Georgetown Herald

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PAGE 4 THURSDAY, AUGUST 18th, 1960

Advantage To Everyone...

More than once we have heard people say "Too bad someone doesn't buy the old Roxy Theatre and remove an eyesore from the street."

Even the most avid dreamers have given up hope that the Roxy here might rise again and Georgetown have a theatre in its old location. Even a bit far-sighted would shudder at investing the money necessary to turn the shell of a building into a picture palace and he would have to be longer than Methuselah to get his money back.

What, then, is the fate of the Roxy?

Several things come to mind but for the town as a whole we can think of nothing better than for the federal government to acquire the property, tear it down and add its portion to the post office.

Rumours to this effect have been afoot regarding the post office and downtown part of town. Serious consideration has been given to at least one other site.

Yet we cannot see it, businesswise, to abandon a handsome, comparatively new structure when expansion land is available right beside it. And when another public service, the hydro, adjoins it on the other side.

There is real danger that the Roxy site could lie an eyesore for years. And there is a possibility that a post office move could result in the sale of that property too. [illegible] we have [illegible] a post office building might be [illegible] apart needs. A use for which the Roxy is not designed and [illegible] to the value of nearby commercial properties.

[illegible] Parliament [illegible] post office [illegible] the property [illegible]

Citizenship First Hand...

Almost without publicity [illegible] a few dedicated people have [illegible] service to this community and [illegible] by teaching night school classes [illegible] to New Canadians.

The classes, conducted by the Board of English with a course in citizenship, have been enjoyed by men and women from a dozen or more nations and have spoken to some of the graduates you may see at [illegible] citizenship ceremony.

[illegible] effort has been made of late [illegible] Canada's [illegible] Canadians [illegible]

Classes sponsored by the high school board are a part [illegible] planned by a [illegible]

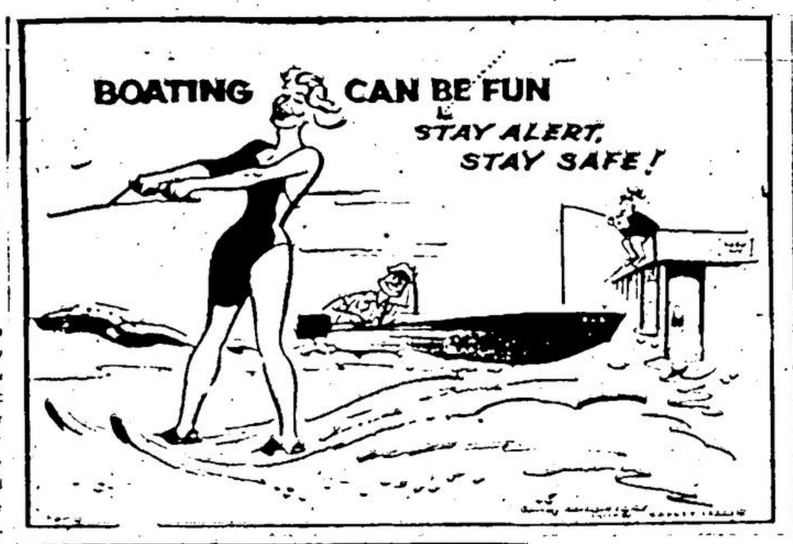
We welcome New Canadians who want to improve their knowledge of English to register. The fee is small but it is to be paid [illegible]

Go Back To School...

At this time of year [illegible] too strongly urge [illegible] might be thinking of [illegible] school course to think [illegible]

More and more [illegible] nation, higher education [illegible] one to earn more than a [illegible]

Where once a [illegible] luxury, it is becoming [illegible]



Controversial Corner

by Ian Coss

... Parental Indifference Is A Crime ...

A week ago, two people were killed in a car crash. One was a 15 year old boy and the other a 13 year old girl. They were killed when the car, driven by the boy, went out of control. There were seven young people in the car and all might easily have died. As this is quite a familiar theme in every Monday's newspaper, you might wonder why it should be the subject of this column. If you are so immune to the careless expenditure of life on the highways that such stories do not appear abnormal, and if you can glance through the brief descriptions of such unnecessary carnage without feeling, then read no further. For myself, I am sickened by this wanton, futile bloodshed, particularly when I know that most of it could be prevented were it not for human indifference, apathy and selfishness.

