Georgetown Herald

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... EDITORIAL COMMENT ...

Tragic Death Rate Still Climbing

When the smoke had finally cleared from the recent Dominion Day motor accident picture for 1963, there was no cause for rejoicing among Canadians who should stand aghast at the steady increase each year during these fatality-strewn 3 days.

Dominion Automobile Association whose Statistical Research Department maintains close touch with the national trend reports that July 1st week-end 1963 had the dubious distinction, with a total of 81 traffic fatalities, of racking up the highest score in record for the period. Last year the total reached 55 deaths for the Dominion Day weekend.

The traffic fatality breakdown Province-wise was as follows: Newfoundland, none; P.E.I., 3; Nova Scotia 3; New Brunswick 2; Quebec, 33; Ontario, 25; Manitoba, 4; Saskatchewan 1; Alberta 4; B.C., 6. And this is but the beginning! The vacation season which runs through September holds a potential which is frightening to contemplate if the initial four days are any criterion. The vacation period in 1962 wound up with 1253 persons killed during the three months. If the same rate of increase established by the start-off is maintained, a total at September-end could conceivably amount to nearly 1900 traffic deaths for the three-month period. It's a grim prospect which, however, is viewed with understandable apathy by the holiday-bound motorist who knows that accidents only happens to the other fellow.

Once it sinks in, that the driver of a motor car has at his fingertips an agency more lethal than dynamite, then there's a chance that a belated respect may gradually enter his attitude toward his gasoline-propelled missile. When that finally happens, we can hope for a significant decrease in the annual July-September peak in the motor fatality chart.

Recreation or Conservation ?

In debating approval of the Credit Valley Authority's flood control scheme, Chinguacousy's Reeve Cyril Clark took the opportunity to mention points about Conservation Authorities which bear watching; particularly proportion of money spent on recreation to that spent on conservation, and the road problem created by each Authority area.

The reeve is far from alone in his concern. And in fairness we should mention that the Authorities themselves are fully aware of the road-upkeep problem which conservatoin areas create. At present, as Reeve Clark mentioned, the townships are penalized for a road which carries mainly traffic from outside centres. Such roads are heavily travelled and need more attention than cost other roads in the township concerned. We understand attempts are being made to find solutions to the problem, but they are slow at coming.

Municipalities within watersheds have been showing less eagerness to contribute quickly to Authority schemes, partly because recreation has been the purpose, not conservaiton. This, of course, is not true of the Credit Valley Authority flood control project. It is true conservation, and has found ready support. The recreation aspects are pleasurable byproducts

Water conservation, for instance, is of major importance in this part of the province. To achieve it, dams can be built, swamps protected, trees planted, and certainly such projects should receive an equal, if not greater, share of public funds collected by Conservation Authorities. We have no thought of minimizing the importance of recreation, but we agree with Reeve Clark that it has been heavily stressed so far

Set aside an area for picnics, sports, swimming and general outings and it is filled at once with a pleased public. Such areas are badly needed, but we should not let the immediate success of such use of public funds, make us forget the conservation measures for which the Authorities were mainly set up less quickly and obviously successful as such conservation projects may be.

—Brampton Times & Conservator

"COURSE GETS MORE DIFFICULT ALL THE TIME"

OTTAWA REPORT

BI-MONTHLY OBSERVATIONS BY DR. HARRY HARLEY, M.P. FOR HALTON

DOMINION DAY, 1st July, 1963, has passed It was my pleasure to be in Ottawa in that day and attend planned ceremonies on Parliament Hill I must report that every Canadian who saw the proceedings of that day would have been very proud to be a Canadian

In the morning the Changing of the Guard was performed This is a most impressive ceremony, and will be carried on daily during July and August at 10 a.m. I would highly recommend it to visitors to Ottawa as one of the things that should be seen

IN THE AFTERNOON a presentation of folk songs and dances of various ethnic groups was performed. I might add that the temperature on the Hill where dancing was taking place was approximately 100 degrees. Yet these fine dancers and singers gave a very good performance despite the intense heat

The evening show was a ceremony by the Canadian Armed Forces and the RCMP This was a tremendous climax for the day.

