

# Free Press Editorial Page

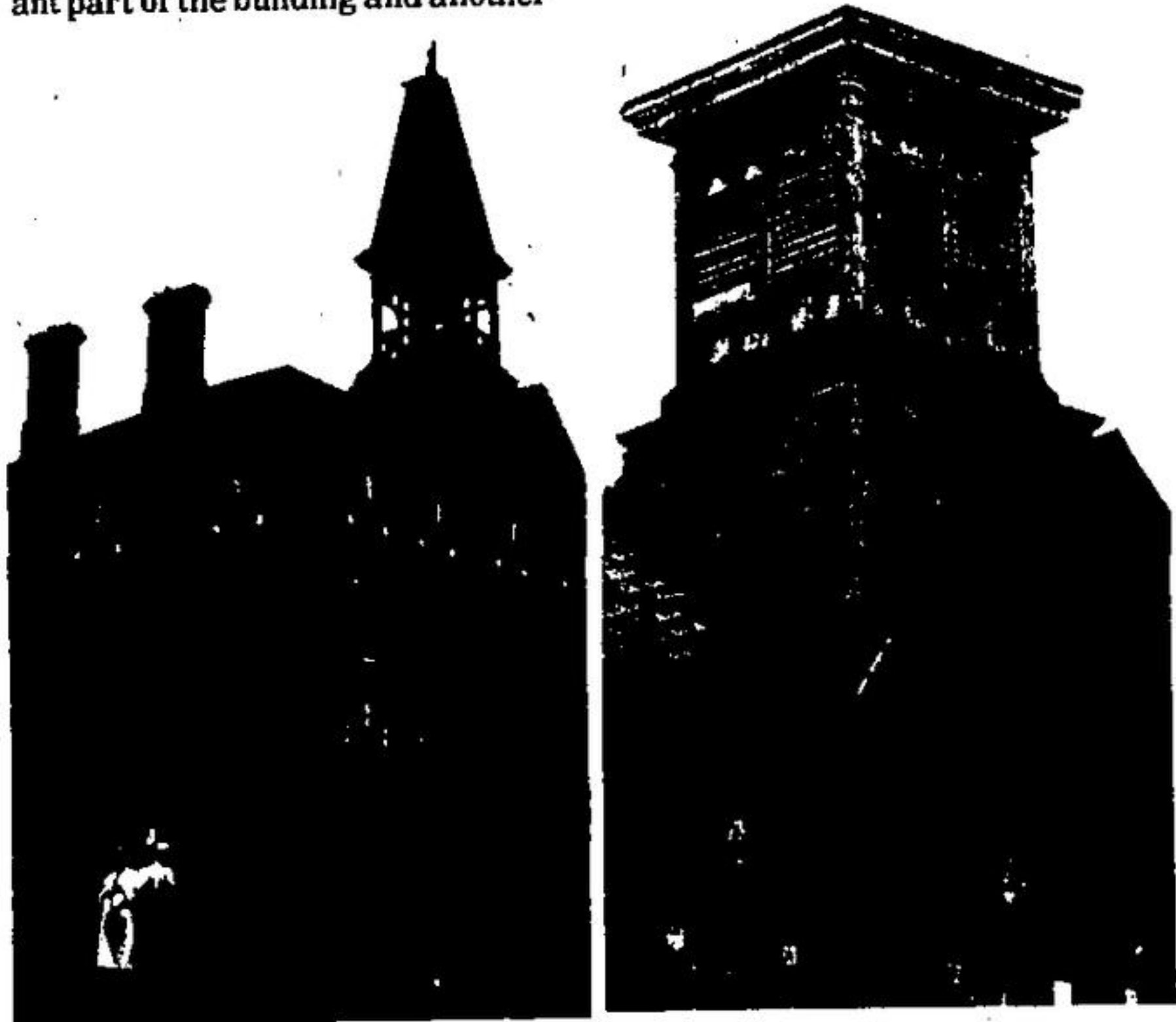
## Bell tower is special

A report on the repairs required to put our town hall back in shape gives encouragement that the work will be undertaken. The sooner the better. It's a fine old building and we don't want it to go the way of our post office with its clock tower, our appealing old railway station, and the old Methodist church building.

