People with answers

There are services available to belp people who need them, but how are people to know?

The Free Press has had a couple of calls in the past week. The questions were simple, but the answers weren't.

How do I get in touch with the Red Cross?

How do I get in touch with Halton Helping Hands?

Neither are in the Acton or Georgetown phone books, leaving the person in search of assistance pretty confused.

Someone gave us a good answer to the questions which we pass on. Phone the Contact Centre, which is listed plainly in the phone book right under the C's and which advertises its phone number regularly. The person who answers the phone there has a complete file of all services available and will be luppy to tell the questioner whom to call.

The Contact Centre doesn't just exist tor dire emergencies, but to help anyone.



Welcome in all homes

There are a couple of changes in the Free Press this week that we trust will please readers.

Two writers have started up their columns again.

Chief librarian Mrs. Isabel Watson will be writing about new books in the library once a month or so.

Jennifer Barr had lots of complaints when she stopped her Let's Talk About Horses column, so she is beginning it again today.

And federal member of Parliament Dr. Frank Philbrook has embarked on a column to keep in touch with the people in his riding.

Tell each other something

The number of Letters to the Editor on the subject of regional government continues to be impressive. Never before can we recall getting so many letters on

one single subject. For the Free Press, it is a remarkable reaction. People are trying to tell each other something all right.

Dribs 'n drabs

A lakeside neighbor tells of a child who "cried all day" when she discovered that her favorite duck had been trapped and taken away.

If you have a soft spot for a certain person, consider filling out the form for nominations for Citizen of the Year. The Chamber of Commerce executive wants lots of "input" before they make their decision.

March came in Saturday -bright, sunny and cold. February has been a lamb-like month on the whole, quite lacking in storms and freezes. Don't really know what Saturday's weather means for the end of March.



Sugar and Spice by bill smiley

I have personally had it, with the Canadian Postal Service, so called.

I am sick to death of postal strikes and threats of strikes.

And I almost throw up every time Honorable Bryce Mackasey, minister in charge of the post office, comes on television to state bluntly that postal employees last year stole only a million dollars or whatever, which is just a drop in the bucket, and that we have the third best postal service in the world.

His first statement practically condones theft by public employees. His second must be something he hallucinated while recovering from an overdose of stamp glue.

Admitted, that for years, postal employees were sorely underpaid, and most of them were in the job only for the security it

But the security is still there, and they are now far from sorely underpaid. Some of them, in view of what they do, and the relatively simple qualifications required, may be overpaid, in comparison with some other jobs.

Admitted, many postal jobs are unexciting, even boring and monotonous. This is no excuse for the flouting of the public's needs, or for the thumb-to-the-nose attitude towards the government, employer of the postal workers.

Nobody forced those people to work in the post office. Plenty of other jobs are just as monotonous. If they wanted excitement why didn't they go into high steel work or massage parlors?

Isn't it about time for a showdown? Either Canada gets a first rate postal service, as we used to have, or we scrap the whole thing and turn it over to private enterprise.

In my far from humble opinion, the latter course should have been taken years ago. For the past several decades, the performance of the post office in this country has been a dismal one.

Each year, efficiency decreases; each year the costs increase. Each new broom appointed as minister has carefully swept the dirt under the rug, instead of out the

It think it's too late for a purge in the post office, which has become so constipated that nothing short of dynamite would move those turgid bowels.

No new minister has the guts to go in and

ream out the dottle of the public pipeline. It would be his head on a platter if he tried.

Nope, It's too late for half measures. It's time to put the whole, shambling, sick, halfparalyzed leviathan on the auction block, and sell it to the highest bidder: buildings, bricks, equipment and tobs.

And let's not get any phony nationalism mixed up in it If one of the new rich oil countries wants to buy the mess and put it in running order, why not? Canadians can't do it, apparently.

You think this is too drastic? It seems the only alternative we have to limping along with a postal system that the word "rotten" inadequately describes.

You think something as big and important as the postal non-system should be controlled by the government? Hogwash! Anyone with ears to hear or eyes to read knows that government is notably inefficient as an employer.

Let's look at one example. We have two transcontinental railways. CPR, privately owned, has shown a thumping profit year after year. The CNR, government owned, highly subsidized, is always in the red.

