

Free Press Editorial Page

Congratulations, teenagers

Teenagers were in the public eye a couple of times on the weekend, and they looked just fine.

At commencement, a lively and poised group of young people came forward to the platform to receive their diplomas. Their freshness and enthusiasm were a delight to the audience. There, obviously, is a group who will do something with their lives that will be good for the whole community.

In a far less formal vein, over 130 high school students embarked on a

dancathon Saturday to raise money for cystic fibrosis. The affair ran smoothly with no problems at all, according to organizers and the police who kept an eye on things.

The energy expended in the gym on 10 hours of solid dancing was terrific. And still, at the deadline, the beat went on. Only five had dropped out during all those hours, and the rest of them were leaping and jiving as if they still had vast stores of energy in their bones.

Look out world, here they come.

Pennies and jelly beans

Pennies gathered on Hallowe'en will help 860 million children in 112 developing countries.

The whole thing started in a small way just 21 years ago when a Sunday School class in the U.S. decided to ask for coins instead of candy. They sent all of \$17 to UNICEF that first year.

Just a few coins in those black and orange boxes can mean much.

Six cents buys penicillin to cure infections, 27 cents buys a thermometer. The money also provides wells, vaccines, teaching aids, seeds, veterinary medicines, starter supplies of fish, chicks and ducklings, blackboards and chalk.

Children's delight in Hallowe'en and its mysteries won't be diluted any by thinking of others as well.

Conserve money, energy

The first week in November is Energy Conservation Week. Nothing particular is planned for Acton; in fact, the Hydro Commission agreed to just ignore the whole thing.

Conserving energy is conserving money, so it's not a bad idea to think about saving anyway.

Ontario's overall energy bill is seven and a half billion dollars a year. Hydro officials think a billion dollars could be cut off that total. Voluntary support is needed.

Here are a few easy suggestions: By insulating, caulking and having your furnace properly maintained, you could reduce your annual energy bill by as much as 40 per cent.

Lowering daytime temperatures from 22 degrees to 20 (72 degrees F to 68 degrees F) and nighttime temperatures to 17 (63 degrees F) could save an additional 15 per cent.

On a \$400 fuel bill these four steps could mean a combined saving of up to \$180 per year.

Lower the thermostat to 13 degrees (55 degrees F) when leaving the house for a day or so.

Draw the drapes over all windows during winter nights to reduce heat loss through glass. Keep them open on sunny days.

Clean or replace air filters on

warm air heating systems at least once a month.

Avoid overheating the furnace. Keep a constant daytime temperature and don't play with the thermostat.

A 40-watt fluorescent bulb gives more light than a 100-watt incandescent... and it lasts 10 times as long.

A fire in the fireplace may draw off 20 per cent of the heat from the rest of the house. When the fireplace is not in use, make sure the damper is closed and fits tightly.

Don't peep into the oven. You'll lose 25 degrees every time you do.

Turn off the roast 30 minutes before serving time and let retained heat finish the cooking.

Turn off all unnecessary lights. Cook more than one thing at a time in the oven.

Thaw frozen foods before cooking.

Use automatic washers and dryers only when there is a full load.

Keep the condenser coils of the refrigerator, freezer and dehumidifier clean.

Insulate long runs of hot water pipe in the basement.

After all, the money is coming out of your pocket.

Of this and that

Don't forget to save your pennies this week. The children will be coming with their UNICEF boxes on Saturday.

For many years now, Acton children have behaved themselves on Hallowe'en, while having a lot of fun, too. There has been little damage done, although soaped windows always marked the date.

Other neighboring towns have not been as fortunate. Police patrols helped, of course. We trust things will be the same again this year.

Last year money was raised for Cystic Fibrosis via a walkathon. This year the Kinsmen switched to a dancathon, which seems a good idea. They were very happy with Saturday's success here.

