



**SILHOUETTED AGAINST** the sky on a farm near Rockwood this mammoth form is one over which a fibre-glass composition will gradually develop into 45 ft. "C" breeze ketch. Graham and Sharon Oughton of Guelph are the ambitious couple who have worked diligently on the project for the past five weeks. It will

be a two-year venture, according to Graham who says that hopefully, by the end of summer, the outside fibre-glassing will have been completed. When it is finished the builder says the craft will be able to sleep nine people with the Great Lakes and Georgian Bay the probable sailing places.

## Bill SMILEY



This week I'll deal with several topics, none of them related, but each of them an aspect of the peculiar world we inhabit in 1974.

Why do so many young people want to go into teaching? There's no real future in it financially, very little hope of finding a job after teacher training, and only an infinitesimal hope of becoming important, famous, or even notorious.

Yet the teachers' colleges keep pouring out thousands of eager and talented young people with a flaming desire to be teachers.

We had two openings for English teachers on our staff this year, and received a pile of applications up to your knees. And these aren't duds, who have been weeded out of the profession because of incompetence. They are the cream of the crop, highly qualified, many with some years of experience, some with extra degrees.

There's a certain amount of security in a teaching job, and the holidays are pretty good. But if you want security, go into the bank, and if holidays are your chief concern, go on welfare.

Teaching has its rewards and satisfactions, but it's a wearing, grinding life, physically and emotionally. I feel sorry for all those excellent young people trying so desperately to get a toe-hold in the profession. I wouldn't suggest to my worst enemy that he (or she) go into teaching.

It would be the equivalent of saying: "Get thee to a nunnery." Strangely enough, I like it. But then, I got into the game back in the days when there was a frantic shortage of teachers, and they were taking any old scuff who could stand up in front of a class.

Now, the election. If those idiots in Ottawa think anyone is happy about it, they're as far out of touch with public opinion as usual.

The Liberals have had two shots at it, and have proved little except that they can't do much about anything. Their policy seems to be to cover the wounds with talcum powder when the patient is bleeding to death.

The Conservatives, in the last eighteen months in opposition, have not exactly set the House on fire, which might be the best and only way they could get the attention of the electorate.

The NDP has had the best of the deal in the last parliament, letting the Liberals pull their chestnuts out of the fire and squealing any possibility of a Tory blaze by voting with the government. The party has shown more politics than statesmanship, and an almost repulsive enjoyment of power.

This time around we need more than a shrug, a mumble, or a smarmy washing of hands. We need a government with the guts to govern. And the chances of getting it from the talent on display seems minimal.

Personally, I'd vote for Joe Stalin if he could do something about inflation, and I'm sure enough other people would to put him in the P.M.'s chair.

Last week I chanced to look at the price of a small can of bully beef. Seven ounces, 82 cents. This means, roughly, that a pound of that smashed-up mess of meat, gristle, fat, and the odd bit of bone, from third-rate cattle, costs about \$1.85. There is something rotten in the state of Argentina.

I am utterly appalled by our grocery bills, and can't help thinking that there is a grand rip-off in there somewhere. The farmers aren't getting it, and the chain stores claim they aren't. But someone is.

My heart bleeds for the large family on a low income. The working man demands

higher wages and is not even holding his own when he gets them. We're headed for a depression, chaps. Your dollar of a couple of decades ago is worth fifty cents today, and may be worth forty cents next week.

Now I'll turn my attention to something closer to home. And closer is the word. I can hear my grandbaby from all the way downstairs, bellowing with brazen lungs for his dinner.

He's a bonny baby. In fact, I say without prejudice that he's the handsomest baby I've ever laid eyes on. Huge dark eyes, and a grin that would melt a Mother Superior.

But his mother has some odd ideas. She has some good ones, too, like feeding him mother's milk, on which he is waxing into a butter-ball.

However, she wants to bring him up the way the Indians and Eskimaux do. Pick him up when he cries; feed him when he's hungry; play with him when he's bored. Never speak crossly or punish.

He's a "good" baby. Sleeps a lot, chuckles a lot, kicks a lot, plays with his hands. When his mother is around.

Twice in the last three days, I've offered to babysit, while his Mum went to a show. No problem. Baby sound asleep after a good solid dinner from the twin fountains of life. And if he does wake up, ole Grandad can always amuse him with songs and witty sayings.

