Georgetown Herald

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... EDITORIAL COMMENT ...

Devoted Public Servants

The holidays brought sadness to several local homes when loved ones died.

Included were two men who had served this community well, one for over forty years in the person of Walter T. Evans and one for a much briefer time, Jim Brown.

Mr. Evans who founded an insurance and real estate firm in 1919, was prominent in many phases of Georgetown life. He was a justice of the peace, a United Church elder and past master of the Masonic lodge. And he had served as a member and later secretary of the high school board.

Extremely active until he became ill a few months before his death, he was one of Georgetown's best known and best respected older citizens.

Mr. Brown, though a town resident for only six years, had made his mark in a public way by twice being elected a councillor for Ward 3. Georgetown had lost him as a resident since he moved to Waterloo in the late fall where he was operating a service station. And it was with deep shock that news of his sudden death from a heart attack was learned the week before Christmas.

To these families, as well as to others whose bereavements dulled the customary Christmas and new year joy, we offer our sympathy.

Wide Interest in Promotion

A Christmas lucky draw promotion in which a majority of the down town merchants shared, was an outstandingly successful venture this year.

The idea was not new. It comprised giving a draw ticket for each dollar of merchandise purchased. Prior promotions had offered cash prizes and a variety of small gifts. This year it was decided to give large prizes, a Hi-Fi stereo, a mink stole, a chesterfield suite, bicycle and wrist watch, plus a number of blankets and turkeys.

Within a few days of publication of the winning numbers in the Dec. 29 Herald, 22 of the 25 prizes were claimed, including all five major prizes. And when one realizes that there were thousands and thousands of tickets circulated in the promotion, one realizes the intense interest with which shoppers collected and checked their tickets.

There was equal interest among merchants.

As just one example, John Boughton kept a note of the number series which he issued at his jewellery store and when he found the Hi-Fi set was won with one of his tickets, he called some of the customers who had made major purchases from him, telling them to check their tickets carefully.

The promotion will no doubt now be a yearly event and already people are looking forward to next December and a chance at the beautiful prizes offered.

End of the Little Red School

Construction of the new Pineview public school will end an historic era in Esquesing for it heralds the demise of the familiar 'little red school house' where past generations of Haltonites received their education.

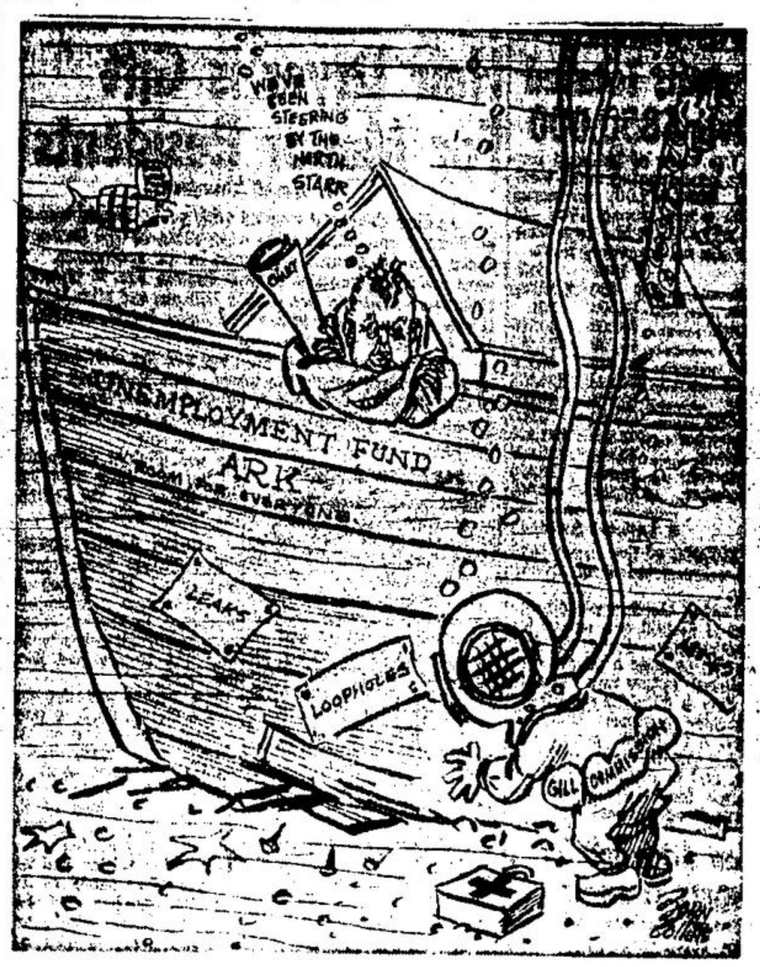
When the new school opens in September, the last four old type schools in Esquesing will be on the auction block. Until then, Hornby, Quarte Bras, Ligny and Pinegrove will be sheltering the last classes to use a system of education which, in some respects, will be missed but in others is being replaced by the advantages of the consolidated school.

