

Georgetown Herald

Published by Home Newspapers Limited
22 Main Street South, Georgetown, Ontario
W. C. BIEHN, Publisher

PAGE 4 Thursday, January 11th, 1968

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Full Time Firemen Coming

Mayor Gibbons' statement that the time has come for Georgetown to have a paid, full time fire department, gives one the same feeling that we had when the telephone company announced that it was replacing the switchboard system with a dial operation.

Immediately comes a wave of nostalgia, for just as the telephone girls were an integral part of small town life, so is the volunteer fire brigade.

A full time fire department is just as inevitable as was mail delivery, self-serve grocery stores, and the disappearance of ice wagons and blacksmith shops.

All of them are progress, be it replacement of ice refrigerators with electric machines, horses with automobiles, or in this case, skilled public spirited amateurs who serve for love of the job and their community with those who do so for a livelihood.

That a volunteer department has served as long as it has, and is still adequately functioning in a community of over 13,000 as well as part of the surrounding township, is a real tribute to the fire department's personnel.

When the time comes to replace this, we hope the extra cost involved will be compensated by an even greater efficiency, and it is not unreasonable to expect that, with paid men on the job, day and night, this will be so.

Not that we would detract in any way from the outstanding service which generations of men have rendered to their community. Perhaps more than any other civic-minded people, the firemen deserve the top accolade from the public.

When the telephone dial system came, a Herald editorial pointed out one thing which the town lost — a substantial employment centre for women. When the change comes, some day in the fire department, the reverse will be the case, for this will be actually creating a number of new positions for men residents.

Are You Really You

The world has watched with awe, the newest advance in medical science — replacement of a living person's heart with one removed from a recently-deceased body.

Not that we should be that surprised, for the same has been done with such other vital organs as kidneys and eyes.

Soon such transplants will cease to be headline news, for we live in a world so geared to major change that after watching the first few Sputniks whirling in orbit, we ceased to marvel at strange objects streaking across the sky, and after the first venture of man into space, succeeding trips caused less excitement than Lindbergh's solo Atlantic flight in his day.

Success of replacement of hearts can lead only to the conclusion that at some future date, and perhaps sooner than we think, a human brain may find a new home in a fellow creature.

And man will then be faced with the question . . . Are you really you?

Perhaps some day, people will be in the same position as the man who married an aging beauty. On their wedding night, she removed her false eyelashes and put them in a dresser drawer, followed this with a hairpiece, 'falsies', a glass eye . . . and finally, a wooden leg. The poor bridegroom didn't know whether to get into bed . . . or into the dresser drawer.

A Sensible Decision

Elevation of acting chief Harley (Bud) Lowe to the position of police chief is a sensible move, and a welcome one, by the town's new Board of Police Commissioners.

Mr. Lowe, a member of the forces since its establishment eleven years ago, has given good service in a senior capacity, has capably held the acting position for several months, and is the logical man to take over the position.

It is all too common in private business, and sometimes occurs in civic business as well, that a capable employee is bypassed, and a vacancy filled by a stranger.

When this happens, it can have nothing but an injurious effect on morale, for

IN THE MAIL BAG

Holiday Celebrating Relic of Pagan Days

Dec. 30th, 1967
11 Ewing St.

Dear Sir:-
December 21st Georgetown Herald carried a most interesting and informative item — "Which day is Christmas?" It asked a very timely and provocative question.

We could ask ourselves, if God had wanted us to celebrate the birth of his beloved Son, would he have left us in doubt about the date?

It is the death of the Messiah that Christians must observe, because by that ransom sacrifice, believers may gain eternal life.

The merry-making and feasting at Christmas time has been a practice of the pagans for many centuries, even the celebrating of the Christmas tree was a pagan heathen practice as far back as B.C. 600.

We read in Jeremiah chap. 10, verse 1-4 "Thus saith the Lord, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of the Heaven, for the heathen are dismayed at them.

For the customs of the people are vain, for one cutteth a tree out of the forest. The work of the hands of the workmen with the axe.

They deck it with silver and with gold; they fasten it with nails and hammers that it move not, etc.

One might also ask, where is Christmas leading us each year, there is more and more spending and more and more glitter for the big celebration of feasting and drinking, etc.

