badly bruised.

A new ship's lifeboat of unorthodox design is nearing completion in an East England boatyard. Instead of the standard hull construction, the keel of the boat is hollow and almost identical in reverse.

Mr. and Mrs. A. M. McPherson spent the weekend with the latter's brother in Detroit.

Messrs. David Dills, Wilfred Duval and Hartley Coles were at Wasaga Beach and Kirkland Lake last week.

A card from Rev. Father Morgan this week brought greetings from Dublin, Ireland, where the Acton rector is visiting. O'Rourke - On Thursday, July 29th, 1948 to Mr. and Mrs. Hugh O'Rourke, R.R. 1, Acton, at the Nursing Home, Guelph St., Acton, a daughter, Margaret Anne.

Guelph, July 27 - About a month ago W. C. Reid, a well-to-do lumber dealer in Forquus, appeared before the Police Magistrate, charged with offering to buy counterfeit money from an American. He was sent up for trial and bailed out. Judge Chadwick this afternoon gave judgement, fining Reid \$500 and costs.

James Walker, a farmer, was run over and killed while sleeping on a railroad track near Brachbridge, Sunday.

An exchange says: "All persons like favorable notices in their local newspaper. Take this warning: If you have frequent headaches, dizziness and fainting spells, accompanied by chills, cramps, corns, bunions, chilblains, epilepsy and jaundice, it is a sign you are not well, but are liable to die at any moment. Pay your subscription a year in advance and thus make yourself solid for a good obituary notice." Fred Smith now sports a splendid new pneumatic wheel. He is quite a rider and will give some of the older cyclists more than they can manage shortly.

Mrs. R. S. Hall, of Toronto Junction, and Mrs. Craig of Brampton, were guests of Mrs. John Spelght this week.

50 years ago

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, August 1, 1918.

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, Milton, July 30, 1868.

Here is a "code" for motorists which if closely followed will save many dollars annually in tire expenses. Keep tires properly inflated. Have mud bolts cleaned out and repaired at once. Be careful in applying tubes. Keep front wheels in alignment. Use talc in the casing, but avoid using too much. Don't drive in car tracks. Examine clincher rims occasionally for irregularities and dust. Carry spare tubes in a bag. Be sure that nothing on the machine scrapes the tires as they revolve.

The Acton Free Press has been established for forty-three years, of which time the present editor, Mr. H. P. Moore, has been at the helm for forty years. Up to a few weeks ago, when a Linotype was installed, the paper was always set by hand and was a model of mechanical neatness. Any person who hasn't been berry-picking please put up your hand.

The Acton Ball Club played a return game with the Brampton nine in that town on Saturday. Similar to the game here, Acton came on strong in the last few innings and won with a score of 7-6.

A metal finder has been invented that can be attached to any side or end of a camera to enable a photographer to take a picture much as he would sight a gun. A complete steam fire engine, that is mounted on two wheels and light enough to be handled by two men, has been invented in England for suburban and private use.

Free Press

Church Notices

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

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

SIXTH SEASON - COMBINED SUMMER SERVICES  
IN TRINITY UNITED CHURCH  
Preacher, Rev. Gordon B. Turner  
SUNDAY, AUGUST 4th, 1968  
10.00 a.m. - Divine Worship.  
Next Sunday, August 4th - Services begin in Trinity United Church.

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

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4th, 1968  
Trinity VIII  
10.00 a.m. - Mattins.  
Rev. Robert Foster.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4th, 1968  
9.45 a.m. - Church School and Adult Bible Class.  
11.00 a.m. - Morning Worship.  
No Evening Service.

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

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.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4th, 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

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

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4th, 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 877-4665

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4th, 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.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 4th, 1968  
This is an invitation to attend the Church of your choice on Sunday.

## Free Press Editorial Page

### Summer Song . . .

Nat King Cole may be dead but he lives again every time they play the record about those lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer. There was something about his voice which fit the words and music so well it could be dead winter and feelings synonymous with summer, could come on.

There is something about the summer, which slows down the metabolism and brings feelings of carefree indolence. Most of us pack up our belongings and head for some shaded retreat beside a lake or stream for at least a few days. Yet I don't think I'd want summer weather the year round.

I like the change of seasons. It doesn't give anyone much opportunity

to complain about the same kind of weather for months on end. And although the autumn is my favorite time of year, if it is clear and sunny, I like to see the seasons change into winter.

The cold weather seems to stay a long time but eventually Spring follows and the memories of blizzards fade as new life appears, days lengthen and warmth re-establishes itself. Then you realize it is summer again.

The endless cycle takes the dullness out of the weather. People who live in tropical countries don't get the same variety. As a result their zest for life suffers.

Now that summer is here, however, let's hope it stays awhile.

## Photos from the past

Bowling Green, Acton, Ont.



SUMMER SPORTS IN ACTON many years ago show of interest. The bowling greens and tennis courts have disappeared, but a few people still row or canoe on the pond. The Aquatic Club on the south side of Fairy Lake was a popular place for years. The larger pictures belong to Charles Landsborough and Herb Ritchie. The photograph of the tennis players is from the album of the late Miss Bertie Spelght who is pictured in the centre. Miss Bertha Brown is on the left; the other player is unidentified.

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