

Free Press Editorial Page

Bus depot is an asset

A good bus service has been a boon to Actonians for many years. With no passenger train service, buses are even more important now for people who do not wish to drive.

The prompt, frequent trips to Guelph and beyond and to Toronto have been enjoyed and probably taken for granted by many passengers.

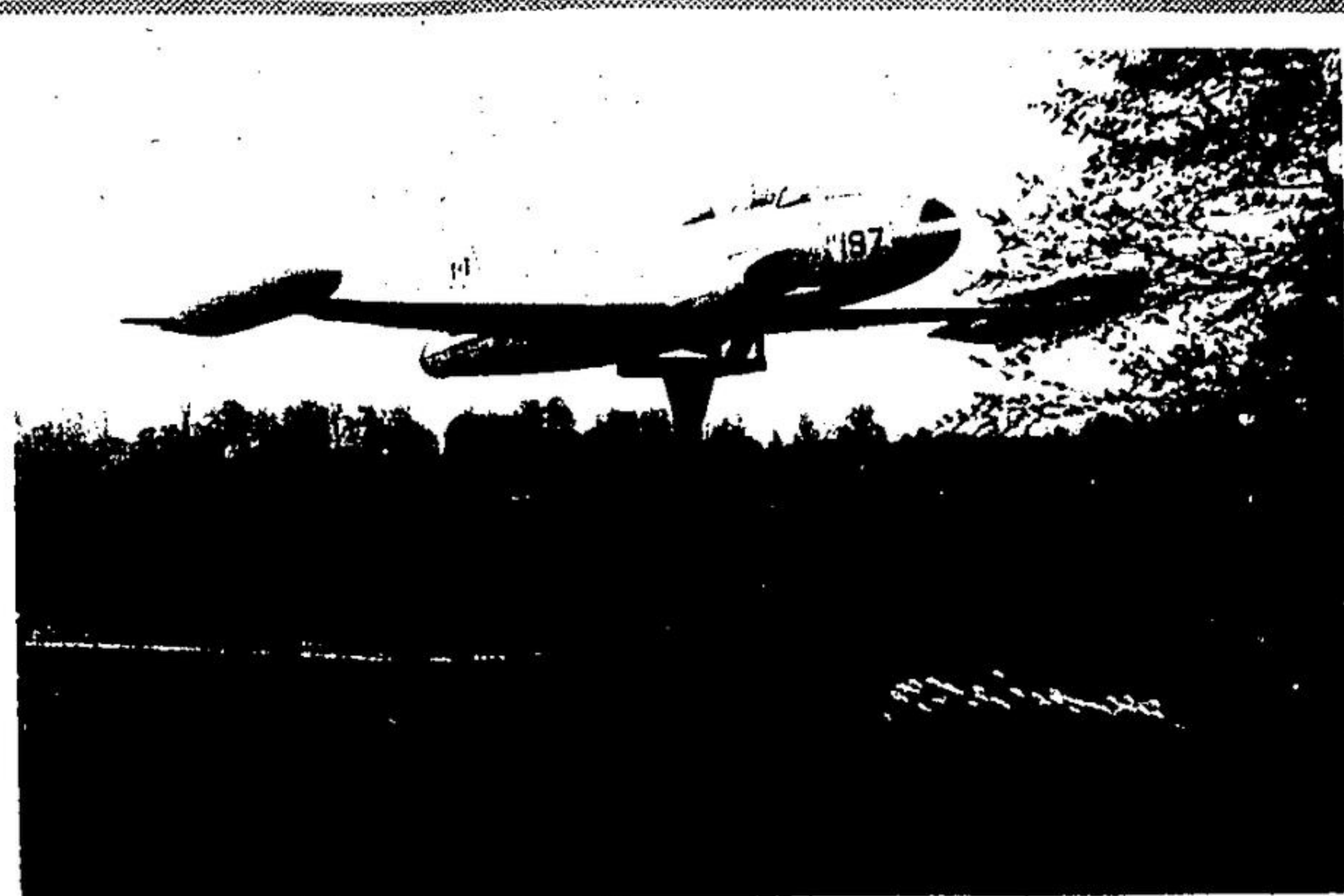
Parcel delivery has been a very useful service, too, used frequently by the Free Press, other industries and individuals. Lately our parcels are left at Guelph or Georgetown.

