

Georgetown Herald

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Cutting the Cloth

Hiring of a new town engineer at a \$14,200 salary has caused one dissembling councillor to oppose this in a strongly worded mail bag letter.

The week prior to the hiring motion, which passed with only one in opposition, the debate was not so much on what one man should be paid, but on the fact that endorsing this move meant a total expenditure of up to \$25,000 in at least one council member's mind. He mentioned that a man of this calibre, doing what council had hired him for, would require a draftsman and a chairman as well.

The question, then, seems to be: first, does Georgetown require an engineer in the \$8,000 to \$10,000 class, which has been the custom until now, or in a much higher range, higher, if we can believe one councillor, than surrounding towns and counties are paying.

And second, whatever the salary range of the man engaged, has it been de-

ecided that to expect a professional man to do his work without adequate assistance, is not feasible?

If the latter is the case, then assuredly the town has really decided to triple the allocation for engineering which has been made up to the present. And if so, could it not be possible to hire a less experienced man, who would be gaining his experience in a town of our size, with his eye on a more remunerative future job in a larger centre?

If the decision has been made to triple the town's engineering department, then the question of salary paid becomes somewhat less important, although every dollar saved the tax treasury should still bear consideration.

But if council has the idea that by paying substantially more, they are going to get more mileage from an individual without giving him staff, it is bound to prove unworkable.

Elm Trees Now Menace

Stately elms, once Ontario's pride, are now in the same position as a family pet which has developed rabies.

Once afflicted with Dutch elm disease they should be destroyed as fast as possible.

A pointed example was a news story last week which told of a diseased elm blowing down and causing a three car smash which sent people to hospital and inflicted heavy damage on the vehicles.

Removal of dead and diseased elms is costly.

Those on public property should be

immediately removed by the responsible municipal authorities. And the central government should consider also a bonus payment to luckless home owners who planted these trees with pride, only to find years later they must go.

Accidents like that reported can become very frequent as years go by, and without some incentive, it is certain that many of those standing on private property will not be removed when they should.

Aside from accident hazard, they are a blight on the scenic landscape and take away from the natural beauty of our Ontario countryside.

Diverting Pastime

The game of duplicate bridge is becoming increasingly popular in Georgetown.

Every Tuesday night, a group of town people are joined by some from neighbouring towns, pitting their brains in what is surely one of the most fascinating games devised to be played with cards.

As many as eighty persons have attended and it is seldom that there are less than a dozen tables of players.

For the uninitiated, duplicate bridge is a further refinement of a game which derived from whist, to auction bridge and later contract bridge. Duplicate pits the skill of a couple against a number of other couples. Each plays the same hand and the winner is the one who uses the most ingenuity and gets the extra trick which can

be all-important to the final score.

The club was the brainchild of Wellington (Duke) Wilson who belongs to an avid group of men who get together frequently for a friendly game. The club, since its inception two years ago, has outstripped others in the district and boasts the largest consistent attendance of any outside of Toronto.

Membership does not entail playing every week, nor even coming with a partner, for there are always others attending with whom you can team up.

The club is for both men and women. It is an inexpensive evening — a half dollar admission also covering a cup of coffee and the occasional snack.

Anyone with a basic knowledge of bridge should take advantage of the club to further improve their skills.

FROM MY KITCHEN WINDOW

Looking Forward to Winter and Its Sports

by Margaret Gordon

One Saturday morning recently, the children burst into the bedroom with the exciting news "It's snowing."

Nothing would do except that I rise immediately and view this wonder with half-open eyes. Two minutes after breakfast they had me bundling them in to their snow suits.

"Can we take out the toboggan, mummy?" they asked. The driveway was white, but the grass held only a glimmer of snow. What do you say in the face of such enthusiasm?

No doubt they recall the good times they had last winter on the hills around Georgetown. There are good hills for toboggans and skis from Cedarvale park, through North Halton Golf Course and eastwards through the river valley. For more professional skiers, there are clubs within easy driving distance in all directions.

Georgetown is noted for its hockey clubs also. As a teenager, I can remember coming here by chartered bus to attend hockey games. Many parents are up at dawn on Saturdays to take their boys to hockey practices at the arena.