Thirty minutes after his Mum is out of the house, he wakes up. With bated breath I hear the first bawl. With despair I hear it build to a full-throated bellow that would suggest the imp is being martyred at the stake by the Iroquois.

Pick him up, dandle him, jig him, sing to him, talk my version of Chinese to him, always a great hit when Mum's around. No dice.

He wants grub, and I ain't plumbed right for it. An hour and a half of torture, changing diapers, blowing on his belly, kitching and cooing. Nothing works. His Mum comes home, whips out the equipment and the little devil is asleep in ten minutes, and sleeps all night.

So, here are my predictions. Another minority government, a major depression, and a spoiled kid.

## Prognosis looks bleak

Burgers of Acton who were quick to point out the inadequacies of regional government as we know it to date made their complaints out of a sense of frustration. They saw powers which were once vested with people they knew going to strangers who live elsewhere.

The appearance of the town hasn't changed; people still reside along the same streets, garbage is picked up, the sun comes up every day, seasons change as they always do, there is representation on the new Halton Hills council—all pluses which show the arm of authority continues despite the change of venue.

But the average resident knows his destiny is no longer in his own hands to the extent it was before the new system of government was implemented. The steady erosion of autonomy continues. It is an outgoing process which will soon see the local hydro commission dissolved in a favor of a larger, more bureaucratic board. He recognizes it is another in the long line of small

town decisions going elsewhere. As he sees it, regional government has stripped the community of much of its identity—torn its heart out, by moving the decision-making process elsewhere.

There are other intangibles difficult to pin down. The overriding impression of the typical resident of Acton is the new town has left him living in a northern suburb. The nerve centre of Halton Hills seems to be in the Georgetown area. Ironically it has happened in the very year the community of Acton achieved 100 years of age, most of it under its own steam.

It was inevitable, we suppose—the greater always swallows the smaller: quality of life is not necessarily the criterion.

First inkling of changes in government came when school boards were transformed from small units into the larger county boards. Object of the exercise was to improve the educational opportunities for the children in areas where population was few and far

between as well as to improve facilities. This, of course, meant transferring children by bus to larger schools. There was opposition but the new system worked and the benefits are there for all to see.

The theory behind regional government—lumping the province into fewer units to make planning easier and fewer municipalities for the province to deal with—has never lived up to its expectations in Halton. Staff is increasing but the area of responsibility is the same, higher pay is going to politicians and more meetings but no more accomplishment, more money spent but areas of concern not much larger.

We'll be interested in seeing the county as opposed to those when the county was divided into seven municipalities, taking the rate of inflation into consideration, of course.

To date the prognosis looks bleak.

## Free Press / Editorial Page

B2 The Acton Free Press, Wed., May 29, 1974

## Free Press Back Issues

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, May 27, 1954.

When the Five Counties Art Association held its first display in Orangeville there were 22 paintings by amateur Acton artists among the 262 on display. Mrs. Kathleen Alger, Mrs. O. Lamb, Mrs. Lorne Masales, Mrs. George Musselle, Miss Bella Maye Reszell, Miss Waretta Smith, Mrs. Irene Wedge, Miss Doris Wilson, Harry Otterbein and George Bowman.

K. R. Simmons, Toronto, was hired as engineer to handle services for three municipalities, Acton, Milton and Georgetown. His salary is \$4,200. The idea of an engineering triumvirate was greeted coolly here three weeks ago but Tuesday council voted in favor unanimously.

Acton high school field day champions are senior girls Janice Baker, intermediate Donna McMillan, junior Wendy McKenzie; senior Donald Dawkins, intermediate Wayne Arbie, junior William Oost.

President of Halton county W.I. for the past two years Mrs. R. L. Ellerby, R.R. 4, received her jewel for outstanding services.

Two Empire Day programs were held Friday afternoon at Acton public school. Winners of the I.O.D.E. awards this year are Jessie Ware, Linda Braida, Mary Grischow, Diane Swackhamer, Sandra Binnie, Gail Rozeell, Carol Candler, Garry Masales, Dietrich Schmuil, Pauline Marks, Carolyn Cook, Elyonne McGladrey, Sharon Gervais, Ella Jany and Betty Bean.

Thursday was visitors' day at the high school. The grade 8 students of all the county schools came to Acton high for the day. In all, there were about 40 students.

