

## Mini-Comment

The University of Guelph is getting a lot of ink these days with important discoveries in the realm of research. One of the most recent breakthroughs has been a further step in the control of blood-sucking insects with antibiotics. Zoologists found that blood-sucking bugs died or remained swollen or unable to develop after feeding on laboratory animals treated with the particular antibiotic. Although the findings are only preliminary the two zoologists believe they may lead to a new approach which in the hands of competent professionals may alleviate much pain and sickness in man and animals.

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With the end of the baseball season hovering on the horizon, it must be time for a tattered old chestnut. It seems a certain housewife was tiring of her husband's interest in weekend televised sport. One Saturday afternoon she finally exploded, "You love baseball more than you love me." Her husband intently watching a crucial play at home plate, answered respectfully, "Yes dear, but I still love you more than football."

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"Housewives who blame the farmer for large grocery bills do not understand the farmer's situation," says Gordon Hill, president of the Ontario Federation of Agriculture. He explains that approximately 93 cents of each dollar that a farmer earns goes to cover costs. The other seven cents is his return for invested capital and labor. Today a farmer pays five times more for a three plow tractor than he did in 1946. However, Hill says, he hasn't passed this on to the consumer. In 1955, one hour's wages would buy 2 1/2 dozen eggs. Last year one hour's pay bought 7.4 dozens. In 1949 a man had to work 20 hours to feed his family of four. Last year the same family could eat better for 11 hours pay. Hill says the consumer not the farmer, is to blame for inflated grocery bills, spending more on sophisticated processing, fancy packages, gimmicks and advertising than for the food itself. At last, we know whom to blame.

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When the Soviet Union national hockey team landed in Montreal to start that now famous series, one of the things that surprised Canadian fans was that each of the players carried his own equipment. Free Press Sports editor Denis Gibbons asks, "Did anyone attach any significance to the fact that Team Canada players were carrying their own luggage when they disembarked at Toronto International Airport after the series was over?"

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This is Fire Prevention Week and with it comes a reminder that carelessness is still the number one cause of fires.

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With winter staring us in the face again it's nice to know that the National Research Council is working hard on a satisfactory gate to attach to snowplows so they will be able to avoid filling in our driveways, five minutes after we've got them shovelled.

## Free Press Editorial Page

The Acton Free Press, Wednesday, October 11, 1972



PEOPLE ARE appealing! These are two more pictures which won awards in the Free Press photography competition at the fall fair. Above, the youngster was photographed by Ed McKnight. The family group below was taken by M.D. Smith.

## Let Metro keep its garbage

We can understand the reaction of local and township officials to the news that the Canadian National Railways has offered to haul 400,000 tons of Metro Toronto garbage a year to the Indusmin Quarry site near Acton.

It was only two years ago that a firm wanted to construct an incinerator-type industrial waste disposal plant in the Acton area and the proposal was turned down. Now it seems the garbage germ has hatched in other minds that this area would be an ideal disposal site for other types of refuse.

Although the process would supposedly render the garbage into the "most innocuous and unobjectionable form of refuse that can be economically achieved", it would seem that there must be a more suitable site near Toronto for it, especially if the garbage is so unobjectionable. Costs would be

much lower than trucking it 40 miles up the tracks.

We look with suspicion at any generous offers from large metropolitan centres. If they don't want the stuff themselves then there has to be something wrong.

Needless to say we have our share of problems in this area and a king size dump is not going to improve matters.

Esqueuing council last year turned down a similar proposal which would have involved a worked-out quarry at Milton Brick and this was intended for waste from local municipalities. We doubt very much if they would approve the newest proposal which would mean taking care of Metro Toronto garbage when there are still waste disposal problems to be solved in this area.

It is time the cities solved their own waste problems without having to

revert to the heavy old solution of sending it somewhere else.

The waste management branch of the Department of the Environment has been taking extra pains to see that garbage dumps in this area have been rigidly operated so as to reduce the amount of air and ground pollution. We can't see them endorsing any project which would entail dumping of millions of tons of Toronto refuse into an area of the Niagara Escarpment, which the Government has continually said it would defend against any and all schemes which would tend to harm the environment.

We would suggest there are many environmental questions to be answered before the Indusmin quarry should be considered as a dumping ground.

## Judge Ord talks sense

We were very much interested in the opinions about today's youth expressed by Provincial Judge John D. Ord at a recent dinner meeting of the Acton Chamber of Commerce.

Judge Ord is in a position to know much of the background of youthful offenders yet he was optimistic, a welcome change from the gloom peddlers who harp about the kids who get into trouble and brand a whole generation.