This Christmas, the world was sitting on a powder keg with politicians not knowing when at any moment it might blow up.

Many organizations are at this time preaching that we are living the last days and thoughtful people are now comparing world conditions with Bible prophecy and the last days.

The words of the Son of God were they will be eating and drinking, etc. Matthew 24, he also said "Pray ye that your flight be not in the winter, nor on the Sabbath day.

Thinking of these words and the explosive situation of the world today, posed a question also for me:

Will it be just as we are all feasting and drinking at Christmas on the pagan holiday of the Solstice which is the Unproven date of the birth of the Saviour?

And, when we think of the tragedies that the festivities of Christmas bring to countless homes, such as death on the highways, fires from Christmas trees, murders through drink, should we not ask ourselves — is it worth it?

True, Christmas is a time

when people open their hearts and pocketbooks, but these are things we should do all the year through.

Who knows, perhaps the glitter of Christmas will prove a snare to all the world.

—Mrs. Katharine Cordaro

Appreciates News Coverage for 'Y'

January 4th, 1968

The Editor:-
Dear Sir:-
While reviewing our 'Y' scrap book preparatory to making out my annual report I came hopefully to realize what very good coverage your newspaper gives our association.

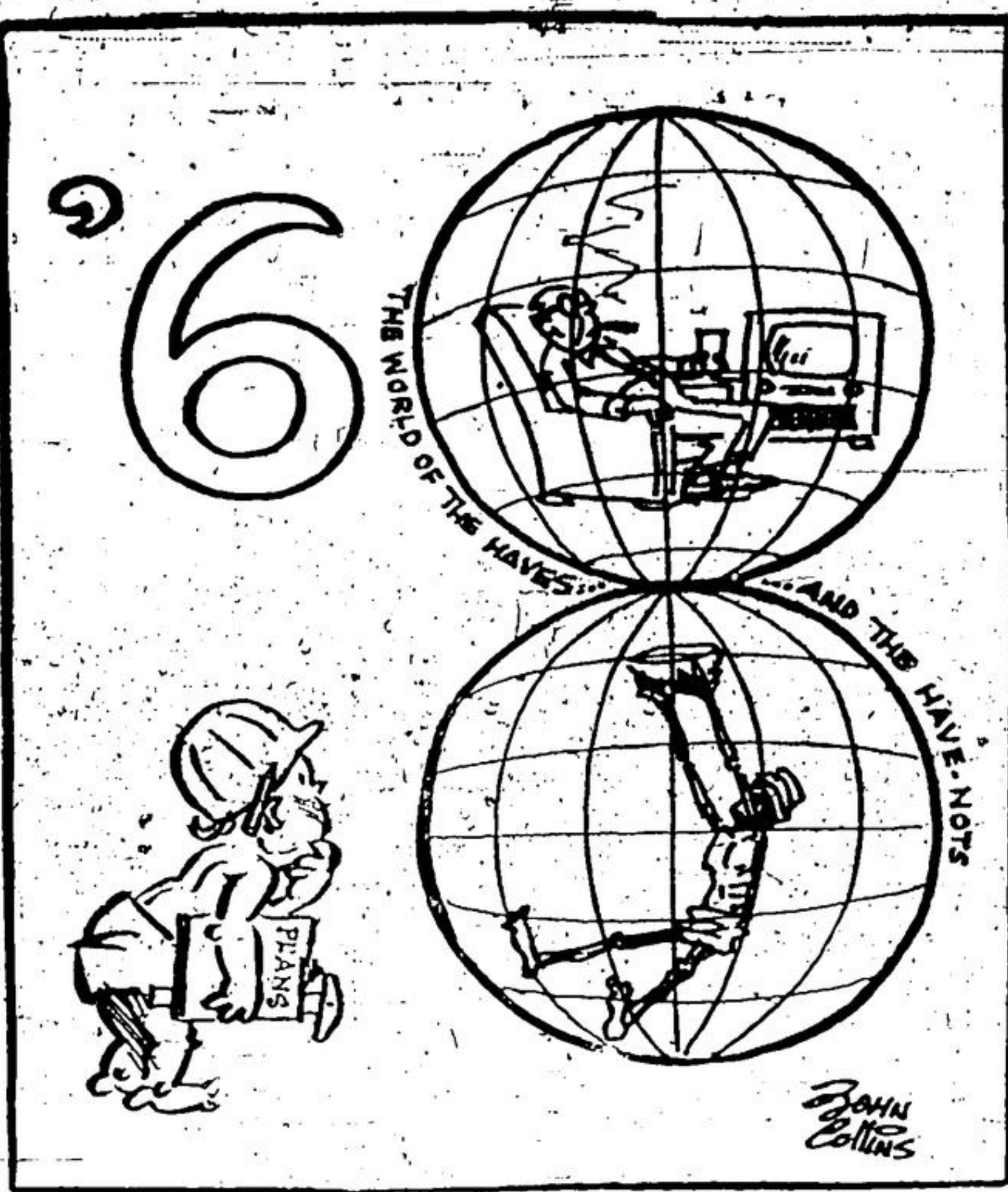
May I take this opportunity to thank you and your staff for your assistance throughout the past year. Special thanks to Mr. Terry Harley for his more than generous help.

