



THIS BRIDGE OVER STILL WATERS may not be the subject of a modern ballad but like all bridges it links two shores and its rustic appearance makes an attractive span. The bridge is part of the attractions at the Breezes on Fairy Lake.—(Photo by Bill Stuckey)



Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

Young people of today, as we all know, don't want to do anything the way their elders did it. This includes getting married.

Most still stick to the traditional service, but many modern wedding ceremonies are completely different from the time-honored and time-worn ceremony that most of us endured.

Nowadays, instead of hearing the organ triumphantly booming "Here Comes the Bride", you may be startled, but shouldn't be surprised, to hear someone belting out "Hey, Jude!" — with guitar accompaniment.

Instead of the comforting, traditional and often anachronistic passages in the orthodox ceremony, you may hear an erotic poem by Leonard Cohen.

Any day now, you'll see the men lined up to kiss the groom on both cheeks and shake hands with the bride.

In many ways, I agree with the trend. I had the devil's own time with my wife before our nuptial vows were finally nuptialized.

She wanted the "obey" deleted from the phrase, "love, honor and obey," and fought me right up to the altar, where she muttered it only to avoid a scene. And, of course, she has never obeyed me since.

Another bit that got her back up was, "With my body I thee honor," spoken by the

groom only. She took it the wrong way, and thought it a perfect example of male vanity.

"In sickness and in health" is another howler that could be jettisoned. When I'm practically dying with the flu, she has less sympathy than she would have for a rattlesnake making its death rattle. And if there's anything I can't stand, it's having a sick wife malingering around the place and not getting the meals.

The last bit of farce at our wedding was when the preacher, being a little coy, looked at me and asked, "Would you care to salute the bride?" It was an Anglican ceremony and I was a bit at sea anyway. In addition, I was just out of the air force, where "salute" meant just that.

I gawked at him as he repeated the question. "Well," I thought, "if this is the way these Anglicans do it, O.K.," made a smart left turn and was about to whip up a snappy salute, when my bride, who knew the damn fool was telling me to kiss her, solved the situation by grabbing me around the neck and kissing me. It was a beautiful kiss. I got a mouthful of her veil and that's about all.

But with my personal experience, and in view of the divorce rate today, I'd go further than the modern kids do. Not only would I bring the service up to date, I'd insist on an air-tight contract to be signed by both parties before they swore to anything.



and Pepper

by hartley coles

I'm always interested in the press releases which pass over my desk, most of which end up in the waste basket, or File 13, as it is known around here. There's astounding information in some of the contents but there is also some real down-to-earth research.

For instance this week an item from the Ontario Department of Trade and Commerce purports to have pinpointed the "average Ontario woman." This is an astounding feat, for no woman likes to be thought of as "average."

But Mrs. Lilah Lymburner, who wrote the release, wriggles out of that one by stating that although the following statistics are average, the women they supposedly represent are very much individuals.

So here they are, in case you are interested in comparing Miss or Mrs. Average Ontario with all the Miss Individualists of the province:

She is five foot 4 inches tall and weighs 132 lbs. She eats 3,200 calories a day and is always going on a diet.

The Ontario woman annually consumes:

- +160 lbs. of meat; 353 eggs; 91 lbs. of sugar;

- + seven lbs. of cheese; 103 lbs. of potatoes;

- +100 lbs. of fresh fruit; 100 lbs. of bread;

- +21 lbs. of coffee; 244 quarts of milk;

- +42 hot dogs; 191 bottles of pop;

+146 packs of cigarettes; 183 ounces of whiskey.

Some of the things Mrs. Average doesn't like to hear and which mere husbands knew all along:

She watches television five hours a day, spends a year of her life on the telephone, uses \$50 worth of cosmetics, spends one and a half times as much on clothing as her husband, charges 50 per cent of her purchases and returns 13 per cent of them.

Ontario women spend or influence the spending of an estimated 80 cents of every retail dollar.

After statistics like that it makes you wonder why those same cuddly little bits of fluff give old Dad a bleak look when he hoists two or three more than he should on Saturday night.

MY INTEREST IN FLYING saucers, which extends to reading the odd article about sightings after I've seen something odd hanging there in the sky, was stimulated again by a picture and story which appeared in a chiropractic sheet entitled Health for Life.

Chiropractor W. C. Aiken of Ormond Beach, Florida, built a flying saucer for his son Walter from mail order plans.

Guess what he called it?

What else — it's the "Slipped Disc."

There's not nearly enough space here to set out the contract in full, but I'll give you a skeleton, and you can fill in the flesh.

