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# Sugar and Spice

Proposed by BILL SMILEY of the Wharton Echo

Just this minute I looked at the calendar, and realized that I have another birthday coming up next week. I'm never sure how old I am. I always have to remember the year in which I was born, and subtract it from the present year. For the past three or four years, I haven't had a clue whether I was 37, 38 or 39, without doing arithmetic.

The figuring completed, it came as no shock to me that I'll be 39 on June 2nd, and I accepted the fact that I'm well past the midway mark with a reasonable lack of panic. After all, I've still got some hair, half a dozen of my own teeth, and one or two of my faculties.

Not that the relentless years haven't taken their toll. Thanks to an off-broken nose, I have no sense of smell whatever. But this is not entirely a disadvantage. True I can't smell perfume on dames, but this is safer. I can't smell food cooking, but it keeps me from gorging and growing obese. On the silver lining side, I can't smell onions, skunks, manure piles or whiskey breaths.

And I have a lot of little aches and pains. I don't leap out of bed any more, carolling "There hath been dawning another new day, think with thou let it slip uselessly away". I kind of edge out, groaning and grunting, swinging my bad leg to the floor with both hands. But it's amazing how much dancing, weeding and praying that bad leg gets me out of.

No, it isn't the physical disintegration that gets me down. What disturbs me is that automatic acceleration of time with the advancing years. The older you get, the faster it flies. Which is both unreasonable and unfair.

When you are five years old, life progresses at a barely discernible pace. It is made up of endless investigations of mud, breakables, dogs and similar interesting things, broken only by leisurely, messy meals and long, dreamless sleeps. A regular picnic.

When you are ten, life is still in no rush. A month away, or even next Saturday, seems like a long time. Summer holidays stretch lazily, interminably ahead. You can't conceive of becoming a middle-aged man of thirty, it seems so far off.

At fifteen, especially if you're suffering from a small case of unrequited love, some pimples on the day of the dance, or some such catastrophe, a few hours can be as endless as eternity. Even at twenty, time is limitless, something to be spent, not treasured.

In other words, during the formative years, when your appreciation of life is about as deep as that of a puppy, time dawdles, loiters, tarries, pokes and inches along. You waste great gobs of it playing, pretending, dreaming, mooning or just rushing about.

Then, when you begin to mature enough to enjoy life to the full, time begins to dangle along at an alarming clip. By the time you have acquired the wisdom and perception to savour every moment of life, every scent and sight and sound, your senses of smell, sight and hearing are dulled, and time is careening past you like a fire truck.

And when you have grown old, and every second is infinitely precious, suddenly there is no time for anything except to prepare for death. Perhaps it is as well that we grow weary and full of aches and miseries when we get old. Otherwise, how could we bear to part with life, just when we have realized at last what a privilege it has been to be born and to have lived in this fascinating world!

When we become so absorbed in ourselves, so concerned with what happened yesterday, so worried about what will happen tomorrow, that we let time slip past unnoticed, we profane the gift of life. We are like blind men standing on the bank of a deep, swift, beautiful stream, arguing about the colour of the water.

That's why, as another birthday approaches, I pledge myself again to try to slow life down. Maybe it's too late to plunge into the stream anew and savour its myriad wonderments. But at least I'm going to sit on the bank and dangle my toes in it, rather than try to build a bridge so I can get to the other side as quickly as possible.

## POLICE NEWS

"He declares himself guilty who justifies himself before accusation," English proverb.

## CHEQUES

A few preventive suggestions to the merchants of our town on dealing with unknown persons trying to cash cheques.

Beware of the following cheques:

- (1) Typewritten, accompanied with a rubber stamp over signees name.
- (2) Hand written cheques purported to be for wages, expenses, and written as such in the lower left hand corner.
- (3) Never give cash with the merchandise, unless you know the passer.

**IDENTIFICATION. WHAT THIS MEANS.**

- (1) A good reference.
- (2) Compare the hand writing on the cheque to the signature on the back.
- (3) Check out the passers home address.
- (4) Check out the phone number if known.
- (5) Make sure the proper branch of bank is on the cheque—also the bank account number.
- (6) Have the endorser put his street address under name at time of endorsement.
- (7) Do not cash a double endorsed cheque.
- (8) Permit the passer to write out his own cheque in full.

Identification not to be accepted:

- (1) Drivers license, Automobile Club Membership or unemployment card.
- (2) A bank account pass book.
- (3) Temporary drivers permit.

**FIVE POINTS**

- (1) Don't let a person cashing a cheque hurry you.
- (2) Don't cash cheques for strangers.
- (3) Don't cash a cheque out of business hours.
- (4) Don't cash a cheque for juveniles.
- (5) Don't be too proud to admit that you have been taken. Report your loss to your local police department immediately.

## RAIL FENCES

I love the old rail fences that once winding their way among the pines and trees, sturdy and weather worn yet tough and sound.

Making a snake-like pattern on the ground.

Think of the old sturdy pioneers who fashioned them back in the early years. The hard back breaking toil, the solitude, the working deep within a virgin wood.

Perchance a redskin lurked behind the screen.

Of the vast forest with its boundless green.