Perhaps the one-room school was fated by more than the trend to consolidation with transportation provided for pupils, and the grade system.

It was no easy job for a young person, just out of teachers' college to take on the job of teaching eight separate grades, while also being expected to be competent in firing a wood stove and in disciplining young people almost their own age.

They don't seem to grow them in quantity today, and if for no other reason, the old system was being doomed by lack of personnel.

The country school teacher is disappearing into the same niche as the country doctor. Perhaps only in a pioneering country are people rugged enough to take the daily grind which these jobs entail.



SALVAGE OPERATION

Judge Langdon on Delinquency

Advocates Changes in Law Governing Divorce

This is the third of five special articles written by Judge K. M. Langdon which first appeared in the Oakville Journal Record and have caused widespread comment since they first appeared a few weeks ago

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The most consuming and frustrating problem of the Famiy Court is that of the deserted wife and family. Before the wife can avail herself of the protection afforded her by law, she must prove desertion, she must prove the ability of the husband to support her and the husband must be located and summoned to appear in Court. This may take some time and frequently the wife must resort to Welfare and by that time the indebtedness of the family is insurmountable.

On occasions, the landlord may take eviction proceedings and on occasions the maintenance of the family is entrusted to the Children's Aid Society. There are instances where families are made wards of the Childrtn's Aid Society at an expense that would have permitted the mother to provide for them in comparative luxury. There are times when a small investment would have left the children in the love and security of their mother instead of in foster homes and although this fact is generally recognized it is difficult to see how it could be eliminated.

JUDGE LANGDON

Quite properly the welfare agencies frown on providing assistance for a family where the husband is earning ample to provide for them, particularly where he has formed a common-law alliance. Too often the legal wife and family are suffering privation and hardship. It is seldom that the earnings of the husband is sufficient to support two homes and the Court has to be careful not to place a premium on a common-law union and yet should make an order that the husband will make an effort to comply with. The moment that he is pressed for funds, you can be certain that his legal wife and family are the ones who will go without.

Over the years I have sought unsuccessfully for some solution and because the wife and family are not in the position to draw the attention of the authorities to their privation I would stress that 90 per cent of the after hours office demands arise from the wife and families who are actually destitute. Frequently their condition is serious enough to result in the impairment of the health of the mother.

Possibly a solution would be to consider legislation that would make the deserted wife and family eligible for Mother's Allowance in an amount fixed by the Court as basic for the support of the wife and family and in the same order that the husband would contribute to the welfare agency in an amount to be fixed by the Court. This would insure a regular minimum income for the wife and family through welfare and would relieve the hardship arising from delay in the remittance of the husband's pay ment.

In working out the amount that a husband should be ordered to pay for the support of his wife and children, the Court is obliged to consider the indebtedness of the husband and the amount already pledged from his weekly pay. Once the order is made and the husband makes an effort to comply with it, his other debts are not paid and they normally institute action and garnishees his salary.

We have reason to be concerned about the amount of indebtedness a couple is permitted to incur. Something would appear to be wrong with the society that not only permits a person to borrow beyond his capacity to pay but actually encourages him to do so, frequently at the expense of his family.

