

Georgetown Herald

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Music Hath Charms.....

When we first arrived in Georgetown a quarter century ago, the town was noted for the excellence of its music.

Besides church choirs, there was a flourishing choral society, a string quartet and a school music festival which lent encouragement to youngsters to develop their vocal abilities. And the Lorne Scots Band was renowned for its quality.

But lately, there has been an upsurge and again Georgetown is coming to the fore in amateur music circles.

The town boasts an excellent Legion Glee Club. While county music festivals became too cumbersome to continue, the schools still stress music and it is a rare year which does not produce at least one operette in addition to the Christmas entertainments. An orchestra has been formed at the high school. Young musicians in the citizens' band and the girls' pipe band

appear at many public functions. Latest addition to our musical culture is a local chapter of the Society for the Preservation and Encouragement of Barber Shop Quartette Singing in America tonight at the Legion auditorium you will not only hear this local group in action, but enjoy the East York chapter, known as one of the finest in Canada.

We attended a church dinner last week and had an opportunity to hear these local men in action. And we can verify that they are well worth hearing. Aside from their musical abilities, it is a joy to hear a group singing and registering pure enjoyment as they perform.

"Music hath charms" is never better exemplified when watching people singing for the pure love of it. The SPEBSQSA is a sterling example. We advise any man who likes to sing to join this happy chorus.



NEW VERSION OF THE SPACE RACE

County Administration Means 197 Meetings, \$23,000 Cost

There were 197 meetings of Halton County Council conducted in 1963. And the meetings cost close to \$23,000.

Figures obtained from the clerk's and treasurer's office this week show there were 197 meetings, afternoon and evening sessions involving the 14 members of Halton County Council, including the various council committees plus the Mayor, Board of Health and Children's Aid Society to which council appoints representatives. (At that, the figures were incomplete and the total could go even higher.)

For their work on these committees and on council the councillors were paid \$20 per meeting, and incomplete figures show the total cost of administration reaching a record \$22,871 for 1963.

The chore of recording proceedings at the various council and committee gatherings was almost evenly split between Clerk-Administrator Garfield Brown and Deputy Clerk Jim Andrews. Mr. Brown sat in on 94, and Mr. Andrews went to 93.

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NEWS ECHOES

From the pages of the Herald 1954 and 1959

10 YEARS AGO

The recurring problem of Smith and Stone traffic parking on Victoria St. popped up at council meeting Monday. For some time S&S employees have been using both sides of the street for permanent parking. Monday, John Bell, plant general manager, discussed the problem with council. Council decided to restrict parking on one side and establish a two hour limit on the other.

Rent control will end in Georgetown on March 2nd. At Monday's council meeting after a full discussion, council decided not to take any action on establishing a local rent control board to succeed the provincial government administration which will end in a month. Council implied the matter may be opened again later.

After last week's heavy snow storm, Georgetown west the scene of tests for a new economy-type plow which, Gordon Bridgen, Hornby inventor, expects to market next fall. The rotorblade plow is attached to a garden tractor.

25 YEARS AGO

A former Georgetown boy, John T. Dilly, has established a new world record for keeping a model airplane aloft. At the Canadian Championships in Toronto he sent his large single-stick model off the starting line and it stayed airborne for four minutes and 22 seconds.

On Sunday at Holy Cross Church, memorial devotions were held for the late Pope Pius XI. Rev. Father McBride, in touching words, preached on the life of the deceased Pontiff.

Recognizing Facts.....

There seems to be a terrific amount of mumbo-jumbo in world politics these days, particularly in the refusal of the U.S. and Britain to recognize Red China.

The question is much in the news this week with indications that France will break the solidarity of the western powers and take action on its own. Perhaps this will be the starting point in overcoming a problem which threatens world peace and which had a corollary in the post-World War I days when the Russian communist regime was ignored too long by other powers.

There was a time when it might have been sensible to believe that Chiang Kai-Shek and his army might once again return from Formosa and receive the popular support necessary from the Chinese people to restore itself to power.

Even the dreamers have abandoned this long since. Some times we wonder if the politicians are sitting tight until Chiang,

no longer a young man, departs this world and without successor, pledges can be abandoned for realism.

