The human touch

Madeleine Gibbons touched many people's lives in a unique way.

After gaining invaluable experience as a nurse in St. Michael's hospital, Toronto, she came back to her home town and worked in the drug stores. There, behind the counter, she made a host of friends.

Many of them asked for her help. Not a lot of help—just a little explanation and encouragement.

It was especially the worried mothers who sought out Dean. Often she suggested a visit to the doctor, but often the concerns were minor. A chat about the problem meant a lot.

Many remember with deep affection her coming to their homes to help with ill children or to give newborns their first bath.

Added to her professional abilities were the human qualities that meant so much-ability to listen, intelligence, willingness to help. Sympathy for those small pains as well as big ones. A ready smile and laugh.

Properly, she was honored as Citizen of the Year while still in good health.

She aided hundreds over humps in their lives and made days cheerier for many more in good health.

Free Press / Editorial Page

Appreciation to Fosburys

Affection and deep appreciation and impart the meaning of their were expressed Sunday for the Rev. Walter Fosbury and his wife Betty at a presentation at Churchill church. Who can count the ways people like this have helped their community?

Clergymen (like nurses) choose a career which puts them into close contact with people. All human concerns are their concerns. They give strength and encouragement

The Fosburys have been active well into their retirement years. At Churchill church with them Sunday were members of the congregation, friends from former churches, some of their family and four of their grandchildren.

May they meet with well-deserved contentment in the years

Co-ordination needed

Supporters of the new Community Services centre in the Y are holding their breath this week, awaiting the decision of Halton region council about their grant. Without the region grant, there probably won't be a provincial grant. And without money, the centre probably cannot operate.

The current cutbacks in health

expenses in the province don't necessarily mean cutbacks in this kind of project.

Government funds are available for community services facilities and in some quarters they are considered the "coming thing".

The need for co-ordination of services is well recognized.

Such a centre would reorganize existing help to avoid waste and

duplication.

Dear Margaret Trudeau

Dear Margaret Trudeau:

In these days of people abusing other people, of violence and terror, of cruelty and obscenity you sang a song of love.

In these days of anxieties and neurosis you opened yourself freely, and publicly embraced a comparative stranger.

In these days of high professionalism, of specialization and secularization, you sang unaccompanied the words of your

mouthing equality and freedom for all nations and withholding it from some, you reached out and alone embraced warmly a whole country.

Canadian Champion, Milton

Mid-February jottings

This February is very unusual, with five Sundays. That can't happen very often.

The Free Press will have the

coverage of the leadership convention in Ottawa in next week's paper. Bob Burtt of the Milton staff and Steven Dills will be attending.

In these days of a United Nations

In these days, Margaret, you are a rare and beautiful person.

-by Joyce Beaton in the

We retreated upstairs to the TV room. and plugged in an electric heater, and waited for the cold spell to end. The thermometer plunged. The icicles on the south roof took on awesome proportions

Article evokes

During a foray to the kitchen for food, I checked the downstairs powder room. In the sink, where the tap habitually drips. there were a perfect stalactite and a perfect stalagmite, not quite meeting. In the

toilet bowl, there was a sheet of ice, glare, six inches thick, and two black squirrels, forced out of the attic by the cold, playing their version of road hockey. Outside lurked the Abominable Ice-

by bill smiley

Sugar and Spice

DESERTED TRACKS lead in to the new building at

the Ontario Electric Railway Historical Association

grounds in Nassagaweya Sunday. Volunteers are

working on the new steel-clad building and have found

weather this winter bad for an outdoor project such as

There's nothing like a real cold snap to

It brought the usual plethora of dead

I am firmly convinced that if Canada

make you realize how fragile is our civili-

zation. We had a dandy recently, with tem-

peratures far below zero in real (Fahren-

batteries, burst water pipes, and ancient

had a solid month of 30-below tempera-

tures, the country would fall apart, physi-

There's something insidious and fearful

about a prolonged cold spell. You sense

that some giant beast is outside there,

creeping implacably nearer, silent and

monstrous, until the final moment of hore

ror when claws of cold steel will clutch

your throat, and your eyeballs will pop out

and hang on your cheeks like frozen

Our house is normally a toasty one. The

First it was a draft ground the feet. We

Next, while the thermostat read 70, the

thermometer read 58, and wouldn't go

higher. We closed off the back kitchen.

where there is a sink and a johnny. It got

merest touch of a finger to the thermostat,

and we laugh at the cold. Not so this time.

threw an old coat down at the back door,

where the beast was intruding his icy ten-

tacles. The temperature went down.

heit) degrees for quite a few days

furnaces giving up the ghost.

cally, mentally and morally.

man. Downstairs the furnace coughed valiantly, like a man with emphysema and one lung. The thermometer read 56.