You think I'm a little hot today? You're right. Postal strikes have cost me considerable, in terms of anxiety and cash. And I'm only a little frog. Imagine what the lousy service is doing to slow down and thwart large companies, which hire hundreds of thousands.

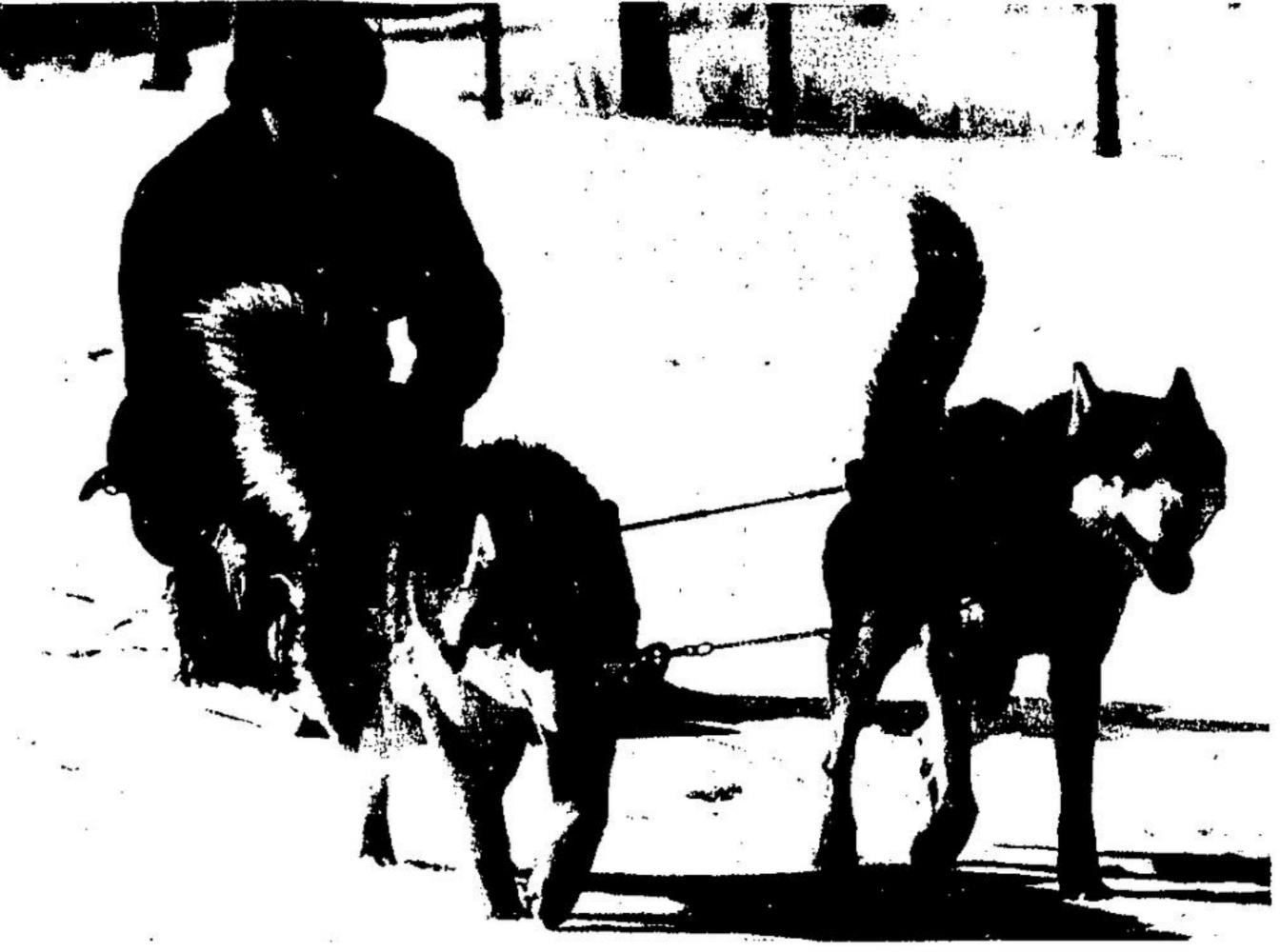
As I write, postal employees in Toronto are not working, while mail piles up in thousands of tons.

