

# Georgetown Herald

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## EDITORIAL COMMENT

### About Mail Bag Letters

During the election period, the Herald was well supplied with Mail Bag letters from readers.

Some of them were strong in tone. One or two had personal elements which in our opinion bordered on libel. And in these cases we contacted the writer, explaining why we were deleting portions of the letter.

In all cases we printed the letters, save for the deletions.

There was some reaction, and we received a few phone calls objecting to the publication of the letters from people on the other side of the political fence. To each we explained, as we have occasionally done in print, that we do not have to share the views of letter writers, any more than readers have to share our editorial views.

To put it on record again, we are not the arbitrator of opinions of our readers and we welcome such opinions, with the proviso that they keep their words free of libel and within the bounds of good taste. While a newspaper is a private business

and can make its own rules, it belongs to some extent to the public too. An editor, we believe, has no right to bar expressions of opinion from readers and Mail Bag letters are an important feature of the weekly issue.

Herald editorials deal weekly with a variety of subjects, mostly local but occasionally national. We try in these to give a pat on the back to an individual or organization we feel worthy of mention. We express constructive criticism about topical questions and suggestions which we, as an editor, feel would be for the betterment of the community.

We do not, as do some editors and some newspapers, look on ourselves as a crusader or a moulder of public opinion, in the sense that we have omnipotent power to dictate to a community and impress our views on its residents. We tread a thin line here, for we realize the power of the printed word, and the logner one works as an editor, the more careful he becomes in expressing views which might unduly sway readers.

### About Land Release

The feelings expressed above have had a definite bearing on the Herald's editorial attitude in the last half dozen years, when land release has been a vital problem in Georgetown.

The Herald and its editor, have been accused of being pro-Delrex by the anti-Delrex by the pro. And both sides have accused us of fence-sitting in our approach to the controversy.

Which of these three heads fits the Herald?

And what is the Herald's position in the midst of a question which has occupied a large portion of town council meetings for years and been a conversation piece for ratepayers.

Our answer is quite simple.

I have tried to keep our head amidst charges and counter-charges which would test the wisdom of a Solomon. And we have tried to let nine men, elected by our democratic process, combine their talents to make a majority decision without attempting to superimpose the opinion of what is, after all, only one more man in the person

of the Herald editorial writer.

Following passing of a new subdivision control by-law in late 1961 and a subsequent agreement okayed with another subdivider, we advocated a similar new agreement between the town and Delrex Developments, with provisos for a penalty payment for unfulfilled obligations and consultation with senior government.

This year, when council amended the control by-law we again suggested this procedure.

This has been the only recent major editorial comment on land release which the Herald has made. If council was influenced by this to consult Queen's Park before ratifying a proposed new agreement, then we must share the credit or blame for the answer received.

Perhaps, like most residents who try to be impartial, we wear a little of all the heads. And if we veer to fence-sitting it should not be taken as weakness, but as a means of allowing our selected councillors to decide without the pressures which can be forced upon them by the printed word.



TWO OUT THREE DOCTORS AGREE



### SUGAR and SPICE

By Bill Smiley

Jangled nerves. Jangled nerves. Jangled all the way. Through the maddening madness. Preceding Christmas Day.

If people tried to go at the same clip during the rest of the year as they do in the few weeks before Christmas, the world would soon be populated by a race of wild-eyed, twitching maniacs. Even mental institutions attuned to an era of guided missiles in the hands of misguided mortals couldn't stand that pace much longer.

Never mind, chaps, we're in the home stretch. Only another few days of Christmas cards, concerts, carols, and cranberries, Christmas pageants, puddings and parties, Christmas trees, turkeys and tinsel, and we can go back to being realistic. There are lights and decorations, so light sleep we are the rest of the year.

For kids, the pre-Christmas winking is just dandy. There are letters to be written to St. Claus. There are Christmas concerts at which to be miraculously and temporarily transformed from small devils to small angels. There are glass balls to be shattered while we're decorating the tree. There are packages, rustling mysteriously, to be ripped open in drawer and closet.

For the elderly, too, the Christmas season brings excitement. There is the sound of carols, good times in the past. There are lights and decorations to put a splash of color into the drab grey of endless days. And there is a little extra warmth and humanity abroad, to make people pay some attention to the old folk, for a change.

But for everybody in the so-called prime of life, it seems that Christmas, or at least the couple of weeks before the big day, has become an orgy of shopping, mailing, screaming, scrambling and worrying that produces little but tension, tiredness and tears. Especially among the women. Pity, isn't it?