Children trilling toboggans and sleighs or with skis on their shoulders trail past our house on wintry days bound for the valley. One hill in particular is named "Killer Mountain" be-

cause it's steep, has a bump at the bottom and a tree in the middle to miss. My husband and I were waiting at the bottom the first time our son came down that hill. All the way down he kept repeating "Holy cow, Holy cow" in awed tones.

Some days the snow is just right for a fast run. Children will whiz down, hit the bottom bump and go sailing through the air above the toboggan, landing in all directions. They pick themselves up, somehow still intact, and head uphill for more of the same.

Snow can mean fun, and I missed it when we lived in England. "How can you?" my English friends wondered. Generally speaking, my heart belongs to both countries. Spring in England is beautiful. Winter is a season to be endured with gray, foggy, damp days. The occasional snow makes headlines. England is not equipped for this and pandemonium results.

Here, snow is cleared from roads soon after it touches the ground. Except for the occasional blizzard, people can be snug in their warm homes.

Do you remember the blizzard two years ago? That Sunday morning our driveway was under nearly two feet of snow. We decided to dig out and appeared, armed with shovels at the same time as Bill and Mary Anne Smith, neighbours across the road. The race to the road,

was on. The shouting and laughter made shovelling easy. They won — about five minutes before the snow plough came through, leaving more drifts to dispose of.

This winter I'm going to try skiing. Some years ago I enjoyed it, but can remember the exact moment I sat down and used the skis as a toboggan. My husband is urging me to join him on the slopes. Please wish me luck!

DISTRICT NEWS AT A GLANCE

ERIN — In a few days all residents of Erin Township, 60 years of age and over will receive a questionnaire from Ontario Housing Corporation which is attempting to determine if low cost rental units for senior citizens are needed in the area.

OAKVILLE — Diane Lacroix of Oakville is out of danger. The German Shepherd dog which bit the 9-year-old two weeks ago was when checked by Halton County Health Unit officials after 14 days quarantine.

ACTON — A report to council last week stated the growth rate for the town is projected on a three per cent basis. Estimated population in 1971 will be 5,050 not taking into consideration any major housing starts.

BRAMPTON — Brampton secondary school principals have decided to meet Friday to discuss the youth drug problem and preventative measures. Their decision to meet stems from laying of marijuana charges against juveniles at Streetsville.



SOUNDS DIFFERENT THIS YEAR

HARLEY TO HALTON



Weekly Observations by Dr. Harry Harley, M.P. for Halton

SINCE OUR LAST column most of the time in the House of Commons has been devoted to the debate on capital punishment. It is hard to tell what the result of this debate will be as the vote is expected to be quite close. It is of course a free vote which means that confidence in the Government is not involved and if the Bill does not pass the Government does not have to resign as would be the case if it were a normal Bill in this way. Members of Parliament are free to vote as they see fit.

THIS BILL WILL abolish capital punishment except for the murder of peace officers and prison guards. The Bill will be in effect for five years at the end of which time it will have to be reviewed by Parliament. While it was first thought the Bill might be voted on after one or two days of debate, it is now obvious that it is going to take much longer than this. On one day for example an attempt was made to adjourn the debate, which has the effect of postponing the debate for that day only. As the House was only 30 minutes from the end of the day's normal business, it is hard to understand what the particular Member (a Creditiste) had hoped to accomplish by this manoeuvre. Incidentally it was defeated relatively easily and the House went on to the other business as listed.

IT IS EXPECTED that the next item of business for Parliament will probably be the conclusion of the debate setting up the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs under the Registrar-General, the Honourable John Turner. This does not add a new Government department but is an expansion and further development of an already existing one.

THE NEW LEADER of the Opposition, Mr. Stanfield, has now taken his seat in the House of Commons. The Conservative Party were present in large numbers and one of the few Members noticeably absent was the Member from Prince Albert, the Honourable John Diefenbaker.

DID YOU KNOW?

Early recreation: Lacrosse, a fast moving netted stick game, was played in America before Columbus landed in 1492. Originated by the Iroquois Indians and used as a training requirement for warriors, this strenuous game was adopted in 1840 by the white man. It is now reputed to be north America's oldest organized sport.

