

OUR READERS WRITE:

Refers to God's word

Friday, Jan. 21

Dear Sir:

When 33 top scientists report all oil reserves will be gone in 20 years' time (no heat), severe food shortages, and a world crisis in 30 years' time, we cover our ears and eyes, put up two fingers and say peace. Overpopulated, starving countries will not make that mistake, I assure you. Canada has a larger worthy of conquest, and presents little military challenge, especially if its protestors continue to alienate their one protective ally the U.S.A.

Are you positive your protests against the States aren't led and started by communist infiltrators and that once alienated, we will be at the mercy of any communist country.

You think you'd know it if they were. HA! I doubt it. That's why so many countries have become communist. They didn't realize communists were at work in their country till too late. U.S.A. is their only obstacle in their desire for world domination.

You think communism is all right. Listen to the underground churches and Christians unnumbered, tortured and imprisoned. Look at the scars borne by Rev. Richard P. Cumberland who escaped. Read his books. You young fellows who don't believe in work, think twice, there are work camps for those who won't work.

But close your eyes and ears, put up two fingers and say peace and maybe these countries will find food and other natural resources elsewhere.

Do you really believe communists with

such a passion for world power would miss an opportunity like world disarmament? In the meantime, I thank God that after attending four or five different churches, I have found one where the minister preaches the truth straight from God's word regardless of persecution.

The apostle Paul did this also. I'm glad I didn't judge all ministers by one.

When the letter was addressed to "O ye hypocrites, you can discern the face of the sky; but can ye not discern the signs of the times," we saw who answered it, didn't we? If rigidity and narrow-mindedness means interpreting the Bible literally as God intended, then I'm for it. Because you change God's word to suit yourself doesn't mean He has. Quite the contrary.

As for Peace—Matt. 10:34 states "Think not that I am come to send peace on earth; I come not to send peace, but a sword."

Isa. 26:3, "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on Thee. Inner peace is given regardless of conflict, to the born again believer."

I thank God for Jesus, for with him I need no peace sign for I have peace.

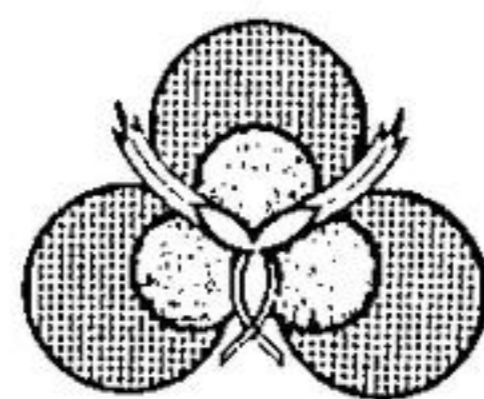
I advise all to read Matthew ch. 24, and make note that "This generation shall not pass till all these things be fulfilled. Christ Jesus is coming for his elect and I pray that I may be worthy of that day."

If you don't understand it, come where they teach God's word, not politics—Evangel Tabernacle, Churchill Road. Our minister? Reverend A. M. Thoman.

Mrs. Betty Phillips,
R.R. No. 2,
Rockwood.



MAZO DE LA Roche at age 11 must have looked something like this when she lived in Acton about 1908. Her father had the Stone Hotel, now destroyed. She wrote and acted out stories as a youngster, and the Free Press of long ago recorded her sales to magazines. Now the CBC television series Jalna is repopularizing her books, *The Whiteoaks Chronicles*.



Centennial notes:

The Centennial Commission meeting last week got down to one of its major tasks, a commemorative project for the town.

Everyone stressed the opinion of creating a worth-while and lasting project.

What do you think? This is the question the Commission is putting to the residents of Acton.

You have an idea, some thoughts perhaps. What's your opinion? We want your help to come to a decision. No idea should be overlooked.

Write now to the Centennial Commission, Box 100, Acton. Send along suggestions, and plans; nothing is too small; every idea should be considered.

Final date for suggestions before going to a committee for study is February 1.

Final choice will be decided at a public meeting after feasibility studies have been made.

+ + +

What's on your mind?? Already the Commission has heard suggestions for a new town hall, a town office complex where the town hall is now situated; a downtown parking area; swimming pool; completion of the community centre; additions to the park; community centre, including a dining room and dance hall; hospital nursing home; redevelopment downtown by moving the council and town office into the community centre.

