

Sugar and Spice

Dispensed by HILL SMILEY of the Winton Echo

A woman recently wrote the editor of the Bowmanville Statesman, asking him why in the world his paper carried this Sugar and Spice column by this Smiley fellow. She claimed she had never yet found anything interesting or amusing in it, objected to the callous way he spoke of his family and suggested that he was merely an unpleasant sort of person who refused to accept the responsibilities of family life. She added that she had several children of her own so knew something about such responsibilities.

The lady is absolutely right. I refuse to accept my responsibilities. I also refuse to accept the fact that I am not young and handsome. It makes me feel better to battle these things. When I begin accepting my family responsibilities they will have ceased to be a free man or the remnants of one and will have become the mere plodding, senseless, statistic this crazy North American society of ours would like to make each one of us.

So as long as there's breath in my body, or I don't break one of my typewriting fingers, I'll fight the good fight against the slow strangulation of the free man in the anaconda coils of family responsibility.

When I say that I refuse to accept these responsibilities, it doesn't mean that I don't fulfill them. Oh I do. I do. But being a packmule doesn't necessarily mean you enjoy lugging large loads about on your back. And being a family man doesn't necessarily mean you enjoy wet-nursing a lot of people just because you happened to marry them or father them.

It seems to me that the joys of

family life are greatly over-rated, and all I try to do is maintain some sort of balance. Animals know how to deal with families. They have them often, teach them to eat and get along in the world, then turn them out to fend for themselves.

That, of course, is much too simple for brilliant, monogamous humans. We make an almighty fetish out of marriage and a virtual hysteria out of producing a child. Then, in the name of family responsibilities, we spend the next and the best, twenty years of our lives trying to hatch the egg without breaking the shell. As a result, all too often, when the shell does break, the yolk is either hard or rotten.

"But he was always such a GOOD boy!" wails the mother whose dangerous young animal, nurtured on the idea that the world is his oyster and all he needs to open it is a switchknife, has just carved up some other human.

Under the guise of being good parents, and because we haven't the intestinal fortitude to give battle, we accept all the responsibilities of our children. And thereby we steal their self-reliance, undermine their independence of thought and imbue them with the charming idea that there's always somebody around to do the dirty work and pull the chestnuts out of the fire.

With each generation, children grow more surly and their parents more servile. They wax smarter as their parents become sillier. Don't blame the kids. It's only amazing that so many of them turn out as well as they do. If many modern mothers had their way, their sons would never marry, just stay home with Mom. Many modern fathers cannot conceive of a young man pure enough to marry their flower-like daughters.

The hilarious part is that, after we have sacrificed, for their sake, our dignity, our health, our freedom and our integrity, we are horrified to find them looking upon us with the subdued disgust with which one might eye a leper. We are practically stoned with dismay when they cast us off like an old rubber boot.

I feel at times a great pity for the youth of today. They are at heart as eager, as adventurous, as keen to savour life, as ever any generation was. But, in the name of family responsibilities, or some such twaddle, we're giving them a poor basis for living.

However, there's no use getting worked up about this. I refuse to accept my family responsibilities, and I do it proudly. Stop fighting back for one minute, and your wife and children start treating you with the disgusted patronage accorded a Dagwood Bumstead. There's nothing noble about a doormat.

And now if you'll excuse me, I have to type out the invitations to Kim's birthday party, then help Hugh with a couple of those rugged arithmetic questions, then do the dishes while my wife's at a meeting. But never fear, I'll be right back in there tomorrow at lunchtime, battling for the vanishing prestige of parenthood. And getting a lot of lip from all quarters, no doubt.

Co-Op Manager Garner Ideas at Co-Operama

"Farmers are proving through their farm coops that they can be as progressive in salesmanship and sales methods as their industrial and urban counterparts," says William Somerville, manager of the Halton, Georgetown Co-operative, who attended the recent trade show staged by the United Co-Operatives of Ontario at Barrie.

The Co-Operama '59, as the trade show is called, is the second show to be held in the last two years," continued Mr. Somerville. The show was packed with sales tips and ideas for Co-Op managers to use to build a stronger, more unified retail and wholesale farm supply co-operative program for their farmer-members and users. "The show had twelve exhibits covering gardening, feed, seeds, fertilizers and agricultural chemicals, feeding equipment, contact farming information, grain handling, and distribution, painting supplies, tires, batteries, anti-freeze, and petroleum products, propane, home appliances, and barn and dairy equipment.

