

Georgetown Herald

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PAGE 4 Thursday, June 1st, 1961

EDITORIAL COMMENT

A Problem for Merchants

Attempt by a new shopping plaza in Brampton to break the closing hour by-law is a thorny problem for merchants in our neighbouring town.

But it also has a wider interest and should be carefully watched by Georgetown businessmen who indirectly could be affected by any change in shopping hours.

As a matter of fact, it was Georgetown which pioneered in establishing a system of Monday closing and Friday night open hours in this area.

Prior to that, we can remember in town a system of two open nights weekly, Wednesday and Saturdays when the door was latched only after the last customer had left. A Thursday half-holiday gave merchants and employees a few hours respite from their six-day, two evening week, but it is remembered that usually it was one or two o'clock in the afternoon before the store could be closed.

First improvement was dropping of the Wednesday open night. It was revolutionary at the time and met with some opposition from the public and, in fact, from some merchants too.

This consolidated, a few years later agitation started for a shift to Friday open nights and after a lengthy period of discussion and petitions, the shift was made, at the same time bringing in the new idea of Monday closings.

Thus, for the first time, a merchant could compete in hours with industry and

offer their staffs a five day week. This too, met with considerable opposition at the time, but it proved itself when, one after another, neighbouring towns adopted similar legislation and the idea of Monday closing became more and more established in this area.

We think it is a good system, and we think there are few merchants who would want to return to the days of being at the service of the public at all hours of the day and night. It is good particularly, because any change now would be a hardship for small businesses with a staff so small that working hours could not be staggered.

It is good for the buying public because they know exactly when stores will be open and closed.

One cannot say that any system is the perfect one. Nor should we close our eyes to the fact that times change and business cannot be static.

But it is important that, if any changes are to be made, they should be thoroughly studied and the majority voice ruled.

We hope that in Brampton no hasty action is taken. For no town is a business entity, and should a major change occur there, it would have an effect on the local scene too. If Georgetown merchants are against the new trend, they should speak out early and loudly and let their Brampton confreres know majority feeling in town.

Good Community Effort....

Two clean-up efforts by organizations recently have beautified our town and are worthy of commendation.

Some time ago, a Herald editorial prompted members of Delrex Ratepayers Association to spend an afternoon taking down outdated signs from posts in various parts of town.

And on two recent Saturdays, a group of Jaycees did a major clean-up job when they toured the highway with a truck and removed unsightly rubbish which had accumulated during the winter.

It is most important that a town, like

an individual, always keep its best foot forward. And a clean, debris-free town is a tremendous asset and one of the best advertisements that Georgetown could have.

We hope this public manifestation of interest in cleaning up Georgetown will be only the first of many such projects. And even more important, we hope it will act as a spur to each of us to keep our own properties just a little tidier, to pick up those odd scraps of paper, keep lawns cut and, particularly, to care for the boulevards which sometimes are left to weeds and to twitchgrass.

Every Way Professional....

If last week's production of September Tide is a sample of what one should expect from Georgetown Little Theatre, it is a very high one indeed. From its healthy young talent to its set design to its judicious future production.

Stage direction and acting were uniformly excellent when we attended the opening night show on Friday. Only one thing was not to our liking. And a professional should go to the set designers who accomplished the near-impossible of filling the limited stage with furniture and making it appear twice the size that it really is.

rehearse and rehearse a run-of-the-mill play not worthy of presenting in the first place, which even Lunt and Fontaine could not bring to life. This time, a clever play by a well-known playwright was brought to life by the talents of a well-chosen cast.

September Tide was a romantic drama - a difficult task for an amateur cast which in all respects proved equal to the job.

To director Michael Pelechak and his cast, we say "Well done". And an extra bouquet should go to the set designers who accomplished the near-impossible of filling the limited stage with furniture and making it appear twice the size that it really is.

CENSUS FACTS

Canada has the distinction of being the first modern, free world to have taken the Census of 1956. This was the Census of 1956, and it was taken in the month of August, 1956. It was the first census to be taken in the month of August, and it was the first census to be taken in the month of August, and it was the first census to be taken in the month of August.

