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Sugar and Spice

Discovered by BILL SMILEY of the Wharfedale Echo

I got a nasty jolt the other day. I was skimming through the newspaper, when a familiar name jumped out at me. I stopped to read the story. Sure enough, DFC and M. T. Backhouse, DSO, DFC and bar, two tours of operations, former Squadron Leader. He'd just been appointed a director of some company in Montreal, the story said.

Old "Empty", as we used to call him, had a bad time of it in the war. He was utterly fearless. He would fly through Bak as casually as though he was strolling to the pub. He was less afraid of German fighters than he was of his bicycle, which he could never quite master. But he had that name, and it was quite a cross to bear. Imagine being known to everyone from barmaids to brigadiers, as Empty Backhouse.

He was a flight-lieutenant when I knew him, and a good one. Quiet, keen, respected and admired by all, he was a born leader. He'd have risen to high rank in the service, had it not been for two things, his name and a quick temper.

He could take any amount of razzing, as long as it had nothing to do with his name. But every so often some wit, who didn't know the background, would be introduced to him, and inspired by a few drinks, would suggest that he change his name from M. T. Backhouse to Unoccupied Closet, or something of the sort.

The sequel never varied. The stranger would wind up on his back, with a fat lip, and Empty would wind up with a couple of types holding his arms, while he stuttered: "I'd rather be a Backhouse than a bl—basket". Only he didn't say basket. Next day, he'd be on the mat, get a rocket from the C.O., and have another black mark against his promotion.

But all this has nothing to do with what I started to say. What rocked me, when I read the newspaper account of his new job, was this: "Mr. Backhouse, 50, has been engaged in . . . I looked again. Yes, it said 50. Must be a typographical error. Old Empty was in the Second World War, not the First. Couldn't be a day over 40.

Slowly, it seeped in. By George, old Empty WAS quite a bit older than the rest of us. But he couldn't be 50. Wait a minute, now. A little simple arithmetic. That was

in '43. This is '59. That's . . . uh . . . holy smokes, 16 years ago. He was only 34 then. And he seemed so old . . . it's true, then.

The line of thought didn't flow in smoothly. It came in short, chilling bursts. If Empty is 50, he's middle-aged. Eleven years from this June I'll be 50. Young Hugh is eleven, and it seems as though he was born only last month.

When the bitter reality finally got through, and I'd checked the figures twice, I just sat there, feeling every one of my practical 50 years. It's an awful belt in the teeth to a man who has been merrily pounding on the portals of life to have that half-century door suddenly yawning in his face.

Of course, the signs have been there, but I've been too blind, too engrossed in my picture of myself as a young blade, to admit their presence. But now that I've seen the writing on the Backhouse wall, I'll admit frankly that I'm no flaming youth any more. There's more smoke than fire in the old chap, nowadays.

For example, I can't sit up and play poker all night and be on the job next day, the way I used to. I find that I have to quit about 4 a.m. if I'm losing, or 5 a.m., if I'm winning, nowadays. I can't dance the way I used to, either. Why, I used to be able to wring a quart of perspiration out of my long underwear after a good evening's dancing. I can barely squeeze a cupful, nowadays.

And as for the girls, there's where your age really shows. I used to make a round trip of 300 miles, on a 48-hour pass, hitchhiking, to see a girl, when I was a young dog of an airman. The only girl I'd go more than 300 yards to see nowadays would be my daughter, if she were getting married. And by ginsy, that reminds me, she's 8 now, and in only 10 or 11 years I'll be a grandfather, the way these young'uns carry on nowadays.

