



GOing . . . Acton band plays when GO train arrives



COMING? Acton pleas to have GO unheeded

Bill SMILEY



My last column, if you recall, had a smashing ending. It left your hero asleep in a small hotel in Germany, Lahr, home of most of the Canadian NATO forces in Europe.

Up betimes, after 14 hours sleep, and tottered down to the dining-room, smelling for coffee. Hadn't eaten for 16 hours.

And it was there, sipping a coffee and cognac, in an effort to get the bones moving, that my crazy kid brother, the Colonel, found me at 7.30 a.m. We exchanged our usual fond greetings.

Him: "Hello, you clot. Just up? Supposed to be on our way."

Me: "Hello, clot. Yes. Who cares? I'm dying."

Him: "You're getting a little thin on top, like Dad."

Me: "You're getting a little thick in the middle, like Mum."

The contrast between us was never clearer. He was spic and span, gold braid gleaming, fresh-shaven, full of beans, ready to hit the road for Ramstein; his base, I was in a rumpled flannel shirt, sock feet, unwashed, unshaven, uncombed, and ready to fit him for showing up so early.

He's always like that. And I'm always like that. He comes flying out of nowhere, talks a blue streak, tells a hundred stories and goes dashing off to somewhere. I come dawdling out of somewhere, sit around as taciturn as a turtle, and go dawdling off to nowhere.

He's a hustler; I'm a poke. Perhaps that's why he's a colonel and I'm more of a kernel.

Anyway, it's a great combination to throw together for a three-day crash course on Germany—a hustler and a poke.

sports facilities galore. But of course, it isn't home.

And the troops never forget that they are there on serious business, not on a European holiday.

I received an impression, perhaps wrong, that the Canadian forces feel that they are somewhat forgotten, that the folks at home are rather apathetic about the boys in dark green, the "violent, obedient ones" out there on the periphery with guns.

This is not exactly assuaged by the heavy cuts in our armed forces in Europe. These have been cut approximately in two; from 10,000 to 5,000. The land forces are down from a brigade to a brigade-group. The air arm has been whittled from twelve squadrons in 1954 to three squadrons of attack fighters in 1974.

This hurts, if you are in the service. But morale is high, despite the ancient Centurion tanks, and we have cracking good troops in the front line, made up of tanks, commandos and infantry.

In the air, we have, to quote a well-informed source (my brother), "The best pilots in Europe", and he means it, with no blarney. They are all fighters, and they have a vital role called "first attack". More of this later.

But let's get back to Lahr, and get on with this wretched trip of mine. My brother is now hustling me into his car. The town is pretty with spring flowers everywhere, a change from blizzards. There is a branch of the Bank of Montreal. And there is Jack Thomson and his wife.

He's a first cousin of ours. They live in Winnipeg. It could happen only to me. I fly four thousand miles to savour the ancient hosteries, cathedrals and castles of old Germany, and I wind up sitting at a kitchen table talking and drinking with a cousin I've met once before in my life.

I don't think we'll make it to Ramstein, destination, but we'll have a try next week.

Social note for Western readers: Cousin Jack was in his underwear, and his wife in her nightgown, when we arrived.

OUR READERS WRITE:

Acton park cluttered with litter

Dear Sir,
It is a shame the regional take-over has been so poorly organized it overlooks things so close to people and their way of life.
A lot of Acton citizens make full or part use of the recreation facilities at our once attractive Fairy Lake park. I find it a disgrace to drive through the park gates and find papers, broken limbs, garbage containers and a lot of broken bottles that have been there all Spring this far. After making a few calls about the situation I got nowhere.
It was embarrassing to have people from out of town ask "Do you live here?" and with the answer of "Yes" have the question popped—"What happened?"
This particular man said he had been coming to Acton park every year for the

last 20 years and this is the worst he has ever seen it for garbage.
It is my opinion the works department should look after the living kids' feet rather than the dead man's lawn first. They are too busy with cemeteries.
If the department is too busy to clean up why not have a couple of high school boys and girls work a couple of nights a week to do this. Let them work under the direction of the arena manager who has made sure the grounds were always kept in good order in the past.
I would like to see the park turned back into a respectable recreation area again. This is my opinion. Let's hear yours. Write the Free Press or phone the works department.

