

Mini-Comment

Free Press subscribers in Toronto who depend on this newspaper for auction sale announcements and lists are often disappointed when the paper arrives on Monday, two days after a sale. It is annoying to think it takes five days for weekly papers to be delivered in Toronto, especially when subscribers in England have written to acknowledge prompt delivery. This writer sent photographs to a lady in England on a Friday and had an acknowledgement in eight days. Yet it takes five days for a newspaper to go 45 miles.

An Anglican clergyman will fill the role of the voice of God in a Guelph Catholic church, something unusual indeed. It is all part of the Guelph Spring Festival with Benjamin Britten's pageant opera, *Naive's Flude* (Noah's Flood) being presented in Guelph's cathedral-like Church of Our Lady. In the search for a voice to replace Allan Coates of the Canadian Opera Company, hired for the role, it was found Archdeacon Clarence Mitchell of St. George's Anglican Church, Guelph, had the sonority of basso profundo and the magnitude of voice required for the role. Archdeacon Mitchell is a member of the Guelph concert singers and formerly of the Bach Elgar Choir of Hamilton.

We were pleased to see the Acton Development Commission taking an active interest in the appearance of the town's business section by installing large concrete pots with small trees in them in appropriate places. It helps give the business section a pleasant look, and more of this kind of beautification would give the town's business area a much needed shot in the arm. With so many nearby places to shop, appearances become very important.

According to the latest edition of the Halton Farm News the prevailing trend in Esquesing township is towards a decrease in the number of full time farmers while part time farmers and those who live on the farm are showing a corresponding increase. The last Esquesing voters' list contained the names of 333 persons recorded as farmers by occupation while a survey for O.F.A. membership showed 300 farm operators in the township. These were divided up into 159 full time farmers, 104 part-time and 37 who were resident on the farm but it was being worked or leased by someone else. The figures definitely show that Esquesing is no longer a farmers' township. The bulk of the population have homes in Esquesing and work somewhere else, although it is still true most township land is occupied by farming endeavours.

Our readers write

THE STONE OUTSIDE OLD SANDY'S GATE

Our little Township Council now, Can't make its own decisions, But refers them to the "Planning Board", And all their "Subdivisions".

While they appoint a "Commission" And make lots of "Paper work", Committees gather round the place, They then appoint a "Clerk".

The "Cost Accountants" then move in, While "Corporations" sleep, A "Deputation" comes from Ottawa, They must not work too Cheap.

While all these Arguments go on, The Township people wait, Who is going to move the "Stone" In front of Sandy's Gate?

Then finally one afternoon, Twelve "Inspectors" in a Bus, Come roaring down the "County Road", To add to all the "Fuss".

They measured up the "Pebble", And took pictures for the "Court", Then went back to their "Offices", To file up their "Reports".

Some school kids coming home one night, Just made a "Baseball" pitch, They got the "Rock" outside the gate, And threw it in the Ditch.

We ought to hang our heads in "Shame", And bless the "Long haired Lords", These kids have got more "Common Sense", Than all our "Planning Boards".

—Victor Smith
R.R. 2, Rockwood.

Free Press Editorial Page



My first film was a flop!

PRODUCING PICTURES can be a tiring business for a fellow, as three year-old Robert Jennings illustrates watching his father, photographer Jim Jennings, work on Free Press pictures. His first attempt at producing pictures was followed by a session in bed where the only imagery comes from drowsy dreams. Of course, Pa snapped this one.

Coles' Slaw



He sang plaintive songs with a voice that you might hear in your own bathroom when you are having a good day. The music suited the mood—some fast, some slow. The melancholy sound of the sea was there as well as the Scottish and Irish twang of the islanders fishing forbears.

For this the crowd clapped and cheered, danced jigs and reels, and applauded long and loud.

In between Harry Hibbs' appearances the Shrimp Cocktail provided a spectrum of popular music ranging from the bellcose rock 'n roll to the soul stuff that turns the teens on, sometimes lapsing into country and western so popular in the Maritimes.

A few had just come to listen but the big majority—ranging from 18 to 80 years of age—were out on the floor stepping it out and really enjoying themselves regardless of the lack or preponderance of years.

They came with crutches, casts and canes to enjoy the music and the dancing, from as far away as Sudbury, and as near as the next street.

Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Yet a lot of the music by some standards would be considered corny, out-of-date and parochial with the emphasis on the fast step.

Despite all the Newfy jokes and the fun poked at the people from Canada's newest province, they maintain good humor and have a camaraderie we can all learn from in our so-called sophisticated society.

We should send delegations to Newfoundland to be taught how to have a good time.



