

Spins dogs, turtles, pachyderms, TV men in Action-Line web

Toronto Telegram Action Line columnist Frank Drea, an off-the-cuff speaker with a fund of stories, entertained after-dinner fashion for a mixed group of men and women at a regular Tri-Angl Club dinner Thursday evening.

Mr. Drea's accounts of rescuing dogs from an Italian refugee camp, importing an elephant from Thailand, Moroccan turtles for an Etobicoke girl and an insight into the TV repair rackets practiced by unscrupulous repairmen, kept the audience interested and amused.

He attributed the success of his column to the fact that people are interested more in the things which affect them everyday, rather than big events like the Viet Nam war which receives so much space in the daily press.

1,000 letters
Action Line receives 1,000 letters a week, said Mr. Drea, and the Globe and Mail, most popular Canadian newspaper for letters, receives only 40 letters a day on big issues, most of them dictated to secretaries.

Household difficulties, said Mr. Drea, are important because people are interested in the immediate things which affect them personally. He pooh-poohed Marshall McLuhan's contention that print was an obsolete form of communication.

Newspapers, he suggested, like any other institutions of the day must justify their existence and Action-Line was a new approach to journalism -- a bridge which links consumers and retailer, manufacturer, etc. He said many of the problems could be traced directly to a breakdown in communications, which his column attempted to bridge.

Complex, big government today has taken away another area where complaints could be directed, Mr. Drea contended, remarking that Queens Park is easier to deal with than Ottawa.

No guarantees
Of course, both of them are much like the elephant Action Line brought from Thailand. There is no guarantee it was alive when it got on the plane. Or the Moroccan turtles Action Line imported from London, England, where 3,000 of them were stranded. An Etobicoke girl sent them 50c to rescue one of the amphibious creatures.

They quickly found out it cost \$17 to rescue one of the turtles by air and they could import four for the same price. So four they got and the little girl received a pair -- hopefully mates.

The important thing about stunts like these, said Drea, was that somebody cared -- and acted.

It was the same kind of story for the pair of cooped up canines in a camp outside Rome. Mr. Drea's attractive blonde assistant Barbara Pausner, who accompanied him to the dinner, flew to Rome and the camp to rescue the orphans. She arrived back Thursday evening with the dogs, meeting Drea at the airport.

Through curtain
The dogs were brought to Italy by two women refugees from Hungary who drove through the iron curtain to Yugoslavia, and from there to Italy in a state-



THE TORONTO TELEGRAM'S Action Line columnist Frank Drea, left, and his assistant, Mrs. Barbara Pausner, swap experiences with Bob Hart, who was chairman for Thursday's Tri-Angl Club dinner at St. Alban's parish hall. —(Staff Photo)

owned Volkswagen, where eventually they arranged to emigrate to Canada. However, there was no provision for the dogs -- a boxer and poodle. It looked like they might have to be "put to sleep."

The plight of the two dogs who made the harrowing trip over the heavily fortified Hungarian border was brought to the attention of the Toronto Hungarian community, which in turn passed the information on to Action Line.

"Where else but in the newspaper business would you find a bunch of nuts ready to bring dogs from Rome?" he quipped to the audience. The women were reunited with their pets but all Mrs. Pausner saw of Rome was the airport.

The rescue kept people interested, Drea explained, and above all it showed someone cared, which made it worthwhile.

ATV tale
Drea wasn't so soft-hearted with the unscrupulous TV repairmen who bilk set owners. He recounted, with Mrs. Pausner's assistance, a tale of several technicians who were more disposed to fleece them of their wealth than fixing a set.

If they come in pairs, he warned, bar the doors. They are going to take the set with them -- and then, oh boy, watch your pocketbook!

How can you tell bad guys from the good guys?
If the repairman pats the dog and pusses the cat, then bar the door. If he is surly and interested only in your set, he's quite likely a reputable technician with no designs on your wallet or your mortgage, Drea maintains.

One result of Action Line's investigation into the TV repair business is that the shady technician with no training may be eliminated by an Action Line

Music, skit, draw on Golden Age program

Mrs. Elsie Reed
An enthusiastic group turned out for the evening meeting of the Golden Age Club on Tuesday for a most enjoyable evening. Business items were quickly dealt with. Notice was received of the annual spring executive meeting to be held Wednesday, April 28 in Knox Presbyterian Church, Milton, at 2 p.m. All clubs of Zone 13 are expected to send representatives to help for the zone picnic usually held in June.

List illness
An expected speaker to tell of the local swap shop was unable to be present on account of illness. Mrs. Gertrude Clarke was reported in hospital while on a visit to her daughter in California. Mrs. Jean Smith was reported to be improving but still in Guelph Hospital. Fred Kingsmill was welcomed back after a stay in hospital.

