

Free Press Editorial Page



FREE PRESS COLUMNIST Wendy Thomson has just returned from a trail ride in the Canadian Rockies where she took this picture of the riders scaling the mountains. Her impressions of the Rockies — tremendous.



Sugar and Spice by bill smiley

This is going to be one of the most difficult columns I've ever written. Don't worry, there hasn't been a death in the family or anything like that, although I did offer my wife a divorce on Sunday morning and it was a solid deal for five minutes. No, this is purely physical.

When you play with fire, you're likely to get burnt. I did and I was. Trouble is, it's the two typing fingers on my right hand. Each has a blister the size of a dime, and a quarter-inch deep, right on the tip. So I'm trying to type this with my knuckles, and it's heavy weather.

Not that I'm merely a one-handed typist. I use my left hand with incredible dexterity, forefinger for hitting keys, thumb for hitting the space-bar. Well, soon after burning the right-hand fingers, I tripped over a rock, shoved out my left hand to save myself, and sprained my thumb. It looks like a puff-adder with a toothache and feels similar.

However, when I think of my neighbor, my troubles, while painful, are trivial. On the eve of his summer holidays, he racked up some discs in his neck. He is in hospital, in great pain, and in a huge neck-collar.

My wife has a pain too, and it's also in her neck. She's sick of running a motel, of changing beds for transient visitors, of doing great loads of laundry. Kim will arrive home with big green garbage bags so stuffed with laundry that they look like pregnant whales. Hugh does the same. And they invariably bring friends.

The whole mob has the same characteristic. They tromp around in their bare feet. They go to the beach, track in about a pound of sand per foot. You almost need a shovel and a sand-pail when you're changing the sheets. I tell my wife she's crazy, that they probably never get to sleep on clean sheets except at home. One can infer that from the state of the laundry. But she's of the old school, which believes that even burns should have clean sheets. My advice to her has all the effect of writing on water with chalk.

The idea is that Kim will do the laundry. But she's working at a job where she must be up at 5 a.m. to be at work by 7. So when she's home for a day, she sleeps until about 3 p.m. And Momma, knowing she's a sucker, does the laundry, muttering steadily.

There is a point at which you think you can see your kids looking after themselves. They're going to be out of your hair, independent. No handouts. No more paying of bills. No more looking after their documents and the countless forms to be filled out. But that point recedes steadily into the distance as you plod steadily toward it.

I was warned about this by a friend, some years ago. He had three grown sons, all doing well, all married, all with children. I congratulated him on his fine family and the fact that they were on their own. He laughed bitterly.

"They're on their own," he snorted, "when they've borrowed enough from you for a down payment on a house, at two per cent interest. And even then, unless they're in Zanzibar, they're home every second weekend, expecting to be wined and dined and baby-sat."

And he was dead right. The only solution I can see is for parents of grown-up "children" to sell the family home, with its three or four bedrooms, and move into a one bedroom apartment, preferably in some place as handy to get at as Aklavik.

I don't blame the kids much. Our two are both working in the hot, stinky city, at fairly menial jobs, and living in pretty squalid rooms, because that's all they can afford. We live in a lovely summer area, with beaches, clean air, a big, shady lot, and a built-in cook — their mom. They still think of it as home.

Clean sheets, real meat instead of rice and macaroni, plumbers galore, a doting mother to pick up after them, and a real mark of a father, who is always good for a small "loan". What more could they want?

And I must admit, against my will, that we're pretty glad to see the red-head with the big brown eyes, or the young man with the trim beard, and hear, "Hi Mom. Hi Dad."

Watch warranties . . .

The lure of a guarantee often persuades us to buy something. For instance, this paint is guaranteed not to peel, another won't fade; a shirt requires no ironing, another is colorfast.

Too often we are so captivated by the benefits of a supposedly attractive purchase, says a communique from the Department of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, that we fall to see the exceptions.

Guarantees may not give the consumer more—they may give him less for his money.

What is a guarantee? What is often called a guarantee is really a warranty or condition—that is, a promise by the manufacturer or retailer concerning such things as quality, performance, condition or fitness of an article. All warranties fall into one of two categories—'implied' or 'express'.

Implied warranties and conditions are promises implied by law as the result of judicial decisions or statutory provisions of provincial legislation such as Sale of Goods Acts. They are called "implied" because they are fixed on the seller by law.

These promises include: that the dealer has a right to sell the goods; that the goods supplied correspond with the description or samples provided; that the article is in good condition and suitable for

the required purpose. Some of the protection of "implied warranties" may be excluded, however, when an "express warranty" is given.

Express warranties are specific promises made by the manufacturer or retailer, as stated above, concerning quality, performance, condition, etc. The big difference is that when we accept an "express warranty" we often give up the "implied warranties" as a condition of acceptance. When this occurs, it can mean the guarantee is not the bargain you think it is.

All guarantees should be read carefully; look for the "ifs" and "buts". It is quite obvious how difficult it can be to claim that any guarantee was given if it was not put in writing.