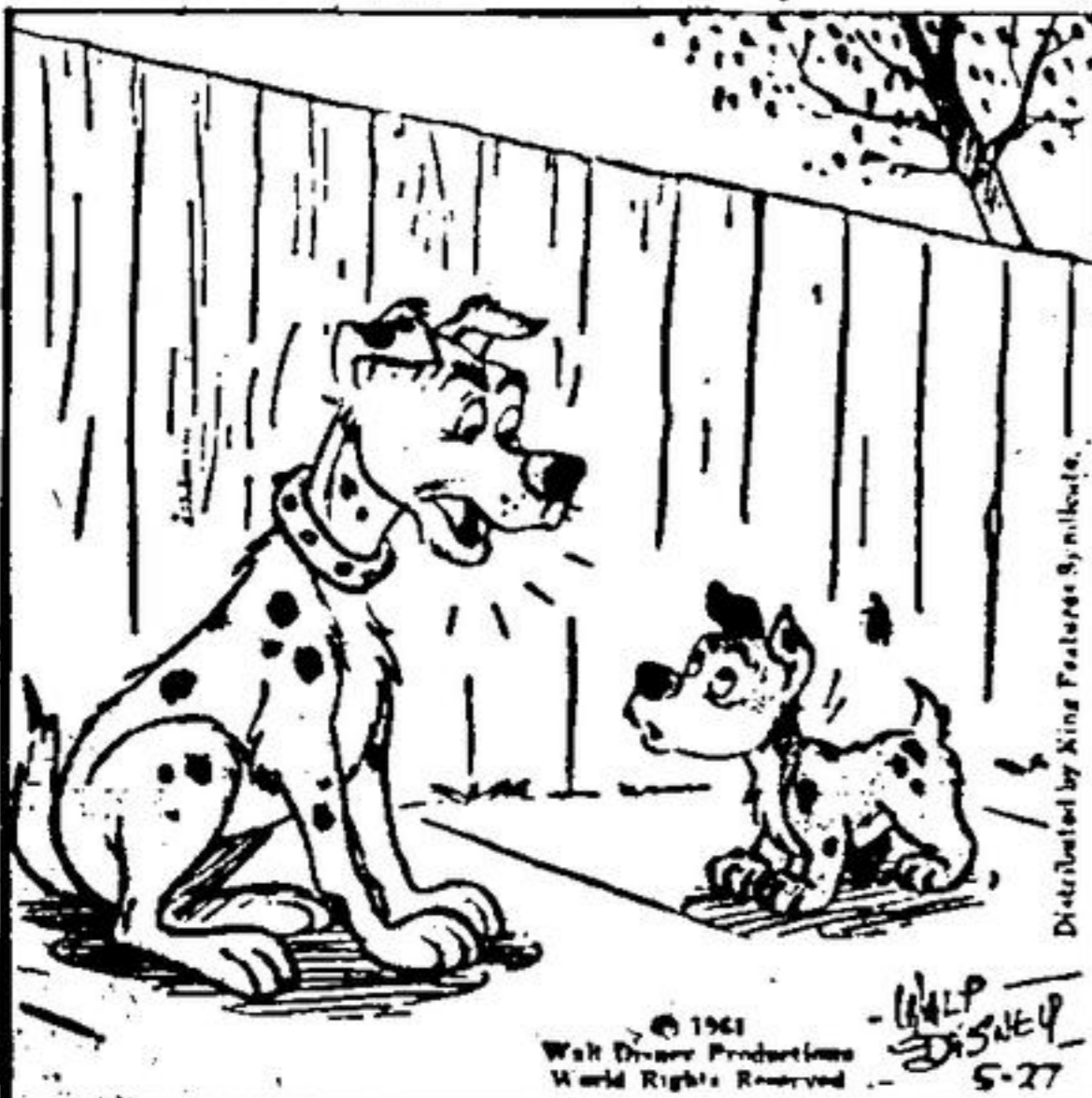
In the Middle Ages, censuses were taken to levy taxes and raise armies. But Canadian law forbids the use of census data for any such purpose.

about any individual, under penalty of fine, imprisonment or both.

For the 1961 Census, Canada will have 1,336 census commissioners and about 26,000 census takers. Each census taker will travel from door to door collecting the facts required.