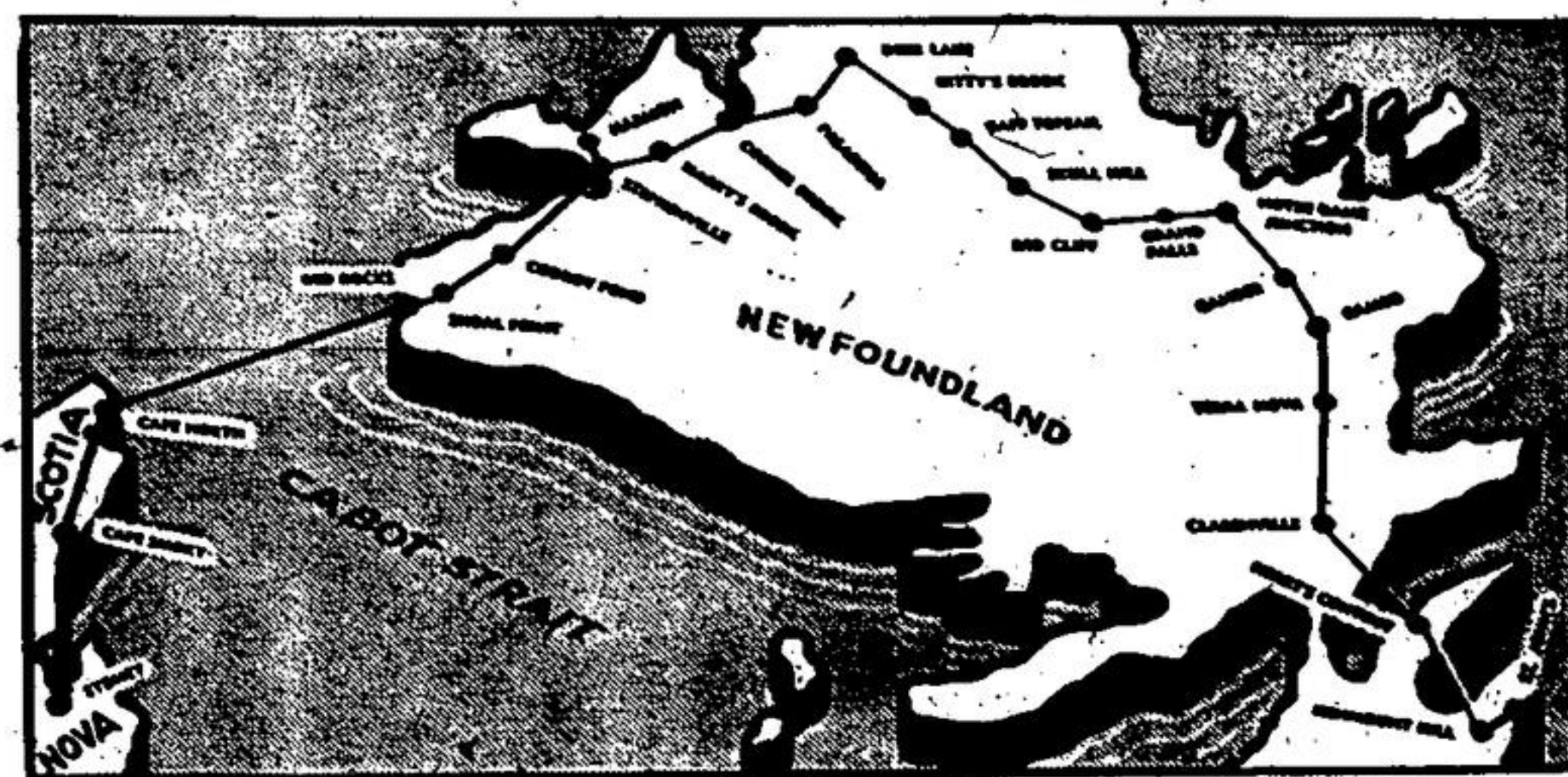
It's cruel, but I've faced up to it. I've made my peace with old age and the simpler things of life. But don't be surprised to read some pretty strong editorials, in the near future, on the advisability of lowering the age limit, and increasing the amount of the old-age pension.

Second Car Crash is Fatal for Bramptonite

A Brampton man who escaped death a year ago when his car collided head on with a Georgetown car driven by Wilf Brisbois, 31 McIntyre Cresc., near Norval, died violently on Wednesday, March 25th in a car-truck smash six miles east of Brampton.

David Kieth Huson, age 23, was driving east on No. 7 Hwy. when his car collided with a truck and somersaulted 200 feet into a farmer's field. He was thrown from the car. The driver of the west-bound truck, James Houston of Palmerston, was treated at Peel Memorial Hospital for shock.

Mr. Huson was planning to be married at the time of last year's accident and leaves his bride of a few months, Carol Anne Murray, who is employed in the Brampton Bell Telephone office. He was the son of Mr. and Mrs. William Huson and brother of Wilda Huson, Woodbridge. A private service was held at the W. R. Scott Funeral Home, Woodbridge, with interment in Brampton cemetery.



CNT MICROWAVE SYSTEM—Harassed by one of the coldest, snowiest winters in Newfoundland's history, Canadian National Telegraph crews are doggedly pushing ahead with installation of a \$8 million microwave system across the province. This map shows the location of repeater stations over which CBC television programs will be brought live into Newfoundland in time for ceremonies marking the St. Lawrence Seaway opening by Queen Elizabeth in June. Harmon, to be linked with the system, is a United States Air Force base. Progress has continued despite storms which closed tower entry roads to all vehicles except snowmobiles, winds of more than 100 miles an hour which toppled scaffolding, freezing rain which within 15 minutes formed ice conditions hazardous for frost-nipped riggers and technicians and, at times, forced temporary suspension of work. Buildings have been completed at 18 of the sites, towers erected at 15. In addition to providing television in and out of Newfoundland—in the latter direction by the end of the year—the CNT project will mean greatly increased communications facilities to and from the island. With its completion Canadian National will be able to handle a much heavier flow of all types of traffic—telephone, teletype, radio, Telex—between Newfoundland and other parts of Canada and United States.

CO-OP OPEN HOUSE

FRIDAY, APRIL 10th, from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.
SATURDAY, APR. 11th, from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at

HALTON CO-OPERATIVE SUPPLIES

GEORGETOWN BRANCH

You and your family are cordially invited to help us celebrate the opening of your up-to-date Co-Op store on April 10th and 11th. The newly renovated store has been modernized to serve you better with a more complete assortment of merchandise, attractively displayed and reasonably priced to save you money.