Why are they not working? Because they won't cross the picket lines of another, comparatively small union that is on strike.

And get this. The Post Office gave its non-working employees leave of absence without pay. They were not fired. And those employees have the unbelievable gall to talk of suing the post office because they are not drawing their pay when they are not working, even though they are not on strike. Can you figure that out? It makes my head

"This week, I sent, a letter "special delivery." It cost me 48 cents in postage. To make me expend such a sum, the letter had to be mighty important. It's sitting in a post office, unsorted, in which the employees NOT on strike.

I've had enough. Who'll join me? And In closing, may I add that I don't put the blame on the postal union, not all of it.



a snowfall. Here John Golden rides behind Poko and Kovik. Poko is an eight-month-old female husky and Kovic is a year-and-a-half old male.

TWO HUSKIES owned by John and Lorraine He has had the dogs since they were six weeks Golden, Cobblehill Rd., love to pull a sleigh after old. Another was killed by a car almost a year ago. In the accident Kovic was also injured, but

Our readers write

Give us our town again

313 Westcott Rd., Acton, Ontario L7J 1R4 February 21, 1975

Dear Editor: I read the Free Press faithfully every week, there is usually something in it to amuse me, or inform me, or that I agree with, but of late what I read just makes me angry and frustrated reading the reports of the regional council, or lack of attendance

Perhaps the reason people stayed away from the Chamber of Commerce meeting was because they feel as I do. Why talk with the elected representatives of this regional government? Did they implement this system? Can they possibly do anything about getting rid of it? No.

Their only sin was in running for office when the Ontario Government decided to change our way of life. The only things that type of meeting produces are more questions and no answers. People aren't looking for meetings to improve the status quo, they want to see the end of this situation we find ourselves in through no fault of our

Where were the meetings to attend when this system was going to be introduced? They weren't well-publicized either, obviously. This is the second meeting I have heard about that was planned by the so-called Halton Hills Area but not intended for or attended by the people of Acton.

The women's association held a meeting supposedly for all women of Halton Hills. but only one poster was brought to the municipal offices four days prior to the meeting, and none of the Acton area women's clubs received prior notice. I guess Georgetown ladies went in our place. No number was given, no name to contact so that if you wanted to know more about it, or express regret at not being able to attend, you could not do so.

It is obvious that we are most definintly the "hills" part of this community. Meetings are planned with little advance notice. held practically in secret and then it is made to look as though we weren't interested in what was going on!

What have we gained from this regional system? Ulcers, gray hair, high blood pressure and a new garbage truck with doors and steering wheel on both sides. I was surprised to see it on our streets this week. with one employee driving it, and jumping out at each driveway to collect the refuse. The government must think this is a timesaving device. They waste more gas going up one side of the street and down the other instead of paying two men on the truck to collect both sides at the same time.

What happened to our new garbage truck that Georgetown commandeered a year ago? I haven't seen it since. Neither have I seen our ploughs, sand trucks or street cleaner.

A truck which displays a sign saying "Help Keep Georgetown Clean" spraying Acton streets is an insult. Not to mention that it comes on a garbage day and sprays all the bags and cans into the ditches or washes the streets on a cold morning, causes ice to form, and necessitates a sander to come and make the streets dirty again.

Where is their common sense? What have we lost from this system? Our twice-weekly garbage pick-up, our visits to the post office, our small-town

camaraderie, and our identity. Included in this we have lost most of our town staff, our police force, and all of our marbles! Now we are even losing our birds! I notice that none of the employees are writing to the paper complaining about the regional system. Why should they when they are making more money now, which comes out of our pockets. I'll bet they were just as happy living in and working for Acton, though.

You'll notice that the Bell Telephone company books include the Town of Acton in the Regional Municipality of Waterloo,

These people are human and will reach for all they can get.

The real root of my rage and the fifthrate Canadian postal non-service is the gutless politicians in Ottawa.

while the Town of Halton Hills is included in the Halton-Peel Region Book. Does the telephone company subconsciously wish we were not a part of Halton Hills? So do I.

I enjoy change, variety is good, but not when it causes all this anxiety and dissention. We used to have a good little town here, but sometime in 1973 it went the way

of all good things. It ended too soon. Time always passes quickly when you

are having a good time. Ninety-nine years flew by, but the last year and two months have crawled to a stop. Things just aren't going well, and no one is having a good time anymore. Stop smothering us with kindness, Mr. Davis, let us live in our small town again.