The census questions which will be asked are listed in a green leaflet being sent to every household in Canada during the last week of May.

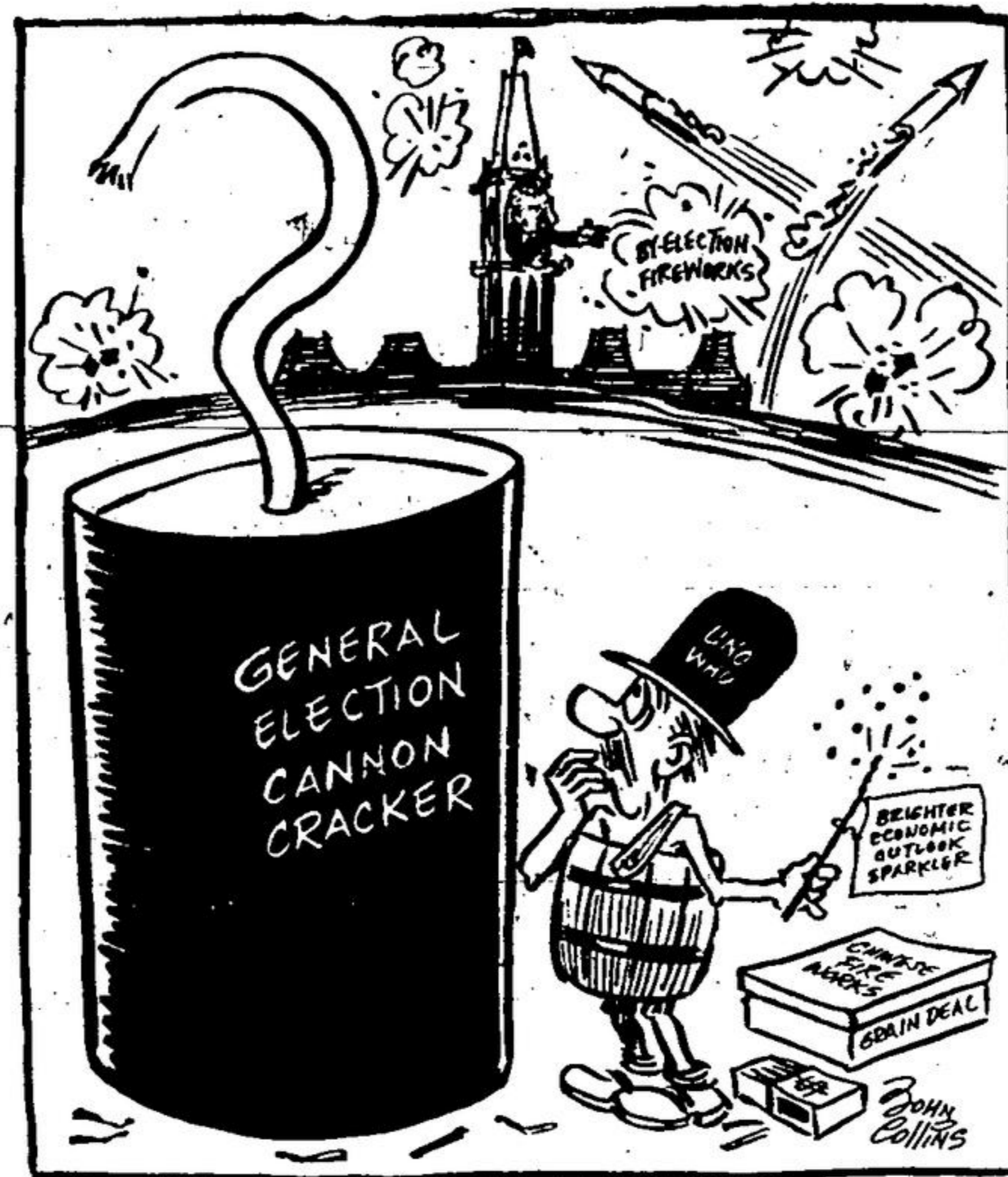
MERRY MENAGERIE By Walt Disney



No, dear! You go 'Bow, wow, wow' - not 'Meow'!

