

Georgetown Herald

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THURSDAY, MARCH 15th, 1962

... EDITORIAL COMMENT ...

Depends on the People

For a second year Georgetown's night school is threatened with termination. Last year, following news that night school might fold, enough interest was indicated at a public meeting to have the school continue for another season. But the committee in charge has been disappointed to find that, of dozens of courses offered, only nine drew adequate registration to merit a class.

Those who have attended the night school courses have found them most enjoyable. Georgetown's situation is such that competent instructors can be found in almost any craft within a driving radius. The cost is ridiculously low. And residents have found a degree of sociability as an

extra dividend, meeting congenial friends in the atmosphere of the classroom.

It is not unusual to find that enrolment has dropped after several years of successful operation. But it is unusual to learn that there was barely enough interest in an area which boasts 15,000 or more people, to support only a minimum number of classes.

Another public meeting is being called in early April and, according to the night school committee, the fate of night school will be placed in the hands of those interested enough to show up.

A word of warning should be sufficient. If you want the school to continue, plan to be at the meeting.

Thoughts on Ward Voting

With Georgetown's return to ward voting only a few months old, there has been some criticism levelled by municipal authorities.

Wards were voted in a year ago by a substantial majority of the ratepayers and last December, for the first time in several years, councillors were chosen, two from each of three wards.

Any system has good and bad points, and a major criticism of wards is that a man who might have been a good addition to council may lose in one ward while less competent men are elected in another.

This is a failing of ward voting which cannot be corrected.

However, those who have strong feelings in this respect should be promoting the idea of electing the complete council by general vote, then letting councillors

choose their mayor, reeve and deputy. For it is even more true that council usually loses a good man when there is an election for one of the senior offices.

On the other hand, ward voting has a definite advantage in allowing candidates to concentrate their election appeal in the part of town where they are best known. And it is generally true that public elections are, in many respects, a popularity contest and the man whose name is best known is most likely to be chosen near the top of the ballot.

It is equally true that it is an advantage to ratepayers to have a representative who lives in their own part of town, is familiar with localized community problems and can deal with these more efficiently than a man who must handle problems at every location in town.

Managing Town Difficult

There is some talk at present of hiring a town manager.

What million dollar business operates without a manager, claim the proponents. We would save money, say others.

It would lead to greater municipal efficiency, is heard from some.

But no one has yet pointed out that, in effect, the town does have management, though not confined to one man under our current system.

Management, actually, is shared between the clerk-treasurer, works superintendent and assessment commissioner, all of whom do their jobs with reasonable efficiency, and at much lower salaries than a town manager would command.

Creation of an overall supervisor would most certainly not lower the municipal salary bill, and there is every chance that it would increase it, for the job would not eliminate any of the present office holders, nor would it lessen the work load they do.

Chances are that, not only would it

add a man in the ten thousand dollar and up class to the town payroll, but, if he were to do the job required, it would add even more subordinate office help for a manager would be embarking on projects which time does not allow the current staff.

We are not saying there are no merits in engaging a town manager. But we do say that the same thing could well be achieved by delegating more authority to present senior officials, with a corresponding increase in salary.

There are many minor items, which take the time of councillors in and out of meetings which could be handled more efficiently by staff members. If this is not done, then it is the council itself which is at fault in not making the best use of town personnel.

What we mean to say is that, in effect, we have a town manager now — one with two or three heads, perhaps, but capable of doing the very things which indicate the need for such a position.

DISTRICT NEWS AT A GLANCE

ORANGEVILLE
Dufferin Area Hospital will have an addition costing an estimated \$100,000. It plans proceed as expected, the building extension will get under way in 1963.

BURLINGTON
Town Council's financial committee learned Tuesday it needed an \$180,000 from the current draft budget to permit a 1962 tax rate of 62 mills — the same as last year.

BRAMPTON
Professional Theatre is coming to Brampton. In a preview performance on March 23rd, the rollicking success "Spring Thaw" will be staged at the Composite school auditorium. "Long a favorite with Toronto audiences 'Spring Thaw' pokes fun at the Canadian foibles and fancies in its lively songs, dances and skits.

OAKVILLE
Provision for park lands to be made in future subdivisions in Oakville. Town council Monday night, approved a recommendation from the parks board that when a plan of residential subdivision is submitted to the planning board, the

board's committee dealing with parks and recreation consider the aspects of future park within the subdivision.

STREETSVILLE
Skating on the mile long Credit River rink has ended for this year. Reeve Robert Speck told Toronto Township council Monday the rink has been declared unsafe because it is only nine inches thick.

