



ACTON LEGION Choralists led the singing at the Decoration Day services on Sunday. The weather was warm and sunny for the occasion and the graves were beautifully decorated as citizens had planted flowers during the previous week.

Bill SMILEY



Well, were you alert enough to fill your gas tank and pick up half a dozen fly-gallon Jerry cans of the stuff before the price soared?

Were you smart enough to have your furnace-oil tank filled before the stuff turned to black gold?

That's funny. Neither was I. In fact, my wife informed me, the day after gasoline prices headed for the moon, that we were riding on a pint and a prayer.

"Dummy!" I stated. "Dummy yourself," she retorted. "Why didn't you tell me the price was going up?"

"Twice-dummy," I responded coolly. "Why don't you read the ruddy newspapers?"

"Thrice-dummy," was her unoriginal answer. "Because you're always hogging them, and you never talk to me, and I'm alone all day and never see anyone, and you come home and bury your big fat nose in the newspapers, and I'm sick and tired of it."

"Bull-oney!" I snorted, and we were off on one of those half-hour deals so popular with married couples, and from which I always emerge looking like Archie Bunker.

And there wasn't a bit of truth in her tirade. I don't hog the papers. I let her have the classified ads section and the sports section, when I've finished with it. She's not home alone all day. She has the cats. She sees people—the postman and the garbage men—when they're not on strike. And I don't have a big, fat nose. It's just big.

I'm digressing. But I often do that when I get talking about my helpmeet, my other half, my chickadee, my lambie, the Joan to my Darby, that broad who is driving me squirrely with talk about spring cleaning.

What I really began to discuss was my native ability, born knack, or sheer genius, at missing chances to save money. There aren't many such chances, in these parlous times, but every time there is one, I seem to be out to lunch.

Show me a hydro bill, and I'll show you that it's four days past the deadline for the discount. By the way that's one sweet racket. Hydro sends you a bill, with a certain "discount" if it is paid within a certain date. That means that Hydro can get along quite nicely if everyone pays on time. Right? Therefore, the "discount" is no such thing. It's a penalty. Robbers.

Show me an income tax return and I'll show you that I should have been paying, and have not been, quarterly, in advance. So I'm penalized.

Show me a full-page advertisement featuring a big sale, 50 per cent off everything, and I'll show you that the paper is ten days old, and the sale ended last Saturday.

Show me a big jump in the price of beef or lettuce, and I'll show you a craving for red meat and salad.

And my wife is just the same. Show her six books of wall-paper samples—all good, sturdy, durable, colorful stuff, and she will unerringly pick the one that's twice the price of all the others.

My swim suit invariably springs a leak in July, before the August sales begin. My winter boots spring the same thing in January, before the sales begin.

If I plunge for five shares of a sure-thing stock, a war starts, or Nixon says something stupid again, and there's a stock market slump.

I don't consider this to be a malignant thing. I don't really believe, though it has crossed my mind, that God has it in for me. Maybe it's Old Debby! At any rate, it happens too often to be a coincidence, and I'm getting sick of it, by gum.

A typical was the first Olympic Sweep-stake. I forgot to get a ticket. You'd think a guy's friends would remind him. But oh, no. Not them. Too greedy. And I've a sneaking notion I'd have won the million bucks. Boy, would I show my so-called friends, if I won that. They wouldn't see me for gold-dust.

But there is one little area in which my wife and I are infallible, when it comes to saving money. Every year, we pay our house taxes in January. I think we save about eight dollars. That will show them, we tell each other solemnly.

Leave Fairview cemetery alone

The proposal by Kingham Hill Estates to take a 20 foot swath from Fairview cemetery property should be examined closely by the works committee of Halton Hills council.

The company says the grade is so steep at the cemetery property line it will end up right at the back door of new homes proposed for the area, creating a drainage problem among others. The developer does not propose to buy the cemetery land or use it, just lower the grade of the slope.

We can't buy it. It's like putting the cart before the horse. The developers surely knew the grade from the cemetery was going to be

sleep before they planned houses on their property. Approvals should have never been given if there was going to be a problem.

Taking a swath from the forest cover in that area means losing several fine trees which would take decades to replace. There has to be another solution—or else the developer should forget about building houses backing on the steep grade which originates in the cemetery.

Town Engineer Peter Morris has said he can see nothing wrong with the proposal—outside of the fact a number of fairly large trees have to go. We can. Although there have been no burials in that wooded

section of the cemetery we believe the people of Acton would like it to stay as it is.

We sympathize with the developer who has to contend with the problem of building under adverse conditions but as Mayor Tom Hill asked at the committee meeting: "Didn't you know this would happen when you sent in your plan?"

Fairview Cemetery has been one of Acton's beauty spots and the character of the land should remain as it is without further interference, unless it concerns interments. That 20 strip of land makes an excellent buffer between the new subdivision and the cemetery.

Free Press Editorial Page

No industry if help scarce

Efforts to get more industry for Acton and area are not going to be successful unless manufacturers in the district can get the help they need to carry on operations.