Robin Nests in Flower Box

If you should see scores of open-mouthed children availing on tiptoe to the front door of 65 Prince Charles Drive don't be alarmed. The children are only viewing with rapture a mother robin sitting on her nest which she has made in the square hanging flower box over the front door of the home of Mr. and Mrs. Tony Hull. Needless to say the Hulls' front door area has been declared "out-of-bounds" for the duration of the nesting period.



WHEN ARE THEY GOING TO SHOOT OFF THE BIG ONE?

Controversial Corner

by Ian Cass

MORE MUNICIPAL SCANDAL?

The past three years have seen the disclosure of a disturbing amount of dishonesty, corruption and abuse of public trust in all three areas of human endeavour - in business, in labour and in political affairs. It becomes more clear every day that the public are largely unaware of the methods and practices by which they are duped and exploited and deceived.

The Propaganda

The selfish manipulation and the lying propaganda used by some labour union leaders and officials to exploit and humiliate the working man - backed up where necessary by violence and intimidation - remains a serious threat to our society. The political pressure groups and self-interested lobbying carried out by business groups and powerful corporations, plus recent evidence of price fixing and monopolistic expansion in the business world, have caused expressions of grave concern by business leaders themselves. Closer to us here, perhaps, and lending itself to more accurate analysis, have been the almost continual reports of an embezzlement and moral instability in municipal affairs.

Infractions

Hot on the heels of municipal scandal in Belleville, Eastview and York Township comes a report of blatant infractions of building by-laws in Mimico. At the same time, some ominous rumblings are abroad in Hamilton where the purchasing committee recommended acceptance of a bid from a company in which a Hamilton alderman is a partner.

I am not going into the details of the Mimico affair. It is the same old laundry story of contempt for municipal law and statute. The Toronto newspapers had quite a field day on the business last week and any thing I could write would be second hand. There are, however, two important questions now sharply in focus as a result of this latest disclosure: first of all, the question arises whether or not the frequent disclosures of malpractice and dishonesty in business, labour and politics means that people generally are becoming less honest and more easily corrupted, or are people becoming more concerned and inquisitive over these matters and more determined to find out what is going on? The second question is: do the public have sufficient protection from political corruption?

So Easy

Regarding the question of increasing dishonesty in public affairs, I am inclined to suspect that people in office are getting weaker in moral fibre. This is probably only half the story. The other half rests in the fact that it is so easy for the morally weak to be corrupted and to get away with it. On the municipal level, the Dept. of Municipal Affairs has made it quite clear that if a community has elected corrupt men to council and if those men have misused the people's trust; then it is up to the people to do something about it and not to expect Queen's Park to do it for them. They have, in effect, said, "it's your community and your council - you keep them clean."

Great Pity

Today, an increasing number of municipalities have by-laws requiring the installation of all services by the developer. The benefit sessions will tend to disappear and Ratepayers Associations are likely to fade into oblivion. This is a great pity. It seems to me that such organizations have a very important part to play in municipal affairs - regarding the process of voters and dust. A healthy, progressive, well run community is the result of the interest and energy of its citizens. We cannot all be members of service clubs, Chambers of Commerce or businessmen's Associations because of limitations of occupation and time. There is no reason, however, why most of us could not support an active Ratepayers Association dedicated to ensuring a good, honest, local administration.

Watchdog

The lesson to be learned from Belleville, Eastview, York Tap and Mimico is plain for all to see. This kind of mismanagement is only possible when the general public is uninformed and unconcerned. Honest local councils have nothing to fear from close interest in the way their business is being conducted; dishonest councils would find malpractice more difficult to get away with if their operations were under constant observation by a body acting as the watchdog of municipal government. This is a nutshell, is what a Ratepayers Association should be.

—IAN CASS.

Weekly Newsmen to Join Order Good Cheer

The only order of its kind in the world - which asks only that members have a good time - will be inducted into its fold close to 400 new members who will pay no initiation fee, no dues and never have to meet formally.

The new members, delegates and their wives attending the annual convention of the Canadian Weekly Newspapers Association in Halifax from August 14 to 16, will be inducted into the Order of Good Cheer - one of the oldest social organizations on the North American continent.

The Order of Good Cheer was organized in 1606 at Port Royal, Nova Scotia by Samuel de Champlain as an antidote for the explorers and colonizers who accompanied him.

