

OUR READERS WRITE:

Appreciate Mr. Drijber's position now

R.R. No. 4, Acton, Ont.
August 5, 1973

To the Editor,
Acton Free Press.

Dear Sir:

Mr. Drijber's statement under "Our Readers Write" in last week's paper will be very much appreciated by Canadians who were indeed confused by contradictory reports.

Up to this point, I was forming an unfair opinion of Mr. Drijber's position. He now comes through with considerably restrained tolerance and I for one appreciate his understanding in the face of the family's tragedy.

Having said this, I feel obliged to add a comment in the interests of the black African point of view. Most of us very quickly blame the Zambian authorities but forget that the Zambezi is a sensitive area and is in effect a war zone. Over the past 5-6 years several civilians have been killed in this area on both sides of the river.

White Rhodesians and South Africans must shoulder their share of the responsibility for such tragedies when they permit tourists to become targets of hate.

When men everywhere accept each other as brothers regardless of colour and creed, there will be an end to this kind of senseless killing.

—E. Comfort

Free Press editorial is circulating

August 6, 1973.
Acton Free Press,
Acton, Ontario.

Dear Sir:

Though it seems rather late to say so, thank you, for your editorial of June 13, "A New Rural Dynasty Coming," in which you say that restrictions and controls are prohibiting low and middle-income people from living in this part of the county.

You refer to municipal building regulations, which restrict size of house. In this township of Chinguacousy, the minimum size is 1200 square feet. You imply that this sort of restriction is undemocratic. You also say that such unjust regulations help to create a class society—"The end result will

be a rural aristocracy not unlike what we have in Britain—the country squire on his domain with the serfs huddled in their villages in long rows of town houses."

Your editorial was brought to the attention of our reeve and council, and forwarded to the Brampton Daily Times, who reprinted it. Incidentally, our municipal council is unimpressed, and seem convinced that bigger is better—they are still operating under the old growth ethic.

The Orangeville Banner also reprinted your editorial, and I enclose a copy herewith.

Yours truly,

H. Hansen,

R.R. 2,

Norval, Ontario L0P 1K0

Tom disputes statements of director

The Editor,

Dear Sir:

Kindly permit me to state a few ideas and statements made while I was reviewing to reporters the two years in office as president of the Secondary School Teachers' Federation in Halton at the end of June, 1973 and in response to comments made at the Board of Education meeting on July 20, 1973.

First I want to make a correction due to an error in the statement issued to your reporter. The statement "more than 1,000 classes with 36 or more students" should have read "more than 100 classes with 36 more students and more than 1,000 classes with 30 or more students." The source of this information is recorded in Board of Education Fact Sheet dated December 8, 1971. My regrets for all concerned for this error.

In reference to the flight of teachers, I did not refer to the present situation, but the statement made was a future prognostication of the next two to three years because of the newly passed board's policy on Staff Reorganization which will demote up to ten teachers who are heads in schools such as Nelson, M.M. Robinson, Georgetown and T.A. Blakelock. The heads who are in the main specialists in their fields, will be replaced by the new chairman system who may or may not be specialists.

The Board was told on more than one occasion that the teachers were in favour of staff reorganization, but a vote of the teachers showed that 85 percent of the teachers were opposed to the director's scheme and, in fact, teachers filled the board room in protest on more than one occasion when the trustees were discussing staff reorganization and differentiated staffing.

After the passing of the staff reorganization and differentiated staffing, staff morale sank to a new low level and I know of two department heads who have gone to other Boards of Education since the passing of the Board's policy on staff reorganization.

With the over-supply of teachers and the late passing (April, 1973) of the Board's policy on staff reorganization, there was very little teacher movement at the end of the current school year. The future will probably tell a different story as good, experienced, specialist teachers get denoted in Halton. Their choice will be to look elsewhere when the opportunity presents itself and in my opinion the

students and parents will become the true losers.

With regard to paraprofessionals, I now ask the trustees and the director to investigate the situation where one paraprofessional was hired at Oakville Trafalgar High School and that individual taught at the school. Both the teachers of that school and the C.W.Q.E. (Conditions of Work for Quality Education) Committee reported this fact.

I can recall both the principal and the superintendent of instruction acknowledged this fact when asked by the Federation about a paraprofessional teaching at Oakville Trafalgar High School. I may point out that at Lord Elgin High School, instead of hiring the full teaching staff of 80 teachers based on 18.5:1 Pupil-Teacher Ratio, only 75 teachers were hired for 1972-73. Five fewer teachers were hired and the money was used to hire paraprofessionals.

The students had to be taught and the parents may well ask these questions—Who taught the approximately 150 students? Whose workload was increased? What happened to the class-sizes? How did these conditions affect the students?

In the interview and the statement issued at the end of June, I pointed out that progress was made in several areas during the 1972-1973 school year and these received little attention in the press. I felt a better rapport was developed at the staff-board meetings, an increased involvement in the educational and development leave plan, two amicable salary settlements, the exchange between the elementary and secondary panels for a period of time and the participation in programme councils and professional development projects. These are examples of positive progress in relations between teachers and the Board.