SUGAR AND SPICE by Bill Smiley

This Is Not My Fault

Oh boy! I know every man leads a life of quiet desperation, according to Thoreau, I'd settle for that, if mine were even quiet.

This has been one of those days that make me wonder how the hell I can be the sweet, gentle person I am underneath.

It started at five a.m., when the Old Lady's alarm clock failed to go off. She had checked it four times between 11 p.m. and 5 a.m., switching on the light and waking me up each time. At 4.45, she settled into a sound sleep and woke with a great lurch and a scream of dismay at 5.30. She takes off for the city at 6.

Scrambling. Tea and toast. Eyes like rubbed by sandpaper. Turned on the outside light. Six inches of fresh snow, first of the year. More scrambling, for winter boots, long laid away in some hidey-hole.

Showed her into the snow and tottered about from 6 until 8.30, having cups of tea, shaves and anything else that was reviving. Off into the blizzard with Kim. No snow tires, naturally. Was going to put them on this week.

Taught all day. Committee meeting at 3.15. Department head's meeting at 3.30 until 4.30. Column to write but went around to the garage to get the snow tires on. Three hundred other people had the same idea.

Home at six. Two kids (that useless Hugh's home) sitting listening to records, with the breakfast dishes in the sink. Blew up. Got the dinner organized and a few home truths off my chest.

But no rest. Out into the bleak night for another meeting at 7.30. Lasted until 10. Accomplished? Zero.

Home at last for peace, quiet, relaxation. Kim hit me the minute I got in. A proposition. She'd been asked to play the organ with a rock group. It seems the 'in' thing for groups these days is to have a girl in them. She'd also sing.

No catches whatever. Except that she'd have to buy an organ for \$150 and spend about 20 hours a week practising. Nothing to it. She has a hundred in the bank from summer earnings. She could easily borrow the other \$50 from the bank.

Brief lesson in economics. "What do you have for security?" She wanted to know what you have \$5,000 in government bonds, the bank will lend you \$50, maybe.

The only assets she could think of were: her bicycle, leaning against a tree in the snow in the backyard, unridden for three years, a portable record player with a broken arm; a guitar that was worth \$40 in its heyday, ten years ago; and her piano, which I pointed out was owned by her mother.

"But do you know how much this means to me, Dad?"

Visitors See Tots' Routine At Nursery Open House

It was Open House at Maple Nursery School in Cedarvale Community Centre Friday, November 10th and parents and interested people turned up to see what goes on at Georgetown's only nursery school.

Among the visitors was Mayor Joe Gibbons, who ended up reading stories to the youngsters.

The nursery school is run by Mrs. K. Hall, a qualified nursery school teacher, and is assisted by Mrs. J. Goebel, a school teacher. One or two mothers help out every day. Their turn comes up only about twice a month.

The normal daily routine was shown the visitors. This consists of free play, in which the children choose the game, or craft they want. Then they have a 'circle' time where they play games together, or sing, or play rhythm band.

In addition they play outside when the weather permits. Due to transfers there is space for three more children in the nursery school.

NEWS ECHOES

From the Herald of 10 and 20 Years Ago

1957

• The Dept. of Education has given permission to North Halton District High School Board to replace the old Georgetown high school with a new building.

• For the third time in the four years in business here Wigo TV has been forced to expand. Originally located in part of the Cordaro Building, Wigo moved across the street to large quarters in October of 1954. Their present store was formerly the Horseshoe Grill.

• Jim Costigan, 29 Market St., won a pinto pony worth \$300, when he patronized the Georgetown Open Kitchen recently. The pony was a prize in a lucky contest.

1947

• With the lifting of sugar rationing the local War-time Prices and Trades Board office which operated in the municipal office in charge of Mrs. W. V. Grant has been closed.

• Work is progressing on Gord Harley's new garage on John Street and a second story is being put on the building.

• Simmons Jewellers opened their new store last week in premises between the Golden Gate Cafe and Georgetown Furniture Sales.

• Extensive changes are being made at Provincial Paper Limited including a new office layout, painting throughout the plant, and a telephone switchboard installed.

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