



LOOKING DOWN Mill St. last week from the air gave photographer Jack Carpenter a view of Spring gradually taking hold of town and surrounding district. Fairy Lake can be seen upper foreground still wearing its protective coating of

ice with the countryside displaying more abundance of snow than the town. The photo also gives some indication how well town employees kept streets clean during one of the worst winters on record.

Trail excellent idea . . .

We like the idea of a walking trail from Acton to Guelph, following the old radial line.

A group in Guelph under the chairmanship of Jim Pierce, 4 Cadillac Drive, is currently working on land owner permission for the trail and they report a good response to their efforts. They propose to call the walk The Radial Line Trail.

Now the Toronto chapter of the Bruce Trail Club is considering linking the proposed new trail to their section of the Bruce Trail, which opens up many more vistas for hikers.

The Radial Line Trail follows the old radial line roadbed which ran from Toronto to Guelph. The old railway followed the attractive river valleys of the Blue Springs Creek and the Eramosa River on their course from Acton to Guelph. The trail is mostly through woods and bush with many varieties of wildlife.

Native Actonians will remember when the radial cars used to leave the station on Main St. S., just south of Church St. They took a route which bisected Church St., crossed over Mill and Cameron Sts., passed over Fairy Lake at the "big bridge" where the Breezes tourist area is now and then

plunged into virtual wilderness of the "Gore" before arriving at Blue Springs park which in the past was a local tourist attraction.

Now the park area is owned by the Boy Scouts but the old line is still well marked and would make a splendid walking trail through some of the prettiest country in this district. Many residents of this area have used the old radial line for walking and at one time it was a direct trail for boy scouts and wolf cubs on their way to Blue Springs.

From Blue Springs the old railway line follows the valley and takes higher ground through the area where the Ontario Electrical Railway Historical Association has its railway "museum", another attraction. From there the old railway roadbed passed through picturesque Eden Mills, joining the Eramosa River valley on its way to Guelph.

Outcroppings of limestone add interest to the terrain on either side of the railbed for the proposed walk, as well as the cold, clear waters of Blue Springs Creek, one of the few unspooled streams in this part of the country.

Dr. Hugh Whitley of the University of Guelph, recently told members of

Nassagaweya Planning Board that the stream was a natural asset to the area and one of the few which had a continuous flow rather than a high spring crest along its cedar-lined banks.

What better way to preserve the natural beauty of the area than to turn the old railbed into a walking trail where all can use it?

Let us hope the various townships can co-operate in preserving the topography in its natural state but as Nassagaweya councillor James Watson has pointed out there are already 3,000 acres of his township now in conservation and forest lands. There is a question of just how much land the township can afford to provide for recreation and still maintain a reasonable tax basis for permanent residents.

We feel since many city residents would also want to take advantage of the recreational aspects of the proposed trail that the area should be in line for some sort of government grant to compensate township residents for their generosity in addition to aiding the preservation of land in the province as the pioneers knew it.

Let's not widen the gap . . .

Pay for teachers is one subject that is always certain to stir up controversy, especially among teachers themselves. No one disputes that teaching is an arduous job and the rewards should fit the task, but there are those who think the pay scale is already out of line.

We were interested in the comments of the Financial Post concerning Etobicoke, a middle class suburb of Toronto, which the Post thinks would be typical of most other areas in the province. There the school board expect teachers to work for six hours a day between September 1 and June 30.

Subtracting holidays, winter breaks, time off for professional day, Etobicoke's average teacher works 200 days or 1,200 hours a year. Teachers are expected to prepare lessons, mark papers and contribute to after-hours activity as well, but this is typical in that pay bracket who do after-hours work for their companies without compensation.

To the teacher just beginning his career with a minimum of training,

this means the Etobicoke board pays the equivalent of \$4.50 an hour; to the fully qualified public school teacher with five years' experience \$9.08 an hour and to the most qualified and experienced teacher \$12.75 an hour.

By contrast the Financial Post notes the average hourly earnings in manufacturing was \$3.09; in construction \$4.47.

