

Georgetown Herald

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EDITORIAL COMMENT

Focus on Education

This week Ontario marks education week, with special emphasis in schools and in the press on one of the most important areas of our Canadian life.

In this issue of the Herald you will find interesting bits of information about times past — teachers' names, student lists, and some of the history of our school system.

National theme for the week is "Education — Measure of a Nation". We in Ontario are most fortunate in having parliamentarians and civic leaders who realize education's value, and the resources to implement the latest innovations to keep our school system in the world's forefront.

Two Things to Watch

In connection with education, there are two things which particularly command attention.

One is that, while experimenting with new ideas in education, particularly in a change from more or less rigid courses of study to a free choice of subject, we do not lose track of the fact that education, up to high school leaving, is geared more to teaching discipline, and the basics of languages, maths and science, than it is to specific learning.

Give a youngster too much choice and he will naturally choose the subjects in which he feels he is most interested and often ones which he feels will be less work.

There is something to be said for conquering Latin if you don't take to it, for studying math when you would rather be taking more English literature. Young people will still be entering a business world where they will have to take the bitter with the better, and if one has learned to master the difficult subjects, to not just select the things he wants to do, he

Besides excellent primary and secondary schools and a number of topnotch universities, the 19 colleges of applied arts and technology in various parts of the province will provide training for young Ontarians to fit them for the increasingly complex world which they are entering.

It is a week in which parents, particularly, should devote their attention to the future. So radical have been the changes in our high school system that it is no longer possible to enrol a student, then forget about it until he graduates. The varying courses, the options, are ones which require a decision, in order that your boy or girl is equipped to continue in his chosen field of endeavour afterwards.

will be much better equipped to deal with the job at which he will spend his adult life.

The other major problem which concerns people more and more these days, is the continuing pressure of teachers for salary increases which are becoming out of all proportion to salaries paid for other types of employment.

As a school board member in the days when teachers had no federation and pitifully inadequate salaries, we were an early battler for their cause, and we took pride in having a part in helping raise the profession to a place where a teacher received a decent salary for one of the country's most important and demanding jobs.

The last few years, the tail has been wagging the dog to the point where school boards seem mesmerized into believing that the public treasury is inexhaustible, and that substantial yearly salary increases and guaranteed increments are a must.

The time has come when school boards will have to say no, and mean it, and refuse to buckle under to the threats of blacklisting which degrade a profession.

Much Ado About Something

Canada's parliamentary crisis last week had some aspects of a comic opera.

Who would suspect that in staid old conservative (small 'C') Canada, lurked the turbulent spirits to cause members of parliament to throw papers in the air in the House of Commons and sing 'Tipperary' on their way to the Commons.

More in keeping with Canada, was the maze of debate which followed the de-

feat of a government bill on third reading, and the question of whether this constituted a 'no confidence' vote in the government, or not.

At time of writing, the smoke has cleared, and it appears that the government may stay in power when a confidence vote is taken in the House.

Now all that has to be decided is how to get those extra millions of dollars which the income surtax was to have raised...

BLOOD AND THE RED CROSS sends each donor a wallet sized card stating his blood group and his RH type. A nationwide pre-natal Rh investigation service is operated free by the hospital patient is neither charged nor obliged to replace it — The Red Cross

WORD OF THE WEEK **ACCLIMATE**: to acclimatize to different or foreign conditions of climate; to become used to new conditions. **Next Week's Word: Accuter**

To Be a Canary or Budgie, Pet Sparrow is Undecided

By Terry Harley that chirped up and confessed, the age old nursery rhyme. Ever hear of a talking sparrow bumping off Cock Robin? I mean besides the one with a bit of sick archery-interview-Crescent has one.

Address, and he won't attempt even the first stanza of Edgar Allan Poe's "The Raven" but he does say his name, which is Jeremy, and that alone in the world of feathered friends qualifies him as some kind of a wonder.