However, surely the recommendation to do away with the bell tower is mistaken. It is an important part of the building and another

important part of our history. The photograph below, taken in 1897, shows the tower higher and more impressive than it is now. The bell has been replaced by a siren. The bell now stands, mounted, on the ground outside.

How about a total reconstruction of the tower as it used to be? If the bell tower needs special repair, let's give it special repair. It IS special.



TOWN HALL bell tower is pictured in June, 1897, on the left, and as it is today, on the right.

## Christmas baubles . . .

The band played better than ever at their 25th-or-so annual Christmas concert Sunday. The fine group of 50 musicians delighted the crowd of about 200 in the high school gym. More bouquets for bandmaster George Elliot.

People who remember with pleasure the appearances of the George Harvey high school band here will be sorry to learn their bandmaster, Art Hilliard, died suddenly while conducting the last number in the school Christmas concert last week. He had a history of heart trouble but was only 53. The band played a couple of years at the fair.

More year-end thanks to Mrs. Isobel Watson who was the guest of honor at a tea in the library Monday afternoon. She has a fine long history of service to the library behind her, extending over half a

century. She was honored as this year's Citizen of the Year, too.

The board room of the library has been renamed the Isabel Watson room. It had to be renamed, all right. The board no longer meets here, but in Georgetown. The library was of course built as the town's centennial project, in the days of Acton town council and Acton library Board.

A Toronto subscriber reports receiving three consecutive issues of the Free Press all in the same week. . . last week. Just in time for Christmas. She's a faithful reader who knows perfectly well that we mail the papers here every Wednesday afternoon, and she doesn't understand why she should get them a week later. She regularly implores her mailman to search around the post office for her Free Press. Keep it up, Min.

## Happy but unhealthy

Life was easier and perhaps more fun before we got too smart for our own good. No sooner do we break one bad habit than we find the one with which we replaced it, is just as bad for us.

Eating and drinking are the favorite hobbies of most of us, but how much simpler it was when we could eat bacon and eggs for breakfast, have real cream in the coffee and slather the butter and jam on a piece of fresh white bread without knowing that animal fat is bad for you, high-cholesterol eggs contribute to hardening of the arteries, the coffee is bad for the heart, the bread and butter lead to obesity which is hazardous to health.

So you change coffee to water, but unfluoridated water is not good for your teeth, only somebody else claims that fluoridated water is hazardous to health.

Cigarette smoking has been proved hazardous to health but those who switched to cigars and pipes found they were as dangerous. So some broke the habit entirely and found they were in the obesity danger because they ate

more and gained weight, while those who opted for gum chewing found that was bad for the teeth.

Drinkers who gave up drinking because of the fear of cirrhosis of the liver turned to soft drinks but that got them back into the obesity problem again. So they changed to diet pops and found that the cyclamates in them are hazardous to health.

No use thinking you'll be safe in bed. A sleep researcher in Ann Arbor claims that snoring can be fatal. So if you go to bed, you're apt to snore and that can be hazardous to your health.

Somebody had a sign on the wall "Everything I want to do is either illegal, immoral or fattening." And wouldn't it be maddening if we licked this obesity bit by a strenuous diet, only to find that we developed some disease that made it impossible to eat the delicious fattening foods.

We'd have been much happier, if not healthier, if the scientists had left us in our unhealthy state.

from the Ridgeway Dominion

1891-2

I will mention the loving-kindnesses of the Lord. . .



May we all unite, under God's blessing, for a year of Consecrated Work, Sanctified Love, Faithful Prayer, Revival Effort and Spiritual Power.

With Sincerest Wishes, Yours in Christian Fellowship,



*H.P. Moore*  
Leader Young People's Class, Methodist Church, Acton, Ont.

EDITOR OF THE Acton Free Press, H. P. Moore sent this Christmas card in 1891 in his capacity as leader of the Young People's Class of the Methodist church, It is printed in blue, cerise and gold.

## OUR READERS WRITE:

### Parade chairman's thanks

At this time I would like to say thank you to all the people who helped make the Acton Santa Claus Parade a success again this year.

Financially thanks must go to all those who donated money: The Acton Chamber of Commerce, The Legion, The Legion's Ladies' Auxiliary, The Lions Club, The Scout and Guide Mothers and the Y's Men.