In the case quoted above the driver had already been involved in a minor accident and had failed to stop. In another case five people were injured when a youth with only two days driving experience was involved in a serious accident 400 miles from home. In another case a 19 year old drove down the wrong lane of a highway blinding his lights until he killed himself and two other people.

I can already hear the plaintive moans of the uninformed and the confirmed disbelievers. Why pick on the teenagers, why pick on youth?". Adults cause traffic deaths too. You can't stop the youngsters from driving. This is their right!" It is high time that this ostrich like point of view was exploded once and for all. A point of view which contains about as much truth as the legal defense of Al Capone.

Let us look at a few indisputable facts. Figures just released by the Department of Transport reveal a total of 71,825 Ontario motorists involved in accidents during the first half of 1960. Of this total, 19,114 or 27 per cent involved drivers in the 16 to 24 year old group. This age group accounts for 15 per cent or less of all drivers. If less than 15 per cent of the drivers were involved in 27 per cent of the accidents it is clear proof that this group is a greater danger than other groups. In view of the inherent irresponsibility of youth, its lack of wisdom and judgement, this situation is only to be expected. It is a situation which has long been reflected in insurance rates for drivers under 24. The insurance companies are not blinded by emotional outbursts from any quarter. They are in the business of selling cars of gasoline therefore there is nothing to blind them to the fact that drivers in the 16 to 24 year old group represent a greater potential hazard than higher age groups.

If we could all recognize this well proven and irrefutable truth we could then stop arguing about it and look for a remedy.

The other often quoted comment that it is the right of youngsters to drive is another piece of arrant nonsense. It is not anyone's right to drive, not yours or mine or the Prime Minister's — it is a much abused privilege. When it is crystally absured, it should be taken away.

During the first half of 1960 the number of accidents in Ontario was up 13.5 per cent and the number of under 24 drivers was up 13.2 per cent during a period when the total number of drivers rose by less than 5 per cent. When is action going to be taken? When half our young people and a good many older ones are killed or maimed?

There is usually a great outcry against oppressive legislation and rightly so. Freedom should be preserved. Let us remember at the same time that freedom is only possible in a responsible and intelligent society. Any society which becomes apathetic inactive and irresponsible will lose its freedom as surely as night follows day. If oppressive law enforcement is the only answer to the increasing highway bloodshed then there is a great deal wrong with the people.

It may seem a long step from highway deaths to 'parental indifference is a crime' which is the column heading — in fact they are both interwoven. Increased traffic accidents among your drivers is just one item, of many regrettable items which is directly the result of parental indifference; the result of parents who are only too eager and willing for their children to take on the responsibilities of adulthood before they are capable of doing so; the result of parental neglect in its many familiar forms, and bluntly, the result of parents who don't give a tinker's damn where their children are, who they are with or what they are doing so long as they are out of the way.

Returning to the death of the 13 year old girl who was being driven home from a dance when she died; I wonder what bitter regrets and self-condemnation the parents felt. I wonder if they felt any guilt. I wonder if they realized how their parental irresponsibility had contributed to this tragic and futile loss of life. But regret itself is a pointless emotion. A little wisdom, a little common sense can prevent a lot of regret and it doesn't require much common sense to know that 13 year old girl should have been at home and in bed at the time of the accident.

What of our own community. How do our own town look to those taking a walk on a Friday or Saturday night? According to the comments of two recent visitors here Georgetown is open to criticism wide open. At ten thirty a few nights ago I counted a group of thirty juveniles gathered in a favourite spot on the main street. Their ages were from 13 to 17. As they gathered there was whooping and shouting some fighting down the alley way, a continual stream of cars circulated to and from the spot, around the block and back again. Many of the car drivers appeared to be under the legal age. A good number of the girls were certainly no more than fourteen years old and were clearly inviting trouble — that is if you consider being the mother of an illegitimate child at less than fifteen being in trouble. When a resident in one of the upper flats hooted across to ask them to make less noise one of the young gentlemen shouted back horsecat. I am reliably informed that this is mild language by comparison with what is often heard by unfortunate Main street residents.

The police are doing their best to contain this intolerable situation but this is not what we pay them for. We pay policemen to enforce the law not to act as a juvenile correction agency because parents are indifferent to their children's welfare. If children are not subjected to discipline in the home, they will fight it elsewhere. If children are to be given cars and unlimited freedom, most of them will eventually be in trouble with the law. Not necessarily because they are bad but because they are subjected to a degree of temptation which they are not equipped to deal with. In many cases they have parents towards whom they feel nothing but contempt and this is reflected in their attitude to adult or damned society.