The comparison in no way suggests teachers should be paid the same as workers in manufacturing or construction. Their qualifications entitle them to a much higher salary.

However, in pressing their claims, teachers should keep two things in mind. People earning those lower rates of pay contribute much of the teachers' salaries. Also, unlike teachers, most taxpayers do not have a free summer in which to upgrade qualifications and as a result increase rewards. Most people in manufacturing and construction have, at the most, two or three weeks free each summer.

Those who have to scrape and economize just to get by in the high priced world, naturally do not appreciate efforts of teachers to further increase salaries which are already considered excessive.

Many of the public still remember the time when teachers were badly underpaid, schools were understaffed and boards were reluctant to spend anything on schools other than the bare necessities. They remember the dedication and energy of some teachers then and compare it to the reluctance of some school staffs today to put more than the minimum effort into the profession despite high rewards.

Few would want to see those days return, but by the same token the public recalls that despite the lack of qualified teachers, schools of the past set high standards.

We support a high rate of pay for good teachers but oppose further widening of the gaps between taxpayer and the profession.



Sugar and Spice by bill smiley

Towards the end of a long, dreary winter like this year's, even the most jubilant of spirits begin to flag. The world takes on a gray monotony, about the color and taste of English gravy.

We seem to be suspended in a vague nightmare in which we are swimming in porridge, with no land in sight. We have forgotten the glory of the individual spirit and our fellow-beings seem to merge into the murk.

Right there is the point at which we need a good spring tonic. In the old days our mothers gave us a physical one, in the shape of a good purge, and it seemed to help.

But in these days of instant laxatives, we need something for the spirit, not the body. I got my tonic this year, just in time. It was in the form of two stories, both true. My faith in the color and vitality of the human spirit was restored, and I feel like living again.

The first one contained enough irony and humanity to satisfy the most demanding of writers. It concerned a bank hold-up.

The manager was out to lunch when the desperado struck. He slipped a note to one of the tellers informing her that it was a stick-up, then slipped a sawed-off shotgun from under his coat, and went to the front counter.

Chatting happily on the phone to his girlfriend, the accountant had his back to the villain. The latter waited politely for him to finish his call and get the message.

A lady teller, trying to get the accountant's attention, kept hissing at him, "Dave! Dave!" He went blithely on, while the robber began to drum his fingers on the counter with just a touch of impatience.

Finally, he roared in a stentorian voice, "DAVE!" Dave looked over his shoulder and dropped the phone as though it were red-hot, as he looked into that shot-gun barrel, about the size of a Cyclops' eye.

The intruder shoved a bag at Dave and, told him to fill it. It was done and the visitor left with what turned out to be \$3,000. He got away clean, though three of the staff had rung alarm bells which were directly connected to the police station. A customer saw the getaway car and got the license number.

The chap was picked up about a week later. A sordid little story? Not at all. This was no ordinary hood. This was a man of character.

He didn't go careening off in a mad chase with police bullets and tires screaming. He drove a few blocks to a hotel, went in and had a few drinks. Sensible chap.

What did the hold-up man do with the money? He went to his own bank and paid off a \$500 loan. Then he went to a finance company and paid them \$1,000 he owed them.

What a pity he was caught! An honest man who paid his debts, pushed by them into an armed-robbery charge. A man of character.

The second story is also true. I just missed seeing it, but an eye-witness filled me in. It's a cowboy story.

The hero lives in a small town. He owns and rides a beautiful horse. On a recent Saturday, he rode uptown, feeling no pain. He wanted his horse to enjoy life, too, so he took him to a hotel and tried to take him into the beer parlor. Unaccountably, he was refused.

Undaunted, he took his steed across the street to a tavern and tried to buy him a double. Foiled again, he was trying to lead his pal into the beverage room of the other hotel in town, when the law arrived.

It was no contest. The cowboy told the cop exactly what he thought of him, for about 20 minutes. He then mounted Old Paint and galloped up the sidewalk of the main street, scattering old ladies into snow-banks and children into store doorways.

