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THE LAWSON-RANSIER WEDDING party posed for this photo after the wedding in First Presbyterian Church, Collingwood. Left to right are Robert Lawson, groomsmen; Douglas Lawson and his bride, Mary Ransier; Mrs. Douglas Kerr, Kitchener, the bride's twin sister, matron of honour; George Ransier, Creemore and Stuart Alexander, Sudbury, ushers. Seated are bridesmaids, Mrs. Alex Mair, Calgary, and Mrs. Archie Briggs, Peterborough. Mr. and Mrs. Lawson, graduates of the Ontario Agricultural College and Collingwood Hospital nursing school, are living at Stewarttown. — Photo by Saundere Studio, Collingwood.

Sugar and Spice

Dispensed by BILL SMILEY of the Warton Echo

Maybe I'm getting old. Maybe I'm just run down. But there is something wrong. I'm out of fashion. I'm not following the trend. I just can't seem to work up a good hate towards Americans.

In fact, I'm alarmed and disturbed by the querulous, nasty, niggling, fulminations of quite a few Canadians against our old friends and neighbours from south of the border. The obvious resentment, the carping and criticism that has been expressed recently toward the U.S. is worthy of a jealous Balkan state. It is not worthy of a proud and independent nation like Canada.

Some of our self-styled "leading newspapers" show a positively venomous anti-Americanism at every opportunity. American frailties are shouted in bold, black type. American virtues are played down.

What is even more alarming, to me, is evidence that some of this poison is being absorbed by some easily influenced men-in-the-street, ordinary Joes.

You know the ones I mean. They're the people who shook their heads in amazed respect when the Russian sputnik went into orbit, but uttered and nudged each other delightedly when the first American satellites fizzled out.

They're the people who repeat with rishid the latest lobs about President Eisenhower's golf, but view with equanimity the fact that a recent prime minister of Canada had a much more ridiculous pastime — attending spiritualistic seances.

They're the birds who contemptuously dismiss Mr. Dulles as a dunderhead, but themselves wouldn't know a foreign policy from a French gendarme. They're the same people who point with dismay at racial strife in the deep south, but think Canada's Indians "should be kept on the reserves, where they belong."

Fortunately, these maggots in the vast, careless, but sound-hearted body of the Canadian people, these moles burrowing in the darkness of their own prejudices, are negligible. Perhaps they are even useful, if they cause their fellow-Canadians to take a good look at their neighbours, the Americans.

Don't tell me the Yanks are always talking about winning the war and didn't fight until they were attacked. I trained and flew with them — boys who came north to join our air force while their country was still at peace. Jim Cowey from Kansas City, killed in a Spitfire in Italy. Ralph Horton, from Indiana, burned and crippled when his plane crashed. Little Schwartz from Brooklyn, too small for a pilot, killed in a rear-gunner's turret. And hundreds more.

Don't nag me about American military bases in our far north. If a wolf pack is sniffing around my back door, and I have no gun, and my neighbour comes over with his, I'm not going to steal the door in his face.

Don't bother me with boogies about our economy being dependent on theirs. It won't be long until their economy is dependent

on our natural resources. And if they weren't pouring capital into our country to develop those resources, we'd all be going around in our figurative bare feet.

Don't expect me to get into a tizzy about their culture overwhelming ours. Not when they flock in their thousands to our Stratford Festival. Not when Ed Sullivan has to come over and borrow Wayne and Shuster to keep his TV show rolling.

Oh! they're not perfect. Just like any next-door neighbors, they have their faults. I hear that over in the States, for example, they go to the movies, play golf and even drink beer on Sundays. I don't know why they couldn't be like us Canadians; twice to church on Sunday, and the rest of the day spent in prayer and meditation.

They tell me that across the line they worship the almighty dollar. Not like us Canadians. We don't worship it. We just chase it, with might and main, most of our waking hours.

When it comes to neighbours, or the Turks, or the Chinese. But I'll settle for a border lined with friendly, decent Yanks, thanks.

WEED CONTROL NEWS

by V. E. McArthur
 Halton Weed Inspector

THE "THISTLE" FAMILY

Thistles of several varieties can be found in Halton County. They are among the most familiar weeds, their prickles having been encountered by most of us at some time. They tend to grow in patches in open fields, vacant lots, and roadsides, rather than in wooded areas.

Probably the most common member of the thistle family is the "Canada Thistle," a perennial weed spreading by creeping root stalks and seeds. The branching stem has numerous unstalked leaves that are deeply indented and spine tipped teeth. The flower is a lavender shade, about 1/4 inch in diameter and borne in clusters. The seeds are equipped with tufts of hair which act as parachutes and enable them to travel long distances on a windy day.

The "Bull Whistle" differs from the "Canada Thistle" being a biennial plant, much greater in size and having very large upright heads of deep, purple flowers. "Bull Thistle" leaves are woolly-hairy on the under surface only.

