



Bill Smiley

### An Unexpected Guest

My young brother and I are very close. We always have been. We slept in the same bed for years, shared the same teachers in school, spent our summers together at the family cottage, and fought furiously about such things as who was going to get the bike that day.

Even the war didn't keep us apart. We both served in the air force and trained as fighter pilots, sometimes at the same stations. We were both shot down. We ended the war with the same rank. The only real difference was that he could put the letters D.F.C. after his name. But I was able to counter that with horror tales about prison camp.

Yes, we've been very close. So close that we sometimes remember to send a card at Christmas. And we make a point of corresponding every three or four years. And at least once a decade we have a visit.

It happened this past weekend. There's a lot to "get caught up on" when you meet your little brother so seldom. And boy, did we get caught up.

He arrived Friday evening in his colonel's uniform, ablaze with ribbons. That night we got caught up until 5 a.m. on Saturday. Saturday night we did even better, getting caught up until 7.30 in the Sunday a.m. And Sunday night we got caught up until 1.30 a.m., when thanks to a merciful providence he had to leave to catch a bus to catch a plane back to Colorado Springs and the panic buttons.

I learned a lot of things. That I still owed him \$9 for my share of the bike. That his only child has married a very wealthy Englishman and has cars, dogs, servants, the works. It's the only money in the entire family connection, as far as I know, but I can't see how I'm going to get my hands on any of it.

And I learned (this is how close our family is) that a favorite uncle of mine had died over a month ago. Uncle Omar had reason to detest me. As an infant, I had cried lustily and steadily throughout his marriage, which took place at my parents' home.

But he forgave, and offered a big helping hand on a couple of occasions when I needed it like plasma. A mule-skinner in World War I, he worked hard all his life, did well, had a loved and loving family and died peacefully at 75. A good life.

My kid brother and I conjured up a host of forgotten faces and incidents, most of them funny. The incidents that is not the faces. We had some good sport talking Ottawa Valley English, which is unique on this or any other continent. We recalled with pride Mountain Jack Thomson.

### Drowned at Quarry—Inquest Is Ordered

A coroner's inquest will be held into the drowning last month of a 27 year old Toronto man who lost his life in five feet of water at Waterfalls Playground, a private picnic and swimming area near Limehouse.

Notice of the inquest was given last week by the Halton Crown Attorney's office. No date has been set.

Flavko Vuletic of Weston, an unmarried electrician, was known to his friends as a good swimmer. He had swum in the area, an abandoned quarry filled with water, on previous occasions.

North Halton provincial pallies who were called to the drowning feel Vuletic may have suffered severe cramps just before drowning. He had eaten dinner shortly before, they said.

There are no lifeguards at the swimming area.

An inquest may also be held into the death of Edward De Boer, 18, of north Oakville, who drowned in Kelso Lake just north of Milton last month three days before the Vuletic drowning.

The youth, a grade 10 student at White Oaks Secondary School in Oakville had gone to the lake in the Kelso Conservation area with a Milton church youth group. He tried to follow two of his friends, who are strong swimmers, past the safety buoys to the other side of the lake.

## Predicts New Halton Jail Not Ready for Six Years

Halton County's century old jail, the target of repeated grand jury attacks in recent years, will remain in use for another six years, Dr. Morton Shulman (NDP—High Park) has predicted.

Shulman said he based the prediction on recent extensive renovations and improvements at the jail.

Reform institutions minister Allan Grossman said in 1967 that construction of a new regional jail to replace the existing Halton jail would start in 1968 and be completed in three years.

Construction of the \$2 million Maplehurst project is far from construction, however, with architects currently working on preliminary sketches.

warmth of childhood affection and shared experience.

Another reason we get along well, of course, is that we see each other so seldom. There should be a lot more of this (that is, not seeing each other) among families. They'd last longer and finish stronger.

But next time he visits, I think I'll arrange for a couple of hospital beds in advance. We'd never make it through another weekend of "getting caught up."

The proposed Maplehurst jail is listed in the top five of about 15 jails the province plans to build in a \$7 million project in the next several years.

Shulman visited the jail and noticed a "tremendous improvement" there. The inside has been redecorated and renovated; faulty plumbing has been repaired and floors replaced.

The food has also improved considerably, Shulman learned from speaking with the prisoners.

Shulman said that a lot of money has been spent improving the jail and he figured that in view of the money spent the jail will likely be in use for another five or six years.

From the past few years every tour of the jail by the county

grand juries has resulted in a long list of criticisms including such descriptions as antiquated, cramped, badly-lit, inadequately serviced and suffering from crude sanitation. The most recent report last December said poor plumbing was a health hazard.

The jail dates back to 1878. A model of the Halton jail was used as a display by the correctional services department at the CNE last summer as an example of the Ontario penal system at its worst.

It was once described as "something out of the dark ages."

Shulman, who referred to the jail as a "disgrace" during a speech last March, has modified his opinion since his visit there last week.

He said he was impressed by

the changes and improvements that have been made there recently.

DID YOU KNOW?

To colour sugar for cakes and cookies decorating: measure 1/2 cup white granulated sugar into a small bowl. Then blend in food colouring with a fork. For dark colours use 24 drops, for medium colours use 12.

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drops and for light pastel colours use 6 drops. Spread the sugar out on waxed paper and let dry at room temperature.

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