

Free Press Editorial Page

Save a marriage

Divorce is a bad thing, even in the healthiest of families. It is the admittance of failure.

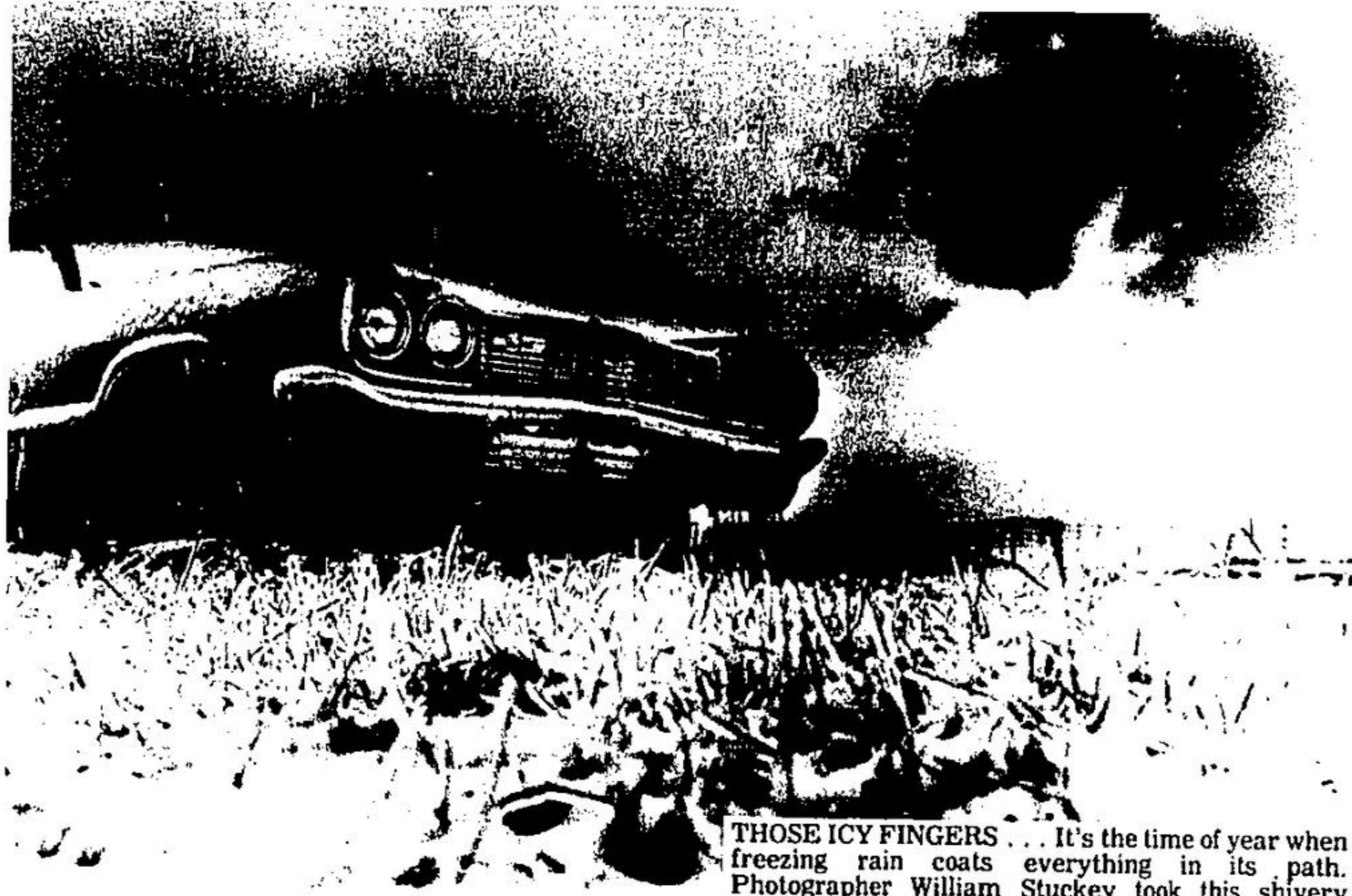
When a marriage is in trouble, the parties involved should express their feelings and let each other know how much they care about each other, and what is happening.

After a 110 year marriage, Canadians should consider doing this with the people of Quebec—fellow Canadians. People's first reaction when they hear a marriage is splitting up after 20 or so years is "What went wrong?" or "Can't you patch things up?" or "Do you really want this?" These are perhaps questions Canadians of both languages should be asking each other. Communication is the key word.

For this reason, English-speaking Canadians should let their French-speaking counterparts in Quebec know they do not want the province to separate. National unity is essential, and communications is the only way this country can function as a whole.