It is not proper to watch on pledge. But the time sometimes comes when one must re-evaluate decisions which, at the time, were proper, but which have been out-dated by events.

To continue to turn our back on one of the world's most powerful nations, to insist that because we do not like its form of government that we will pretend it does not exist, to refuse it a seat in the United Nations where problems can be discussed and often solved, seems to be needless goading a very powerful bull.

We must realize that today we are dealing with a whole new generation of Chinese who might well be satisfied with their form of government. Satisfied or not, they have it and there is little chance of the revolution we used to think would take place.

SUGAR AND SPICE

Red-Eyed Book Friends

by Bill Smiley

This week I'm supposed to speak to our honour students and their parents, at a banquet. Dull topic: "Good Reading Habits."

Choice of speaker was a hilarious piece of mis-casting. I can state, proudly, but with little fear of contradiction, that my personal reading habits are the most atrocious in Canada, maybe the world.

Thirty-five years ago, my mother was saying anxiously: "Bill Smiley, you'll be blind before you're 15 if you don't stop reading in dark corners!"

Well, I ain't blind yet, and I am still reading in dark corners. Not to mention bright corners on trains, planes and ships, in bathrooms, libraries and restaurants, before breakfast and after going to bed walking to work or watching television.

By the time I was ten, I had barrelled through the Reverend Bays, the Tom Swift series, the Marjorie Alger pap, and was gnawing on the massive historical novels of G. A. Henry. By 15, I had gobbed Yane Grey and Max Brand, along with most of the detective stories available.

At about 16, I was devouring books, historical, political, travel and biographical, with wild and wilting excursions into the fiction of Dickens and Defoe, of Poe and Proust, at the rate of about one and a half volumes a day.

Then came the acquaintance with Hemingway, Thomas Wolfe, and Evelyn Waugh. I was hooked, wild and sophisticated. Heady stuff for a teenager. Then came the war.

While the other pilots played cards, or talked about the girl they met in the pub last night, I read.

The real book fiend, lead beyond recall never reads anything remotely connected with real life, as it's being lived. He's a pure escapist.

If he lives on the prairie he reads about the sea, or mountain climbing. If he lives in a fishing village, he reads westerns. If he's a shy boy, he reads about bold men. If he's a politician, he reads about detectives. If he's making history, he reads romance. If he's in the middle of a love affair, he reads war novels.

The alcoholics and the drug addict will sink pretty low, when money runs out. They will lie and cheat and steal to get the goods. The alky will drink shaving lotion, rubby-dub, or put a tin of enamel paint down a loaf of bread to get a smush. The dope addict will resort to prostitution or armed robbery to obtain a fix.

This is kid stuff. A book

ARDA Program Designed For Rural Improvements

Ottawa (Special to The Herald): With Canada's ARDA program about halfway through its experimental stage, the results of the first months are being weighed by government officials. In balance, it appears that ARDA, the short title for the Agricultural Rehabilitation and Development Act, will be continued, perhaps with some revisions, beyond the end of the pilot period of March, 1965.

ARDA director A. T. Davidson, a young and brilliant public servant brought to Ottawa from his post as an assistant deputy minister in the Saskatchewan government, is still filled with enthusiasm over the program. He reports that to date the government has approved 242 projects involving \$6,600,000 in federal funds. Another 102 projects have been sent to the government for approval and 22 federal research projects are being handled.

The initial experimental period has a \$50 million federal expenditure ceiling. Indications are that most of this will be used up as further provincial applications are processed. Saskatchewan has 45 approved projects totalling \$1,587,000, the largest amount approved for any province to date. British Columbia has nine for \$210,000, Quebec 49 for \$1,175,000, and Ontario 49 for \$906,000. Despite this low Ontario figure, Mr. Davidson expects this province will

eventually have the largest financial program. Because of the large size of many Ontario projects, it will not likely rank first in total number.

The ARDA director finds his branch in a mystery to most Canadians. He sums up its three main objectives as programs for — more efficient use and development of marginal agricultural land, the development of income and employment opportunities in rural areas, the development and conservation of water supplies and soil improvement.