Some consideration might be given to priority for a maintenance order so that once an order is made by the Court for maintenance of the wife and family no other person would have recourse to Court order. If legislation along these lines were considered, I feel that it would have a beneficial effect in reducing the over all indebtedness of married couples and would certainly avoid the rash of attachment proceedings that now arise when a husband is in financial difficulty.

I realize that there would be objection to qualifying the deserted wife and family for Mother's Allowance and I attempt to justify it by claiming that at a time when the country is clamouring for markets for its product the field with the greatest potential is effectively bypassed. These are people who really need the articles we are producing and who simply do not have the money to purchase. The financial assistance we furnish them might pay a dividend in increased employment.

Closely allied to the problem of the deserted wife is the matter of divorce. The cost of a divorce deprives these people of any recourse to this procedure. I would suggest that a review of our divorce legislation is long overdue.

I suggest that some consideration be given to legislation along the following lines:

That those seeking a divorce, in the first instance, should place themselves in the hands of the Family Court where, thro' family counselling and psychiatric assessment a concerted attempt is made to re-establish the marriage. At the expiration of two years if the Court is satisfied that there is no hope of reconciliation the Court could recommend the dissolution of the marriage and, on filing the material before the Supreme Court, the parties could effectively obtain a divorce without any material costs.

In this way we would at least be making an effort to restore the marriage and those in straitened circumstances would not be treated differently than people in more affluent circumstances.

THE MAIL BAG

Says Only 28% Vote Elected Mayor Hyde

27 Rexway Drive,
Georgetown, Ont.

Dear Sir:

Referring to your Flashback for December, 1962, I notice you mentioned that 64% of Georgetown's voters chose Mr. Hyde as mayor for 1963 which would be about 3520 (3552 to be exact).

I would like to know how you arrive at this figure as Mr. Hyde's total was only 1521, about 28% instead of 64% as mentioned.

Why not let the people of Georgetown know the correct percentage which shows about 36% that did not choose him as mayor.

I might say that if it had been an even election and the 3rd man had not run, Mr. Hyde certainly would not of been chosen. I also feel if he has anyone to thank it is Mr. Gibbons and Mr. Sargent as the total polled by them is about 36% as mentioned above.

I understand that he is a Georgetown boy who has been elected as mayor of some of the people but certainly not by the majority as you can see for yourself by looking at the total votes polled in Ward 3 and other Wards, 1 and 2.

I trust you will see your way clear to correct this misinformation.

I remain,
CHAS. E. ABRAM.
Ward 3 ratepayer.

Fire Safety Tips For Cold Weather

Is your heating unit in good repair?

Paradoxically fire is most helpful but also cruelest during the winter months. The cold weather season when heating units are in operation is the time of year when a large share of the human suffering and property damage is caused by fire.

Most of the nation's fire toll in lives and injuries is needless, says Fire Chief Bob Bonfield of Georgetown and members of the Halton County Fire Prevention Bureau.

Studies show that every 10th fire in Canada is caused by a defective heating unit. The Bureau and Chief Bonfield suggest that you can help keep your home safe from fire this winter by following these tips:

1. Inspect your basement, or furnace room, and throw out old paint pails, oily rags, newspapers, magazines, or other combustible rubble that may be stored there.

2. If the heating unit was not checked over before winter started, call your serviceman and have it inspected now.

3. If even a faint fuel odour arises from your heating plant, call a qualified heating man immediately to check your flue pipes, vent connections and chimney.

4. If you use a portable oil or gas heater, always turn it off when you retire at night. And never attempt to move the heater when it is on.

5. Your fireplace should be protected with a metal fire screen, placed flush against the fireplace when it is in use. Burning logs frequently and unexpectedly throw hot embers that burn rags or cause greater damage.

Remember the slogan . . . Think about fire wherever you are and don't give fire a place to start.

SUGAR and SPICE

By Bill Smiley

A blizzard is howling about the house. That man with the piece of chalk in each hand has just informed me that the temperature is 15 below. He wouldn't have to. My arthritis had already given me the message.

• • •

These are the gray days of deep midwinter, when one is sorely tempted to get drunk, or take off for Tahiti, solo, or just wander off and lie down quietly in a snowbank.

