

# Georgetown Herald

A THOMSON NEWSPAPERS LIMITED PUBLICATION

Serving the communities of Georgetown, Glen Williams, Norval, Limehouse, Hornby, Stewarttown, Ballinacree, Ashgrove, Terra Cotta.

PAGE 4 THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 9th, 1961

## EDITORIAL COMMENT

### Other Things Important Too!

Downtown parking facilities are admittedly an important consideration to merchants and have been receiving a justified share of attention from the downtown merchants' association and council.

But in this age of rapid transit, plazas and discount houses, we think that much more than parking should be considered by merchants who intend to continue in business profitably in the future.

We were perturbed by several points when a special meeting of businessmen was called last week. "A plan of such magnitude and of such importance has been proposed," the letter said, "that we summon the entire merchant and professional body to the meeting."

There are over sixty such in the downtown area. Thirty businesses and property owners were represented. And of the thirty people attending, only 18 stayed un-

til the conclusion of a meeting which lasted two hours.

As a businessman, we would be the first to say that one could never expect total attendance at any one meeting. Nor do we deny that sometimes there are two engagements in one night which must be met. But 30%?

Equally disappointing besides a poor attendance was that a majority of those present seemed relatively unconcerned with anything other than better parking.

There was little comment on a radical proposal to widen Main Street or to think about a shopping mart. There were no proposals for any idea which might be a business booster. It appeared only that, if a large government grant might be available for downtown reconstruction there could be some interest... but when it appears there isn't, that's the end of the matter.

### Why We're Concerned

What concern is it to the general public if the downtown area recedes?

A vital one from a lot of angles.

A town thrives in the same proportion as its commercial districts. They are the show-windows of a community. Their tax revenue is important. They provide essential services which would be missed by residents. And a large percentage of public positions, service club memberships and community positions tend to be filled by businessmen.

It is then a matter of importance to the town council that the business district thrive and expand, and council is rightly interested in helping where possible with advice, ideas, and such money as it is sensible to spend from the tax treasury.

The Herald is concerned, too. From a public angle, because again, a community is built around its industry and its commercial establishments. And from a selfish angle because no newspaper could stay in business long unless it contains a reasonable share of advertising from which the bulk of its revenue is derived.

But councils, like the Lord, tend to be more interested in helping those who help

themselves. And if merchants are themselves not constantly on the alert for new ideas, they can hardly expect town council to spend too much of its time deliberating the pros and cons of matters which will help them.

We would like to see a solution this year to the traffic problem. But we would equally like to see some ideas like the Christmas shopping promotion continued.

Collectively, Georgetown merchants only hold a small percentage of the business available, and we would like to see more concentration on encouraging local folks to buy at home. There could be cooperation between the town's three shopping districts... and friendly competition at the same time, without any paradox.

And if merchants follow a continuous policy of stocking the right goods at the prices which will draw customers, of putting a share of their profits into improvements to their stores, of advertising what they have to sell and, particularly in the smaller stores of giving personalized treatment to shoppers and making them extra welcome in the stores, we will have a business community second to none.

### Support Chamber of Commerce

One place where Georgetown merchants have fallen down is in support of the Chamber of Commerce.

This is unusual, because in most communities the Chamber draws its heaviest support from businessmen. And yet, year after year, the Chamber's membership committee reports little success in selling memberships to merchants, or in persuading them to attend a few meetings during the year.

By coincidence, the annual meeting of the Chamber was held the evening before the businessmen's meeting. And that night,

the total business and property representation from merchants totalled eight.

Again, we do not argue that all merchants can or should be active members. But it is little to expect, surely, that everyone should at least have a token membership, and that a large percentage could display enough interest to at least attend the annual Chamber meeting.

This, to our mind, would be an excellent way for merchants to do themselves and their community a service this year, by joining a group which, more than any other, is dedicated to keeping Georgetown progressive, growing and prosperous.

