



A HUGE PUDDLE formed behind the Acton Post Office by Sunday night's downpour, became a playground for the Pink brothers John and Jim. After such a humid day, Jim didn't object to a few friendly splashes from his older brother. — (Staff Photo)



## Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

Well, it's that time again, when the nation's biggest body of baby-sitters goes back to work, and the mothers of the nation blow out a trumpet-like sigh of relief. Back to school time.

It's been a tough summer for parents. In July I thought we were going to have to start building an ark. August came in like a lion with a couple of violent storms, then settled down for some fairly fine weather. Fine for October, that is. Last night the temperature was three degrees above freezing.

This is the sort of weather that turns amiable little children into malicious little monsters who drive their mothers to the screaming point.

It's too cold to swim. It's too wet to play outside. They're sick of playing cards indoors. They want pop and hot dogs and potato chips at all hours of the day and night. They quarrel with each other.

I have no sympathy with the kids, but my heart goes out to their frayed mothers.

So much for the little kids. But at least you can give them a belt on the ear when they become unbearable. Teenagers are

twice as bad during a summer like this one. Those who aren't working, but just hanging around the family, in most cases are impossible.

They groan with boredom. They complain that there's nothing to do, though their mothers are putting in 12 hours a day. They demand the family car and sulk when they don't get it. And now that they can legally drink over 18, who knows what they're up to when they are allowed the car?

The girls tend to strike up an intimacy with scruffy-looking boys, and the boys pursue trollopy-looking girls. Ah, parents must have hearts of solid steel these days to avoid a complete collapse.

That's why there's an almost universal sigh of relief when school opens. It's not that parents don't love their children. It's just that they can't stand them after eight weeks of a cold, wet summer.

Mother can pack them off on that blessed opening day, sit down with a cigarette and coffee and start turning into a kindly, loving person again. Father can come home from work and not have to settle quarrels, fight about who gets the car, and spend two hours

getting smoke in his eyes over the barbecue.

Even the kids are happy to get back to school. For a few days, at any rate. They meet old class-mates, lie wildly about their summer adventures, renew last year's romances, commence new ones, fill out innumerable forms, and check out the new teachers for pretty or handsome ones.

Their exuberance lasts about a week, until they have to start doing some work. Then the pendulum swings and they revert to their groans of boredom, though this is actually just a pose with a great many of them.

For college students, off for their first year, it's a time of rare excitement and anticipation. They're finally going to get away from nagging mothers and grouchy fathers and butterfly into the wild, free life of the university, the joys of learning. About 20 per cent of them will be thoroughly disillusioned by Christmas and probably 30 per cent will flunk their first year, because they get more interested in the flesh-pots than the philosophy.

So everybody is happy about school re-opening. How about the teachers? Believe it or not, they are too. Theoretically, they're rested, refreshed, cobwebs all blown away, raring to go. Most of them are. The small minority that doesn't really like kids or teaching, but is only in it for the security, will be their usual surly selves within a couple of weeks.

However, let's all try to be joyful, as the great 1971 baby-sitting season opens once again. I'll try it if you will.

## A little on the sardonic side . . .

A scheme that cost only \$300 has foiled thieves in a southern California town and made police very, very happy.

It's a simple project. Homeowners have been etching their car license plate numbers on articles thieves seem to prefer because they are easy to sell—television sets, radios, tape recorders, jewellery, cameras, typewriters, lawn mowers, musical instruments, sporting equipment.

Homeowners wishing to take part in the program are given window stickers advertising the fact that valuable items in the house are numbered.

It works. Proof? Only three of 4,000 homes that carry stickers have been broken into. Two of the three homes had identifiable articles stolen.

Meanwhile at 7,000 homes not participating in the project there were more than 1,800 burglaries.

Fences—receivers of stolen goods—don't want items stolen from homes in the scheme. They are too easily identified. The owner of any numbered item can be traced in a few minutes through a giant computer that lists all drivers in California.