A Concerned Citizen.

Turning Fair cheap and shoddy

Dear Sir,
Re Sunday Fall Fair and Beer Garden:
I am writing about the desecration of Sunday by our local fair. It is being turned into something cheap and shoddy when it is necessary to open amusements on Sunday and have the distribution of a product on other days which the world calls the devil's brew.
If people wish to cheapen the vessel God made—themselves—by partaking of such it

certainly should not be done openly.
God's Word should be our guide that this town would become a Christian town and our children come to know Christian truths.
There is far too much evil being put before our young people. We need to wake up and be counted for God.

Mrs. Charlotte Marchmont,
65 Roseford Terrace,
Acton.

Mini-Comment

The Free Press is now being sent to mail subscribers in flat brown paper envelopes instead of being rolled up inside a wrapper. So far we've only had compliments, but we'd like to know if there are any problems or non-arrival of papers. Other than due to the strike, of course.

Fair-weather fishermen found

the opening weekend perfectly to their liking. The avid fishermen are going to fish anyway, and many of them did, travelling miles to get a favorite spot. But little district streams and the shores of Fairy Lake were dotted with happy youngsters who celebrated spring in perfect weather, and brought home some tiny - very tiny - beauties on long, long lines.

Won't exhibit

Dear Sir:

I was deeply concerned in reading a recent copy of the Free Press that Acton Fair was to be extended over Sunday and that there would be a beer garden on the grounds.

Up to now, the Fair has been wholesome family entertainment. Why does the presence of intoxicating beverage have to be introduced? It seems to me that there are plenty of outlets for those who wish to drink without it being available at the Fair.

As for the program being extended over Sunday, with the blaring of midway music and the presence of beer on the grounds, the Biblical law of "Remember The Sabbath Day to Keep it Holy," will be sadly broken.

We have been exhibitors for a number of years but we do not intend to participate this year under this set-up.

A regular exhibitor

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Free Press Editorial Page

B2 The Acton Free Press, Wed., May 1, 1974

Cyclists must observe law

Two bicycles streaked down an Acton street and heedlessly went through a stop sign. The driver of the small car hit the brakes in an effort to avoid hitting the second cyclist. He stopped just in time. The lad on the bicycle—confused—lost some control and hit the guard on the bridge over the school creek.

Not an uncommon incident on Acton's streets with so many cyclists. Some don't observe enough caution just as we motorists sometimes tend to become careless.

Bicycles are vehicles which must observe the rules of the road

or we are going to have tragedies along Acton streets. Cyclists, just as drivers, have to know and observe the regulations laid down for their own safety.

Many of the school children have attended bicycle safety clinics and it is apparent in their attitude while lessons are still fresh. They are courteous, signal intentions, watch for motor vehicle traffic and deport themselves with common sense. However, it seems after a short time they become careless and go their own way trusting motorists will see them in time to avoid metal crunching on

flesh and bone.

It is a dangerous game playing tag on bicycles unless they are somewhere where no other vehicles pass—such as a 12 acre field.

The streets of Acton are no longer the quiet sanctuaries for cyclists they once were. Motor vehicle traffic is heavy especially on the main arteries. Cyclists must observe the rules.

Motorists are also going to have to be more cautious during the summer months. Being human all of us tend to forget the dangers of the road until it hits us personally.

LIP future is bleak

The future of the government's Local Initiatives Program—of late, better known as Liberal Initiatives—is at its bleakest these days, says Jennifer Lewington in The Financial Post.

Next winter, if Ottawa's seasonal job creation does return, it may have to be altered to calm the critics. The government won't make its decision until late in the summer but the strikes against LIP—criticized as a pork barrel and as a thief of labor—may be too much for it this time around.

Manpower and Immigration Minister Robert Andras, faced with statistics which show that Liberal ridings received twice as much funding as their Conservative neighbours, still says criticism of political patronage is "overrated." He also disputes a claim that this

year's allocations were held to maximum or minimum change of 20 percent of the previous year. However, he does concede the principle was used "to smooth out the shifts."

Despite Andras' attempts to downplay the obvious political element in the program, one source ruefully admits: "It's gradually moving to more honesty." Projects under the \$83-million program are starting to close up now, and the government has been adamant in saying there will be no extensions as in other years. Stricter rules were applied this year to cut down any competition with industry for workers. However, there is still strong criticism LIP is attracting young people away from regular jobs.

