



Bass section of Fairy Lake choir

—Photo by Bill Stuckey



## Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

There's a lot of talk about recycling these days. That does not mean that great numbers of middle-aged people are going back to the bicycle in despair over traffic and their own wretched physical condition, although this is also happening, and a good thing too.

Recycling is basically the smashing up of such things as paper and tin and turning them back into more paper and tin, instead of the polluting of our countryside with such garbage.

It is common practice in many of the countries of the world which are outstripping Canada and the U.S. internationally. It also makes a great deal of common sense.

It boggles one's mind to think of the millions of tons of paper, cans, bottles and other reclaimable materials which head each week for the garbage dump.

There are several reasons for this vast wastage. One of them is that we have tremendous natural resources and we throw them away with a lavish hand. It's like living on one's capital. A second reason, obviously, is that industry is not geared for reclaiming waste. In many cases it's probably cheaper to produce new tins than to recycle tin.

Neither of these reasons is a valid one. In the first place, those "inexhaustible resources" of raw material could be exhausted in a few decades. In the second, industry should, and must, find cheap means of recycling manufactured materials into raw materials.

But of course it's much simpler to look at the immediate buck. It's much simpler just to raise the price of the product than to find methods of using disposable items over and over again.

Like everything else, the recycling business seems complicated. A local organization is raising money for a worthy cause. It is collecting newspapers. But they must be bundled and tied just so. And they don't want any other kinds of paper. In the meantime, I throw out five hundred pounds of books, which have a higher rag content than the newsprint which is being picked up. Seems silly.

What ever became of the old junk-man? There was the ideal catalyst between the consumer and the re-cycler. The perfect middleman.

Most small towns had a junk-man. He usually had a big yard with a fence around it, and inside the fence was an exotic jungle of junk.

When I was a kid the junk-man was my chief source of income. A vast, genial Jew with a benign twinkle, he treated us as one-businessman to another. There was little haggling on our part, because it was the only game in town, but on the other hand, he didn't try to beat us down.

Prices were established. Pint beer bottles were worth a cent, quart two cents. He'd double his money on them. Old car tires were a nickel apiece. Paper and scrap iron were carefully weighed, and after a judicious pause, he'd cough to one side, he'd say, "I gif you twelf cents."

An enterprising kid could pick himself up forty or fifty cents a week, big money in those days. And if we caught a nice pike in the canal (this was before people worried about sewage and such) it was a bonanza, worth a dime or fifteen cents. But a meal for his family.

He prospered. And many of the big fortunes in Canada today started out in the junk-yard. The junk-man was an unrecognized benefactor to society.

During the war, there were tremendous drives for scrap metal and newsprint. It must have been used for something. Pig farmers picked up the food garbage from big military kitchens.

Why couldn't we do the same today? It would provide employment, stop wasting resources, and do a lot to clean up our environment.

I'd be perfectly willing to sort my garbage into waste food, bottles and cans, and newspapers. How about you? We could all be our own junk-men, and do a lot for our country.



## Salt and Pepper

by hartley coles

This is the season when fresh-faced graduates emerge from high schools and universities, to face the rigors of the working world.

Some are brimful of confidence, others radiate prosperity, but there are others yet who have a jaundiced view of the outside world and the generations who went before. It is these disconsolate youths who argue there is a generation gap—wide, empty and full of empty dreams, broken promises—and pin the blame directly on the generation before them.

Few of the older generation bothered to defend themselves, because youth has always been critical of the generations that went before. Some always rebelled against the values of their parents. But today's disillusionment seems to go even deeper.

But a few of the more articulate members of the older generation are starting to speak out about the positive things the older generation has accomplished during its time on the globe. Dr. Eric Walker, president of Pennsylvania State University, delivered an address to a graduating class at the university recently, aimed directly at dissenters, which has been widely printed. I think it deserves printing again. That's because I'm over 30!

Here it is in part:

"This ceremony marks the completion of an important phase of your life. . . But no one has more pride in your accomplishment than the next group. I'd like to introduce to you. If you of the graduating class will look over into the bleachers to your right or left, I would like to introduce you to representatives of some of the most remarkable people ever to walk the earth. These are people you already know—your parents and grandparents. And remarkable they are indeed.

Not long ago an educator from Northwestern University by the name of Bergan Evans got together some facts about these two generations. . . These are the people who within just five decades have increased life expectancy by approximately 50 per cent—who, while cutting the working day by a third, have more than doubled the per capita output.

These are the people who have given you a healthier world than they found. And because of this you no longer have to fear epidemics of flu, typhus, diphtheria, smallpox, scarlet fever, measles or mumps. And the dreadful polio is no longer a medical factor, while TB is almost unheard of.

Let me remind you that these remarkable people lived through history's greatest depression. Many of these people know what it is to be poor, what it is to be hungry and cold.