There have been proposals for a farmers' market and a museum.

What ever it is we do, it will cost. Let's hear from you now. The continued advertising and promotion of Acton's Centennial will benefit everyone. The Commission has nearly completed the formation of service and group committees and then the job of street

just south of the Dominion Hotel. The Free Press would be glad to hear from anyone else with 60-year-old memories of the de la Roche chronicle—Acton chapter.

Bridge . . .

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was set two tricks when East-West found their cross-ruff. West led a club and East won with the ace. He returned a high club for his partner to ruff, indicating that he would like the higher of the two remaining suits returned.

This way East got heart ruffs as well. Declarer must also have lost a trump trick since the contract should only be down one.

Should be good

Another South played the hand at two no-trump. This should be a good contract since West cannot effectively lead hearts without giving up two heart tricks.

Declarer should make five spade tricks, two diamond tricks and at least one in the other suits. However, according to the records, South went down one.

In contrast, a third pair ended up in three no trump by North. Since West should have bid

hearts somewhere along the line, this contract appears doomed. If East leads a heart, West plays the nine if dummy plays the queen. In either case, West has the diamond ace for a re-entry to all his good hearts.

For some reason, East led a club and declarer made three no trump. This was the only game made on these cards.

The last pair sold out to a two heart contract by West. This was a good move by North-South since the best West could do was seven tricks. He lost three spades (one on a ruff), two diamonds and one trump.

One hand, four different contracts by four different pairs.

Last week's winners at the Acton Bridge Club were: first, Kay Campbell and Ivan Harris; second, Kate Coats and Harry Arlic; third, Betty Ashley and Ian Coats.

NOTICE

RON'S BARBER SHOP

Acton Plaza

will be closed
Jan. 28 - Jan. 31
OPEN FEB. 1

Gone Snowmobiling
at North Bay

committees start. Every Acton street will be involved. Why not volunteer now and act for your neighborhood? You want to help? Write Box 100 offering your service.

CENTENNIAL DONATIONS: Donations received go towards the Centennial Project and are held in a separate fund.

Any amount welcome. If you can't think of a reason to contribute, make an excuse.

Mrs. C. K. Browne — \$5.
The late Coles-Neilson fund — \$3.
Dominion Breakfast Club — \$2.25.

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Cheers for denturists

Dear Mr. Editor:

Three cheers and a tiger for the denturists in their fight to be recognized as fitters of dentures for the public.

We certainly need their competition to the dentistry profession, who for far too long have levied unconscionable charges on the public requiring their services.

I trust that our federal and provincial representatives to their respective governments see that the denturists will be enabled to practice legally. It would save the badly overcharged public millions of dollars a year on this item alone.

Yours truly,
Ed. A. Peters,
31 Byron St., Georgetown.

Calling all Websters

Clinton, Ont.
Fri. Jan. 21, 1972.

To the Editor:

Dear Sir:
For the past three years I have been attempting to write the story of the Websters who came out from Thurles Co. Tipperary, Ireland or Eire as it is now known, in the 1800s.

As we understand it, five brothers, and the five sons of a sixth brother eventually came to Canada. The first ones to come settled in the Acton, Norval, Georgetown area and one possibly stopped off at Kingston.

Later, about 1853, brother Daniel, his wife and family and some nephews moved on to the Huron, Bruce Co. boundary taking land near Lucknow.

As this year we are having our 50th Webster Family Reunion at Lucknow we are hoping to pick up some lost threads of our story. Unfortunately we are starting 30 years too late, our cousin in Thurles Co. Tipp writes, but at this late date we will see what can be done.

If any descendants of this Webster family living in this area are interested in my project I would be most happy to hear from them.

Thanking all who take the trouble to write.
Yours truly,
Jean (Webster) Lobb,
Mrs. Mervyn Lobb
R.R. 2,
Clinton, Ontario.

Coles' Slaw . . .

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ship is rolling a little — and that storm, wow!"

I agreed. We were both slightly seasick.

So while our wives slept soundly through the tropical tempest, we two hardened travellers tramped around the decks of the ship trying to shake off the effects of the storm which one crew member described for us as a "little blow".

We guided the ship through a glorious dawn from our perch on the Crow's Nest Bar which we shared with only the instruments from a Calypso band.

The Sunward throbbed southward until she swung into Key West harbor, past U.S. Navy submarines tied up at the wharf and looking over the southernmost point in the U.S.

