

OUR READERS WRITE:

Questions value of parent volunteers?

The Editor, The Acton Free Press, Dear Sir:

It was recently published that the educational requirements for an elementary school teacher must be a degree in the sciences or the arts, as well as one year of teachers' college. The teachers will therefore be more 'qualified'.

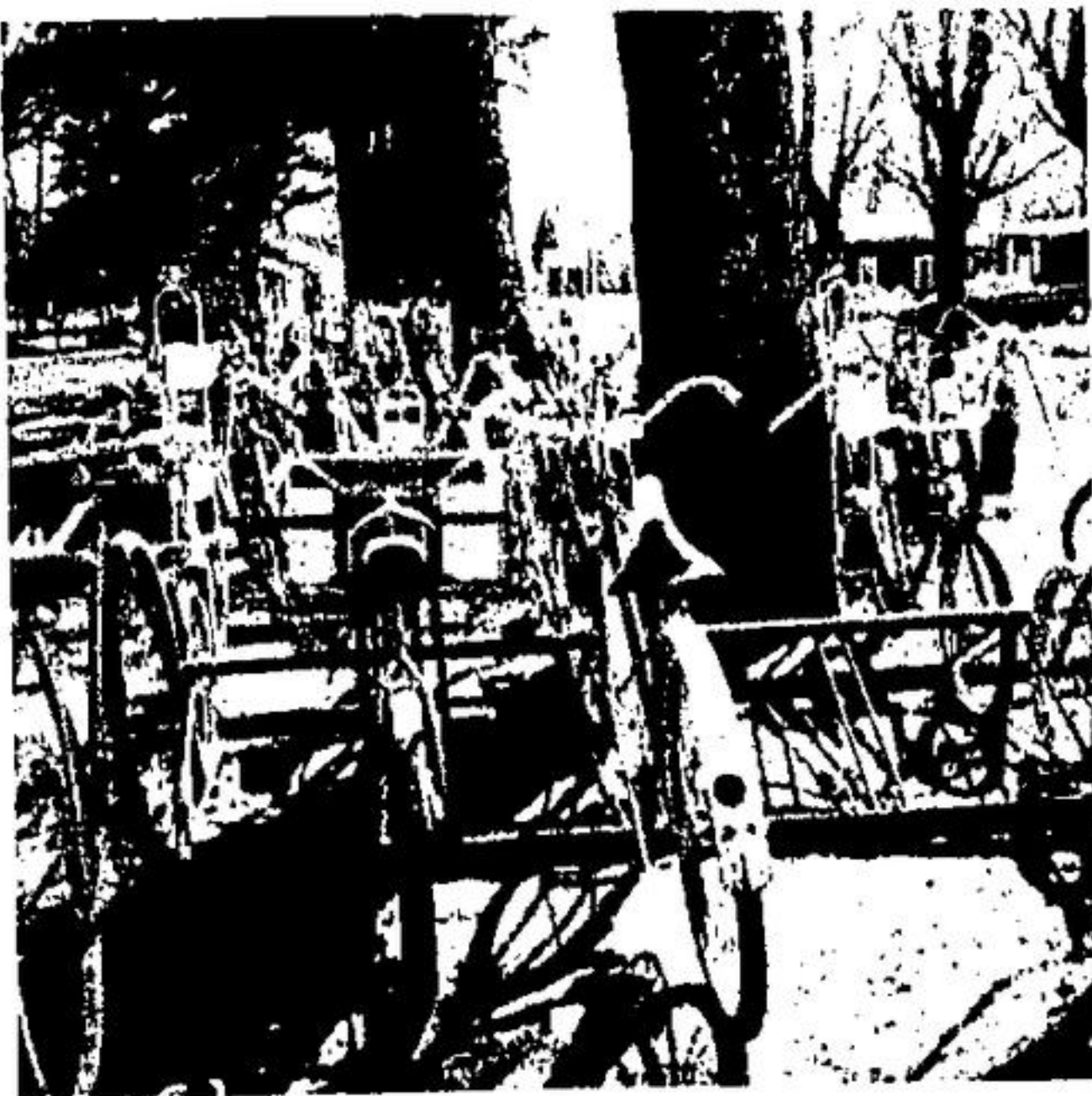
On the other hand, volunteer workers are invited into the schools to work with our children, unassisted by a teacher and the school administration will know little more about the volunteer than her name. No application is needed, qualifications unnecessary but the fact that they will offer their time and work without salary, no specific requirements are needed. Are we supposed to surmise that our children will benefit from the higher education that will be imposed on our teachers...