Sincerely,
Helen Y. Dickson,
Publicity Chairman,
Georgetown & Dist. YSP/YWCA

River Drive Corner More Dangerous Now

R. H. Z. Rockwood, Ont.
W. A. Johnson,
December 31st, 1967

Dear Sir:-
It is good to see the Mountview bridge open to the traffic, but what a terrible hazard had been created at the River Dr. - Mountview intersection. Before the gradient to



CHALLENGE OF THE NEW YEAR

SUGAR AND SPICE by Bill Smiley

WE GET LETTERS

Teachers get some pretty funny notes from parents, explaining the absence of a pupil. Usually it's because the harassed mother or father glaze down something at the last minute, as the kid, heading for the door, and already late, screams in dismay: "Oh, I gotta have a note."

This you get 50th things as "Please excuse Jane's grandmother for being absent due to her illness." The baffled teacher finally figures out that granny had the flu and Jane had to stay home and look after her because Mom can't miss a day at the shoe factory, because that's the only way she can make enough money to buy some decent clothes, so she can go to school, and help out Granny and Mom.

Sometimes the notes are not so funny. "Please excuse Jim for being late as he had to appear in court this morning for drunk and disorderly," but it was the other guy's fault."

Well, teachers aren't the only ones who receive sad and funny letters. The rest of the column will be made up of sentences taken from actual letters received by the Toronto Welfare Dept. from applicants for aid and assistance.

They may explain why English teachers look so stunned so much of the time. The sentences will be in quotation marks. The comments will be whatever comes to mind.

"I am very annoyed that you have branded my son illiterate as this is a lie. I was married to his father a week before he was born." She didn't mean illiterate. She meant illegible.

"In answer to your letter, I have given birth to a boy weighing ten pounds. I hope this is satisfactory." Really, what could be more satisfactory?

"Unless I get my husband's money pretty soon, I will be forced to lead an immortal life." And good luck to you, Missus. There should be a lot more of that type of positive thinking in the world.

"Mrs. Jones has not had any clothes for a year and has been visiting regularly by the Clergy." No comment.

"This is my eighth child, what are you going to do about it?" What, indeed? It is certainly time somebody did something. Or stopped doing something.

The new bridge was created, motorists stopped, looked and prayed before making a turn into River Dr. Now this hazard has been increased. It's a case of stopping, praying and going to the morgue or to the hospital. I am not gifted with foreseeing the future, but I would speculate that the new bridge will be christened "blind-before-death" is out.

—W.M. A. JOHNSON

IN THE MAIL BAG

Message, Not Grammar, Editor's Main Objective

14 James Street,
January 6, 1968

Mr. Editor:-
I regret the criticism in your perturbed reader, W. E. Wilson.

On January 5th, Mr. Elwood Glover, well-known broadcaster, surmised that a person sits out there in the unseen audience with paper and pencil at the ready, waiting for him to make a grammatical error and then writes to complain about it.

Who doesn't make grammatical errors occasionally?

To get your message across to your readers is your main objective. I agree that TV is an entertainment, educational and communication medium.

Therefore, my esteemed editor, I trust you will continue to earn your livelihood as you have in the past.

An Editorial Advisor
Richard Prust

Harley Backing Hellyer For Liberal Leadership

MP for Halton, Dr. Harry Hellyer said Wednesday he will support Transport Minister Yaul Hellyer if he makes a bid for the leadership of the Liberal party in April.