But now the Grey Coach officials simply can't find an agent in Acton. No one is willing to take on the duties of ticket selling. They say they have canvassed the business section a couple of times—with no

luck. It has been mentioned that parking spaces are lost where a bus stop is situated. We firmly believe a bus stop will increase business, not lose it, despite a couple of parking spots gone. There should be a depot downtown, too, not somewhere at the outskirts.

Bracebridge, for instance, has its bus station at a gas station at an extreme edge of the town. It is impossible to walk to it with a suitcase. We wouldn't want that to happen here.

Could we bus passengers make a plea here to any merchant considering the request to think it over? A downtown bus stop associated with an open store or restaurant is a necessity for our town.



LEGION'S GOLDEN 50th anniversary tulips wave in the breeze under the jet trainer mounted behind the Legion building. Many dozens of the

special anniversary bulbs were sold last fall and fulfilled their promise brilliantly this month.

Take a bird south

A government agency has solved the problem of an overpopulation of Canada geese in one area by flying them south by plane. (Their wings had been clipped and they couldn't make it on their own.)

A smart Actonian has applied this solution to Acton's problem by suggesting that every single town resident who goes south in the winter could be responsible to trans-

porting one duck. One only. Isn't that reasonable?

With the number of neighbours who head off for the sunshine every year now, there should be no further problem of too many birds on the lake in the winter.

In fact, it might end up with the need to ration birds out, so some would be left for the people who love to watch them and feed them!

Decisions to make

Use of seat belts and lower speed limits have been followed by a sharp drop in highway fatalities. Many people are obliging by buckling up, and many follow the posted speed limits.

But the laws themselves don't create a better highway situation. The people in the cars have to knowingly consent to abide by the laws.

Buckle up, slow down—that's the decision of the driver and the passengers. Many choose to exceed the speed limit—unless an obliging driver coming the other way or a radio receiver in the car indicate a cruiser nearby, of course.

But figures like those just released should make everyone appreciate the fact this new legislation has been good.

Of this 'n that

If ever you are lost and want to return to Acton here are the town's co-ordinates: 80 degrees 2 minutes west longitude; 43 degrees, 38 minutes north latitude. The town's elevation is 1,150 feet above sea level and the sun time is Greenwich minus five hours, 20 minutes and eight seconds.

Tulip bulbs, sold by Legion in the fall for their 50th anniversary, are blooming beautifully in many gardens. Some are planted at the Legion, too. It's a bright reminder of a special occasion.

Congratulations to the organizers of the trade fair Saturday. It's the kind of event that could grow and put Acton on the map.

The rainy weather has set gardens and lawns growing. Dandelions seem the best crop of all so far.

It's good news that the Choraliers could just be going strong again by next fall. They have given

