

Father Smye back from poor country

Father Jim Smye is back from Guatemala. On Easter Monday, the young priest left Acton for the poverty-stricken South American country with \$300 collected from his parishioners during the season of Lent.

The trip was a combination good-will mission and holiday, as Father Smye has friends down there whom he had planned to visit during his vacation. During his three week stay in the country, Father Smye stayed at the parishes of his friends.

Distribution of money
A group of Hamilton priests and sisters are there helping the poor and underprivileged, and Father Smye wanted to make sure the money was evenly distributed. \$100 went to Father Ted Sloman, pastor of a parish at Teculután, \$100 to the Sisters of St. Joseph who are conducting a dental and health clinic. The remaining money went to Sisters of Providence at San Cristobal.

According to Father Smye, walking on the streets of Guatemala is like walking in another world. "It is a fascinating place," he said. The country is not overly-crowded, nor is it visibly poor, he explained. But they need help just as much as any other poor countries.

Leaves fatalist impression
Even though it was not his first trip to Guatemala, Father Smye had never been there before at Easter. He was quite surprised at the emphasis placed on Good Friday, as compared to the actual Easter Sunday.

"It reflects the atmosphere of the place—the whole part of identifying Christ on Good Friday with the suffering and

pain. They really have no thoughts about Christ's resurrection." He went on to say that during his brief stay he thought the people's attitudes were almost fatalistic.

"Everything struck me strange. All signs of Easter ended on Good Friday." He explained that the priests and Sisters in the country are trying to change the people's ways of thinking and to get

them to be more optimistic about life. However, that is a difficult task. "The people there are not going to listen to strangers who come into their land and try and tell them what to believe in."

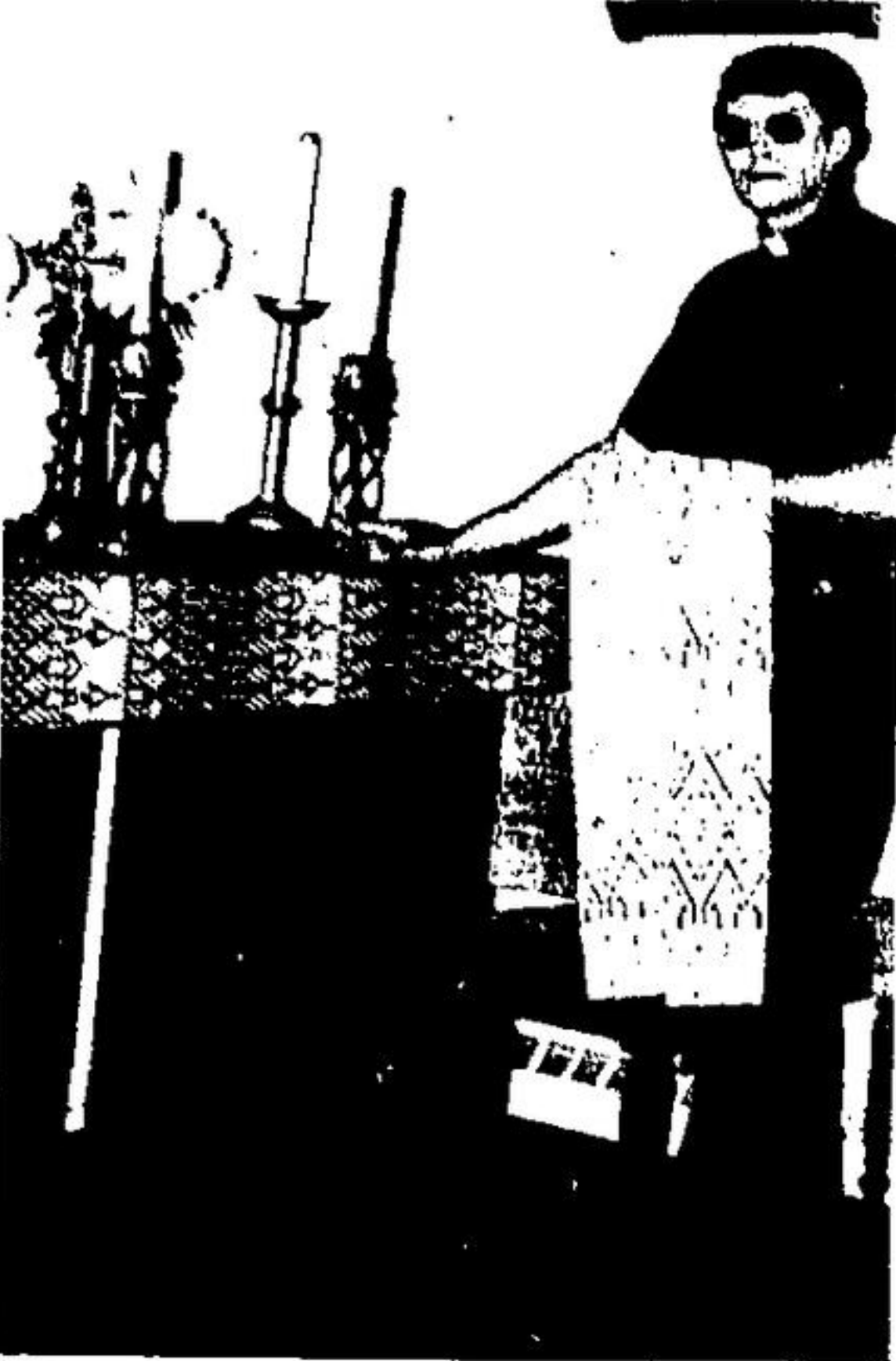
Wealthy North American
The Sisters would like to see the people of the country give Good Friday as a blood donating day to help appease their blood and death infatuation on that day.

