



TALENTED RAY SAITZ took a weekend walk in Acton park to soak in the first real warm days of Spring and capture some of his impressions on film. They are reproduced here. Ray is

the son of Mr. and Mrs. Sid Saltz, Mowbray Place. He graduates from the Sheridan College Applied Arts and Technology this year, where he specialized in photography.

Free Press Editorial Page

Private bills affect us . . .

It is significant that Guelph General Hospital is asking the Ontario Legislature to increase the number of commissioners on the hospital board by three, with one of the trio to be a resident of Halton County.

This has been seen as another reflection of fairly strong ties between Guelph and Nassagaweya township but it is also equally important to Acton and area residents where both Guelph General and St. Joseph's hospitals are most frequently used. In fact there is a belt across the northern end of Halton which could extend at least as far south as 15 Sideroad and as far east as Ballinafad which uses the Guelph hospital facilities.

It is unfortunate that county support for hospitals is restricted to Halton when such a large chunk of the north finds it more convenient, as well as preferring to use the Guelph hospitals.

There should be some compensating factor when boundary lines indicate only political delineation.

In Acton's case, although there have been rumblings about being

included in a proposed Guelph-Wellington regional area, it is obvious that area is only partially oriented towards Guelph. We are politically tied with Halton although there may be second thoughts about this if the proposed private bill to change municipal representation at county council happens to receive the legislature's assent.

Certainly Burlington and Oakville are swinging the bulk of the weight in the county now and we fall to see any areas where they are not receiving their fair share of county benefits. The north end helps support their hospitals although few would use the facilities.

If political manoeuvres are designed to eliminate the voice of the north the south of the county may find the north reluctant to be included in any political set-up where the south has ALL the say and makes the decisions. And we can start with hospitals as the subject.

Although Guelph General recently made some representation to Halton to provide a percentage of funds for

capital development this county turned them down without recognition of the large number of patients from Acton who use the hospital's facilities.

This is strange business because the hospital has made no distinction about political boundaries when treating illness.

Guelph General is a civic venture with eight representatives on the board from the city. The board has recognized the extent of its service by asking for three new members including Wellington County and Halton. The commissioners feel it is time residents outside the city had a voice in setting hospital policy.

We would also add it is time the residents of the north end of the county recognized there is a responsibility towards hospitals which look after our needs.

It is also apparent the two private bills before the Legislature could have a more meaningful effect on lives here in the top end of Halton than is apparent on the surface.

A cure for all our ills . . .

Each year when the Chase Almanac arrives the writer tenders a genuine sigh of relief. There's not a misery going or household problem current the Almanac can't cure or solve.

For instance, if your dog or cat continually jumps on the bed, try this: Pin inflated balloons around the edge and in the middle of the bed. The Almanac says the first balloon the animal breaks will mark the last time it jumps on the bed.

Don't forget to remove the balloons before you stumble into your boudoir in the dark or it may be the first time you acquire an explosive touch.

Car windows all frosted up? Can't find your scraper? Just use your plastic credit card to scrape that frost off. Simple, isn't it? But who would ever have thought of it without the almanac?

Want to make 100 pounds of good soap — for \$1.30? It requires 6 lbs. of potash, four pounds of lard and quarter-pound of resin. Ooops, the recipe came from the 100 years ago column.

Where else could you find a list of the world boxing champions from John L. Sullivan in 1882-1892 until the present, in the same cover as you'd find a list of the world's highest mountains?

The Almanac has something for everyone, including all the weights and measures, which used to be on the back of school exercise books.

In a technological age where a wonder-day is common, how many of us can remember the fabulous wonders described by the ancients? Aha, the Almanac can. It lists the seven wonders of the world and describes them to boot.

Is your bed cold at night? Don't get a wife or husband. Warm it by slipping the nozzle of your hair dryer underneath the covers. It will be warm as toast in no time.

Got a low beam in your attic or cellar where everyone bumps their head? Put some strips of foam rubber on the danger spot. Your friends will love you for it says the almanac.