Be careful when you burn . . .

Although it may seem like a small matter it is a fact that all types of open burning, whether of leaves, grass, brush, stumps, trash or corn stubble create considerable amounts of air pollution, especially in built-up areas.

For example, one pound of leaves burned in the open can release 600 times as much pollution as a pound of coal burned in a furnace—hydrocarbons, aldehydes and organic acids.

Smoke from open fires soils property and clothing, and reduces visibility, making it a hazard near roadways.

There's also the problem of fires getting out of control as numerous grass fires in this district last week demonstrated. Firefighters are called upon in many instances when a little

care and an alternative manner of disposing of waste could have avoided an alarm.

There are alternatives to open burning. Materials can be buried, composted, set out for municipal collection or taken to the dump or sanitary land fill site.

If burning is the only solution—be careful.

The Ministry of the Environment recommends you burn only dry materials and avoid petroleum products, plastics, rubber or anything that will cause excessive smoke or fumes. Stay with the fire at all times is the advice, and don't burn when rain, fog or similar weather conditions prevent the ready dispersion of smoke.

Keep fires at least 500 feet from

occupied dwellings and don't burn where smoke will bother your neighbors.

It is perhaps not well known that legal action can be taken under The Environmental Protection Act 1971 if emissions from an open fire cause discomfort to people, cause loss of enjoyment, of normal use of property, interference with the normal conduct of business or cause damage to property.

All complaints to the Ministry of the Environment are investigated.

Rather than pay a fine or become involved in legal tangles it would be wise to consider other methods of getting rid of debris when you are tempted to light that match to grass.

We feel badly, too . . .

"Quietly and with few ripples in the huge printing and publishing business, the community weekly newspaper has grown over the last dozen years until it now represents nearly double the 1960 circulation and nearly double the average circulation per publication," says Publishers' Auxiliary of the growth of weekly newspapers in the United States.

The same is true in Canada. Weekly newspapers, including the Free Press, have experienced great gains in circulation spurred by advanced printing techniques and sophisticated lay-outs.

In the case of the Acton Free Press, circulation figures have almost doubled in the last four years. These facts are based on Audit Bureau of

Circulation figures, computed only on paid circulation.

Along with the increased circulation has come wider coverage for the district and greater demands on time and space. Although the number of pages produced each week are double the figures of 10 years ago, it is a growing problem to handle all events in the district.

So we ask your indulgence if an item or a picture does not appear the week you felt it should. Decisions must be made each week on what must appear and the editor and staff make every effort to include everything fit to print.

Each week Free Press photographers take many pictures, of which only a small percentage appear in the pages. We chose the pictures on

their news value and quality, always trying to use those which are the most interest to all readers, not just a few individuals.

There are those who tell us we seldom succeed. This, of course, is a matter of opinion and all are entitled to their own. But over the years this editor has developed a fairly tough hide and names or slurs on our competence bother us very little.

The number of pages in this newspaper each week are determined by the amount of advertising.

In any event there is never any attempt to hinder publication and in most cases when a picture or story does not appear we feel as badly about it as those involved.

Roughly one million people read this column. And they read it roughly, because that's the way it is written.

Many of the old faithfuls have read the column since the time my daughter first burped and covered the old man's shirt with baby-spew.

And they have associated, and laughed and cried as I described the peculiar creature that I produced. With a little help from my wife, of course.

I feel it only fair to the old faithfuls to keep them up to date. Anyone who is not interested can turn to Ann Landers or Billy Graham or somebody who writes about something important.

Kim is getting married. Normally, this is an occasion of great hilarity, geniality, joviality, and sometimes even spirituality.

Personally, I think she's out of her mind. But this, at least, is normal among parents. So everything is proceeding normally.

Today, I came home and found my wife surrounded by income tax forms and samples for material to cover one of our chairs. Normally, I wouldn't be surprised by this. It's typical. But it's not exactly the pre-wedding hysteria one might expect.

And where is Kim, with a wedding about ten days away? She's in the city with her boyfriend, looking for a second-hand van in which they can eat and sleep and have their being during the summer. And they have my car. Every time the phone rings, I flinch, expecting to hear a police officer telling me they've cracked up my beautiful 1967 Dodge.

And tomorrow night there's a shower for her, and the next day a dental appointment,



Bill Smiley

and next week an appointment in the city about a job, and another dental appointment, and a hair-dresser's appointment. And she hasn't even bought her wedding dress yet.

She's not at all worried about her "going-away" outfit. She assured her mother, "Don't worry, Mom; I'll be going away in my jeans."

