

Inquest will give facts

It is beginning to become apparent that the facts of the terrible fatal accident will not all be revealed until the inquest is held at the end of the month. For instance, reporters have discovered that different people interpret such things as a 'high speed chase' in different ways.

Corp. Bob Arbour is still seeking information, especially from those who might have been on the highway at the same time. He has had

good response from his appeal for witnesses last week but is still trying to talk to as many people as possible.

Continuing conflicting reports add to the agony of the night, and the inquest will be a gruelling but needed way to sort fact from error, and make possible recommendations to prevent a similar tragedy.

But sorrow still hangs low over the district, just like the March clouds.

Free Press Editorial Page

Centre for everyone

It is good to see Acton gaining something again!

Last week saw the opening of the Community Services Centre in the Y, with a full-time co-ordinator on the job. The people in charge have managed to make hopes a reality, prepare the rooms and reports required. They lined up a person for the job and made their presentations to many groups, from local clubs to Halton regional councillors.

Now they have a good part of the money required and everything is set to proceed.

Co-ordinator Judy McLin wants

people to call her for a wide range of information. The co-operation of the public is much needed now, to recognize this service and make the best use of it.

The centre is certainly not just for people with serious problems. Your question can be as small as asking where to buy tickets for a special event or where to get a babysitter.

The intention is that everybody can benefit from the centre in one way or another.

It will only be successful, of course, if it is well used. Please call Judy!

That "hamster" again!

OK, you smart guy who wrote all the way from Ohio to twit us about our Pet of the Week hamster who looked so much like a cat! Your assessment of the social, business and political effects is stunning.

But you ain't seen nothing yet. Watch for these breed specialties which just might appear any Wednesday now:

Our Newfoundland joke dog who sings "I see the dog who sails the boats", the Canadian constitution retriever, also known as the

Ottawa fence setter, the mud poodle (common variety in spring), the Maple leaf spangled spaniel, bicultural black flies who bite in two official languages, a tax department hooded robin, a God save our queenfisher, a rare Olympic stadium crane, a Montcalm wolf, a parliamentary holy terrier, an Ontario beer parlor swallow, election bull, a beloved Senate sleepdog...not to mention three Free Press newshounds...and other such tabby cat-astrophes.

Of this 'n that

In an effort to explain the uses of the new community services centre, the Free Press will be running a series of interviews with the workers of the various groups which already use the centre—public health nurses, Board of Education, Children's Aid Society, family counselling, etc.

The latest issue of The Ridgetown Dominion—Murray and

Doris Scoyne's paper—has a half page filled with pictures of the disastrous results of the terrible ice storm there. Lawns are covered with broken branches, wires are down, poles leaning at crazy angles. Power was off for 59 hours. "It was a nightmare," says the town's mayor. The newspaper was published 18 hours late.

It was the worst storm in the district in 30 years.



BRAND NEW UNIFORMS are worn by the members of the Acton high school band. The uniforms were purchased with funds raised through paper and glass collections and the sale of address labels. The group practised in their new attire for the first time Monday. Front row left to right Cheryl Springle, Colin Mallett, Marie Jordan, Dale Anderson, Cliff Britton, Carol Jordan, Cindy Schmidt, Sandra Jennings,

Juanita Andrews, Jennifer Buscher; Middle row David Sale, Jim Saxon, Karen Paton, John Thompson, Susan Bruce, Lynne MacNaughton, Karen Hinkley, John Watson, Mike Morris, Greg Robson, Eunice Gibb; Back row Gord Bruce, Ian Thomson, David Marcoux, Scott Malcolm, Lynn Margetts, Stan Petric, Janice Ellerby, Dan Lamarche, Carole Staley, Peter Zions.



Sugar and Spice by bill smiley

Those Tories are something. This column will not appear until after their convention, but I'm still going around shaking my head in amused perplexity.

Theme of the convention seemed to be "Healing old wounds." This phrase came up again and again, as the blood from the old wounds oozed steadily, paying no attention.

Tone of the convention, aside from the theme, seemed to be, "Open new wounds." And they were visible, pouring forth fresh blood.

Not all the pious proclamations of solidarity, working together, and we're-all-brothers-in-the-great-Conservative-party could hide from any viewer that carrying a chiv was the order of the day.

