

## New world for women? ...

The role which woman has played in society has shifted and changed with the times, along with shifts and changes in social and cultural levels.

According to a long speech by Sylvia M. Gerber, a director of the Women's Bureau, Canada Department of Labor, even many of the most complex technical jobs can be carried out as capably by women as by men. A new world has opened for women but she is still plagued by traditional attitudes which define her role in a society long gone.

The ambition of women, commented one observer, is curtailed by their own anticipation of what they think men will tolerate. Men, traditionally, think women

belong in the home. They will tolerate a woman working if she helps the financial end of running a home. But it sometimes rumples a man's pride that the family isn't satisfied with his earnings.

The revolution goes on. Where will it end? Perhaps—when men put their foot down.

In spite of modern technology and so-called universal suffrage, men still tend to look at women much like Rudyard Kipling:

"When Nag, the barking cobra, hears the careless foot of man, He will sometimes wriggle sideways and avoid it if he can. But his mate makes no such motion where the camps beside the trail. For the female of the species is more deadly than the male."

## Free Press Editorial Page

## Lucky to get a word in ...

Youth today is accused of having much to say about a wide variety of matters which a generation ago would have been regarded as the responsibility of their elders.

But perhaps it isn't that the kids are talking louder or longer. Perhaps it is because there are a lot more of them.

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics says almost half the population of Canada is under 25 years of age.

The report contained estimates of the population as of last June 1, divided by sex and five-year age groupings.

Of the 20,744,000 total, 2,030,000 were under the age of five, representing almost 10 per cent of the population. The under-10 age

group contained 4,360,700 or 21 per cent of the population. The under-15 contained another 2,204,800 or 10.6 per cent.

The under-25 age group contained 10,192,200. This was 49.1 per cent of the total population. It contains 5,189,200 men and boys and 5,003,000 women and girls.

One-quarter of the whole population was in the 25-to-44 age group and another 10 per cent were 45 to 54.

In the face of these facts what chance do those of us in the remaining 15 per cent—the 54 years and over kind—to be heard? We are lucky to get a word in under any circumstances—a fact that has been drawn to our attention. —Huron Expositor (Seaforth).

## Health vigilance ...

Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, says a statement from the World Health Organization of the United Nations.

Few of us will ever achieve the perfect state of health but most of us will advance near enough to think we're 100 per cent healthy. Medicine has been responsible.

The remarkable gains achieved in controlling death and disease among young people constitutes one of the brightest chapters in the history of medicine. Children born around the turn of the century, for instance, had prospects of an average life span of less than 50 years. Children born in 1968 may look for an average life of 70 years—68 for males and 74 for females.

Diseases which were untouchable 10 or 20 years ago yield to enlightened treatment. Today's parents expect children to grow into adults. A century and a half ago, Napoleon, the scourge of Europe, but a very bright man, wrote that every family should have six children since on the average three are sure to die.

Giant strides in medicine have made life safer for children but it is

incorrect to refer to the death rate as declining. It is being pushed down by many factors, including dedicated men and women in the medical profession, and the good sense and co-operation of parents.

However, the number of lives lost among children is still large and a considerable part of it results from causes that can be controlled. In 1965, the latest year for which figures are available, nearly 14,000 young people under 15 died in Canada, of these 9,862 were under one year of age.

The figures show we still have a long way to go. Good will and good intentions cannot substitute for skill and knowledge. The work of providing a healthful environment and adequate education demands informed activity by parents and those in power in communities, provinces and the entire country.

## Off the cuff ...

Even if the groundhog did see his shadow, six more weeks of winter won't take long to pass.



## SESTRY

## Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

This week, I showed my students a film about the much-vaunted "Generation Gap," and then had them write an essay on it. The gap, not the film.

Coincidentally, on that very day I received two letters that gave me new thoughts about the "gap."

One was from my old high school math teacher. I don't mean that he was old. It was just a long time ago.

It was a pleasant shock to hear from him. The pleasure came from his report that he was alive and well and curling and skiing. The shock was the realization that the gentleman we called "Old Flem" is only about 22 years older than I am.

Strangely (as things so often happen in this world), I was talking about him in school that very day. The kids and I were talking about corporal punishment, strapping, tapping, the whole business.

I told them about how Miss Liza McCullough used to break pointers over my head regularly, and Miss Mary Walker used to strap me and my young brother and a kid called Gee-Gee Relyea three times a week, whether we needed it or not. And we liked them. And how Mr. Cotgrove, our science teacher, a man of gigantic proportions and the patience of a saint, used to sweep two of us off our stools with one cuff. And we never held it against him. And how my old math teacher, at a point when even the angels would be tried, used to give us a punch, with two knuckles, just below the ribs. And we liked and respected him, when we got our breath back.

