

Free Press Editorial Page

Happy Birthday C. K. ...

From horse and buggy era to space age in one life time and accepted it all in his stride.

That's Charles Kelley Browne (affectionately known as C. K.) who was born when Canada was a child of three.

Upper Canada, where "C. K." used to live, was a rural society where towns and villages housed nearly everyone that wasn't on the farm.

Few people have the privilege of experiencing at first hand the birth and gradual maturity of a new nation.

The gift of longevity hasn't been wasted on the veteran Orangeman, who still finds the inclination to serve customers and swap stories at

his store on Main St. N. He's lived through the turbulent years and enjoyed the better ones. If spunk is measured in centuries C. K. is quite likely to be around for another century.

He's got stories to tell, jokes to relate, cigars to smoke, and loves to pull children's legs as they go back and forth between the Robert Little school on Education Lane, a path the scholars of this community have trod for over a century.

When someone has passed the 100 mark, naturally everyone wants to know the formula. We're all looking for the fountain of youth. C. K.'s recipe may be a little unorthodox but he has the years to prove it works.

We join with the hundreds of other well-wishers in saying Happy Birthday, "C. K."

We hope you have many more of them.



NEW ROUTE was taken for the first time by the parade at Decoration Day. Here marchers went their way back out through the trees to the Cobblehill Road entrance. Members of the L.O.L. are right behind Acton Citizens Band. Centenarian C. K. Browne was in attendance - but didn't parade. - (Staff Photo)

Sand and Pepper by Hartley Coles

Perhaps you've noticed this column takes off on a tangent every now and then stating there is always a period in history worse than the current mess. It is wise to take a good look at the old days to see how they made out before giving in to despair.

Take the recent upheavals at colleges and universities in the states and in lesser degree in this country. They have their parallel away back in the middle ages when the institutions of higher learning were really just getting started.

A good look at the goings-on in those days shows that although we still have a lot to learn, the old globe is showing some improvement every time we tick off 100 years.

Let's go back to the 13th century when days could be pretty turbulent but at the same time was also one of the most brilliant periods in history.

A student of that time wrote home begging for money pleading that "the city was expensive and makes many demands."

Back came a letter, by carrier pigeon or whatever they used in those days, from the father. I have recently discovered that you live dissolutely and slothfully strumming a guitar while the others are at their studies, whence it happens that you have read but one volume of law while your more industrious companions have read several.

You don't have to go too far from home to find similar situations. Every family has them when they send their bright boys off to hit the books instead of taking a trade or turning a lathe.

Students in those times were also often very quarrelsome. One medieval scribe said they "quarrel among themselves over dogs, women, or what-not, slashing off one another's fingers with swords, or with only knives in their hands and nothing to protect their tanned pates, rush into conflicts from which armed knights would hold back."

In those days, when money was even harder to come by than it is now, the dissolute and unruly scholar was a minority. The majority of those who attended university worked hard and absorbed much knowledge.

Statutes forbade most games, dancing was prohibited and the students rose before dawn to catch as much light for learning as they could get, for candles were expensive. There were no fires when winter came. So the student took to his bed early to stay warm.

It took ten or fifteen years to get the B.A. and those of four more years to become a master of arts or a doctor of philosophy.

It was forbidden to bring wine into the examination room or to be in wait with a dagger for the examiner who marked "failures" on an exam, suggesting the practice was not unknown.

Students were fresh and irreverent, much like they are today but some of the most brilliant men of history came out of the universities. Examples? Thomas Aquinas, Roger Bacon and Peter Abelard, to mention a few.

Towshes brewed in the taverns of the day.

For instance at Oxford, England's famous university, some students questioned the quality of the wine served at a nearby tavern. In the ensuing quarrel, the winners threw the wine at the students and went home to rally his kinsfolk.

They arrived armed with bows and arrows and every other kind of weapon they used for siegework in those times. Students were rallied by the bells of St. Mary's, the university church.

For the remainder of the day, townsfolk and students staged one of the worst donnybrooks Oxford ever saw.