education that will be imposed on our teachers, while on the other hand unqualified help are in the schools under the title of parent volunteers. If it was necessary to hire this additional help and pay them a salary, I wonder how many of them would qualify?

Because parent volunteers can be obtained at no cost to the Board of Education, anyone who has the time to offer can work in the schools where no record of performance is made, nor does anyone pass judgement on their ability to teach. I would like to ask the board if it is really such a bargain?

If it is so, then why must the teachers of the future require a university degree? I would like to think that my son is being taught by a qualified teacher, not by a parent who is neither trained nor observed.

Yours truly, A Halton Resident.



SPRING IS HERE! Bicycle racks at both Acton public schools are being used almost to capacity.—(Staff Photo)

Trustee says homework just "waste of time"

Homework for elementary school students is a waste of time that could be spent better doing something else like cooking or working around the house; trustee George Pelletier told the Halton County Board of Education during discussion on the matter at their meeting in Oakville Thursday.

"I had the best principal in the system when I was in school. She never believed in homework and neither did I," he told the board.

No need Acton—Nassagaweya Trustee Tom Watson said with the good resource centres available now, there is no need for homework and youngsters don't have to fill their minds with trivia like they used to.

John Honson saw it as a means of formulating good study habits. Bill Priestner suggested homework is a great vehicle between the home and the school. "It helps parents know what their youngsters are doing in school," he said.

anything that might constitute a fire hazard, the Bureau suggests.

Clean up, burn up "Trouble is," said Milton Fire Chief A. E. Clement, "people are also tidying up their lawns and gardens at this time of the year. They accumulate a pile of rubbish and decide the quickest way to get rid of it is to burn it. Before you know it, the fire has gone out of control and the dry grass is burning."

Another problem comes from the rural areas where landowners decide to burn off a patch of dead grass or a few tree stumps. Such fires, produce their own wind and if they are not carefully supervised, can spread quickly to threaten a barn, home or a bush.

Open fires illegal All fires in the open are illegal, the Bureau points out. If they are not covered under local municipal by-laws or the National Fire Code, the Air Management Branch of the Ontario Department of Energy and Resources Management has strict controls which state no open fires are allowed without a permit. And local fire chiefs do not have the authority to issue such permits.

Bureau members are considering the possibility of dropping their annual clean-up campaign and turning their spring efforts toward a campaign to cut down on the costly rash of grass fires. In one recent spring season they figured grass and brush fires had cost Halton's taxpayers over \$30,000.

If the grass continues to remain dry and if the fire calls keep coming in at the rate they have since Easter weekend, the spring of 1971 could be just as costly.

Citizen of Year well chosen

P.O. Box 571, Guelph.

I note that your Citizen of the Year has been chosen for the town of Acton. At last, the committee responsible for this award, has made it to someone who has worked for the community as a whole. While acts of valor and heroism are fine, the greatest reward in doing these things is the mutual satisfaction that one has done what was necessary at the right time and these persons usually don't want publicity. Let this committee continue to make the award annually to someone who serves the community as a whole, not for a single act. In the meantime, congratulations Ted. While not always seeing eye to eye with some of your theories, you have worked for the community at large for a long time.