Watching the walls of a log cabin rise.

Seeing it all with angry eyes.

A one-room school, a church, a corner store.

A blacksmith shop, a mill, a threshing floor.

A village by a lake, a home-made bed.

The rough hewn rafters of a cattle shed.

For somewhere in this fence of cedar rails,

We glimpse the past, small clearings, lonely trails, And a great band of valiant pioneers. Holding their heritage against the years.

ENDA JAQUES  
J.M.B.

## LEGION NOTES

by  
Les Clark

Once again the fireworks display Saturday evening was a real good one, and we think well worth the time and effort put into it by council and the branch.

The same people were again in charge of the arrangements—and made a good job of it. There was a real good crowd present, a tribute to the hospital gala day arrangements as well as the fireworks.

As the largest group in town, it is our sincere hope that the Legion will play as full a part in the building of the new hospital as they can. It will be a great thing for the community as a whole, and as a very large segment of it, the Legion should be vitally interested.

The regular monthly meeting is this Thursday night, and the executive hope that there will be a good turnout for this. We close for the summer months so it is not too much to ask that all the members be present.

Sunday will see the dedication service at Erin for their new hall, and our padre, Rev. Ken Richardson is in charge of arrangements and the actual dedication. There

will be a short service at the cenotaph.

Next parade for the Legion is the Zone Parade at Brampton on Sunday, June 7th and it is hoped that Georgetown will see fit to have a strong representation. The Imperials section has been invited also, and the Ladies Auxiliary and all are asked to provide colour parties as well. The time is 1.30—and Brampton promises lunch after.

This branch is one of the most hospitable branches in this district and we know everyone that attends will have a most enjoyable time.

**LORNE SCOTS JUNIOR NCO'S GRADUATE**

Junior NCO's certificates will be presented to a number of deserving Lorne Scots when the militia unit parades at Oakville this Sunday, May 17th.

The newly qualified corporals are—T. F. and J. E. Bryce of Port Credit; J. J. Chappelle, Long Branch; J. M. Cummins, Georgetown; W. A. Dixon, Glen Williams; T. D. Graham, Oakville; P. J. Holdsworth, Streetsville; S. A. Houlden, Glen Cross; H. F. Mabee, Orangeville; D. N. Smith, Georgetown (now on active service); G. C. Stephens, Brampton; C. M. Stout, Oakville, and A. W. Waters, Milton.

On the same occasion, band-mand William Emslie of Georgetown will receive his 20 medal, commemorating 12 years of service.

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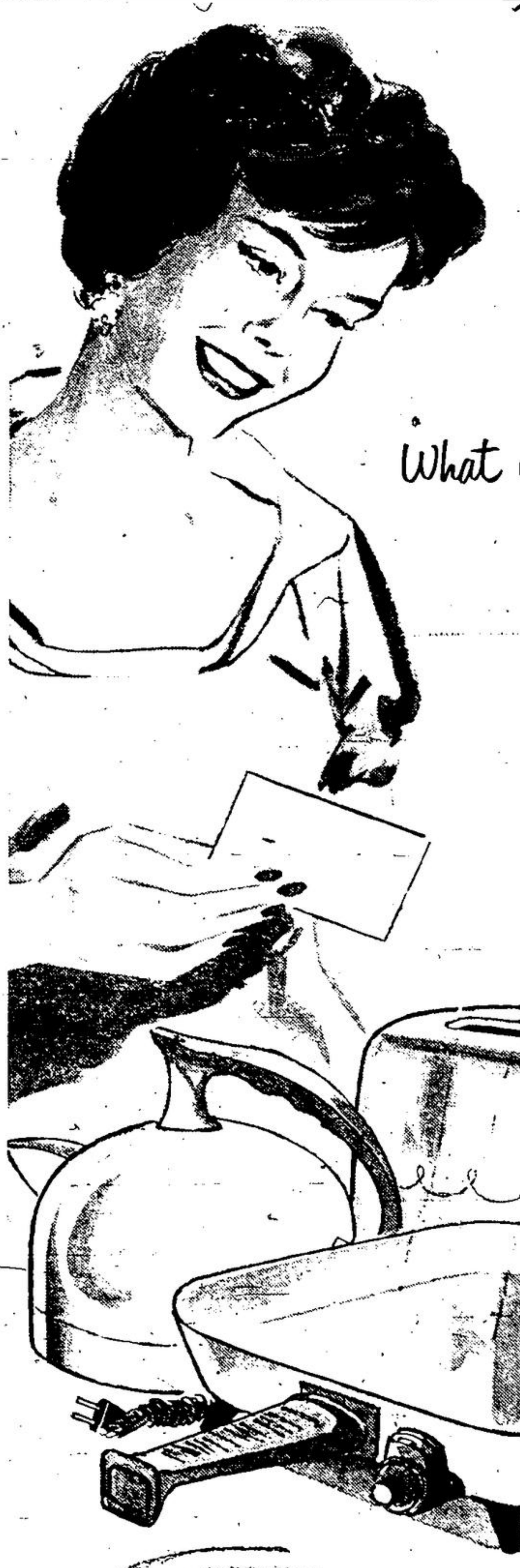
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