Allegedly, when the constable was asked why he didn't put the strong arm on the cowboy, he replied, "I didn't know what to do with the dam' horse." And a perfectly sensible answer.

Don't ever let anyone tell you that Canadians are a dull, mousy, colorless lot. Jesse James was a violent clod and Dodge City a home for old ladies, compared to this bank robber and this cowboy.

"Sitting on a powder keg" — Denktash

Jim Dills continues his observations in Nicosia, Cyprus

Touring the green line through the city zone was depressing. On either side of a narrow street are lined the Turks and the Greeks. Strategically located are the outposts with U.N. outposts in between.

Damage that resulted from the street fighting is very evident. We went to one area of Ormophita where the fighting broke out. It is like a wasteland of destroyed and abandoned homes with roofs off, windows out and completely deserted. Once 5,000 people lived there.

Blood-spattered walls are evident and in one room we tried to reconstruct what might have happened. Presumably a grenade had been thrown in, from indications of the shrapnel and the blood stains on the wall. No attempt could be made to consider how many could have died in the small upper room.

Streets are narrow at Ormophita and what was left indicated a once pleasant architecture and reasonably solidly built buildings. The downtown area of Nicosia revealed more about today's living. A house with a large door completely open allowed us to catch a glimpse of a mother rocking one child with uncouthed others playing noisily. Grandmother was there too. Some of the children followed us out along the street with their favorite word "Hello". They were dressed in dirty clothes and their future was not being made any brighter as a result of the divided state.

Obviously peace-keeping is fraught with frustrations but the Canadians appear to perform well. Their task is to reason and to negotiate and both sides seem happy to have

Conflict and Contrast

BY JIM DILLS

Jim Dills was one of 18 weekly newspaper men from five provinces selected for a two-week study tour including Israel, Cyprus, Germany and England. He writes his observations and conclusions in this series.



them as a continuing presence, but how long will the U.N. remain? Turks who are the minority have the striking power of Turkey only five minutes away. If Turkey and Greece, two NATO countries enter battle, who is to say where it would end?

Time was flying in Cyprus but we didn't want to leave without meeting Rauf R. Denktash who is vice-president of the provisional Cyprus Turkish Administration and in effect the No. 2 man in the Cypriot government.

He was lucid, positive and persuasive. He spoke excellent English and had studied law in England from 1944 to 1947. After his call to the bar he returned to Cyprus and began to practise law on his own.

It was he who led the Turkish Cypriot delegation at the London Conference and attended the U.N. security council on behalf of the Turkish Cypriots. In 1970 he was re-elected as president of the Turkish Communal Chamber and continues to function in this capacity, in addition to his duties as vice-president of the Provisional Turkish Administration.

He had very warm memories, he said, from the early days of the troubles and the Canadian friends who have assisted in the

maintenance of peace in Cyprus. He reviewed the historical background of Cyprus from 1878 when the British first came to the island and the establishment of the Greek Orthodox Church, the problems of the proposed union with Greece and the propagation of this philosophy which, he argued had been well done through church and schools along with propaganda which he maintained had created the image of the "terrible Turk".

He recalled that in 1950 when then-Bishop Makarios became Archbishop he had taken an oath that in his lifetime he would accomplish Enosis. "Makarios was serious."

Denktash recounted the problems of December 21, 1963 when he maintained Turks were removed to the police station, two were killed and two were hurt and in two days everything went up in flames. In the next four or five days the Turkish enclave was cut off from the world and listened to the Cyprus radio broadcast reporting the government forces were trying to contain the outbreak in the Turkish sector. He maintained that Britain, in hand with Greece had delayed any intervention and Turkey had taken the initiative by sending in planes. In 30 minutes Britain and Greece

(Continued on Page B3)

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press Thursday, April 12, 1951.

The post office reported a rush twice in the last few weeks — once near the Match the Twins contest deadline and then again at the Know Ontario contest deadline. Bags filled with nothing but entries were forwarded to Toronto.

