

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Twenty-Five Years Later

Attending a newspaper convention in Toronto we were impressed by the changes which have taken place in our quarter century in the trade.

It was only a few years before we joined The Herald that a typesetting machine replaced the time consuming task of reproducing the thousands of words which appear in print weekly. We had a beat-up old printing press which filled the bill until we moved to the present building and acquired a more modern one.

Twenty-five years ago, every printing job which The Herald handled was duplicated one at a time by hand feeding into a machine. To us it was almost revolutionary when we bought an automatic machine which increased production and eliminated one tiresome operation for a printer.

Now we are in a different age. Our smart newspaper press, which we thought was the ultimate, has gone to progress and The Herald is printed on a high speed rotary in another town. A cheaper method of reproducing has enhanced the weekly issue with numerous pictures.

Hand set type, which was still common in weeklies for headings and the larger type in advertisements, is almost gone, replaced with faster operation by a Ludlow machine. Metal for spacing, once purchased in strips, cut to size, and carefully sorted and saved after each using, is now fashioned from our own Elrod machine, then scrapped and remelted.

Outside our own local business, more and more weeklies are switching to an

"offset" process of reproduction which allows even more scope for news pictures and advertising illustrations.

Noticeable too among weeklies is the increase in front office staff.

We entered the field in a day when a small town newspaper was usually a one-man operation as far as the office was concerned. There were no complicated bookkeeping operations, not too much worry about balancing the cash every day. Accounts were sent out when time allowed, or a bank overdraft spurred a publisher into fast action.

A weekly editor needed nothing so much as endurance. He was a one-man office staff, news and editorial writer, book-keeper, advertising salesman and filled in any spare moments assembling and packaging printing jobs, throwing hand set type back into the proper slots and sorting out the aforementioned metal spacing for the ever-hungry compositor to use again. He folded newspapers on press day, sold papers over the counter while labelling those which went to the mail subscribers, answering the telephone and taking in cash payments at the same time.

But just like the one-room school, the horse and buggy, the hand washing of clothing, we have entered a new age.

And the odd thing is that today we seem to be just as busy, whether it's a shop or an office job, despite all the labour-saving equipment, the extra staff and the acknowledged improvements which printing, like all trades, has acquired.

Ownership Changes

Just as marked as the physical changes in the newspaper business is the form of ownership which is becoming prevalent.

Today's business world has little room for the small merchant and the weeklies are no exception.

We attended a convention just after our own sale to the Thomson firm seven years ago, and not everyone greeted us too cordially. Newspapermen were worried about the chains, jealous of their private ownership, fearful that the business world was changing. It was.

Last week we looked around the convention floor, and thought of all the missing faces. Dozens of weeklies have been acquired by firms like Thomson, the Toronto Star and Tely, and an English chain. No more do you meet private owners from Oakville, Brampton, Orangeville, Leamington, Midland, Stouffville, Aurora. The chains have acquired Port Credit, Newmarket, Burlington, Amprior, Powness, Barrie. Some are now dailies.

Advantage to Farmers

Introduction of Workmen's Compensation protection for all Ontario farm employees is a step long overdue in the province.

Not only does this protect a workman in agriculture against the cost of accidents, but it places the farmer in a better competitive position as an employer by offering an advantage which in the past was available only to industrial and retail employees.

The same protection is available on a voluntary basis to farmers themselves, who do not employ help, and it would be foolhardy for these men not to take advantage of it.

But it isn't much different than what is happening in all small private business, where chains have bought, or forced out of business, what used to be the prerogative of the individual.

The subject was mentioned in the president's address and he proposed an alternative which might well be a glimpse of the future for newspapers.

Speaking of the success of firms in the food, drug and hardware business, he said it should be quite possible for newspapers to pool many functions while still operating as private business.

It has been markedly successful in such firms as IGA, where a central office supervises buying, advertising, store layout. Weekly newspapers could benefit also by sharing some of the printing operations with modern equipment which no one paper could afford, being used by a group. Standard bookkeeping, quantity buying, would benefit a newspaper just as it does a grocer and a hardwareman.

Ontario's compensation protection is one of the best in the world and has often been used as a basis by other countries when entering the field.

Cost of the new coverage which is \$3.50 per \$100 of payroll for a majority of farmers in this area, is most reasonable for the advantages which compensation protection brings. It pays medical and hospital bills, lifetime pensions if permanently disabled, and 75% of earnings for periods when a worker is incapacitated because of an injury.

The wife of a self employed farmer can also be included in the coverage if so desired.

HARLEY TO HALTON

WEEKLY OBSERVATIONS BY DR. HARRY HARLEY, M.P. FOR HALTON

THE THRONE SPEECH debate is over. As expected no vote was taken on the Throne Speech itself, all the votes being taken on non-confidence amendments proposed by the Opposition. The Government, of course, survived these votes with the main assistance coming from the Social Credit Party and having done so, the Opposition did not force a vote on the Throne Speech. They had tried unsuccessfully to bring down the Government, been defeated and accepted it gracefully.