"However, how do we do all this without seeming like the wealthy North American?" Father Smye was quick to say that the fatalist outlook was totally his own observation during his stay, and not necessarily how it really is.

Temperatures for his three week holiday were 102 degrees on the average. A Miami radio station reported on the violent snow storm in Canada and northern United States, so Father Smye enjoyed the hot temperatures even more.

His holiday also included a side trip to Honduras and the centennial celebrations of Teculután. During the celebrations, a mammoth dance was held, with two bands. Young and old alike danced together with no hint of a generation gap. Everyone enjoyed the rare chance to have fun and enjoy themselves.

Upon his return to Acton, Father Smye brought with him Indian weaving in the form of table cloths, shawls, placemats and napkins. A lot of the weaving is in St. Joseph's church on display for the congregation to see and appreciate. It gives the people a chance to see a little bit of Guatemala, in their own church.



FATHER JIM SMYE displays the Indian weavings he brought back from Guatemala last week. The table cloth and shawl were just a few of the multicolored items the families make by hand. Woven within each pattern, there is the picture of the national bird.

Let's talk about horses

by Jennifer Barr



The dearest little mare came to live with us recently. I fell in love with her as soon as I gazed into her soft wall eyes. ("Wall eyes" are thought unattractive in a horse—the term describes blue eyes surrounded by white instead of the usual solid brown eye. Come to think of it—I have wall eyes!)

Back to the mare. Her name is Suzie Belledam Pandora, much too large a name for a 14.3 h mare, and she is a sort of grey roan Appaloosa.

Found impossible
Once long ago, I'd dictated to my mother the kind of horse I was going to buy—fantastic for my very limited funds. With the confidence of youth and the inability to accept reality, I found the perfect horse, for a price I could afford.

A month ago I dictated to my husband the kind of horse I wanted, despite his worried attempts to bring me back to earth. Once again, I seem to have found what I was looking for. Moral: never accept second best, you can always find the "impossible".

Quit moralizing and get back to the mare. Suzie was found very easily through an old friend, Al Fox at the Circle A Ranch. She was trained by a girl whose training methods I've always admired, Wendy Taylor. Years ago, Wendy used to enter schooling shows with her small pinto mare.

Under English saddle or Western, showing in Trail classes, pleasure or riding a complicated dressage pattern, Wendy and her mare would quietly walk off with most of the ribbons.