OUR ARMED FORCES were magnificent and would not be surpassed by any Forces in the world A flight of six Voodoo Aircraft screamed by at 600 feet trailing vapour as they thundered by Massed bands consisting of five brass bands and three pipe bands provided the melodic military atmosphere both singly and as a group A gun salute was fired by the Navy, both of field guns and rifles, by new Naval personnel who had just completed their basic training All in all it was a most memorable day which I as a Canadian appreciated and enjoyed very much

THERE HAS BEEN a great deal of controversy over what the July 1st holiday should be called Legally it is Dominion Day The other names suggested are Confederation Day, Canada Day and National Day

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As far as the House of Commons is concerned the main activities still centre around the Budget The Hon Mr. Gordon is to make a clarifying statement on Monday re the Budget regulations and it is possible some amendments may be made in the 11% Federal Sales Tax I would like to say that the tax is not a new tax It is a tax that everyone has been paying with the exception of building materials and production machinery This exception has been removed The other alternative would have been to raise personal and corporation income tax

THE BILL SETTING up the Department of Industry is now before the House of Commons It will allow the Dept to investigate industry by industry the Canadian economy and encourage Canadian manufacture of goods now imported

EIGHTEENTH IN A SERIES

Letters From a "Trouble Spot"

Letters from a Georgetown soldier in Viet Nam

When he received a posting to the Far East, a member of the Canadian Military U.N. delegation, Albert Carter began putting his observations on paper and sending them home to LOL 245. The lodge found the acount so absorbing that they submitted them to the Herald and part of a letter appears below, as article No. Eighteen of a new series.

* * *

The greatest complex that I visited, was that known as the "Grand Palace." This includes the former Royal Residence of King Chulalongkorn (of Anna and the King of Siam fame), now used as a greeting hall for visiting monarchs and crown princes, the official Reception Hall made of pink marble, used to greet visiting presidents and other politicians, and the Coronation Hall of the Kings of Thailand We were not allowed to take pictures inside these buildings, the only places in Thailand other than the Temple of the Emerald Buddha, where picture taking was prohibited

The gold work and the craftsmanship that went into the construction of these buildings has to be seen to be believed

In the same compound there was the Temple of the Emerald Buddha Actually made of Green Jasper, the Buddha is only 31 inches tall, but is the most sacred Buddha in the nation Beside the Temple was the Pantheon, where statues and relics of the Kings of the Sakrit dynasty (the present ruling house) were kept The pantheon is opened only one day each year when the King goes to worship his ancestors

Some of the doors in the Pantheon and the Temple of the Emerald Buddha were made of teakwood with mother of pearl inlay The work was done so well that you can rub your fingers over a door and not feel where the door ends and the mother of pearl begins

There are many buildings in the compound and a terrace on which are some rather odd looking statues in gold These statues represent the various beasts that people can become on reincarnating their way through existence

Around the temple of the Emerald Buddha are cloisters containing over a mile of very beautiful murals, depicting scenes from the life of Buddha and from Hindu legends. Any given square yard of this immense mural would put all of this so-called modern art to shame

Among the other temples that I got to see were those of the Standing Buddha (about 80 to 100 feet high) and the Reclining Buddha This temple is the biggest single temple complex in the city, and the Reclining Buddha is 150 feet long, made of cement and covered with one inch squares of gold leaf, It looks like it was made of solid gold

Then there was the Solid Gold Buddha All five and a half tons of it It was sitting in a small new temple under repair. The local monks claimed that if anyone could pick it up and walk off with it they were welcome to it

Originally the Solid Gold Buddha had lain in an abandoned temple upcountry for at least 700 years, and covered with a layer of cement no different from dozens of others in abandoned temples in various parts of Thailand When the new temple was opened it was decided to bring it down rather than build a new one. In the moving, one elbow became chipped and eventually fell off Workmen went to repair it and noticed a funny looking green colour underneath. On scraping away the green, they found gold It was not too long until all the concrete was off, revealing a solid gold Buddha It is now assumed that the Buddha was covered with cement to prevent its being stolen by wandering bands of bandits, or from invading Burmese or Cambodians, or perhaps originally to prevent the Thais themselves from seizing it Over the years the secret was lost and it was not until 1958 that it returned to its original form

However the discovery has started a new fad — that of chipping off elbows of concrete Buddhas in abandoned temples To date, no more have been found At least no reports have been made of any more discoveries

(To be continued)

Behind every successful man is a woman who insists on knowing why he's late for dinner — Chatham News.

SUGAR and SPICE

By Bill Smiley

Why do Canadians drink so much? Each year, the black line on the boozing chart inches higher, and we are told the horrifying fact that every man, woman and child in this country puts away 16 gallons of hooch and 84 gallons of beer, or some such.

* * *

Now I know that while you may drink that much, Aunt Mabel, I don't and my kids don't and I doubt whether their grandmother does, so somebody is really knocking back the stuff.

* * *

Who is the culprit? The villain is not the Canadian temperament, but the Canadian weather.

* * *

For eight months of the year we are adjured at every turn to have a nip to keep out the cold. During the other four months, we slosh it down to beat the heat. Like right now. At this very moment, at 5 o'clock on a July day, the mercury past 90, it is horrifying to speculate on the number of Canadians who are lolling in their back yards, or at a cottage, or on a beach, or in an air-cooled bar, clutching a cold beverage. And getting steadily hotter.

* * *

I find it hard to criticize them. I've just been through one of the worst weeks of my life, in the middle of the worst heat wave of the summer, and I feel nothing but sympathy for those who turn to drink in the hot weather I have been building a picnic table.