Harley is a member of the Toronto Committee for Paul Hellyer, which will launch its campaign at a meeting January 11th. The committee has sent out between 400 and 500 invitations to the "most candid" meeting.

Barnett Hanson, unsuccessful Liberal candidate in York Mills in the last provincial election in the head of the committee. "As it now stands, he said recently (Hellyer) is simply coming as a guest of the group of people who want to see him."

Organizers hope the Transport Minister will declare his intentions at the meeting.

Dr. Harley said Hellyer's work in carrying through the unification of the armed forces bill as Minister of Defence will stand him in good stead in his race for the leadership.

"And he's the best man for the job," he added.

He said Hellyer has wide support across the country and also in caucus.

Other possible, External Affairs Minister Paul Martin and Trade Minister Robert Winters also have support in the caucus, but Dr. Harley said he would expect they have less nationwide backing than the transport minister.

As for Justice Minister Pierre Trudeau and Manpower Minister Jean Marchand, the Halton MP said they both have a great deal of support in caucus and across the country, and if either of them were to be able to count on most of the support from Quebec.

Some of the other names that have been mentioned are Agriculture Minister Joseph Greene and Minister General John Turner. Even Secretary of State Juddie LaMarche has indicated she's "interested" although Dr. Harley said she isn't considered a serious threat to most of the other possible candidates.

Asked what he thinks of charges heard at the time of Hellyer's work on unification that he was using his position to make way for a leadership bid, Dr. Harley said: "I think they were pretty far-fetched."

"It was his job to carry out party policy and he did it," he said.

Six delegates will be chosen to represent the Halton Liberal Association at the spring leadership convention in Ottawa. Most of the delegates will come from the association's executive made up of president Terry Kennedy, and vice presidents Mrs. Derek Mason, George Jack-

"I am glad to report that my husband who was reported missing is dead." Now there is a sentence of which Hemingway would be proud. Not a syllable too much or too little. The emotion is restrained. Note that she was "glad", not "delighted."

And here's one with the same theme, but a different twist. "Please find for certain if my husband is dead, the man I am living with can't eat or do anything until he finds out."

There's drama for you. There is tragedy. Think of that poor devil, starving to death, unable to smoke or drink or pick his teeth or pull the fluff out of his belly button.

"Here's another that shows a nice respect for bureaucracy. "In accordance with your instructions, I have given birth to twins in the enclosed envelope."

And they thought The Pill was a big deal!

Another mom writes: "I cannot get sick pay. I have six children. Can you tell me why?" There's a beautiful logic there somewhere, if you could just put your finger on it.

"I haven't any children as yet as my husband is a bus driver and works day and night." But think of all that overtime!

And finally, it sounds like an old chestnut, but teachers actually get notes like this: "I want money as quick as I can get it. I have been in bed with the doctor for two weeks and he doesn't do me any good. If things don't improve, I will have to send for another doctor."

This is Medicare!

NEWS ECHOES

From the Herald of 10 and 20 Years Ago

1958

- In his address at the inaugural meeting of council on Monday, Mayor Jack Armstrong predicted house to house mail delivery, the installation of street signs and recommended the establishment of an industrial commission.
- Ray Saller of 32 Maple Avenue West was appointed chairman of the Georgetown Public School Board, Wednesday night.
- Police were busy over the weekend conducting investigations into a rash of breakins in which nine robbery attempts were reported. In most cases houses were left in a mess from desperate ransacking, however little was missing.
- At council on Monday Cr. Whitmee asked how the situation stood regarding the widening of John Street subway under the CNR tracks and was told that almost all evidence had been collected for the town's claim that it is the railway's responsibility. Cr. Whitmee also asked that consideration be given this year to making Elm Street a "thoroughfare" by bridging the creek, which would take heavy traffic off other streets and open up building lots.
- A recommendation that consideration be given to establishing another classroom and engaging another teacher were main points in the report of Inspector L. L. Skuce read by secretary P. B. Harrison at the inaugural public school board meeting Wednesday. He asked the board to consider making the new classroom in the assembly room which is now used as a stage and seating amphitheatre. The extra space is needed because enrolment has climbed to 335.

1948

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