The story in last week's Free Press about frustrations one plant manager ran into attempting to recruit help so an existing operation could expand is typical of the state of employment. Unless Polypenco can get further people to run the operation, expansion won't be feasible. They are expecting a business increase of 35 per cent.

The plant manager feels that efforts of Canada Manpower for this area are not producing. He thinks Halton Hills should have a Canada Manpower office of its own to supply manpower to industry in the area. We are inclined to agree. There's an office open one day a week in Georgetown but Acton, Georgetown and Esquesing have merged into one municipality of 32,000 and surely an office would make sense here.

Acton employers have to deal with the Brampton office now, a rather awkward arrangement when Brampton and area employers are probably facing similar problems.

The shortage of manpower in a country where some areas are facing severe employment problems is one of the enigmas this country has been wrestling with since its foundation. The ideal would be to move those men out of work in one section of the country to a place where there is a labor shortage. However, there are severe financial problems in settling into an affluent area where housing and types of accommodation are tight. Then again not every man out of work wants to leave the district in which he resides.

There's also the problem of getting suitable help, compounded by those who pretend they want to work but really have no intentions to do so. Unemployment figures

show that less than four portions out of every hundred are unemployed in Ontario which is getting pretty close to the full employment figure.

This means all available labor is going to be snapped up by those who have manpower offices. Few, if any, would think of the smaller towns when job opportunities are so plentiful in the cities.

Polypenco plant manager Mike Worthington has been trying to get action on a Manpower office for Halton Hills. He contacted M.P. Terry O'Connor, who in return made overtures to the Hon. Robert Andress—with no results.

We think this is pretty good election bait. Which of the three parties asking for Halton Hills votes would place a Canada Manpower office in town? It's a question worth asking.

Certainly no new industry would settle here unless there is an adequate labor pool to draw from.

Free Press back issues

The Clergy speak out

Longer store hours

by Rev. Leonard E. F. Ewing

In the past few years, we have seen the lengthening of business hours in many retail businesses. Gas stations and small variety stores, which have often been open Sundays, holidays and evenings are being joined these days by larger stores and retail chains.

For the most part, the major retail store managements and the large retail workers' unions have been united in opposing this trend. The retailers argue that longer hours, and particularly Sunday or holiday shopping, substantially increases their costs (labour, utilities, etc.) without similarly drastically increasing sales. This in turn means that the consumer must pay more for goods.

Verification for this viewpoint is easy to obtain—a quick check shows that prices in food stores which open Sundays and holidays are definitely higher on the majority of items than in food chains that are closed Sundays, holidays and certain evenings. On the other hand, the unions point to the damage to family life which Sunday, holiday and excessive evening work parents and children can end up seeing very little of each other.

The general public—and I—have operated on a double standard in this whole matter. While decrying the cost of increased shopping hours in dollars and in family life, we have also pressured for the stores to be open. We say "Stores shouldn't be open Sundays," but we show no hesitancy to shop in those stores which do open them.

Why do we operate on this double standard? The ex-

perience of the major food chains in areas of Quebec province (where unions and managements agreed about four years ago to close the stores from noon Saturday until noon Monday) has shown that longer hours and more shopping days are not necessary for the consumer, the owner or the worker. This destroys the "convenience" and "economic" arguments at times marshalled to support increased store hours.

The reason for our double standard is found in plazas, malls and monster shopping centres in the suburbs. With their long hours six days a week, they attract large crowds of all ages. These people just seem to roar around—few can be seen carrying purchases. We use the malls more for entertainment than for commerce—and therein lies our problem. We have more wealth and less working time than our parents had—and we have become affluent and bored. We can't use our leisure and our affluence creatively—we don't know what to do with our time and money.

But is the price worth it? Are not the increased prices and personal life difficulties for workers too high a price to pay to have the stores amuse us in our boredom? Rather, should we not own up to our boredom and admit that excessive "window-shopping" is a lazy cop-out? Until we admit that we use stores for entertainment more than for shopping, we are asking the managers, sales clerks and stockroom workers to pay the emotional and psychological price for our inability to use leisure—and that is human exploitation!

Weeklies comment

OUT OF OUR POCKETS (St. Mary's Journal-Argus)

One of the things which bothers many citizens of this country a great deal is the over-spending of our tax dollars by government at various levels. Just this month an example of how our money is "over-spent" was shown concerning the trade fair in Shanghai, China.

The thing that really bothers, however, is the attitudes that influence the expenditure of public money. For instance, the Canadian Government furnished each hotel room in Shanghai with a bottle of whiskey for the benefit of "special guests" at the fair.

This is only a small item in the expenditure of \$300,000 by the Canadian Government on this fair. With only 34 firms represented at the fair, 22 public servants made the trip from Ottawa to "see that all went well." The Government, in order to secure the participation of firms in the fair, also paid the entire expense of shipping their exhibits across the Pacific!

Do officials who approve public expenditure such as this really pause to reflect that the money they are spending comes, not from some limitless "pirate's treasure trunk" but from the pockets of working people?