Unhappy in Halton Hills. (Mrs.) June Hunter

Invite Snow to debate

(Editor's Note: The following letter was sent to Halton East MPP Jim Snow and a copy was filed with this newspaper for publication)

Dear Sir:

I feel I must write to you, as our Halton East M.P.P. I am writing to you as a Registered Nurse, in protest of the new drug plan for the elderly which says, "Drugs must be dispensed individually, for the residents of homes for the aged, by a trained pharmacist instead of buying in bulk."

I have had three years of hard, 12 hours a day training and 40 years of experience, 12 of these at Halton Centennial Manor in Milton. Therefore I feel I speak with experience and authority, in saying, "no pharmacist or individual sitting in a swivel chair in Toronto somewhere, knows the first thing relating to how a home for the aged has to operate."

You are not dealing with mentally alert patients as In a hospital. Most of the residents in a home are senlle and are there for Tender Loving Care 24 hours a day, as they can no longer live alone and take care of themselves. Their families cannot cope with the situation for 24 hours. .

· Secondly, the cost to the taxpayer will more than double under the new plan due to waste of drugs that will have to be flushed down the toilet, thus polluting the lakes in

I lived through the depression years of the 30's when a nurse had to care for these people in their own homes, as there was no hospitalization, old age pension, or money to pay for a doctor, medication or a nurse. Therefore you nursed 24 hours a day for your board. Thus I cannot tolerate such waste and the high cost to we, the taxpayers, when millions in the world are starving and dying for lack of medication.

The 'administration of drugs, as to amount needed and when needed, is the duty

of a Registered Nurse, not a pharmacist, who has no contact with the resident whatsoever. How does he know when they are in pain, restless or hallucinating? When we had bulk drugs we had some-

thing on hand to give them when needed, but now we have to order from a pharmacist and wait for delivery. By that time the resident may have dled or become so noisy, that the whole wing is upset. It looks to me as if "A nurse" is considered no more than a moron in a white uniform and cap. What is the role of a nurse coming to?

Thirdly, more nurses will have to be hired, raising the operating cost some more, as one nurse can no longer prepare medications for 220 residents each time, when you have to open hundreds of "safety top" containers which is a waste of precious time and blisters on the palm of your hand.

A hospital has only 20 or 30 patients, on a ward, where the doctors visit daily and review medications. A big difference from a nursing home of 370 residents, where the Registered Nurse is at the helm to use hertraining and common sense, when you have P.R.N. and standing orders to go by.

Years ago I won the award for Halton County debating team, so how about the challenge to debate the subject - "Resolved that Registered Nurses are better qualified to prepare and administer drugs to residents in homes for the aged than a pharmacist who is ignorant of nursing care and procedure of such homes."

An open invitation is extended to those who make such laws to spend a couple of weeks in a large nursing home and follow the nurses in their work and learn the care and habits of our residents.

This is how I feel and felt I must voice my opinion as a taxpayer and a Registered

Yours truly, Lillian Thomas R. R. 1, Campbellville

A parent speaks out

Feb. 27, 1975

Regional government is here to stay. We can't change it now. I want to speak on another topic.

Teachers everywhere are striking for more money, more time off and less work load. We pay the bill and they have more time off and longer holidays than any other profession or trade. Last year our teachers called a strike and got away with it. They should have called it another professional day. Their obvious concern is more money

and shorter days, not our children. Many are in it strictly for these reasons.

The latest thing is to have parents teach cooking and sewing to give the teachers more time off. These are called electives because the teachers elect not to teach the

three R's. When bargaining time comes up let's get wise and not give more money for less and less work.

> Yours truly. A Parent.

Accident on Feb. 21

On the evening of Feb. 21, 1975, my car, unoccupied, was legally parked in front of my residence at 34 Mill St., Acton when it was struck from behind by a car driven by Mr. Douglas Warwick, Longfield Rd., Acton. The damage done to my vehicle was \$1,800 plus transmission repair, not \$850 as

This notice will clear up any misconceptions which seem to have arisen from this collision.

> Mrs. K. Kelly 34 Mill St. Acton.