### THE MAIL BAG

#### Controversy? Here's Views of One Writer

86 Stevens Crescent, Georgetown, Ont.

Dear Editor, Upon reading Mr. Cass' Controversial Corner, we read one man's views on controversial questions. Here are some I would like to put forward.

1. Isn't it a fact that many people who pay lip service to racial equality are nevertheless prejudiced against Jews, Negroes and other races different than their own?

2. Not Right To Blame Canadians. A commonly heard remark about the economic penetration of Canada by U.S. interests is, "Canadians won't spend a dollar in any venture unless they see five coming back."

This is not a true picture. As far as the average working man in Canada is concerned, he is on a par with his counterparts in the U.S. He lives in a mortgaged home, drives an auto on time payments, pays high taxes and even with a wife working has little cash on hand.

This is not the business picture, however, and Canadians are hampered in investments by the fact that the bulk of our markets are south of the border. To set up competing businesses based on exports would mean a financial failure and

ruin, or the sale of the company to the U.S. controlling factors eventually. As of today more than 50% of all profits from Canadian business go to owners south of the border. Let's get the picture straight and don't blame Canadians for lack of enterprise.

3. It's a Small World. It's also a tough world for the American businessman. Every time he comes up with something new the Russians invent it a week before them and the Japanese make it cheaper.

4. Many Pacts Signed Without Tears. In this day of labour-management relations it is surprising the ignorance of what organized labour has accomplished for its members over the years.

Not too many years ago conditions prevailed that were shocking to say the least: Payoffs to foremen to hold a job, working hours ranging up to 16 hours a day. In cases of lay-offs who goes and who stays was left to the discretion of management. Length of service in many cases meant little or nothing. Justified grievances dare not be mentioned.

Labour has made many gains which could not have been accomplished without organization. In some cases we unfortunately have strikes when the two parties fail to agree. This comes to the forefront of

public attention and then we hear the hue and cry that labour has gone too far. The public fails to realize that thousands of contracts are signed daily by mutual agreement of labour and management. Our public communication media have a great tendency to play up strikes and strife yet fail miserably in educating the public to the past practices organized labour has eliminated or mentioning the justice and decent standard of living organized labour has brought to our Canadian society.

W. J. Richmond

#### WEIGHING THE COAL

Two partners were engaged in the retail coal business. One took in a rival meeting one day, was converted, and became very religious. About six months later, the convert noticed that his partner was down in the dumps. He told the other he would feel better if he accepted religion.

His partner retorted, "If we both get religion, who is going to weigh the coal?"

#### FAIR WARNING

If only more orators would have the courage to announce when they start to speak, "As I understand it, my job is to talk to you. Your job is to listen. If you finish before I do, I hope you will let me know."



IVY LEAGUE UNCLE SAM

### Controversial Corner

by Ian Cass

#### A BOOK EVERYONE SHOULD READ

Decreasing moral standards in politics, in business, in law enforcement and in trade-union leadership have frequently been the subject of this column. Now available in book stores and public libraries everywhere, is a book which provides more factual evidence of this creeping corruption than any other document that I have read. The fact that this book deals with events and people in the United States should not produce any smugness in this country. We cannot say it couldn't happen here. It could and it will unless enough of us are determined that it shall not.

#### Enemy Within

The book in question is aptly titled "The Enemy Within." It is written by Robert F. Kennedy and describes the activities of the Senate Select Committee on Improper Activities in the Labour or Management Field. Bob Kennedy was Chief Counsel of this committee. Many people, myself included, must have formed a quite inaccurate impression of the activities of this committee from reading the newspapers, and watching TV coverage.

#### Crushing Indictment

It is true that the committee provided a crushing indictment of labour leaders Dave Beck and James Hoffa, and that it exposed the corruption, graft, violence and dishonesty of many other union leaders. It is an honest union and Walter Reuther is an honest union official. Any attempt to equate him with Hoffa will fail in fact, did fail.

#### Beyond Doubt

This book establishes beyond doubt, an appalling number of cases in which union leaders, racketeers and public officials worked together to swindle, and cheat rank-and-file union members. It explodes the mythology, popular in some circles, that although Hoffa may be tough, he really takes care of his union members.