The scheme, sponsored by the police and a service club in Monterey Park, has cost only \$300, including the price of window stickers. Equipment is lent to homeowners who are told to engrave numbers on non-removable parts of property.

We have noted in this space before that Acton is an envious position for accessibility to conservation areas and it seems to be improving as years go by. Now the Credit Valley Conservation Authority has budgeted for a camping area, water supply and roads at the new Limehouse area. It will mean another in the chain of recreation and picnic spots within a few miles of town.

The Limehouse Conservation Area is situated almost in the "heart" of the village of Limehouse, where the old Gowdy house was located. It was also in this 176 acre plot that the classical privy, which got lots of ink this spring, was located.

The derelict, doorless privy, mentioned as the first "county seat" and referred to the "privy council" is now at Black Creek Conservation Area in Toronto as a charming relic of pioneer ingenuity.

So where there used to be privy-legged elegance and the fine Georgian-looking brick home of the Gowdy family, the ruins of a sawmill and limekilns, there will soon be picnickers and campers enjoying themselves.

Although economy is given as the big reason why Acton council picked asphalt over cement for new sidewalks, we think they should also include short-sightedness (if there is such a word). Cement sidewalks are far better looking, lighter in color and would add something to the business section which it obviously lacks now—class.

We have always thought the business end is the showpiece of any community. When you cheapen it with poorer quality material you are helping to send shoppers to other places where they can expect to enjoy amenities they can't get in their own business places.

Don't try and tell us that asphalt sidewalks are as attractive as cement. They aren't.

We would think some of the downtown merchants would also be concerned about this, and willing to talk "turkey" with the town fathers about ways to brighten the business section so it is attractive to shoppers and passers-by both.

Maybe you noticed where the Rockwood CN station was put on the auction block and sold to the Ontario Electrical Railway Historical Association last week. We think of a better place for the station to go than the historical railway society's property in Nassagaweya, where it will be preserved for posterity. However, in the hunt to acquire information about the Rockwood station we also received some disquieting information about the fate of the Acton station.

According to Mr. Watson, a director of the Historical Railway Association, the C.N. told him the Acton station would also be put on the block within a year.

You may remember that the Canadian Transport Commission ordered that as long as passenger trains would be stopping in Acton the station must be kept clean, heated and lighted. The last piece of information seemed to indicate that the railway was thinking ahead a year, to when they would stop all trains from stopping in Acton and then could tear down the station.

Lorraine Root, our Rockwood reporter asked Mr. Veemis of the C.N. about this when he assisted at the transfer and he confirmed the rumor—the Acton station will be removed. However, the railway will replace it with another building to keep their part of the bargain with the Transport Commission.

So if you are buying stations it might be a good idea to investigate the possibility of purchasing the Acton facility.

Make a good night club, wouldn't it, although if you'll pardon the pun, it will be off the beaten track.

After all the recent publicity about the Miss Nude World contest near here recently, there was a violent disagreement between two of the contestants. The Master of Ceremonies explained they'd been seeing too much of each other.

We had always thought something "hot" was something stolen, until "Hot pants" came along. Now we realize we were right. The idea for hot pants was stolen from short shorts.

## Winds of change . . .

The nomination of Bob McNutt to represent the Liberals in the next provincial election completes the slate for the riding of Halton West. Now all that's needed from Premier William Davis is an announcement of the date when voters will go to the polls.

Judging by the shape of events in the other provinces of the country where governments solidly entrenched for decades have gone down to defeat, we wonder whether Mr. Davis and the Conservative party aren't a bit nervous about when they should call an election for Ontario.

There are indications that the winds of change in the other provinces could affect Ontario as well. Premature announcement of an election could be fatal to the present Government.

Although the leadership has

changed and there is every indication that new premier William Davis is his own man, there is always hesitation on the part of voters to leave a government in power too long. They think it breeds "fat cats" who live on past performance.