This unhappy situation will not be corrected until we get at the root of the problem and that is parental indifference. Parents who cannot or will not bring up their children so that the youngsters have a reasonable start in the world should not be permitted to bring up children at all. Parents, who by indifference and neglect have encouraged the creation of a young delinquent, should also be charged with his crimes.

Sugar and Spice

Dispensed by BILL SMILEY of the Wiarton Echo

When I was 20, I found nothing more attractive than being on the move. I was ready to go anywhere, without notice, at any time. It meant a change of scene and routine, new friends and new faces. It was challenging and stimualting.

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Now I am twice twenty. We are moving to a different home in a different town next month, and I'm as mournful as a shroud. I'm clinging to the old home and the old life with the grim tenacity of a granny about to be lugged off to the county home. The movers will probably have to strap me to the ironing board to get me out of the house, on moving day.

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I've known it was coming for some time of course, and thought I was reconciled to it. But last week end when I went home from summer school and saw the two big FOR SALE signs hammered into my lawn, it was a terrible jolt. I felt as though the stakes had been nailed right through my heart.

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I love that old house as a man loves an old wife who is hard to get along with, but who has grace and charm, a comforting warmth, which he can't get along without.

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I've reviled the old girl privately and in public. I've told her she was frigid, slatternly and extragavant. And she's given as good as she got. My head is all knobby from the whacks she has dealt me with her cellar beams. On several occasions, she has dropped all the plaster from a ceiling just before guests arrived, out of pure perversity.

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But on the whole, it's been a love match all the way, and there has been a rich, understanding relationship between us. She knows I haven't begrudged all that money I've spent on her. And I know that when I come to her after a hard day, she will take me in and comfort me and soothe my troubled spirit. She will give me privacy and peace, a sanctuary from the dogs of life, snapping at my heels.

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That's why this upcoming is such wrench. My other wife, the real one, feels it too. She has spent many more hours than I have with the old girl, bathing her regularly freshening her delicacies like paint and wallpaper and dressing her with dignified taste her age demands. But women are too, her than men, and basically less sentimental. They look forward, not back. So my wife has turned her back on the old girl, though not without a tear or two for times remembered, and can hardly wait to start decorating and making drapes at the new place.

I couldn't do that. I had to have a final, dramatic leave-taking. I chose last week-end to do it, because, I knew I'd be too hot, frustrated and furious on moving day to give her more than a cross look. So I went and poked around the old place, growing more maudlin with every memory.

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First I went up to our bedroom. I stood for a moment and remembered the night my wife came home from a meeting and found the bed on fire and me sleeping peacefully in it. I turned away with a lump in my throat as I recalled the lively, warming scene.

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Then I went to the bathroom and looked fondly about at my refuge, the only place in our house with a bolt on the door. Many a happy hour I spent there, shouting to the kids that I'd be out in a minute. I gave the toilet seat an affectionate glance. It comes away in your hand. When strangers are in the house, you can always tell whether it's a man or lady using the bathroom. The man flip up the seat, and it flies off and ricochets around the room with an appalling clatter. Quite unnerves them, in the dead of night.

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I had to pay a visit to the cellar, where I'd spent so many busy, creative hours, digging drains, piling wood and sweating. Yes, there it was — the two ton pile of stoker coal that's been sitting there since I put in the oil furnace. It took me back to the winter nights when I crouched behind my ancient stoker, nursing it through the small hours as a marine engineer nurses his cranky old engines in an attempt to reach port.

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I went out to the patio. And I almost broke down at this point. I felt like an artist being dragged off to jail just as he is about to start work on his masterpiece. I've been planning that patio for eight years. Every winter I've given it a lot of thought. I've been pretty busy, summers, and haven't quite got started on it, but I know I'd have built it next summer, if I'd been spared.

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Then I went into the garden. Maud Lush green trained the pampas grass had almost hidden the dear, familiar land marks the ash pile so pretty in winter with its toppings of snow. The heap of furnace pipes each like an old friend, the black reproachful pit where I dig my worms, so neglected this summer.

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It was too much. I went over and leaned against the 40 foot, $225 new chimney I'd put on the old girl last fall, and cried like a baby. You'll have to excuse me now. I'm all choked up again, just thinking about this.