Perhaps participation in the Shanghai Fair is important, but most taxpayers will agree that Ottawa could have trimmed the budget a good deal if they were really in tune with the feeling of the taxpayers of this country.

Our readers write

COUNT YOUR BLESSINGS
Out here in the "region"
Where the township used to be,
They've got the garden planted,
Behind the maple tree.

Grandad raised up all the stones,
While Grandma dropped the seed,
There is no soil, where the good folk toil,
So, they never have to weed.

With the good soil, neath the highways,
The rest is awful thin,
They took the best and left the rest,
To grow the "later" in.

Though they never find a grain of soil
While on their bended knees,
In the stoney coil, they scrape and toil,

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, June 3, 1954.

Work at Acton's new \$100,000 high school is progressing toward its summer completion.

Two of the town's veteran businessmen, W. D. Talbot and E. R. Barr, this week closed doors to join the ranks of the retired after a total of 50 years serving residents of Acton and district. Mr. Barr, a native Actonian, opened his grocery store at the corner of Mill and Elgin Sts. 22 years ago but had been in early years in the grocery business of Henderson and Co.

W. D. Talbot started in the hardware business 28 years ago. He bought the business from Kennedy and Son then located on Main St. He later moved his store to Mill and Main streets where the IGA store is now located and then to the present property purchased from Beardmore and Co. The store has been bought by John and Thomas Gordon. (Now Moss Hardware).

Principal O. E. Robbins of Acton high school resigned during the week to accept the principalship of Souvilleville high school. He has been principal here for five years.

First social evening of the Tennis Club for the season was the open night Friday. A vacation Bible School will be held in Acton again this summer, planned by Acton Ministerial Association.

Leno Braida has passed his third year chemical engineering with honors.

The high school exemption lists were posted Wednesday and quite a number of the students are free from trying examinations. Good luck to this year's upper school in their exams, Isabelle Ritchie.

and plant some little peas.
But when it comes to harvest-time,
The Lord assures a crop,
With aching bones, they lift the stones,
and pull the "taters" up on top.

Like squirrels round the pile of rock,
They gather up the nuts,
Then their harvest store, on the cellar floor,
and cover up the rats.

Safe in, from all the winter storms,
With all its snow white dressing,
They take their seat, before they eat,
and ask God for his blessing.

Victor Smith,
R. R. 2, Rockwood.

Barbara Turner, Enn Jennings, Donald Dawkins, Fred Gordon, David McVey and Ronald Halston.

In place of their regular scout meeting the boys, with Dave Hills, Murray Scoyne and Roy Kirkness, went to Blue Springs and cut down trees ready to make a new gate for one of the entrances.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, June 9, 1924.

The Horticultural Society has placed window boxes, filled with choice plants and flowers, on the outside window sills of the front and sides of the Government Building and the Town Hall. President Scriven has had much to do in bringing the matter to a successful issue.

The contractors are at work on the section of the Toronto-Sarnia highway from Acton to the seventh line. Widening and grading are now in progress.

"Aunt Susan's Visit" to the Town Hall last Wednesday evening was rather tardy, the audience having been kept waiting till nine o'clock for the actors and actresses to arrive from Nassagaweya.

Mr. Alexander Waldie, the grand old man of this community, has been rather

seriously ill this past week. A visit from his pastor Rev. Mr. Findlay was of much comfort to him.

The Acton Athletic Association will hold what is likely the final dance of the season in the town hall Friday evening.

With Acton's four or five baseball teams now all under way the fans are getting all the varieties of baseball the heart could desire.

The sudden death of Mrs. Wm. Shorthill of Ballinacra was an event of great sorrow to the community.

Numerous new automobiles are appearing with the warm weather. Review for the June examinations is in full exercise in the schools now.

The schools are very loyal to King George. The schools observed his birthday Tuesday as a holiday.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, June 1, 1899.

The seventh annual picnic at Dublin on the Queen's Birthday was more largely attended than on any previous occasion. Between 400 and 500 guests assembled. The competition in the various games was keen but the prizes were mostly taken by outsiders. The supper was highly enjoyable and the dancing platform was constantly in requisition.

The hand of death has been laid very heavily upon the officary of Knox church during the past few months. Within a little over six months four elders: Messrs Peter Mann, Alexander Grant, James Cobban and Archibald Campbell have been removed by death.

About four months ago after a severe cold, Mrs. William Forbes was found to be suffering from a tubercular affection of the lungs and the inroads of the disease continued. Her trust in her Heavenly Father grew brighter and stronger. She longed to be at rest and welcomed the call when it came Thursday morning. She was 32 years of age. Freddy, the only living child, is eight.

The fire-cracker nuisance has been pretty thoroughly stamped out. Young Charlie Matthews was painfully burned by a giant cracker, however.


The Kickapoo Indian company have been giving concerts in Rockwood town hall this week. The show is very good and they receive good patronage.

Electric lighting has been installed in St. Alban's church.

Mr. David Mills received an ugly kick from one of his horses Tuesday night and was laid up yesterday.

The soldier boys are getting ready for camp next week. Sheep-washing time has come again.

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