OUR READERS WRITE:

Shares arithmetic dilemma

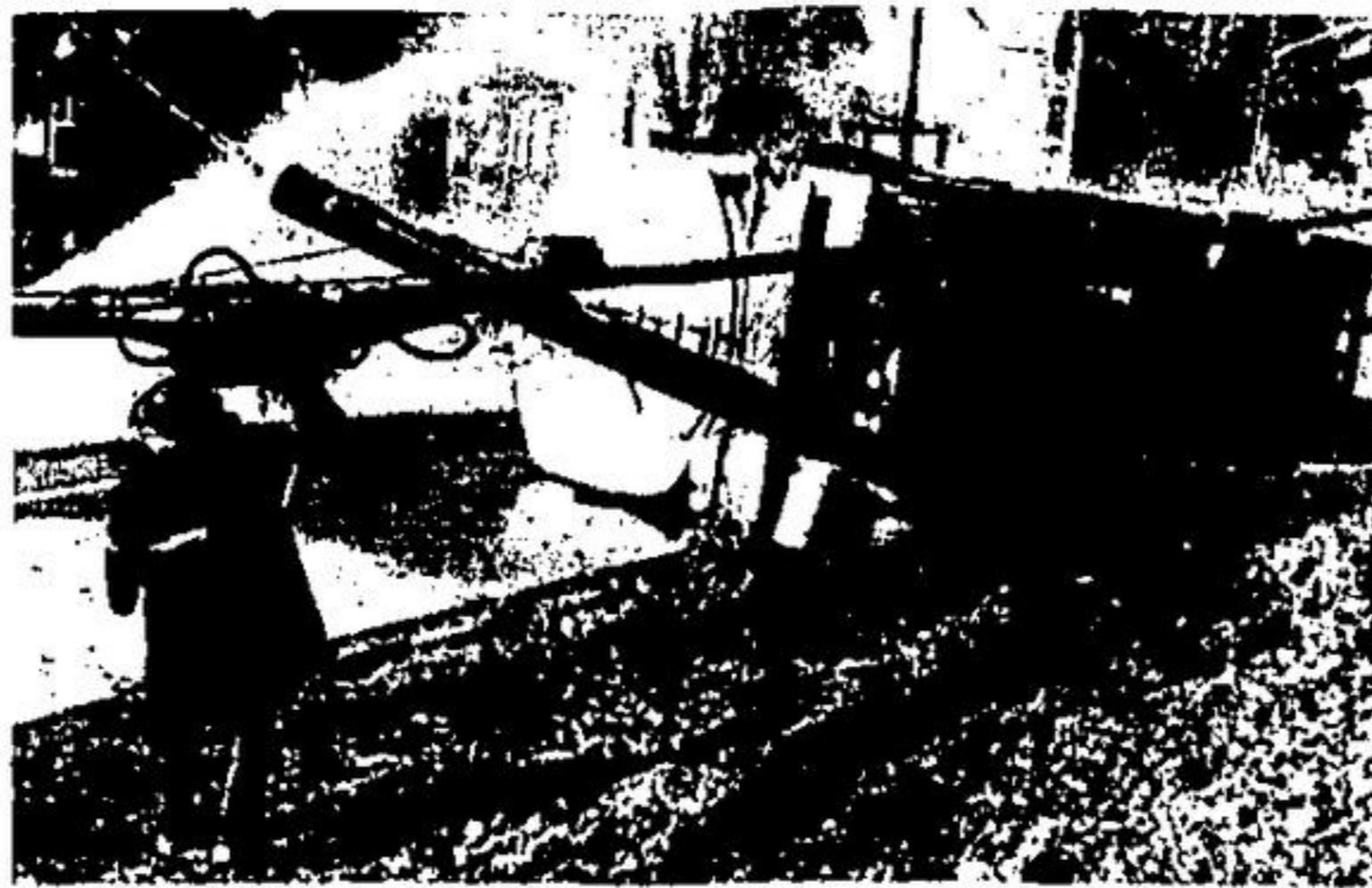
To The Editor, Acton Free Press, Dear Mr. Binkind, I appreciated your letter ("Is 1.6 per cent a majority?") in the Free Press, Oct. 20th. I shared your arithmetic dilemma when I read Mr. Campbell's long tirade but had dismissed it as another in an incessant series of biased rhetoric. But I do want to help you with your "puzzling question", and suggest you give up trying to see the letter in question as a mathematical truth but rather look at it as an exercise in yellow

journalism. Now I have a question for you. I am trying to recall the origin of the word "Renaissance" - doesn't it refer to something related to the Middle Ages? By the way, using the new math by Campbell, you and I comprise a majority of the people of Acton and hereby conclude that our citizens think positively about our schools here, their programmes and especially the teachers and principals. Sincerely, Eldon Comfort

