

# Free Press Editorial Page



LOW ON THE western horizon the setting sun highlights the edges and frayed portions of a massive cloud bank over Fairy Lake.

## The Free Press Back Issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, July 26, 1956

A reunion of the immediate family and relatives of Mr. and Mrs. George Gibbons was held in the park Sunday afternoon, prior to their trip to England. A happy time was had by the adults and 11 grandchildren. Acton's councillors Tuesday night turned down a proposition to move the dump out of town—in fact—right out of the county—and unanimously agreed to make the new dumping site within the limits, near the municipal disposal plant. Jack Marshall and Mac Sprowl last weekend attended the Eastern Ontario Junior Farmer field day held at the Ontario School for the Deaf at Belleville. They also visited at the homes of Miss Kathleen Horan, executive member of the Junior Farmers near Belleville, and Mr. and Mrs. Frank Davies, Sealey Bay, Leeds County. After a trip to the 1,000 Islands they returned home by way of Perth, Madoc, Peterborough and Port Perry. Ten convictions on charges under the Highway Traffic Act brought fines totalling \$62 plus costs in magistrate's court here Tuesday morning. An assault charge against a local man was dropped.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, July 21, 1926

Acton is fortunate in securing a fine new industry, Creber Bros. monument works. The side of the new building will face Young St. and the end where the showrooms will be located will be just past Queen and Young. An electric crane will run the entire length of the building. Alterations are being made at the C.N. station these days that will make quite a change in the plan of the building. In this section that was formerly the men's waiting room a new freight office is being erected. The sitting room will now only have one entrance from the west. The first Communion service of the United church under the pastorate of the Rev. C. L. Poole was held last Sunday morning. Representatives of Bannockburn W.I., the U.F.O., U.F.W.O. and U.F.Y.P.O. clubs gathered at the home of Mr. and Mrs. A. G. Clarridge to honor the bride-to-be Miss Mary Clarridge. Numbers of folks, especially farmers, had serious misgivings on that rainy St. Swithins Day last Friday, lest the old-time saying of a repetition of that famous day's weather for 40 days would play havoc with the haying and harvest. The Bell Telephone office, of which Mr. George Lantz is manager, was the winner of the prize for the best decorated business place in the jubilee celebrations here. Two thousand people attended the old time fiddlers contest in Erin.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press, Thursday, July 20, 1876.

The church building lately owned by the Methodists, which has been purchased by the Disciples denomination, will be formally opened on Sunday next. (This is a double white house on John St. S.) Secord Bros., Acton, bargains to Cool the Hot Weather. Half dozen glass tumblers 25 cents, half dozen glass goblets new design 50c, one handsome glass preserve dish 40c, one handsome set of china, 41 pieces, only \$4, square 30-hour clock \$3, fancy rosewood one-day clock \$4.25, worth \$5.50. Sall per barrel only \$1. The promenade concert under the auspices of the Acton Social Club last Friday evening was a grand success. There were about 250 people present. The music was mainly contributed by outside talent. A piano and violin duet by John and Charles Hill of Acton was most beautifully executed. Miss Hill played the piano accompaniments during the evening. The strawberry and ice cream tables were well patronized. At the close of the concert many of the young people joined in a dance for a couple of hours. About \$60 was realized but the boys are still "short" so they propose having another entertainment and peach festival. It is precisely 100 years since Canada was asked to become one of the confederated States of America. The members of Congress were so satisfied she would join them the 14th of the Articles of Confederation is framed for that purpose.

## Complex . . . it's complex

People got aroused last week, wrote letters and signed petitions against the building of a \$900,000 municipal complex. Those who circulated the petitions were particularly pleased at how few refusals they met. Their immediate reaction seems to have been against an increase in taxes. Tax bills show a hefty increase this year. Taxpayers don't ask why, they simply object. But now, in a special interview with the Free Press, two of our Acton councillors shed more light on why they voted in favor of the complex. Councillors McKenzie and Duby say they feel sure this is the best deal for Acton, and the best we will ever get.