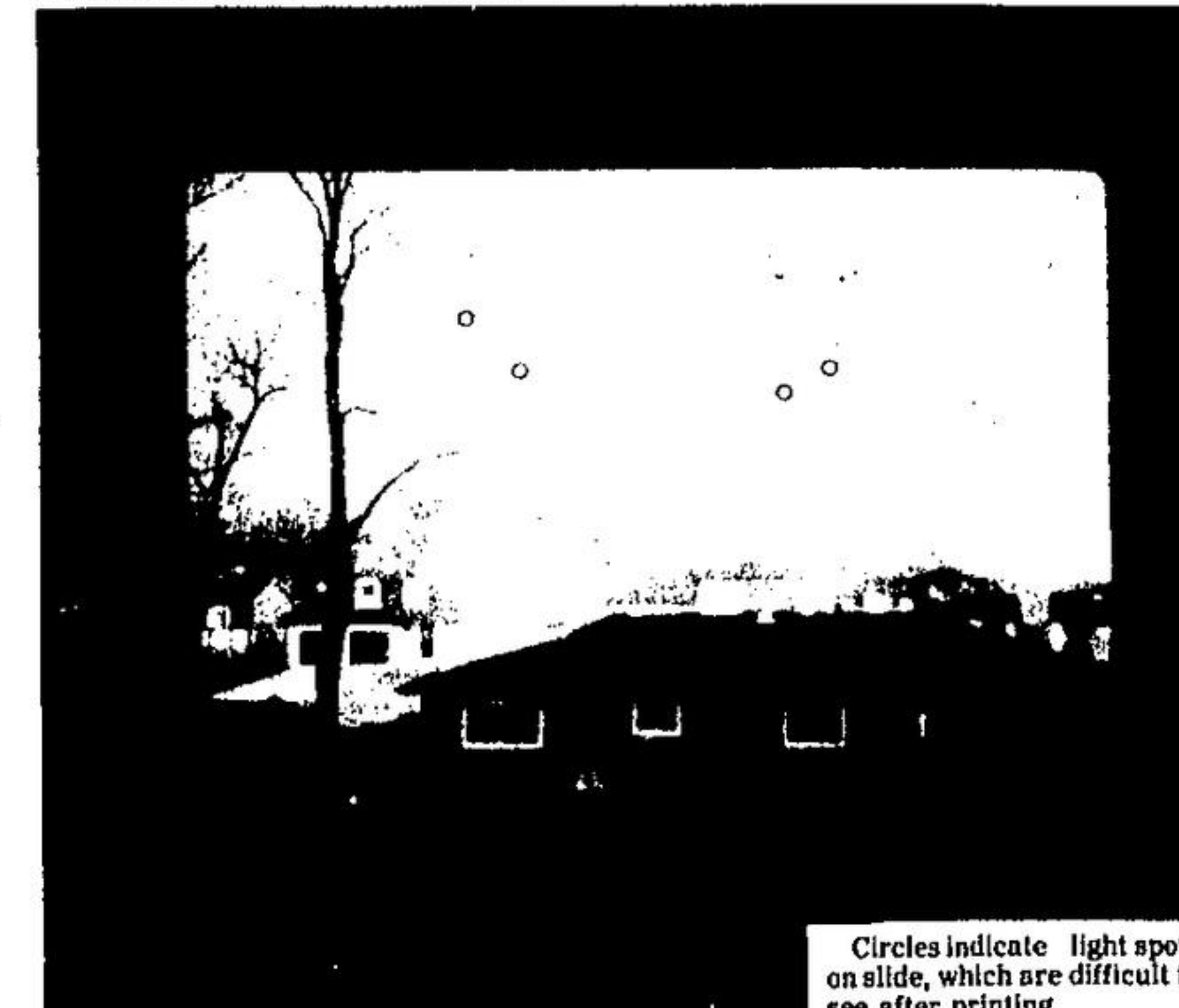
many hours of pleasure to themselves and others at their concerts. They sang at many special events, too.

Why would children want to rip down a robin's nest and smash the eggs? We watched it happen behind our plant. The nest and eggs were thrown up on the roof.

It's good news that the Legion is planning a Homecoming Reunion for fall fair weekend. The people who had tried to organize an old-timers' get-together this spring with no luck may just be able to tie in with the Legion event.

The matter will be pursued...

Got a great idea for a way to ferry people from the Legion hall over to the fairgrounds on fall fair Saturday? Let Vic Patrick know. Out of some of those crazy suggestions may come something that could actually work!



Circles indicate light spots on slide, which are difficult to see after printing.



Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

Could you write a pungent, telling essay on The Human Spirit?

No? Well, that's what my senior students tell me, too. But I know they are wrong, and I think you are wrong also. I'll bet you could write a dandy, especially if you have lived a lot.

I gave my students instructions for an essay, and most of them went into a state of mild shock. They shouldn't have. They are dealing with the human spirit, their own and others, every minute of their young lives.

However, students, like most of us, prefer things to be spelled out. But how can you spell out the human spirit?

You can't touch it, taste it, smell it, weigh or measure it. You can't peer

through someone's navel and shout "Tallyho! There it is! Your spirit!"