The 1961 CWNA convention, the 42nd in the association's history, will centre around Halifax' Nova Scotian Hotel and the program facing the delegates will be one of the most interesting and entertaining ever attempted.

The City of Halifax and the Nova Scotian government have cooperated very closely with the convention committee and the well-rounded program which has been arranged will be of general interest to all attending the annual meeting.

A highlight of the convention will be the unveiling of a plaque in honor of Sir Joseph Howe in Province House, followed by a buffet dinner at the same location. Presentation of membership certificates of the Order of Good Cheer will be made to all delegates present.

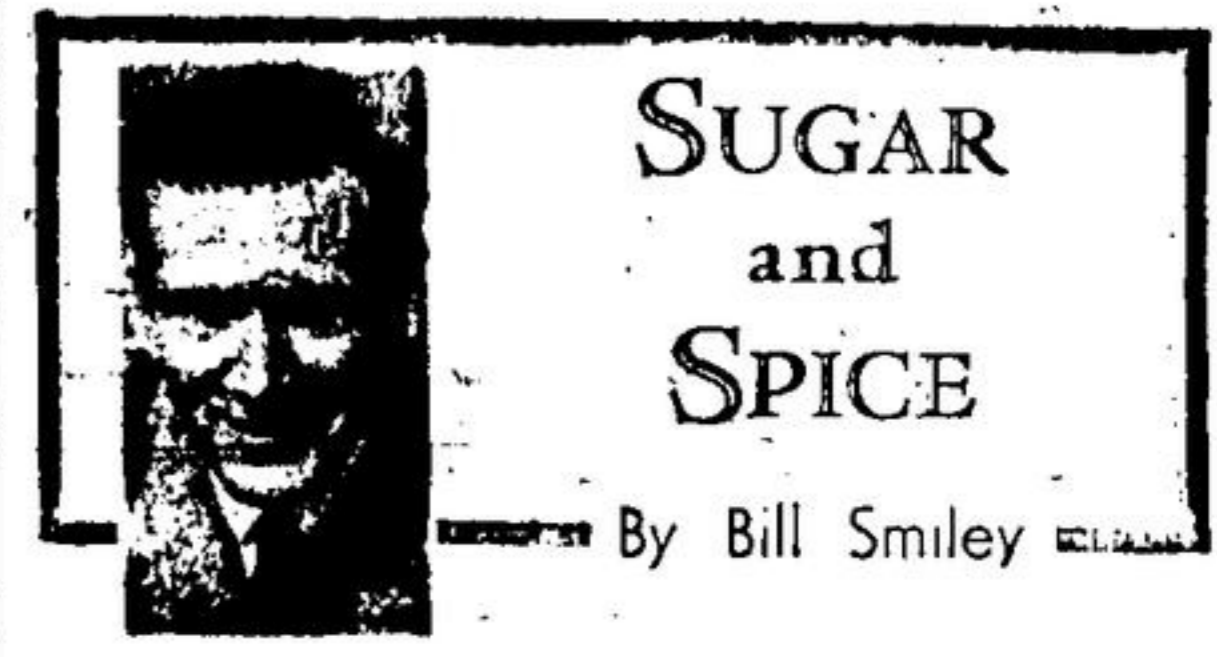
During the convention presentation will be made of the 1961 Better Newspapers Awards given annually by CWNA for the best all-round paper, best editorial page and best front page in the various population groups.

Presiding over the sessions will be CWNA President, Wenden Leavens of the Bolton Enterprise. Convention program chairman is Frank Burns of the Kentville (NS) Advertiser.

239,437 Ontario Blood Donors

There were 239,437 blood donations last year from Ontario people, according to a report from the Red Cross Society just issued.

Many Georgetown people helped in this humanitarian work and later this month their help is needed again in another Blood Clinic. Watch the Herald for announcements about the clinic and plan to help.



SUGAR and SPICE

By Bill Smiley

Tomorrow, I'll be forty-one. It occurs to me that the last four decades have been an interesting period, not only for me, but for the world. Let's have a look back and see what happened to the pair of us.