They predict as a possible alternative a brand new complex built behind the Georgetown market. And that location, they point out, is actually approaching the border of Peel county. Could some of their points of view have been explained at a special meeting to Acton people? Well, we all know what would have happened. The people would have stayed home in droves. So the project proceeds, from first news accounts to protests and petitions. What the outcome will be, and what it will mean to Acton, are difficult to predict. Our councillors, at least, think there is little chance that regional government will ever be reversed.

## Merchants think ahead

So the big question is: does downtown Acton need more parking or not? Certainly there is offer room on the main streets and even more often on the side and back streets. Certainly many business people's cars park on valuable street property rather than on nearby town lots. Certainly there are lots of vacant spots at the church lots most days. (Except Sunday!) But the population continues to grow and it's right for the merchants to want to attract these newcomers to their own downtown area to shop. From the subdivisions, most people would have to drive to shop although there are a few hardy walkers. The other aspect is the possibility of a plaza. The concerned merchants want the downtown core to be easily accessible, attractive and viable before that day comes. With more business of course

they can spend more money on their buildings and increase their stock. For years Acton merchants have been trying not to be discouraged by the numbers of people here who shop out of town, without thinking of the livelihood and town contribution of the salespeople here. Merchants continue to work for themselves, with sales, promotions, renovations, window displays and through the Chamber of Commerce. Now some of them have a new goal—a large parking lot at Hotchen's bakery. Through poor communications, the project has seemed to make a poor start. There were complaints to council before there was a positive presentation. It has been suggested some business people could buy the building and hold it, just to prevent it being torn down and replaced by a new one. Anyway, more power to the progressive business-people.

## Twin uglies

The new cement block building to hold wading pool equipment certainly isn't a thing of beauty in the park. It's a smaller version of the grey cement blockhouse in the middle of the park. Twin uglies.

they are. The lovely old bandstand at the park gates, repaired and repainted despite the fact it's seldom used, makes up for the cement blocks, though.

**Bill Smiley** Joys and terrors

Like most grandparents, if they are honest, we are delighted to see our grandchildren arrive, and overjoyed to see them depart. Started off this year's summer vacation with a visit from our two grandbabies and their mum. When they left, my wife and I went straight into a rest home for a few days, to recuperate. It's not that they are bad little boys. It's just that they are little boys, with voracious appetites for everything from mother's milk to peanut-butter-and-jam sandwiches dipped in fruit yoghurt to rides to the car wash to going to the beach to picking strawberries to being told stories to crawling around in the grass being bitten by ants. None of those activities creates any real problem, but this time, the Lord, moving His usual mysterious ways, decreed that it should rain hard, day and night, for the first three days of their visit. Well, that eliminated the beach, crawling in the grass, picking strawberries and going for picnics in the park: all the things that little city boys, who live in a square box on the ninth floor, should do when they go to visit their grandparents in a small town. And with all that rain, there wasn't a lot of point in going to the car wash, an experience full of joy and terror, the supreme moment of his visits for young Pokey. It also meant that, instead of riding his brand new tricycle around the yard and up and down the sidewalk under the maples, Pokey was forced to ride it around in a screaming circle inside the house, through the kitchen, into the hall, into the living-room and back to the kitchen, shouting a shrill, "Here I come!" scattering various bric-a-brac and adults, and frequently running over one hand or other of his baby brother, who was creeping about on the

