

Free Press Editorial Page

Murders in our homes

A commission to study violence on television can't help but do some good, even if its report is tucked away and never acted upon. The publicity given the commission and the complaints about it all draw the attention of parents to the subject. We'll all be taking a closer look at the television set now. If parents put down their paper or leave the kitchen at the sound of gunfire, sirens and horrible screams and

take a look at what their children are watching, we can soon see for ourselves how much violence has been unleashed in our own homes.

Certainly young children must be developing a horribly unreal concept of living. There can be no doubt youngsters brought up seeing murders in their own homes will accept them in a matter-of-fact way. How could it be otherwise?

Thinking with drinking

Why do people say "Come over for a drink" when they simply mean "Come over for a visit?" The amazing increase in the use of alcohol lately has resulted in an information campaign from the provincial government. "Mix some thinking with your drinking," says some of the literature. Not many years ago liquor was seldom served at public events in Acton. Many dances were successful without any liquor license, too.

In the last 20 years here, the change has been vast. Drinking rye or beer instead of tea or coffee hasn't likely made showers or club meetings any more friendly. And related to the drinking are new problems of accidents attributed to alcohol levels in the system, family disputes, hours off work. And all for what? A feeling of happiness and friendship that is probably all an illusion? Mix some thinking with your drinking—it's a good slogan.

Award for a weekly

The Ridgetown weekly newspaper, The Dominion, was recently honored by the town's recreation committee. Along with the local branch of the Canadian Red Cross Society and the Horticultural Society, the Dominion was presented with a certificate of appreciation for outstanding contribution to the community. Murray Scoyne, the owner and publisher, accepted the award at a special banquet. Murray used to work at the Free Press and his wife is the former Doris Allan of Acton district.

The weekly paper in Ridgetown has a long history. Late in the 19th century, the town boasted five newspapers - each one strictly a political enterprise. By 1917 it was down to three. The picture taken at the presentation shows Murray with a grizzled beard. It's centennial year down there and many of the men are dressing the part. Friends here add congratulations to Murray and Doris, who both do a fine job on their newspaper.

Friends are leaving

The Free Press adds its personal words of thanks to the Ontario Provincial Police, who Saturday were honored as the town's Citizens of the Year. We have had the best of co-operation over the years. We know other newspapers whose reporters have difficulty obtaining accounts of accidents and other charges laid. Not here. The details the public may know are set out and both the staff and

reporters know the limits. We have also chosen over the years not to publish the names of persons charged unless the circumstances are very unusual or the case is a major one. We have had both praise and criticism over this policy - but not from the police. We have always found them to be friends, and we will be losing friends when they leave us this summer.



A patient angler on the first day of the season

SATURDAY WAS a perfect day for the opening of the fishing season. Lazing in the sun while he tends his fishing line is Bobby Brouillard. Ice has

only been off the lake for a week and a half and the wildfowl are spreading out, after wintering at the dam.



Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

When people ask me about my column, at one point or another, they usually say: "Boy, I bet you get a lot of mail."

Well, yes, I do. But I don't exactly have to hire a secretary to send out answers, along with an autographed picture.

I solve the problem by not answering most of my mail. As a result, I frequently feel gully, for as long as three or four minutes.

Ninety-five per cent of my mail is garbage, and is disposed of as such. Along with the junk mail - flyers, broadsides and special offers that everyone gets - I get quite a few letters from nuts.

Atikokan, Ont., seems to be a breeding place of this species, with apologies to all the fine Atikokans who, I'm sure, abound in that fine, fresh, northern community.

Years ago, I had a running battle with some kooky minister from Atikokan, who accused me of things I'd have been delighted to be able to do. As I recall, he thought I thought I was a rake, and I had to convince him that I was a hoe.

Then one summer evening, a stranger walked into my backyard and introduced himself as the former line-type operator from the Atikokan paper. He wanted a reference for a job, and he wanted us to join forces and bring down the tree enterprise system, or the Women's Christian Temperance Union, or something of the

sort. He got a local job, lasted a few weeks, and the only thing we managed to put down were a couple of beers.

Recently, I received another letter from an Atikokan. For eight and a half pages he belabored me about the inefficiency of private enterprise, because of a remark I'd made, suggesting the Canadian postal service be turned over to same.

This guy agreed that the postal service was rotten, but he told me, with many examples, that private industry, also, is completely inefficient. I agree, man. It's lousy, I know. I once worked for a summer in one of North America's great industries, and I have never, before or since, seen such skulduggery among the workers and stupidity in management.

But what hurt was when he called my remarks a "figment of the imagination of a naive, inexperienced, sheltered academic, such as yourself." All the nasty words were underlined.

Well, I've got news for you, boyo. Any guy who has worked on the lake boats, in industry, gone through a war, engaged in that toughest of all free enterprises, the weekly newspaper business, and staggered through nearly 30 years of marriage and child-raising, is not exactly naive, inexperienced, or sheltered. He may be a shattered wreck, but

And I resent being called an academic.

I'm a school teacher. Neither proud of it nor ashamed of it. I don't try to mold little twigs in the way they should bend. Nor do I try to turn out a "product" that our society will be proud of. I just try to teach younger people something of what I have learned about life.