One letter to the editor reflects the opinion of at least 500 individuals. Quebec has many newspapers, so why not write to the editors? Let the province know they are wanted. A song from the early 1970's says "United We Stand, Divided We Fall". Let's avoid that.

Here are the names of some newspapers in La Belle Province to write to: The Buckingham Post, Buckingham, Quebec; L'Echo du Bas, St. Laurent, Rimouski, Quebec; Le Canada Francias, St. Jean, Quebec; La Voix, Shawinigan Falls, Quebec; Lake of Two Mountains Gazette, Hudson, Quebec; La Devoir, Montreal, Quebec; Telegram Observer, Sherbrooke, Quebec; Westmount Examiner, Westmount, Quebec; Montreal Monitor, Montreal, Quebec; News and Chronicle, Point Claire, Quebec; St. Laurent News, St. Laurent, Quebec; Montreal Gazette, Montreal, Quebec; La Presse, Montreal, Quebec; and Montreal Matin, Montreal, Quebec.



THOSE ICY FINGERS... It's the time of year when freezing rain coats everything in its path. Photographer William Stuckey took this shivery study on a typical late-winter day.



Sugar and Spice by bill smiley

There's something wrong with the economic set-up of our society. This conclusion was the one I came to after checking over my T4 form the other day. I turned white and then red when I saw what everybody is clipping out of my pay cheque.

The first, and worst deduction is for income tax. The feds got me for more in taxes than my hard-working father ever made in the two best years of his life put together.

Then I started wondering what I get from Ottawa for my thumping contribution. I wasn't exactly impressed when I totted it up. I don't get welfare or unemployment insurance or the old age pension or the baby bonus.

I get the Trans Canada highway, which I use every 12 years, if I can find a spot in the never-ending line of American hauling trailers or campers. I get the CBC, which is one of the country's great losers, financially and culturally. I get the Mounties. Who needs them? I get protection from our gallant armed forces, who could probably wrestle Iceland to a draw, although I wouldn't bet on it. I get the privilege of contributing to those handsome pensions of MPs and civil servants, with their cosy, built-in exaltation. I have the privilege of kicking in so that Otto Lang can fly around like Henry Kissinger.

I help pick up the tab for those federal-provincial meetings, at the last of which so many of the provincial premiers were hard into the sauce that it wound up in a verbal donnybrook.

I also receive the privilege of helping to pay for Skyshop bribes in Quebec, and no-

clear bribes in Argentina and lord knows where else.

I have the additional pleasure of helping to pay for a wildly proliferating civil service that offers me such inessential as Manpowers, ads telling me not to smoke or drink too much, and vast quantities of propaganda churned out by the backs of By-town on the Rideau.

I am permitted to help pay for the annual deficits of the Post Office, the CNR, the CBC, and practically any other "business" run by the feds. In addition, they'll let me kick in to help pay out native Canadians millions of dollars for a lot of moose pasture and tundra that wasn't worth a plugged nickel until someone decided to run a pipeline through it.

As I said, somebody has got things backward. The government offers me all sorts of things I don't want or need, and fails to offer me any of the things I do need.

And that's only the beginning. Insurance companies are taking me to the cleaners: fire, life, term, health, automobile. And the only way I can get even is to set fire to the house, smash up the car, contract a disabling disease, or die. It doesn't seem fair.

I paid a chunk into the Canada Pension Plan. The only way I can get it back is to get old. Unemployment Insurance cost me \$172 and I've never been out of a job in my life. The union cost me \$325, which is probably used for a fund for a strike, in which I will not participate.

In addition, they levied me \$1,750 toward a pension plan. By the time I get around to collecting from it, one of two things will have happened. Either I'll be dead (and I

hear there are no pensions in heaven), or my annual pension will be worth three loaves of bread and a can of beans, with inflation.

And the whole thing expands downward. The provincial mafia nails me for hard-top roads into cottage country when I don't have a cottage; weed cutters, geologists, fishing inspectors; health care for every hypochondriac in the province; homes for the aged and homes for the insane and homes for foster children; and a hundred other things I do not need.

Then the county takes its cut. I help pay for Reeves to go and get drunk at the Good Roads Convention, for County Health Units, County Assessors, County educational empires.

And finally, the municipal mafia puts the gears to me, for arenas I don't skate in, swimming pools I don't swim in, healthy salaries for the firemen and cops and every other bird who can get on the payroll.

But when I say "Don't cut down my trees, please," they tell me I am standing in the way of progress.

