

Sugar and Spice

Dispensed by BILL SMILEY of the Warton Robs

There's been a whale of an argument going on in one of the daily papers. Some old trout wrote in and declared that teaching French in Ontario schools was a lot of nonsense. Immediately the battle was on, and the letters to the editor poured in. All those with liberal pretensions attacked him vigorously as a reactionary, a bigot, and generally a misguided clot. But the old boy got plenty of support from people who felt as he did.

As usual there is a lot to be said for both sides. It's no news to educational people that the present system of teaching French is unlikely to turn hordes of bilingual Grade Thirteeners loose in the world, but it's the only system they've got. It's something like

democracy, a deplorable system, but better than any alternative in sight. Except, of course, for the one I am about to offer.

Whenever this question arises, noble sentiments, dire warnings, and sheer snobbery pour from a small but voluble group. They declare roundly that it is our duty to learn to speak French if we are to do our part in welding this great country of ours into a single nation, etc., etc. They hint that the ability to speak two languages automatically makes the subject a cultured person.

Needless to say, people who talk like this need psychological help. They are, as a rule, people who have endured a long painful and fruitless relationship with the

French language. They have studied it in high school. They have taken French courses at university and thrilled to the limpid beauty of the French Romantic poets. In translation, of course. And they can neither speak French nor understand it. That's why they're so intent on putting others thru' the same ordeal.

These people are invariably English speaking Canadians. French speaking Canadians will agree that everybody should learn French. But they themselves couldn't care less about learning to speak English. Unless, of course, it's for a sensible reason, like business or politics.

When they do learn it, they make a job of it, as witness Laurier, Lapointe, St. Laurent. I still recall with a jangling of nerves the shattering effect of hearing Prime Minister Diefenbaker addressing the French-speaking electorate after the last election. Honest John made an honest effort, but had I



JOHN ELLIOTT

Station agent for Canadian National Railways, John Elliott, 48 Hewson Cresc., seeks a second term as a Georgetown councillor. He has served this year as chairman of police and lights.

been a French-Canadian, even a Conservative one, I should have fled the country immediately after the broadcast.

However, we drift. Is there any point in teaching our children to speak French? In some cases, yes. I remember one occasion I could have used some. It was in a city in France. I had met this vivacious, black-eyed doll in a... let's face it... bar. I was strictly a "la plume de ma tante et dans le soup aux pois" type French speaker. But I could understand it pretty well.

Anyway, she rolled those eyes at me after a while, kept saying something about a party and pulled at my arm. Needless to say, she only had to give me one small twist, and off we went. The trams weren't running, I swear I walked that girl four miles, through the blackout, and only the thought of the 'party' kept me going. We arrived. She pulled out her key, opened the door, turned to me, took my hand, gave it a firm shake, muttered "merci, bon soir" or something and vanished into a great stone building. It wasn't until halfway on the long, lone walk home, that I realized the "partee" she'd been talking about was some part of the French verb "partir," meaning to set off or take off or walk home, or something like that.

Since then, I've confined my French translating to figuring out what it says on the wrong side of the branflakes box: "Souffrez-vous d'irregularite?"

On the good old other hand, there is a vast portion of our English-speaking youth to whom the teaching of French is a sheer waste of time. They may be brilliant in other lines, but they have no aptitude for languages, they are not interested, and they will never get far past the "parley-voc the ding-dong" stage.

Solution? Easy. First, ensure that those teaching French speak it with reasonable fluency. Most of them are well grounded in French grammar and composition but can barely distinguish between a bidet and a bistrot when they launch into the spoken tongue. This could be solved by giving them an intensive course, say six months, in which they lived with French people, spoke nothing but French and learned to think in French. Make it attractive to potential teachers by offering a fabulous bonus if they pass a tough verbal test.

Second, screen our kids at about age ten. Select those with a good ear, an aptitude for languages, and a ready intelligence. Give them plenty of oral and written French instruction from those well-trained teachers above. Presto, at age 15, they'll not only be able to produce the past pluperfect subjunctive of "faire" without turning a hair, they'll be able to write amoral novels like Francois Sag and or plead their case with busy gals like Brigitte Bardot. Doesn't the prospect get you all fired up about my plan?

Notice To Creditors

IN THE ESTATE OF Hector Campbell Guthrie, Security Guard, Deceased.