Another similar member of the family is the "Scotch Thistle" usually a little taller than the "Bull Thistle" and has wider prickly wings on the stem, also wider and larger leaves but has almost the same, deep purple flower. One sure way to distinguish the two is by the dense white woolly-hairy condition found covering the entire plant.

Not quite so common here although found in some places is the "Nodding Thistle" whose large head is too heavy for the stem and causes it to droop. It can be recognized by its nodding appearance.

Thistles growing on waste land, old pastures or vacant lots can

**THE MAIL BAG
 Explains Civil Defence
 Organization in County**

Halton County Headquarters,
 Civil Defence,
 225 Main St. E., Milton

Dear Sir:
 A Civil Defence organization for the county of Halton has been initiated and is in progress. A headquarters, Halton Civil Defence is now located at 225 Main Street E., Milton. The undersigned has been appointed Civil Defence Co-ordinator for Halton County.

In order that the public of Halton County served by your newspaper are aware of the fact that a Civil Defence organization is being set up, I would appreciate it if you would publish in your newspaper as news the following information:

Brigadier G. E. R. Smith, co-ordinator, Halton county, civil defence today explained the dual role of a civil defence organization in peace and war.

To commence his remarks the Civil Defence Co-ordinator referred to a statement made by the prime minister of Canada not too long ago. This is what he said: "I believe that spontaneously organized effort, no matter how generously and enthusiastically carried out, cannot be as effective as help rendered by trained, equipped volunteers who have learned what to do in an emergency. That is why I believe that we must press on with the organization and training of an effective civil defence corps, to provide leadership and training that will save lives and property if disaster comes."

We have all heard people say that because of the hydrogen bomb, civil defence is obsolete. This, to me seems like a hopeless and thoughtless attitude that can only mean greater destruction and loss of life if a war should come. True, the H bomb is a terrible weapon. True, its use would mean many casualties and great suffering. But it seems to me that this vastly greater destructive power calls for vastly greater effort, not for a hopeless attitude of defeat.

Civil Defence was not organized solely to defend our people in time of war. We have seen that against the disasters of nature a trained civil defence force can also be tremendously effective. This is not the time to abandon civil defence. It is the time to strengthen and reorganize our forces to meet a greater challenge.

Civil Defence depends for its existence on the support of the public spirited citizens of Canada. Civil Defence does not mean, we feel, that war is inevitable any more than the purchase of fire insurance means that we are convinced that our homes are about to be burned to the ground.

Civil Defence is a gathering together of free people in the best traditions of self help and mutual

aid. The civil defence volunteers in our communities need our support. Some day that may save our lives.
 The co-ordinator then went on to say:
 "Created by the modern need to protect whole nations from war's destruction, civil defence has a valuable place in peace as well. It can reduce loss of life and property in any form of disaster, which can strike anywhere, anytime.
 This is what comprises civil defence:
 To meet the threat of war, essentially the same services are required as to offset the threat of destruction from fire, flood, earthquake, tornado, explosion or any other form of sudden and unexpected disaster.
 The advantages of civil defence in any disaster is that it provides a coordination of these services. It enables them, once trained and adequately prepared, to move quickly and smoothly into united action. Efforts are not duplicated. The most is made of every service. Even a little bit, carefully planned in advance, will go a long way.
 Services coordinated for action under a civil defence coordinator and his staff, acting under advice from planning committees, include:
 Police: with volunteer auxiliaries, to maintain law and order;
 Firemen: with pre-trained volunteers, to meet additional fire hazards in disaster, peace or war;
 Wardens: to provide aid, information and leadership directly to people, on a door-to-door, street-by-street basis;
 Health Services: doctors, nurses, first-aid specialists and others trained to help — for treatment of injuries and maintenance of community health.
 Rescue workers: trained to rescue persons trapped in buildings damaged by blast, fire, earthquake, etc.
 Welfare: services to provide food, shelter, and other similar help to the homeless;
 Engineering: service to help restore public utilities — electricity, gas, water, sewer — to normal.
 All of these services are in need of being built up at the present time.
 Brigadier Smith made an appeal to anyone interested in becoming a civil defence volunteer to write or contact him at: 225 Main St. E., Milton, Ont., or telephone TR. 8-9751.
 —G. E. R. Smith,
 Co-ordinator Halton Cty.

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FARM NEWS

FOUR CLUBGIRLS ATTEND GUELPH HOMEMAKER MEET

Last week saw some 200 4-H Homemakers from all parts of Ontario attending a three day Conference at Macdonald Institute. Halton was represented by the following delegates — Ruth Robertson, Margaret Morrison, Shirley Hunt, and Nancy McKenzie.
 The theme of the Conference was "Club Girls in Today's World." One of the many highlights of the programme was a panel discussion, the members of which were from the countries of Formosa; the Bahamas; India and Trinidad.
 It will be of interest to our readers to learn that the panel members from Trinidad, is a niece of Halton's Home Economist, Mrs. Mabel Borgstrom.

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