Beginnings of panic. The furnace-men weren't coming until next Thursday. You make appointments with them months ahead, like a dentist

Call the plumber. "Nope, nobody here on a Saturday, and besides, we don't do furnace work any more. Call your oil deal-

Called oil dealer. Situation getting grim. Thoughts of moving to a motel. Certainty that car wouldn't start, and taxi as easy to capture as lost virginity.

Oil dealer chuckles jovially, "Are your filters clean?"

"My what?"

"Your filters. If they're dirty, your furnace can't breath."

Ask wife. Filters clean? She says the furnace man usually puts new ones in, but last year he said they didn't need chang-

Tell fuel dealer. He chuckles heartily. "They should be cleaned once a month. Try taking them out altogether for a white, and call me back."

"How do you take them out?" Diagram given over phone. By some miracle, I find and remove the filters. They are black as Toby's you-know-what.

An hour later, temperature up to 58 Another hour later, up to 60. Cheers of victory. Put electric heater, face down, in toilet bowl of downstairs johnny. Emerge

from TV room redoubt.

this. The wood roof trusses were installed with a

crane Dec. 14 while the men walked in ankle-deep

mud. It takes half a dozen men to manhandle each

steel panel for the walls into place.

Four p.m. Saturday, Sun shining, Venture forth. Car starts. Go downtown. Everyone jolly. Horror stories abound. Colleague spent four hours and \$28 getting car started. Friend had all upstairs pipes burst, water, water everywhere. Neighbor's almost-new furnace conked out at 1 a.m. Another colleague with brand-new house, brand new electric heating system. was able to get temperature up to only 17 degrees, with help of fireplace. Feel better. Own suffering trivial.

Return home in good mood. Wife furious. Let rotten cat in to get warm. Rotten cat showed gratitude by committing No. 1 and No. 2 all over back kitchen, where ice in john now melted. But house a lovely, balmy 68. The Beast once more defeated.

But he'll be back. And down deep, 1 don't really trust our technology to cope with Him. Furna ces, for example.

They're much too complicated for an ordinary nincompoop to deal with. They require a guy with a Grade 10 education and a skill with inanimate things.

Second last time I called the furnace man, the furnace was dead. Not even a cough. "Try pushing the starter button", he suggested.

Now, I knew some cars and most aircraft have a starter button. I thought furnaces just started up on their own, when the cold weather came along.

After three trips down cellar and three trips back up to the phone, I located the starter buttons, two of them. I pushed. Nothing. I pushed and pushed and pushed.

Called the guy back. He said he'd come Got home from work, the furnace was humming, asked my wife what he did.

"He pushed the starter button!" she said, deliberately and witheringly. That cost me twelve bucks.

But I, and my contemporaries, will have the last laugh when we run out of oil and gas to go back to coal furnaces. Then we'll see who the experts are. We know that coal furnaces are not inanimate creatures. They respond to a couple of bangs about the ears with a shovel.

Governor-

Mrs. Kay Dills,

Acton Free Press.

ACTON, Ontario.

Dear Kay:

59 Willow Street N.

Editor,

General's duties

This is in regards to an article which

After some lengthy research and a few

From the Letters Patent in 1947, new

appeared in the Acton Free Press on Jan-

uary 28, 1976. The title of the article was

inquiries, I am able to provide you with

terms by King George VI the Governor

General is permitted to fulfil all offices,

sulted on the matter, and she approved of

"Appreciation of Monarchy".

some worthwhile information.

READERS WRITE:

The Maria bridge question, whether a vote should be required to endorse the town spending some \$15,000 as its share of reconstruction, was answered this week as the Municipal Board ruled a vote was not necessary. The ruling lends implication that the town may rightly claim responsi-bility for the bridge. Recently the aged structure was put off limits to trucks as asafety measure.

The Free Press

Back Issues

20 years ago

Taken from the Issue of the Free Press

February 23, 1956

Three local men appeared in a brief: sitting of Magistrate's Court here Weday nesday afternoon.

One man was charged with impaired driving and fined \$20 costs. His licences. were also suspended for three months. A charge of drunkeness was dismissed against another Acton man while a third charged with driving while license was under suspension was remanded.

Two accidents were reported by Acton' police over the weekend. No serious injuries were caused any of those involved. Late Friday night a car driven by Frank Brown, Milton, ran off North Main Street, near the town line, and turned over in the ditch. About \$350 damage was caused.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the

Free Press of Thursday, February 18, 1926 Some of the council had an interview with Beardmore and Co. regarding the installing of a new fire whistle. The Beardmore Co. were willing to operate any kind of whistle supplied on their hoilers.

Palestine for the Jew - Why? An interesting and timely lecture at the Town Hall on Sunday, Seats free.

Advertisement - Herbalist Here. Are you suffering from any disease? Mr. Murfin; the proprietor of Canadian Herb Gardens and expert in herbs will be at the Station Hotel, Acton, one day only, March 3. Asthma, piles, dropsy, bed wetting, skin diseases, nervous diseases, rheumatism, bladder trouble, diabetes, Bright's disease. stomach, liver, kidney, neuritis, blood pressure, heart troubles, constipation, lung and bronchial roubles, and all diseases. Gall stones removed, no operation necessary, Goitre removed, nooperation. There is a Herb for Every Disease.