ERIN
Erin District High School Board received official approval from the Ontario Municipal Board for the addition of three classrooms and an auditorium. The next step in their building program is the preparation of detail plans and approval of the Department of Education.

AURORA
A large tract of 72 acres of land on the town limits has been offered to the town at "below market price," with a low down payment and the offer of mortgage. The owner suggested the land could be turned into an industrial area.

LOS
A woman clad in a suit jacket and a slip approached the Lost and Found department and inquired anxiously: "Has anybody turned in a black skirt with five children from two to six hanging onto it?"

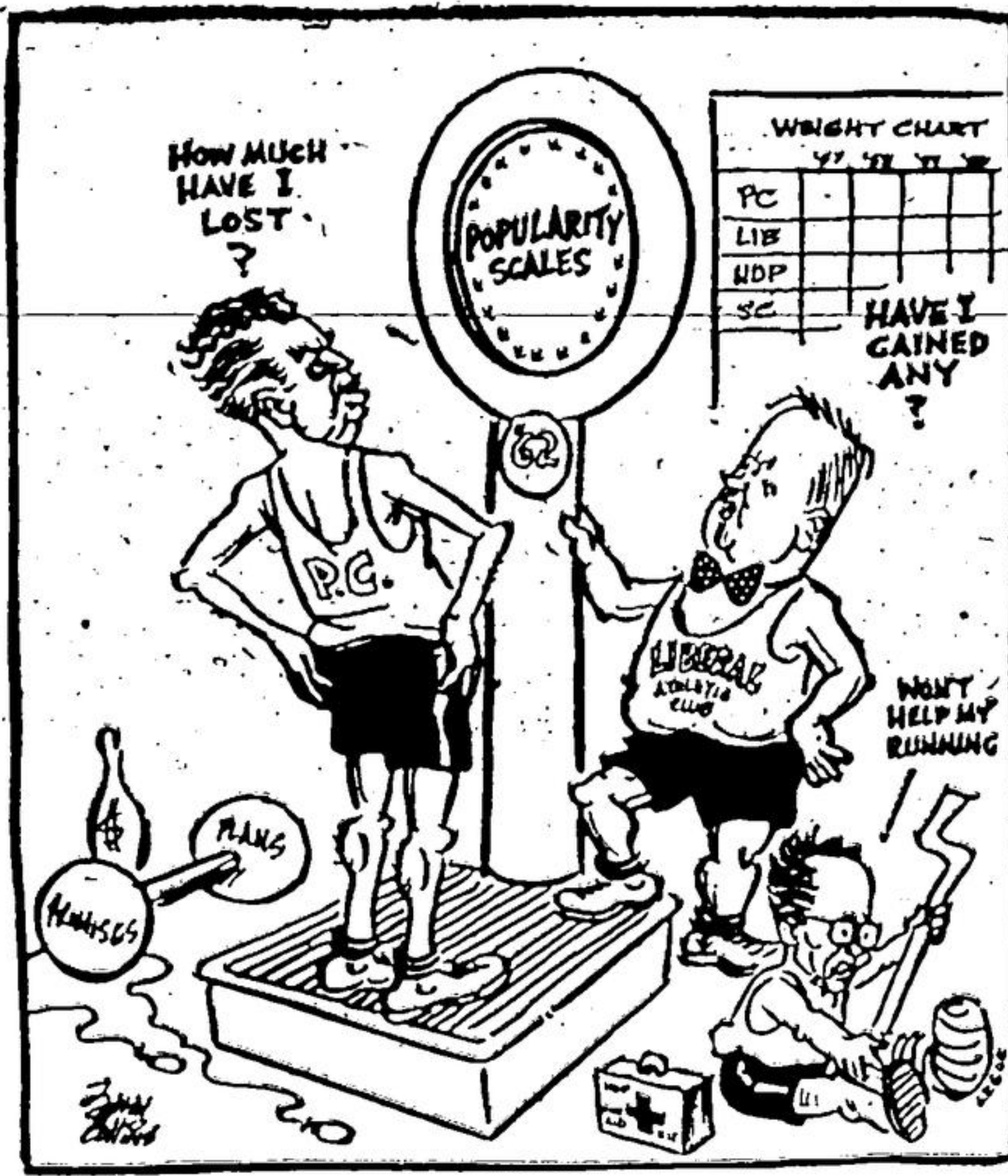
SHARING TROUBLE CAN LESSEN LOAD
Talking over your troubles to a sympathetic and wise friend can often halve that trouble. Major problems in industry that cause just time are nervous disorders. Sometimes the reason is unsuitability of a worker's job either through the work being beyond his capacity or through lack of interest. If the company has an employees' council or a labor relations counsel, consultation with this official may help the worried worker to change to a more suitable job, so that he could become a more valuable employee.