Halton West is considered one of the safe ridings for the Conservatives because they have the Minister of the Environment George Kerr to represent them. Even George's most vociferous critics have a kind word for him on occasion so it is easy to see Walter Mulkevic of the New Democratic Party and Bob McNutt of the Liberals are going to have very hard rows to hoe.

However, it is true as the opposition claims that George Kerr is not going to be Minister of the Environment if the Conservative party is not returned to

power.

So we are back at that old political chicken and egg discussion which comes first—the man or the party?

The voters will have to decide that question. Many will vote for a party's policies and others go along with the calibre of the man. Personally, we think every voter should consider both questions before marking their ballot.

We must say we were impressed with the booklet issued by Bob Nixon and the Liberal party entitled Blueprint for Government, which certainly outlines the position of the Liberal party in Ontario in the event they are elected.

Now we'd like to see what the other two parties have in mind for us and see if they can condense it into a readable booklet like the Liberals have done.

## Free Press Editorial Page

## Some thoughts on status report . . .

We were a little disappointed the otherwise excellent status report of the Toronto-Centred Region issued by Ontario Treasurer Darcy McKeough did not define what was meant by "natural" growth in the urbanized areas of Zone Two. Much of the report was devoted to refining policy in Zone One, which stretches in a wide belt along the lakeshore, while problems in the commutershed (Zone Two) were ignored.

The report contained a little over half a page concerning the land "beyond the urbanized area" which at least was an acknowledgment it did exist. Other than stating the Government intended to maintain the land use mainly agricultural, recreational and open space there was no further elaboration.

Probably the main reason for lack of attention is that public response to development objectives in Zone Two was the most favorable of all the proposals put forward in the May 1970 report. The overwhelming majority of briefs and submissions supported the objective of keeping the urbanizing influences along the lakeshore.

But I'm afraid we just don't completely understand what Mr.

McKeough means when he says the modest "natural" growth that takes place will be encouraged into the existing urban communities, providing the various municipalities can demonstrate they can provide services on a self-sufficient basis.

What is "natural" growth?

Does it preclude the presence of large industry in Zone Two's urban communities which include Georgetown, Orangeville, Bolton, Uxbridge, Port Perry, Stouffville and Acton?

Must we be satisfied with the industrial crumbs that fall off the Zone One table?

The Government would develop more confidence in the smaller towns located in Zone Two if they would also provide them with some "incentives" for the modest growth we will be allowed. In the past we have been heavily dependent on approvals from Queen's Park for even such modest proposals as senior citizens' housing and geared-to-income housing which is desperately needed here.

We would gather the Government does not intend to carry on the policy of holding back approvals on projects when a municipality has already

demonstrated it can handle the added development. Acton for instance, has a water pollution control plant now that will handle 7,500 population. So there's room for expansion.

If the existing urban communities in Zone Two are to provide all the modern amenities — good shopping, hospitals, social and recreational facilities, some of them must experience more growth than others. Self-sufficient towns which have already reached 15-20,000 people should be restrained, while others in the 2-5,000 population range could experience more growth, dependent of course on their ability to handle it.

This is one way the Government could balance development: ensuring each urban municipality in Zone Two is a self-contained centre capable of servicing itself with a number of attractions for surrounding rural dwellers. Otherwise it will be the bigger towns in Zone Two which will continue to grow while the smaller centres lose their appeal because of lack of population to pay for amenities like theatres, shopping centres, arenas, swimming pools and educational opportunities.