Dr. Samuel Johnston, Chief of the Anaesthetic Department of Toronto General Hospital, has been selected president of the Section of anaesthetics of the British Medical Association. He is a son of the late Samuel Johnston Esq. and spent part of his young manhood here.

Some of the snow shoers have done considerable trekking lately and seem to enjoy

Mr. J. D. Jones has taken over Mr. D. C. Russell's grocery store. Now that the coal strike is over people

are reasonably sure of receiving anthracite within a few weeks. The utility of the horse is not yet over.

The other day a horse was seen hauling a motor car into Milton. The owner of the horse rode him bareback.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, February 10, 1876. We hope to see a very large assemblage at the supper to be given to Mr. Storey and others, this evening. The committee are exerting themselves to have everything as it should be! Ladies! You are expected to show appreciation worthy of the object by attendance in large numbers. Oysters will

be on the table promptly at 8 o'clock. After

supper and some speaking it is proposed to

have interesting amusements of various

kinds. Remember, the proceeds are to be given to help the poor and needy. The tax collector says there are still a few lilatory people on his pay roll and that he will be after them with a sharp stick if

they don't come to time in a few days. Valentines in great variety at McNairs. The good sleighing of the past week has been the means of brightening up business

wonderfully. Last Friday evening a public meeting was held in Matthews hall to take into con-

sideration the granting of a bonus to a brush manufacturer. The hall was well filled with the leading ratepayers of the village. The manufacturer is asking \$5,000 and says he would employ 35 hands.

The toll-gate on the seventh line of Esquesing - the only one that has been in existence in Halton for many years - has at last been removed. People may now travel on the only few miles of gravel-road in the county without being compelled to stop and fork over half a dime. This gate has been a source of annoyance and contention for a good many years and it is pleasing to know that the stockholders have finally consented to its removal without resorting to litigation. We presume that the county council will hereafter see that the road is kept in good repair.

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Business and Editorial Office



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duties and functions of the Sovereign in the right of Canada. A meeting took place between Queen Elizabeth and our Prime Minister on March 12, 1974. At that time Her Majesty was con-

the arrangement. I trust this will clarify the misunderstanding. Yours sincerely,

Dr. Frank A. Philbrook, Member of Parliament, Halton.

Editor's note: Dorothy Stone also corrected us on this point.

Happy memories for teacher take off his coat or his hat or by Rha Shortill his book sack, and he sat all I'm a sentimental person, day on the edge of a back seat perhaps too much so, but an article in your last week's

which I had taught is now so Yes, after twenty years of married life, rearing my family and farming with my dear husband Dick, I went back to teaching. I must say

paper aroused my emotions to the point of tears, but

happy tears. Happiness because one of the old schools in

under pressure. One night, three men walked in to our home, Bruce Leitch, Stanley Swackhamer and I think James Cree. They had to have a teacher and could find none. Oh dear! Me go back to teaching? Dare 1? Times were "awful" hard on

the farm! A fortune Any way with co-operation from Dick and my family I agreed. \$900 was to us a fortune in 1942.

The first month was another "Awful". One wee boy no name - who had looked forward all the last year to going to school had a brand new school bag, all the nice new pencils, books etc., all set. But that wee boy wouldn't

erying and all ready to scoot out the door if I let him-so

Not many days passed before I began to love that wee school and those "grand" children. There were some wee rascals, some really geniuses, but all of them just wonderful.

The parents would bring in the children in the morning and we'd always communicate and co-operate. Scared?

I am sure if any of those children, now grown up long ago, read this, they will laugh at the remembrance of the mice and, (Mr. and Mrs. Cameron don't be scared), the snakes.

We planted bushes, flowers, evergreen trees and oh, we had such fun together. Thank you, new owners, for

making it the lovely home and if you ever hear voices maybe it's some of my pupils and from away back. Another of our old schools

where I taught six years, Peacock, is also now a beautiful home.

So much for reminiscing! <u>இது காதிரு நடைதி நடைதி கொள்திரு காது மிருக்காதிரு நடைதிரு நடைதிரு நடக்கு மிருக்காதிரு நடக்கதிரு நடக்கதிரு நடக்கதிரு நடக்கதிரு நடக்கதிரு நடக்கதிரு நடக்கதிரு நடக்கதிரு நடக்கதிரு நடக்கத</u>ிரு நடக்கதிரு நடக்கதிரு நடக்கதிரு நடக்கதிரு நடக்கது மிருக்க கூறிரு நடக்கதிரு நடக்கது மிருக்க கூறிரு நடக்கது மிருக்கது மிருக்க கூறிரு நடக்கது மிருக்கது மிருக்கது

WOODSIDE SCHOOL, S.S. No. 14, Erin. The group was pictured in 1943. Rita Shortill remembers these days with happiness.