livingroom floor, shrieking with anger when he'd get his feet tangled up and couldn't move, or yelling for someone to pick him up, or spewing up his latest nursing in great, viscous globs. I sounds terrible, but it wasn't really. It was merely bedlam. I enjoyed every minute of it—when they were both having their afternoon nap, which almost never happened simultaneously. Pokey and I are still the best of buddies, which is great but can be a little trying. It's wonderful to feel the trust as the tiny, tough hand clutches yours, or you get a big hug and kiss for nothing. But the other side of the coin in when he won't let anybody but "My Grand-dad" put on his socks and shoes or pull up his pants or get him second, third and fourth helpings when he wants "more beans." We did get away from the women and children for one idyllic hour when it was merely drizzling, and drove through the park, down the main drag to the dock, and there got out and looked at the big boats and the little boats, and saw a real train and some real railroad tracks. Pretty heady stuff for a little city kid. But three and a half days of solid rain, with two lively, vociferous kids, 2 1/2 years and five months, is about as restful as trying to relax in a boiler factory. I'm just getting to know my second grandson, who labors, or delights, as his mother would say, under the name of Balind. It's a made-up name that sounds nice, so his mother says. I call him Young Bill. In a crafty stroke with inheritance in mind, no doubt, he was given the plebeian second name of William. As it turns out, and as my daughter didn't know, it's right in the family, on both sides. He's named not only for me, but for his great-great-grandfather, William Thomson, on my side, and for his great-great-great-great-grandfather, William Bull, on my wife's side. Both were good men and pioneers. William Thomson was slide-master at Calumet Island, in the Ottawa River, in the lumbering days. William Bull was the first settler at Colpoys Bay on the Bruce Peninsula, a "fine man, well educated" who was the first Indian Agent in that area. So, Young Bill it's going to be for me, just as

## Area MP says

# Republic of China athletes were treated 'disgracefully'

By Bill Kemping, Halton-Wentworth MP

You are aware, as are most people, that there are two Chinas. The Republic of China on the Island of Taiwan and the People's Republic of China (Peking). They have different flags and national anthems. Each claims to be the voice of the Chinese people. There are 16 million people in Taiwan and 800 million on mainland China. You would think the Prime Minister and the Department of External Affairs would know this, which of course they do. Well, given these facts, what's all the fuss about the Taiwan team carrying its flag and playing its national anthem and a sign reading Republic of China?

The truth of the matter is this. A large delegation from mainland China is in Montreal right now. This group has been meeting secretly with Lord Killam et al. They had hoped to announce at the opening of the 21st Olympiad that the People's Republic of China had agreed to become an affiliate of the IOC and would compete in the 22nd Olympiad to be staged in Moscow in 1980. The announcement was to be made and Prime Minister Trudeau, on behalf of the host country for the 21st Olympiad, was to hail the announcement as a breakthrough in international affairs. It was to be the start of a new era. But the team of diplomats and sports officials from Peking put a price on this eventuality. If the IOC wanted Peking as an affiliate they had to deify Taiwan. They must not recognize the athletes from the island. They must not allow them to parade under a sign that reads the Republic of China. They must not fly their national flag or play the anthem of the Republic of China. They, the Taiwan athletes, must not even exist for they are not Chinese according to the delegation from Peking.

Chinese. Perhaps he would feel more comfortable if they were referred to as "Chinaphones." The world press reacted to the double standard proposed by Trudeau. The only countries which applauded his actions were Sweden, France and of course, Peking, where he received front page treatment. But to the rest of the world Prime Minister Trudeau has athlete's foot-in-the-mouth. The possibility that the Montreal Games would be cancelled was very real. We have seen the withdrawal of several African States because the New Zealand National Football Association played a series of games in South Africa. This is blackmail of the first order and the Prime Minister placed Canada in the same league by trying to refuse entry to the athletes from the Republic of China.

The Prime Minister, and through him Canada, became part of this dastardly plot. We were to refuse the Taiwanese entry visas if they would not agree to these terms. References were made to the Rome Olympics where the team from the Republic of China paraded under a sign reading Taiwan. That was the precedent; that was the only concession we would make. But no flag, no anthem. Canada gave a commitment to allow entry to all athletes to all athletes from all countries, affiliated with the IOC when it agreed to host the 21st Olympiad. The tactics used by the Prime Minister to downgrade the representatives from the Republic of China were disgraceful. We rarely see that sort of cheap diplomacy in the Western World. It is a culture of conduct usually displayed by a third rate banana republic. P.M. critical In Halifax, the Prime Minister said "We love the Taiwanese but we just don't call them Chinese." He went further and called their claim to their national designation a charade. The reason the IOC want the Peking Chinese in the Moscow Olympics is that the possibility of competition between athletes from Russia, U.S.A. and the People's Republic of China would offset the effects of the withdrawal by any of the African Nations from the IOC. By sheer force of national populations, the 22nd Olympiad could be billed as a world event. The delegation from Peking had used the same tactic to gain entry into the United Nations. They had the Republic of China declassified as a nation member. Taiwan does not even have the observer status of the P.L.O. at the U.N. Having been successful in 1970, Peking felt it could retreat that success in 1976 in Montreal. Canadians should feel a sense of shame that their government was party to such shoddy diplomacy. Prime Minister Trudeau has spent a great deal of time talking about a "just society" and "participatory democracy". He at one time had a Secretary of State for Multiculturalism because it served his purpose.