Administratively, thanks goes to the rest of the Parade Committee, being Paul Nelsen (Chamber of Commerce), Terry Bridge (Churches), Larry Frizzell (Acton

Firemen), Mark Roe (Acton Scout Association), Dick Hilton (Halton Regional Police), George Wallis and Ralph Hall (Y's Men), Louise Clark, Lynne Robertson and Marg Wallis (Y's Menettes) and Dana Coates.

Thanks also goes to—Mrs. Murchison of the Scout and Guide Mothers for arranging for hot chocolate and cookies at the Scout Hall; The Acton Firemen for the Great job they did marshalling the parade; The Regional Police who looked after traffic control; Dr. J. Hossild, Dr. Oakes and Julian Reid M.P.P. for judging the floats, and we

cannot forget our two Santas, Burt Robertson and Ron Douglas.

Of course, Thanks must go to all who participated in the parade by entering floats and to Tyler, Ridley and Goy Cartages and L & L Ford for donating vehicles and drivers.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to All!!!

James G. Rivett

P.S.: Thanks to Kay Dills of the Acton Free Press for the wonderful news coverage.

### Tribute to Art Hilliard

The Passing Of Arthur W. Hilliard, Musician and Friend

It was with profound shock and deep regret that I learned of the passing of Mr. Hilliard.

A musician of international repute, he was one of the best organizers and teachers in the music profession. He demanded and got from those who played under his baton a calibre of music that won for him world fame. He was never harsh in his require-

ment of the musician, but sought in his kindly ways to evoke the best in the player to contribute in the interests of good musicianship. His successes were phenomenal. Many young people owe their abilities to play to the work of Mr. Hilliard.

I was fortunate to be a member of the Georgetown Citizens' Band in 1972 when Mr. Hilliard took the band to the Canadian National Exhibition and won first place in the section in which we competed.

His was a wonderful personality which radiated to all that came in contact with him and his passing will be felt very keenly, not only by the musical fraternity to which he was so deeply committed, but to his numberless friends everywhere.

To his family our deepest sympathy and kindest regards.

Yours truly,  
Ed A. Peters

### Objects to teachers' role

Dear Sir:

Re: Teacher Federation Activism In Civic Elections

Just prior to the recent civic elections in Burlington, a member representing the Halton Teacher Federations visited my home and presented a written request that, as a candidate for the office of school trustee, I complete a federation questionnaire—the answers to which would outline my views and position on various educational matters.

I was advised that the completed questionnaire was required within 48 hours, and if I did not comply, my non-answers would be published. Of course I did not, and they were.

It is important the electors understand my position in this matter. At any time I welcome and encourage any questions from, or dialogue with, individuals or groups of ratepayers and parents. If

teachers in the Halton system are such individuals or are members of a citizens group such as a ratepayers association, then so be it. There is no question of teachers' rights as citizens for such involvement and participation in the Democratic process. However, it is quite another matter for teachers to act together as a union group to require their employers to provide information in writing and in such a high-handed manner. Time deadlines and threats of publication do not go down well with me. And I will not submit to such pressure.

The teacher federations will respond by saying their action was in the interest of better communication and raising the level of awareness of the Halton electorate in education matters. I believe the Halton electorate, through individual and ratepayers group actions, is fully capable of doing that job for themselves. This was

demonstrated during the recent election. From the foregoing, it is obvious that I do not believe in teacher involvement in the election process if such involvement is carried out as a collective action by teacher federations, i. e. unions. It is potentially very dangerous and the Halton electorate should know why. The federations would like to be partners with the elected representatives in managing the educational enterprise. Therefore, any action which would help to bring this about should be strongly resisted.

As far as this trustee is concerned, the management and control of the education system must now and forever rest solely in the hands of the people's elected representatives. To be otherwise, is a frightening prospect.

F. Armitage, Trustee Ward 6, Burlington/Halton Board of Education.

### Cars park illegally

Dear Sirs:

Let us hope the worst of the traffic congestion in town is over, so perhaps this letter is too late coming to your desk.

According to posted signs, the south side of Church and the north side of Bower, are No parking zones. Why is it then that quite often there are a few cars parked in front of St. Joseph's Church, and an almost continuous line of cars parked in front of the post office?

Many cars parked at the post office, north or south side of the street, still are left with the motors running. I know in the cold weather it is a great temptation to leave a car running for a short stop, but surely Acton has learned a lesson from the tragedy of last winter. This is also against the law, leaving keys in a car!