His truck smashed and ablaze, 23-year-old Jack Kentner died in an accident Monday afternoon. The young father played hockey with the Milton Co-Ops this year and also played baseball with Acton. He leaves his wife Jean and a four-year-old son.

Knox manse was the scene of a pretty wedding when Betty Marie Winfield and Clark Wallace Armstrong were married. Presiding at a tea table was a pleasant change for Acton council. Elected to pass tea at the Y.M.C.A. Ladies' Auxiliary tea and bake sale were Mayor Ted Tyler, Deputy-Reeve J. J. Stewart, Reeve Hargrave, councillors Esther Taylor, A. Fryer, L. Weick, J. Greer and C. E. Wood.

Seven delegations had matters to put before council Friday in a session which lasted from 7.30 p.m. until 3 a.m. Several ratepayers protested the purchase of the new snow blower.

Well-known Canadian poetess Edna Jacques was guest speaker at Variety Night sponsored by the Friendly Circle.

Over \$300 was raised by the Home and School following Theatre Night at the Roxy, arranged with the co-operation of theatre manager H. Deveau. Near-capacity audiences saw both showings of "Father was a Bachelor".

The choir from Bannockburn school was chosen to go to the county music festival.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, April 21, 1921.

Ontario Endorses Prohibition Of All Intoxicating Liquors By Majority of Over 15,000 — The Verdict of the Polls was Most Decisive in Many of the Cities as Well as in Rural Districts — For the Fifth Time the Electors of this Province have Said Emphatically "No More Intoxicating Liquor".

Free Press back issues

Ontario has again and probably for the last time said to the traffic in intoxicating liquors for beverage purposes, "Your presence here is distasteful — get out."

Every town and township in Halton on Monday, true to the splendid record of the past, gave a substantial majority to prohibition. Acton's Yes majority is 235; Georgetown 317; Milton 201; Esqueping 400; Nassagaweya 447. Total majority in Halton 3,180. (Acton's majority in 1919 was 231).

No one will ever again truthfully say that women do not value their privilege of voting. Acton's women workers were on the job right after breakfast and until supper time.

The women of Ontario were largely influential in bringing about the splendid result obtained. And why not? They have suffered so much of the anxiety, of agony, of actual want and distress, as the mothers and wives of the land. Thank God, the mothers, wives, sisters and daughters now have the franchise and used it to eliminate this evil traffic, which has cursed and ruined homes

in Ontario for generations. The cities in the minority which are in the wet column included Toronto and Hamilton. Local dry majorities — Brookville 190, Knatchbull 93, Ospringe 190 to 9. Good old Dublin voted three to one for no booze. Acton has scored another signal victory for a sober town.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press Thursday, April 2, 1896

Ottawa Women's Council is working to shorten the hours of labor for women and children. Some startling examples of underpaid garment work were discussed.

Dean's Uncle Tom's Cabin Co. entertained a well-filled house at the town hall.

The visit of Miss Rogers, missionary from India, was much appreciated. Her address in the Baptist church was highly interesting. Idols of heathen worship and other articles were exhibited. The wretchedness of the Hindoo women was particularly impressive.

Messrs. Sharp Bros. and their mother of Everton left Tuesday morning on the C.P.R. to take up land about 100 miles north of Calgary. They took with them a number of head of cattle and horses, their household furniture and a good supply of seed, in all occupying two cars.

Millinery opening at G. B. Ryan's, Guelph — Great variety of Pattern Hats and Bonnets from Paris, personally selected by us. Our Untrimmed Millinery, Flowers, Ribbons and Trimmings of all kind we import direct from Europe, also. By this we not only obtain for you the latest eccentricities of fashion, but are able to supply them at small cost as we thus avoid the long prices charged for the less recent styles of New York and Toronto.

Stick to your flannels, however glows the sun, or you will be an angel before the spring is done.

Mr. John C. Nelson has sold his business interests at Oshawa and removed to Acton. Two of our barber shops have changed quarters the past week, Morton to the shop on Main St. where A. P. Symon lately had his jewellery store and Worden to the shop between the Main St. hotels.

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