* * *

The old battleaxe has been niggling about one for a couple of years. All through February and March she kept seeing them advertised at low, low prices. I wasn't in the mood for picnic tables while I was shovelling snow in every daylight hour to spare. Secondly, the tables were off of the type that you have to put together yourself, and I had enough of that caper

* * *

In my time I have put together everything from baby's cots through prefab cupboards and unpainted bookcases to backyard swim pools. Inevitably, the baby's cots have turned out looking like bookcases and the swimming pools like baby's cots.

* * *

Screws never fit. Boards are warped. The plans, which tell you with a sneer that any half-wit can put this thing together, are invariably put together by half-wits.

Result: I go into a deep, flaming, unadulterated fury. My wife goes around, just out of reach. The kids quietly go into another part of the house and turn the radio on full volume.

* * *

Ignoring the debacles of the past I decided to humor The Heckler, buy her a picnic table, and wrestle it together. But suddenly, we found, all those hot bargains had vanished. Picnic tables had soared in value.

"The heck with this," my wife said. "We'll do it the economical way."

* * *

We went to the mill, where they cut out the planks and toobefores, I think they call them. I was a little relieved that she didn't want me to chop a tree and make my own planks. Lumber was only $19.95. Saved six or ten dollars already. They didn't have any of the regular plans for picnic tables, but they had a plan for a kiddies table, and the fellow said it was the same principal.

* * *

Using tried and true methods, I did not set to work I called a couple of husky young confreres and told them to drop around for an ale. I just happened to have a couple of spare hammers when they arrived. I claimed I had asked them around for a nail. Three hours, a dozen ales and a hundred nails later, we had various pieces of lumber nailed together, none of which seemed to have any connection with the pieces left over. My helpers quit and went swimming.

* * *

Undaunted, I played my next card. Called another friend, an expert in woodworking, and asked him to loan me some tools. Cunningly, when he arrived, I begged him to show me a bit of his skill, mentioned how smart his kids were and spoke of his wife's charm. Within an hour, he had the thing standing up. He told me how to finish it, and left.

* * *

I started to put in a screw nail, The table began to sway like a shot stallion and the whole ruddy structure collapsed on my left instep with a heart-rending rumble. Hopping swiftly, I got out the axe and was about to administer the coup de grace but my wife and kids grabbed me around the legs and hung on.

* * *

I got the expert back, bribed him with cold drinks, and he finished it. There are about 1,000 nails and bolts and screws in it, but it stands tall, a monument to sheer ingenuity.

* * *

Got my daughter to paint it at 50 cents an hour Lumber, hardware, beer for the bunglers, gin and tonic for the expert, and stain, varnish and wages for the painter, and a doctor's bill for a bashed foot brought the total to about $43.

BIBLE THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Men ought always to pray and not to faint — Luke 18:1.

If the cause is right and we are convinced that it must be the Lord's will, it is always too soon to quit praying for it

One of life's saddest ironies is having ulcers and being a failure just the same . . .

Chatham News.

NEWS ECHOES

From the Pages of the Herald, 1953 and 1938

10 YEARS AGO

- "I want some pressure put on the county engineer to resurface lower Main Street," said road chairman Stan Allen at council Monday Claiming the town was getting the run-around from county council Cr Allen said the town should stop contributing to the county and look after the roads of the county doesn't intend to keep the connecting link in good repair,
- Opening up the Maple Avenue right of way to connect the east and west sections could be done at little expense to the town in the opinion of Mayor Armstrong. A growing nuisance of narrow turns for buses at the Water St and Guelph St corner and at Main and Mill would be eliminated by extending Maple Ave across from Main St South to the highway.
- Georgetown voters may be asked to express their opinion in this December's election on whether land should be acquired by the town for future industrial expansion. The matter was discussed by council after word of the new Cleave subdivision was received. Council felt that less and less large tracts of land suitable for new industry is becoming available in town limits.
- A generous gesture by manager Bill Leslie of the Roxy Theatre will add to the fund being started for a municipal swimming pool. Sunday evening, Mr Leslie is donating the theatre for a special show feature "The Georgetown Stars Are Singing" on the Roxy stage

25 YEARS AGO

- A ladies' car driving contest will be one of the special events at the Georgetown Fall Fair this year
- A tragic accident took the life of a Hornby man Friday Struck on the head by a heavy steel door during a storm, Stewart Miller, 65, died of a fractured skull He was assisting threshing operations on the E Alexander farm when the severe wind storm began
- One of the oldest living Canadians, Agnes Young of Ballinafad, celebrated her 106th birthday on Thursday She can remember pioneer life from first hand experience For longevity Mrs Young's simple formula is hard work fresh air, plenty of exercise plenty of sleep and light meals.

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