



ACTON LIONS new centennial swimming pool is reminiscent in shape of a stadium, and has a marked similarity to the Soviet pavilion at Expo '67, on a smaller

scale. Construction is nearing the final stages and the Lions hope it can be officially opened in late summer.

There is a fair bit of panic in the financial world these days. One of Germany's big banks failed. The stock market is more like a swamp than a market. Inflation is scaring the wits out of people and even politicians.

It was inevitable that some of us bigger figures in the financial and business game would be affected personally. Sure enough, I've been caught in a personal bind and I don't know whether to go for broke or go for the hills.

I've been a pretty big shareholder of a stock called Peel Elder. I have 25 shares. It's a long story and I've told it before. But I got in on the ground floor, as we say on Bay St. and Wall St. These are a couple of well known streets in the financial world. One of them runs down to the bay, in case you want to drown yourself when the market is slumping. The other has a wall for pounding your head against in the same eventuality.

Well, as I was saying, I got in early. Was discharged from the air force with a couple of thousand bucks the paymaster had thoughtfully put away for me while I was in prison camp.

I had decided I wasn't going to slug and sweat all my life just to make a living. I was going to make it fast, and make it big.

I looked the field over pretty carefully, searching for a career with a built-in escalator. And the field looked right back at me with a cold and steady eye, saying, in effect, "What do you know how to do, besides crash-landing an aircraft in a plowed field?"

There wasn't really much I could answer to that. So, I thought, "The heck with the big corporations, when they can't recognize talent, drive and sheer ability, even though these are staring them right in their cold, corporate eye."

The final straw arrived when a personnel manager at Bell Telephone told me warmly that yes, he thought there might be a real future for me with the company, and yes, he thought he might find a place for me in three or four months, but I'd have to start at the bottom, like everyone else.

Bill SMILEY



It turned out that the bottom was sweeping floors at something like \$48 a week. Even in those days The Bell paid good wages. That's probably why they have to ask for a rate increase every couple of years, to compensate for their incredible generosity to their employees.

Anyway, the bottom didn't have much appeal. I'd had something in mind more like Vice-President in charge of Public Relations.

So I shook him warmly by the hand, with that sincerity that only a V-P in charge of PR can muster, thanked him, and said, "Mustn't take any more of your time. I have to dash to the Royal York for lunch with Jack McClelland of McClelland and Stewart, then catch the afternoon train for Montreal, where President Crump of the CPR has been trying to get hold of me for a week. By the way, if you get sick of The Bell, look me up in a year or so, and I might have something for you. Just contact Bill Smiley Associates, Incorporated, not to mention Limited."

At least I left him with his mouth open, but I was seething inside. Some people seethe on the outside, but I always do it inside.

Anyway, I strode out of there, muttering, "All right, O.K. If that's the way they want it, I'll go it alone. I'll destroy them all within five years. I'll plunge into the stock market and buy them all up and have mergers and conglomerates and covary and all sorts of stuff." Even then, young and inexperienced, I knew the jargon of big business.

So I plunged. It was like a butterfly plunging at a bull elephant.

Oh, I didn't just roar around buying up companies. I didn't buy just any old stocks. I wish I had. I bought some so new the ink wasn't dry on the certificates.

But I proceeded with caution. I wasn't going to be taken in by some smooth-talking operator working out of a telephone booth.

On the advice of my landlady's sister, who had her hair done every Wednesday with a friend who baby-sat for a prominent stock-broker's former wife, I decided to plunge into Northern Ontario gold.

My first choice was a lucky one. I bought into a company with a property so rich that even the moose who used it for pasture had gold fillings in their teeth.

And I didn't fool around with penny stocks. That's for the little guy with two hundred bucks to invest. No, I went for the solid, blue chip stuff.

I snapped up one thousand shares of this stock for 22 cents a share. Within two days it had shot up to 23 cents. I was on my way, and I've never looked back since. It hurts too much. In three weeks the stock wasn't listed on the financial page. I still think it was because some of us were making fortunes, and he left the name of the mine out of the list through sheer spite.

