

# Anecdote could refer to Acton's magistrate

The June issue of The Gazette, the magazine published by the Law Society of Upper Canada, contained an article that especially caught lawyer Charles Leatherland's eye. He thinks the reference must be to H. P. Moore, long-time editor of The Free Press.

The article is a long extract from the book A Stuff Gown and a Silk One, written by Toronto lawyer Ernest Black, who spent some of his boyhood years in Acton.

Here's the story Mr. Black tells:

The late James Haverson, who for many years was counsel for the Ontario Hotel Keepers Association, told me a somewhat similar story. In a little town not far from Toronto, the local magistrate was the publisher of the weekly paper and an ardent and convinced prohibitionist. The town was dry, and under Local Option, but the owner of the village hotel, like proprietors of hotels in many dry places, managed to accommodate many of the thirsty villagers. As long as fines were reasonable, they were little more than licence fees, fees that carried an unexpected, delayed penalty when prohibition was repealed, and the new law provided that no licence was to be granted to any man who had ever been convicted of selling alcohol. And the system did not work well in the town in question. The fines imposed were the maximum and, far from amounting to a licence, were prohibitive.

The publican consulted with the Association counsel

and a scheme was devised. A brewery co-operated by sending a shipment of bottled water all neatly labelled and capped as ale. In due course, the police found the merchandise in the usual hiding place and a charge was laid. Mr. Haverson came from Toronto to defend. There was the usual conviction. The evidence was conclusive except for the fact that the bottles had not been opened and the contents tested. The fine was so great that it could not be paid, and the hotel man was led away to the cells.

The trap was now set and ready to be sprung. An appeal would be launched, and when, at the request of the accused, the bottled evidence was tested, the magistrate would be a laughingstock and would be discredited.

Waiting in the hotel for the late afternoon train to take him back the forty miles to Toronto, Mr. Haverson thought the matter over and reconsidered. Perhaps the desired result could be obtained by explaining the situation to the magistrate and gaining his future good will by forbearance—a polite sort of blackmail. There was the added probability that the appellate tribunal might not look kindly on a lawyer who played tricks on the court. Courts have been known to deal sternly with that sort of thing. On his way to the station, therefore, he dropped in at the newspaper office and interviewed the magistrate. The magistrate was quite surprised to hear that an appeal was to be launched, and

more so when he was warned that the evidence was not to be destroyed. (The usual practice in such cases, especially if the evidence was in kegs, was to destroy it in front of the Town Hall. As a school boy, I have seen beer foaming in open ditches.) The magistrate agreed with the suggestion. "Of course," he said, "it will be needed for the appeal." And, said Mr. Haverson, "it will be tested. It won't need to be analyzed. Why don't you have one of the bottles here now and test it now?"

The magistrate was now clearly worried and sent for some of the evidence. When it was opened and decanted it was plainly the product of the brewery water tank. Mr. Haverson told me that the magistrate was almost in a state of collapse. At length, a bargain was made. The conviction was scratched out and the record read "case dismissed". As long as that magistrate continued in office the hotel was not searched again. That was one bit of news that the local editor did not share with his readers.

The magistrates who tried the last two cases were laymen with no legal training and no legal knowledge not acquired on the bench. At one time that was a fairly common state of affairs, and there are still a few provincial judges without legal training. Legal training, though no doubt desirable, is not really necessary. The quality that is needed most in a police court is common sense, and that is not always acquired in a law school.



**MAPLEHURST** Correctional Centre, located at the south-east corner of Highway 25 and Highway 401 in Milton, was officially opened a few weeks ago and will be accepting its first inmates in September. In this recent aerial photograph by staff photographer Steven Dills, the overall complex

can be seen as it fans out over the 100-acre site. Highway 25 runs across the top of this photo; Highway 401 at right. Sports fields are shown in the foreground with the residential wing in the centre and shops, classrooms and work areas at upper left.

# Color tour by steam train

The longest curved wooden trestle in Ontario at the Forks of Credit, the remains of the hydrostation, which provided electricity to Erin and Caledon Township before 1900, and the brick clay beds which prompted the extensive brick industry in the valley can all be seen as well as the sounds and smells of a steam train on Sunday, September 28.

The Credit Valley Conservation Authority is sponsoring the second annual steam train color tour from West Toronto and Streetsville stations north to Orangeville — and back — on this date. Tickets may be obtained at a cost of \$17.50 for adults and \$12.50 for children.