A SUPPLY MOTION is before the House now. This is a 48 hour debate, on any topic, and is another opportunity for the Opposition to move a vote

of Commons is quite different of non-confidence. They have agreed not to do so, in advance, however, and the House of Commons will in the days ahead move into the consideration of the spending estimates of the various Government Departments for the 1965-1966 Budget year. It is difficult to say how long this will take but it is expected to be completed before any legislation is brought before the House of Commons. In the near future "Interim Supply" must also be granted, to allow the Government to pay its day-to-day bills.



ALL THE JOYS OF AN OLD-FASHIONED WINTER

SUGAR AND SPICE

by Bill Smiley

How the Days Go

"It's not the cough you carry off. It's the coffin they carry you off in."

That old English folk saying pretty well sums up my attitude toward life this week. It isn't the work that's killing me; it's the after-hours stuff, in a typical week.

Last Monday, after work, I wrote my column, then spent five hours studying an essay by C. S. Lewis, concisely called "Right and Wrong as a Clue to the Meaning of the Universe." Try selling that one to a girl whose chief worry is her hair, do, or to a boy who can hardly wait for the last bell to ring, so that he can streak for the pool room.

Tuesday night I went curling. First time this year. Next morning, I felt 112 years old when I crawled out of the sack. My muscles worked only in fits and starts.

Wednesday afternoon, rushed to matinee to see movie of Macbeth. Sat with doe-eyed female English teacher. Later told my daughter I'd held hands with her throughout the show. Daughter furious. Wednesday night, a two-hour meeting of our staff's General Futility Committee.

Thursday afternoon a two-hour drive to the city, through a driving snow-storm with Kim, her last (hallelujah) visit to the orthodontist. Five years and 700 dollars after it all began the kid has straight teeth.

A BIBLE THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

H. B. Dean

"And his master saw that the Lord was with him, and that the Lord made all that he did to prosper in his hand." Genesis 39:3

Real Christianity is hard to conceal. "Let your light so shine before men that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in Heaven."

More than 70 countries have announced they will participate at Expo. Some 80 are expected.

This is a debate without time limit.

THE QUESTION PERIOD in the Parliament has been limited by agreement — it may last up to one hour on Mondays, 30 minutes on Wednesdays and 40 minutes on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays. This is the time of the day that visitors are asked questions, and answer them or take them to be answered later. This is the daily thrust and parry session, and often provides heated exchanges. The new Speaker of the House of Commons (sees his sternest test during this period and is carrying out his very difficult job most effectively and effectively and is being impartial in his judgement to all Members of the House.

new friends. Groat. It was exhilarating but exhausting, four of us talking at once. Left at 3 a.m. clutching a delicious home-made coffee cake.

Sunday was church, curling in the afternoon, and a special treat in the evening — dress rehearsal for an annual pageant in the church, I am in charge of rounding up sufficient bodies, of the right size and shape.

St. Joseph had sprained his ankle, sking, and couldn't make it. St. Peter had the flu. St. Andrew just didn't bother showing up. St. Thomas had to go out of town with the bantam hockey team. St. Paul thought the rehearsal was next week. The shepherds have lost their crooks. The three wise men are two dopey kids who want to get

NEWS ECHOES

From the Herald of 10, 20, and 30 Years Ago

FEBRUARY, 1956

The Georgetown firm of J. B. Mackenzie and Son Ltd. submitted the lowest of nine tenders for Georgetown's third public school, to be built on Rexway Drive, and will start construction on the 12 room building shortly.

Monday evening, February 13th, will be long remembered in the annals of the Georgetown Lions Club as the night they celebrated the twenty-fifth anniversary of the formation of the club here. Over 200 Lions, their wives and guests marked the occasion with a banquet, entertainment and dance in the Legion Hall.

FEBRUARY, 1946

Georgetown and district welcomes home from overseas this week, Cpl. Malcolm Brandford, CSM Harry Smeythurst, Sgt. Reg Hoare, Sgmn. Gordon Allen, Pte Jim Presswood, F/O Jack Cornett, Pte. Marjorie Schenk.

With so many hindrances in the way of new car deliveries due to strikes and price ceilings, it is interesting to learn that at least one new car has been delivered in town, the first since the war. Mr. Ray Whitmore is the purchaser of a new Plymouth sedan from Speight's garage and will be using it in his taxi business. Parked on Main St. last Saturday afternoon with announcement stickers on the windows, it was the object of inspection by many shoppers.

FEBRUARY, 1936

The Gregory Theatre was packed to the doors Thursday nights by parents and friends of the pupils of the Georgetown High School when they held their annual Commencement Exercises. The staff of the high school is now composed of the following teachers: John L. Lambert, principal; H. J. Heldman, English; Miss Marjorie Inman, Mathematics; Miss Florence Luke, modern languages; Miss E. Penson, science. Members of the school board are Dr. F. R. Watson, chairman; E. Y. Barraclough; W. V. Grant, R. B. Foulis, C. B. Dayfoot, J. H. Bingham.

Have you ever tried to deliver 25 reluctant teenage boys to a church on a Sunday evening, in this day and age? Don't.

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And you grope off to work in the dark Monday morning. And you have a rough day. And you come home and look at the mail; two whopping insurance premiums, a fuel bill that makes you want to run to the nearest travel agency, and a notice from the bank that your account is overdrawn.

Oh well, it's a great life if you don't die from sheer living.

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