A continuing high job vacancy

rate—in face of high unemployment—is fueling the argument against LIP. Its supporters, who praise the program's success in providing a new range of social services, are frankly worried that the Liberals will disband LIP. The Post says. Its replacement might be an old-style winter works program which is less innovative but less prone to political disaster.

Andras lends some weight to that theory when he says the impact of recent energy developments on unemployment in Canada is less than originally expected. In addition, he thinks LIP should have a back-up role in solving seasonal unemployment problems.

"I think it should be used as a residual tool after improved traditional manpower approaches and private sector job-matching," he says.

Free Press back issues

20 years ago

50 years ago

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, April 29, 1954

Bruce Shoemaker was elected president of the Acton Tennis club at a recent meeting in the scout hall. Bob Rumley is vice-president, Carol Fetterley secretary, Jackie Chew treasurer, Doris Graham social convener, Mac Dumarsh membership convener, William Dumarsh grounds convener.

Elected to the executive of the Acton Soccer Club last week were May Tyler president, Mike Hafferty secretary, Sid Eisen treasurer, Jim Higgins manager, Les Davies is captain of the team and Jock Calder is vice captain.

Thieves broke into the office of Acton Creamery and after smashing the till and opening another, made off with about \$1 in cash.

Eighteen Acton Y's Men were in Guelph last weekend for the day district conference. One of the highlights was the election of Acton's Garnet (Pat) McKenzie to the position of District Governor.

The mobile chest X-ray clinic has been in town.

Under the auspices of the Rockwood Fish and Game club films were shown in the town hall with a large attendance. Don Hills had charge of the projection machine.

No serious damage resulted when a chimney fire broke out at the home of T. Cutting, Mill St. The fire brigade was summoned and arrived speedily.

Stone farm forum arranged to meet once a month in the summer.

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, May 1, 1924

Rev. John Joseph Feeney, who was for 10 years the pastor beloved of the flock of St. Joseph's church, passed away at the House of Providence, Dundas. He was a popular vocalist and his favorite song when pressed to add his part in an evening sociable was the classic Irish song "Father O'Flynn". The name of Father Feeney will always be revered by many people in this community.

Stirring sermons were preached in the churches in town last Sunday on the importance of the fourth commandment. Pleas were made for the restoration as far as possible of the quiet reverentia Sabbath of earlier days. The congregations were exhorted to refrain from making the day of pleasure alone.

The radio grows in popularity. More outlets are being installed.

Acton has run out of surplus houses again, notwithstanding that about 25 new ones were erected last year, none are now available for rental. Families are doubling up all over town.

The Rockwood Choral Society, with 70 voices, gave an excellent rendering of a beautiful Easter cantata.

Over 50 bottles of home brewed beer, seized in Guelph, were emptied into the sewer at the police station Friday.

The tennis season has opened on the grounds of the Acton Athletic Association.

Mr. A. H. Bishop, the gardener, has now completed his second greenhouse.

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, April 27, 1899

During Tuesday night the small frame house on Main St., just outside the southerly limits of the corporation, with its contents, was destroyed by fire. The house was occupied by Hugh Ryder and family who went to Guelph to visit friends. The building was a cheap one of little value and in poor repair and the contents were not very extensive. Only a few citizens saw the fire and the building being isolated the brigade was not called out. Cause of the fire is unknown, but incendiarism is hinted at.

There is a movement on foot to have the stores closed three nights a week during the summer.

Mr. R. B. Johnson has been appointed caretaker of Knox church at a salary of \$90 per year.

The commandment "Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy" is evidently forgotten by a number of bicyclists these days.

The Misses McArthur, late of Erin, have opened dressmaking rooms over Halstead's store.

Clean up your premises this week and forestall the sanitary inspector.

A number of the Fenian raid medals will come to Halton county.

Wanted: Boy accustomed to horses and willing to make himself generally useful. S. A. McKeague M.D. Fresh milk cow wanted at my dairy, James Barry, Printing apprentice wanted, healthy boy of 14 or 15 years who has passed high school entrance examinations. Free Press office.