By the time this appears in print, I have no doubt that Joe Clark, the new leader, slick as a seal when he took over, will look more like a porcupine, with all those daggers sticking out of his back.

It's a good thing he weighs only 145 pounds. At least a skinny guy is a smaller target for the knives.

What a scenario! Their leader Robert Stanfield, was stepping down after eight harrowing years trying to get a crowd of mavericks to make sense. He's the best leader the party has had since Robert Borden.

So what do they do as a zippy opening for the convention? They hold a laudatory dinner for John Diefenbaker, who has made things as difficult as possible for Stanfield, since the latter beat him out for the leadership.

Mr. Diefenbaker needed that dinner like he needed a hole in the head. He has been honored quite often enough as the Grand Old Man of the party. And with his ego, he doesn't need anybody to tell him how great he is.

Oh, Stanfield was given a dinner too, but sort of second banana, if he'll pardon the expression. He laid it on the line. Told the Tories present they had to stop the infighting, and get together if they were ever to form a government. That was about as much use as me telling a class of students that if they didn't do their homework they would fail. Totally ignored.

Next day the cats turned up for the farce: The actors did everything Shakespeare warned the players not to do, in the play Hamlet.

Howard Graftey and Patrick Nowlan sawed the air violently with their hands, shattered it with their mouths, cast their appeal entirely to the groundlings. This after, like Leacock's hero, leaping each on his horse and riding off in all directions.

John Fraser, a decent-looking chap with about as much charisma as Fred Flintstone, read a speech that would have

put to sleep the annual convention of the Women's Institute.

Pretty Boy Mulroney, batting his eyelashes at the cameras, smiled and smiled and made a speech that might have got him a \$25 fee on the banquet circuit.

Sinclair Stevens, an old-time image of a Bay St. Tory, bald and rich, made the only attempt to inject a little humor, and it bombed with a crowd which seemed able to applaud only platitudes.

Richard Quittenton from somewhere quit before the balloting began.

Jack Horner should have stayed in a corner, instead of trying to ride the herd back into the 1940s.

Paul Hellyer, defeated for the Liberal leadership, holly attacked the Prime Minister with vague innuendoes, and completed making an ass of himself by savagely attacking the press, of which he is a working member.

James Gillies, an economics professor, sounded like one, but had the good sense to get out early.

Claude Wagner, formerly beaten for the Liberal leadership in Quebec, and lured into the Tory party with a \$300,000 trust fund, proved a master orator, but said virtually nothing.

Joe Clarke, the eventual winner, made one studied joke, then launched into an earnest, dull speech which managed to cover most of the diamond without touching many bases.

Flora McDonald, to my mind, made the most honest speech of the lot. She was simple, but eloquent, warm but strong.

Next day the blood-letting began. Diefenbaker, never one to forget or forgive an insult, real or fancied, remembered

The Free Press Back Issues

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, March 11, 1928. At the March meeting of the Women's Institute a committee was appointed to get estimates on the erection of a booth at the park.

Mrs. Victor R. Rumley, formerly Miss Alice M. Johnstone, will receive for the first time since her marriage on Wednesday afternoon, March 17th, from 4 to 6 o'clock. Mrs. S. S. Russell of Oakville will receive with her.

A line of motor buses has been organized to run from Toronto to Sarnia on No. 7 highway. This will give the people of this community another means of transportation east and west.

It took three cars on the Canadian National Electric Railway to hold the Acton hockey team and its enthusiastic supporters last Thursday evening when they went to Georgetown for the second game of the inter-town series. Acton held the Georgetown team to a 5-5 tie. It would be hard to pick out the stars of the game. The Acton team all went well. Cane and Reid appeared best to some fans, while others gave a lot of credit to Ireland. Gibbons led the goal-scoring while the defense pair, Kentner and Currie, also went well.

Motor cars will soon be running again. The hot sun's rays have closed the open-air rink. Many people here long for a covered arena.

A person naturally wonders if the roads will ever be fit for motoring again. Going through the pitch-holes is like a rough sea voyage.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, March 9, 1876.

Young Thompson, who was run over by a sleigh last week, is said to be in a fairly way for recovery.

Mr. Baker, the brush man, has not yet put in an appearance, as promised. The whole thing begins to look decidedly sealy.

A source and musical festival will be given at Crewe's on Friday evening 17th inst. under the auspices of the Sons of Temperance of that place. Election cake will be an interesting and amusing feature of the evening.