Yours truly,  
Timid Driver

ones and about twenty green ones."

Our tree will be large, stately and gorgeous, and will be erected without confusion or blasphemy at least a week before Christmas.

Every gift will be chosen with care, about October, wrapped exquisitely, and stored in the front hall closet.

Christmas dinner will be planned carefully, so that there will be a minimum of fuss. Turkey will be ordered and delivered at precisely the right moment. Plum pud-

(Continued on page 5)

## The Free Press Back Issues

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, December 20, 1956

Christmas tree sales are booming at the Y's Men's lot behind the YMCA. The number of trees sold, ranging in price from \$1 to \$4, is approaching the 500 mark.

Hungarian refugee Chaba Teglas arrived at Acton last Saturday, after his flight from riot-torn Budapest. Mr. Teglas, an architect, was met by Mrs. Joseph Jany. He visited the Jany's, his cousins, for the weekend and will return for Christmas.

An early Christmas gift to Mrs. J. J. Stewart was her \$114 in merchants' vouchers, won at last Saturday afternoon's Appreciation Day draw. The regular \$5 award went to Mrs. H. McIntyre.

Thomas Miller, 38, of no fixed address, was convicted Tuesday of being drunk in a public place and fined \$10 and costs and sentenced to 10 days in jail.

In his first cross-country race, Bruce Andrews placed second in a field of 18 to win a medal. The two mile event was run in Waterdown.

Acton Brownie Packs held induction services last Saturday afternoon in the United Church Sunday school.

The last in the series of eueches at St. Joseph's Church was held last week. Winners were; ladies' high, Mae Fountain; second, Mrs. Deforest; low, Mrs. W. Duval Sr.; men's high, Mrs. A. Jocque; second, Ivan Kilby.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, December 23, 1926

The annual function of the High School teachers, students and their friends was held in the Town Hall on Tuesday evening consisting of a literary and musical program. It was one of the most enjoyable and successful in the long list of similar events held by the school.

At a conference of the Municipal Council, the Public School Board and members of the Hydro Commission this week, plans were entered into for the installation of a complete electric lighting system throughout the High and Public Schools. Only the basement and entrance have been lighted until now.

In most churches Christmas Sunday, with appropriate services and messages, will be observed next Sunday. In the United Church the choir will render a Christmas cantata at the evening service.

A gathering of musically inclined citizens was held on Wednesday evening at the home of Reeve Mason for all those interested in forming a glee club, and judging from the number present, the interest was great. The object of the club will be to get all those who are interested in male choir and chorus to work together, and start preparation for some entertainments to be given throughout the winter months, the proceeds of the first one to go to the Park Improvement Committee, to help carry on the good work they have already started.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, December 21, 1876

A social in aid of the English church Sabbath School will be held on Christmas evening commencing at 7 o'clock in the hall over Mr. Henry Smith's furniture store.

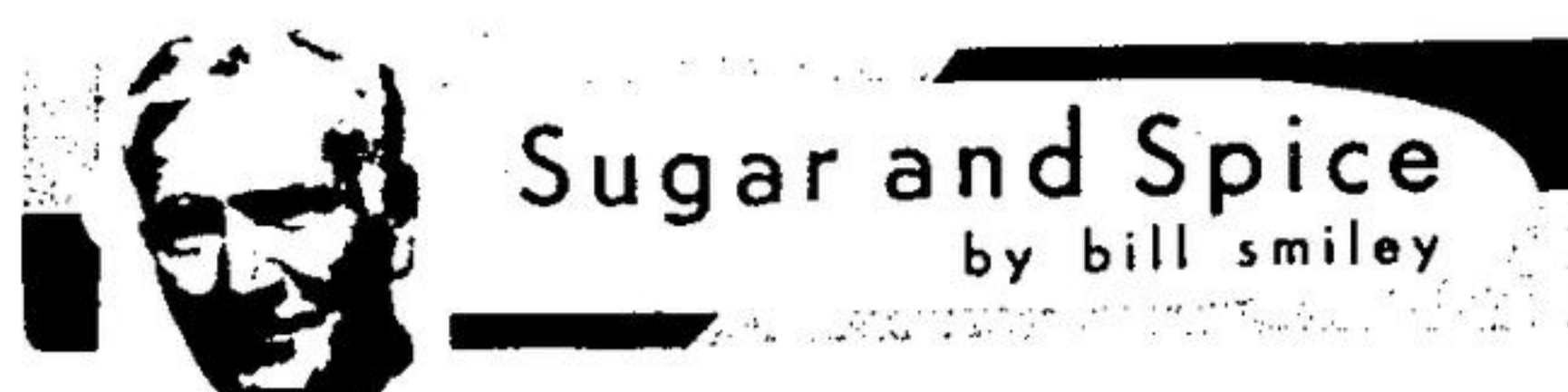
A whip and muffer were feloniously taken from a cutter belonging to Mr. McMillan of Rockwood which was standing in front of one of our stores the other evening.

