

Free Press Editorial Page

Simpler phoning Saturday

On Saturday, there will be no long distance charges for calls to Milton or Guelph. The increased calling area gives us 62,000 phones we can ring instead of last week's puny 16,000. What a challenge! Many will welcome the change, and will be starting phoning friends, relatives, businesses, government departments and stores right away.

Simpler phoning should do its part to make Halton more unified. It will be much easier to dial Halton region departments, health unit, museum, Glen Eden ski area, Milton OPP, the works garage, etc.

Certainly we will have far fewer those frustrating, one-sided, often

impolite conversations with a supersweet recorded voice. That kind of thing puts a caller in a poor frame of mind before the call ever goes through.

With constant inflation, it's unlikely there will be many complaints about another increase—that of monthly phone bills.

If bigger is really better, we get it for phoning this Saturday!

But don't forget to look up the post office in the phone book under "G" (Government of Canada), the M. Z. Bennett school under "H" (Halton Board of Education) and the health unit under "R" (Regional Municipality of Halton). Some things never change.

George Kerr vindicated

Supporters of our Member of Parliament George Kerr have consistently expressed confidence in him, right from the beginning of the Hamilton harbor dredging scandal. Now he is exonerated, and able to return to his full duties as Solicitor-General.

He had continued his role as Halton-West MPP during the waiting period and trial, but gave up his position as a chief of police—Ontario's Chief Fuzz, as he cheerfully called himself—until his name was completely cleared.

Although his name was in the daily papers many times when he was unable to speak up for himself, he had his opportunity when the time came in the trial. Now it's all over, and sentence pronounced on others.

Our busy Member will again be as busy as he wants to be.

The day he rejoined the cabinet he started right in where he left off

by declaring himself in favor of a licensing system for firearm control. He'll be meeting soon with federal justice and police officials.

If Ottawa rejects licensing, Ontario can act on its own, Mr. Kerr points out.

Licenses would be required to buy rifles and shotguns and possibly air rifles, and present owners would have to show a license to buy ammunition.

License testing might be done by gun clubs, police or the Ministry of Natural Resources.

The age limit could be 16 or 18. No one could just arrange a license and go out and buy a gun immediately, while in a state of rage or depression. There would have to be a cooling-off period of several days.

Despite what people see in the movies and on TV, guns don't solve problems. They create them.

The sooner the better for gun controls.

Liberty, maternity, equality

Despite the fact we only publish local news in a small town weekly, we're very tempted to save a space in the Birth notices column for the day when Montreal Mayor Jean Drapeau or one of his confreres has his baby. Even people here will want to know about this phenomenon.

Drapeau has said the Olympics can no more produce a deficit than a man can have a baby. Now this week the estimated deficit has gone up to \$221 million.

Start your breathing exercises, vous hommes in Quebec. One of you is due to be a mother.

Just another increase

The Free Press subscription rate is up—the first increase since 1968. It still costs the same dime plus a nickel to buy a paper singly. But subscribers pay \$7.50 a year after the first of August.

As our special centennial issue showed, the paper cost just \$1 a year in 1875. There were four pages every week then.

Everybody knows all costs have gone up, and surely no one will be really surprised to hear of even another increase.

Leaflets three, let it be

The poison ivy itch is about to strike again. With warmer days, people are heading for outdoor places. Many people will come back with a rash that may be distressingly itchy for a week or more.

The first sign of poisoning is usually a light itching, followed by a faint blush of the skin. Itchiness increases, and small watery blisters appear, sometimes bursting to become irritating, oozing sores which finally dry up, forming scabs. A mild dose or a heavy one, how it can itch!

So, how to recognize the treacherous plant. Poison ivy takes many forms and grows practically everywhere, especially in Southern Ontario. It may only be a few inches high, carpeting the ground, two or three feet high like an upright plant, or vine-like, twisting itself around trees, shrubs or plants. The leaflets vary greatly in shape and size; the margins from perfectly smooth to finely or coarsely toothed, to deeply and irregularly lobed.

The old saying goes "Leaflets three, let it be." The leaves, borne alternately on the stem, consist of three leaflets. The stalk of the middle leaflet is longer than the stalks of the side leaflets. All three are

joined together at the upper end of one much longer stalk.

It's the oil in the plant that causes the toxic action on your skin. You don't have to touch the plant itself. The oil can be transmitted from contaminated clothing, especially boots, and tools, picnic baskets, car tires and even an animal's fur. Your dog runs through the poison ivy patch, you pet the dog, and the oil is transmitted to your skin. If you are sensitized to it, you start itching, not the dog.

If you have been contaminated, act at once. Wash with thorough latherings of soap and repeated rinsings with water. If a rash appears, apply a thick paste of soap and leave it on over night, or use calamine solution. Relieve inflammation with cool compresses of ice water. Contaminated clothing and articles should be thoroughly washed with soap and water. Clothes to be sent to the dry cleaners should be labelled as poison ivy contaminated so the dry cleaning personnel will be aware of the danger.