John and Thomas Gordon and Fred Gordon have purchased the hardware business operated by W. Talbot in Acton for 28 years. Clare Pickett will continue to work in the store.

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, May 29, 1921.

Last Friday evening the motor car driven by Mr. Harding Price of the Acton crossroad and the horse and buggy of Mr. John Sprowl of the third line came into collision on Mill St. opposite the Soldiers Monument. It was during the rain and Mr. Price was unable to see through his misty windshield. Both rigs were more or less damaged. Mr. Price at once assumed the blame of the accident and agreed to pay the costs of the damages sustained. Mr. Sprowl was run into by an automobile last fall while driving the same horse and rig on Young St.

The annual Empire Day concert of the I.O.D.E. was held in the Town Hall last Friday evening. The hall was packed to capacity. Prize winners for essays read are Ella Woods, Esther Taylor, Kathleen Stewart, Isabel Bruce, Marjory Garden, Phyllis Howard, Meryl Grindell, Frank Cook, Mac Stewart, Hazel Tarzwell, Arthur Henderson, Ivy Little. Each of the prize essayists was presented with a book by Mrs. William Cooper. The judges were the clergy of Acton. Each room sang songs and choruses in a contest with the fourth room successful in winning the highest number of points. They were presented with a large Canadian flag donated by Mrs. Amos Mason. The judges were Messrs. A. Mason, F. P. Salt and J. Lewis.

Mr. W. G. C. Kenney has successfully passed his fourth year examinations at the Medical College and Duff Wilson his first year.

Another landmark is being removed. The old barn on the premises of Mr. George Mulholland is being torn down. This barn originally stood on the property owned by James Mackie.

There was a brief snowstorm May 25.

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, May 25, 1929.

The section men at the G.T.R. went out on strike Monday morning with 180 others employed by the G.T.R. system. They demand an additional 25 cents a day to their pay and pay for overtime. Their present pay is: Foremen, \$1.50 per day; men, \$1.00, from which is deducted 2 to 3 cents by the company for insurance, making the money actually received \$1.47 and 98 cents per day.

A quiet wedding was consummated at the home of Mrs. Mary Orr when her youngest daughter Kate was united in holy wedlock to Mr. Mark Sutton. Miss Mamie Masalas was the bridesmaid and the groom was supported by Mr. A. T. Brown. Among the number of pretty wedding presents was a valuable military toilet case from the officers and non-commissioned officers of Company C, Lorne Rifles, of which Mr. Sutton was Color Sergt.

Mr. and Mrs. Sutton left Monday for Groversville. Their removal will be keenly felt in the Disciples church where they have both been active members for years.

Miss McLelland wishes to inform the ladies that she will be at liberty to take in dressmaking or go to their homes by the day.

A very painful case came up before Magistrates Pearson and Havill. Mrs. Sarah Johnson, an old lady of 64 years, had been ordered to leave the home of her daughter. The sons and daughters, at various points, were found entirely devoid of filial affection. They had no recourse but to commit the old lady, whose only offense was that she talked too much, to the county county goal as a vagrant. A son and daughter were in court and appeared unmoved at this humiliating action.

## Our readers write

### Some cleaning up requested

96A Arthur St. Guelph.

Secondly the small community of Eden Mills, of which I must say it is a credit to the people who live. It is neat and tidy, gardens given tender and loving care, and properties in general well kept, with one exception.

This whole picture is spoilt, by a rather large pile of rotting strips of wood, which confronts one as you approach the river. Is it not possible for whoever is responsible for this untidy mess to either put it where it belongs, namely a garbage dump and alternatively out of sight of passing visitors to this area.

Lastly, high praise for those people who

have given many free hours of labor at the Local Community Hall and with the help of Government funds, have made this centre a modern centre of social life. They are to be highly commended, but whoever left this pile of rotting wood where it now is, should get it cleaned up and not spoil people's efforts to keep this village a model, beautiful and a clean place to live in.

Thanking you for the use of your valuable space to air my views.

Yours truly, A. E. Welch

### Protests prejudiced questions

The Editor, The Acton Free Press.