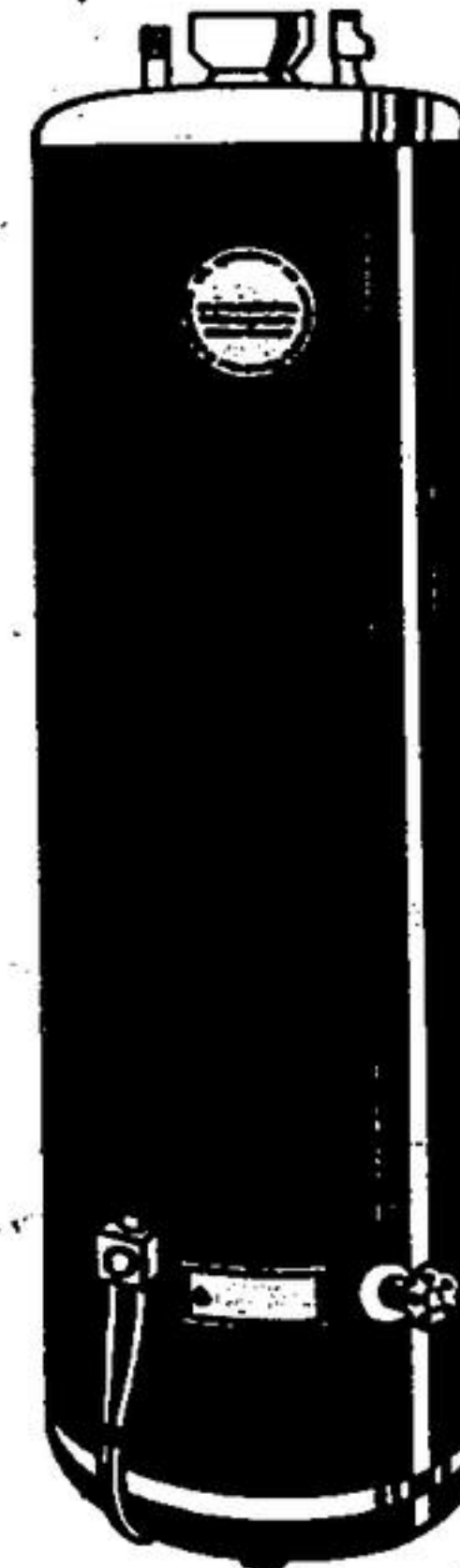
The two days were taken up with sales talks, lectures, and volume building sessions, as well as discussion periods for co-op managers and UCO staff from the head office at Weston. These were designed to improve sales techniques for local farm co-ops which will benefit the farmer-members throughout by increased volume for their "off-the-farm" business, the local co-ops.

Highlight of Co-Operama '59 was the announcement of the new Co-operative contracting program. The new contracts, which still allow the farmer to be his own boss, were released to Co-op managers. Also announced were the latest developments in the bulk delivery of feed and the assistance with the financing of equipment and appliances that is now available to Ontario farmers.

The Co-Operama '59 is being held at Ilderton, Barrie, North Bay and Smiths Falls.

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REBEKAHS TO TORONTO FOR FRIENDSHIP MEETING

Tuesday evening members of Verdun Rebekah lodge attended a Friendship Meeting in Toronto to honour the vice president of the Rebekah Assembly of Ontario Mrs. M. Rose and the assembly officers. Members of the eight lodges in Centre district each took a part in the evening's festivities.

During the afternoon members of Toronto lodges entertained her at a tea in the IOOF Temple and a dinner at seven to which members of the district lodges were invited. During the lodge meeting held in the Temple each of the lodges had a part, the officers of Verdun giving the charges for the initiation. Mrs. Alfred Collins was the staff captain. Members of Evening Star Lodge, Milton, did the floor work. Members from Georgetown travelled by car and Georgetown Transportation bus. Over forty attended from town.

KID HOCKEY
SCHEDULE: MARCH 21
NHL

7:00-7:45—Boston vs. Chicago
7:45-8:30—Montreal vs. Detroit
8:30-9:15—Toronto vs. New York JUNIOR A

9:15-9:45—Marlies vs. Guelph
9:45-10:15—Barrie vs. St. Mikes
10:15-10:45—Peterboro vs. St. Kitts

AMERICAN

11:00 - 11:30—Rochester vs. Springfield
11:30 - 12:00—Cleveland vs. Buffalo
12:00 - 12:30—CincI vs. Hershey
12:30 - 1:00—Providence vs. Pittsburgh

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