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OTTAWA FITNESS CAMPAIGN

Racial Discrimination In Halton County??

by Vicky Innes
in the Burlington Gazette

A reporter in Burlington has apparently uncovered evidence of discrimination in Halton County. Vicki Innes talked to West Indian negro girls last week who were allegedly slighted while seeking accommodation.

Coloured West Indian nurses are warning their friends against coming to Burlington. Several negro members of the Joseph Brant Memorial Hospital nursing staff have written former colleagues in England advising them of racial discrimination in town.

"Come to Canada, by all means, but make sure it isn't Burlington," is the tone of the letters.

Not every West Indian nurse there are 10 living in Burlington has been discriminated against because of the color of her skin. But the treatment given six indicates that each has an equal chance of encountering the color bar.

WORST MOMENT
One nurse, describing an experience, termed it "the worst moment of my life."

Mrs. Elynn (last name) had been to see an apartment with Mrs. Frank Winn, who is in charge of accommodation for nurses, a service provided by the Women's Hospital Auxiliary.

The landlady had given Mrs. Winn a friendly welcome, shown her around and said she hoped Miss Tracey would stay there at least six months.

The nurse agreed to move in that evening. But later, Mrs. Winn received a call from the woman saying she couldn't take Miss Tracey.

Among her excuses: "I didn't know she was so black."

When Miss Tracey called to confirm the lodging, the woman denied ever having seen her.

"When Mrs. Winn told me what happened, it was the worst moment of my life," she said.

Of the ten nurses interviewed by the Gazette, five others had had similar experiences.

FELT BITTER
Miss Eda Dixon said she felt very "bitter" after finding her first landlady in Burlington had disapproved the bath after the girl had used it.

Eric Pindar, a male nurse trained in British Guiana, who also had a diploma in psychiatry, was also given lodgings on arrival. But later, his landlady informed Mrs. Winn that her other boarders objected to rooming with a colored person in the house.

Mrs. Pindar later nursed the woman's husband.

Two others, Miss Marjorie Blackwood and Miss Daphne Pole, twice arranged to see apartments after informing the landlady they were coloured. In both cases, no one was home to admit the girls at the appointed time.

"All one house we could see a person watching us behind a curtain," said Miss Blackwood.

PUSHED OFF BUS
Another girl was pushed off a bus by a passenger and was only allowed transportation on the intervention of the driver.

Mrs. Winn said it was obvious, after hearing both sides of these stories, that all incidents were caused by the nurses' colour.

NO LODGINGS
Mrs. Winn said she would not at present be able to let suitable lodgings for a single colored person in Burlington.

The task is more difficult because the rooms should be furnished and with the necessary of the hospital, she admitted. And it was easier to find a place for two colored girls than one.

It was her policy, she added, to ask those offering lodgings whether they would accept colored nurses.

Mrs. Winn has accepted 120 nurses, 10 of whom are colored.

"Many people are terrified of what their neighbours will say," she has found.

Some of the colored girls she added were planning to write the West Indian Colonial Office in London, England, unless something is done about the situation.

Three of the girls would advise their colored friends to come to Canada, but not to Burlington.

"I wouldn't want others to experience this problem," said one.

One said she would find accommodation for her friends before they arrived in Burlington and another would explain the situation and advise a colored girl to come with a friend.

Said Miss Zina Roberts, who has specialized in surgery: "Why can't we even live next door to people who trust us with their lives when we nurse them?"

Five girls who had been in England and Europe said they had never encountered any problem because of their color.

TOLD OUTRIGHT
"There may be discrimination in England but not to nurse," said one of the nurses.

And, said Miss Saahy, the English would say "no accommodation" and at least have the courage of their convictions. Here, we are not told outright."

Mr. Pindar, however, who has worked in both the United States and England, said his experiences here were no worse than in the other two countries.

"It is an individual thing," he said. "I can disregard it."

Mr. Pindar, who has a wife and three children, has no thought of nursing.

Commenting on the situation, hospital administrator William O'Neill said no employer could refuse a person on the grounds of color.

But we would be loathe to bring colored girls here if they were going to be subjected to embarrassing incidents in accommodation," he said.

WORK SATISFACTORY
The girls are all well educated and their work is entirely satisfactory. They are rendering a great service to the community, so I don't understand why they should have any trouble.

The hospital is currently negotiating with some nurses from the Philippines, all of whose degrees are recognized.