"The ARDA program should not be defended because there is some benefit to maintaining large number of people on the land no matter what their standard of living or productivity, or that rural poverty is defensible because it is rural," Mr. Davidson says. "We may be approaching the point where about 200,000 efficient farms will produce all our agricultural needs. We don't think that this is necessarily bad. But it will be bad if we don't do something about the adjustment problems this implies."

VERSATILE HEAT
Supplementary electric heating units can turn a chilly attic into a spare bedroom, a back porch into a year-round sun, or an empty basement into a family recreation room.

Don't Miss Picasso.....

A trip to the Picasso show at the Toronto Art Gallery is recommended.

The artist is one of the few men who have achieved both recognition and financial success in his own lifetime. The magnitude of his business success is reflected in the insurance carried on the exhibit — seven million dollars. And the pictures on view are not by any means all of his production. The exhibit is cleverly arranged to show the various periods of Picasso's work. From conventional paintings, he developed his cubist concept, then the surrealist nightmarish paintings where parts of the human body are reproduced in unrelated positions. We found some of them clever, some understandable, many repulsive.

With little knowledge of art, we tend to admire the traditional — the old masters, the Group of 7 in Canada. Yet one cannot

discard anything which departs from this as not worth viewing.

Tastes in art must be developed just like those in music, in literature, drama or the dance. Too often we resent departures from an accustomed pattern. If all paintings were to look like photographs, if all music were to be jazz, all novels to be detective stories, all dances to be fox trots, there would be little variety in life.

At the same time, we cannot blindly accept anything new as being first rate, even if it is a Picasso painting. Great novelists have written bad books too, great composers have turned out some tripe along the way.

And great artists like Picasso have produced paintings which you wouldn't hang in your home if you won them in a lucky draw.

Commons Considering Push Button Voting

Ottawa (Special to the Herald): The push button age may catch up with the old traditions of the House of Commons — but don't bet on it!

Means of streamlining parliamentary procedure are to come in for a good deal of study by a special Commons committee in the coming months. The idea of scrapping the ancient Commons' roll call on divisions is one of the ideas that will probably be advanced.

In fact, former Speaker Marcel Lambert recently made such a suggestion in a speech at Edmonton. He envisages some machine which will record individual votes of members as they flip a switch to their desks.

Such a machine, which works in some United States legislatures, was brought to Ottawa a few years ago. It involved a large board with red and white lights to record how each member voted. The machine would automatically record the totals and deliver a printed copy of the voting figures. Mr. Dieffenbacher, then prime minister, viewed the apparatus and quickly vetoed any suggestion of its use on the ground that — it looked like a giant pinball machine which would destroy the dignity and

decor of the Commons' chamber. Under the present roll call system, second clerk assistant Gordon Dubroy, who possesses a fantastic memory for the names of the 265 MPs, calls out each member's name in turn and the member stands to vote. Mr. Dubroy can call out on average 25 names a minute, and, for a full house vote, some 9 to 10 minutes is required, providing there is not a lot of desk-thumping in applause to slow down the procedure.

But the real-time conjuring factor of the division is not the calling of the roll, but the business of falling in the members' each time a division is required. When the division bell starts to ring the whips of the government and official opposition leave the chamber to round up missing members. The bell continues to ring until both confines are satisfied they have alerted as many of their supporters as possible.

In theory, one whip can keep the bell ringing indefinitely while awaiting the arrival of a wandering MP. On most votes, the bell rings for between 20 and 30 minutes. The record for length of time spent awaiting the arrival of members oc-

curred during the famed pipeline debate when the bell rang for 42 minutes, starting at 4:45 o'clock in the morning.

Mr. Dubroy, who is not enamored about having to call the roll each time there is a vote, says there are objections to an electronic system because it might encourage the calling of even more divisions.

BIBLE THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

God is no respecter of persons. — Acts 10:34.

The outward condition of people whether black or white, rich or poor, smart or stupid, famous or lowly, affects not one whit the regard with which we are held in God's sight. It is the condition of the soul whether righteous or wicked according to God's standards that counts with Him.

Charles Sheppard \$999 Bingo Winner

For the second time in as many months, the Holy Cross School Association bingo at the Riviera last week produced a \$999 winner.

A Terra Cotta resident, Charles Sheppard, was the lucky winner this time. In December Mrs. Glenn Wright, 33 Edward St. scored a similar win.

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