He has divided Canadians into Anglo-phones, Francophones and Ethnics but he refuses to recognize the people of Taiwan as Chinaphones? He has divided Canadians into Anglo-phones, Francophones and Ethnics but he refuses to recognize the people of Taiwan as

## Canada didn't bar Taiwan, says Philbrook

The government's viewpoint on the Taiwan issue has been sent to this paper by MP Dr. Frank Philbrook. **MONTREAL, OLYMPICS** The Taiwan issue Myths Canada is attempting to bar the Taiwanese team from participating in the Olympics. Fact—Canada is not barring entry to any athletes proposing to compete in the Olympic Games. Canada is opposed to athletes appearing, for their own political reasons, under false pretences and pretending to be what they are not. Canada therefore welcomes the participation of the Taiwanese athletes, but as representatives of Taiwan—which they are, and not as representatives of China—which they are not. Myth—Canada waited until the last moment, and then issued an ultimatum to

the International Olympic Committee. Fact—The Taiwan issue has not suddenly been sprung on the International Olympic Committee. For well over a year Canada has urged the IOC itself to deal effectively with the problem, as the IOC had done for an earlier Olympics. The issue was settled satisfactorily in Rome in 1960, nine years prior to the award of the Olympics to Montreal. Canada asks only that that precedent be followed in 1976. Canada supports unequivocally the proposition that politics should not be a factor in international athletic competitions. For that reason, Canada first drew this issue to the attention of the International Olympic Committee in April 1975. The IOC was asked at that time to seize itself of the problem, as had been done at a previous Olympic Games, and to resolve it in a way that would permit the honest participation at Montreal of Taiwanese athletes. The issue was again discussed between Lord Killam

and Canadian officials, at Canadian insistence, in February of 1976. Throughout, the aim of Canada has been to permit the IOC to shoulder its responsibilities and to settle the issue in a non-political fashion. Myth—Canada has injected into the Olympics a note of political discrimination. Fact—The Canadian suggestion that Taiwanese athletes participate as Taiwanese has been accepted by the IOC, but not by Taiwan. That government insists on its right to prevent that it is something which it is not, and to seize the opportunity of a worldwide television audience to advance its claim as the only government of all China. This is patently absurd. This is patently political. "Canada earnestly hopes that the Taiwanese athletes will be permitted by their government to compete as it is their right to do. It is the government of Taiwan which has refused them permission to do so, and for political reasons," Dr. Philbrook concludes.

great-great grandfather, William Bull, on my wife's side. Both were good men and pioneers. William Thomson was slide-master at Calumet Island, in the Ottawa River, in the lumbering days. William Bull was the first settler at Colpoys Bay on the Bruce Peninsula, a "fine man, well educated" who was the first Indian Agent in that area. So, Young Bill it's going to be for me, just as

Nikov Chen is Pokey, for me. Young Bill began life as a bawler, a fat little guy who looked like Winston Churchill and screamed like the Witch of Endor. In five months, he has improved tremendously. He has lost three chins and now has only one extra one. He has an endearing, top-sided grin, huge, bright eyes, and a delightful chortle. I think we'll keep him, after all.

Well, just to add to the excitement, the kids' great-grandfather made the trip across country to see his second great-grandson. He got a royal welcome from Pokey, who pointed at him, yelled "Dat's my great-grandat," gave him an unsolicited hug and kiss, and from Young Bill, who gave him a drooling grin. A momentous few days, the like of which one in a lifetime is enough.

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