All persons having claims against the estate of Hector Campbell Guthrie, late of the City of Toronto, in the County of York Security Guard, who died on or about the fifth day of October, A.D. 1958, are hereby notified to send particulars of same to the undersigned on or before the 17th day of December, 1958, after which date the estate will be distributed with regard only to the claim of which the undersigned shall then have notice, and the undersigned will not be liable to any person of whose claim he shall not then have notice.

DATED at Georgetown this 16th day of October, 1958.

Douglas T. Guthrie, Executor of the Estate of Hector Campbell Guthrie, by his Solicitors, Hewson, Ord & Helson, Georgetown, Ont. 12-10

87 Deer, Moose, Bear Are Tallyed By Local Hunters

Eighty seven deer, four moose and a bear fell victims to hunting parties from the Georgetown district during the hunter migration season which ended last week.

Even though they fell short of their count, a party of 28 hunters from Brampton, Lockwood, the U.S. and two Georgetown men, Lloyd and Andy Crichton reported the most success. Hunting in the Magnetawan district, they bagged only 27 deer.

Jack Crichton of Limehouse and a large party from Hamilton, Chicago, Bracebridge, and Huntsville, hunted the bush around the Pine Lake area and took 11.

Also reporting 11 tallies was a party of hunters from Streetsville, Brampton, Orangeville and a Norval hunter, Harold Smellie. They combed the woods north of Kingston to get their count.

Tom Peavoy was with a party of eleven from Alton and Orangeville which downed six deer on Manitoulin Island. A larger party from town, Art Scott, Murt Allison, Don Wingrove, Nels Robinson, Russ Kelly, Elwood Carney, Dunc Robinson, Bill Ritchie, Vern Archer, Don Barager, Bob Lane, his brother Art of Toronto, and Andy Lang of Hillsburgh also brought six home from the island. This is only the second year they failed to get their count.

The Magnetawan area was also good to Harold Bennett and a party from the area, who bagged their full count of seven. Charlie Gibbs was with a party from the Sprucedale district who counted 4 on their tally and Walter Thompson, Carman Copland and hunters from Snelgrove, Brampton, Palgrave and Bolton, took three deer from the Utterson district near Huntsville.

In almost the same area but closer to Skeleton Lake, Gerry Inglis, Ed Martin and a Niagara Falls resident bagged two, while four fell to an eight man party from Toronto and Orv Rayner of town in the Smoky Lake district. The latter party also added a moose to their count.

The three other moose and three deer were taken by the Ballinfad hunt club, comprising Sam Snow, Angus McEachern, Al Saunders Reg French, Dick Shortill, Jr. Ray and Vic Swindlehurst hunting near Martin River South of Parry Sound, a party of ten comprising Bob Gougeon, three Brampton men and six men from Parry Sound took two.

Eugene Luean, Don Hancock, Don Schenk, Bud Valey, Roy Wiggins and Bob Heaton and a party combing the Huntsville district added two deer to the count and the only bear. One deer was brought down by Doug Cook hunting with Rala and district men near the Gibson reserve.

Bob Hamilton and his father of Laurel joined two men from Wawashago and Bracebridge to hunt the Current Creek district but returned empty handed. Others reporting no luck were Bill Garbutt, who with a party of eight, hunted the Markstay bush near Sudbury; George Burt, Bob McMaster, Bob Jepson, Harold Campbell, Fred Foster and Jack Harlow who searched Manitoulin Island in vain, and Mr. and Mrs. Bill Belleghem who with her brother and sister-in-law, scoured the Elmsdale district near Kearney for four days with no success.

JOHN ZORGE
John Zorge, 53 Rexway Drive, a local contractor is one of thirteen candidates seeking a town council seat next Monday.

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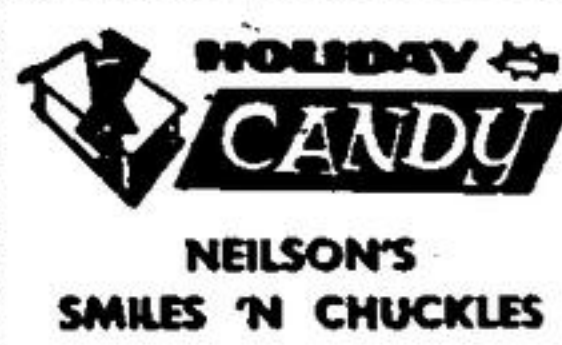
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