But all this is getting us nowhere. I started out to tell you how a couple of big conglomerates or condominiums or whatever they call them are ganging up to get hold of my 25 shares of Peel Elder. They've offered to buy them for \$13 a share and I could have sold them a month ago for \$11.75 a share.

There's something fishy going on, and if I can get to the bottom of it, I'll expose the whole thing in next week's column. Just hang in there and wait. I don't want to see other simple stockholders get hurt.

Disenchanted

To Whom It May Concern:

The Halton School Trustees' reversal of their position concerning the controversial 107-page book-list requested by the teachers, has left a concerned public further disenchanted and frustrated by the unresponsiveness of the public educational system to their concerns. The Trustees' blanket approval of the list was apparently based on two essential considerations:

1. The emphatic judgment expressed by superintendent of program John Boich that after monitoring opinion expressed in the media, discussion at the school level, and other sources of input, "I have become convinced that this community wants no part of censorship." (In view of his well-known permissive position in this regard, the above-mentioned discovery must have been a real surprise to him! It may have a lot to do with where he looked for "input" too?)

2. The assurances by Mr. Boich that "any book on the list is negotiable if the student or his parents find it morally objectionable." (What student studying "Playboy" in a Grade 11 "communications class" is going to find his studies "morally objectionable"? What student enjoying such exotic pleasures as are provided for them in the permissive atmosphere of the schools is going to jeopardize the availability of such "goodies" by even mentioning to the narrow-minded old foggies at home the sort of reading material which makes the communications course such a "winner"?)

Convincing

These two considerations were sufficient to convince all who had protested the list at the Board meeting two weeks earlier, except Dick Goodin, (Tom Watson was unavoidably absent), that the entire list should be approved. This approval, following the initial refusal by the Trustees to approve the list, (viewed by the public as a heartening demonstration of Trustee willingness to assume their public educational managerial responsibilities), left that same public pretty nonplussed and disillusioned.

I challenge the Trustees to explain why Mr. Boich's private, informal opinion survey is to be taken more seriously than the responsible and representative "every householder" Renaissance survey.

The recently published preliminary survey findings in this regard demonstrate conclusively that the public rejects Boich's opinions and overwhelmingly is in favor of a discriminatory book selection policy which rejects the presence in the schools of

back issues

Free Press

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of July 13, 1954.

Mrs. E. Grischow has returned home from a month's vacation with her sister, Mrs. J. Vally of Winnipeg, Manitoba. Winners of the Soccer Club's draw were Mrs. Mary Archer, Mrs. Frances Johnston of Acton and J. Dawetto of Guelph.

An Acton district man was fined \$90 and has his license suspended for three months when he appeared in court in Acton on Wednesday on a charge of driving while his ability was impaired. Magistrate K. Langdon heard the only case.

Born: Prystass; Mr. and Mrs. Joe Prystass, Arthur St., Acton, are very happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Catherine Helen, at the Nursing Home, Acton, on July 9, 1954, a little sister for Michael. Mother and baby are just fine.

On Sunday afternoon, July 4, several relatives paid a surprise visit to the farm home of Mr. and Mrs. A.F. Marshall. Among the visitors were Mr. and Mrs. F.C. Marshall and daughter Marjorie, Mr. and Mrs. H. Marshall and son Gordon, Mr. Stanley Marshall, Mr. and Mrs. William Hall, Mr. and Mrs. Gaylor, all of Toronto, and Mr. and Mrs. Ken Marshall and three children from Acton. Mr. and Mrs. Marshall and three grandchildren, Jack, Barbara and Beverly, welcomed their guests and served a picnic supper.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of July 17, 1904.

After the community service on Sunday evening, when Miss W. Ford was returning her new coupe to the Ford Garage, on Main Street, she made the entrance to the garage a little too hastily. The result was that the car got out of control and crashed through the partition and into the office, sending the counter and office fixtures askew. The car was very little damaged as only the left mud guard was bent, and Miss Price and the occupants of the car were unharmed save from the shock of the ac-

cident. The garage office was certainly in a badly wrecked condition.