UNICEF needs volunteers

Dear Editor: Ontario UNICEF has a problem - a people problem - we need more!! As you may be aware, there are thousands of volunteers working

throughout Ontario on various important UNICEF fund-raising and educational projects. However, there is a vital need for more volunteers, particularly in your



DRAMATIC PHOTOGRAPHS show the size of the tanker-trailer which overturned on Main S. Tuesday afternoon. Top left, the toppled telephone pole. Lower left, oil pours down the road. Top right, dam built of

straw captures oil which is being sucked up by special hoses. Bottom right, a firefighter's view of the accident.



Sugar and Spice by bill smiley

A few fall notes of superlative unimportance. My elder grandson, Pokey, is now, at two and a half years, in the pre-Kindergarten Class at the day-care centre he attends. He gets very annoyed when someone, needling, says: "Oh, you're in the Senior Toddlers' class now."

With a curl of the lip, the retorts vehemently. "No! I in pre-Kindergarten." Even at that age, there's an immense concern with status. To the Senior Toddlers, the Junior Toddlers are just punks. To the pre-Kindergartners, the Senior Toddlers are practically babies.

You remember how it was? If you were in Grade 9 at school, it was the supreme insult if someone asked if you were in Grade 8, back with all those little kids.

It was the same in the service. When you joined, you were a raw, ignorant rookie. In six months, you were looking with tolerant scorn at the new recruits. When you finally got your wings, you looked down from Olympus at those mere children who were starting their training.

Then you went overseas, and were suddenly a raw, ignorant rookie again. After operational training, which ensured that you were a dashing fighter pilot, you were posted to a squadron, and learned to your dismay that you were just a "sprog," the term for a raw, ignorant rookie.

Same thing as a prisoner of war. You'd just been through a fairly traumatic experience, and a very dramatic one, being shot down, captured, perhaps being beaten up. You got to a prison camp, and were looked at with the utmost contempt by oldtimers (of perhaps 23) who had been shot down in such exotic places as Crete or Yugoslavia or Norway, and had been "in the bag" for three or four years. You felt like a five-year-old on his first day at school.

Back to Pokey. At day-care, they gave him a psychological label that mildly

amused his mother, infuriated his gran, and delighted his grandfather. It was "Sneaky Aggressive." It doesn't sound too nice, but he's tiny for his age, and has to look after himself somehow. What it means, I gather, is that when some bigger kid has pushed you around, you wait until he's not looking...then sneak up and bite him on the ear, or anything else that's handy.

WELL, the postal workers are at it again. After one of the most futile strikes ever seen in Canada, they settled, a year ago, for a 29 per cent package, far above the maximum allowed by the AIB. Others, teachers, mill workers, were rolled back, while the uncivil servants of our postal system kept their loot.

As I write, they are holding rotating (and illegal) walkouts, cocking a snook at government injunctions, and acting like the spoiled children of children of rich parents. Maybe they've been coddled too long. I'm not yet at the point where I would single out every tenth man or woman in the postal department and shoot the person. But I'm getting there. If Trudeau were smart, he'd call back Bryce Mackasey, eat humble pie, and kill two birds with one stone.

I am ambiguous toward the postal people, which takes some of the sting out of my attack. Most of those in small towns are friends and sometimes neighbors of the people they serve. They're friendly, reasonably courteous and as efficient as the system, one of the most inefficient in the country, will let them be.

