

Main St. crossing dangerous . . .

We were disappointed that the Department of Highways saw fit to turn down the proposal for a subway or overpass at the Main St. N. railway crossing and agree entirely with the public works committee of council—the matter should be pursued further.

There have been both pedestrian and fatalities in vehicles at the crossing and there quite likely could be more if something isn't done about present conditions.

The Department turned the request for a grade separation down because a traffic survey showed annual daily traffic amounted to 650 vehicles. They estimate that by 1991 the number will reach only 1,082 vehicles daily. The Department pointed out that this estimate falls far short of the number necessary to make changes for a subway or overpass.

We don't know how the Department of Highways makes projections but it seems unreasonable to suggest that traffic on Main St. N. won't increase appreciably in the next couple of years when 25 Highway is paved north to Highway 24. Traffic which normally might use the Seventh Line to go north, we suspect, will take 25 Highway as a better route from the Queen Elizabeth Way and Highway 401 when paving is completed.

There is also the matter of development at Acton's industrial park which should increase traffic, both truck and car, by a substantial margin. There have been two instances we know of where float trucks loaded with industrial equipment were stranded on the tracks because of the steep angle as the road ascends to straddle railroad tracks. More industry in this area could

mean more difficulties of this nature, which could also be compounded around train arrival times.

Also into the picture is the Railway Transport Committee which reported changes should not be made at this time. They based their stand on an inspection made December 15, 1970. However, they did request submissions from the town and the CNR, suggesting the matter was still open as far as they were concerned.

It is a dangerous crossing, even when used with caution, so we hope council will continue to keep the subject open until the Department of Highways and the railway can come to some conclusion that is acceptable to council and meets the standards of other crossings.

Example best defence . . .

Statistics often clarify unpalatable points we are unable to accept.

A professor of the sociology department of New York State University demonstrated this by coming up with statistical correlations between drug use by students and the home, social class and philosophic background from which they come.

Dr. Eric H. Goode of the sociology department of New York State University has found there is a mathematical relationship between the amount of drinking a parent does and the likelihood his son (or daughter) would take to dope or, at least, experiment.

He found the same relationship between a youngster's illegal dope use and smoking or the habitual use of

legal drugs (such as barbiturates) by mothers and fathers.

Drug use was greater as the social class of parents rose, not in the other direction as some have mistakenly presumed.

Statistically at least, students are more likely to try drugs if their parents profess no religion.

Goode's conclusion from the statistics is that college student drug use is partly an extension of their parents' own drug use, and to a much lesser degree a rebellion against parental values. What is even more likely, he says, is that it is both simultaneously.

"Whatever we conclude from the findings, the fact is, parental drug use and college student drug use are

empirically (based on experiment) related," the professor concludes.

Of course this is not new. The relationship has been claimed before but the link is more definitely established by the statistics the professor has assembled.

Neither Goode nor the other scientists present at the conference considered the material as proof. But it is an attempt at objectivity in an area where there has been much opinion and few facts.

To our mind the facts reinforce the old belief that example is much more important than words. All the good advice we give our own children is going to be lost if we don't practice what we preach.



Bird Watch

—(Staff Photo)

Teachers in "pogey" line? . . .

Recently, this newspaper, in common with probably every other newspaper in Ontario, received a brochure, prepared by public relations experts, entitled "Unemployment Insurance For Teachers." The front cover also says "A new tax. Uncomfortably close to fraud".

Unemployment insurance for teachers is not yet a fact, but it is in the discussion stages. The teachers are very much up in arms and it must be admitted, have some pretty potent arguments to back their stand.

If and when it comes to pass that teachers must join this weekly parade of insurance payments, they will be heartened with the knowledge that they have plenty of company from countless thousands who, like the writer, have paid the premiums weekly since the inception of the plan and have yet to draw a penny.

Unlike the teachers, we have no public relations experts and no funds with which to fight the issue. The fact is, very few of us have any desire to fight about it.

While there is a faint "flavour" about the O.T.F. brochure which decries lumping them with the weekly wage-earner and tending to regard unemployment insurance as a welfare measure; the facts of life are now such that teachers, as well as people in almost every other walk of life, (including executives), never know when they may need any type of protection available.

The wave of the future, insofar as teaching is concerned, is becoming evident through a number of factors, not the least of which is the declining birth-rate and a corresponding drop in immigration figures.