Treat poison ivy with respect. Keep your distance.

—Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources



"I WONDER what's under here?" says 15-month-old Robbie Nurse of 24 Ransom Street.

Cooling off in Fairy Lake he searches for whatever is under this wet stuff.



Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

Well, Canada's in good shape for a long, hot summer, it looks like.

Don't be surprised, even in these days of women's liberation, if you hear some time this summer that a member of the male sex has given birth to a child.

The figurative father would be Mayor Drapeau of Montreal, one of the great con artists of the 20th century.

Asked near the beginning of the fiasco whether there was any chance of the Canadian Olympics being a financial disaster, His Worship replied something like this: There is as much chance of the Olympics losing money as there is of a man having a baby.

Well, hi there, Dad! The 1976 Olympics, to be held in the Canadian city with the worst slums, the worst schools, the worst sewage problems, and the biggest crime rate in Canada, is now approaching \$300 million over estimates.

But don't tell M. Drapeau short. He has pulled so many rabbits out of so many hats in the last decade, baffling his audience in the proceedings, that it's not at all impossible that he will prevail upon one of his stooges to produce.

I can see the headlines now: Drapeau Aide Bears Baby; Medics Baffled. The kid will be born with an Olympic coin in his mouth, and he'll be hustling lottery tickets from his cradle.

But you and I will still be stuck with a tax bill that would have made the Fathers of Confederation have a simultaneous group stroke. The whole country wasn't worth that!

Don't be surprised if M. Drapeau starts a completely new lottery, with the winner (men only) chosen as the first man in Canada to have a baby. I know a lot of women who would buy tickets.

However, that's peanuts, only something like one tenth of the national debt.

There's the very serious problem of the increase in the price of gas. Dear me, if they keep putting up the price of gas, it will soon be more than a pack of cigarettes. It has already soared past the cost of a bottle of beer. What is this country coming to?

Fearless John Turner, with about as much choice as a lady who is eight months pregnant, has produced again, with a budget that will go down in history with the same impact as the 50th anniversary of Joey Crack and Flossie Snail.

So the price of gas has gone up. So, what's new? Did we all expect it to go down?

And these stern, new prices are going to cut away back on our misuse of one of our natural resources. My foot!

Did you stop smoking when fags went up to 80 cents a package? Did you stop drinking when beer crept up from about 12 cents a bottle to 30 cents?

Are you going to stop driving and get off your lazy tail and walk down to the store for a pack of cigarettes or a pack of beer?

Those, of course, are rhetorical questions. We're smoking more than ever, drinking more than ever, and we'll probably burn more gas than ever, just to prove how irrational we are.

There is only one thing that is going to cut away back on our wastage of fuel. That is when some politicians (they'd have to do it in concert, because no individual would have the guts to do it) decree that the speed limit will promptly be reduced to 40 miles an hour, in Canada.

If we did that, and at the same time cut by two-thirds the amounts spent on super-highways, we'd almost pick up the amount M. Drapeau is flushing down the drain.

I can see that you're wondering why Smiley isn't Minister of Finance, if he has all the answers.

Well, I can tell you. I have the big, broad concepts well in hand, but sometimes the niggling little details escape me.

Recently, for example, I had my wife convinced that if I paid up for my war service, and taught for another year, I could retire at a pretty good pension.

Not that she was in favor of it. She wants me to work until I'm so old and sick

and tired and stupid and useless that nobody will have me, except her. Then she plans to cart me off to Golden Glow Haven or such. One of those awful places where couples can retire together.

My idea is that we should split when we finally decide we are mature. She can have the house, the car (1967 Dodge), the piano, rugs, the \$147 in stocks and bonds, the lawnmower and the snow shovel. I won't need any of that.

I'll just take my grandbaby, Pokey, and we'll go off somewhere and make a good life for ourselves, with no women.

My calculations were out about 400 per cent on the pension deal, so I have to work for another 20 or 30 years.

And perhaps that is the reason I am a very astute financial critic in the big world, and a complete failure in my own.

On the other hand, there are not many guys still driving a '67 Dodge that runs like a well-oiled rabbit. And there are not many guys left who still have 12 shares of Elder Mines. And there are not many guys my age who could still make a good living in a pool room.

So watch it, John Turner.

OUR READERS WRITE:

Think of report cards now

Dear Parents:

School is over but not forgotten, particularly by those children experiencing difficulty. Has your child/ren ever received report cards, through the years, with these evaluations?

- 40 minutes were up before she got the main idea down.
- His reading is a problem.
- The printing on this paper would give him a C grading.
- He generally has an indifferent or negative attitude to school. He is restless and inattentive in class. He didn't feel it was necessary to hand in a mathematics project.
- She is still weak in reading, spelling and arithmetic skills. She enjoys oral discussions and is keen to express her ideas.
- Reading test marks are improving but inconsistent. Mathematics marks are getting worse. Compositions are incomplete. Required reading is behind. He seems disorganized but still seeks little help from his teachers.
- She needs to be more attentive to her own work than everybody else's. She needs more concentration on her work in school.
- His low gradings are the result of unfinished work and failing to put effort into what he does.
- Oral reading and reading comprehension show improvement but still require much extra work to bring her up to the average grade level. Spelling is usually carelessly done and requires home study in each unit weekly. Phonics is poor and she is

still making careless mistakes in her language skills.