"If children get love and concern from their parents, they have a very good chance of making the grade," he told members of the Chamber, stressing that it is motivation not

money which is the significant factor in determining the direction individuals will take.

He proposed no radical solutions to today's problems, stressing rather the weapons which have been found really helpful in the past—family, work and the church.

"I hate to see a wastage of our most precious commodity. Suffer with them a little—they'll come out of it," the Judge advised.

He sincerely believes that the youth of today are no worse than they were 20 years ago, an opinion with which we would immediately concur. He also

thinks they are more honest, another mark in their favor.

It is encouraging to hear optimistic talk about youth from someone such as Judge Ord. He is dealing with drop-outs from society but realizes that today's youth are not very much different from parents outside of contending with problems which did not exist when most of the adults were in their teens.

Parents, however, can only go so far, when it comes to inculcating the finer things of life into their children.

Children must take up the torch from there and despite all the outcry to the contrary we do not think they will

## Problem at fires

In Fire Prevention week, there's another aspect of the problem that comes to mind.

There are times when one wonders if parents are truly concerned about the safety and well being of their children.

Often when firefighters are summoned to a fire they are followed by a seemingly endless flock of children on foot and bicycle. The cyclists, many of whom ride over-sized bicycles, ride three, four and five abreast along the

road. Some have no regard for traffic signs or traffic. Stop signs meant nothing.

Nothing but a miracle will prevent an accident one day and if an accident does occur the parent must accept the blame.

At the scene of a fire the milling children are a hindrance to firefighters carrying out their duty. The firefighter is there to contain and extinguish a blaze, not to act as a baby sitting and entertainment service.

If parents do not teach their children self discipline, a second means of rectifying the situation lies in the hands of our town fathers. Perhaps councillors should look into the possibility of supplying the firefighters with small electronic alarms which each would carry in his pocket. The gadgets beep when a radio signal is transmitted from the firehall after information of a fire is received. Some towns have a fire phone system.

Something must be done. The best solution lies in the home still.

There is one holiday during the year that is truly Canadian. Period. Any red-blooded native of this fantastic country can name it without a second thought.

Christmas and Easter are religious holidays that we share with all of Christendom.

The Twenty-fourth of May, the Queen's Birthday, used to be big stuff when I was a kid, but now it is the third Monday after the second Saturday immediately before the first full moon, or something of the sort.

It has gone straight downhill from firecrackers and skyrockets and burned fingers to a sort of Opening-up-the-Cottage day. No devility, no more fun than cleaning up the cellar.

The First of July, latterly Dominion Day, and even more latterly and slatternly, Canada Day, has degenerated into a hot day which is shoved toward the nearest Friday or Monday on the slightest provocation.

Once an occasion for the planting of trees, the flying of flags, and the buying of speeches proclaiming our allegiance to the Empire, it is now most notable as the weekend nearest the opening of the bass season.

Then there once was the Twelfth of July, when Protestants and Catholics alike turned out to watch The Walk, make snide comments about King Billy and his horse and inspect with a critical eye the red-faced, straw-hatted Orangemen, and smell the hotdogs and beer, and thrill to the squealing of lites and the rattle and thump of drums.

I'll never forget one Twelfth, in which an Irish Catholic, who had joined a Scottish regiment, led the Orange parade, in kilts, and my kid brother, about 15, made five dollars playing the bass drum for (I think) Duhouse Corners, which had found itself with two fifers and a drum, but no drummer. That was real Canadiana.

And the speeches. Boys, didn't they lace it to the Pope. Almost as hard as modern R.C. theologians and Women's Libbers do.

All gone. All that good, harmless hatred and intolerance sunk beneath our growing sophistication and tolerance. Who would dare, today, to stand up on a platform in a broiling July 12th sun and attack the Pope, the French and anything else he could get his tongue to, while the locals rolled their eyes with delight, and sweated by the bucket?

Next (at least in some provinces), is Civic Holiday, the first Monday in August. This, too, has become a dog of the first water. Originally a day set aside for civic pride and the beginning of Old Home Weeks and such, it has become a day when the local service club runs its annual skin game,



Bill Smiley

whether it's a tombola, or a massive bingo or some other form of harmless blood-letting. Blood equaling money. Pity.

And, of course, Labor Day. In the larger cities, there is still a small contingent which will march with banners announcing that Branch 49 of the Union of CWA or HIC or WHAF or BUNK is still carrying the flag and fighting the good fight against the toils of that anaconda, Big Business.

But this is a little hard to take. Originally, there was immense pride in this day, which was wrested from the vested. But today, Canadians who know that the unions are just as big as, or bigger than, Big Business, sensibly pursue some other entertainment, like grabbing one more weekend in the fun and sun.