The most potent threat to the

number of teachers employed however, was the recent setting of "education spending guidelines" by the Department of Education. Trustees now have but two choices, either hire less qualified and therefore "cheaper" teachers, or increase the teacher-pupil ratio. If, for instance the secondary school ratio was increased from the present sixteen or 17 to one ratio to 25 to one, a lot of teachers would be unemployed come next September.

We realize that the O.T.F. has "well bolstered" schemes of financial aid available to teachers in need, but the additional few dollars of the unemployment insurance will not, in our opinion "break" members of that profession. At least not any faster than it has made the rest of us "destitute".

—St. Mary's Journal-Argus

Good purchasing advice . . .

Deceptively-complex credit plans, carefully designed but not always truthful promotional programs put the heat on young people in the marketplace.

Fresh out of school, they are being bilked by the availability of credit. They go out and buy clothes, record players, cars and motorcycles, magazine subscriptions that often result in commitments they cannot handle.

As an example of the kind of situations young people can fall into, the Registrar of the Ontario Consumer Protection Bureau, A. R. Walker cites a gimmick which involves a "pseudo-check" mailed to the home. A pull tab is located on the top right hand corner of the cheque. The number beneath can mean a "free stereo" if it appears on the enclosed list.

But there is a catch. When presented, the cheque is presumably worth the price of the stereo—\$299.50. All you have to do is pay for 75 stereo long play records at five dollars each and sign a contract.

These records cost \$375, but they could be bought retail for about two dollars each—or \$150.

"In this case, the free stereo isn't really free," says Walker. "Free items seldom are . . ."

Many times circumstances are more acute than just buying a "free stereo". Sometimes young people cripple themselves financially for years by forsaking their common sense for the lure of "easy-convenient" credit terms.

So Mr. Walker is going around telling high school students to ask

themselves questions about purchasing, such as:

Can I pay for it and still meet my daily living expenses?

What will happen to me when an emergency arises?

Is having something new worth the worry of paying later?

Do I really know what I am buying, and how much will I pay as a result of credit and finance charges?

Have I purchased the item from a reliable, well-established firm, company or store?

Good advice all of us could heed.

Editorial notes

Care to take a guess at the highway carnage in North Halton during the past four weeks? Would you believe 125 motor vehicle accidents in 28 days? One person killed and 37 others injured? A total of \$203,000 in property damage? Const. Tom Penrice, Milton

OPP's accident prevention officer claims careless driving and speed too fast for road and traffic conditions are the main cause of winter accidents; especially on those days when highways ice up. Tom's good word for this week: "Slow down BEFORE you find you're unable to do so."

OUR READERS WRITE:

Beer bottles litter Churchill Rd.

183 Churchill Road S.,
February 27, 1971.

To the Editor,
Acton Free Press.

Wow! — there must have been quite a party somewhere in the vicinity of Churchill Road last night — Friday February 26, 1971. When I took my dog out for his first walk of the day this morning I saw no less than three cardboard boxes full of beer bottles. One box, containing 21 bottles out of the original 24, had been dumped outside the front of my house. Another box originally containing six bottles had been dumped just north of Orville Road. Several of these bottles had been broken and now provide a hazard for dogs and children walking along the side of the road.

On the opposite side of the road another box containing most of the original contents had been dumped; so far these were intact, but I can imagine what will happen when the local boys get out playing in the snow. Opposite my own house was a box which had contained another six bottles, but they had been removed, goodness knows where.

A couple of weeks ago there was a new by-law mentioned in the Free Press with regard to the dumping of various items considered to be garbage. What I should like to know is when is this new by-law going to be enforced, and how will this be done? First of all the culprits have to be found, and I suppose this isn't so easy with the size of our present police force. I have never yet seen a police car on Churchill Road South after dark, and we have now been living in Acton

for four years.

This is not the first time empty beer bottles have been dumped on this road. Every Saturday morning I see at least half a dozen when I take my dog out for his first walk.

Do people think because we live on the road which leads to the dump that we like to have these things thrown into our road? I think not. People living on this road take a great deal of time tending their front and rear yards, and I am sure they would not do this if they preferred to have other peoples garbage to look at.

Get with it folks, and for goodness sake clean up Acton, so that it can be a place we will all be proud to live in.

Mrs. Peggy Wright.

Free Press back issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, March 1, 1951.