The chairman of the streets and public works committee has handed in the following as his report of the total cost of public works during the year just closed: Hynds hill grading and gravelling \$33.75; Speight's hill, ditching etc. \$40; Main St. \$31.50; four culverts \$18; gravelling on Mill and other streets \$21; cess pool on Main St. \$12; sundry repairs to sidewalks \$7.60; grading in sundry places \$20; crossing at R. Fisher's \$5.50; sidewalk at McMackin's, 16 rods \$48.75; 377 loads of gravel at 5c per load \$18.85, total \$313.25.

A petition was presented to council from the members of Acton Brass Band for a grant of \$26 to replace one of the instruments. The sum was granted.

Council considered a sketch plan of a stone and brick building for a town hall which was to cost about \$1,400. The matter was laid over for the present.

A committee will be conferring on the subject of a poor house for Halton.



There is no time of the year that passes more quickly than the few weeks before Christmas.

One day it's only about the first week in November. The Christmas gift catalogues are just out, and Bing Crosby has barely commenced singing "I'm Dreaming etc.," and the Santa Claus parade is a few weeks off and the town's Christmas lights have just gone up, so you know that the actual holiday is weeks, if not months, in the future.

Then, suddenly, you have about six dicey days to go, and you haven't bought either tree or turkey, let alone gifts and cards, and you know you're going to be flying like a bat out of hell to get ready for the annual bacchanalia with which we celebrate the birth of Christ.

And I guess maybe that's part of the fun—going slightly ape for a few days each year, running around like a cat on a hot tin roof, and spending money like a drunken sailor, to coin a few brilliant, original similes and metaphors.

Some people, and the rest of us detest them, go around smugly in December telling anyone who will listen that they have all their gifts bought and wrapped, their cards dispatched, their plum pudding made, and even their rotten tree up and decorated.

They're like the people in Alden Nowlan's poem, who set the breakfast table before going to bed, make the bed before going down to breakfast, have their names and birthdays inscribed on their tombstones before they die, with nothing to add but the date of death.

Perhaps they are admirable people; in a way, but I hate them. They are so busy getting ready for tomorrow that they haven't time to enjoy today.

Like most slob, I comfort myself by constantly reassuring myself that truly creative people are tardy, procrastinating and slovenly, that it takes a narrow mind to have a tidy desk, that life is only a preparation for death, which is anything but neat, and that I wouldn't want to be like those people for all the oil in Arabia. Remember when it used to be all the tea in China?

It's partly true, though. Every year, the Old Battleaxe and I plan to have a gracious Christmas. We plan it in June, and then forget all about it until Dec. 17th.

The plan goes something like this. The cards will be purchased about September, and with care. None of this "Give me three dozen of those and three dozen of those red

**THE ACTON FREE PRESS**  
PHONE 853-2010  
Business and Editorial Office

Founded in 1875 and published every Wednesday at 59 Willow St., Acton, Ontario. Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulation, the Canadian Community Newspapers Association and the Ontario Weekly Newspapers Association. Advertising rates on request. Subscriptions payable in advance. \$2.50 in Canada, \$3.00 in all countries other than Canada; single copies 15 cents; carrier delivery in Acton 15 cents per week. Second class mail Registration Number 9215. Advertising is accepted on the condition that, in the event of typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous item, together with reasonable allowance for signature, will not be charged for but the balance of the advertisement will be paid for at the applicable rate. In the event of a typographical error advertising goods or services at a wrong price, goods or services may not be sold. Advertising is merely an offer to sell, and may be withdrawn at any time.

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