THE MAIL BAG

Councillor Explains Assessment Position

8th August, 1960

The Editor

In a letter to the Editor published last week Mr. F. R. Francis stated that the Town Planning Committee had refused to deal with a question raised during his visit to council on July 18th. Needless to say the councillor referred to was myself. This letter is not motivated by any desire to defend my actions, but merely to establish the truth. Furthermore, as you, Mr. Editor, were present at that meeting, I ask that you do not publish this if you consider that, in any way it is not a fair representation of what took place.

Mr. Francis came to council to complain about the tax assessment on his house and property. He claimed that as a corner lot he was incorrectly assessed; that he should be assessed on his shorter frontage instead of the longer one. Mr. Francis has been complaining about his assessment for some time. As your writeup in the Herald pointed out, he appealed against it at the County Court of Revision two years ago and lost.

For approximately one hour and ten minutes Mr. Francis received council's undivided attention. More time than any other delegation to council has required this year.

Even in the discussion Mr. Francis was informed that the question of assessment, for which they had jurisdiction whatever. Provincial and Municipal legislation ensures that local municipalities have no authority over property assessment. Regardless of this Mr. Francis continued to pursue the subject at great length.

In a last ditch effort to bring the sessions and finally discussion to a close, Mayor Hyde asked the Planning Committee if they would investigate the wording of the Zoning By-law with reference to corner lots to see if there was any discrepancy between zoning regulations and assessment regulations.

This quite irrelevant point, one of many raised by Mr. Francis, seemed to me to have no bearing on the subject under discussion. The Zoning By-law terminology was strictly a matter for controlling zoning and town planning and had nothing whatever to do with property assessment. In view of this I suggested that sufficient time had been given to a subject over which Council had no authority, and that Mr. Francis' problem could not be resolved by the Planning Committee.

I'm sorry if Mr. Francis does not think that the Planning Committee is taking its job seriously enough. However, this is a new twist. Many other people think we take it too seriously.

— E. L. M. CASS

10 and 25 YEARS AGO

ECHOES

From the Pages of the Herald, August 16th, 1950, and August 21st, 1935

10 YEARS AGO

- The second Lorne Scot to win an honour at training camp at Petawawa, Bill Hilner Jr., came home last week with the Infantry Cup awarded to the best soldier taking first year infantry training at the camp.
- Glen Williams will have a complete two party telephone service by October but the large bulk of the population are still on rural lines.
- The current railway strike has caused sharp adjustments in mail service. Letters only are being accepted than those in the immediate vicinity.

25 YEARS AGO

- There was a large gathering at the Pipe Band street dance held here last Thursday evening when the draw for the Ford V-8 Deluxe auto took place. Mayor Jos. Gibbons drew the ticket and the winner was a Toronto resident, Mrs. A. Reid.
- 100 books have been added to the Lending Library at MacCormack's Drug Store on Main St. They now have 500 books to choose from.
- Rev. G. R. Easter who has been pastor of Georgetown and Acton Baptist Churches for the past 15 months has resigned his pastorate here and accepted a call to Yorkton.

WORDS OF THE WISE

Speaking without thinking is shooting without aim. — Old Proverb.

ROY THOMPSON IN PRESS DEAL WITH NIGERIANS

Canadian and Nigerian newspaper groups announced an agreement this week to produce a new independent daily newspaper in Lagos.

Under the 50-50 partnership deal between Thomson International Limited of Toronto and Amalgamated Press Ltd of Nigeria the Nigerian concern will receive fresh capital, new plant and technical assistance to help it build up its present publications in addition to launching the new one.

The new newspaper will be called the Daily Express. The partnership will take over the Sunday Express, owned and managed by Amalgamated Press. Amalgamated Press and its subsidiary Allied Newspapers Ltd will reorganize its newspaper chain making its daily service into a weekly.

Thomson newspapers has recently gained control of the Kemsley newspapers in Britain and has large commercial television interests in Scotland.

The company also controls a number of North American daily and weekly newspapers including the Georgetown Herald, the Brampton Conservator, Oakville Journal, Orangeville Banner and Guelph Daily Mercury in this district.

S. O. Shombare, managing director of Amalgamated Press, described the agreement as "an unprecedented new venture in Commonwealth co-operation." He said his company first approached Roy Thomson, chairman of the Thomson group, to provide the resources and know how for the speedy development of modern newspaper industry in Nigeria.

He said Thomson International Ltd. had given the undertaking to sell its share of the venture to its Nigerian partner at the valuation at the time it is mutually agreed assistance from Thomson International is no longer needed.

