

## Those were the days . . .

For those who were glued to their TV sets over the weekend for the world series, it must have been a real let-down to see the Baltimore Birds and the New York Mets play such mild even-tempered games like automated computers.

Where are the temperamental Durochers, Berras, DiMaggios, Ruths and Casey Stengels who used to make the world series a real show?

Maybe it was just imagination but this old baseball enthusiast can't get as excited over the current championship series as he could over the days when Leo Durocher was standing cheek to jowl with the umpire and arguing every close decision. Or the days when Joe DiMaggio was busting them out of the park and Yogi Berra was belting bad pitches off the fence tops.

Remember when the daffy Brooklyn Dodgers tangled with the

mighty New York Yankees in what was called subway series? Remember how old Casey Stengel would take off his cap, scratch his head, walk to the mound and say a few words to the pitcher?

Now don't get the writer wrong. He's not criticizing the calibre of the baseball. No doubt the quality of play is as good or better than it ever was. But the color—the personalities—where are they?

The game has lost a lot of its glamor without the Dizzy Deans, the Babe Ruths, Jackie Robinsons and swatters like Hank Sauer, Stan Musial and Duke Snider.

Baseball could do with some more of the colorful personalities who built the game up to what it is today.

Those were the days my friends; those were the days.

## Free Press Editorial Page

## Omen for cities . . .

Strikes by policemen and firemen in Montreal with the subsequent wild disorders and breakdown of services may foreshadow in microcosm more painful urban events to come.

It underlines the growing gap between the fast rising expectations of society and the resources necessary to meet the aspirations of society. The upheaval, of course, was helped by the confusion of a Quebec living with uncertainty about its future.

The fact that Montreal has become even temporarily unstuck is a development that plays directly into the hands of those who have stated that the dissolution of Canada is their aim.

It also represents a setback to the conscientious and constructive people who believe that cities—which will become increasingly large and important—can be places of beauty and offer a range of opportunities to enrich the individuals.

## Attractive communities . . .

Farm people have good reason to be interested and involved in the nationwide push to move industry and jobs out into the country so that young people can continue to live there rather than migrate to the metropolitan areas which have become more and more crowded and harder and harder to govern decently.

Too often we adopt a defensive stand and start worrying that growth in the community will mean higher taxes and more competition for farm labor.

The truth is it may cost even more to live in a community of shrinking population and declining tax base. Local governmental and community services cost almost as much in a shrinking as in a growing society. The fewer remaining people find themselves taxed heavier to keep these services going.

Spreading the jobs and the population is the most sensible national program we have launched in a long time. It may be the solution to the problems of the big cities as well as the rural areas.

As we work at the job of spreading economic growth, some facts have been coming to the fore, both in the surveys that are being taken and the experience that is being recorded.

A variety of jobs is all-important in rebuilding a rural community. Now that farming has become more specialized and mechanized, agriculture alone cannot be expected

to provide the employment base. There must be jobs or young families must migrate elsewhere. And without young families the community is doomed to go downhill.

Good schools are next in importance, again because they are necessary to hold young families. When industries contemplate a move to a rural area, they look first to such things as quality of schools and level of pay for teachers.

Health care facilities also come near the top of the list.

Other community factors are, of course, important like churches, recreational facilities, highways, and many others. You may be wondering by now why we haven't mentioned low taxes. The reason is that taxes comes a way down the list among the characteristics considered by firms shopping for new locations.

Low taxes are nice providing they have not been achieved by robbing the community of the things that make for what is called livability.

A company must have an adequate supply of labor, including young labor. They must have a community attractive enough to please their administrative personnel needed to launch and manage the factory, laboratory, or whatever the enterprise may be.

Low taxes do not necessarily mean happy families, good schools, and a heads-up community.

Leamington Post and News



PERFECTLY POSITIONED, this "still life" by Jim Jennings won a second place Honorable Mention award in the Free Press photography contest at the fall fair. The winning pictures are being presented in the paper each week.



## Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

This column is not going to have one theme, but several. Fair enough? I've just returned from an exhausting weekend, taught eight 40-minute periods of English and attended a department heads' meeting which ended by six p.m., with everybody snoring.

We went to visit our daughter at university. A mistake, but you love them. First few weeks are bad enough, but when you add a tooth extraction, with complications, it's terrible.

Complicate that with loneliness and you have a pretty sad kid on your hands. (Funny, isn't it? Kids spend years telling you how glad they'll be to get away from their rotten parents and to be FREE. And a week later they're desperately homesick.)