Yours truly, Andrew E. Welch

Rubbish makes grass fires

Spring clean-up drive backfires

Maybe the usual spring clean-up campaign should be converted to an anti-grass fire campaign, members of Halton County Fire Prevention Bureau were thinking this week. Since Easter weekend, fire departments in Halton have been running around the countryside putting out grass fires. Since the snow melted, the spring sun has made grass and fields quite dry, making it easy for a carelessly tossed cigarette or an unattended bonfire to get out of control and spread across the fields.

Meanwhile Halton Fire Prevention Bureau members have been busy this past few weeks distributing 20,000 spring clean-up posters urging all homeowners to get busy cleaning up their homes and eliminating fire hazards. While you are doing your spring cleaning, take a few minutes to check your home for anything that might constitute a fire hazard, the Bureau suggests.

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Contrast and Conflict . . .

(Continued from Page B2)

communal kindergartens, children's quarters and social and cultural centres. Individual living quarters provide personal privacy.

Kibbutzim are predominantly agricultural but many run sizable industrial enterprises. There are 235 of these kibbutzim in Israel with populations ranging from 60 to 2,000.

Following supper at Neve-Yam we had a session in the common room which was informative and enlightening.

Dan Rawner, production manager in the kibbutz factory told us about the basic principles of the kibbutzim where members are equal and adults are elected to membership. Everyone who is able must work, and of course the movement started as an attempt to solve the practical problems of settlement. They developed centres which could be defended. Dan suggested the secret of the survival of kibbutzim was in adjustment to changing times and conditions and the dependence on the voluntary goodwill of the people who made up membership.

They had no laws, no courts and no police enforcement and they were built on the mutual respect of the individual. One was free to leave the kibbutz, but to join required a one year probationary period after which the member would be either accepted or rejected by a vote of the full membership of the kibbutz.

Neve-Yam was founded in 1939 by a group of pioneers from Poland, initially expecting to build their kibbutz economy on fishing from the Mediterranean. They found this impractical and went into mixed farming and eventually built a cannerly in 1945, which has taken on an increasing importance in the economy of the community. They choose crops that don't need too much labor, grow cotton and have about 20 acres of fish ponds in which they grow carp. These are processed in their canning factory, as are orange juice and other citrus products.

Diversifying, they also have accommodation for 150 guests, and a poultry farm which was established on the sand strips just north of the kibbutz. The factory employs up to 450 workers from outside the community at its peak processing periods.

With four per cent of the Israel population in kibbutzim we wondered whether young people would accept the somewhat restricted life which the kibbutz offers. Members indicated they couldn't be sure their children would follow in choosing the life of a co-operative community but they were encouraging their young people to seek higher education.

I talked with a beautiful young girl who seemed to have a radiance borne of inner contentment, to determine her ideas and attitudes towards kibbutz life.

Dania Shevah came with her husband Nissim to the kibbutz three years after they had been married in Paris. Dania at 28 had two children Corinne, now six and David, now five. Her work in the factory was as a secretary, and Nissim was in charge of the visitors' camping operation at the kibbutz.

Dania's children were cared for in the kibbutz nursery and when she left work she would pick them up at 4.00 p.m. and have them until about 9.00 p.m. when she would return them to the nursery or the school for the night. The older, Corinne would be home Friday evening for the Sabbath and in the summer as a family they would go straight to the sea after work or they might walk around the grounds of the kibbutz picking flowers and sharing time together.

Dania's work in Paris, France was as a teacher of small children and she studied languages preparing for work as an interpreter.

Nissim was a salesman. They had discussed the possibility of kibbutz life before marrying but reached no decision until after three years they found life in France not up to their expectations. They found people selfish and there was no time for friendship. They felt there was no purpose in life.

Now after 5 1/2 years at the kibbutz both are happy and Dania has convinced her parents to move to the same kibbutz. Her father had been a financial journalist for 40 years. He told me he was enjoying life there very much. Nissim's parents are approaching retirement and in September plan to come to Israel to settle in Haifa.

Members of the kibbutz do not receive any pay for their work but we were told that each year they receive about \$1,800 for their personal use providing either T.V. sets, clothing or whatever they may choose. Their collective efforts give the kibbutz about a \$12 million gross turnover.