Suzie's a climber. Suzie arrived last Sunday. An elaborate plan of orientation was to be gone through. I'm a great believer in gradual introduction to a strange herd, especially our group of aggressive, mouthy horses. Suzie would be exercised in the riding arena for at least a week, gradually being introduced to each horse individually. We weren't taking chances with this sweet lady.

Monday, Suzie was allowed into the arena, thereby justifying my pride in her by cavorting and prancing like a Spanish charger.

She was put back in her stall while one of the boarders was saddled and ridden. Suzie wasn't too happy about this, in fact she was as unhappy the next thing I knew she was out in the yard racing toward the road.

Leaping into my boots I managed to head her off at the pass and get her back to the stable. Fortunately, she was easy to catch and walked sedately back to her stall—for two minutes.

Low and behold she was back in the yard again. Thinking she was breaking the door latch, I put her in a stall with a stronger bolt, and turned to go.

Scramble, crash, scrape, she landed in the alley beside me having literally climbed over the partition. Nothing if not determined, this mare. Ruefully examining a scraped shin I had to decide whether to let her have her own way or put up with a banged up mare. Well, I sure didn't want her losing any more skin—at least until she was fully paid for. So, out in the pasture she went with the "gang".

The usual screams, thuds, and whacks took place, Suzie giving off a fair share of them. Then Moses took over. This Welsh pony gelding has the mind of a stallion and proceeded to stake his claim.

Borrowing
Finance and personnel committee recommended to council a by-law authorizing the borrowing of temporary advances pending sale of advances for Georgetown indoor pool.

Public Notice

AMBULANCE WEEK — MAY 11 - 17

In recognition of their fine service to the community, it is hereby proclaimed that the week of May 11 to 17 be recognized as AMBULANCE WEEK by the Town of Halton Hills.

Mayor Tom J. Hill



GAIL MALTBY, appointee to the Credit Conservation Authority, answers phone with friend rabbit on her lap.

Gail Maltby appointed to vacancy on CVCA

Gail Maltby has been recommended by MPP George Kerr for the vacancy on the Credit Valley Conservation Authority, created by the resignation of Bruce Cargill.

Mrs. Maltby has been active in the Progressive Conservative party for several years. She is retiring as president of the Acton Progressive Conservative Association and is currently finance chairman of the YMCA and is studying economics at the University of Waterloo.

Before entering the field of community service, Mrs. Maltby was in real estate and spent five years with the office of Alec Johnson in Acton. Married to George Maltby, a salesman for Atlas Alloys and a former Esqueving councillor, the Maltbys have three sons Greg, 10, Guy, 9, and Geoff, 5. They live on Churchill Road, one mile north of Acton.

The CVCA position carries an honorarium of \$20 per meeting attended.

New lights over town

New lights are going up all over Halton Hills it was announced at Monday's works committee meeting.

The committee approved the installation of lights at the outdoor pool in Georgetown in the hopes the lights will deter vandals.

Halton Hills has also complied with a Glen Williams resident's request for lights on Erin Street, between Alexander and Credit. One light will be installed at a central location. Mrs. M. Norton, Erin Street, had made the request, by letter, at a previous works committee meeting this year.

Some more of the old style street lamps are being replaced this year in Acton. There are 37 of the old lights throughout Acton and some time ago the town decided to replace them over a three year period.

The works committee approved the installation of five modern lights on Church Street and another five on Brock Street. In addition three of the modern lights will be put on Agnes Street.

The Norval ratepayers organization already know how much street lighting throughout the hamlet will cost and they will soon hear how much interest they must pay on the project. The committee decided to forward interest costs to the citizens' group.

Speyside Area Residents PUBLIC MEETING

To Discuss
Recreation Programming In Speyside Area.

At Speyside Public School
May 5th, 7.30 p.m.

Recreation Co-ordinator, John Cooper will be present

Parking

Halton Hills works committee doesn't think much of council's decision to eliminate the maximum three hour parking limit from the new parking by-law.

At Monday's committee meeting engineer Peter Morris complained that the clause was the only thing preventing people from parking on the street overnight and hampering snow removal. He asked the committee to try again to persuade council to go along with the idea.

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