Like most men, I'm about 50-50 on Christmas. At times, I'm strongly in favour of the whole business, at others violently opposed. Knowing that it puts me in debt, every year, until about the following June, I'm pretty ballpoint about it all around the first of December. I put my foot down. I state flatly that we are going to cut down on everything: cards, gifts, and especially 'stuff for the kids.'

ding and receiving of cards. It's the one time of year when I pay any heed to old friends and relations. I dig up the addresses of old hand pilots in Australia, India, and South Africa, and send them cards in which I triple my income, and my state of health. They do the same, the liars.

And when the cards come in, I read every one. For one thing, it's the only way I find out that my two brothers are alive, where they are, and how many children they have. Last I heard, one was in Europe, the other in the West Indies. Their wives send cards.

Our first card this year was Belfast, Ireland, and addressed: Mr. and Mrs. Smiley, 790 Bay St., Ontario, Canada. There ain't no such place, but it arrived here, inside, it read 'To Gracie, Alex and family, from Kay and David.' We did not know a soul on either end of the greeting, but it was a nice card. The address was there, so my wife will probably send them one next year, and we'll keep exchanging for years.

To balance out my pleasure in the cards is my homicidal hatred of the erection of the tree. This is one time of the year when my family sees the head of the house in his true colours. Or, rather, blue, because if you can hear him, rather, insist that the living room be cleared of women and children before I start. Then it is that these come back to me those fine, rolling, mouth-filling satisfying Celtic oaths my Dad used to use when he was down cellar fixing the furnace and thought my mother couldn't hear him.

15% INCREASE IN EMPLOYMENT TOTAL  
During November 284 persons were placed in employment by the National Employment Service, an increase of 15 per cent over the number placed during the same month last year.

Although more jobs were found during the month than last year, the number of persons registered for work increased over the end of October, 1962, by 137. It is normal to record an increase in the number registered for work at this time of year, however, it is significant to note that the number of persons registered for work remains lower than the previous year. At the end of Nov., 1962, there were 933 persons registered for work as compared with 1036 one year ago.

Another interesting factor is that during the last week of November, 1961, there were 231 claims for benefit filed in the Brampton office. During the same week this year, only 158 claims were filed; a rise of 17%.

The Brampton Employment Office serves Chinguacousy, Caledon, all of Dufferin County, part of Eglarling Township, including Georgetown.

### PEOPLE WE CAN DO WITHOUT

DRIVERS WHO tailgate at any speed but particularly at 60 mph on a highway — refuse to signal before they turn — signal a turn after they've started it — drive astraddle the white line — take up both lanes while waiting a chance to turn — park their delivery trucks in the travelled portion of the street even though there's an empty parking space at the curb — unload cases of drinks from trucks smack in the middle of traffic — turn left from a right-hand lane or right from a left-hand lane — get cut off by their cars on the traffic side then glare daggers at you when you sound your horn to let them know you almost killed them — edge their cars gradually into an intersection while awaiting the red to turn green — screech their tires on a take-

off or turn (maybe they don't care that it takes 75 cents worth of rubber off with every screech) — refuse to install seat belts in their car — occupy two parking spaces — block a used laneway when they park — drive with parking lights on when lights are called for (the law requires headlights; so does common sense) —  
CYCLISTS WHO ride two on a bicycle — ride two abreast in traffic — ride the wrong way on a one-way street — saas at you when you sound your horn to let them know you're there so they won't suddenly turn late your path — ride a bike without lights at night — dentured car-size space in truck hour traffic — refuse to signal turns — stunt — weave through traffic — refuse to stop at intersections — hitch rides on automobiles and trucks — do not obey school patrols.

PEDESTRIANS WHO stroll across in front of cars walking to move — jay-walk stand several feet out on the street while awaiting a "Go" signal — start to cross an intersection on the amber signal — refuse to obey "Don't Walk" lights — defy death by walking on the travelled portion of a highway when there's plenty of safer room on the shoulder — walk along the right-hand side of the highway — cannot be seen at night — talk to a policeman when he's directing traffic — forget that a car's brakes just might not work this time.

BUY BUTTONS OFF CLOTH  
When cutting buttons off a piece of cloth, slide a thin comb between button and fabric and snip the threads with a razor.