By this time our wives had joined us on deck. It looked like the weather would clear. We tied up overlooking the city and beside the navy yard where the crew of a minesweeper was going through stiff morning exercises while a band played the Star Spangled Banner.

Down below a Calypso band was hastily assembling on a platform to tender an official welcome to Key West. Two ladies started giving out flowers and souvenirs to passengers disembarking.

I've forgotten what ensued then since the ship's recreation director, a former Miss Norway, happened by along this time smiling and waving at passengers. Charlie and I both had our cameras clicking and mouths wide open.

We were all eager to see the place where Ernest Hemingway hung his hat for many years as well as the spot where refugees from Cuba landed in their small craft as they eluded the grasp of old Fidel who was somewhere out there in the sea a scant 90 miles away.

More on that next week.

Author of Jalna once lived here

There are a few people left in Acton who can remember a very tall, pretty girl they sometimes called Maisie who rode in a pony cart. Her father, recalled as A. Roach, was landlord of the now-demolished Stone Hotel. And the family lived in a white frame house on Main St. that's still there, just north of the Legion.

The curly-haired daughter started writing when she was very young, and the yellowing pages of the old Free Presses report the young lady's success in selling stories.

Varying name? Now Maisie Roach's stories are the talk of the country as the C.B.C. Sunday presented its first hour-long installment of *Jalna* — the world-famous Whiteoaks Chronicles by that same girl, Mazo de la Roche.

Even when she sold stories as a girl she was known here as Mazo de la Roche.

However, the only history of Acton ever written, Acton's Early Days, had this to say in 1939 about the family.

"It will be recalled by many that A. Roach, the second last hotel landlord in the building (the Stone Hotel) was the father of the since famous Mazo de la Roche. The family will be remembered by many. They did not reside in the hotel, but in the house now occupied by Mr. and Mrs. John Dunn, on Main Street, and it does not require older residents to recall the Misses Roche driving about town with the Shetland

pony and two-wheeled cart." The pony cart made a lasting impression. The Roaches were Anglican.

Literary babysitter

Young Mazo used to push Mac Symon, of Symon's Hardware, in his pram when he was a baby but Mac admits he doesn't remember a thing about being trundled by Canada's most famous novelist.

She must have been 11 or 12 at the time and was unusually tall. "Almost as tall as I was", recalls Mrs. R. M. MacDonald. She remembers them as de la Roche.

Ann (Dunn) Devpau always remembers her family lived in the house where Mazo de la Roche once lived. The Dunns bought the nearly-new house from the de la Roches in 1909 and their name is on the deed — spelled Roche.

Her autobiography, *Ring in the Changes*, is available at Acton library. (There's also a new re-issue of all the Whiteoaks series, suddenly popularized again by the *Jalna* series on television.)

Left us out

A bit of a blow to Actonians was the fact Miss de la Roche didn't even mention her few years in Acton in her recollections of her life. Yet she boasts of her excellent memory, to make matters worse. She had a rather strange childhood in Toronto and mentions a couple of years in a hotel in Galt. A farming venture ended in financial ruin.

That the family name was

originally de la Roche is detailed in her book. Her father named her Mazo, she records. A cousin Caroline lived with them, and Mazo was an only child.

It's quite probable Mazo's memories were correct, while those who recalled "Acton's early days" misunderstood the French surname of years before.

The Stone Hotel was destroyed by fire years ago. It was located

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• NOTICE •

TO SNOW VEHICLE OPERATORS

The Council of the Corporation of the Town of Acton hereby warns all snow vehicle operators that Town of Acton By-law Number 70-1504 is being amended. This amendment will be effective at 12:01 a.m., February 6th, 1972, and paragraphs 4 and 5 of the new By-law will then read as follows:

Paragraph 4: "THAT no person shall drive a motorized snow vehicle on any street within the Corporation of the Town of Acton, except for ingress and egress at reduced speeds and low noise levels."

Paragraph 5: "THAT no person shall drive a motorized snow vehicle on any street within the Corporation of the Town of Acton unless such motorized snow vehicle is equipped with a fluorescent safety antenna of not less than 5 feet in height from ground level."

This new By-law may be examined by interested parties during normal working hours at the Municipal Office.

J. T. Hurst
Clerk Administrator
Town of Acton