

Bill Smiley (Continued from Page B2)

from the "rude and licentious soldiery" of wartime, with its constant grousing and grumbling.

I began my pilgrimage as a VUP (Very Unimportant Person), just my usual self. Up at 7.30 and a long, cold, boring bus ride to Trenton. Hours to wait for my flight. Nothing to do. Tired already. Blizzard outside. Everything fairly typical, in other words.

In despair, I asked a couple of ladies at an information desk if there were anywhere I could lie down for a while. One of them — she must have been my fairy godmother — said there was a VIP lounge.

I went into it, expecting to be thrown out, and a handsome young pilot in there looked a bit surprised, but pleasantly asked if I'd like some coffee. We exchanged a few remarks. I told him who I was and where I was going. And suddenly, to my utter incredulity, I discovered that I was a VIP.

This Captain Hanberg, who turned out to be the Duty Officer for the day, looked at my letter of confirmation for the flight and went into high gear. Carried my bag, took me to the officers' mess, got me a room for a lie-down, showed me where the bar was, lined up dinner, drove me back to the terminal, checked my bag and ushered me through the blizzard right onto the plane and to my seat.

This went on for the next four days, and I'll never be the same again.

Crossing was pleasant enough, though exhausting. The Forces use large Boeing

707's (I believe they have five of them) to shuttle personnel, baggage, mail and whatever to Germany, Cyprus, Egypt, and back and forth across Canada. They're fast and comfortable. No drinks and no movies, but excellent service from two young ladies, with food and coffee and snacks.

Can't sleep on planes, so spent the time exchanging horror stories with two veterans of Dieppe who were going to a Dieppe reunion.

Tottered off the plane at Lahr, the Canadian base in Germany, in the Black Forest region. Walked into the terminal and an officer walked up: "Are you Bill Smiley?" I admitted as how I was. He was Lieutenant-Colonel Hopkins, the chief padre. His wife was with him. They both went to the same high school I did, years ago. My kid brother had asked them to meet the plane. "Hopple" calls himself The Vicar of Lahr. They offered all hospitality.

With them was a Captain, who took charge of me, showed me around the town, got my brother on the phone, took me to a bank to change dollars for marks, and took me to a hotel room he had organized. I met this same unfailing courtesy in all forces people I encountered, both Canadian and American.

Staggered into bed at 4 p.m. German time, just 27 hours and no sleep after I'd started out. Left a message to be called at 6.30 the next morning. With typical German efficiency, the maid called me at 6.30 the same evening. Horrors. Back to bed and died until 5 a.m. More next week from Gullible's Travels.



HALTON FURROW QUEEN Carol Somerville of Acton is pictured with host farmer Craig Reid and Mrs. Reid of Georgetown, going over a street plan of the tented city that will spring up on the Reid farm near Ashgrove this fall. This year's International Plowing Match and machinery demonstration will be held at Reid's farm a mile south of Georgetown from Sept. 24 to 28 and a local committee is hard at work making plans to host the big event. (Photo by Min. Agriculture and Food)

Region safety group officers

Halton Regional Safety Council will hold a meeting in Milton next Monday to elect a board of directors to guide the group through its first year.

Ric Morrow of Halton Hills, Const. Jim Redpath of Milton OPP, Sgt. Peter Bromley of Halton Regional Police, and Frank Harshman of

Burlington Safety Council. Others will likely be named to represent Oakville Safety Committee and Halton Fire Prevention Bureau.

Safety-minded citizens and officials from all over Halton decided to form the regional safety group and co-ordinate efforts of safety councils and others interested in safety across the region. The Monday meeting is at 8 p.m. in the library room at Ontario School for the Deaf, Milton, and anyone interested in safety is welcome to attend.

Officers Several have signified their intention of standing for office in the election, including Edna Johnstone of Burlington for chairman, Gerry Yeland of Oakville and R. Perrott of Georgetown for vice-chairman, Roy Wollaston of Milton for secretary and Rick Burgin of Burlington for treasurer.

Directors expected to be appointed include Councillor

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OUR READERS WRITE:

Recognition for Acton drivers

Dear Sir:
A few days ago the kindly gentlemen at the Ontario Department of Transport renewed my driver's licence. This means I have been driving for three years and have not killed anyone yet. I think I deserve a hearty pat on the back. I would like to share that pat with all the Acton drivers who have survived three years of nerve-racking near misses and hair-raising close calls. I am fond of children and I think it is wonderful that Acton children can be care-free and happy-go-lucky. It is also a fact that some of them are careless and scatter-brained. The only reason there are not more accidents involving children is because of the vigilance, alertness and endless patience of Acton's drivers. Who among us has not turned a corner

and found a ball game in full swing or crested a steep hill and found a hockey game taking up the width of the road? Have you ever had the unhappy experience of meeting a small boy directing traffic over the top of a hill so that you won't run over his goalie nets? And what about those bicycles? Are they made with a built-in wobble or are the riders getting younger every year?