It was exciting meeting these people and learning of their sense of purpose. The outward radiance and enthusiasm which they seemed to have was impressive. It was our first glimpse of the very deeply ingrained sense of purpose which we seemed to find everywhere we turned in Israel.

That night we slept in the guest houses at Neve-Yam and the next morning, after a varied breakfast including fish and a number of Mediterranean delicacies, we toured the canning factory led by David Levi, the factory's manager.

The plant produces about 4,000 cases of citrus fruits daily, requiring about 140 tons of citrus fruits. The rind from the juiced oranges is dried for cattle feed. The processing factory also handles fish and brand names of Jaffa orange juice.

(Continued Next Week)

A letter from Eden Mills

By V. K. Harrow

Eden Mills, Ont. 20 May, 1970.

Dear May:

Great excitement around here the last little while. Two Canada Geese appeared on the pond and it looks as if they might stay. Every morning, first thing, we look out to see if they are still there. One evening several of their friends seemed to come to visit—so maybe we'll have even more.

Norm started feeding them, and Gladys tells me they are now literally eating out of her hand. They waddle round and honk under the Marshalls' bedroom window when they think it's time for breakfast!

Solve problem

I don't know if I told you we solved the icicle problem at the back of the house. Norm Marshall Jr. suggested I get electric eavestrough cable. So I did and he very kindly put it up for me. It zig-zags up and down the lower part of the roof.

When there is snow you turn it on at a strategic time—I have found just about sunset best—and it gives off enough heat to make little tunnels in the ice for the water to escape—and so there's no back-up or icicles. Very good.

While I was away in January the water pipes froze. Here again I was lucky. Mrs. Anna Jackson who was checking the house in my absence found the trouble and, again, Norm Jr. fixed things up.

It was the first time that had happened and I think it was because some of the insulating had been disturbed. However, no more trouble, and the new pump we had installed last spring seems okay too.

Likes plants

You know how I always like to have some plants in the house—like to have something growing. This time it was miniature roses. About a year ago I read that they did well in rock gardens—so I got a couple. Being me, the poor little things were choked with weeds but still green in September. So I brought them into the house. They seemed to like the kitchen window and have bloomed a couple of times. One is red, one yellow, and the blooms are about the size of a nickel. My little copper planter will hold four small plants.

Tropical plants So one dreary February noon I

drove over to the Belgian Nurseries for some more. They have one greenhouse which is a joy to visit at that time of year—full of tropical plants. I got a very small Crown-of-thorns and a tiny Christmas cactus. These, too, have bloomed. It has made an interesting change from the begonias, much as I appreciate them.