ITEM. If either party suffers from cold feet, he or she will refer to a hot water bottle, rather than shock treatment to the party of the second part.

ITEM. It will clearly be understood who is to put out the garbage, who will get up to close the window, who will get up to shut up the baby, who will get the cat on opening day of the trout season.

ITEM. Neither partner shall spend more than ten minutes during each 24 hours telling the other partner what a hell of a day he/she had at work-home.

ITEM. She will not say, more than once a week, "You never say you love me any more." And he will refrain from replying, "Certainly I love you; now will you quit bugging me about it?"

ITEM. Neither party will promise the kids something ridiculous, then confront the partner with a fait accompli.

ITEM. The male partner may invite anyone for a drink or dinner regardless of hair curlers, "the house is a mess," "there's not a thing in the house to eat," or "you might have a little consideration for me."

ITEM. Males will refrain from shouting violently. "Why is there never any peace around here?" Females will not hit, except in the clinches. (I have scars.)

Carry on chaps, I've just begun. There's money, jealousy, sulking, teasing, nagging, back-seat driving, decorating. There have been far too many books written about sex and marriage. Let's get down to the realities.

The darn thing really flies about 15 inches above the ground. It travels up to 15 miles per hour over land or water on a cushion of air.

Wonderful what you can get by mail order these days.

STILL ON THE SUBJECT of unidentified flying objects, which are merely flying things which no one has identified, our contemporary in Milton, the Canadian Champion, recently poked fun at a UFO sighting with this little bit of buffoonery.

A staffer on the paper wondered what would happen if:

A UFO was seen by the OPP and they put out an APB through the RCMP in case the UFO driver HBD. The PM, who was at the YMCA in PQ, heard their APB and told the UN to send an SOS to the USSR in case the UFO was escaping from PQ with the FLQ aboard. Then the CIA in the USA told our DOT that all was A-OK — it was just a former TCA helicopter that used to do VOG commercials, now on a PR campaign for the UNICEF and the CNIB. So the story on the sighting of the UFO didn't hold any H2O after all.

A headline writer's nightmare!

Off the cuff . . .

Although man has developed communications to a point almost beyond belief, he is often still mystified by what the driver ahead intends to do at the next intersection.

Free Press Editorial Page

Judge all-round performance . . .

We have been asked why The Free Press does not follow the policy of some other newspapers and publish our choice of the candidates up for municipal election.

The answer is, of course, that we think voters should make their own selection, based on the information they acquire through a term of office.

This newspaper endeavors to cover Council, Hydro and Board of Education meetings in an objective manner. Liberal doses of quotes are used in reports to show where members of the various bodies stand concerning different issues which arise through a term of office. These are designed to both brighten the story and aid readers to make up their minds on the quality of representatives they have elected but they are often edited to convey the idea and conserve space without losing the sense. We are sometimes on the end of uncomplimentary remarks from members of council because we have used one part of a statement and not published

thoughts in full. Space requirements often dictate the extent of coverage but we feel on the whole that our coverage is fair, impartial and directed towards informing the public of the activities of their elected candidates.

It isn't always possible to cover all sides of an issue. Sometimes they are fully discussed at committee meetings but receive little or no comment when the matter appears before a regular meeting.

This is understandable when you take into account the amount of business which, councils especially are called on to expedite but we note with alarm an increasing trend towards this way of operating at all levels of municipal government.

We have always felt that public business should be transacted in the open so the public can decide for itself on the basis of the arguments presented whether their elected representatives were living up to their responsibilities.

Sometimes it can lead to arguments and suggestions the

press is washing dirty linen in public. And we often have to retort we are only reporting the facts.

On the other hand, it is also wise to remember that councils, school boards, commissions and other elected bodies are mainly composed of people with full time jobs who are trying, often under great odds, to competently carry out a political commitment. They are not infallible. Like all of us, some can endure criticism, others are pretty thin-skinned.

Although we have no comments to make about the individual candidates, we suggest that all should be judged on their overall performance through a term, rather than on some isolated incident where perhaps they appeared to be off the mark.

New candidates, of course, are a different matter. Selection here is more difficult. They often bring new qualities into the political arena and it is up to the voter to make a decision on the basis of the information he possesses about each individual.

Need more than wreath . . .

We can't agree more with an editorial in the St. Mary's Journal-Argus that something more than a wreath is required for Remembrance Day. No doubt many "old sweats" stood before the cenotaph across the nation wondering just when the federal government was going to get around to placing something more substantial into the hands of disabled war veterans who must find it pretty difficult to subsist on allowances doled out now.

