

# Georgetown Herald

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PAGE 4 THURSDAY, JULY 7th, 1960

## Two Sides to a Problem

At a meeting last week, members of the Chamber of Commerce executive and the town council had a round-table discussion about a situation which, while not necessarily being detrimental to the town's growth, is certainly not enhancing our reputation as a town of brotherly love.

We refer, of course, to the differences, small and large, which seem to apply whenever Delrex Developments and the council attack the mutual problem of industrial expansion, housing developments and road construction in the eastern part of town which is being developed on land owned by that company.

Certainly, the weekly news budget in the Herald would infer that there are differences of opinion, and it would seem that both parties are at fault at times.

There have been occasions when councilors have been too outspoken, or have jumped too fast to veto Delrex proposals. And there have been just as many times when Delrex officials have put a chip on their shoulders when dealing with council.

Last week, a letter from the firm, in answer to council's request to put a sale price on land planned to be used for a pump station site for the new sewage disposal plant, itemized some \$32,000 which the firm claims it has spent on public improvements not included in its agreement with the town and which it wishes to trade for accounts owing for back taxes and a payment under a land release agreement.

Whatever the merits of its arguments, the fact remains the matter was not contracted for by the town, and we can think of no legal argument which would hold water for any claim against the town by the company.

However sympathetic council might be to the company's problems, we cannot see that such a claim could be seriously considered. It would be chaotic, indeed, if a citizen or company could undertake improvements in town, then bill council for them later. And it cannot be a question of how important the improvements might be or how they might have benefited the town.

## Talk Can Be Valuable

Exploratory meetings such as the one referred to are something new for the local Chamber of Commerce and are something which might continue in an effort to solve one of Georgetown's main problems.

One can imagine that, should the present housing stalemate exist, the Delrex firm housing stalemate to expend money on exploitation which is producing no results. And, with many people directly dependent on the firm for a livelihood, and others indirectly dependent, it would be a calamity if it could not continue in business.

Just as calamitous would be any plan for survival which would burden the town's taxpayers, and a majority of the present council have been quite outspoken in sup-

porting a 60-40 rate and in insisting that industry is the key to any further housing expansion.

The situation sometimes seems to get bogged in charges and counter-charges. On the one hand, council says "Make us a job position and we will listen." On the other, Delrex says "Whatever we propose, you turn down."

Perhaps the Chamber of Commerce can serve as a central meeting ground, bringing the two parties together to talk it over, and see what might be arranged for the common good. On the other hand, the Chamber must be careful not to take a side, or attempt to tell council what it should decide for that is the function of our elected representatives.

## More Assessment—How?

It seems to be generally agreed by council, Delrex Developments and the men in the street that Georgetown needs more assessment of the 'paying' type.

To date, every effort is being expended privately and publicly to induce new industry to town, for it is the popular conception that industry more than pays its way tax-wise.

There are only three ways of getting more money in the tax purse, and that is by increased residential, commercial or industrial assessment.

As industry seems only a hope, and as the town council has vetoed any large scale development of medium-priced homes in the east Georgetown area, there seems to be only one common meeting ground at present. That is possibility of developing a subdivision of higher-priced homes.