Due to poor marksmanship and the preponderance of ale, few were injured, but the next day townspeople killed several scholars as they were at sport. Farmers rushed in to join the sport and they ransacked the university, killed and mutilated students.

It took King and Church to separate the two factions and restore peace and order. And for nearly 500 years the town did penance on February 10 St. Scholastica's day.

There were similar incidents all over Europe where the students and burghers didn't see eye to eye so they restored to viewing each other over weapons.

Times really haven't changed much have they?

As a matter of fact the evidence seems to indicate that the students of today are an improvement over some of their predecessors.

So if you've got qualms about sending Junior or Gerlie to the universities, take heart at the knowledge any trouble they get into will not be something they invented themselves. It has all been done before.

Contest dilemma ...

Watch for an announcement before this session of Parliament ends that the current promotion war between cigarette manufacturers will be stopped.

According to the Financial Post, cigarette manufacturers are waiting for federal Health Minister John Munro to put a stop to the cash games and govt offers. Privately they are saying that the recent prize money escalation will force the health minister to act this fall or early 1971.

It is also expected Mr. Munro will introduce curbs on broadcast advertising and ask for package warning labels.

More than 60 per cent of the cigarettes sold in this country are promoted by cash or gifts and the ratio is increasing rapidly. It is believed Canadian cigarette

companies are giving at least \$5 million a year in incentives.

Cash prizes in packages are creating other problems also that probably even the most zealous promoter didn't conceive when the program was introduced.

Four young scalliwags in Grades 7 and 8 were caught recently smoking cigarettes behind a portable classroom in a Wellington county school playground. An indignant principal moved to discipline the quartet.

But then he found there was another problem as well. They had bought a well known brand for their illicit puffing and won themselves a winning poker hand worth \$100.

The story doesn't say so but no doubt the principal was torn between knocking the quartet's heads together and congratulating them for picking a winner.

Editorial notes ...

You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift. You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong. You cannot help the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer. You cannot help the poor by destroying the rich. You cannot establish sound security on borrowed money. You cannot build character and courage by taking away man's initiative and independence. You cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could do for themselves. - Abraham Lincoln

Two University of Western Ontario scientists have created a coffee-break snack out of raw sewage. Other people might be more reluctant to try the delicacy, but Dr. Jim Zajic and student Bohumil Volesky, who developed the fungus food say, the high-protein flakes could well save thousands of persons from dying of starvation. The food

tastes like dry blotting paper. It is created when a microbe found in raw sewage is treated with natural gas—the world's largest natural resource.

Jogging is obviously fast becoming a new route to physical fitness. There is a visibly growing parade of dedicated men in sweatshirts puffing along quiet streets fighting off stray dogs and bemused stares. And it's all probably very good for your heart, lungs, muscle tone and weight control. Provided, warns the Journal of Industrial Medicine, it doesn't kill you, or bring on a coronary attack or leave you gimping around on bad knees and ankles. But if jogging is your thing have the good sense to see your doctor first. Some need more exercise than others, or can take more, but as little as two hours a week (that's 15 minutes to 20 minutes a day) can be enough.



Sugar and Spice by Bill Smiley

This year again, there is a terrible panic about students not being able to get summer jobs.

It is amplified by the facts that general unemployment is steadily increasing, that a fairly heavy recession seems on the books, and that many companies are losing money or going broke.

My heart does not bleed for the stockbrokers and the financial wheeler-dealers.

But the facts speak for themselves. The construction industry is in the doldrums. The Prairie wheat farmers are in bad shape. These two big sources of labor and income can knock our economy cockeyed, temporarily.

But to get back to the students and their lack of jobs. Much of this waiting is pure hokum.

I feel genuinely sorry for the student who has tried earnestly to get a job, and failed. However, for most of the others, I couldn't squeeze a single tear. There is a job for 95 per cent of them, if they want one.

But they want THE job. They want one like the old man has: Five days a week, coffee breaks, nothing demeaning, and good pay.

They don't want a job, they want a sinecure: Something where they can put in so many hours and collect so much loot, whether they're any use or not; something where they can treat the job as an unfortunate interruption of their fun time; and something that is not "beneath" them.