Those people got a rotten deal, financially and socially, from the community. But at least they could clobber a kid, and that's worth a lot of money. If you even shake your finger at some rotten little hoodlum nowadays, he either turns out to be a barrack-room lawyer, or else he's too big to clip on the ear, because he could eat you alive, and would.

My other letter, the same day, was a chatty, friendly one from one of my last year's students, how at university, enclosing a parody of Hemingway she

Too many hockey safety helmets don't fit properly, a New Brunswick medical expert warns. The doctor's comment follows investigations into the deaths of two young players who were wearing a brand of headgear sold coast-to-coast when they were fatally injured.

The federal cabinet is soon expected to make a final decision on whether Canada should adopt the metric system. The system is now used by over 90% of the world's population. However, it is not used extensively in Canada or the United States as yet.

Still longing for an old-fashioned winter?

## Free Press

## back issues

### 20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, February 10, 1949.

It was certainly welcome news to learn that the Hydro quotas were lifted and normal working hours could be resumed. All should keep in mind the need, however, for saving power at every opportunity to avoid a recurrence of the cut-off.

Born, Mr. and Mrs. A. Irvine are pleased to announce the birth of their daughter, Sandra Anne, on Wednesday, February 9 at Acton Nursing Home.

Mr. C. McPherson of Mayo in the Yukon has been visiting his sister, Mrs. Charles Hynd of Toronto. He has been in the Yukon for 18 years and has known winter temperatures of 84 below.

Mr. Harold Wiles and Miss Laura Wiles have made extensive alterations to their store and has done with the installation of new floors, heating and air conditioning units and new paint in the basement.

The third level crossing accident of the year took place Saturday morning when a truck was struck in the rear by a freight train. The driver was unhurt and the truck was able to proceed to Toronto with about \$200 damage.

Mrs. Wedge, R.R. 2, Acton, escaped serious injury Friday afternoon at the corner of Mill and John Sts. It is believed the became confused when making the crossing and the fell into the path of a truck which happened to be going slowly luckily and was able to stop before the wheels passed over her.

### 75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, February 8, 1894.

With its usual promptitude the council met to transact municipal business.

Messrs. J. Cameron, J. Murray, H. Swackhammer and J. L. Charles, delegates of the new Hook and Ladder Co., requested council to furnish one truck with full equipment and 2 dozen rubber buckets, 3 doz. rubber hats, 4 doz. rubber coats and 2 ladders. The reeve and Mr. John Cameron will visit Toronto to see about supplies and report.

The number of tavern licenses for the town was limited to three.

R. D. Graham was appointed municipal officer at a salary of £400.

There died at the home of her son, Michael, lot 29, con. 6, Etouzeau, probably the oldest, resident of the township in the person of Mary Finerty. She was born in Ireland in 1797.

Mr. W. D. Beardmore, who has been on a business trip to England and the continent, returned and made a tour of the premises here this week.

Friday was Candlemas Day. It was clear and fair and the bear could easily see his shadow.

Oakville's municipal governors evidently do business on a grand scale. Imagine Acton's administrators being obliged to borrow \$4,000 for "current expenses!"

### 100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Canadian Champion, Milton, February 4, 1869.

The town council met on Monday last, Mayor in the chair. All present but Messrs. Zimmerman and Martin. The account of Eli Vanallen, amounting to \$53.17 for work done on the weigh scales covering, etc., was passed on the following division: Yeas... Messrs. McGuffin, Matheson, Henderson, Vanallen. Nays... Willmott, Centre, Taylor and Lyon. The mayor gave his casting vote with the yeas. An amendment by Mr. Willmott not to pay the account until the proper committee had reported the work done according to their instructions was voted down on the same division. Ten dollars was voted to Mr. Smiley for his services as license inspector for 1868. The taxes of a poor widow named Mrs. T... amounting to two dollars, were remitted. The sum of \$20 was granted to the Mayor to be expended in charity. The council adjourned until next Monday. Dr. Ryerson, our Chief Superintendent of Education, is intending to make a tour through the provinces, and hold a series of County Conventions of all the school officers, in order to discuss the features of the new Grammar and Common School Acts, which have been laid before Parliament.

### 50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, February 13, 1919.

A public meeting is called to discuss a memorial for the fallen heroes.