And because of this, they determined that it would not happen to you, that you would have a better life, you would have food to eat, milk to drink, vitamins to nourish you, a warm home, better schools and greater opportunities to succeed.

Because they gave you the best, you are the tallest, healthiest, brightest, and probably the best looking generation to inhabit the land. Because they were materialistic, you will work fewer hours, learn more, have more leisure time, travel to more distant places, and have more of a chance to follow your life's ambition.

"These are also the people who fought man's gristliest war. They are the people who defeated the tyranny of Hitler and who, when it was all over, had the compassion to spend billions of dollars to help their former enemies rebuild their homelands. And these are the people who had the sense to begin the United Nations.

It was representatives of these two generations who, through the highest court in the land, fought racial discrimination. . . to begin a new era of civil rights. . .

While they have done all these things, they have had some failures. They have not yet found an alternative for war, nor for racial hatred. . . They have made more progress by the sweat of their brows than in any previous era—and don't you forget it.

And, if your generation can make as much progress in as many areas as these two generations have, you should be able to solve a good many of the earth's remaining ills. It is my hope and I know the hope of these two generations that you find the answers to many of these problems that plague mankind. But it won't be easy. And you won't do it by negative thoughts, nor by tearing down or belittling. You can do it by hard work, humility and faith in mankind."

## Time some work was done . . .

Perhaps we are being too inquisitive of the town administration plans but like many other ratepayers we are beginning to doubt that many of the local improvements planned for Acton this year will ever get done.

It is almost July and still there has been little activity to get much needed improvements to town streets and sidewalks, outside of plans to go ahead with resurfacing Churchill Rd. N.

In his inaugural address to council in January, Mayor Les Duby urged immediate arrangements be made for early work on:

(a) Mill St. and Park Ave. corner and culvert, paving and sidewalks on Mill St. W. from Park to Victoria Avenues.

(b) Underground hydro from Alice St. to Willow St. on Bower Avenue, Bower Ave. to Mill St. on John St., River St. to Church on Willow.

(c) Resurfacing and storm sewers on Bower Ave.

(d) Resurfacing of Churchill Rd. N. "These preliminary works should keep us busy until the early part of May when we can move into newly budgeted programs," the mayor told council. He saw co-operation as the key to a progressive two year program for council and the means of achieving the completion of priority projects.

He urged councillors to deliberate quickly and efficiently in all matters so that at the local level at least they would not be accused of "dragging their feet".

Several ratepayers have asked us when these works would be done and we've had to admit they knew as much as we did about the matter. Council has conducted much of its business in committee this year and only the information they see fit to release has been what is in the committee minutes and what is released at regular meetings.

We certainly subscribe to the line of thought expressed by the mayor in his inaugural address but like many

others we are beginning to wonder when the program of public works is going to come to fruition.

We are aware of the endless approvals which must go through Queens Park to get work of any magnitude done but agree with Reeve Frank Oakes who, at the same inaugural meeting, suggested a speed up of public works. He said everything has been done that could have been done in the past, "but maybe we can prod stronger."

We believe they can.

We are also aware of the difficulty in getting reliable contractors to do these jobs when approvals do go through. Again we see little action until fall, with summer already on us and the reduced pace on all activities that go hand in hand with it. If building activity strengthens as all the indications suggest then it will be that much more difficult to hire contractors as the economy picks up.

## Free Press Editorial Page

### New "old" look profitable fad . . .

One of the paradoxes of the age we live in is that while people over 30 spend time to look younger youth fads are encouraging the unkempt, patched-up "old" look.

Youth, anxious to break away from the conformity of the "establishment" has a conformity all its own, of course, and it didn't take long for manufacturers to recognize this and profit from it.

The Wall Street Journal has just taken a long look at the fads moving many young people. Take the long haired, shaggy young fellow walking

down the street, chances are, the study shows, that he is one of thousands who spend \$5.00 to get their hair cut to look just the unkempt way they want it.

Take the fellow with the faded, tattered blue jeans. They may be brand new—products of companies like Blue Bell, Inc., whose engineers developed a machine that makes jeans that way—for \$2 more than a new looking pair costs. Companies are selling denim clothing with patches put on at the factory.

Heavy work shoes and run down

sandals are being sold, brand new, to look as though they had been worn for months. Air Force jackets from Army surplus stores at \$60 each—with floppy hoods—were the "in" thing last year. Now they are being manufactured and sold at \$40 each, new but looking old and of much poorer quality than the originals.

Manufacturers have turned what seems like youthful antimaterialism into a major component of what they call "the youth market." The hippie you see may be ersatz.

### Grants for the asking . . .

Those who could find nothing nice about the way the Hon. Gerard Pelletier, Secretary of State, has been providing funds for various youth programs throughout the country undoubtedly have some legitimate complaints.