But it wasn't all bad. We had a good dinner, out; and Kim ruined her new leather skirt by dropping a fried shrimp on it. This is the only skill she has really mastered, after 13 years of education. Dropping things.

And then there was Dennis, the cab driver. Rotund and jolly, he talked steadily as he drove us in circles and squares, looking for an address. When we finally found it, we realized we could have walked in half the time.

And Dennis, striking his forehead violently, remarked: "Geez, I shoulda known dis place. I work right across de street dere at de garage two nights a week."

But he gave us a refund, which you'd never get in most cities.

Perhaps the highlight of the weekend was The Newlyweds. We were coming down in the elevator on Sunday. A very large man, in his late fifties, and stoned to the eyeballs, joined us at the fifth floor. He was accompanied by a statuesque blonde, in her early fifties. Also stoned, but a lady. Couldn't say a word.

"Wantscha to meet the wife," he burbled deliriously. "Just got married yesterday."

We were delighted at this manifestation that love knows no race, creed, or age, and congratulated them heartily.

"We got 12 kids", he announced proudly. Seems she had four sons and two daughters and he had four daughters and two sons, by previous marriages. Lots of grandchildren.

## St Cetera

The easiest way to teach Junior the value of money is to borrow some from him.

Antique: Something that does not matter until we get rid of it.

The only thing worse than being talked about is NOT being talked about.

## Salt and Pepper



by hartley coles

Every so often it is wise to review the mail that comes for this column. There's a variety of subjects covered from caveman to beads to U.F.O.'s and since the Thanksgiving weekend is meant for taking it easy that is just what I did and let the mail write the column.

YOU NO DOUBT have heard the expression, "Take it with a grain of salt." That's what you better do with this piece of information from the Silfo Salty News.

Scientists, according to the Silfo people, have tracked down the origin of kissing. They say it all began because of a craving for salt.

A caveman discovered he could cool off on a hot day by licking his neighbor's cheek. Salty perspiration there, I guess. He soon discovered it was a lot more fun if the neighbor chanced to be a female.

Alley Oop then realized there was more sauce on the salt if he turned his attention on the lady's protruding lips. By this time he had forgotten all about salt, which is something the salt people don't want you to do.

AND THAT'S ALL the salt for Salt and Pepper this week, although here is something that could be spicy. It came here on a piece of plain white paper and obviously refers to a recent column in this corner.

### VOTES OF CONFIDENCE FOR THE BEARD

It sits there quietly  
Not saying a word,  
Impressive in its silence.

A naked chin may jut in anger;  
A beard not only juts, but  
Threatens to poke you in the eye.  
The curly with the fringe on the bottom.

A man may lose his hair and acquire a pot  
But one's eye doesn't travel up nor down.  
It is held captive by this smile shape,  
From ear to ear, a dark upturned grin.

It is the finishing touch,  
A man is a man,  
But with a few well-placed whiskers  
He becomes The Man with The Beard.

Other men sneer.  
The Have-nots always sneer at the Haves;  
They have not either the means or the courage.  
Women scoff.  
They are still fighting for their freedom.  
A beard dominates.

I've come to like that face with fuzz.  
Even better than it used to was.

NOW, BACK TO U.F.O.'s which have appeared on occasion in this column. Here are a couple of recent letters on the subject:

Dear Mr. Coles:

I have just finished reading your account of the UFO both you and your son witnessed on August 26, 1969.

As you can see, I've been interested in UFOs for many years and have been publishing 'SS&S' for 12 years, informing interested persons about UFO activity in our skies.

I will no doubt use your sighting in the next issue. Hope this is all right with you.

I sincerely hope you enjoy this particular issue, the current one. If you'd like to get the next one with all the latest reports, please let me know. Thank you.

Sincerely  
Gene Duplantier  
Editor,  
Saucers, Space & Science.

AND HERE'S another.

Dear Mr. Coles:

I always enjoy your special part of the Acton paper and read recently the article concerning UFO's.

I do remember reading last fall, your account of one such object. Well, cheer up, I saw it first and it was heading toward Acton. It was plain to the eye and travelling very fast but I didn't report it to anyone.

Alicia F. C. Scott,  
R. R. 1, Georgetown.

"We live dangerously down here" comments Louis McKenna, publisher of the Kings County Record in Sussex, N.B. as he points to a classified ad carried in the September 11 issue.