## ECHOES

From the pages of the Herald, 1961, 1952, and 1957

- 1 YEAR AGO  
Local service stations are waging a gas war and at writing time gas prices had dipped to 36.9c per gallon. Garage proprietors surveyed said that nobody made money on the deal but because of the increase in volume of business, nobody lost. The sooner it is over, the better, was their collective opinion.
- Long distance telephone charges between Acton and Georgetown were eliminated coinciding with the introduction of dial phones in Acton. As a result Acton and Georgetown exchanges are now local ones and each may be dialed direct from the other by Bell customers.
- 10 YEARS AGO  
Two Rockwood youth died in the blazing wreckage of a car on Silvercreek Hill early Sunday morning two miles west of here. The double fatality occurred shortly before 3:30 a.m. A passing motorist saw the car ablaze at the roadside and a call was put in to the fire department.
- With tentative approval received from five municipalities for a \$350,000 building program, North Halton High School District Board heard at their meeting Thursday night in Stewartville that the Municipal Board has also given the go-ahead signal for debenture issues by Georgetown, Acton and Milton, to cover the cost of schools.
- 25 YEARS AGO  
After swimming in nearly every river from here to Vancouver, Krikor Hekimian, "The Human Seal", blew into the Herald office this morning and announced his intentions of taking a dip in the icy waters of the Credit River on Sunday afternoon, at the paper mill dam. Krikor is one of the Armenian boys who made his home for a number of years in Georgetown. He'll give \$25 to anyone who can stay in the icy water as long as he can.
- Four bond houses tendered for Georgetown's issue of \$14,800 debentures carrying 3 1/2%, and every one of them quoted above par. They were sold for 101.427, which is indeed very gratifying. It is a great thing to live in a good town.

## DISTRICT NEWS AT A GLANCE

### BRAMPTON

Plans are being made by the Chamber of Commerce to stage an annual flower festival in Brampton beginning next summer. The object of the festival, say chamber directors, would be to focus the spotlight on the many phases of life in Brampton. The proposed festival would run three days. The festival would possibly be styled after the gigantic Portland Oregon Rose Festival.

### CHINGUACOUSY

An expectant mother reached hospital in time, but only after the car in which she was a passenger was involved in a rear-end collision on a township road last Sunday. Mrs. Bronislaw Korban was being taken to Peel Memorial Hospital by her husband when their car was struck from behind in the fog. People in the other car received facial lacerations.

### ORANGEVILLE

A pack of wolves is harassing sheep owners here and last week-end their number was reduced by one. John Coulter heard a commotion outside his farm home, went out and turned on his auto lights and surprised one of the pack standing 30 feet away. He shot a small mongrel and a German Shepherd were almost going wild. He returned to the house, got his rifle and dropped the animal where it stood. On the farm of Bob Buchanan two miles away 37 sheep were killed by five wolves the previous week.

### PERGUS

With the unusual weather and comparative lack of snow, Lake Belwood is almost completely frozen over with a surface like glass. If temperatures stay down at night the lake will be one of the biggest and finest skating rinks in the country, about five miles long by a mile and a half wide.

### ERIN

A coroner's jury recommended signing and marking of rural intersections here last Wednesday after hearing evidence in a collision which resulted in the death of Mrs. Jeanne Doupage of Limehouse. No blame was assessed to the driver of either vehicle.

### ACTON

Election fever hit more Actonians this year than at any time since 1957. Fifty-four percent of the eligible voters cast their ballots at the polls. In 1957 63 percent went to the polls. George Barbeau succeeded the retiring mayor John Goy by defeating Edward MacDonald.

### Poultry Population Totals Half Million

Halton County had a laying hen population of over 164,000 in 1961. In addition there were another 100,000 chickens and pullets under 6 months of age. Added to this is a population of almost 300,000 chicks under 3 months of age for a total population of 560,000 with a monetary value close to one half-million dollars. This, in itself, represents a heavy investment on the part of Halton County's poultry producers but it is only the beginning.

Nothing Like Comfort Poultry, to produce, require conditions of comfort which would surprise the average person. Their home must be insulated, sometimes to a greater extent than their own-

ers. The building must be ventilated, using power driven fans, in order to maintain a fresh atmosphere at the correct temperature and humidity. The owner must also consider the type and strength of construction and methods of feeding and cleaning.

In laying-hen operations the added chore of gathering, cleaning and packing eggs leads to more investment. Automatic gatherers, washers and refrigeration equipment are becoming commonplace on poultry farms. The poultry producer today has an investment of from four to six dollars per hen and buildings and equipment of a complicated nature.

Producers Specialists Halton County's producers are specialists and in an ever-changing industry they rely on their producer organizations, commercial feed and equipment suppliers and the Ontario Dept. of Agriculture for advice and information.

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