Foolproof radar

Police in Montreal are catching speeders without being bothered by the difficulty of attributing time measurement to the wrong car, according to Canadian Controls & Instrumentation magazine, in an article titled "Photo-timer-radar clocks correct car at true speed." According to the article, a new photo-timer-radar unit ends inaccuracy of measurement due to fluctuations and interference.

The unit is said to be proof against radar detectors mounted in civilian cars, and is said to end the question of error in court rooms by providing evidence against speeders as follows: an automatically delivered photograph at the rear of the speeder's vehicle, showing his licence plate; a speedometer registering his speed; a clock showing the exact time, the date, and the surrounding area.

One of the great values of seat belts is that they prevent ejection from the vehicle after a crash. The Ontario Safety League reports an unusual incident, not involving a collision, that led to the death of an unbelted driver. One driver apparently fell asleep, leaned against the car door and fell into the path of another car travelling in the same direction. The empty car then crashed into a field several hundred yards away.

Free Press back issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press Thursday, June 8, 1950.

Winners and contestants in the Musical Festival were given a chance to present their talents to an Acton audience when the Lakeside Chapter of the I.O.G.E. sponsored a program of festival numbers and presentations in the town hall. Mrs. Orr welcomed the rather large audience and Bob Parker was master of ceremonies for the evening. Over 70 students took part in the program and raised money for the Manitoba Flood Relief Fund. The prize-winning 45-voice choir of Acton public school trained by Mrs. L. Stewart won the Acton W.I. shield which hadn't been won by an Acton entry since 1938.

Singing solos were Margaret Armstrong, Ann Maplesden, Margaret Morrison, Paul Lawson, Grant Surbey, Marjorie McDonald, Helen Landsborough and Bill Skilling.

Empire Day awards were presented by Miss Bennett and Mrs. F. Blow.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press Thursday, June 6, 1895.

Mr. John Copeland, one of the earliest settlers of Eramosa township, died Thursday aged 74 years. The deceased came out to Esquimaux and settled in the Scotch block in 1834-5. He went out with the volunteers at the time of the rebellion and received a medal for service at that time. He afterward settled in Eramosa where he married Miss Ann Talbot who died in 1843. He has since remained unmarried. He was an earnest member of the Methodist church and in the early days was an exhorter. He leaves three children. He passed away peacefully at a ripe old age after a well spent life.

In the town hall Monday and Tuesday the Townsend Shakespearean Company produced a number of dramas and historic plays. The first night's performance consisted of The Merchant of Venice, the humorous farce A Dead Shot and the historic drama Delicate Ground. On the second night the beautiful comedy The Honeycomb was followed by the historical tragedy King Richard III. Betsy Baker, a comical farce, completed the entertainment. The plays were moral and had an elevating tone. The troupe moved on to the Guelph Opera House.

A Petrolia man has offered a prize of \$50 to the first girl who will ride through the main street of the town in bloomers. Statute Labor has commenced this season. Road working is the order of the day.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press Thursday, June 10, 1920.

The Committee of Five has examined many designs for the monument to our soldiers and has let the contract to McIntosh Granite Co., Toronto.

Acton Women's Institute garden party will be the premier attraction of this week. Our schools' honour roll for the May examinations included the names of Clara Lantz, Neil Gibbons, James Talman, Edna Johnston, Maxwell Bell, Isabel Elliott, Ray Agnew, Esther Starkman, Frances Hurst, Martha Orr, Sabra Nelson, Jessie Mann, Margaret McNab, Mary Gibbons, Helen Anderson, Harold Wansborough, Marie Mowat, Dulcie Talman, Earl Cooper, Edna Henderson, Nellie Hall, James Ross, Marie Lantz, Lurd Dancy, Laird McDonald, Marguerite Ryder, Vera Hurst, Lloyd Forbes, Minnie Blair, George Jiggins, Laura Scott, Fred Wrenn, Lena Costello at the high school.

Photos from the past



Mill Street, Acton, Ont.

FEELING THE HEAT? A cooling sight: Mill Street of half a century ago. This postcard was lent by Mrs. Gordon McKeown.

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