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Sugar and Spice
Disseminated by BILL SMELLY of the Wharton Echo

It's not hard, around our house, to tell when it's the month of May. All you have to do is take a look at the Old Battleaxe. Her eyes are wild, her hair is wilder. Her voice has gone up a couple of octaves and so has her temper. Her nails are gnawed, and her nerves are like the strings of an electric guitar.

It's not her fault. It's just that every May she gets involved in a little more than she can cope with. May is music festival month. May is the month in which trout and golf season commences. May is the month in which she is always up to her ears in a decorating job. And May is the month in which Daylight Savings gets children up on their feet early in the morning and keeps them up an hour too late at night.

Normally, she can run the show around here with all the aplomb of a regimental sergeant-major, tossing out curt commands, taking over chaotic situations, and making sure that the troops are fed, rested and wear clean socks. But in May, to shift the locale of the metaphor slightly, the ship loses

her rudder, dirty great icebergs loom up at all points of the compass, and the crew becomes mutinous.

Both our kids are playing numbers in the music festival, a fact which they view with monumental calm. Not so their mother. All day she fights a pitched battle, trying to make them practice. "Don't you realize the festival is only three days away?" she shrieks at Hugh. "Yabbut can I just play half an hour with the kids?" he whines. "You get up on that piano stool and get cracking", she orders in a voice trembling with rage at the ingratitude for the advantages he's enjoying.

He spends eight minutes sulking, looking for his music, obeying an urgent summons to the bathroom, and kicking the varnish off the piano legs, while his mother's iron control slips rapidly toward dementia praecox.

Just as a finally gets launched on his piece, in walks Kim: "Hey, Mom, can I go in 'hair foot, it's so hot and all the kids are." (It's about 48 Fahrenheit). "NO! Get out and stay out" her mother barks at her. Her mouth goes down at the corners, she starts to bawl in ear-splitting "hurt feelings" style and Hugh plays loudly and inaccurately, trying to drown her out. Kim retreats, slamming the door viciously, only to stick her head in a moment later, when they've got back on the track, and roar: "Are you ever mean!", punctuating "It with another slam."

About then a car honks long and vigorously out front. She goes to see what's the matter. One of the boys calls: "Is Bill ready? He was coming out fishing (or golfing) but she's out to the back shed and catches me slipping out with my rod (or clubs)."

"My, it must be nice to be some people," she snaps "and be retired and be able to go fishing whenever you feel like it, while the rest of us have to slave trying to make something out of the children, and if you go fishing you don't need to come home, this back yard is a disgrace to the neighbourhood and don't think I'm going to clean it up while you're out fishing, big shot."

Just at this juncture, as I'm hovering between flight and fight, who should walk in the side door, which she forgot to latch, and across the fresh coat of varnish on the dining-room floor, and into the kitchen, but the grocery boy. "Done your floors, eh?" he says chattily, as he deposits his box of grub. "Sure did a nice job on them", walking back out the way he'd entered.

This goes on, with variations, until bedtime. I come in from banking with blisters and need a band-aid. The kids get away after supper and she has to spend twenty minutes telephoning all the TV sets in the neighbourhood before she locates them. They go up for a bath and throw scummy little socks, wet towels, sand out of their shoes, and soapy water all over the fresh-waxed floor.

When he has exhausted the last possible second of legitimate time, Hugh announces from upstairs that he forgot to learn his memory work and there's an exam tomorrow. Kim calls down from bed to ask if she can have a "popsicle." Its nine o'clock at night. Just as she starts up the stairs with the axe, I catch her, and manage to hold her until she decides she's too tired to murder them tonight.

Oh, yes. You can always tell when it's May around our house.

CLAIMS FARMERS, WORKERS SQUEEZED BY BIG BUSINESS

Jack Henry, the C.C.F. candidate for Halton, was the guest speaker at a meeting in Milton Union Hall a week ago Tuesday night, sponsored by Local 4970 in conjunction with other Milton Locals.

He told the meeting that CCF policy called for fairer division of the fruits of our collective efforts than they now receive, and that although both big corporations and governments are enjoying continually growing surpluses, farmers find themselves in a financial squeeze box, and that thousands of workers are financially unable to buy homes for themselves and their families. He said that many bills, favorable to workers had been offered to Parliament by the CCF but that on most of them Conservative and Liberal parties had combined their efforts to defeat them. Overall economic planning, income tax based on the ability to pay, were only a few. He said, that he had sufficient confidence in the judgment of the people to elect a more favorable government if only they would study the issues and read between the lines.

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FARM NEWS
Mark 50th Anniversary Ontario Ag-Rep Service

The fiftieth anniversary of the inauguration of the Agricultural Representative Service of the Ontario Dept. of Agriculture is being celebrated at the Ont. Agricultural College, Guelph, on Thurs., June 27th. In conjunction with the event, a large exhibit is being erected in the gymnasium at the OAC. This will illustrate the various phases of agricultural work carried on by the county reps over the fifty year period. This exhibit incidentally will be on display during Farmer's Week at the OAC, the dates of which are June 11th to 14th inclusive.

A feature of the celebration on June 27th is to be a panel discussion. A number of the ag reps who pioneered the service in the early days have been invited to act as panel members. Halton ag rep J. E. Whitecock has been asked to chair this panel discussion.

FARM NEWS
HALTON JUNIOR FARMERS JUDGING COMPETITIONS

Saturday, June 1st, is the date set for the annual Halton Junior Farmers, Livestock Judging Competition, states Earl Wilson, president of Halton Juniors. A new feature this year will be a special classification—or prize list open to Halton young ladies 14 to 20 years inclusive. On the same evening, the awards and presentation of prizes will take place in the Milton Town Hall. The highlight of the night, is of course the announcement of the winners of the two championship trips. One of these will be awarded to the top 4-H Homemaker of the year, the funds for which are provided by the Halton District Women's Institutes. A similar prize financed by the Hamilton Spectator, will be awarded to the best all round Junior Farmer of the year. In this connection the contestant's judging proficiency over a two year period is taken into consideration. On top of his participation in 4-H Club Work, Junior Farmer activities,

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