



FIRST REAL BLANKET OF SNOW to cover the countryside this fall came last week. It softened the harsh outlines of trees and branches which pierce grey skies with patterns. The white comforter also brought rail fences into vivid relief as they intersect grassy fields. This scene, above Acton on 25 High-

way, catches some of the serenity as the first hint of winter months. Warmer weather which followed melted snow and for a brief period we had a real Indian summer but even the most optimistic weatherman can predict colder weather with impunity. —(Staff Photo)



### Sugar and Spice by bill smiley

During his span on earth, unless he is an ostrich, every man is alternately appalled and delighted with life. Perhaps that's one reason the idea of a paradise on earth will never truly appeal to the multitudes. It would be too bland.

In theory, a life without pain, hunger, disease, cold, war, would be embraced by all. In practice, we shun such an existence, even though it could be achieved if all of humanity wanted it badly enough. It would lack spice. And sugar.

Probably that's why the great novels about a utopia are basically satires on man. From More's "Utopia" to Golding's "Lord of the Flies", outstanding writers have portrayed utopia as a paradise smeared by good old human nature, or bad old human nature, if you will.

At two different periods in my life, I lived in an ordered society. They were sort of mini-utopias.

One was in prison camp. We had complete socialism. Everyone got the same amount of food, drink and time in the latrine. There was complete freedom of speech. Everyone shared the duties and chores of the community.

Another was in a sanatorium. We were treated alike, whether ex-private in the army or ex-officer in the air force. Same food, same rules, same shots in the bum for all.

And in both cases, we loathed it. All we wanted to do, in both institutions, was to get out, to get back to the sinful, sordid, disordered, cruel, kind, hurtful, blessed life of the human individual in a crazy society.

If you don't have moments in life that are appalling and delightful, squalid and splendid, you can stop reading now. Close your eyes, fold your arms and lie down. You're dead, and you might as well be comfortable.

When I stop being appalled or delighted by life, I will start sniffing nail-polish remover or taking speed. Perhaps that is why they do it.

Well, what's to be appalled or delighted about these days? Plenty. The list is endless and you can make up your own.

I am appalled by the Viet Nam war, surely the most senseless since the Hundred Years War. Nobody is winning, nobody is losing, nobody knows who will wear the crown if the stupid thing ever ends.

I am delighted that all my storm windows are on, eighty per cent of my leaves are raked, and that there is oil in the tank and food in the freezer.

I am appalled at the successor to the War Measures Act, which is completely unnecessary unless there is a heck of a lot more going on than the government admits. My appallment reaches shock level when I think that a cop could enter my house, ask me if I'd changed my socks in the last week, and throw me in jail if I hadn't.

I am delighted that my daughter still loves me so much that on the weekend she allowed me to furnish a new winter coat, new boots, a posh dinner and an expensive show without once mentioning the Generation Gap or saying, "Dad, there's no way you could understand."

I am appalled at the prices charged for said dinner, and the amount of food wasted, to go to the pigs. Why can't expensive restaurants give you a half-portion at half-price or a little more, instead of assuming that you are a hog?

I was delighted, next morning, with breakfast in bed, but appalled at the sixty cents for a glass of orange juice and thirty cents each for muffins. Plus tip.

I am appalled at the manners of many young people, and delighted with their courage and compassion.

I am appalled by the traffic in the city, and delighted when I can park illegally and not get caught.

Life is a balance. Appalled. Delighted. Such are the children of earth. May you long be one of them.

### Free Press back issues

20 years ago

50 years ago

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, November 30, 1950.

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, December 9, 1920.

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, November 21, 1895.

Interest in Acton was evident last Friday evening when in spite of a real February snowstorm about 150 citizens participated in the municipal nominations and put up for election a big slate of town officials. Following is the result, after qualifications: Mayor—E. Tyler (accl.) Reeve—J. Hargrave (accl.) Deputy-Reeve—J. J. Stewart (accl.) Council (six to be elected)—Thomas Cook, Alf Fryer, J. Greer, Allan Mercer, Thomas Salmon, Esther Taylor, Ray Thompson, L. Weick, Charles Wood. Public school board—Dr. F. G. Oakes, T. G. Jones, C. Heard (accl.)

Public utilities commission (one to be elected)—R. MacArthur, C. Rognavaldson. Mr. C. Hansen was chairman for the citizens' meeting. Councillor Greer expressed enjoyment on his first year on council. Commissioner Bob MacArthur expressed regret on the loss of superintendent Charles Wilson. All nominees present spoke briefly. Friends from Mason Knit gave Muriel Ralston a delightful shower at the home of Mrs. Robert Loutitt.

Dogpatch invaded the Y.M.C.A. last Saturday as the Junior Teenagers staged a popular program. Betty Sinclair and Bill McHugh were judged the best Daisy Mae and L.I. Abner of the evening. Master of ceremonies was Paul Lawson. The new executive was voted in, Paul Lawson, Hazel Williamson, Ed McHugh, Peggy Oakes, Bill McHugh, Betty Sinclair, Bill Coon and Arlene Gordon.

The meeting of ratepayers of Lorne school decided to continue the school, rather than have the children attend school in Acton.