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There's only one thing that saves my sanity each winter. That is the certainty that there are several months of exciting evenings of controversial conversation ahead.

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Every winter I feel sorry for people in lush, tropical countries. What in the world can they find to talk about? How bored they must become with nothing to mull over but love, religion, politics and the heat! No wonder they're so emotionally trigger-happy, so prone to revolutions, just to break the monotony.

• • •

We Canadians, besides being the healthiest, happiest, richest-looking people in the world, are surely also the most eloquent conversationalists in existence. We are never so destitute of conversational gambits that we have to fall back on such hackneyed themes as art, the soul, love or man's inhumanity to man. Never.

• • •

For six months of the year we discourse brilliantly on fishing, The Boat, babies, The Cottage, gardening, The Car. The last-mentioned, of course, appears as often in our dialogue as deity does in that of less favoured races.

• • •

It is in the other six months, the winter, that we really come into our own, conversationally. During the long black nights, listen in on almost any conversation in our land, and you will marvel at the intricacies of intellect, the subtleties of expression, the rapier-like parry and thrust of our communication.

• • •

A foreigner is baffled and charmed by the sparkling quality of our colloquy. A Canadian midwinter conversation would make Socrates sulk, Plato pout. At the bridge table, cards are forgotten when the conversation begins to bubble like vintage champagne. In the pub, beer is left untouched on the table.

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What, you may ask, is the essence that makes Canadian converse so rich and heady in the winter? Let's listen in and find out. We'll drop in on a typical January party; in an average home, where are gathered beauty and chivalry, fair women and brave men. Typical Canadians, in short.

• • •

Hark to this young matron, her simple dignity and warmth of countenance scarcely marred by the purple eyelids and slight double chin. "We like the oil, cuz y' don't hafta fool with it. Just set 'er and she stays the way y' want 'er. Course, the minit I turn it up a bit, Jim runs over and turns it down. Says I'll ruin us." Giggling.

• • •

Speaks with courtly grace the gentleman on her left. "Ah, you can have that oil. 'Stoo expensive. Gimme the good ole hard coal, with a man that knows howta hannel that furnace. I mean y' get that real hot heat." Supercilliously.

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"Ya, butcha gotta have a good fan, or she doesn't kick that heat around," says the demure little woman across from him. "We like the stoker ourselves. George useta puff something terrible when he had ta shovel. Now the duzzen even hafta go down, only every coupla days, so it give 'im more time ta help 'tha dishes." Winking gaily at the hapless George.

• • •

"Saycha like," contributes another young gallant, leaning across, "but I'll take wood. Sa little more work, but she's quick an' she's hot. An' ya never hafta worry about strikes, cuz the farmers never go on strike." Triumphantly.

• • •

And so it goes. Of course, that's only a rough sample of what makes our midwinter conversation so fascinating. Mere words could never convey the intensity of emotion, the nuance of meaning that emerge in these clashes of wit.

• • •

But you needn't talk to me about the brilliant discourses in the salons of 18th century France. Tell me not of the sparking exchanges among the dons of Oxford. Just give me any group of red-blooded, furnace-minded Canadians in midwinter, and I'll settle back happily, waiting for the opportunity to thrill them with the story of how I almost put in a sawdust burner one winter.

To help foster international understanding, our Junior Red Cross provided assistance to needy children in 30 countries last year.

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DISTRICT NEWS AT A GLANCE

OAKVILLE

Oakville may be among the smaller Canadian communities to benefit from the $15,000,000 set aside by the government for direct loans available for rental housing but at the moment builders are more concerned in selling homes built on speculation last year and still unsold in the Oakville area.

COOKSVILLE

The owner of a Van Dyke painting stolen from a Cooksville home Friday evening believes he narrowly missed catching the thieves at work when he returned home. The painting was taken in its gilt frame from the hallway. It was insured for $10,000.

BURLINGTON

Four Burlington people will add their talents to the Hamilton Savoyards presentation of "The Boy Friends" when the show is presented this month. Glen Mallory is musical director of the show, Bill Davey plays Percy Brown. Michael Bradshaw plays Lord Brockhurst and Pat Bradshaw is the choreographer.