Back in 1879 George Laidlaw and his Credit Valley Railway company completed a railway line to Orangeville through the scenic Credit Valley. This project necessitated the building of a trestle across the Credit River gorge at the Forks of Credit.

This 1146 foot trestle, 85 feet above the Forks, vied with the Port McNichol trestle on Georgian Bay as the longest curved trestle in Ontario. The CPR filled it with gravel after they purchased the line at the end of the century.

The locomotive used will be engine 1057, a ten-wheeler built by the CPR in 1912 and eventually acquired by the Ontario Rail Association. The cars of the train are the open-window style of the early 1900's, restored by the volunteer labor of the ORA members. Each car of the Credit Valley Railway train is named for a village in the valley (i.e. Inglewood Cheltenham).

On September 28, passengers will board the train at West Toronto station at 7.30 a.m. and Streetsville station at 9.00 a.m. for an all-day leisurely tour along the valley and return.

Runpasts for photographers will take place at Inglewood on the way north and at Cataract, Inglewood and Streetsville in the afternoon. Scheduled arrival back at Streetsville is 6.45 p.m. and West Toronto at 7.30 p.m. A schedule is available with tickets. Tickets may be obtained from Eaton's Attractions ticket office at 597-1688.



**JACKIE VARCOE** included her colt in the auction sale at their home on 15 Sideroad. A large crowd bid on all kinds of items, from old stairways to television sets.



**THREE LITTLE** kittens were among the items for sale at Varcoe's auction sale on 15 Sideroad. Guarding them are neighbors Mandy and Ian Finlayson.



**RAIN DIDN'T BOTHER** Joanne Wilkinson and her horse Star at the Guelph Pony Club's gymkhana on August 23. The event was held at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Eric Johnston, 4th Line, Nassagaweya.



**FINDS OF ALL** kinds were piled high at the Varcoe sale on 15 Sideroad. Jack Varcoe is a demolisher and there were windows, doors and barn boards for sale as well as furniture and the usual what-have-you.

# Bill Breckon Wheat king is donor

A generous friend of the Ontario Agricultural Museum is William E. Breckon of R. 2, Burlington. He has one of the largest private collections of primitive farm tools in Ontario and has donated generously from the Museum's collection.

A man of many talents, among which was the love of farming, a curiosity for soil and crop improvement methods, and his herd of Jersey cows which made him a leading milk producer in Halton County.

His intensive interest in

better crop production brought about an experimental program on wheat growing. In 1954 that interest paid off and William E. Breckon became the new Wheat King of the world. His grain was Genesee Winter White which had been developed at Cornell University, New York City, and given to various farmers to test its growing powers.

Eastern Canada was ecstatic—he was the toast of Canada. Halton County in particular took great pride in having one of its farmers

bring honor to the district. It was the first and last time (to date) that this honor has come to Ontario.

"Thornhill" where Bill Breckon was born 82 years ago was settled by his grandparents, John and Isabella Breckon, who migrated from Yorkshire, England, in 1830. They took up a 100 acre grant on the north side of what is now the Queen Elizabeth Way and west of Burloak Drive. The log house they built in 1830 was replaced in 1854 by a large red brick house where

Wesley Breckon, Bill's father, was born and where Bill himself was born. The 100 acre farm remained intact until 1921 when Bill Breckon took over its operation from his father. He gradually increased the acreage to 350 and farmed until 1956 when he gave up farming altogether.

The school board built a new school in Nelson Township and named it the William E. Breckon, and the Historical Board erected a plaque which honors him as a man of integrity and Wheat King of the World.



**THE HIGH STEPPING** hard driving style of drum major Linda Furgess of the Seneca Princemen Drum and Bugle Corps of Seneca College, Scarborough, was the topic in the prism of Peter McCusker's viewfinder recently as he documented the Golden Triangle drum corps Championships in Kitchener Waterloo at Centennial stadium. The Princemen won the contest and are presently reigning Canadian Champions, a title they won last September at the C.N.E. The photo was taken on Kodak Tri-X film rated at 1600 ASA with a 28mm wide angle lens at f2-125 of a second.

# Church Services

**ACTON BAPTIST CHURCH**  
80 Mill Street East, Founded 1842  
Pastor: Rev. Das Sydney B.Sc., M. Div.  
Pastor's Phone—853-1835

Thursday 7.00 p.m.—Choir Practice  
Saturday 6.00 p.m.—Corn Roast meet at the church.