When the curtain rose at the school concert last Wednesday the town hall was literally crowded to the doors. The opening numbers were given by the school orchestra. Recitations were given by Jessie Mann, Allan Marshall, Eda Collier, Dorothy Campbell, Jack Reid, Stewart Malcolm, Violet Currie, Betty Gibson, Meryle Grindell, Gladys Scarrow, Frank Cook, Lillian Tyler, Frank Gibbons, Arthur Lawson and Elsie Parsons. A series of drills and folk dances was given by the various classes. A dialogue was given by high school students.

A most interesting and instructive feature of the program was a demonstration on the Graphonola by Miss McKay, a member of the teaching staff of Toronto schools. She gave concrete examples of its usefulness in the school. The concert netted \$100 and this was generously supplemented by the I.O.D.E. with \$50 to meet the cost for purchasing one of the machines. Records will also be purchased by the I.O.D.E. The graphonola is a portable one and specially constructed for use in schools.

The mild weather has been easy on the coal bin and the wood pile.

Mr. A. E. Nicklin returned from a business trip to the west. He was away about three months. He found business very dull, much of the grain not marketed and the elevators full.

Thanksgiving tea and lecture in Knox church tonight. Mr. William Cripps started his chopping mill at Crewsons Corner on Tuesday. He will chop once a week until it freezes up, every Tuesday.

A man who goes to see a girl twice a week, and takes her to an occasional entertainment, is legally engaged to her, according to a recent court decision.

A shooting match was held on Tuesday by Mr. R. M. Garvin on his farm in the first concession. Mr. Adam Cook will hold one this afternoon at the foot of Church St.

There is quite a rivalry in Limehouse as to who can grow the fattest pig. The correspondent understands that Mr. O'Neil heads the list with a spring pig which tipped the scales at something over 200 pounds.

Can any father or mother pray the Lord's Prayer as Jesus taught it, and yet teach their children to play cards in the home? Isn't it true that thousands of professional gamblers learned their first lessons in their mothers' parlour? Knowing how to play cards is dangerous knowledge.

There is a scheme afoot in Rockwood to buy street lamps for the streets which should be supported by all as the streets are almost dangerous on gloomy nights such as we have this fall.

The opening of the football season is chronicled by the fact that longer hair on the heads of our youth is much in evidence. There is skating on the ponds again today.

### Cart before the horse . . .

The Grand River Conservation Authority is still exerting pressure on the provincial government to pay 75 per cent of the cost of building five dams in the Grand River watershed, one of them to be constructed between Rockwood and Acton, near Everton. At a recent general meeting T. J. Heeg of Guelph was reported to have said that a re-evaluation of the priorities is necessary because it is becoming urgent to have not only the Guelph dam, but also the Everton dam, very quickly. The original sequence called for dams at West Montrose, Guelph, Ayr, then Everton and Hespeler, but according to Mr. Heeg the Speed River in Guelph is nearing the stage where it will not be able to accept more treated effluent from the city. Cost of the five

dams is estimated at about \$50 million, a \$20 million increase from the \$30 million projection in 1966. After making our own evaluation of the program we are beginning to wonder if maybe the Authority has not muddled other priorities. We can certainly see the recreation value of the lakes created by the five dams but are becoming increasingly irritated by claims that the Speed and Eramosa rivers need more water in them during dry months to dilute effluent. We agree with the suggestion that \$50 million would be better spent improving the water pollution control (sewage) plants in offending cities. If the province is going to clean up pollution, it would make more sense to start cleaning up at the source of the problem. That means, of course, cities

concerned would have to update their sewage control plants. If all the communities along the Grand and its tributaries were compelled to install tertiary (three stage) systems so their effluent came out almost 100 per cent pure, there would be few problems with the water in the rivers. It is imperative that something be done to clean up the Grand River system but it makes sense to start with the problems where they begin, rather than controlling rivers flow so they can dilute more sewage. We wonder if the Authority's insistence on dams is not putting the cart before the horse. Clean up the rivers first and then concentrate on building dams to control flow and provide reservoirs of pure water.

### Cut accident toll . . .

This is Safe Driving Week. So what? What difference does it make? Every week should be safe driving week, you say. Correct, but the Canada Safety Council has evidence to show it is possible to prevent accidents through the wide dissemination of public information and active participation by the country's six million drivers. During the safe driving campaign in 1969 there were 55 traffic deaths in the week set aside for observance, compared to a weekly average total of 98 for this time of the year. Death tolls during the week of the campaign have been consistently lower than the average weekly totals. Safe Driving Week aims at bringing the enormity of the traffic accident problem to the attention of all Canadians and proposes concrete ways to prevent these accidents. In 1969, there were 5,374 traffic deaths, 179,957 reported traffic injuries and 404,198 reported property damage accidents. These 528,027 accidents cost Canadians in the neighborhood of one billion dollars in lost wages, medical

expenses, administrative and claim settlement costs of insurance and property damage. That's nearly \$50 per capita or \$250 for an average family. Studies show 90 per cent of traffic accidents are preventable. Consider the saving in money, pain and time if those figures could only be cut by 10 per cent. The Canada Safety Council has issued advice on how to double your chances of avoiding accidents, called 10 Steps to Safe Driving. They are:

1. Keep both hands firmly on the wheel — at 10 and two o'clock — and both eyes on the road.
2. Never tailgate — allow at least one vehicle length for every ten miles per hour of speed.
3. On wet, snowy or icy roads, reduce speed well below posted speed limits, depending on the severity of conditions.
4. Always signal intentions — turns, lane changes, passing.
5. Curves require special attention — slow down before entering, then apply power to wheels. Be alert for oncoming cars; they often cross the centre line.
6. Never pass on hills or curves. On straightaways pass only when positive the way is clear.
7. Don't drive after heavy drinking. If you have been drinking moderately, allow one hour for each one-ounce drink or beer (12 ounces) consumed, before driving.
8. Keep the car in good operating condition, especially brakes, tires, steering and front end suspension, front and rear lights, mirrors, turn signals, wipers, muffler and exhaust pipe.
9. Always fasten safety belts and lock car doors.
10. Drive defensively: "Recognize the hazard; understand the defence; act in time."

## OUR READERS WRITE:

### Need strong township leader

Dar Sir: At this time of the year it is always useful to examine, if done in a constructive way, the leadership and indeed the whole administration of our local municipal government. This can only be done well if the facts are available to those making the examination. Political advertising after often does not supply the facts. It is the newspapers through their continual publications that permit this to be done, in particular the local newspapers. I have taken the time to look into the facts as they relate to the leadership in the Township of Nassagaweya. One does not have to look far to see the respect in which our reeve is held in some of the most important areas of our provincial government. The Minister of Municipal Affairs and the Minister of Mines have been faced by her and she has made forceful and constructive submissions on behalf of the municipality, submissions dealing with our major problems, Taxation and Assessment, Planning, and Development, the preservation and control of the beauty of our Township along with the very important

questions of the Township's future in Regional Government. The respect that she has gained from both the ministers is reflected in the changes that have been made because of her constant challenges, not perhaps all we would like, but great improvements. I am also aware that the reeve has been involved and has been a leader in associations outside the township in order that information can be brought back to the township for our benefit and at the same time this allows her to be up to date on the issues that could affect our future. An example of this is the fact that she has been a director of the Regional Development Council and played a very important part at the time of its inception. Much time has been devoted by the reeve to causes and conferences (at her own expense) in order that the fullest knowledge is available to her and her council, in the interests of the people of Nassagaweya, and also at the county level in the interests of the whole county. This I hope and trust that she will continue to do because without this knowledge and her ability to champion our causes whenever they are challenged, we would be isolated.

Development of the right type in this township is necessary. It cannot be obtained without co-operation at many levels of government, local, county and provincial. We have to work hard to get that co-operation if we are to be successful. A great deal of the development in the four counties of Halton, Peel, York and Ontario has been held up due to the new provincial plan. This is not a local issue — it cannot be solved locally regardless of how much homework might be done on it. However, we can only trust and hope that we will receive fair and sympathetic treatment if our leader is known and respected at the levels where the issues are decided, and if the position of the township is presented in clear, strong and knowledgeable terms as it has been done in the past years. Our local powers are slowly being taken. We may find ourselves in regional government within two years, so let us support the people who will insure we get the best terms possible for the people of the existing Municipality. Yours truly, Helen (Mrs. C.) Service, R. R. 3, Milton.

### Reeve chairman of council

Dear Sir: Before making their choice of reeve on December 7 I would like to tell my friends and neighbors of Nassagaweya township of my views regarding the reeveship. Being reeve of Nassagaweya in my understanding, means being not a "strong leader" unquote, but the chairman of a democratic council. The reeve must make sure that important issues are raised and stated openly and that all representation from any board, committee or institution is properly received. That the public and the press may exercise their right to know what goes on in council. That all work of the road committee, the planning board, the committee of adjustment, and all other boards and commissions be recognized, respected and properly considered in the fight to keep our environment as safe as possible, from air, water and visual pollution, in dealing with industrial waste dumping ground, the Hydro encroachment and any other threats. That the by-laws be respected and strengthened. Should I be elected, I will continue my late husband's policy to work with respect

and integrity for our township and county and for all these fine public spirited people who give so generously of their time, effort and ability for the benefit of our township. Yours very sincerely, Mrs. Elizabeth Hoey Elm Tree Farm, R.R.1, Moffat

### Off the cuff . . .

Election time in Halton this year sees all municipal councils except Milton falling into line with the county board of education bi-ennial elections. And for the first time, all municipalities are giving the voter two full weeks between nomination night and election night, in which to make up his or her mind about the candidate of their choice. Those eight and 10 day spaces between nomination and election nights in some Halton towns and townships were a nuisance, unfair to both voters and candidates. At least now there is a little more time for campaigning.

THE ACTON FREE PRESS  
PHONE 853-2010  
Business and Editorial Office

OWNERS: THE ACTON FREE PRESS  
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Published by The Acton Free Press Co. Ltd.  
David B. Dill, Publisher  
Harley Coles, Editor  
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