Among the common "express warranties" are:

Limited Warranty: Limits the duration of the warranty as, for example, when it's stated, "guaranteed for 90 days" or "guaranteed for one year".

Unconditional Warranty: An item is unconditionally guaranteed for a specific time.

Lifetime Warranty: This is a misleading guarantee because you can interpret it as your own lifetime. In reality, it usually means the lifetime of the goods or the company, which might be surprisingly short.

Paris Warranty: Applies to certain parts only, usually of appliances. For example, the parts warranty may apply to all parts of a television set except the cabinet or the picture tube. It may even apply to parts which are not likely to wear out. And it may not apply to parts that were not made by the manufacturer himself — for example, a car battery. It may not include service costs to determine the defective part, labor to repair it or shipping. Reputable firms, however will often shoulder these costs.

Automobile Warranties: Some automobile manufacturers offer a warranty of one year or 12,000 miles on all parts. This warranty may be extended on the "power train" to five years from the original selling date or 50,000 miles. The customer must follow a prescribed program of maintenance, which may be expensive. The warranty remains in effect only if the company decides maintenance requirements have been complied with to their satisfaction.

Fifty-fifty Warranty: Sometimes offered by used car dealers. It states that dealer and purchaser will share repair costs. The hitch is that usually the repairs must be done by the dealer. If he is unscrupulous, he may hike the costs. Sometimes the repairs could

be done less expensively elsewhere.

What, then, should you look for in a warranty or guarantee? It should disclose in writing, either on the label, booklet or bill of sale:

1. What product — or parts of the product — is actually guaranteed.

2. What characteristics are included in — or excluded from — the guarantee.

3. The duration of each section of the guarantee — how long are they in effect?

4. Exactly how the guarantor will fulfill his promises.

5. What the buyer must do to obtain the guarantee.

6. Who the guarantor is — dealer or manufacturer. This is important if the purchaser moves to another city and the item fails to live up to its claims.

If a guarantee or warranty is not honored in circumstances in which it should be, contact the head office of the firm involved.

When you accept a guarantee or a warranty, you enter into a contract with the dealer or manufacturer. And like all contracts, the fine print should be read carefully to make sure that the warranty does not exaggerate benefits and conceal exceptions.

Be careful the next time you buy.

Death on our farms . . .

Farm mechanization has made a positive contribution to Canadian society. It has reduced the time and effort required for many farm operations. It has played a major role in increasing farm productivity which benefited not only the farm community but the rest of the country as well.

At the same time, farm mechanization is accompanied by increased accident hazards. The number of accidental deaths and disabling injuries suffered by Canada's farming population has reached alarming proportions.

While the number of Canadians engaged in farming is declining, the rate of farm accidents is increasing as are the number of farm machines.

The accidental death rate on the farm is estimated to be 20 per cent higher than the national average. The total number of fatalities is now higher for farming than for any other industry and follows only mining and construction in the accidental death rate per number of workers.

Studies disclose that farm machinery fatalities per 100,000 farmers doubled over the past 10 years. Even more disturbing is the break-down of these deaths, showing that 20 per cent are in the under-10 age group and another 17 per cent are aged 10 to 19. Although manufacturers are designing safety features into tractor and farm equipment, the

accident frequency continues to rise.

Of all fatal machinery accidents, 78 per cent involve tractors and of these more than half are overturn accidents. After tractors, the machines most commonly involved in fatal accidents are combines, balers, corn pickers, forage harvesters and spreaders in that order.

More than half of the field machine fatalities not counting tractors involve the victim being caught in the mechanism and 20 per cent are passengers run over.

The great majority of these farm machinery accidents can be prevented. Unsafe operating practices and poor maintenance are the main cause of farm

machinery accidents. The farmer himself is directly responsible for the high accident rate and it's up to him to reduce the needless toll of deaths and injuries.

July 25 to 31 is Farm Safety Week in Canada. It's a good week for all farm people to start putting a little more safety into their day to day work.

There's a new booklet on farm safety we would highly recommend. It's called "Farm Machinery Safety" and is available from the Canada Safety Council, 30 The Driveway, Ottawa 4, Canada. If every farmer read it there would be fewer farm accidents.

A leading girdle manufacturer has now come out in violent disagreement with statements in this column for a report that came from Marketing, the Canadian advertising weekly. According to the report the woman motorist who drives by the seat of her pantyhose is safer on the highway than her sister who wears a girdle.

The girdle manufacturer says simply that there is no foundation for these remarks, I mean, statements.

"We've been making girdles for 30 years and have never heard this complaint. The evidence for this claim," he said, "seems to have been simply plucked out of thin air."

The report quoted an auto manufacturer's survey which claimed the girdle is "probably the most unsung menace on the road today."

Naturally, he is right. How many songs do you know about girdles?