Sunday, September 7, 1975  
11.15 a.m.—Morning Worship, communion.  
(Note: Change of time to 11.15)  
Sunday School begins September 7th at 9.45 a.m.

**EVANGEL PENTECOSTAL TABERNACLE**  
P.A.O.C. 33 Churchill Rd. N.  
Rev. S. M. Thoman, Pastor 853 2715

Sunday, September 7, 1975  
10.00 a.m.—Sunday School  
11.00 a.m.—Morning Worship  
7.00 p.m.—Evangelistic service also showing the new sound motion Billy Graham "Isn't It Good to Know".

Tuesday 8.00 p.m.—Prayer Service and Bible Study.  
Wednesday 8.00 p.m. Christ's Ambassadors

ALL ARE WELCOME!  
Excellent free town Bus Service for children and adults to and from Sunday School on the "All Red Bus". Also Rural pick-up. For information phone 853-2715 or 853-0766.

Rev. J. 70 "Behold I stand at the door, and knock. If any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him and will sup with him and he with me."

**MAPLE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH**  
177 Maple Ave., Georgetown (A Fellowship Baptist Church)

Sunday, September 7, 1975  
9.45 a.m.—Sunday School for all ages  
11.00 a.m.—Morning Worship  
6.30 p.m.—Evening Fellowship  
Thought—Peace rules the day when Christ rules the mind.  
A Friendly Welcome Awaits You

**UNITED CHURCH OF CANADA TRINITY CHURCH, ACTON**  
Rev. W. Eric Nelson, M.A., B.D.—Minister  
Dr. George Elliott, M.A., Ph.D.  
Director of Music

Sunday, September 7, 1975  
10.00 a.m.—Public worship. Sermon: "Who in the Long Run will Possess the Earth?"  
Everyone Welcome

**PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA KNOX CHURCH, ACTON**  
Rev. Andrew H. McKenzie, B.A., B.D.—Minister  
Mr. E. A. Hansen, B.A. Organist and Choir Master

Sunday, September 7, 1975  
11.00 a.m.—Divine Worship. Family service, with children and adults worshipping together. Story-Sermon: "Because It Never Entered His Head Before."  
Everyone Most Welcome

**BETH-EL CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**  
(Churchill Rd. and Hwy. 7)  
Minister: Rev. J. Corvers

Sunday, September 7, 1975  
Sunday Worship Services at 10.00 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. Preschool Sunday School during the morning service. Sunday School during the afternoon service.  
You are welcome

**CHURCHILL COMMUNITY CHURCH**  
Churchill Road North  
Minister: The Rev. A. Walter Fosbury, B.A., M. Div.  
124 Tidey Avenue  
Phone 853 2386

Sunday, September 7, 1975  
11.00 a.m.—Worship Service at Churchill.  
Sermon subject: "Dedication"  
Please note change of time  
The church on the hill is an interdenominational congregation, ministering to the needs of the community.  
All Welcome

**BETH-EL CHRISTIAN REFORMED CHURCH**  
(Churchill Rd. and Hwy. 7)  
Minister: Rev. J. Corvers

Sunday, September 7, 1975  
Sunday Worship Services at 10.00 a.m. and 2.30 p.m. Preschool Sunday School during the morning service. Sunday School during the afternoon service.  
You are welcome

**THE CHURCH OF ST. ALBAN THE MARTYR**  
1872—Anglican—1974  
Corner Willow St. and St. Alban's Dr.  
Rev. Leonard Ewing Rector  
Director of Music—Mrs. Frank Oakes

Thursday, September 4 7.30 p.m.—Holy Eucharist

Sunday, September 7, 1975  
9.00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist  
10.30 a.m.—Sung Eucharist  
Wednesday, September 10 10.00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist

**BABA'I FAITH**  
You are warmly invited to attend a fireside discussion every Friday evening at 8.30 p.m. Phone 877-3497.

To acquire knowledge is incumbent on all, but of those sciences which may profit the people of the earth, and not such sciences as begin in mere words, and end in mere words. The possessors of sciences and arts have a great right among the people of the world.  
Abdu'l-Baha

—Milton Chamber of Commerce officially opens the CN Station information booth next Wednesday, Sept. 10.

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