Mrs. Johnston is spending a few holidays here at the home of her father Mr. A. Reesor.

The fund started a few weeks ago by Councillor Nicol, for the making respectable of the old cemetery, has not been receiving much encouragement. \$5 previously acknowledged started the fund, and this week brings the second subscription of \$5 from Mrs. Annie Johnson and Miss Belle Stephenson. Those having relatives or friends interred in this cemetery will surely be interested in having the place made respectable. When the fund is sufficiently large Councillor Nicol will proceed with the work.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of July 13, 1829.

A new boiler has been put in at the Acton Tanning Co's tannery the past week. It is over a hundred horse power and is perhaps the largest in town. The space around the boiler is being filled in with mica which is said to be an excellent non-conductor. New filler beds are also being built below the tannery and a road out to them.

On Monday afternoon while Mr. Angus McEachern was helping tear down the old barn at the home of Mr. Keith, second line, by some unfortunate move on the part of those working on the barn, he was struck by a brace or by one of the moving plates and knocked from the building, falling about eighteen feet to the barn floor where he was picked up unconscious. Dr. McDonald was immediately called and attended his injuries. No bones were broken but a deep gash was found just above the right eye, which required four or five stitches. One of his ribs was badly bruised, also his left arm. Mr. McEachern was very badly shaken up and did well to escape with his life. It will be some time before he will be able to resume his work.

Mr. W.A. Storey was in Guelph last week attending the funeral of little Fred Dryden.

Miss Jennie Gurney went to Toronto, on Tuesday to spend a couple of weeks with friends there.

It's tower power

After three years of discussion and change the Ontario Government has decided where the Middleport to Pickering hydro transmission corridor is to go, which also established the route of the north-south hydro line from Bruce power station to a point near Milton. The north-south line cuts through the middle of Halton Hills in the middle of the Fifth Concession going on into Erin township.

Most of this information was available following the report of Dr. Ormond Solandt who recommended Hydro use the gap in the Escarpment west of Limehouse for the north-south corridor. What most people did not know is that another corridor is also suggested in the same direction and it must be five to 10 miles away from the original so there is proper security.

Hydro has made one concession—the width of the original proposal—720 feet—has been narrowed to 250 feet. Instead of five lines of marching towers there will be only three. This is to be accomplished by running the three 500 kV lines through and taking the two 230 kV lines elsewhere. However, depending on future requirements the width of the corridor could be as wide as 600 feet.

It seems that with a north-south line this

area would have more than its share of towers, which incidentally will not likely be the new single pole improved type. The Government has decided they are too expensive and heavy and that the old lattice-type towers will suffice. So much for all that talk during the hearings about inoffensive towers of new design.

The Bruce to Essa alternative? Still being considered but apparently ruled out in the interests of getting the lines from Bruce done in time to transmit power to Southern Ontario by 1977 when Bruce is ready.

If it is not done, Hydro and Government agree there would be an economic penalty of between \$13 million and \$33 million per year. Nothing is said, of course, about the 15 per cent hike in rates over the next few years Hydro intends to levy to finance the project, an economic penalty on ratepayers.

The unfortunate part of the whole exercise is as Halton Hills Councillor Len Cox has said: This corridor will slash through the length of the concession without conferring a single benefit on Halton Hills.

We are convinced it could have been avoided by taking the Bruce to Essa alternative. Nothing Hydro or the Government has said alters that opinion.

Free Press Editorial Page

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Development loans beneficial

It is fashionable to question and disparage loans made by governments—both federal and provincial—to manufacturing concerns as an irresponsible use of the public's money. One example in nearby Elmira shows that loans can be beneficial all-round.

Only seven years ago McKee Bros. Limited of Elmira was in receivership and a \$450,000 Ontario Development Corporation loan of \$450,000 was despatched to its aid. Last month the firm repaid the \$450,000 with an official presentation of a cheque to Claude Bennett, Minister of Industry and Tourism.

Sales of the company which manufactures forage harvesting

equipment and rotary snow plows, climbed to \$6.2 million last year and are expected to rise to \$12 million in the current fiscal year—72 percent of which comes from exports. President P. H. Durish, who took over the company in 1967, predicts sales of \$30 million by 1976.