An outstanding Christian life was brought to a close on Friday, February 23 when Mrs. Henry Caldwell passed peacefully away. Her husband the Rev. Henry Caldwell died six months after they retired in Acton 16 years ago. After a private service at the home a public service was held in the United Church with Rev. Currey in charge. Six other ministers took part. Mrs. Veldhuis and Miss Simmons sang Crossing the Bar.

Alfred H. Perrott has accepted the position of bandmaster of the Acton Citizens' Band. Mr. Perrott, whose home is in Brampton but who boards in Georgetown, is the bandmaster of the Lorne Scots band and the Streetsville band. The band is newly organized under the name of Acton Citizens' Band. Several members of the older Citizens' Band were out for the first practice with Mr. Perrott.

Joyce Bennie and Robert Adams were married Feb. 24 in Knox church.

Councillor Esther Taylor was one of 11 women in public life honored at a banquet in the Royal York hotel, sponsored by five national women's service clubs.

High school pupils had the afternoon off Tuesday when the Teachers' Convention took Miss Grindley, Miss Gammie, Mr. Robbins and Mr. Hansen to Leaside.

The last minute rush for car licenses this week proved unnecessary as a reprieve was granted till March 20.

Bill Marshall, who broke his foot in a parachute jump, is home on leave from the army this week. About 15 who jumped at the same time broke either arms or legs due to the wind and below-zero weather.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, March 3, 1921.

A good deal of interest was centred in the stock judging contests for the young men of Halton county at Milton. There were nearly 60 contestants. Stuart Lowrie of Acton was awarded the silver cup and the county shield for the highest points.

Last Thursday Mr. Duncan McDougall, third line, lost Dock, the fine brown horse belonging to the farm team. Dock slipped in some way and sustained internal injuries. He was valued at \$250. (Fifty years ago, the same attention was given to the death of horses as is given today to damaged and wrecked cars.)

A social evening was spent in St. Joseph's church with Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Deverell and family prior to their removal to Mount Forest.

Upon re-opening of the schools after Easter there will be several changes. Miss Jean McLeod has accepted a position with Weston at an increased salary. Miss Nellie Anderson, who holds a first-class professional certificate, and whose sister, Miss Isabel, has been on the staff for several years, has been engaged. Miss Folster will take the room which Miss McLeod taught.

The protests throughout the county against the gazing of an outside officer as colonel of the Halton Rifles has had the desired effect. Major G. O. Brown has been appointed to the command of the regiment with the rank of Lt.-Col.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, February 20, 1896.

Acton is a popular convention town and those who met here in their annual gatherings are invariably delighted. The annual gathering of the members of Halton Teachers' Association last Thursday and Friday was beset by extremely stormy and disagreeable weather and an almost impossible blockading of snow, but 64 teachers were in attendance. Papers were given on "Geography — What to Teach", "Discipline, the end of all true study", "Ethical Teaching", "Literature in Public Schools", "Moral Education through the Study of Literature", "Scope and methods of Teaching Grammar and Its Relation to Other Subjects", and "The Teacher as a Character Builder".

Thirty degrees below zero was the unprecedented point to which the mercury fell this week.

The roads which were completely blocked last week are in pretty fair condition again.

A most enjoyable evening was spent by the members of Ivanhoe Camp sons of Scotland and their lady friends. The unusual feature was an oyster supper tendered Mr. James McTavish now of Montour, Iowa, one of the charter members of the camp. Camp Ivanhoe is in an enviable position financially; its exchequer gives evidence of the presence of canny Scots within its borders.

Photos from the past



MISS LOTTIE Speight's Sunday school class:

front row l. to r. Mrs. Vanatter, Mrs. F. Kennedy, Mrs. Wedge, Miss Speight teacher, Mrs. N. MacDonald, Mrs. A. T. Blair, Mrs. R. L. Johnson, Mrs. A. T. Brown; second row l. to r. Mrs. W. Landsborough, Mrs. MacIntosh, ?

Miss E. Hawthorne, Mrs. Nelson Moore, Mrs. Agnew, Mrs. Spielvogel, ? Mrs. H. Brown; last row l. to r. Mrs. A. McKeown, Mrs. Savage, Mrs. H. Denny, Mrs. Charlotte McDonald, Mrs. Gregory, Mrs. J. Ramshaw, Mrs. R. Wansborough, Miss A. Elliott, ? Mrs. F. Gamble. This picture was loaned to the Free Press by Mrs. Cleave, Mill St.

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