And what would an almanac be without weather forecasts for the entire year? May calls for clearing skies and rising temperatures by the end of the month.

The almanac is full of information including horoscopes and advertisements for a certain kind of tonic, nerve foods, blood tonics, and regulators, cough syrups and just about everything the Free Press of 75 years ago carried as regular fare.

So really the easy-to-read book is an anachronism that continues to flourish in spite of the march of modern medicine and more sophisticated magazines that debunk much of what the almanac publishes.

Potpourri

People are funny. They want the front of the bus, the back of the hall, and the middle of the road.

+ + +

"When all is said and done" usually means more is said than is done.

+ + +

Anyone is welcome to use our lawn mower providing they don't take it out of our yard.

+ + +

A shoulder strap often is all that keeps an attraction from becoming a sensation.

+ + +

The best alarm clock these mornings are the birds. They are on spring time.



Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

This is going to be a long, tough summer for parents of young people in the senior high school and university brackets. They're going to be stuck with bored, restless children.

And the only thing worse than having a bored, restless child on your hands is a severe case of the crud, with complications.

The reason it's going to be a bad summer is that there are no jobs for the majority of young people who would normally be working.

The other day I carried out a brief poll of one of my senior grades. Most of them are bound for university or nursing or some such. I asked how many had a job lined up for the summer. Out of 30 people, two had. One will work for his father on a dairy farm. The other, a girl, will punch a cash register and only got the job because she'd worked at it last year.

So there we have 28 frustrated young people. I have the greatest sympathy, not for them so much as for their parents. Nothing will break up a good family relationship more quickly than having a healthy young animal lolling about the house all summer.

They eat as though every meal were their last one. They get lazier and lazier, staying up late and sleeping in late. They have no money for recreation, and get surlier and surlier. They develop a feeling of being useless and unwanted, and resent any advice.

Too darn bad about the spoiled brats, you say, and I agree. But that doesn't alter the situation. I'd rather live for the summer with a porcupine that had an ulcer than a student without a job.

Thousands of them will hit the road, like the hoboes of the Great Depression, drifting about the country, bumming meals, a place to sleep, and losing their self-respect in the process.

And just as the hoboes used to raise enough for the occasional gallon of wine, some of these kids will panhandle or steal to get money in order to get high on drugs.

What's the answer? Don't ask me. I'm a question man, not an answer man. Then let's ask some questions.

Is it partly the kids' fault? Yes. Some of them would rather bum all summer than clean themselves up to the minimum standards of a pretty free society. Others have never done a dirty day's work in their lives, and would not stoop to menial chores. (My first job was cleaning out lavatories). And a great many of them simply sneer at the whole protestant work ethic. It's all right for the old man, but I'm going to do my own thing — not work.

But I think the majority of these kids would welcome a job of any kind. Tough toenails for them. There aren't the jobs.

Industry doesn't want them, for practical reasons. They have to be trained for even

the simplest factory work, and by the time they're producing, they're off to school again. Industry prefers to hire people who are going to be content to put round pegs in round holes for years, at minimum wages.

And speaking of wages, the tourist industry, which used to absorb so much student labor, can't afford it any more. Minimum wage laws in jobs that used to be supplemented by tips have made many resort operators turn their backs on students. Why hire an awkward girl waitress with no experience, at a buck fifty an hour or whatever, when you can hire experienced waitresses from the vast pool of unemployed, for the same figure?

Is it the government's fault? Partly. The \$50 million federal government put up to alleviate the students' situation was too little and too late, and had so many strings attached to it that Mr. Benson might just as well have thrown it into the Ottawa River.

All it has done is create another branch on the vast oak of bureaucracy. That's where a good chunk of the money will go. It's like foreign aid. By the time the wheat or whatever it is trickles down through the bureaucrats to the natives (students), there's only a mouthful left.

Any reader with a modicum of comprehension will have realized by this time that my daughter is home from university without a job.