The Ridgeway Dominion finds it particularly shocking to find out that some of the money has gone to set up a drug centre. Others find, for instance that more funds have gone to set up a study concerning a Toronto Mall after the Yonge St. mall had already been a success.

We don't like nit-picking but to give an idea of some of the projects grants have been awarded to which seem rather extraordinary, here's a few culled from 12 lists which were

furnished for the use of the press:

Anthropology workshop—\$9,187.20 to a student project which will teach anthropology and archaeology to children, using recreation techniques.

Operation sludgeworm—\$9,600 to University of Toronto biology students who will study the invertebrate life existing in the water and mud of the Toronto harbour.

Paper boy—\$1,000 to assist in the production of a film about a Cabagetown paper boy.

Sex and education—\$7,350 to help finance and expand an information centre for people with sex problems.

Peel youth weekly—\$6,575 to assist in the publication of free weekly paper for young people in the Peel County area.

Dundalk history—\$1,485 to research and publish a history of the town based on records stored in the town Hall.

Flight of a bird—\$2,251 to assist in the production of an animated film on the dynamics of motion to an Oakville group.

3 Film projects—\$3,000 for three students who will produce three films: a dramatic short based on futurist theme; a second movement of a Bartok violin sonata; and a short one "Dominion 1971".

What's wrong with passing out a few bucks to the deserving?

Nothing, of course, but we sure wish we had applied for a grant for our research on the sex habits of Acton ants.

## Free Press back issues

### 20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, June 28, 1951.

Dr. Don Ross graduated in the Faculty of Medicine from the University of Toronto. He will go to Regina to intern.

Preceding the laying of the cornerstone of the new St. Alban's parish hall, a short service was held conducted by the Rev. Jackson, Hamilton. Chairs were used to accommodate the large congregation. Rev. W. G. Luxton mentioned that 36 men of the congregation had a part in the erection of the hall thus far. Thanks were expressed to Mr. T. Cooke for the gift of the corner stone and to Mr. Nicol for his services in engraving it. Officials taking part in the ceremony were Rev. Luxton, Rev. Currey, warden H. Jolley, H. Oakley who laid the blocks, T. Nicol, warden T. Jones, Very Rev. Jackson who dedicated the stone, Rev. Craven of Hamilton Beach and Rev. Armstrong of Knox.

Eleanor Elizabeth Ross became the bride of Thomas Corner in Knox church, June 23. The reception was in the garden at the bride's home.

Ernest West has successfully completed his course at Osgoode Hall and has taken a position with a law firm in Kitchener.

Mildred Armstrong, Eleada Britton and Dena Braida will all receive first class teachers' certificates from Hamilton Normal School.

### 50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, July 7, 1921.

When the public schools of Ontario reopened in September, three new textbooks, the geography, history of Canada and history of England, will be introduced. The prices will be the same as for the old textbooks.

The finest of garden party weather greeted this annual function of the Ladies' Aid of Knox church.

From the editorials: The Irish people north and south desire peace, whether those who presume to be leaders wish it or not.

It does seem a strong reflection on the Christian nations that it is left to China to inaugurate a campaign against gambling. If Canada could be persuaded to unite in a campaign against race track gambling much could be accomplished.

The important proposal for disarmament by the nations of the world is manifestly growing in favor.

Adoption of the strike method for securing concessions can be pernicious and unreasonable.

American tourists no longer must have passports to enter Canada. This is a friendly gesture.

### 75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, July 2, 1896.

The anniversary of the Free Press and Confederation are concurrent. The first number was presented to the people of Acton and vicinity on Thursday, July 1, 1875. Our journal has consequently attained its majority and today enters upon the 22nd year of its history. The paper was established by the late J. H. Hocking, then of the Guelph Daily Advertiser, but after two and a half years he found he would have to give his full attention to that department. Consequently the Free Press was sold to Rev. T. Albert Moore and the late W. Galbraith. Then H. P. Moore entered into partnership with his brother, who subsequently left to answer the call to the Christian ministry. For 7 years there has been no change in the management. We give all the local news in a terse and readable manner, a synopsis of the doings of the country at large, a choice selection of pure and interesting reading matter and every number is well-known to be thoroughly clean in both tone and typography.

Tuesday afternoon an accident occurred in the gravel pit on Cobble Hill which caused the death of Charlie Cameron. In company with a number of farmers he was engaged in statute labor loading gravel. A large quantity of earth became loose and fell upon him crushing him against the wagon. Of the three sons in the family of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Cameron Charlie was the only one remaining. His sudden call hence has caused the family heartrending sorrow.

Principal Moore will send a class of 10 to the Entrance examinations at Georgetown.

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PHONE 853-2010  
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