The regular meeting of the Acton School Board was held in the School House on Monday evening. It was resolved to have circulars printed to be sent to parents within the division who were not sending their children between the ages of seven and twelve to school and notifying such persons that according to the Ontario School Act, such non-attendance will not be permitted.

We learn from Mr. Wm. Stephenson, of the Acton Flour Company, that he is preparing one of those celebrated single frame plows for the Centennial Exhibition in Philadelphia. The plow is being highly polished and is a beautiful piece of workmanship. It will be ready for shipment in a few days.

Mr. Douglas, representing Messrs. Creelman Bros. of Georgetown, is now in this village taking orders for musical instruments, sewing machines, knitting machines, clothes wringers etc. Parties wishing his services should see him at Agnew's Hotel.

SPEX—A new lot of spectacles, 50 cents to \$3.50.

That Joe Clarke had worked against him in a leadership campaign, and went to Wagner. Little Jack Horner followed him into that corner, after taking a swing at a reporter. Hellyer, looking as though he'd been sucking a persimmon, joined that middle-aged crowd.

Flora, obviously crushed by the knowledge that hundreds of blatant liars had promised her second-ballot support, went to Clarke, as did most of the others.

Quebec media people claimed there was a gang-up against Wagner. Ridiculous. He got just under half the total vote.

It was scarcely high drama. More like low comedy. But the party has a new leader. He looks like a live one, and his smart (in both senses) young wife should help. But he's going to need a lot of bandages to staunch the old wounds, and the new ones.

I don't know Mr. Clarke, but we have both appeared regularly in the High River Times. Go get 'im, Joe.

OUR READERS WRITE:

Suffering serves a purpose

A good week has gone by already since Acton was dumped in deep sorrow with the sudden death of so many of our young people, in the tragic accident. Last Sunday this was really commemorated in our church, and prayers ascended that the bereaved parents may be comforted by the Lord.

We always ask, why? and we have the notion to get a guilt feeling. Why, Lord, is it for something we have done wrong?

I would like to convey to you what our minister preached about. It was from John 9. (Read it for yourself.)

There was a blind man, from his birth. Jesus came by with the disciples and they asked (and this is our question often, too) Master, who sinned: he or his parents? That happens often in the Bible. Remember Job's friends, too, when he was in distress. They said, there must be something wrong with you, to receive this treatment. But you know what Jesus replied?

Neither he or his parents sinned, but that the works of God be made manifest in him, and Jesus healed him.

It means, it serves always a purpose when there is suffering.

Have we learned from it, are we drawing closer to God because of this?

It is high time that people start reckoning with God again. He gives love and can take it away, and He does it all for His glory and we may be in that kingdom. Sure young people in their twenties, remember Jesus became only 33 himself in the flesh, but he that believeth in Him will live eternally. Let's live with the Lord again. There is only one God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who revealed himself in the Bible. Exodus 20 says: Thou shalt have no other Gods before me. There is no other God.

We all hope that all the bereaved families may find strength in this knowledge. God the Father wants to comfort you. Do not let him stand in the cold with this love. John Kamminga

Drug, alcohol abuse

Dear Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to respond to numerous inquiries from your readers requesting additional information related to Alcohol and Youth as discussed at a recent public forum in Halton (Ref. report in last week's paper).

The purpose of the Forum was to solicit public opinion related to alcohol and youth and to consider recommendations from Halton citizens regarding the feasibility of amending provincial legislation to deal with the increasing serious problem of alcohol abuse by persons between the ages of fourteen and twenty-four.

As raising the legal drinking age is being considered to control accessibility etc., I suggested at the Forum that we must consider this question objectively and not be threatened by the idea that a great increase in marijuana abuse would be inevitable if the age was raised. (There is little or no evidence to my knowledge, to support this claim.) Although, the long range physical dependence of alcohol is significantly greater than the physical dependent characteristic of marijuana, it is vitally important to this issue that we are not misled to be offering as a solution, that one drug is "better or worse" than the other. On the contrary, I feel that alcohol, marijuana and all drug abuse can be extremely dangerous to the social and health well being of the abuser. Solutions, which can be found in elimination of the problems that promote all drug abuse, will continue to be accomplished as concerned youth and adults work to improve laws, influence our educators to teach meaningful preventative programs (stressing values clarification and life skills etc.) and assist communities to develop constructive alternatives for personal and family growth.