Anyone have a job for a twenty-year-old with big, brown eyes, a charming grin and auburn hair? Qualifications: plays a mean piano and guitar and sings; types as quickly and accurately as her father; has a sunny disposition except when she's loafing around home without a job; fair cook; washes dishes faster than an automatic. Oh, yes, has a terrific figure.

London

Our flight from Lahr to Gatwick outside London, England changed the objective of our tour from "study" to "tourist" because in London we were the typical tourists.

Again history seems to leap at you from every corner and while I was impressed with the transportation system in England I found walking introduced me to many things I might otherwise miss, and I preferred it.

Of course we took the tour, we saw Windsor Castle and the Tower of London; we saw the changing of the guard at Buckingham Palace; we walked around Piccadilly Circus, down to Trafalgar Square and Nelson's column and through the British Museum of Art. We sampled the food in the hotels and in the pubs. We tried the restaurants and we visited the theatres.

So many from this area are familiar with London, I prefer not to bore you with the details.

Perhaps I could explain that I was one of those who never got warmed up in England. The weather seemed constantly cold and bitter, the winds strong and the sun made no lengthy appearance.

The temperature in the hotel never seemed to rise above a chill and keeping warm seemed to require extra clothes to what we had required anywhere else. The grass was green and the daffodils were struggling to open. The crocus were evident in the lawns but still closed.

My final evening in London was spent alone over fish and chips in a little restaurant on Piccadilly Circus. Some more walking and a return to the hotel facing an early morning and a six hour loss of time as I prepared to return to Canada.

Perhaps I might be permitted a few brief reflections on my time in London. Our major difficulty in communicating in English seemed to be with the staff of the hotel at which we stayed. They were of West Indian or Pakistan origin or hadn't mastered English.

The building faces in downtown London are generally clean and the efficiency of the

Conflict and Contrast

BY JIM DILLS

transit systems including the train, bus, taxi, and underground is something to behold. I had heard of the underground but had never anticipated its depth. Extremely long escalators are required to get to the sections of the tube which were home to so many during the air raids of the war.

Looking across the horizon, chimney pots are in abundance and the full page ads in the newspapers are proclaiming the need for central heating. There are impressive open spaces and parks.

It was a dreary rainy day as we left London with a cool 34 degree temperature and strong chilling blasts. The 19 degree temperature in Ottawa as we arrived about 14 hours later didn't seem to be as penetrating as what London was experiencing some 5,000 miles away.

IN CONCLUSION

With the conclusion of what seems to have been a lengthy series, I wanted to express my appreciation to those who have commented and indicated interest. It is rewarding if it has been possible to transmit some of the enthusiasm and excitement that I experienced during the trip, but often words are weak allies.

It was a kind of "dream trip" first of all perhaps because it provided an opportunity for a brief but penetrating look at some areas of the world we read so much about and in which history stretches to the ancients. In retrospect it seems to have been a "dream" because it was now a number of weeks ago and being packed into the concentrated period of two weeks it was akin to the brevity of dreams.



POSING IN picturesque Lahr, Germany the group of newsmen began their trip home, with a stop in London for a tourist-eye view.

Free Press back issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, May 17, 1951.

On Wednesday the high school was dismissed and made their way to the park where the track and field events were to take place. Lending a helpful hand at recording the jumps and races were Rev. Luxton, Rev. Currey, Rev. Armstrong, K. Blow, D. Wiggins, Dr. Sirrs, G. Oeder, Dr. Oakes and the teachers. Junior champions were David McVey and Janice Baker; intermediate champs Don Dawkins and Anna Marie Spitzer and senior champs Crawford Douglas and Doreen Cole.