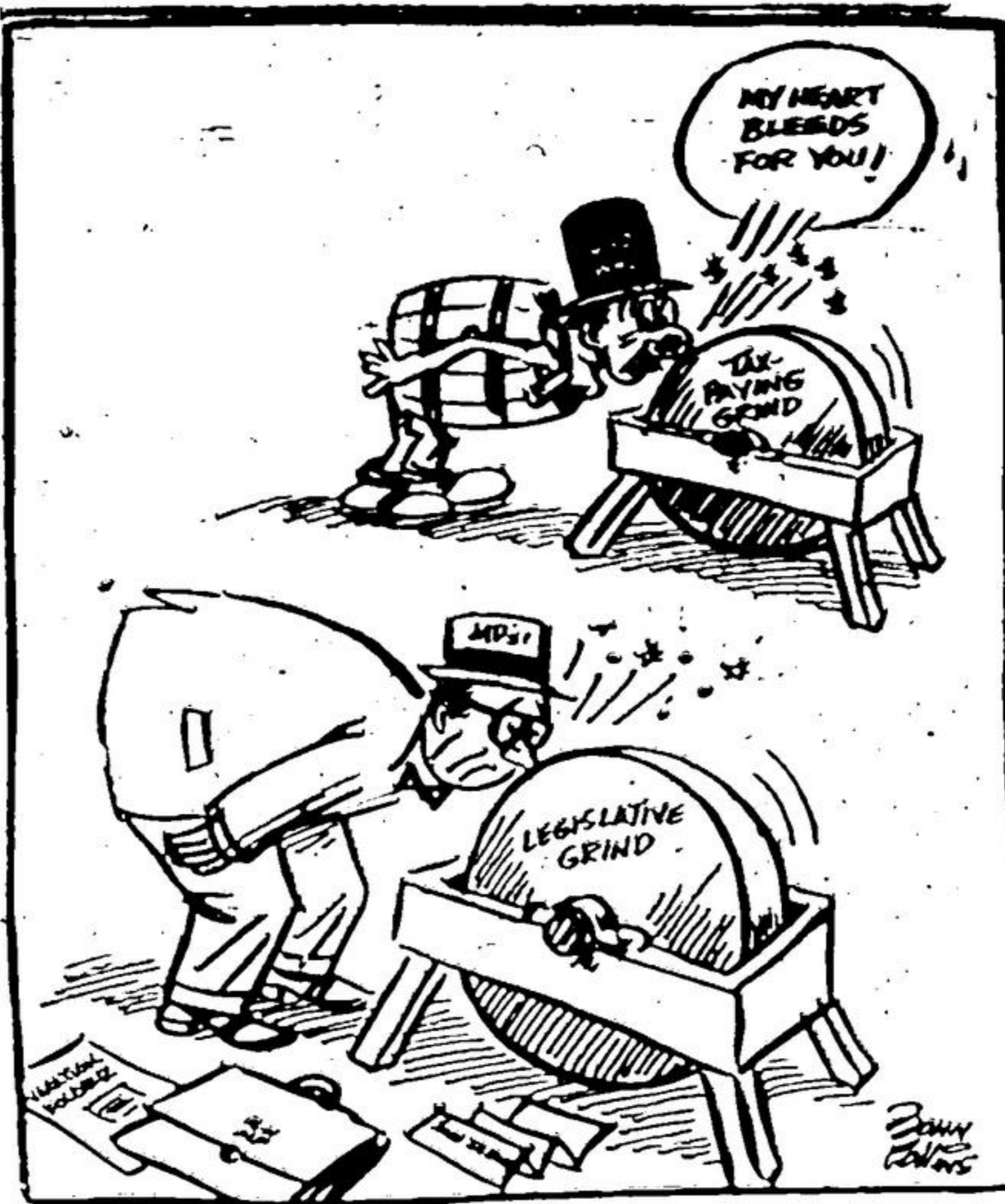
The average house today no more than pays its way in taxes, and while statistics vary on how high an assessment a house must have before it becomes profitable in taxes, we will take council's word that a house carrying an assessment of \$6,000 is

more than ample. With assessment running roughly one-third of the selling value of a house, this means that construction of houses in the \$20,000 bracket would be a welcome addition.

If this be so, we suggest that the Delrex organization might study possibility of promoting such a subdivision and if it were economically sensible, give it the same type of promotion that it has been giving its industrial sites.

Advertising could be started to the advantages of our town for rural living within an hour's drive of downtown Toronto, our two golf courses, curling rink, swimming pool, arena, fine schools, etc. Such promotion would have to incorporate a 'snob appeal' too, to persuade senior personnel in the city's industry that Georgetown is a superior place to own a new home.

And, if the plan should work, who knows but it might spark that elusive industrial development we seek. Get enough executives living in Georgetown, and eventually one might decide that his plant should be located here too.



NOSE TO THE GRINDSTONE

## Sugar and Spice

Dispersed by BILL SMILEY of the Waterloo Echo

There is no social catastrophe more appalling than having people take you up on one of those casual invitations you don't really mean, to "drop in and see us if you're up our way." It happens to us every summer, and on several occasions has almost destroyed our marriage.

You know how it is. You're at a wedding or something in the city back in February. During the post-nuptial convalescence you get to chatting with some cousins of the bride, a nice couple you hadn't met before. They're charming, and so are you. You'd love to see more of them, because they think you're so witty. You insist that they come and see you for a weekend, in the summer, right there, and then that they'll come and visit you. You even make them pick a weekend.

Then some Friday evening in July you're mowing the lawn and sweating like a horse. You have your shirt off, and you're unshaven. Your wife has a cold sore and has just washed her hair and put it up. Your kids have just come home from playing at the sandpit, and are a charming composite of sweat and sand, from head to toe. And a big car pulls up at the house. This stranger climbs out, and his wife and three kids climb out after him.

