THE GEORGETOWN HERALD

— serving the communities of —

GEORGETOWN, GLEN WILLIAMS, NORVAL, LIMEHOUSE, HORNBY, STEWARTTOWN, BALLINAFAD, ASHGROVE, TERRA COTTA.

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WALTER C. BIEHN, Publisher and Editor

STAFF

Garfield L. McGilvray — Leslie M. Clark
Corey Herrington, Jr. — Reg Broomhead

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Novel Budget Balancing

Suggestion by Mayor Armstrong that council balance its road budget by issuing debentures for sidewalk improvements already made, is not exactly orthodox financing.

We can sympathize with council for wishing to give taxpayers the best possible service, and in this case we cannot disagree too emphatically, for sidewalk repairs are certainly necessary. But it is setting a dangerous precedent.

The time for consideration of the year's expenditures is in the first three months of the year before the tax rate was struck. In 1953, a share of the $20,000 road budget was earmarked for sidewalks, and this has been considerably overspent. There won't be many who will argue that money was wasted, for we have good concrete results. But if a budget is to be any use at all, it must be adhered to wherever possible.

And if overspending has occurred, council must either be willing to present a deficit report to taxpayers at the end of the year, or to curtail other expenses to make up the deficit.

There are so many major things which must be achieved by debentures, that council should use caution in making debentures an alternative for pay-as-you-go. Corporations, like individuals, can get into trouble if their appetite is bigger than their capacity to pay.

Where Is Decentralization?

With so much talk during the war about decentralizing industry, it is alarming to see how far we have got away from this policy.

Perhaps it is heresy for one who lives in this mushrooming industrial area to say so, but Canada as a nation and Ontario as a province, would be much better off if big industry adopted a policy of creating smaller plants in more isolated places.

The Toronto-Hamilton-Guelph area, as was pointed out in days when we were more conscious of enemy bombs, is a vulnerable target for attack. It could be an unpleasant experience for the many thousands who are crowding into this district but even more important, destruction of this area could cripple Canada's economy very effectively. And, incidental but also economically important, we are covering up some of the country's finest farmland with factories and homes.

How much better it would be if factories spread out into more remote regions. Small branches in towns in the northern and eastern sections, built on unfertile land, would be so much more satisfactory from every aspect. Political party leaders are missing a bet in not incorporating this type of thinking into their party policy.

Pot Pourri

Returning to town after living in the city since he was a young man, A. G. McDonald has built a home on Main Street North near the Walter Hyde residence. Mr. and Mrs. McDonald moved into the house last week . . . New man in Barrager's cleaning plant is Norm Hladysh, a relative of Wally Mozil, who came here from Hamilton. Norm and his wife are staying with the Mozils until they find a place to live. Harold Robson, formerly employed with Barrager's, is now working at the new Ford plant at Oakville . . . Serves us right if we get a blast from Jessie Alexander. After correcting a wedding account and explaining that the original word meant wrinkled or creased, we ended by using the wrong word all over again. Daren't repeat the words this week in case we make another similar error . . . And for the record, we are told that an editorial statement could be misconstrued last week. We meant to say that the two old parties aren't adverse to swiping some ideas from CCF and Social Credit . . . An invitation extended to Georgetown council to attend a reception for George Drew next week in Burlington, led to some good natured pleasantries about whether CCF candidate Stan Allen, who is a council member, would honour the invitation. Stan was out politicking himself that night and wasn't available for comment at the meeting . . . A summer job for George McClure, who hopes to enter RMC this fall ended abruptly on Wednesday when he injured his hand in a machine at the Provincial mill. Luckily, the injury will not be of a permanent nature, but it was a nasty accident and will take some time to get over . . . Mrs. Jim Russell likes England so well she is taking another trip. This time, Mr. Russell is going along too and they expect to stay until September or possibly longer . . . A vacation at Penetang had an unpleasant ending for Graham Farnell, who contracted chicken pox and will now be vacationing at home for another week or so . . . Possibly for the first time in history, Georgetown had a contender in the Canadian Open. Jim Linton, one of the town's ace golfers didn't get past the preliminaries in spite of all who were rooting for him, but we hear he gave a good account of himself . . .

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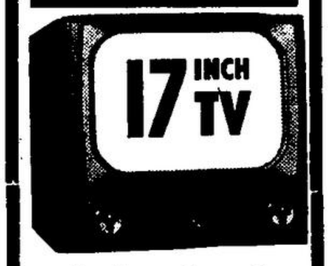

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