BRAMPTON

A 14-year-old Brampton girl has won a province-wide "big fish" contest. Patricia Hore shared in the $3000 cash awards when she won with her entry in the largemouth bass category. The contest was sponsored by the Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters.

STREETSVILLE

Two Streetsville families facing a black holiday were deluged with aid after their rented farm house was gutted by fire just before Christmas. The two fathers had been laid off work the previous Friday. Citizens and organizations responded with furniture, clothing and food.

ORANGEVILLE

Four wolves have now been shot in Wellington County which borders Halton, this month. John Coulter of Mono Centre shot the first, Ron Clark of Orangeville got another, and two Alliston men, Elmer Harris and Walter Hall, knocked off the other two. Game warden Ed Smith is organizing other wolf hunts.

MILTON

A Milton pilot barely escaped serious injury last week when his helicopter was wrecked in a forced landing near Kitchener airport. The aircraft was being piloted by Douglas Green of R.R. 1, Milton when a mechanical failure in the tail rotor section started the ship vibrating. The pilot escaped from the crash with a minor head cut.

ACTON

All of Acton's Christmas trees were gathered by the Chamber of Commerce and went up in a final blaze of glory, following the tradition established many years ago. The town workmen piled the trees in a field and the mayor put the torch to them. The C of C served coffee and donuts to the spectators.

GUELPH

Two small homemade rockets were fired near the OAC pig farm Saturday by amateur rocketeers. Michael Valeriote, a Guelph electronics manufacturer, who conducted the firing, said the results of the firing will be sent to the department of mines and technical survey. One of the rockets reached 1,500 feet on fuel of sulphur and icing sugar.

BURLINGTON

A research task of no mean proportion was undertaken by the Burlington Historical Society at a meeting this week in the Brant Museum when the principal item of business consisted of gathering data for a study of the location and names of Burlington's streets.

ACTON

An Acton motorist, John Mellon, escaped injuries, but the car he was driving was almost a total wreck, when the vehicle skidded on slippery pavement on Eastern Avenue and crashed into the side of a slow moving diesel engine Saturday noon.

THE DATE BOOK

Dec 23, 1862, 100 years ago; Baseball great Connie Mack was born, Dec 25th, Christmas Day; Dec. 25, (186 years ago), George Washington and his troops, crossed the Delaware River to make surprise attack on the British at Trenton, N.J.; Dec 26, 1837 (125 years ago), Admiral George Dewey, born; Dec 28, 1856, (106 years ago), Woodrow Wilson, 28th president, born; Dec 29, 1845, (117 years ago), Texas, became the twenty eighth state admitted to the Union.

ECHOES . . . .

From the Pages of the Herald, 1938 and 1953

10 YEARS AGO

- Meeting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Fred Chapman a week ago Saturday, the staff of the Bank of Commerce had a farewell party for Mr. and Mrs. Spence McKinnon who will be leaving later this month to live in Dresden. Mr. McKinnon will be accountant at that bank branch.
- At the annual meeting of the Lorne Scots (Peels) band held in the band room last night the following officers were elected: President, Vic Carter; Vice President, Fred Armstrong; Secretary, Jim Golden; Treasurer, Ernest Forgrave.
- Toronto Maple Leafs popular hockey player, Howie Meeker, M.P., will be in Georgetown on Thursday evening it was announced today by the local Progressive Conservative executive.

25 YEARS AGO

- The Georgetown high school hockey team has lost its 1st game in five years. In Erin last Thursday the Erin high school team broke the longest winning streak on record by posting an 8-6 win. Members of the GHS team are Kemshead, Goldham, McMenemy, Beaumont, Lorriman, Boyle, Early, Long, Murphy, King, McCumber.
- At the Gregory Theatre 'Wife, Doctor and Nurse', starring Warner Baxter, Loretta Young, and Virginia Bruce 'The Lost Horizon', co-starring Ronald Colman and Jane Wyatt; and 'Knight Without Armour', starring Marlene Dietrich and Robert Donat.