Mr. O'Neill also pointed out it was illegal to discriminate because of color in the field of accommodation.

Despite the problems encountered all the nurses agreed most people in Burlington had been extremely nice.

All were invited to Canadian homes for Christmas and many have Canadian friends.

In fact, one pointed out, housing was the main problem.

"People who would not board us because of what their neighbors might say will smile at us on the street," she said.

But a smile is not always enough.



SUGAR and SPICE

By Bill Smiley

Well, Education Week is all and peddle it through an expense over for another year, thankless advertising and sales campaign, and we educators can get back to the job of leading horses to water, without being urged on by fervent articles in the newspapers and dull panels on television.

And it's a jolly good thing you can't, because there are plenty of people in the world who would like to do just that. In the big Commie countries, they are trying to do it right now. They are having apparent success and that's why everybody panics whenever the newspapers announce that the Russians are now turning out 23 or whatever per cent more engines than we are.

I'd like to make a little prophecy. Mark this down and pass it along to your children. Here it is: These production line education systems we fear are currently causing the seeds of their own destruction.

Why? That's easy. Look at what happened in the western world when they began educating us peasants. Now we think we're as good as anybody. We topple governments, we criticize kings, we demand more money for less work, we thump our collective noses in the general direction of authority.

What do you get when you start educating the masses? You get a lot of smart alecs. Or smart livers, or smart Wopps. Mark my words, one of these days their leaders will wake up to it, but it will be too late. When all these educated Commies get sick of the same old ideas and start looking around for some new ones, there'll be a tremendous explosion. You can't put everybody in a concentration camp.

And with these few comforting thoughts, let us say farewell to Education Week as it slowly sinks out of sight for another year. And let us spare a tear for my son Hugh, who chose this, of all weeks, to come home with his worst report card of the year.

THE DATE BOOK
March 11 - 17, Girl Scout Week; March 11, 1938 (24 years ago), Hitler invaded Austria; March 12, 1912 (50 years ago), Girl Scouts founded by Juliette Lewis; March 15, Easter Seal fund-raising drive starts; March 15, 1917, (45 years ago) Nicholas II abdicated as Czar of Russia; March 16, 1802 (160 years ago), U.S. Military Academy at West Point established by Act of Congress; March 17, St. Patrick's Day; March 17, 1902 (60 years ago), Calaveras Babes born.

MAYBE A "GOOD" SC CIGAR YET
Cuba's troubles eventually may mean lower Canadian prices for "premium" cigars, says Norton Anderson in The Financial Post.

Tobacco men are worried about future leaf supplies from Cuba, and think now is the time to try to make the deals coming off the production line as much of cash and blood. If down, if Cuban tobacco prices breathe and thinks and fears, drop, some Canadian cigar and rebels and laughs. You makers say they would be can't mold or press it into the desired standard shape and the price of Canadian-made cigars, cram it into a package, one containing Cuban tobacco.

10 YEARS AGO
Little damage but a lot of excitement resulted when a plane made a forced landing in a field behind Harrison's Garage on the highway Monday. The plane hit a ditch, flipped over and skidded several feet upside down. P. C. Bud Buckwald investigated.

After considerable preliminary work on the part of the directors of the Esquering Agricultural Society they are now ready to start construction of a new building in the park to house livestock on fair days.

The largest crowd ever to jam into Stewarttown Hall attended the International Harvester party Monday, which was arranged by the local company dealer, Ken McMillan. Lucky door prizes were won by Mrs. Charlotte Osborne, Mrs. W. J. Cleave, Jack Smith, Leslie Young, Harvey Nurse, Gordon Gregison, Lloyd Sweeney, and W. T. Graham.

25 YEARS AGO
There was a large attendance at the Rebekah Lodge birthday party in the arena last Friday when this popular lodge celebrated their 18th birthday. Euchre prize winners were Ladies, Mrs. R. B. Shortill and Mrs. Henney; Man, Mr. Webb of Guelph, Mr. S. V. King. Winning lucky number prizes were Mrs. Robert Erwin, and Mrs. Broomehead.

Advertisement: Seasonable Specials at Brill's: Ladies' spring coats, \$9.75; Children's cotton hose, 15c pair; Best ladies' shoes \$2.49; Men's top coats, \$10; Men's suits, \$12.95; Boys' tweed suits \$4.95; Ladies and misses' swag-ger suits \$8.95.

At the Gregory Theatre: "Annapolis Farewell", starring Sir Guy Standing, Tom Brown, and Richard Cromwell; "One Frightened Night", starring Mary Carlisle; "The Winning Ticket", starring Leo Carrillo and Louise Fazenda.