Other winners: Juniors Kathleen McCristall, Evelyn Saunders, Vera Warne, Ruth Smith, Peggy Oakes, Betty May Lambert, Diane Dawkins, E. Saunders, Dave McVey, B. Skilling, W. Arbie, Ross Morton, Bob Coon, Paul Lawson, intermediates Frances Fletcher, Lorraine Roszell, Carolyn Oakes, Pauline Papillon, Helen Keelan, Barbara Baxter, Shirley Wilson, D. Dawkins, Jack Davidson, Russell Arbie, E. Daigle, Bill Coon, Richard Mason, Fred Gordon; seniors Lorraine Mullin, Joyce Greer, Jo-Ann Veldhuis, Betty Price, Jane Elliott, Betty Lawson, Crawford Douglas, D. Davidson, Bob Bruce, Fred Euringer, J. Ware, Bill McHugh.

In the battle for North Halton athletic honors intermediate champion was Janice Baker of Acton.

The kindergarten primary pupils and their teacher Miss J. McPhail entertained their mothers to tea. Helping Miss McPhail were Helen Luxton, Elaine Rachlin, Bernice Sargent, Joyce Halliday, Lorraine Tyler and Cheryl Joyce.

Charles Kirkness was again named secretary of the Halton Children's Aid Society. G. W. McKenzie is one of the directors.

C. K. Browne has been made Honorary Right Worshipful Past Grand Master of the Black Knights of the Grand Lodge of Western Ontario.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, May 26, 1921.

The officers of Acton Horticultural Society delivered about a thousand boxes of salvia, asters and verbenas to members this week, in addition to the seeds and bulbs

already distributed.

Sergt. Fred L. Wright of the 4th Infantry Battalion has received belated notice from the Secretary of State for War at London, Eng. that he was mentioned in a despatch from Field Marshal Sir John French on May 31, 1915 for gallant and distinguished services in the field. In addition to this official notice he has received two of the oak leaf decorations so greatly coveted by the military men.

One of the town shopkeepers has been known to sell candies, peanuts and ice cream cones to children at his place on Sundays, and it is also currently reported he is in the habit of selling cigarettes on Sunday. All these are violations of the law.

The electrical storm on Sunday evening proved disastrous to the Ross barn on the fourth line.

Mr. H. S. Holmes has just completed 50 years of railroad experience—between 30 and 40 of which have been spent as the G.T.R. agent in Acton. He is celebrating with a trip with Mrs. Holmes to the United States. Mr. Holmes' father also completed a half century of railroad service.

Permanent electric lighting is being installed at the park so that any garden party or other function may have the premises lighted without special arrangement. A reasonable charge for this very desirable service will be made.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, May 7, 1896.

The Municipal Assessor has just completed his duties for 1896. The total assessment this year is \$271,790, an increase over last year of \$6,575. In addition to this there is the assessment for school purposes of the glove factories of W. H. Storey and Son and Arnold Bros. of \$5,700. The assessments are as follows: real estate \$250,640; personal \$20,350; income \$800. The population is enumerated at 1,325, an increase of 86 during the year. There are 333 children between the ages of 5 and 18; 222 between 8 and 14 and 97 between 15 and 21. The assessor has 79 dogs assessed to their owners, 72 of them male and 7 female. There is a general increase over last year.

There is talk of the organization of a bicycle club in Acton. We have 25 cyclists here now who ride wheels and this number will no doubt increase as the season advances. (A full list of bicyclists and their makes of bike is given). Among them W. Watkins, T. Gibbons, P. Kirkness, Edward J. Moore, George Agnew, Rev. J. C. McIntyre, Miss Jessie Nicklin, James Brown, John Davidson, Miss Bella Hill, James Firstbrook, H. Ramshaw, C. Jenner, C. J. Matthews.

The first political meeting of the present campaign was held in the town hall. The chair was taken by Mr. George Hume of Milton who is reputed to be the prospective candidate in Halton for the McCarthys. Alex. Kerr of Toronto spoke fluently in "Hands Off Manitoba". The Separate School question is an issue.

Arbor Day was observed in the public school. The grounds were tidied, a few maples planted and the afternoon was given as a holiday.

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