The Journal-Argus comments that while we pay homage to the dead once or twice each year, the living are very plainly being ignored by the federal government. It is significant that the poverty

line laid down by the Economic Council of Canada in 1968 was set at \$1,800 for a single person. Although inflation has raised that figure, the single disabled veteran on the Allowance Act receives a miserly allowance of \$1,740 per year.

The 1968 poverty line was set at \$3,000 but the most a married veteran can receive is the princely sum of \$2,940 per year.

Is this the type of treatment an affluent country doles out to those who serve in times of distress?

Is the delay being caused by niggardly efforts to save money? Is the thought behind the delay that the more time consumed reflecting over proposed increases the less

the scheme will cost? World War I has been over for 52 years, World War II for 25 years — every day a few more veterans cross the great divide and save the country dollars.

Canadians help the starving and destitute in almost every corner of the globe with millions. Yet we let our own veterans eke out a miserable existence at below poverty line level.

We would hope needy veterans do not have to wait for a redesign of the welfare system to receive a worthwhile increase in pensions the country has a moral obligation to provide.

Free Press back issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, November 23, 1950.

The annual commencement exercises of Acton high school were presented to a capacity audience in the town hall last Friday. Certificates were presented to 40 students, eight trophies were awarded and 11 students were made members of the Never Late Never Absent club.

A one-act play *Ada Gives First Aid* directed by Miss I. Gammie with a cast of Yvonne Brunelle, Isabelle Ritchie, Ena Jennings, Audrey Wilkinson, Chris Lamb, Pat Terry, Jim Greer and Rod Force was hilarious.

The school orchestra and Glee club provided musical entertainment under the direction of Crawford Douglas. Athletic displays were presented, directed by R. Doyle and Mrs. M. J. Robbins.

Eleada Britton was valedictorian. Dick Wood, president of the Literary Society, presented her with the valedictory medal. Rev. R. H. Armstrong gave the address, Mildred Armstrong and Whitney Cook received honor secondary school graduation diplomas. Secondary school diplomas were presented to Jean Armstrong, Leno Braida, Buck Bruce, Yvonne Brunelle, Anthony Boudland, Doreen Cole, Donald Davidson, Fred Euringer and Shirley Thompson. Coupons are being given out with sales

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, December 2, 1900.

The tragic shooting of T. James Moore, who was mistaken for a deer at Bigwood, resulted fatally in Sudbury last Thursday morning. He was the city manager of Guelph and had relatives here. He wore the regulation bright blue coat and trousers and red cap and it is difficult to understand how such a deplorable mistake could be made.

A sixty-pounder German howitzer was delivered to the Great War Veterans Association last week and is now stationed at the front door of the Soldiers' Community house. There it guards the entrance and is a constant reminder of the horrors of war days. The French inscription on the archway of the entrance to the building "Après la Guerre" now seems to have a more appropriate setting.

Miss Jean Orr of Acton high school has been awarded the silver medal for the best essay written by pupils under 13 years of age in the province of Ontario. Little Miss Orr wrote the essay on her favorite season while a pupil in Miss Bennett's entrance room.

The Duke of Devonshire chapter of the I.O.D.E. held a very successful tea at the home of Mrs. L. R. Shorey, Lake Ave.

The last issue of the Canadian Guardian plays a worthy compliment to Douglas Gowdy of Limehouse, now a teacher on the staff of Kitchener public school, Toronto, and a volunteer boys worker at the Broadview Y.M.C.A., as "the kind of young man any city can be proud of." Re-enforce concrete spans are a remarkable feature of bridges on the new Toronto to Hamilton highway. The road was constructed to relieve unemployment after the war. 526 vehicles a day used the previous route and traffic now exceeds 8,000 vehicles a day.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, November 14, 1895.

Thanksgiving next Thursday. Rev. Father Dumortier, one of the first priests to minister to the congregation of St. Joseph's church in their old church at Dublin, died in Guelph. He was born in France in 1818 and came to Quebec in 1850.

Off the cuff . . .

Time lost due to strikes in Canada appears to be reaching a new high. John Schreiner writes in *The Financial Post*. This comes, curiously enough, when unemployment is high and when fourth-quarter job prospects are not good. To the end of August, 341 work stoppages had cost Canada 5.2 million man-days (about 0.50 per cent of total time worked). This year's eight-month total is running 5.5 per cent over the comparable 1969 figure. The loss for the year in 1969 — 8.1 million man-days — was the highest on record in Canada.

An electric car is being built in Oshawa that can go anywhere in the country, according to a story noted by the Ontario Safety League; all you need is a 3,000 mile extension cord.

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