From the beginnings of thought, our great writers and thinkers have explored the human creature in an effort to pin down this elusive thing.

Some philosophers have believed they had put their finger on the slippery little devil only to find that it has squirmed away.

Clerics are more apt to call it the soul. Psychologists pin nasty names like id and ego and libido on various aspects of it.

Writers give examples of it. Artists try to depict its highest aspirations.

The human spirit exists in all of us. It, along with the power to reason, is what raises us above the level of the beasts.

Its presence is allied to all that is good and great in human kind: Loyalty, integrity, compassion, honor, courage, dignity.

Its absence represents all that is bad in the human race: greed, cruelty, prejudice, indifference, treachery.

Given the right fertilizer, the human spirit reaches out to other human spirits, and mankind moves another inch toward the stars.

Without proper nourishment, the human spirit shrivels or warps, turns in on itself, rots, and spreads like a cancer.

In certain periods, the undernourished spirit produces the great psychopaths like Attila the Hun, Napoleon, Hitler, and we are led into darkness.

But after each of these sombre intervals, the resurgent human spirit roars back, fanning the embers into a blaze of glory, and once more man is on the march.

This is all very inspiring, I'm sure, but it's pretty abstract, and I prefer the concrete. Let's see if we can find some examples of the human spirit in action.

When a two-year-old child, normally good and obedient, sticks out his lip and flatly refuses to do something reasonable, and defies threats of spankings, he is not just being stubborn. He is exhibiting, to the world, his sense of self, of independence. That is the human spirit.

When an 80 year old man, or woman, prefers to pig it alone in poverty or discomfort, rather than be shuttled off to a cosy senior citizens' home, he or she is doing the same.

When a man or woman has enough guts to say "No!" at a time when all about are saying "Yes!" that's the human spirit at work.

But let's get down to an example we can all understand. When a man gets up after his old lady has knocked him down five times, and advances on her, arms outstretched, and says: "Darling, let me explain just once more..." that is the human spirit at its best.

Don't get this human spirit thing all mixed up with sentimentality: the cooling of a baby, which might be just a gas pain, the radiant smile of a bride, which might be just vanity. Or gloating. No, let's keep it on a high plain.

Here are the instructions I gave my students. See how they grab you.

"This essay is to be an examination of the human spirit (soul, self) as it acts and reacts under stress, in inter-play with other human spirits, in conflict with society.

"The essay should reveal something of what the student has learned this year from exposure to the ideas of first-class writers concerning the human spirit.

"Ideas expressed should not be merely emotional clap-trap or mystic foofaraw. Nor should they be a mere recording of examples of the human spirit in action, taken from the books read. They should rather represent the student's own human spirit reacting to the stimulus of what has been read and pondered.

"Any reasonable — and even some unreasonable — approaches to the topic will be encouraged.

"Students may choose one of the following exhortations from their glorious leader:

"Good Luck", or

"Eat Your Heart Out."

Aren't you glad you don't take English from me?



PHOTOGRAPH, PROBABLY taken by A. T. Brown about 1900, shows the intersection of Willow and Church St., centre right, looking north. The building, centre bottom, was used by Mr. Speight to house coffins. The house in the bottom right corner was where the John Brown family lived. It was later moved to Mill and became the radial station. The houses at the

corner are still there. Centre right is the Disciples Church, now the homes of the Nicholl and De Jong families, above it the Storey Glove factory. The town hall is visible in the centre and Knox church to the left of the picture. The white building at the corner of Mill and Willow was Matthews store and hall. It was later moved back on the lot and is now Hotchen's Bakery.

Mystery lights puzzle

An Acton man who expected to see examples of forked lightning in some of his color slides, discovered last Friday four bright spots on one slide, which he cannot explain.

Laurance Fuller, of Rosemary Rd., projected some new slides Friday evening and found everything as expected, except for one slide. It shows two bright lights and a pair of less bright ones in the sky over Acton. "I've never seen anything like it before," Mr. Fuller said.

The slide, part of a series Mr. Fuller was shooting, takes in a south west view from his home, towards town. He was trying to photograph examples of lightning during a storm which probably took place Thursday, April 24.