"Well, here we are, old buddy," he greets happily. "Better late than never." You have never seen the man before in your entire life. There's a squeal from the Old Girl, and you hear the door slam behind

you, and her feet patter on the back steps. The kids come over and stand by the door, and their noses with the traces of their hands, and start at the strange lady who stands back with interest.

It's not until you ask them into the house, and the man pulls a pile of suitcases out of the car, that the full impact is felt, the dreadful realization that these clunks are here for the week end, and that they were probably invited by you in one of our more expansive moments, at some forgotten ball, months ago.

You look at the wife, who is smiling and says what a lovely surprise to have them drop in. And when she walks past you to make a pot of tea, she throws you a look like a knife. With a faint glimmering of hope, you ask Ernie if he likes to "go or would care to go to town in the morning." "Never could see much in it," says Ernie, and he spends the next 40 minutes of a hot summer evening telling you about the trophies his kids would win last winter, if one of the boys had a bad cold that night.

In the meantime, your wife is congratulating Elsie, as she turns out to be on having such lovely children. At this juncture, there is a wild scream outside, and one of the lovely children runs in bleeding heavily from the nose, which your small daughter has just punctured.

Let's just draw a veil over the rest of the weekend, shall we? Except to mention that Ernie has a nasty habit of telling, in front of your wife, about how he scrubs all the floors for Elsie, every Saturday; one of their lovely children got into some lovely poison ivy on the picnic you took them on, and Elsie turned a bit frigid after overhearing one of your kids pipe: "Isn't she a silly lady?"

WORDS OF THE WISE  
A man who causes fear, cannot be free from fear. — Epictetus.

10 and 25 YEARS AGO

## ECHOES

10 YEARS AGO

Last week negotiations were completed between Provincial Paper Limited and William B. Ackerman of Toronto. Mr. Ackerman purchasing the building, which formerly housed the lower paper mill, for 120,000 acres of land.

Mr. L. L. Campbell, who has resigned his position as principal of S.S. 12, located at Maple Grove, near Oakville, to accept a position in the staff of the Georgetown Public School, was honoured last Wednesday evening by members of the community.

Parish of Georgetown and St. John's Baptist Churches for the past three years. Rev. Charles R. Gower has received a call to Dresden where he formerly served as minister.

25 YEARS AGO

At the regular meeting of the Georgetown Pipe Band Association, it was unanimously decided by those present to hold a field day and celebration on Dominion Day. It was decided on the strength of the success of the initial event of the past July 1st.

The sixth annual reunion of the Marshall family was held at The Cabin July 1st when many residents from here attended.

Holy Cross church celebrates its golden jubilee in October of this year.

THE MAIL BAG

## Writer Says Froth is Fatal

31 Bryan St. July 2nd, 1960

My sincere evaluation of the Herald's reporting of council activities is that it is FAIR, FACTUAL and FRANK—FIRST and FINAL requisites in FAITHFUL reporting of things said without FULMINATION, which sometimes sound like FREAKISH FRIVOLITIES.

FOR FAIR PLAYING only, Ed. A. Peters

## Georgetown Herald

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## Controversial Corner

by Ian Cass

### DAVID and GOLIATH

Considerable publicity has been given to the case of Mrs. Stella Morris of Hamilton and Dominion Foundries and Steel (Dofasco). Mrs. Morris was determined not to sell her two houses for the price offered by the company (\$33,000) and this refusal was holding up plans for plant expansion. In fact, Dofasco have been trying to buy land from Mrs. Morris since 1942.

All offers made by the company of the purchase of the land have been rejected by this lady. In the meantime, Dofasco have successfully negotiated for the purchase of all the surrounding properties from the two dozen other affected home owners. The situation was that only Mrs. Morris and her refusal to sell were holding up Dofasco's expansion plans. Her price for the property was \$170,000 for a 60 year lease payable in advance and the company to pay the income tax.

The company appealed to the city council for action to overrule the statute and on June 30th, after a month of discussion, the council passed an expropriation by-law. This means that council will purchase the property for a price set by two independent appraisers—one appointed by Mrs. Morris.

Spurred on by newspaper publicity and some neighbours who considered this was none of council's business, Mrs. Morris has been exceeding herself in the name of David fighting the wicked giant Goliath (Dofasco). At last report, David was in tears behind locked doors, de-voting the city to turn her out.

As I recall the original biblical story of the fight between David and Goliath, this was a battle between good and evil, a conflict of principle, a peaceful Christian against the military forces of absolute evil. I can only doubt if Mrs. Morris could find very much in the bible to support her case, nor can I see any similarity between her piety and that taken on by David.