In considering the existing systems to deal with alcohol related problems, both the Medical and Educational professions were mentioned. To clarify a statement in the article, my contacts with family doctors and hospital medical staff who treat persons for alcoholism, suggests that for a wide variety of reasons, (one being the doctor's concern for the client losing his/her job—not the doctor losing a client) many of these professionals have avoided diagnosing numerous medical problems as being

caused by alcohol abuse, when in fact they are. Persons working in the addiction field generally agree that early detection and referral to appropriate treatment agencies greatly improves the possibility for recovery. "Cover-up" of the problem by some families, doctors, employers, friends etc. quite often only provides for repeated short hospital stays for "drying out" and does little to promote effective long term recovery.

As indicated by the excellent support for programs that the Addiction Research Foundation has received from numerous Halton educators, they realize their role is a vital link in the process of prevention and intervention. As these programs however, seem to vary significantly from school to school depending on staff priorities and because of the general willingness of staff to accept constructive suggestions related to the student drinking problems, I strongly urge parents, students, teachers and social and health agencies to continue to work cooperatively to develop a broader and more consistent alcohol and drug abuse curriculum for all schools in Halton.

This letter has only briefly discussed two or three areas of concern related to this extremely complex problem. No agency or individual is to blame for the increasing trends and patterns of alcohol and drug abuse in our communities. However, we all have responsibilities to work toward elimination of the social and health problems that directly influence abuse, that destroys thousands of lives and families per year in our province alone.

I personally feel that the provincial and local government are strongly committed to help us work toward solution and I would therefore encourage everyone to express your views and suggestions, by writing to MPP Terry Jones, Queens Park, Toronto, or myself at the Addiction Research Foundation, Oakville.

Sincerely,
Peter Marks
Community Consultant
Addiction Research Foundation
P.S. Community education concerning this problem is very important. This newspaper provides this service very adequately. Keep up the good work!

Old gander is a hero

Rob Munro of R.R. 2, Rockwood, rushed from the school bus Monday with unusual news:

"Did you see the fox on the lawn?" (The bus driver had spotted it first). Mark picked up his 22, loaded it and headed for the door, followed closely by Rob.

They checked the barnyard carefully, noting that the horses were excited and restless. Rob put them into the barn.

Suddenly Mark heard a frantic honking from the red barn which houses the poultry.

Cautiously Mark entered the poultry barn and there was the fox resting awhile, after having been flailed unmercifully by the old gander called "Gus". In order to protect his two geese Priscilla and Petunia, Gus had fought like a true warrior.

Unnoticed by the fox, Mark stepped inside and shot the fox.

Today Gus is resting with his head tucked beneath his bloody feathers. And there right beside him sit Priscilla and Petunia.

What makes these sly and cunning creatures so bold as to come so close to the buildings? I doubt if it is rabies but rather it is hunger. It has been a long, steady winter and this crust of snow makes it easier for the rabbits to escape.

—Jessie Munro

Did you live in Cobalt?

Dear Editor:

Cobalt High School is celebrating its 50th anniversary this year. To celebrate the occasion, we are holding a reunion on August 2nd, 1976.

All former students and teachers who are interested in further details should contact the Secretary.

Anniversary Committee,
Cobalt High School,
Box 0,
Cobalt, Ontario.
POJ 1C0

Yours truly,
Dr. L. D. McGarry,
Chairman.

Touching poem on spring

Lynn Marshall, who was one of seven young people killed in a two-car collision, wrote a touching poem when she was 12 which her family shares with Actonians this week:

SPRING

Very old are the woods
And the buds that break;
And the graceful swans
Have come back to the lake.

The gallant white snow
That was once so cold
Has melted and died
By the sun that's so bold.

The old wooden bridge,
Like a white blanket stood,

Is now plain to see
With its dark aging wood.

The gurgling stream
Is as fresh as the dew,
As it sparkles and reflects,
The sky that's so blue.

The shadows are forming
And night-time draws near,
And the rustling of trees
Is all you can hear.

The brilliant moon peeps
Through the clouds sailing by,
Through the hours of darkness
Till morning draws nigh.

Lynn Marshall,
March 1966, age 12.

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