The letter mentioned was signed, but above the signature was a fairly desperate "You can't use my name." I should, and have you fired as an atheist, womanizer, boozier and Marxist, but I won't. It isn't important.

Boy, here's another letter I don't quite know what to do with. It's from a chap who tells me I'm all wrong about the Post Office, and then proceeds at length to tell me what a dirty deal he got as an employee of that moribund corpse. File it, I guess. He, too, can't be named.

Here's a pleasant one from a lady whose daughter must live in sin, or lose her university grant. If she gets married, her husband will have to pay her fees. This is a blatant inequity, in my eyes, but a subject for Women's Lib, which could certainly use some intelligent causes, for a change.

And here's a dandy, from a fellow who has written a book. He sent me a copy, and says: "After you have read it, would you consider giving it the same mention in your column as was done with Ten Lost Years?" He says: "This book is similar, perhaps more profound."

At least he's honest. "If you would, it may give it some extra sales impact required at this time." Sorry. No way. It is a dull book.

Ah. Here's a lively bit of correspondence. It's my weekly news sheet from Imperial Oil. Fifteen years ago, at a rather bibulous reception, I met a charming young lady who worked for that company's public relations department.

When she learned I wrote a syndicated column, she wanted to know if I'd like to receive the regular Imperial Oil news.

"Sure," I gestured expansively. "Send along anything. A quart of oil here, a gallon of gas there, your sister if she's not busy."

Ever since, I've been getting that hot little item from Imperial Oil, the weekly news release. And it inevitably kindles a little glow. In my fireplace.

Oh, Lordy. Here's another great sheaf of correspondence from that perpetual nuisance, the guy who had his name changed officially to Mr. Midwife.

He is now President of an organization called International Scientific Lay Non-Medical Midwives.

Now, I can swallow Non-medical Midwives. But I find it hard to conjure up an International Scientific Lay.

And that's the correspondence dealt with for another week.

A day for hiking

Sunday was Ontario Hiking Day, sponsored by the Federation of Ontario Hiking Trail Associations, designed to point out to stay-at-homes they have a grand system of hiking trails and footpaths on their doorstep. It was a great chance for all to discover the pleasure of hiking through some of the province's prettiest countryside and even the weatherman cooperated by bringing a beautiful warm, sunshiny day. Hiking is certainly popular in Halton, thanks to the Bruce Trail which crosses the region along the escarpment and it was heart-warming to see so many out enjoying a hike on Sunday.

Ottawa Report

By Dr. Frank Philbrook
HALTON MP

In these days of inflation and business uncertainty with unemployment higher than we like it, the government is taking measures to help productivity through foreign sales.

The policy of the government is to encourage the further diversification of Canadian trade to a number of important foreign markets, while at the same time, maintaining and enhancing our trade and economic relations with our traditional trading partners.

Canadian firms are increasingly active in the United States market. Many of these firms receive assistance in their marketing efforts through a variety of programs of the Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce. In addition the services of Canadian government trade commissioners and qualified trade staff are available in 14 major U.S. business centres.

The Department of Industry, Trade and Commerce actively encourages and assists businesses to attend and participate in important trade fairs throughout the world.

The Department financially assists companies to visit foreign countries for the purpose of increasing their trade. This is mainly accomplished through the trade fairs and missions program as well as the program for export market development.

Canada's exports have increased to a number of important markets such as Japan, Iran and the European Economic Community where the Department has undertaken a considerable number of trade promotional activities.

Halton businessmen who are interested in the Department's programs should contact me or write direct to the Honourable Alastair Gillespie, Minister of Industry, Trade and Commerce.

There are 29,454 civilian war allowances

and war veterans allowances handled by our district authority and \$44,036,515 are being distributed to veterans in Ontario as of January 1, 1975. The Minister of Veterans' Affairs is the Honourable Daniel J. MacDonald. He made this information available earlier this month and I thought it might be of interest of veterans living in Halton riding.

On Saturday, April 19, my wife Midge and I attended the new Oakville professional soccer club inaugural meeting held at the Power Boat Club. The local organizer is Reg Griffen. This will be the first time Oakville has had a professional soccer club. They presented me with a soccer ball which has already had a good workout in my garden with the help of my three children.

On Monday, April 22, Midge and I met Prince Charles in Ottawa. He really is a prince charming. This was a particularly memorable event for me because I met his father, Prince Phillip, in Pakistan in 1965 when I was medical officer for the Mangla Dam, a world bank project. I was the only Canadian doctor there at the time.

On Wednesday evening, April 23, we attended the opening of the new Chisholm school in Charnwood in East Oakville. On hand for the ceremony was Ken Chisholm whose family founded the town of Oakville and naturally for whom the school was named.

Some readers have wondered why I mention Halton Hills, Georgetown, Erin, Oakville and Acton in my weekly letter. The reason is of course that all of these communities are part of my riding of Halton, and so are Hornby and Esqueving.