"I didn't know if I could ever get him to speak, I just kept repeating his name to him from the time I got him, and after about a year and a half he started saying it back to me," Mrs. Laidler told us when we discussed her unusual pet.

The family gets back at him by covering his cage at night with a bright patterned towel, instead of his regular dark cover and his reaction is an angry pitched squawking which could pass for the jabbering of TV's Flipper.

To dispel the last stubborn traces of skepticism we visited the Laidler home to find the domesticated and very contented little songster does indeed know and say his moniker distinctly and with just a hint of pride.

Last year Jeremy moulted and he was left in an undignified state when his body feathers didn't grow back. Mrs. Laidler has consulted keepers of aviaries and tried every suggested remedy, but to date nothing has restored his plumage. Experts on naked talking song sparrows it seems are hard to come by.

A friend of Mrs. Laidler four years ago on the ground attracted Jeremy by his peeping protests. She took him to south his ruffled feathers and feathers nursed him for two weeks and then turned him over to Mrs. Laidler who has been his protector

Jeremy — dishevelled but talented



NEW ENTRY IN THE CROSS-COUNTRY RACE

IN THE MAIL BAG

Warns Council Effluent Harmful To Sewage System

31 Byron Street, February 23, 1968

Dear Mr. Editor;

The contention of Cr. Young at last Monday's council session in regard to contradictory statements by the Ontario Water Resources Commission in regard to waste from the paper mills going into our sewage system is absolutely right.

Here is an excerpt taken from a letter over the signature of G. H. Mills, district engineer of the OWRC dated May 3rd, 1967. The letter is on file at the municipal office.

"Recommended that every effort should be made by these companies to reduce the waste loadings on the water pollution control plant."

On May 20th, I investigated conditions at the sewage plant and was advised by one of the personnel that they had considerable trouble with effluent and hoped it would not happen again.

In view of this, any failure of council to forbid acceptance of any effluent from the mills would be catastrophic and could result in saddling the taxpayers with the cost of a new sewage system at a cost of over a million dollars.

Council BEWARE: Don't be taken on this issue.

Yours truly,
Ed A. Peters.

SUGAR AND SPICE

by Bill Smiley

AN OLD FRIEND WRITES

So you think you have troubles, with your two or three Rotten Kids? We all have them. Troubles and Rotten Kids, that is. They're inseparable.

I could tell you stories that really shake me any more. I would make your heart ache, your hair curl. But so could you, doubtless. According to some insane schools of thought, the trouble is that we haven't enough kids. We spoil our one or two rotten and then we astounded at the results.

All we have to do is have a whole raft of kids, and problems would vanish. They'd help with the dishes, make their beds, and all turn out to be Great Kids.

This is rot. I assure you. And to prove, I'm going to quote some excerpts from a letter received recently from an old and dear friend. She's more dear than old, but I think her remarks will explode that poppycock about large families. She has six boys and a girl and knows whereof.

The letter arrived at the end of January, when she got around to sending out the annual Christmas cards. It was written in starts and fits, over three weeks, whenever she had the strength.

teacher, and foster mother since.

"We almost lost him twice," Mrs. Laidler recounted. "Once he dove into a bathtub full of soapy water, and another time he overrode my shoulder while landing and plunged into the dishwasher with the dinner dishes."

Both times he was fished out covered with suds, wrapped in a towel and given a chip-aspirin with his regular keed, and today he's none the worse for his duck imitations.

Jeremy was fed egg yolk, bread and milk at first and his diet gradually changed to canary food. He also gets the same vitamins and other health foods on the menu of the most expensive pet shop canaries. Somewhat of a prankster Jeremy likes to pull out the pin curlers when Mrs. Laidler is doing her hair, and steals kernels from the children's breakfast cereals and hides them.

The family gets back at him by covering his cage at night with a bright patterned towel, instead of his regular dark cover and his reaction is an angry pitched squawking which could pass for the jabbering of TV's Flipper.