Another request for poll

February 24, 1975

The Editor, The Acton Free Press,

Acton, Ont. In reply to your editorial re regional government, I think a poll would give the citizens an excellent opportunity to express

their dissatisfaction (or satisfaction if they so desire).

Lagree with "Willing to Work" and "Fed Up". Surely there is somebody that can get things moving to regain Acton.

Signed One More Dissatisfied Taxpayer

The Free Press Back Issues

20 years ago

Taken from an issue of the Free Press

March 3, 1955 Alertness and well calculated action on the part of Mrs. Cameron Leishman and promptness and efficiency on the part of Constable Harness and Corporal Ray Mason foiled a robbery at Acton Post Office early Monday morning and prevented loss of thousands of dollars in cash and negoti-

The bulgars left with slightly over a dollar in cash, but were prevented from cutting into the safe that contained about \$4,000 and more in stamps and money orders that in the hands of such a gang could have netted them more than \$10,000.

By 8 a.m. Monday morning three men were being held in Hamilton under suspicion and were questioned that day by Corporal Mason. Mrs. Leishman wife of the caretaker, was aroused by talking. Upon looking out the upstairs apartment window she saw a man at the rear of the building. She was, however unable to distinguish if the noises came from outside the building or inside until she stepped into the upper vestibule. She was then sure that the men were inside and promptly catted the police.
Miss Lucille Monk spent the weekend

with Acton frlends. Mrs. E. Gibbons, who has been sick for the last three weeks, is about to be out

Spending the weekend with Miss Fern Brown were Miss Bertha Brown and Mr. Ern Brown of Toronto.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press March 5, 1925

At the annual meeting of the choir of the Methodist Church the officers and committees for the year were elected as follows: Hon. President, Rev. J. Culp; President, W. Williams; Vice-President, J. C. Hill; Musical Director, Amos Mason; Asst. Musical Director, R. Speilvogel; Secretary, Miss Bertie Speight; Treasurer, J. C. Matthews; Librarian, J. Newman; Organist, Mrs. R. R. Arnold. Musical Committee, Miss Bertie Smith, Mrs. T. Kilty. Gown Committee, Mrs. Ingrey, Miss Vida Ranshaw; Social Committee, Miss Lottie Mason, Mr. G. Masales. To invite new members, Mrs. T. Kilty. The choir is now engaged in preparing their fine Easter Cantata, "The King of Glory," which is a very fine musical

composition. Mr. Peter Smith, of Hawarden, Sask., was in town this week renewing acquaintances of over fifty years ago. Mr. Smith lived with his parents on the "Rutherford Farm', where the Trout Ponds are now situated, when a boy. He attended Acton Public School when Robert Little was the teacher, the Presbyterian Church and Sunday school. When a young man, he moved with his father to Grey County, near Markdale, where he resided until half a dozen years ago, when he removed to Saskatchewan, where he has a son and a daughter livlosing his beloved life partner last year.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Beaumont, of Glen Williams, left last week for New York from which port they sailed on the "Adriatic" Thursday morning for Naples. They will tour Italy, France, Switzerland and the British Isles returning home about the end of

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press

March 1, 1900 Rev. W. S. McAlpine, B.A., spent several days last week assisting Rev. Mr. Merrill, Guelph, in special services. The Guelph Herald says of him: "Mr. McAlpine's presentation of gospel truth is strong, clear and effective and his singing adds greatly to the

enjoyment of the service." A vast amount of valuable and interesting information respecting the country upon which the eyes of the whole world are at present fastened was given in the Methodist Church on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday evenings by ex-Sergt.-Major G. H. School, late of the Bechuanaland Mounted Border Police, under the auspices of the Epworth League.

Rev. T. R. Forbes is supplying the pulpit of the Congregational Church, Listowel, for a couple of weeks. His pulpit at Churchill was occupied last Sunday by Rev. J. A. Mc-Lachlan M. A. and next Sunday Rev. Hector McLean will preach.

A sleigh-load of young people drove over from Corwhin Tuesday evening to spend a social evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Turton, where a most enjoyable time was spent by all.

Mr. McDermid, of Woodstock, has been in Acton and vicinity the past two days investigating with a view to the establishment of a creamery here. Such an institution would be of genuine benefit to the farmers within a radius of five miles.

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