It's in the bigger towns and cities, where there is no personal contact between servers and served, that the militancy among postal workers is fostered. The workers feel themselves mere cogs in a big machine, not individuals. The public doesn't give a damn about them, as long as it gets its mail on time. Therein lies revolution, and always has.

to get in touch with me at Ontario UNICEF Committee, 6 Patton Cres., Toronto, M4S 2H8. Many, many thanks for your help. Sincerely, (Mrs.) Adele Robertson, Chairman, Public Information Committee, ONTARIO UNICEF COMMITTEE.

Can't fool all the people

No doubt when the legislature reconvenes his popularity will dwindle. Remember the old adage, you can fool some of the people some of the time, but you can't fool all of the people all of the time - especially when you have a responsible, articulate, and factually informed opposition challenging you. William A. Johnson.

Considered opinion of bird watchers at the lake is that the wildfowl who have wintered here

before are not flying south, despite the hints of early snow and decreased feeding.

The Free Press Back Issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, November 1, 1956 Repairs were quickly completed last week to Churchill Rd. South where a broken water line undermined two sections of the road. Several residents who face Churchill Road were without water on tap until repairs were finished, but provision was made by the waterworks department for emergency supplies.

Newly elected director of the Wellington County Historical Research Society is Mrs. Hazel Mack of Eden Mills. Miss Ada Currie of Ospringe is an honorary president.

Mrs. James Moore, Mrs. B. Veldhuis, Mrs. J. Hannah, Miss M.Z. Bennett, Mrs. C. W. Mason, Mrs. H. R. Force, Miss Fern Brown and Miss E. Hawthorne attended the Halton Sectional Rally of the Woman's Missionary Society at Ballinacra United church, Tuesday, when the worship service was presented by Acton. The guest speaker was Miss Edith Clark, a missionary home on furlough from Africa.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, October 21, 1925 The eighty-first anniversary of the founding of Knox Church in Acton, and the thirty-first of the erection and dedication of the present splendid edifice, was commemorated with very interesting services. The splendid autumn weather was an element which facilitated a very large attendance, and the church was filled to capacity at both services. Rev. A. C. Stewart, M.A. the pastor, was in charge. Hallowe'en Night falls on Sunday this year. Saturday evening will probably be adopted as the time for this festival.

A new choirmaster from Guelph will probably commence rehearsals with the choir of the United Church during the week. On the evening of her birthday, October 16th, Mrs. Waller was pleasantly surprised on arriving home to find the house filled with friends and acquaintances. After an evening of euchre and other games, tea and lunch was served by Mrs. Leatham and Phyllis and Catharine Maekie. Mrs. Waller was the recipient of numerous valuable gifts. The thoughtfulness of her friends was fully appreciated.

The bulletin of the Hydro-Electric Power Commission places the population of Fergus at 1,815, and Acton's population at 2,000.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, October 26, 1876 Next Thursday, November 2nd, having been proclaimed by the last Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario, a day of thanksgiving throughout the province, we presume it will be observed by a general suspension of business in our village. Religious services will be held in the various churches, at the usual hours. A circular from the Moderator of the general Assembly of the Presbyterian Church to the various ministers, recommends that the day be observed by all the congregations of the church for the purpose for which it has been named.

A social will be given at the residence of Mr. James Ryder to-morrow (Friday) evening in behalf of the building fund of the new Congregational Church. A general invitation is extended to the public. A few days ago Mr. C. S. Smith, of Acton, shipped per express, two Leicester sheep from his celebrated flock, all the way to Connecticut, they having been purchased for \$110 by Seth Thomas & Co., well-known stock dealers in that state. Mr. Smith also shipped a few weeks ago, (which we omitted to notice at the time) a Leicester ram to an extensive dealer in the state of Illinois, for which he received \$100. The Public School Inspector, R. Little Esq., has kindly furnished us with the following particulars upon this important subject. The attendance of public schools during the present year, is double that of any previous year. The number of School Sections formed and in operation, is likewise double that of last year. On that occasion it was 12 and at the present it is 24.

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