It would appear from the information available that Mrs. Morris is motivated by two things—greed and good. The offered price of \$33,000 for property assessed at \$4,000 at least seems very reasonable and profitable. There have been no outbursts of similar protestations from the other affected property owners. The attack on me is just another demonstration of human weakness. David was a tower of strength.

### More Strike Violence

Once again the Canadian labour picture has been blackened by lawlessness and violence by intimidation and threats. The result has been the closing down of the Kaufman Hosiery Company in the West. To support a strike called by the U.N.I.

## DISTRICT NEWS

### at a Glance

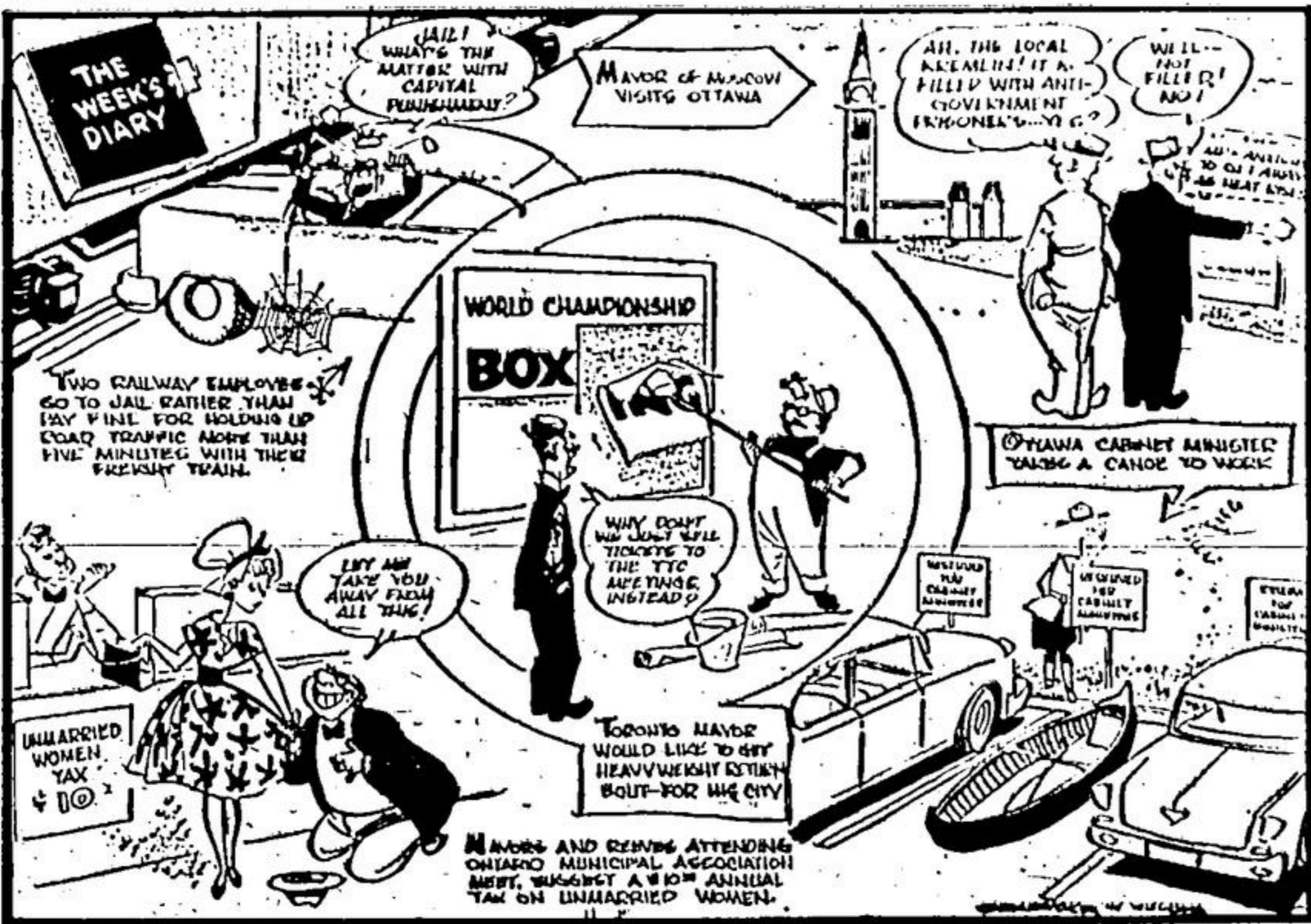