Make your Co-Op Store your HEADQUARTERS FOR LAWN AND GARDEN SUPPLIES. We have everything for the home gardener, the professional landscaper, the market gardener and the farmer, large or small.

FREE DRAW FOR LADIES & MEN: SUNBEAM ELECTRIC FRYING PAN and PHILISHAVE ELECTRIC SHAVER

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Clipper Tractor Battery
This is a real buy. Shop early. Guaranteed 6 months. Special with old battery.
ea. 8.66

Top Quality Grease
10% reduction. All grades of quality grease. On sale for this event only. Don't miss this value.

Heavy Duty Wheelbarrow
Reg. \$26.95. Has pneumatic tire, steel tray, 4 cu. ft. capacity.
Special. Each 24.99

Heavy Duty Motor Oil
10% Reduction. This is first quality motor oil. Available in 5 gal. drums at 10% saving for this event only.

Milk Filter Discs
Reg. \$1.00 box. 6 1/2" Co-Op Filter Discs at a good saving. These are quality discs.
Special 5 boxes 3.99

Lawn & Garden Fertilizer
Reg. \$2.50. First grade, general purpose fertilizer. (Fertilin 5-10-10.) In 50 lb. bags.
Special 1.99

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Reg. \$8.95. Spray lawn, shrubs and flowers. Has heavy duty nozzle, 1 1/2 gal. capacity.
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Reg. \$3.95. Top quality batteries on sale for this event. Take advantage of savings.
Special. Ea. 3.39

18" Rotary Power Mower
18" cut, 2 1/4 h.p. 2 cycle engine. Cast aluminum housing.—Heavy duty wheels.
Special. Ea. 39.97

Save on Manure Forks
Reg. \$3.95. Strong steel tines and durable wooden handle.
Special. Ea. 3.39

50' Plastic Garden Hose
Reg. \$1.95. Coupled and ready to use. Buy now and save.
Special. Ea. 1.39

Sturdy Lawn Rakes
Reg. \$1.29. 20 spring steel teeth. Long smooth wooden handle.
Special. Ea. 88c

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Certificate Important in Hospital Insurance Plan

Ontario Hospital Insurance is now three months old and approximately 5,500,000 Ontarians are under its protection. Already its benefits have been received by more than 200,000 residents of the province, for whose hospital bills the Ontario Hospital Services Commission has accepted responsibility.

Many hospitals, it is true, have overflowing wards and lengthy waiting lists, but this is a regular occurrence during the winter months, when demand for hospital care has always been heaviest. Thanks in large measure to the co-operation of doctors, hospitals, employers and the general public, the advent of Ontario Hospital Insurance has not produced the chaos and the hospital queues which some who were fearful predicted.

Many of the early administrative problems have already been overcome, but there are one or two basic features of the plan which, apparently, are not fully understood.

Many hospitals report that some patients are still requesting admission as insured persons without producing their Hospital Insurance Certificates. This greatly complicates the work of the hospitals and could result in the patient being held responsible for paying the account, at least until his insured status is confirmed. As families are issued only one certificate, it is realized that this may not always be available if hospital care is needed suddenly. Therefore, the Commission feels it is a good idea to keep a separate note of the Hospital Insurance Number for the ready reference of any member of the family in case of sudden illness or accident.

Some residents are not fully aware of the reason why the Commission requires prepayment of premiums. Prepayment, that is, payment of premiums in advance of the benefit period, is an advantage to the insured person as it provides a paid-up period during which protection will continue if it ever became impossible to keep up premium payments. Commission regulations call for premiums to be paid three months in

advance of the benefit period covered by each payment.

FARM NEWS

4-H Club Leaders Have Social Evening

J. A. F.

The Halton 4-H Club Leaders' Council under the chairmanship of A. R. Coulter, Campbellville, held an annual social evening on Tuesday, March 31st, in the Fairview school, Lowville. The evening was staged to focus attention to the 4-H programme for 1959 in Halton. Approximately 200 parents, leaders, 4-H club members, and potential members attended. The annual social night program was started by the council four years ago.

Mrs. Mabel Borgstrom, home economist for Halton outlined the 4-H Homemaking Club programme being carried on in Halton. The present club project is "The Club Girl Entertainers". This project has eleven clubs operating and -the clubs have all had instructional meetings on the project. The Achievement Day programme is scheduled for Saturday, May 30. The 4-H agricultural club programme was outlined by J. Allen Francis, agricultural representative. Following the introductory program, information desks were kept busy answering individual questions on 4-H homemaking and agricultural club work.

The meeting concluded with films, dancing, euchre and lunch.

SCHOOL PARTY

Ending a season of square dancing, an "after four" activity for a group of the senior students at Wrigglesworth Public School, parents were invited to a party on a recent Monday night . . . at which they demonstrated their skill.

There was dancing for everyone at the party, with much service afterwards.

The square dancing classes were organized under the direction of Mr. and Mrs. George Glassford and Mr. and Mrs. Earl McPheeson, who supplied music for the classes and for the special evening.