When my mother presented my father with a red-faced, under-sized, scuffling brat in June, 1920, the world was a fine place. The Great War was over, democracy had triumphed, prices were good, and that great leveler of society, the Model T, was about to start turning plus signs into red-faced curing maniacs.

The next decade was the time of the self-styled "lost generation" - the era of the flapper, the coonskin coat, the rumble seat, the hip flask and jazz. But I'm afraid they didn't mean much to a skinny kid with freckles, growing up in a small town.

The things I remember are: the old silent movies, with the piano player thumping out the William Tell overture as the climax neared; endless summers of hot blue sky; two fat, homey little girls who used to gang up on me and kiss me after school; off for a family picnic every Sunday in the 1923 Chev with the side-curtains; and my kid brother following me everywhere I went, to my unutterable rage and disgust.

That must have been just about the best decade of the world I ever had, a heedless and happy time. My parents were as solid as the earth itself. My dad was always good for a dime, if I worked him carefully. My mother was always there with a kiss or a hug or a cool hand, when I was hurt or scared or sick.

The world was a pleasant place then, too. What I remember most vividly is that it was so quiet and easy-going, compared to the world of today. Men worked 48 or 50 hours a week. But very few of them had ulcers. Women had none of the appliances they have today. But they didn't need sleeping pills. People walked more. Everybody put his car up on blocks in the winter, and nobody drove at night, unless he had to. On summer evenings, people sat on their verandas, and visited, and drank lemonade.

Everyone forty or over knows what happened in the next decade. Our economy came apart at the seams and the world entered the long, grinding years of the great depression. Canada suffered less than some, but enough. People swallowed their pride and went on relief. Thousands of men rode the roads from town to town looking for work, begging for food. There was no work. Those who had jobs took pay cuts without a murmur, and lived in fear of worse.

My dad hung on grimly, but lost his business in the end. At fifty, he had a wife and five children, no job and no money. We made out. My mother took in boarders, sold home baking and pitched the pennies until they bled. My dad took any work he could get. I remember one job was selling coffins. He sold three in three months, and his total commissions were about \$60. Out of this he paid his car expenses, meals and lodgings, on the road.

It was a difficult time to be an adolescent. But I have wonderful memories of that decade. First love, in high school. Playing rugby in the fall mud. Square dancing half the night at country dances. My first job, sailing on the Lakes. First interest in world affairs, and a burning desire to go to Spain with the International Brigade, but too young.

The Thirties ended with a bang, when we went to war. Before I was swept away on the stream, with the rest of my generation, I had a year at university, by sheer luck. That was a good time. The "phony war" was still on, and we squeezed every drop of juice from our student days, knowing they were of brief duration.

I don't know what happened to the Forties. They went by in a blur of excitement. Overseas, pubs, girls, friends, operation, prison camp, back to university, scuttled by a pair of brown eyes, married and a father before I rightly knew what was happening.

Then the Fifties, as I entered my thirties. Into the weekly newspaper business and working like a dog. Delighting in my babies. Thrill of the first second-hand car. Fun of buying an old house and fixing it up. Satisfaction in turning out a good paper, sometimes. Good

10 and 25 YEARS AGO ECHOES

10 and 25 YEARS AGO

From the Pages of The Herald, May 30, 1951, and June 3, 1936

10 YEARS AGO

- A local knitting company is erecting a new business building in Georgetown, Wilfred Levic and Son have started work on a one store factory on the west side of the highway, just over the White Bridge.

- The oldest established taxi business in town has been sold. Fred Leeder, Glen Williams, operator of the Glen Taxi, has purchased the Deluxe Taxi from Ray Whitmore.

- A group of twelve members of Georgetown Hunters and Anglers have been looking for a site for their clubhouse and have settled on Hickory Falls. They plan to build it themselves from trees standing on the property.

25 YEARS AGO

- While giving a hand to raise one of the new light standards in front of Mr. A. E. Farnell's store Tuesday, Mr. Will McDonald received a severe cut over his left eye when a falling globe struck him.

- On Sunday afternoon the Acton Concert Orchestra under the leadership of A. Mason will present a musical program on the lawn at Huntley's Inn.

- J. P. Kirkwood of Ballinfaed will unload a car of salt at Georgetown station on Saturday. Get your salt for 33.72 at off car prices.

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Theire off!



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