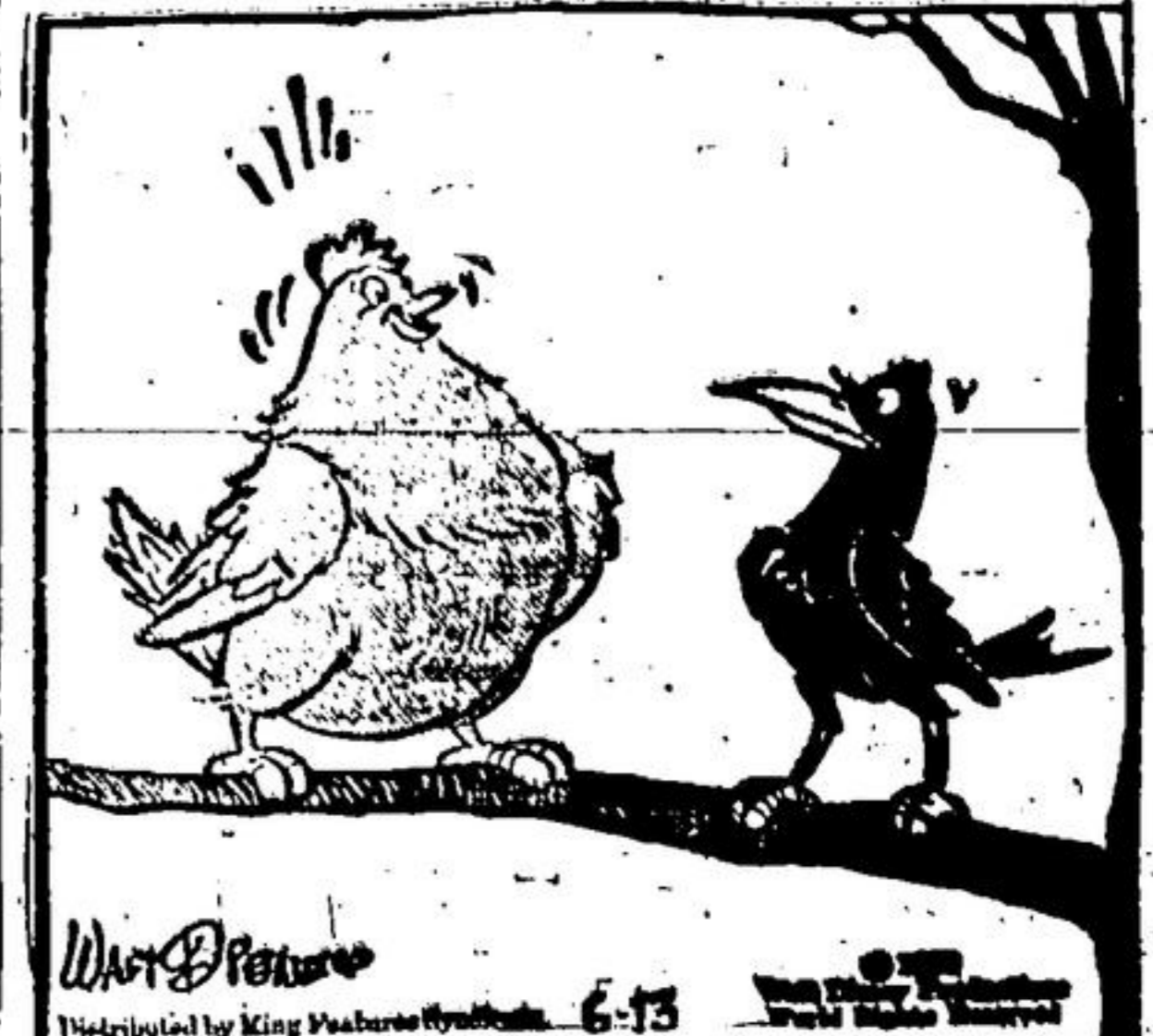
**TRAFALGAR**  
Councillor E. G. Bulmer told Trafalgar council that the township school board should be urged to introduce a public school shift system as a means of combating rising costs.

**BURLINGTON**  
A band of burglars entered the office of eight Burlington businesses over the weekend finding scant loot but leaving each place a saucy when they left.

**BRAMPTON**  
A 21-acre shopping centre for Brampton is scheduled to open in the fall of 1961. To be known as "New World," it will be in Ford Village, on the same farm as the Drive-In theatre on the northwest corner of Highway 10 and the Chunguacousy Base Lane.

### MERRY MENAGERIE

By Walt Disney



HEADLINES IN REVIEW