I am not complaining nor am I offering any solution to the problem. Summer is coming and things will get worse. I just want a little recognition for the tremendous job done by Acton's drivers.

Yours very truly,
K. Bennett,
Acton, Ont.

Talk about pollution!

To the editor
Now the Lions Club has gone so far as to start things going for a swimming pool for the town of Acton, it behooves the citizens of the town to clean up the dirt and debris along the sidewalks and door ways. Some of the yards and driveways look like a city dump.

Why don't the council hire some men to clean up and charge it to the taxes? We try to keep our place tidy but there is an apartment house near us where the garbage is just 'thrown on the yard and driveway and the wind blows it everywhere. Talk about Pollution!

Percy Woods

Teachers care president says

Dear Sir,
As president of Halton Elementary Teachers' Association, I represent approximately 1,300 elementary teachers in this county. I mention this fact, not because I claim to speak for every teacher, but to indicate that it is my responsibility to be aware of the attitudes, concerns and objectives of these teachers.

As further background to the comments I have to make about the present educational climate in the county, I should add that I have grown up with the system—received my elementary and secondary education here, taught in schools under local trustee boards, township board, the Burlington board and finally, the Halton Board of Education as it now exists. My two sons also attended elementary and secondary schools here.

As a parent and a teacher, I have always taken a deep interest in what goes on at all levels of the educational system. I have not always agreed with all the policies or all the changes which I have witnessed over the years and I have not been hesitant about voicing the concerns I've had. I must admit to my shame, that I have not been as vocally supportive of the tremendous number of "good" things that have happened and are still happening.

Whenever I, as an individual or as a representative of a teachers' or parents' organization, have asked for an audience to express a concern, I have always been a sympathetic hearing by the people who Mr. Campbell in his recent press conference says are ruthless, insensitive, cowardly and intimidating. That may be Mr. Campbell's perception of the situation and there are many reasons why his reaction might differ from mine. My intent is not to quarrel with his impression but rather with the implication that he represents all that is good and right, the administrators represent all that is bad and wrong, and that the teachers function somewhere in a no man's land between, exercising no judgment, existing in a moral vacuum, and having no

personal concern for the well-being of the children assigned to their classes. Mr. Campbell, that is absolute nonsense!

The teachers I know are responsible, articulate citizens. They care about what happens to your children. They want your children to become literate, well-adjusted adults with a respect for themselves and the rights of others. They want your children to be concerned now about what is right and what is wrong. They want them to learn to work in co-operation with others to accomplish whatever each is capable of accomplishing. They want them to acquire the skills of communication that they will need to function efficiently, as well as the other skills which are necessary or desirable to the degree of which each is capable.

Do you, as parents, quarrel with those objectives? Or is the expression of disapproval by Mr. Campbell and the Renaissance Committee directed toward the methods by which we attempt to reach them? While the reason for establishing the committee has been stated as a "concern to see a return to the highest quality of education on our Ontario system", I have seen no comments indicating the faults which need to be corrected within the system, unless I am to understand that Mr. Campbell's frequent references to a meeting at which he was outnumbered, and to an incident at M. M. Robinson constitute such a statement.

It is good that parents are interested enough to give time and thought to improve the educational opportunities for their sons and daughters. It is sad to see a man with an obvious talent for uniting people in a cause, for arousing enthusiasm and a desire to effect positive change, doing so by setting up the various groups involved as combatants on a battlefield, when sincere legitimate concerns could best be dealt with in a spirit of co-operation by sitting down and reasoning together.

Yours sincerely,
Irma Coulson,
R.R. 2, Milton.

One collision

There was just one minor accident in town during the week. It was last Thursday at the corner of Main St. and Cobblehill. Drivers involved were Lawrence Willis, R.R. 4, Acton, with estimated \$80 damage to the car, and Joan Porty, 17 Cobblehill Rd., with estimated \$10 damage to the car.

The Cancer Society campaign for funds continues throughout the month of April.

The Ontario Safety League quotes this from Charles Dickens: "Life is given to us on the strict understanding that we guard it to the end."

NOTICE TO PARENTS KINDERGARTEN REGISTRATION

Kindergarten registration for September, 1974 in North Halton Public Schools will take place on Friday, April 26, 1974 between the hours of 9:00 a.m. and 12:00 noon: 1:15 p.m. and 4:30 p.m. Public school supporters may register their children who will have attained the age of 5 years on or before the last day of February, 1975. Proof of public school support will be accepted in the form of the 1974 tax bill or 1973 assessment notice, or a declaration from the Municipal Clerk's office. A birth certificate or baptismal certificate will be acceptable as proof of age. For further information, call the school principal or the North Education Centre (878-4154). W. Priestner, R. G. Chapman, Chairman, Chairman of the Board North Education Centre.

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