The Department of Agriculture is starting a Calf Club in Halton. About 40 calves are to be distributed, one to each school, to the boy or girl most capable of taking care of it.

Duke of Devonshire new officers include honorary regent Mrs. A. O. T. Beardmore; regent Mrs. R. M. MacDonald; with Mrs. (Dr.) Bell, Mrs. Collier, Mrs. W. J. Gould, Miss M. Z. Bennett, Mrs. G. A. Bills, Mrs. A. B. McLean, Mrs. W. Arnold, Mrs. L. B. Shorey, Mrs. J. R. Kennedy, Mrs. C. C. Henderson, Mrs. M. McLean, Mrs. George Chapman, Mrs. C. A. Conway, Mrs. H. Holmes, Mrs. (Dr.) McNiven, Mrs. W. K. Graham, Mrs. James Symon.

Acton is on the new proposed provincial highway which will run from Toronto through to Sarnia through Brampton, Guelph, Kitchener and Stratford.

While playing hockey at Victoria Rink on Monday evening, Harry Statham received the impact of a swiftly driven puck on his right ear. The lobe was cut entirely through and painfully lacerated.

## Salt and Pepper

by hartley coles

Every so often something fascinating turns up from the pile of press releases which go across this desk each week.

For instance, the National Museums of Canada recently released a communique about ice worms, of all things. You didn't even know there was such a thing, did you? Don't feel badly. According to the release, very few people do.

These little black worms, close relatives of the common earthworm, live in glaciers of the west coast. A professor from the University of Edmonton's Zoology department studied their activities this past summer and found not one, but five different species of the little black devils.

Earliest knowledge that there were such things as ice worms came in 1899 when a Henry Bryant collected specimens on the Malaspina Glacier in Alaska. You might say the worms got him. Because his research started more concentrated studies.

Canadian poet Robert Service, creator of Sam McGee apparently knew there were such things, for he wrote in his "Ice Worm Cocktail":

... for coyly peering out,  
Are hosts and hosts of tiny worms, each indigo of snout.  
And as no nourishment they find, to keep themselves alive,  
They masticate each other's tails, till just the Tough survive,  
Yet on this stern and spartan fare so rapidly they grow,  
That some attain six inches by the melting of the snow."

This item is just a warning in the event you see a worm in your drink some time. He's probably real. Merely came with the ice cube. So don't swallow him Study him.

That of course can't help remind older folks of the lecture a temperance worker gave in the old town hall around the turn of the century. He held a glass of cool, spring water in one hand, a glass of whisky in the other.

Dealing with the evils of drink, which were very real in those days, he told the enthralled assembly that he would demonstrate just how bad strong drink is for health.

He took a common earthworm and put it in the glass of water. The worm wriggled and swam happily around the glass, gurgling and contented-like only worms can be.

Then, the story goes, he produced a fat dew worm with a flourish he dunked dew in the glass of whisky. The big, fat, juicy, dew worm thrivelled up and died.

Demonstration finished, the demonstrator turned to his audience with a satisfied smirk and asked Johnny Pinkledink, in the first row, "And what does that prove young man?"

Without hesitation, young Pinkledink replied: "A man that drinks whisky will never have worms!"

That, believe it or not, is how the old town hall developed those cracks you see there today. The lecturer never really got his point across.

Other embarrassing moments with worms:

Remember the bite you took of that rosy red, juicy apple only to discover a hidden worm hole—and no trace of the worm.

How about the first time you ever went fishing and threading the wriggling worm on the hook.

You are eating raspberries. You pick carefully through the dish in case those green little juicy worms didn't all escape under the tap. Satisfied, you pour the cream, sprinkle lightly with sugar and take a big heaping mouthful. The next spoonful turns up half a worm. A hurried search fails to locate the other half.

Can't stand the sight or thought of worms? Don't read this column then.



## Photos from the past



ACTON BAND POSED IN 1908 in front of the flour and feed store - now Hotchen's Bakery. Among the boys on the left, two are identified, Sammy Kerr and Albert Brown. Identified bandmen, from the left, are Hilton Jeans, at the rear Cecil Brown, Harry Jeans, Anson Thurston, Charlie Mason, Agnew, Herb Brown, a Glen Williams man, Jim Smith, at the front John Hill, Roy Brown (who owns the picture), Billy Coleman, hidden Jimmy Bowrie, unknown, George Agnew, Jimmy, Clifford Ramshaw, Agnew, Bill (later, doctor) Kenney, Bert Smith, Charlie Worthington.