Well, as you can see, I've been leading you relentlessly and inexorably toward the

## Mini-Comment

Like the drummed-home message of a singing commercial, some popular songs leave a lasting impression. Whether the impression is a good one or not depends on the message. After ignoring one of the currently popular songs, in our between-the-news-broadcast listing, the words suddenly jolted and irked. "You can't please everyone, so you have to please yourself!" the message rang through several choruses. If such a selfish concept is widely accepted, completely ignoring such things as service and sacrifice, we fear for future generations.

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Five-year-old Jeff was trying to play his favourite tune on a new harmonica. He'd just gotten for his birthday. When a friend asked to hear the tune, he said mournfully: "It's no use. I've played up and down this thing and that song just isn't there!"

## Back Issues of The Free Press

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, October 22, 1952.

Property damage to cars and trucks soared on Monday as the district received its first blanket of snow. One seven-car accident was reported on No. 7 highway at Somerville's. Between Acton and Silvercreek there were 17 cars in the ditch at one time.

Work for crippled children got a fine boost Friday when the Rotary club presented its Fun Fair. Over 1,000 people attended to play bingo and a wide assortment of games. Many stayed until the big draw for a television was made with the winner Mrs. Hearden, R.R. 1 Milton. George Musselle offered by auction everything left in prizes. It is estimated about \$1,000 was raised. This is the finest project ever held by the Rotary club.

This week we have 11 pictures in the Free Press — a record.

Good news arrived at the McNabb home Wednesday morning when word was received that Mrs. Colin McNabb, who visited in Acton a few weeks ago with her husband had won \$56,000 on a sweepstake ticket. They presently live in Eleuthera near Nassau but bought the ticket in Acton.

The post office announces 417 radio licenses have been sold in Acton since last April. One radio license is required for each house with a radio or radios and one for each car radio.

About \$125 was cleared on Scout Apple Day with the winners of the selling competition Wayne Currie, Bob Armstrong and Gary McFadden. Barry Stewart had the best decorated basket and Jim Billon the best cub's basket. There were 30 scouts and cubs taking part.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, October 19, 1922.

Capt. W. G. C. Kenney V.S., who was an officer with the Imperial Forces in France, Egypt and Palestine, received an official letter from King George last week advising him that in view of his valuable service he had been placed on the permanent list of Imperial officers retaining rank and has full permission to wear his uniform and decorations on all military occasions. These privileges are granted to him for life. He now attends Medical College in Toronto.

Fun fair was one of the most successful in its history despite unfavorable weather with about 7,000 persons in attendance.

There has been a good deal of activity among our citizens in the effort to provide comforts and shelter for the unfortunate sufferers in the conflagration in Northern Ontario. At the meeting in the town hall Mr. C. C. Henderson was appointed Secretary-Treasurer. Friday was the day fixed for receiving wearing apparel and other articles. An effort will be made to secure a few barrels of bottled fruit to send forward. When it's remembered that all the season's fruit prepared for winter use for 8,000 people now homeless and destitute was destroyed, there will be few homes which could not spare a jar or two for those in want.

Last week a judge, addressing a public gathering, stated the headquarters of the illicit drug traffic is not New York or Chicago, but Canada. This is a serious blot on our nation's escutcheon.

Since Mr. Guild's new hay press and gasoline tractor have been installed at Rockwood, hay shipping has been conducted on a large scale. The new outfit has a capacity of 40 tons a day.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, October 14, 1897.

The Rockwood show held last Thursday was one of the best held in years. The show of fancy work, fruit and roots was hardly as good as usual but the stock was fine and the attendance was one of the largest in the history of the show. The concert given by the Merry Makers under the auspices of the Society was well attended.

An unknown bicyclist was knocked down by an unmanageable team about half a mile from Rockwood Friday. He was put aboard the 5.45 train that evening and sent to Toronto. It is understood he died before reaching Toronto.

All packages of clothing destined for the sufferers of fire at Casselman, South Indian and Cheney near Ottawa will be carried free over the line of the Canadian Express.

Jack Frost has got in some pretty solid work this week.

Mr. A. Sharp of Limehouse has gone into the patent medicine business.

By new arrangement Limehouse appointment is now attached to Acton and Rev. McLachlan will preach there Friday evenings. He preached to 30 or 40 last Friday night.

Those interested in improving the driving shed at the Methodist church will meet next Monday night with gravel etc.

The orchestra of the Methodist church was reorganized and Miss Annie McNabb replaces Mr. Charles Jenner who moved to Johnstown N.Y. Miss Lizzie McLam will perform the duties of leader of the singing as well as assistant organist.

The mangold crop is extra good this year.

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