Mrs. George Fryer, who had been president of the club for the past two years, was able to be out and was presented with her past president's pin. She thanked the club and wished it further success.

Fine program
Mrs. McCutcheon and Mrs. Near were convener for a wonderful program of unusual interest and variety with Mrs. McCutcheon acting as M.C.

Starting off with gusto, the orchestra of Mr. Fuller violin, Mr. Davidson, bass drum, and Mr. Winton at the piano produced several of those toe tapping dance tunes all enjoy so much. They came back later for another turn with more of the same, ending with Mr. Winton cording while Mr. Davidson played on his mouth organ Cock of the North and Waltz Quadrille.

Mrs. Moore and Mrs. McIntyre played on their guitars and sang an especially fine selection of songs, Silver-haired Daddy of Mine and others, coming back with Whispering Hope. These sisters are much enjoyed, and thoroughly appreciated for taking time out of a busy life to come to entertain.

Skit on W.I.
Mrs. Near in her centennial costume and Mrs. McIntyre as her pipe-smoking plaid-shirted husband put on a skit with Pros and Cons of the Women's Institute, as viewed by man and his wife.

Mrs. Near gave a comic reading about a Poor Old Woman who swallowed a fly. —(She died, of course).

Ontario Place
Vic Bristow showed films of the new Ontario Place which were a marvellous revelation of what can be done when someone has the vision and ability to go ahead.

Mrs. Near gave some notes on the inception and building of this enterprise. It was thought that would be a good place to go on one of the club's bus trips this summer.

The climax of the program was the drawing for the beautiful quilt. Mr. Bristow was pressed into reaching into a huge kettle and taking out the lucky ticket. Miss Jane Watson a young Acton lady, held the lucky ticket. Congratulations! We hope you like it and get much pleasure from it in your future.

A nice sum had been realized after expenses had been paid. The "quilters" were given a hearty clap for their work.

Mrs. Milne, Mrs. Craig and Mrs. Doby convened a delicious lunch of cheese and fruit breads and cookies to conclude a very happy evening.

There is continuing research into the possibility of producing a practical, battery-powered automobile. One hope is that this would solve the problem of air pollution, says the Ontario Safety League. Not so, according to a recent study by GM Research Labs. It finds that, in present conditions, emissions from the powerplants required to charge the batteries of electric cars would result in more air pollution than would be caused by gasoline powered vehicles with emission controls.

Let's Play Bridge

by Bill Coats

It's too bad that bridge players cannot get their good bidding and good play together at the same time. On some hands you play brilliantly to make ten tricks but you only bid two so you get a poor result. On the next hand you bid like an expert to a grand slam but you make only twelve tricks for another poor result.

Here is one of the latter type from last week's action at the Acton Bridge Club. South dealt with North—South vulnerable.

WEST
S-5
H-Q 10 7 3 2
D-Q 10 6 4 2
C-9 8

EAST
S-10 9 8 4
H-J 8
D-J 6 5
C-10 7 4 2

THE BIDDING:
WEST SOUTH NORTH EAST
2 N.T. 1 C Dbid. PASS
PASS 3 S 4 N.T. PASS
PASS 5 S 7 S ALL PASS

South was one of the bridge players who follows the current fad of opening balanced hands with a bid of one club. Some day he will not be in trouble but not on this hand. West made a valiant effort to block the bidding with a 2 no trump bid. At favourable vulnerability (not vulnerable as vulnerable) he is looking for a sacrifice in either red suit.

Power house
North has a powerhouse opposite an opening bid. His double announced that he has something. South shows his spade suit and North took off. After a Blackwood sequence, North bids a grand slam in spades.

West led a heart and declarer should take stock. It looks like four spade tricks, two in hearts, two in diamonds and four in clubs. That's only 12 tricks, so another trick is required. It's obvious, if you take time to look, that a diamond ruff in dummy is the easiest way to get this.

Trump split
Declarer should draw two rounds of trump using dummy's king and jack. When he finds the trump split four--one he should proceed as follows. Cash the diamond king and enter his hand with the club ace. A low diamond is ruffed in dummy. The ace must not be taken first.

Back to hand
Now a trump lead allows declarer to get back to his hand. One of dummy's low hearts is played on the fourth trump and the other goes off on the diamond ace. Declarer leads to dummy and claims the balance.

Last week's winner at the Acton Bridge Club were: first, Kate Coats and Gloria Coats; second, Harry Arlic and Ivan Harris; third Kay Campbell and Bart Fisher.

Flattery is the art of telling someone just what he thinks of himself.

The joy of motherhood is what a woman experiences when all the kids are finally in bed.

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