Well, I'm sorry I can't invite everyone to the wedding. You would enjoy every minute of it, but we can't get one million people into our living-room, though you'd never believe it when we have our annual party. And you'd enjoy the reception even more, with Kim's cat and ours flying into a screeching, spitting, squalling fight every three minutes.

One of the biggest ordeals, of course, is meeting the future in-laws. We got through that last Sunday, and it went off fine. The kids sat nervously biting their nails up to the knuckles, as they watched it.

Dot, a sensible person like myself, and I got along fine. She accepts life as it is, and does something about it. She'll be a fine mother-in-law. Doug and my wife are both nuts—about classical music—and they got along fine. He and I are going trout fishing, so we got along fine.

Back Issues of The Free Press

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, May 15, 1952.

Acton Y.M.C.A. on Monday and Tuesday evenings was no place for those seeking peace and quiet. The Y reverberated with the gleeful shouts of over 100 participants in the gym display and shook beneath mass exits and entrances up and down the stairs. Highlight of the evening was a square dance by junior boys and girls. The steps weren't too difficult but getting the boys and girls to hold hands was the hardest, said secretary Cliff Sutton. (Pictured in square dance costume were Bob Jones, Pat Coles, Don Cook, Judy Mason and Mike Hurst.) Another colorful display was the Indian drill with Don Lindsay beating the tom-tom. A game of floor hockey refereed by Bob Wahlman was played by red-jacket boys and a rather cramped game of basketball by Bill Skilling, Gary Dawkins, Ross Marton, Joe Jany, Don Dawkins and John Cunningham. A highlight of the gym display was Bill Skilling leaping over the horse with four boys piled on it. Gary Dawkins, Bob Wahlman, Pete Hurst and Don Wilds. A wand drill was given by junior girls Shirley Paul, Elizabeth Jany, Elaine Deforest, Mary Magee, Barbara Anderson and Norma Wilds.

Permission was granted the Y's Men's club to erect four swings in the park. Eldora McAuley, Alton, and Edward McGilroy were married at St. Joseph's church. Attendants were Jacqueline Chew and James McGilroy. Lakeside I.O.D.E. held its May tea in the Legion hall.

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, May 11, 1922.

Last Wednesday forenoon while George H. Musselle was operating a hydraulic press in the works of the Acton Tanning Company, he had the misfortune to have his left hand caught in the press. Dr. J. A. McNiven was called and was promptly on the scene. The young man was then removed to the home of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Rawlings, Cameron Ave., where he resides, and Dr. McNiven, assisted by Dr. Nelson, amputated the injured member. The bright young Englishman is making good progress and regards his unfortunate accident with remarkable fortitude and philosophical outlook. Mr. Musselle and his mother left their Old Country Home at Seaford, Sussex, March 23, arriving in Canada April 3. Two weeks later he secured the position and a fortnight from the day he commenced work the accident occurred. He was in the mechanical transport service in Egypt during the last year of the war and acquitted himself in all respects like a seasoned soldier.

Rockwood is in a fair way for having a real live fire brigade. Col. Mutrie was chosen chief and a number of citizens signed up as members of a proposed brigade.

Tannery Co-Operative—The story of Quality and Low Prices. Special on sugar in 100 lb. lots. Fruits and Vegetables. Cash Paid for Farm Produce. C. A. Conway, manager.

Mr. H. G. Lingard has bought the business of Cloverdale Dairy from Mr. A. M. McPherson and has added it to the Jersey Dairy which he recently secured

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, May 20, 1897.

By-law No. 12 of this municipality has this important clause which some citizens evidently fail to observe: "That no person being the owner and keeper of any cow, calf, horse, colt, filly, bull, steer, ox, heifer, ram, sheep, pig, goat, goose or duck, or any breechy animal shall allow any such animal to run at large within the village of Acton during any period of the year, and any person contravening this by-law shall be liable to a penalty of fifty cents exclusive of costs, poundkeeper's fees or damages for each and every animal found running at large."

The official count of a Sunday car vote in Toronto gives a majority of 321 in favor of Sunday service. A petition has been presented for a recount. It is the most exciting contest in the history of Toronto and a large aggregate of 32,000 votes was cast. While the Protestant vote was divided, the Roman Catholic and Jewish vote was solidly for the cars. The victors won by a lavish expenditure of money and a resort to every kind of electioneering expedient, including the advertising of promises which cannot be fulfilled, the publication of two forged placards and the mailing of forged letters. Loyalty to a great cause was the only impulse with those who fought to retain a quiet Sabbath.

Tramps, jail-birds and ex-convicts are now parading the railway and public roads daily and several report that cellars and houses have been broken into by these wretches.