Last year Jeremy moulted and he was left in an undignified state when his body feathers didn't grow back. Mrs. Laidler has consulted keepers of aviaries and tried every suggested remedy, but to date nothing has restored his plumage. Experts on naked talking song sparrows it seems are hard to come by.

"It is all defeating because there's too much of it. So there's the way out — which is them. Troubles and Rotten Kids, that is. They're inseparable."

"I seem to be in a jaded (greenish) state where nothing really shakes me any more. I believe if you want to find a real skeptic and/or cynic, look for an old mother of a large family. It's not that I don't care (about all the big and enough kids. We spoil our one little crises); it's just a kind of numbness that I think must settle in as a preservative. Or else it's low blood pressure."

"Nine p.m. CBC programme reporting comments of English people about Canada. What a bloody superior bunch. I would like to smash them. Excuse writing. Am writing as I quietly recover from a general anaesthetic. Nothing serious."

Also my hand is less than agile due to arthritis. It seems to me a poor system where surviving the rigors of existence is penalized by the ills of age.

"Bob decided to take his summer working money (tuition fees) and go off on a self-discovery journey to Europe. Night before calling he phoned (collect, of course) to say goodbye and told me his girl was going too. I still don't know what her mother thinks or feels. Of course I don't know what I think or feel either."

So then Bill had mononucleosis. This was enough to change his plans about college and he finally decided to go to Europe, too. They are only on a great larking holiday. Was it better when we got rid of this restlessness?

"Tom didn't get his first year at college. Dan is in Grade 11 after a spell at summer school. Jenny is an outpatient having urinary tract X-ray as follow-up to surgery in September."

"I know Bob is in Israel now, working on a kibbutz for shelter, food, and experience, but no money. He's working in a banana grove."

"I can tell he is suffering from traveller's ego and thinks

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NEWS ECHOES

From the Heralds of 10 and 20 Years Ago

1958

● Sharing the country-wide Progressive - Conservative sweep which saw Prime Minister John Diefenbaker returned to office with the largest majority in history, Sandy Best of Georgetown, scored his own personal triumph in Halton beating Liberal Ken Dick by 11,033 votes.

● A unique event took place in Georgetown Friday when a brother and sister received the highest awards of the Boy Scout and Girl Guide organizations. At a ceremony in Knox Church auditorium, Wayne and Dawn Fiebig, 45 Victoria Avenue received their Queen Scout Badge and Gold Cord.

● Georgetown's fourth public school will be known simply as Park Public School. The name was agreed upon by Georgetown public school trustees when they met Wednesday.

1948

● Playing to a packed arena last night Georgetown ousted Milton to win the group playoffs and the chance to enter the Ontario semi-finals for Intermediate A supremacy. The game was a sudden death affair played because Milton's earlier series win was tossed out on the grounds they had used two illegal players, Stot and Scarrow. Georgetown won last night's crucial match in front of a crowd of 2,100 in Georgetown arena. Winners' goals were scored by Del Beaumont, Nick Ferri, Max Bradbury, and Kent Storey. Jack Rhodes was outstanding in the Georgetown net.

● The new license plates on cars are white numerals on a black background, and are the first double plates issued since early in the war.

● Berwick Hall, the lovely old home of the late John R. Barber has had a complete face-lifting and has been converted by Mr. W. F. Bradley, the new owner, into a modern apartment building. The old house stood vacant for many years and through the years, neglect and vandalism took their toll until it became an eyesore on Main Street South.

● Norman Hill is constructing a new store at the corner of King and Union Streets, across the street from his present location.

himself vastly superior to all those who stay at home — especially Tom. Whose reaction was "See you someday. I'm the Yippy-poop. I've seen a banana. I guess that says it for me too as I take note of his father's aging look."

"My main feeling is irritation with such nonsense, that leaves father still with them on his back. For of course they plan to keep on being college boys!

Cheer up, dear heart. You wouldn't limp if you had a broken leg. And if you are way back there, the hand might be playing "The Saints Come Marching In."

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