I would like to re-emphasize that this was a review of my two years as president of Halton, District 9, O.S.S.T.F. and some opinions as to the future.

In conclusion, may I state that the Federation's objectives have never been geared to image building and economic or political expediencies, but on the contrary, to represent the teachers and to serve the best possible needs in education for the students in Halton County.

I thank you in advance for printing this statement of clarification and correction.

Without bias,

Tom Ramautarsingh,

Past President,

District 9, O.S.S.T.F.



Lady letter carrier starts job in Milton

Irene Roberts, the first permanent woman letter carrier in Milton, started work in a new subdivision in the county town last week.

Now living in Acton, and about to move to Campbellville, Mrs. Roberts has worked for the Milton post office as a night clerk for a year but decided to change over to a letter carrier, in imitation of her husband's letter carrier in Downsview.

Postal workers run in the family as a brother-in-law is a postal clerk in Toronto and a sister-in-law is a postal clerk in Milton. Mrs. Roberts decided she might as well join the family profession after 20 years on a secretarial job.

Her route is only part-time now until all home owners in the new Milton Dorset Park subdivision put up mail boxes and house numbers.

Obituary

Eden House resident Mrs. Janie Robbins

Funeral service for Mrs. Janie Robbins, who passed away July 30 at the Eden House Nursing Home was held at St. John's Anglican Church on the Seventh Line of Mono township, August 1.

A native of Alliston, Mrs. Robbins married Thomas James Robbins in Beeton, May 13, 1908. The couple lived in Acton for 10 years and also in Hockley.

The daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Hamilton, Mrs. Robbins was 85. She had a particular interest in quilt making, gardening and flowers.

Rev. Harry Dawson conducted the service at the Rumley-Shoemaker Funeral Home and later at St. John's Anglican Church.

Palbearers, all grandchildren were, Murray Bateman, Acton, Lewis Reed, Guelph, Edward Brummell, Hockley, Elmer Miller, Brampton, Murray McKibbin, Toronto, and Alf Chambers, Georgetown.

Great grandchildren acting as flowerbearers were Carl and Ryan Reed, Hunter Heyman, Ron Brooks, Leeland and Kevan Chambers, Terry Bateman and

James and Douglas Brumwell. Members of the Anglican Church A.C.W. group attended the service. Interment was in St. John's Church cemetery.

Mrs. Robbins is survived by one son, Wilfred of Woodbridge, three daughters, Ruby Lausten of Acton, Dorothy Brumwell of Hockley and Bertha Reed of Streetsville, three sisters, Florence Walton of Sault Ste. Marie and twins Rachel Mutch and Elizabeth Smith, both of London. She is also survived by 12 grandchildren and 40 great grandchildren.

Experts will join team to regionalize Halton

The first steps towards implementing Regional Government in Halton have begun. Chairman Allan Masson announced recently the appointment of Garfield Brown as acting clerk for the region.

Masson, Brown, and a team of experts on the subject from Queen's Park will be working from now until October in order to get by-laws updated and have the machinery for regional government ready to roll by Jan. 1.

Masson said he will use the services of Mr. Brown and of a secretary out of the Oakville municipal office. As the need for more people arises they will be hired.

Regional council Masson indicated the appointment of department heads will also be made by

building. New quarters In the event the province does take that building the region will have to find new quarters. The Warden's special committee on regional government has examined a number of sites but that decision will be made by the regional council.

Chairman Allan Masson has resigned from his role as Oakville's reeve to devote full time to the work at the regional level. Oakville was expected to have appointed a new reeve at their meeting last night.

The Acton Free Press, Wednesday, August 8, 1973 7

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Charge back

Those now working for municipalities will be paid by those municipalities and the cost will be charged back to the region.

Initially Masson and Brown will work out of the clerk's office and as more space is needed it will have to be acquired.

The province has said they would like to take over the entire county administration building. The provincial offices now occupy 82 per cent of the county owned building. Masson suggested the province isn't holding a gun to "our head" but they have made it quite clear they would like to use the entire

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Grace Bird scholarship winner bursaries go to two other girls

Grace Bird, of R.R. 2, Georgetown, has won the \$100 Dr. Ethel Chapman scholarship, which is sponsored by the Halton District Institutes. Grace is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Bird.

Two winners were also chosen for the Halton District Bursary. First was Lydia Rentenaar of R.R. 2, Georgetown, who will receive \$50. Second was Carol Somerville, Acton, who receives \$40.

Miss Bird took the coveted Dr. Ethel Chapman award by scoring highest in the number of 4-H homemaking clubs she has completed, responsibilities, participation in 4-H, community involvement, extra curricular activities, special training and academic standing.

Georgetown grad She has just completed Grade 13 at Georgetown high school and is now enrolled at the University of Guelph where she is taking Family and Consumer Studies.

Bursary winner Lydia Rentenaar has completed Grade 13 at Milton district high school and is now enrolled at Queens University, Kingston in Honors Science.

Carol Somerville attended Acton high school and has been accepted at Centralia College of

Agricultural Technology, Huron Park, Ontario. She is going into the Business Management course.

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