10. He shows an enthusiastic attitude toward extra activities. His attitude toward his work however, could show improvement. His conduct would be rated higher if he did not disturb those around him.

11. She does not wait for instructions before she begins to work and when she does listen she does not follow them.

12. Arithmetic — 8/31 - no complete answers; Sight reading — 5/17; Spelling — 30 wrong; Social Studies — many wrong ideas expressed, only about 2 deserve recognition.

What parents must do. Read all the past report cards, and picture what a terrible time that child (and teacher) must be having at school. I'd hate to get up in the morning, too, if I had to face a day always knowing I was constantly failing. Ignore the picture you have of a child who is a behaviour problem and could do better if he/she tried.

Consult your doctor. Have the child's ears and eyes checked. Tell them about the child's report cards. If physically the child checks out o.k., take all the old report cards and talk to someone at your Board of Education office. Further tests must be arranged to pin-point why that child is having so much trouble. Please consider that it may NOT be a phase he/she will grow out of and that they are as unhappy as you are with the reports.

Helen Atkinson, Guelph.

The Free Press Back Issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, July 21, 1958.

Pupils of Miss Jean Coles were successful in passing Royal Conservatory of Music of Toronto examinations held recently in Guelph. Three young pianists received first class honours.

David Howden and Lillian Phillips both took first class honours in grade one piano and Brenda Cripps received first class honours in grade two.

The Orangeville bottling works advertised a six bottle carton of Coke for 36 cents, which included federal taxes and a two cent deposit. M.G.M.'s Blackboard Jungle, starring Glenn Ford, Anne Francis was appearing at the Roxy in Acton.

Acton Junior Farmers and Acton Junior Institute held a hay ride and wiener roast at the home of vice-president Jack Marshall. Silverwood Women's Institute took their meeting to the Breezes for a picnic lunch during the 90 degree temperatures.

David Holmes of Church St. was thrown from his motorcycle when his kickstand fell as he was driving along highway 7 at Crewson's Corners. The accident occurred midnight Saturday.

1955 looks like a record year for Acton. With four residential developments scheduled to rise this year, town officials can find no year where construction has been as active and building values as high. This week revealed concrete evidence of Acton's spreading progress. Building in Acton in 1955 has passed the half million dollar mark, already double the total building value.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, July 16, 1925

Mr. Samuel McSpadden of Haverhill, Mass., visited Acton friends while on a motoring tour during the week. He called on Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Elliott, and secured a small tree from the site of his father's home and his birthplace and hopes to be able to have it grow at his present home at Haverhill. He also called on Mr. H. P. Moore, who was his Sunday School superintendent when he was a boy in Acton. Mr. McSpadden is a prosperous business man in his adopted city. Mrs. McSpadden is a daughter of ex-Mayor Furch of that city.

The first picnic of the Sunday school of the United Church of Canada, Acton, was held last Wednesday afternoon, Eldorado Park, which has sprung into such popularity for functions of this character, was the objective.

Last Thursday evening Acton Citizens' Band went to Milton to put on a regular band concert in Victoria Park. The park was crowded with an audience to hear the concert and see the Burlington Fire Brigade put on their fancy drill.

Mrs. Fred McDowell and little daughters, Hazel and Evelyn, returned last week from a two week visit with friends in Blyth, Goderich and Clinton.

Miss Margaret Murray of Edinburgh, Scotland, arrived in town on Tuesday to spend a month or two with her brother, Mr. George Murray and Mrs. Murray.

75 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, July 19, 1900.

A garden party will be given by St. Alban's Church in the park this evening. An excellent programme of games, bicycle races, etc., will be played and the programme of the evening will conclude with several musical numbers to be rendered by Miss Nicklin, Mrs. Gentles, Messrs. Stark, Jeans, Henderson and Gurney. Acton Cornet Band will provide instrumental music. A baseball match between the north and south of Mill Street, will be an interesting feature, and will be called at 6.30 sharp. The bicycle races will include open race, boys' race, ladies' race, and a race for men who never won a prize.

The dwelling on the farm of Beardmore & Co., recently owned by Col. W. Allan, outside the limits of the corporation, south of Queen Street, was discovered to be on fire about noon on Sunday. The alarm was rung and the fire brigade quickly responded. The building was too far away to be reached by the steam fire engine, and the hose companies reinforced the hook and ladder company, and by skillful and energetic work subdued the flames after an hour of very hard fighting, though one corner of the house was badly gutted. But between four and five in the afternoon, the fire broke out again, and in the absence of water, it was deemed impossible to save the dwelling and it was then burned to the ground.

The Board of Trustees of Acton Public School met last Wednesday evening. All the members were present, Chairman Holmes presiding.

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Business and Editorial Office



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