"ODC came to our aid when no Canadian bank would," he said. "We are grateful to the agency for giving us an opportunity to prove the potential of these products."

McKee Bros. now employs 312 people, where it had only 27 in 1967, and expects to have a staff of 500 by next year. The Elmira plant has increased 250,000 square feet from the 1969 space of 35,000 square feet.

In 1972, 40,000 square feet were added to the Lincoln, Nebraska assembly depot.

The firm manufactures 70 percent of all tractor-mounted snow blowers sold in North America and places second in the field of loose hay loaders, behind a large U.S. company.

The fact a loan could rescue the company and community by providing employment which otherwise might have played havoc with the economy of a town of Elmira's size, shows that properly administered they are of immense benefit. Wise placing of the loans is a prime requisite for their success.

OUR READERS WRITE:

Disappointed in playground

Dear sir,
A year ago our children could hardly wait until playground started and each day eagerly attended, what has happened? After a few days in attendance this year they aren't interested anymore.

As one little girl put it, "Everyone is together and what the girls want to do the boys don't want to do and if we play tag or something like that the boys start fighting and then the leaders make everyone stop—there's no fun anymore! I don't want to go!"

Last year there were approximately 300 children in attendance at the park. This year, at the park, on any given day you would be fortunate to find thirty (30) children. Although there are playground sites at both schools also, if you tallied the attendance from all three places you would not get anywhere near the 300 mark.

WHY?
Logically there should be many more in attendance as there is no fee for registration and there are three sites instead of one. Along with no registration fee there is no responsibility taken on by the leaders;

therefore any day a child can wander away and not be missed—until too late! I quote from the Parent Registration Form: "Our programming policy on the playground is such that the children are free to come and go as they wish; and as such, the playground leaders are not responsible to ensure that your child remains on the grounds for any period of time." (We are not working mothers looking for a baby sitter, even if we were, these are not the conditions under which we would want our children kept.)

Did you know seven leaders were selected for the playgrounds from Acton—four were placed here in Acton and three have to commute daily to Georgetown? I hope these kids are reimbursed for travelling. At the same time as they are commuting to Georgetown two other leaders from Georgetown have to commute to Acton.

Does this make sense? This is more of our Regional government's logic!
Mrs. June Gerth for Concerned Mothers
123 Elizabeth Dr.
Acton, Ont.
853-0563

Challenges

R.R. 2, Rockwood, Ontario.

July 12, 1974

Dear Sir,
I have just read the latest diatribe by the Rev. Ken Campbell against the type of books high school students will be reading in Halton's high schools. Mr. Campbell cites his survey as the unquestionable yardstick to measure public opinion in this matter.

I challenge his survey to be accepted as statistical evidence. The questionnaire should have been made available to all residents of Halton, not just those sympathetic to Mr. Campbell's cause. I didn't receive the questionnaire, nor did many people I have spoken to.
Mr. Campbell refers to the "Playboy" Magazine, and he immediately loses his argument on that score. "Playboy" Magazine, July 1974 issue, contained the most comprehensive interview I have ever read on the Environment. The interviewee, Barry Commoner, world famous environmentalist, presented views that should be debated in all our high schools; in fact the interview should be required reading.

William A. Johnson

One man's politics

Since Grand Pierre and Uncle Bob, Are settled in the governing job, We now can do it as we please, Without the price and wages freeze.

With more of strikes around the nation, To keep up with the price inflation, Our Grand Pierre and Uncle Bob, Have taken on the toughest job.

From Parliament Hill they'll do their best, To make life happy for the rest, They'll take care of the young and old, But, they must do as they are told.

There are some who are quite sad no doubt, The way elections all turn out, The good folk now will bear no bills, Just swallow down the bitter pills.

The Mandarins behind the scenes, Have world control of all our beans, They make our commerce and recessions, And lead us into world depressions.

But we keep on working if we can, For the benefit of every man, When looking for a brighter day, World government's not far away.
Victor Smith.
R.R.2, Rockwood.

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