## Free Press back issues

### 20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, September 20, 1951.

A street dance to climax the completion of road and sewerage installations was rained out Saturday in a downpour that only dampened the crowd but not the spirits. The downpour came when the Acton Citizens Band was playing a concert under Bandmaster Perrott and about 300 scurried for shelter. Hurried preparations were made and operations were transferred to the town hall for the dance. Attending from the greatest distance were R.C.M.P. constable Fryer home from Pond Inlet, Baffin Island, and Lance Corp. Charlton of Halifax. Winners of the lucky draw prizes included Dena Braida, Ruth Smith, G. Robertson, D. Rigley, D. Dawkins, Helen Somerville, E. Deforest, Clarence McCann, Martin McCristall, Calvin Sprowl, Andre Caron, Jack Gilbertson, Rene St. Pierre and Mrs. George Fryer.

Saturday morning the corner of Mill and Main St. was exceedingly busy with paving operation diverting road and pedestrian traffic. Acton Bantams proved they had championship ingredients when they came from behind in a marathon 12 inning struggle to edge Thorold 8-7. The local kids were led by a 24 strike-out performance by John Cunningham who got progressively stronger as the game went on. Paul Lawson supplied the Acton batting punch.

The Girl Guides held their first meeting with Capt. Mary Elliott and Lieut. Dorothy Capper in charge.

Acton had the second highest total of members present at the Y's Men's conference at Lake Couchiching. Attending were Wes Wolfe, Jack Creighton, Ben Rachlin, Forman Lawrence, Ed Footitt, Charlie Leatherland, Douglas Manning Mansell Nellis, Jack McGeachie, Cliff Sutton, Dick Bean and Garnet McKenzie.

### 50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press Thursday, September 15, 1921

Last Saturday morning Chief Officer Edward Floody of the Inland Revenue

Department accompanied by a member of the Dominion Mounted Police visited the site of a liquor still in the bush near Speyside about half way between the first and second lines. Ample evidence was found that a still had been in operation there but the most of the outfit had been removed a short time before the officers reached the place. It is reported that the still was operated by a man who lives in Milton and that the product of the plant was distributed at various points in the county and out of it by motor car at night.

Oakville high school has a larger enrolment than ever before with 150 students.

Acton high school has 63 registered this term and the public school 302.

Dr. Cox has had a record sales week. He sold six Ford cars and coupes within the week. (His ad shows touring cars were \$650, runabouts \$600, coupes \$890 and sedan \$990.) Approximately 200 attended the annual picnic of St. Alban's church at Mr. Wallace

Lasby's farm. Among winners in races were Matt Tyler, Phyllis Tyler, Nora Cook, Lillian Perry, Rena Lashbrook, Len Ewing, Elwood Young, Winnie Alger, Merle Anderson, Stanley Mackie, Ivy Holmes, Jack Ewing, Sidney Scriven, Olive Precious, Edna Green, Frank and Walter Bauer, Jim Ewing, Mrs. F. Hunter, Mrs. Mackie, Mrs. Bishop, Sam Perry, E. Tyler, H. Price.

### 75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press Thursday, September 17, 1896

The Montreal Bridge Co. has started to build the bridge over the river at Rockwood. Mr. John Hill of Rockwood returned last week from a sojourn in Chicago. Mr. Hill has been a resident of Rockwood for 67 years. When Mr. Hill and his people came here there was only one house in that neighborhood, that of the late John Harris.

Next Friday is Civic Holiday in Ballinafad and there will be football, lacrosse and races. Our village is noted for its sportive nature.

The quickest threshing we have heard of this season was done by Mr. Wm. Cripps threshing machine at the farm of John Bennett, Crewsons Corners. In five minutes he threshed two loads of wheat. It is quite a record.

Under new regulations sportsmen may not shoot cranes, bitterns or gulls without a special permit. These birds are great scavengers and it is not thought advisable to allow them to be exterminated.

It is rumored that the career of the Maple Leaf Glove Works, which opened here about three months ago, is almost ended. The proprietor left a couple of weeks ago for Montreal, ostensibly to purchase stock. Whether he has gone permanently or not we cannot say but there are a number of creditors who would like very much to see him back with a full purse. In addition a considerable amount is owed cutters and makers.

379 railroad tickets to Toronto were sold here while the big fair was in progress.

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