BUSINESS CHANGES

At least three Main St. places of business are in the 'rumour' stage of changing ownership.

Announcement of new owners will probably be made in the next few weeks.

Boom In Europe Noted By Economists

Dynamic forces have been loosed in western Europe that are altering the whole structure of business there, says the current Commercial Letter published by the Canadian Bank of Commerce. The area is becoming a high mass consumption market in the wake of remarkable industrial expansion in the last 15 years, notably in West Germany, France and Italy. The fifties brought prosperity to the common man in western Europe; the future will bring prosperity to both the common man and Common Market.

This rapid expansion has placed severe strains on the countries, and has resulted in restrictive measures in a good many of them. Existing industrial plants in western Europe cannot supply the consumer demand, which suggests that well designed and effectively presented goods from North America can be sold in Europe. The energy and imagination that Europeans have shown in tackling the North American market in somewhat similar conditions indicates what can be done.

Under the heading "The Boom in Europe" the Letter analyzes the interplay of many factors in both western Europe and North America and suggests that a period of lively trade between the two areas in view of the current plateau in business in Canada and the USA would provide a welcome stimulus, especially if the boom in western Europe can be prolonged and controlled.

In a second article 'Pop Proves Popular' the Letter says that between 1939 and 1959 the per capita consumption of soft drinks has risen from almost four gallons to just under 9½ gallons. In the past ten years the industry's output has increased 75 per cent dollar-wise. Canadians are not, however, becoming a nation of pop drinkers as their preference for tea and coffee is roughly four to one over carbonated drinks.

The soft drink industry is almost unique, in both its peculiar merchandising problems and its success in meeting them. The efficient distribution of a bulky, breakable, yet low cost item has been solved largely by a very wide distribution of productive facilities.

Some interesting and significant shifts in the distribution of soft drinks have occurred in the past ten years or so; a notable one being the increase in home consumption arising partially from higher incomes and more leisure.

The final section of the Letter 'Come to the Fair,' gives some highlights of early days at the Canadian National Exhibition and its forerunners as far back as 1818. While today's 'Ex' would be incomprehensible to the Indian trappers and French explorers who met on the same site two hundred years ago, trade contacts continue to be made now as then, although the products on view have changed through the years. It may be truly said of the 'Ex,' a hardy old girl now in her 81st year, that 'age cannot wither her, nor custom stale her infinite variety.'

DISTRICT NEWS at a Glance

ORANGEVILLE

Closed curtains on school windows were partially to blame for two break-ins that occurred on Saturday night, according to Town Police. Princess Elizabeth School and Orangeville District High School were broken into sometime during the night. The people responsible were probably looking for money said the police.

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BRAMPTON

Hoping to bring their case to the attention of some local lawyer attending sessions at Peel County Court House, a man and wife from the Cooksville area have been quietly picketing the office of Sheriff William Rame since last Thursday.

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FERGUS

Immediate and long range plans for development of Fergus were discussed at an important joint session of the town's council and planning board on Wednesday night. John Bousfield, planning consultant of Proctor and Redfern, Toronto, presented two reports. The first dealt with the proposed subdivision of RNM Developments of Kitchener, on land in the south corner of Fergus and adjacent parts of Nichol township. The second was the proposed amendment to the town's official plan, with several controversal problems included.

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TRAFALGAR

At present rate of progress indicated by Trafalgar Township's capital works budget, the township will have a new fire hall, a new library and a 20 acre park, before the end of the year.

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OAKVILLE

Oakville will play host to Canada's top junior tennis stars as they vie for places on the Dominion Junior Davis Cup team. It was announced Monday by Peter Barnard, chairman of the Canadian Davis Cup Development Program.

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ACTON

Three days of spieling barkers, whirling rides, buzzing Go-Karts, blaring music and rushing crowds have ended; Acton Legion Minor Sports Association is many dollars richer and wil be able to continue with their children's sports program for another year. Their three-day carnival this year was the most successful of the six they have sponsored.

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MILTON

Milton should have a "nucleus of full time firemen, the ultimate objective being to approach as nearly as possible standard requirements." This is one of the recommendations made by the Municipal Fire Protection Division of the Canadian Underwriters' Association in Toronto in its full report on the town of Milton for the year's up to 1960.

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BURLINGTON

Bogus $10 bills are still turning up at Burlington banks, but police believe the passers responsible have by now left the district.