The classified reads "Found Pair of ladies sandals, panties, dog leash and sum of money at Hampton Rural Cemetery. Owner may have articles if identified and pay for this ad. Phone . . ."

We have no comment, either.

## Free Press

## back issues

### 20 years ago

Taken From the Issue of the Free Press Thursday, October 13, 1949.

Many citizens availed themselves of the opportunity last Thursday evening to meet the new secretary, Cliff Sutton of the Y.M.C.A. and enjoy a social evening. You wouldn't know the social room now, it is so bright and cheerful. Mr. J. H. Creighton supervised the Y's Men's club who did the work.

The proceeds of the Duke of Devonshire I.O.D.E. tag day "Food for Britain" at the fair was \$127.77.

Limelhouse W.I. donated books as prizes for the boy and girl at Gibraltar school and Henderson's school (7th line) whose attendance, cleanliness and punctuality rated highest in the school. Lillian Asken and Billy Sanford of Gibraltar school were the winners in their school and at 7th line school Jimmy Forbes and Eileen and Diane Shelburne (ties) were the recipients.

Mr. John H. Smith, formerly of Acton, marked his 90th birthday at the home of his daughter in Galt. Mrs. Smith is 91.

Progress regarding the new Home for the Aged was made at county council. Architects will be engaged to make plans. The conclusion has been reached that nothing satisfactory can be arranged until a home for Halton alone has been erected. The warden, Mrs. Mary Pettit, thanked the members of the committee for their work.

### 50 years ago

Taken From the Issue of the Free Press Thursday, October 16, 1919

The first public meeting held by the Referendum Committee was that of Tuesday evening in the town hall. There was a splendid audience of both men and women. Many working men and their wives were attracted to hear James Connor, a prominent labor man, of Toronto. "Labor endorses prohibition" he declared. The liquor traffic is the arch enemy of the working man.

Rev. Dr. Blair held a meeting of ladies in the afternoon when he gave helpful instruction on how to mark the ballot.

The other vote on October 20, as well as the temperance referendum, will elect the member of the Legislature. This is the first election in Ontario when all women may vote.

107 teachers of Halton-Wentworth inspectorate held their annual session of convention here. Technical papers were given on musical instruction, teaching

agriculture in the rural schools, and public health as well as other subjects. Thursday evening the teachers spent a delightful social time in the town hall when the program was provided by the Methodist Sunday School orchestra, Miss Bertie Smith, Miss Laetitia Gray, Miss Jeanie Orr and exhibitions of dancing by Jimmy Ross with Miss Stalker as accompanist.

Mr. W. McNabb and Master Cameron spent the weekend with friends in Toronto. The fully-equipped Ford Touring car which the members of the Great War Veterans Association offered to the person holding the fortunate number was won by Mrs. George Havill, Acton. She was the recipient of many congratulations and was driven home from the park in her fine new car.

### 75 years ago

Taken From the Issue of the Free Press Thursday, October 18, 1894

Rockwood's supply of young ladies is steadily decreasing. For some time past the matrimonial mania has held sway. Last Wednesday Miss A. Magee took in Mr. Anson Smith of Brampton as a partner for life's transactions and journey. The ceremony was performed by Rev. D. Strachan at the residence of the bride's mother. The contracting parties were supported by Miss H. Roat and Mr. M. E. McCann.

Baseball is the "go" in Rockwood now. The boys do very little practising. It may be that they do not require it. They certainly need no practise to enter a field and accept a dribbling.

The diphtheria scare has subsided. Quail shooting season started Monday. The country roads are still in good condition.

The 109th member of Acton Temperance Society was initiated.

The first flurry of snow came Sunday. Mr. T. J. Halsted recently purchased the shop on Main St. latterly occupied by the Salvation Army. He will reside upstairs and the first floor has been fitted up for Storey Glove Works.

Esqueving's collectors of taxes are Archibald McDougall, David Lindsay, William Moore, Peter Gibbons, George Campbell, John Evans. They will receive \$20 each for their services.

The Johnson-Smith concert is the attraction of the week in Georgetown. Miss Pauline Johnson, the Indian postess, pleases her audiences every time.

Mr. N. P. McLam will remain in Acton and not move to Niagara Falls as intended. His many friends are well satisfied with his decision.



## Photos from the past

THE OLD post office tower juts up at the Main and Willow St. corner in this 1919 aerial photograph of Acton. Fred Wright lent this series of photographs which conclude this column. They were used in his real estate business. Any more old pictures we may borrow?

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