I can only think of two. Number one would be "Please release me, let me go..." and how about that old favorite Arthur Godfrey used to sing about "I don't want her, you can have her, she's too fat for me..." which, of course doesn't mention foundation garments by name, but certainly refers obliquely to their staying power.



and Pepper by hartley coles

Girdles are certainly the most unsung about thing in the world except for the Pomeranian Dodo Bird, which doesn't exist anyway. With this in mind and in sympathy for the manufacturer who is against the girls letting themselves go, we wish to line up on his side with this little ditty, which can be sung to the tune of Polly Woddlie Doodle All the Day.

It goes like this:

Oh, I went to the pub one sunny day,
To explain to my gal Myrtle
That unless she soon smartened up
I'd equip her with a girdle.
Seams burst, buttons pop,
Skirts no longer fit her.
If she saw herself as we see her,
—She'd join in the general titter.

For those of you who have trouble fitting the lyrics with the words, let me say it can also be sung to the tune of Oh Dem Golden

Slippers, with apologies to Stephen Foster, of course.

And that can also be sung to the accompaniment of snapping garters, providing the wearer is doing the snapping.

Anyway, I'm glad to see the girdle guys letting themselves go at the pantyhose people. They've been taking, if you'll pardon the pun, a hosing long enough.

And being newspaper types we are always glad when someone comes out with a piece of prose poetry extolling the home town paper, although I must admit being a little late with this one since the North Hastings Review first printed it in February of 1920. But see if it doesn't sound familiar.

It is called THE CRITIC:
My father says the paper that he reads ain't

put up right. He finds a lot of fault, he does, perusing it at night;

He says there ain't a single thing in it worth while to read
And it doesn't print the kind of stuff people need;
He tosses it aside and says it's strictly "on the bum".
But you ought to hear him holler when the paper doesn't come.

He reads about the weddin's and he snorts like all get out,
He reads the social doings with a most derisive shout,
He reads about the parties and he'll fume and fret and groan;
He says of information, it don't contain a crumb,
But you ought to hear him holler when the paper doesn't come.

He's always first to grab it and he reads it plumb clear through,
He doesn't miss an item or a want ad, that is true;
He says they don't know what we want, them durned newspaper guys,
I'm going to take a day some time and go and put them wise;
Sometimes it seems as though they must be deaf and blind and dumb,
But you ought to hear him holler when the paper doesn't come.

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20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, July 27, 1950.

Former Prime Minister Mackenzie King died at his residence after a serious attack of pneumonia. He guided the nation as prime minister for the longest term in history.

This week the local banks report that the Mason Knitting Company and their employees have added \$600 to the Manitoba Flood Relief Fund which brings the total reported from Acton to \$5,225.25, certainly a fine total for a town of less than 3,000 population. It makes an average of nearly \$2 per capita. Beardmore and Co. employees' contribution was \$3,484.

Widow of the Very Rev. T. Albert Moore, Annie Laurie Forster Moore died at her summer home, Stephens Bay, Muskoka. The funeral Wednesday was conducted by the Rev. Lautenslager, minister of Howard Park United Church, Toronto, and burial was in Fairview cemetery, Acton.

St. Joseph's church Sunday School picnic was held at the park Wednesday. A full program of races climaxed by a bounteous picnic supper made the event an enjoyable one. Winners in the boys and girls' races were Madeline Drew, Phillip Marzo, Mary Kay Gibbons, Peter Marks, Denise Ridley, Martin Marks, Denise Coles, Dennis

Free Press back issues

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, July 29, 1920.

Papillon, Betty Ann Barr, Paul Coles, Margaret Pat Corcoran, Peter Barr, Terry Elliott, Jerry White.

Little panic buying has resulted in Canada as a result of the Korean crisis. The hospitality of Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Davidson at their lovely home and grounds was enjoyed by the members of Knox Ladies' Aid, their families and friends.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, July 29, 1920.

The recently organized Mission Band in connection with Acton Methodist Women's Missionary Society has been named Ruth Nelson band, in honor of Miss Ruth Nelson, a missionary in British Columbia who went out from this church here.

The song service at the Soldiers Home (now the funeral home) last Sunday evening had a much larger attendance than usual.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, July 18, 1895.

As is customary on all 12th of July celebrations it rained and it never rains but it pours. Such was the kind of day that welcomed the visitors to Oakville to witness the Orange demonstration. Chief attraction was the Halton County League match between Acton and Oakville, and Acton defeated Oakville 7 to 8. The unfairness on the part of the umpire was readily seen by all. His infirmity prevented him from taking a proper position to call a strike. The Acton team wish it known that with a fair impartial umpire and at the park here, they can defeat the Oakville Star again. Acton players were Murphy, Medcalf, Keough, Lawson, Denoe, Beatty, Speight, Hallern, and Clarke.

Mr. T. H. Dunn of this place was married to Miss Cassie Gibbons, third daughter of Mr. P. Gibbons, Esq., in St. Joseph's church by Rev. Father Haley at 7.30 a.m. Tuesday of last week. Although the hour for the ceremony was very early the church was well filled. The bride was neatly attired in a lawn colored dress and carried an ivory backed prayer book. After breakfast at the bride's home they took the 11 o'clock train going east on a short wedding tour.