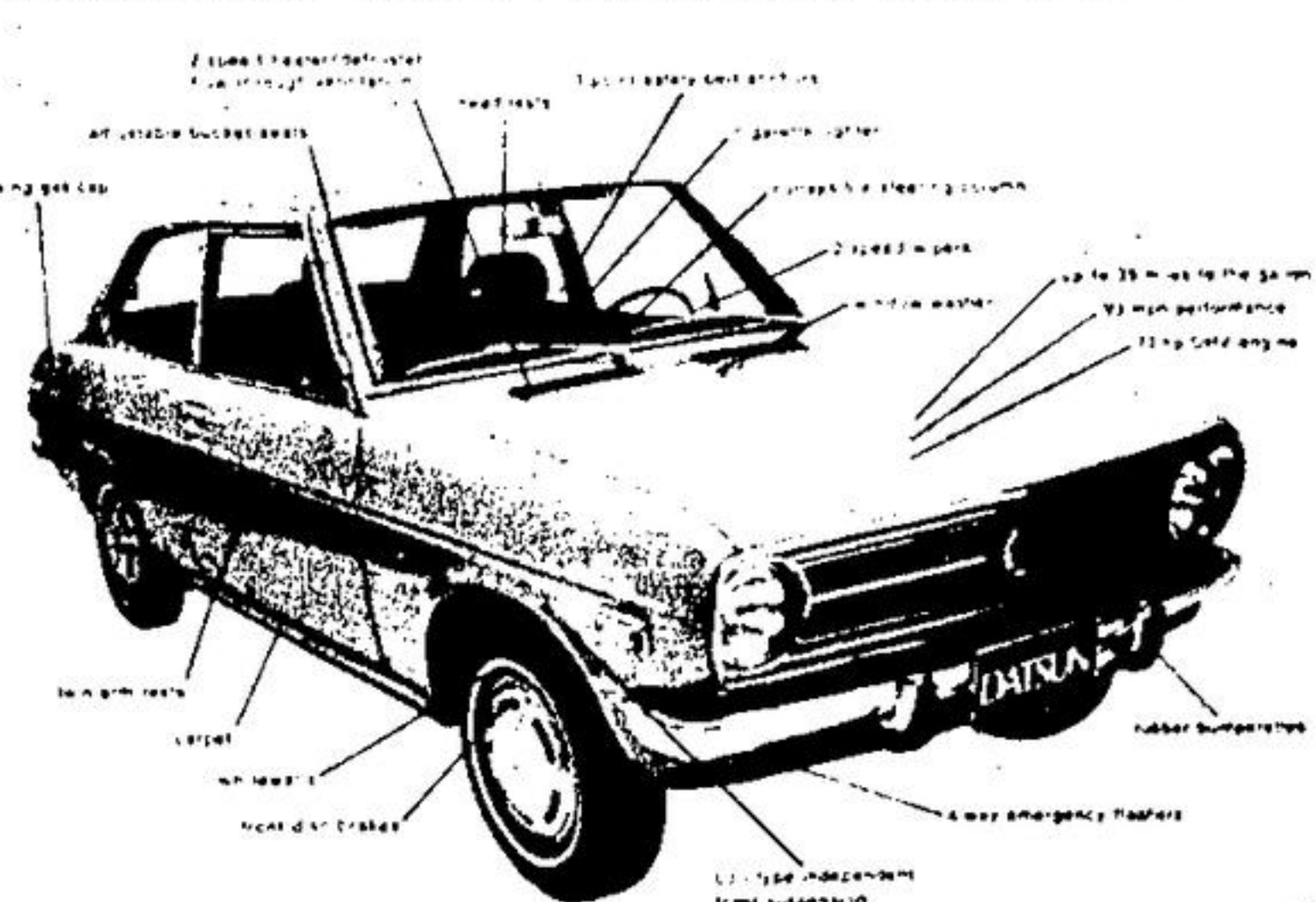
Once again it looks as if I'm going to be lucky with grass cutters. Last year Mike Marshall succeeded his cousin, Dennis Abraham. Both boys kept things looking pretty good. This year Ron Marshall has taken me on. He has been working around all day getting the old dead grass and weeds raked up and carted up to the back.

A belated happy birthday, dear. Shall think of you and Kath together on Sunday.

With Love, Val

Advertisement for Lovell Bros. Meat Market. Includes prices for items like Blade & Short Rib Roast (85¢/lb.), Lean Shoulder Roast (79¢/lb.), Prime Rib Roast (\$1.29/lb.), Point Brisket (99¢/lb.), Lean Ground Chuck (75¢/lb.), Small Link Sausage (69¢/lb.), Fresh Pork Shoulders (45¢/lb.), Lean Fresh Pork Butts (65¢/lb.), and Sliced Side Bacon (65¢/lb.).

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DANIA SHEVAH and husband Nissim abandoned life in Paris for contentment and challenge in Kibbutz life where they raise their family.

Advertisement for Joyce Carpenter's Acton School of Dance 'Springtime Show'. Includes details about the Georgetown Barbershop Chorus and performance on Saturday 24th April 1971 at 7.45 p.m. at the Robert Little School Auditorium. Admission: \$1.50, Children 12 and under 75c.