#### Blindly Against

Another important point which should be remembered by all those who are blindly against trade unions, is that the committee exposed improper activities on the part of at least fifteen attorneys and fifty companies and corporations in the U.S. With the exception of Tennessee, no bar association or management group has taken any steps whatever to disbar, disapprove, condemn, fine or expel any of the attorneys or companies involved.

#### Few Remember

Few people remember Barney Matul, one time president of Teamsters Local 46, thrown out of office and union affairs because he would not take part in one of Hoffa's deals. This was achieved by collusion between the lawyer of one of the major employers in the area and Hoffa's friends in the Teamsters.

#### Opposed Clique

Who ever heard of Clyde Buxton of Local 823 who opposed one of the Beck-Hoffa clique as president of the local? He was beaten unconscious with a hammer. The union president callously admitted that he had ordered the beating. Amos Reniker joined the group opposing the Hoffa supported president. His house was bombed.

#### Led Protest

Floyd Hook led a protest against two Hoffa-sponsored officials who were taking company payoffs for not enforcing their contract. From that day he was a marked man. Threatening phone calls were made all hours of the night. He was followed by car wherever he went. His wife broke down and had to be sent out of the district. Finally he was fired by the company who were apparently quite happy to keep the union leaders in their pockets and b their pocket-book. The two union officials and two other officers were finally convicted on the charge of taking money.

mittee's activities was the American Federation of Labour (AFL-CIO)

#### Encouraging

Finally, Mr. Kennedy makes a statement which is encouraging and a little frightening. "A man with Hoffa's power and position, and so corrupt, cannot survive in a democratic society if democracy itself is going to survive." I wish I were so sure of the result.

Anyone who wishes to express opinion and to be informed on the thorny questions facing labour, management and government should not fail to read this book.

I also recommend it for reading by Ontario Labour Minister Charles Daley in the hope that he will feel less inclined to appeal to Hoffa for assistance in ending a Canadian labour dispute - as he did in 1959. We can do without that sort of help in Canada.

### 10 and 25 YEARS AGO

#### ECHOES

From the pages of the Herald, Feb. 7, 1951 and Feb. 12, 1956

#### 10 YEARS AGO

- At the annual meeting of the Esqueving Agricultural Society in the Community Hall, Stewarttown, on Tuesday, Nelson Robinson of Norval was chosen president for his second term. P. W. Cleave was named treasurer and Garfield McGillivray secretary.
- The Buck Store, gutted by fire is being remodelled. Renovation has started at the Royal Bank, and Don Barrager is expanding business to include the Main St. premises formerly occupied by Helen's gift shop.
- Harold McClure, only charter member of the Georgetown Lions Club who is still an active member was honoured at the 20th anniversary dinner of the club last Tuesday. He received his 20 year chevron from Lion Bill Phipps of Brampton.

#### 25 Years Ago

- At a meeting of the Georgetown Hydro Commission last week Mr. J. B. Gray of Inwood was engaged as superintendent of the local Hydro system to succeed J. H. Forster.

## SUGAR and SPICE

By Bill Smiley

Something rather frightening is happening to the steady, reliable, Canadian citizen. I don't know what's behind it, but it's both unnatural and unnerving. He is beginning to enjoy the winter! Or at least, he pretends he is.

For generations Canadians approached the winter sensibly. When the first snows came they put on their long underwear, a gloomy look, and a long suffering air, and stayed as close to the fire as possible for the next six months. Winter was something to be lived through and there was no nonsense about enjoying it.

But this dour and honest outlook has been completely shattered within the last few years. Every week end thousands of people head out of the cities with their skis and a couple of crocks. Motor clubs hold races through the blizzards, over the icy roads. Curling rinks are crammed. People are spending week ends at their cottages, tramping through huge drifts to get to them.

The other day a friend told me he had taken his family out for a midwinter picnic on a Sunday. The temperature was about eight above. He dug a hole in the snow, built a fire and heated some stew. "The kids loved it," he said. No ants, no flies. And almost no fingers on the smallest boy, by the time they got him home.