Dear Sir:

As a faithful reader of The Acton Free Press I have noted with interest news reports of the continuing battle of The Halton Renaissance Committee with the Halton Board of Education. I imagine that many readers have shared my perplexity with respect to this group and what it stands for. On the one hand, our sympathies naturally go out to David in any contest when he tries to take on Goliath, especially when David professes to represent us, the parents and taxpayers. On the other hand, the group sounds so unrepresentative in speaking of morality as if sex and improper language were the only relevant issues. And how can you take a group seriously who sees the world as black or white, either or, theistic or atheistic? But as of last week I decided to take them seriously.

Last week they slipped into my mailbox what they called a questionnaire. I was flattered that they wanted my opinion until I saw that many of the questions were designed to be answered in only one way. Consider question ten and what precedes it, masquerading as helpful information: there are some novels which are recommended or required reading in high-schools which when made into movies are rated

"restricted". Often the written version is more erotic than the movie. Human sexuality is debased and there is a degrading of human dignity in the contents. 10. Are you in favour of such literature being required or recommended reading for high-school students?

There is no room for opinion here. No is the only answer unless one is a self-confessed degenerate. The next questions lead us in a similar way to approve of the removal of "such novels" from libraries and of the discipline of teachers who recommend them.

But to what are we being committed? First, we are asked to ignore the crucial distinction between required reading and recommended reading, the latter of which the student is not obliged to do. Next, we are to reject novels on the basis of how a movie is rated, as if there were some necessary connection between the way material is treated in different media. Worse still, we are encouraged to regard the erotic, which the Oxford dictionary defines "of love", as nasty and perverse. Finally we are never told what novels are degrading and debased, as if the schools recognize them as such and, thus are deliberately corrupting young people. In short, we are asked to agree to the most preposterous notions in the prejudicial way many of the questions

are worded. I protest. Just as in much advertising and pornography the essential aim of this so-called questionnaire is disguised. Our opinions are not being solicited, our endorsement of The Committee's vague and dangerous notions is.

While I am uncovering bias, let me reveal my own. I am an English teacher, although not in the Halton system. As appalled as I am by the blatant propaganda of the document, I am also disturbed by the spelling errors, and by the basic unreadability of sentences such as question 24: In your opinion has the emphasis on teaching children the techniques of discovering knowledge resulted in a damaging de-emphasis on curriculum content and the acquisition (sic) of the knowledge learned best by drill, which is essential to function adequately in our society?

Would anyone committed to "academic excellence" write such vile sentences? Among the values with which high-schools are concerned are literary standards, sanity and sagacity in the conduct of meaning. If this so-called questionnaire is any indication, The Halton Renaissance Committee care not a whit for these values. R. Duncan Appleford R.R. No. 4, Acton.

## Weeklies comment

NEW LOOK AT RAILWAYS (Wingham Advance-Times)

The announcement last week that the federal minister of transportation will call a three-level meeting to take a second (or is it third or fourth?) look at railway passenger services certainly comes none too soon. The report of a special committee of the House of Commons which recommended immediate restoration of passenger services in Western Ontario has been fading on the order desk in the House for upwards of two years.

Bob McKinley's motion that the report be adopted (and implemented) was left hanging in mid air when Parliament was dissolved prior to the election in the fall of 1972 and has never been acted upon since the new House convened.

When that all-party committee made its recommendations the outstanding reason for its conclusions was the inconvenience suffered by residents of this area. Now, however, there is even more urgent cause to look closely at the abandonment of facilities and the demolition of facilities. Imminent shortages of gasoline and diesel oil point very clearly to an enforced reduction of private auto usage. Within the next few years thousands of people who

have driven their own vehicles to and from the cities may be forced by sheer necessity to depend upon public transport. Passenger trains could become more vital to our economy than they ever were in the days before the invention of the private car.

The railways themselves are aware of this fact. Witness the recent increase in the passenger runs to and from Toronto and London and on to Windsor.

Restoration of the old diesel-electric units for passenger service would solve few problems. Both railways and unions should take a realistic look at alternative lighter and faster vehicles to provide the speed and economy which would make passenger service attractive to 20th century travellers. At long last they should study passenger rail services in Europe where trains get people to their destinations with a minimum of delay and discomfort.

Abandonment of passenger services which were losing money hand over fist was understandable from the economic standpoint—but the continued removal of depot facilities and the lack of any known plan to be ready for a changing pattern of travel needs certainly indicates a lack of intelligent planning on the part of both railways and government.

—Wingham Advance-Times

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