OUR READERS WRITE:

Most parents want children

R.R. 2, Rockwood, Ont. April 28th, 1975

To the Editor,
Dear Sir,
In the local press recently, Renaissance leader Ken Campbell asked a question "I wonder where all the people went" after only 75 people showed up at the much heralded Renaissance anniversary. Surely he is begging the question... The Renaissance started with a bang. People were, and are, concerned about education, but the Renaissance committee became sex-educationally obsessed. When a sex education film that was being shown to students was shown to parents, objections were negligible. Parents, for the most part, found little to get excited about, proving most modern thinking parents want their children to have sex education in school, and did not want to be associated with a group that was committed to cur-

tailoring sex education. In the same vein, Mr. Campbell announced he is suing a certain group and individuals responsible for education. He points out he is sending his children to a private school. My only comment is spreading the gospel must be a very lucrative business if one can afford \$2,000 per year for private tuition for his children's education. I know that if I was dedicated to a cause, be it religious or whatever, I would not spend any stipend derived from that cause or any private monies I had furthering my own personal grievances, I would use it to help less fortunate ones, particularly if I were a man of the cloth. Rev. Campbell will not be collecting from the Halton Board of Education or the Ministry of Education should he win his court case. He will be collecting from you and I, the already over burdened tax-payer.

William A. Johnson.

Will ten people read this?

Dear Editor (and all you nice folks that are reading this):
As you can tell I am trying (and hoping that I am succeeding) to butter you up. You see, I am ten years old (young) and I am very interested in art and drama. So Mr. Cooper, of the recreation department for

Halton has said if I do a survey and get ten names of ten people that are interested and a supervisor he will start a club in September.
So I hope my snowjob worked and some ten people are interested, plus, I hope ten people are dumb enough to read this letter (besides the editor) would they call me at 853-1447.

Steve Saxon

The Free Press Back Issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press April 28, 1955.

On Sunday, Acton scouts and cubs held a church parade to Knox Presbyterian church with their leaders David Dills, Murray Scoyne, and Gordon Ringler. About 45 boys sat together in the church for the service.

This year there is an additional award for the winner of the regular Free Press fishing contest. Symon Hardware will award a reel to the district person who reports the largest fish caught this weekend—the first weekend of the trout fishing season.

A plea for contributions to the R. H. Saunders Memorial Fund, entered through the H.E.P.C. with the endorsement of the Ontario Municipal Electric Association, got a deaf ear from Acton Public Utilities commissioners last week when the letter was unanimously ordered filed.

Dr. Archie P. Bull, Medical Officer of Health for Halton County Health Unit, is progressing satisfactorily. It is expected he will be discharged from the hospital within a short time but it will be necessary for him to use crutches for a while.

The C.G.I.T. of Knox church met on Monday in the Sunday School room. They played French tag, sang their hymn and repeated the purpose.

Marg Armstrong, Sharon Gervais and Ella Jany took part in the worship service conducted by Norma Sinclair. The group divided into three groups. One group did handicrafts while the other two groups had discussion on the Hindu faith.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press April 30, 1925

Mr. and Mrs. George Cook, who have resided in Acton for upwards of 20 years, have removed this week to Windsor, where Mr. Cook has secured a good situation. During their residence here they have been good citizens, and they will be especially missed from St. Alban's Church where they were active workers. Miss Phyllis was a member of the choir. Master George and Miss Thora were favorites of many. Mr. Cook served overseas during the war, and was the distributor of the soldiers' socks which the Acton Red Cross forwarded. The best wishes of their many friends go with them to their new home.

A spring has developed near the centre of the roadway on Main Street, opposite Mr. D. A. Henderson's property. As this is but a few yards from the intersection of the highway with Main Street there is a great deal of traffic at this point. Old road builders say the difficulty can be readily overcome. Running down the road keeps it in an untidy condition and tends to damage the roadbed further along.

Dr. T.D.J. Farmer has sent to this office a copy of the St. Petersburg Florida Times, giving an account of a fatal accident when the gigantic projection screen of the Air-drome Theatre fell, when 400 spectators were in attendance. One person was killed and four seriously injured. Dr. and Mrs. Farmer were in attendance and the falling screen just grazed them. The doctor says theirs was a fortunate escape.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press April 28, 1900.

The reunion of the pupils of the late Robert Little, principal of Acton Public School 1863-1872, was held on the 13th July 1894, is remembered with very pleasing recollections by all who participated in the interesting event. It was one of the most important events.

Word has been received from the boys who went to Sault St. Marie last week that they have received good jobs at \$1.50 per day. The name of Mr. John P. McDonald, was omitted from our list last week.

At a special meeting of the Municipal Council, after hearing the opinion of the town solicitor, it was decided to widen Mill Street at the point where the new block is to be erected. A by-law will follow arranging to widen the street upon the line of the survey from John to Main streets. Action will probably be taken with individual properties as present buildings may be removed (or new buildings may be removed) or new buildings are contemplated. Mr. William Rozell lost a valuable milch cow on Saturday night from paralysis. He had sold her for \$50 but was not to deliver her for a week. The loss is a heavy one as Mr. Rozell is on the eve of moving to Michigan.

Ground was broken yesterday for the new block at the corner of Mill and Willow Streets. Mr. John Arthurs is making the excavations.

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