But it's not only the young who are revelling in the elements these days. Everyone is infected. Staff members at our school have organized a hockey team. You should hear them sitting around bragging. They may be short of wind on the ice but they're not when they don't have the skates on. Most of them haven't played hockey for more than 20 years. But they are as rabid as the local peewees.

Elderly gentlemen who should be sitting at home with pipe and slippers enjoying the peaceful twilight of their years may be found on any curling rink, dashing up and down as though the devil himself was after them, and sweeping as though angina pectoris was a tropical fruit.

Matronly ladies, who should be at home knitting booties for their grandchildren, may be seen hurtling down some near-perpendicular slopes, bowling over everything in their paths, from fellowskiers to small trees.

Winter carnivals are spreading across the land with the speed of bubonic plague. At these, a few good-looking young

ladies are named Queen of the Carnival, and are never quite the same again, while thousands of young ladies who know they are equally as good looking as not named Queen and are never quite the same again.

Where is it all going to end? When are we Canadians going to stop running around with frozen grins, pretending we just love our big, white, beautiful Winter? How soon will this hysterical nonsense collapse and let us revert to our old happy misery?

I for one, can't stand much more of this jolly, healthy, love affair that we are trying to carry on with that frosty old fermagant, Madame de Winter who has been planting her icy feet in the small of our warm backs for these many years.

Oh, it's easy enough to be trapped into this false delight in winter. Each of us has with in him the tattered remnant of a small child who once wallowed in snow with the grunting pleasure of a small pig rolling in wet mud. And it's this buried memory of the joys of winter that gets us in trouble.

The other day, for instance, I was out with my son, who was learning to ski, rather gingerly. I was egging him on to try the steep slope. "Let's see you do it, Big Shot, if it's so easy," he suggested. There was no way out. I put on the skis, swallowed once, closed my eyes and pushed off, my overcoat flying out behind me. Seconds later, without once having opened my eyes, I found myself at the bottom, still on my feet.

And this is how we are snared. Immediately, I was ready to buy skis, take lessons, and start trying 'schuss' or 'slush' or whatever it is skiers cry as they skim the slopes. I was saved only by my iron will, which always comes to my rescue when I decide I'll learn to play the tuba, or write a novel, or take up Russian. But some people, who don't have such firm control of their faculties, are caught up in the artificial excitement of winter, and go charging about in the snow, uttering shrill little cries of stimulated pleasure.

I have always maintained that Canada in midwinter is fit only for jackrabbits, alcoholics and children under twelve. And the sooner we get back to our old feud with winter, and forget this game of footsie we're trying to play with her, the sooner we'll regain our old, decent, Canadian, midwinter serenity.

house near Milton. When firemen experienced a shortage of water in battling the blaze the King Calcium Co. came to the rescue with a 1,000 gal tank truck.

#### BRAMPTON

Shopping hours are the fuel for fiery meetings between downtown merchants and Mall merchants in Brampton. The Mall merchants were outvoted in their bid to have stores remain open Thursday night, but some have threatened to keep their doors open anyway.

#### BURLINGTON

A committee has been set up in Burlington to explore the need for a "family Y" there. The Burlington service clubs are all taking part in the survey which will first test public reaction and if feasible, campaign for fund raising.

#### WORDS OF THE WISE

It is not death that a man should fear, but he should fear never beginning to live. Marcus Aurelius.

### Georgetown Herald

Published by Thomson Newspapers Limited  
Georgetown, Ontario  
Walter C. Blehn  
Managing Editor  
Garfield L. McGillivray  
Production Superintendent  
Office Staff:  
Aileen Bradley, Terry Harle, John Ollivier, Advertising  
Plant Staff:  
L. M. Clark, Dave Hastings, B. Baskerville, Myles Gilson, Bob MacArthur  
Member of the Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association and the Ontario Division of the C.W.N.A.

### MERRY MENAGERIE By Walt Disney