"My first inclination was that there was something wrong with the processing," Mr. Fuller said. "But after looking at the slide for a few minutes, I thought they could be something."

Mr. Fuller discounts the idea that the lights are reflections, the pictures were taken from inside the house, through a window, the spots would be sharper, he says.

The four bright white spots appear on slide number nine of the roll. None of the other 19 slides appear to have suffered from the processing, which was done commercially, Mr. Fuller said.

Mr. Fuller exposed the Kodachrome transparency film, rated at ASA 64, for approximately ten seconds. He said he was in the vicinity of Erin.

The Free Press Back Issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, of May 17, 1956

Four Acton boys were involved in a serious accident Saturday night north of Waterdown. Three were hurt, one of them seriously enough to be taken to hospital in Hamilton. Ron Clow, 17, Bill Johnstone, 15, Bert Halliday, 15, and Alfred Roach, 17, were riding in a car driven by Ron Clow when it was in collision with another car driven by a Waterdown youth.

Six Acton artists had their canvasses on display at the Five Counties Art Association exhibit in Kitchener high school auditorium on Saturday and Sunday. Sending two representative paintings were Mrs. Henry Cripps, Mrs. Elmer Grischow, Miss M. Mainprize, Bella-Maye Roszell, Alex Pringle and George Bowman.

Although he had considered leaving for a position in the United States, Bob Brayshaw has agreed, after discussion and planning with the Y Board, to remain as secretary of the Y.M.C.A. for another year.

With a five per cent coupon, John Bauer won \$29.50 of the \$590 jackpot at the Appreciation Day draw last Saturday afternoon at the post office corner. As usual, a good crowd gathered for the draw. Mr. Bauer also named the Merchant of the week for an extra \$5. Next week's total stands at \$610.

His condition improving steadily, little John Seelen is still in hospital in Toronto. He was struck by a car last week.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, May 20, 1926.

On Sunday afternoon about 2.30 the fire alarm sounded and the new motor fire truck had its first run to a fire. The fire was burning in the Old Cemetery. With a westerly wind it was running toward the residences of Mr. J. A. Mowat, Mrs. J. C. Nelson and the three apartment tenement on Main St. The flames were however promptly subdued.

The first annual meeting of Acton United Church was held in the Sunday School room Thursday. The membership roll now numbers 394.

Chicken thieves are still active in the county despite the fact Nelson township council offers a reward of \$50 and Nassagaweya council a reward of \$100 for the arrest of poultry thieves.

Motorists may now enter the United States by automobile for the purposes of touring for under 90 days without taking out formal papers.

There will be no confusion of time in Acton this year. Standard time will reign. The Limehouse lime works report quite a rush of business just now.

Is the all-year round Wednesday half holiday really a benefit to Acton? Acton Machine Co. is flooded with orders for motor parts and has hired new mechanics.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, of May 4, 1876.

Messrs. C. & G. Hynds, two enterprising young men, well-known here, have secured part of the post office building, which they have fitted up for a jewellery and watch-making business. They have just opened out a very fine display of watches, clocks and jewellery.

We have seen the plans of a handsome brick building for store and dwelling to be erected by Mr. D. McNair, directly opposite the Dominion Hotel. It is to be two storeys, besides basement and mansard roof, 40 feet frontage.

We learn that Mr. Campbell has rented the stone hotel, on the corner of Mill and Main Streets, to Mr. George Gibbs of Ballinacree, who will shortly take possession.

Last Wednesday evening a team of carriage horses belonging to Allan's livery stable, attached to a buggy occupied by two men considerably elevated by liquor, came dashing along at a furious rate, ran on the sidewalk, struck against a sign post, spilled the two men and smashed things generally. One of the horses was not found till the following day. Persons who cannot govern their appetite should not be expected to govern a team of spirited horses.

Rev. Mr. Campbell, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal Church, 2nd line Esquesing, will preach his farewell sermon next Sabbath at 6.30 p.m.

Reports from the East give evidence of a good deal of fighting going on between the Turks and the insurgents but it is difficult to get at the truth.

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