Nor does it end there, unfortunately. It comes right into your own home and sits down beside you at your own hearth. The old lady wants a gourmet cookbook, \$20; the daughter wants \$250 for fees for a university course; the son would have a little donation in Paraguay to keep him from starving; the grandboys need new shoes at 12 bucks a rattle. I don't need a single one of these things, yet I am the one who has the tambourine constantly shaking under my nose.

Free enterprise be hanged. There's nothing free about it, and the only enterprise involved in the considerable amount used by various parties to separate me from every nickel I earn.

On the other hand, maybe I'm lucky that I don't need a single item from the endless list of garbage for which I am being clipped. You have to get old or sick or stupid or poor to collect most of them.

All have something to give

Everyone has something to give. We're not talking about hidden talents. We're talking about essentials such as blood, time and money. We're speaking of the diet for a healthy Red Cross.

Henry Kroes, who is in charge of the campaign here, says that what Red Cross needs are what each of us can give—our blood, time or money. Twice a year, in summer and winter, a special call goes out in Acton for blood. Those are the times when blood banks are in short supply. Each year, in March, Red Cross month, the call is made for funds — those dollars that keep

Red Cross strong enough to keep helping.

Perhaps you already give blood, are even a regular donor—over one million Canadians are. Perhaps you volunteer time—like more than 400,000 Canadians. Perhaps you do both; perhaps you do neither. But there is one thing you can do now in Red Cross month. You can give your dollars.

March is Red Cross campaign month—the time of year when everyone takes extra vitamins and iron to tone up his system. But don't forget Red Cross. It also needs a shot in the arm to keep up its strength.

Of this and that

There are 318 fewer hazardous arenas in Ontario now than there were one year ago, because of the government Arena Safety Program.

To date, reports have been received on 434 arenas, including the 84 who voluntarily submitted reports. Of these, only 116 were certified as complying with the Act, while 318 show structural deficiencies. Corrective action has

been taken in all 318 cases—repair, demolition or closure.

Luckily, Acton arena passed the test.

We get newspapers from all over. The Assiniboia Times, mailed in Saskatchewan February 2, has just arrived.

Get acquainted day — a friendly gesture

OUR READERS WRITE:

The Editor, Acton Free Press, Acton, Ontario. Every time we attend a concert given by the Acton Citizens' Band, either at Christmas at the High School, or in June at a picnic concert at the Music Centre, we feel disappointed in the attendance, and sorry that more citizens of Acton do not know about what is going on for their entertainment. With this in mind, I have an idea which I would like to put forward for the consideration of the service clubs in Acton. When the nice, warm spring weather comes, let's have a "Get Acquainted with Your Town Day". Some nice Sunday afternoon, wouldn't it be interesting to have a walking tour of Acton, with guides who know the town well to describe the various activities which take place in the buildings which would be visited. We could visit the Music Centre, the Scout Hall, the Library,

the schools, the Town Hall, the Y, and many other facilities which, I am sure, would be suggested by other people as the plan took form. Then, we could conclude the afternoon by having a monster picnic, or maybe a barbecue, in the park, with the band to supply music to dine by.

Now for the important part. Instead of planning this, and then sitting back waiting for folks to find out, and maybe get interested, let's put on a campaign to go door-to-door, particularly in the newer parts of town, and invite everyone to join with their neighbours for recreation, fun and self-improvement which are available right here at home. We hear a lot of complaining about newcomers to the town not getting involved or taking an interest in what goes on—let's make a friendly gesture in their direction, and give them a chance to be friendly in return—it's my guess that we will be pleasantly surprised! Sincerely, Renee Watson

Stand up for our country

I thank the Lord that we have teachers like Bruce Andrews who are willing to stand up and be counted. So many of us (myself included) are so afraid to say what we think.

What better place is there, than the school, to teach our young people to learn

and sing the words to "O Canada" to stand and be thankful for our beautiful country.

A concerned parent of two young people. Sincerely, Mrs Don (Jean) Early, R.R. 1, Campbellville, Ont.

Where have we gone wrong?

Open letter to School Board: Dear Sir: I should like to congratulate the school board on having a courageous teacher on their staff. Mr. B. Andrews has the courage of his convictions, and himself can stand up and be counted among those who truly care about our country and its future citizens. Will you now, parents all, whether trustees, staff or administrators, take note?

We are in danger of losing the most important part of our heritage by default, simply because we have let it slip away. Great Britain's educational system, once the pride of the world, has slid into oblivion through just such loosely held reins; our neighbours south of the border have black-board jungles of threatening pupils and fearful staff. It is almost upon us too. Where

did we go wrong?

Remember your own school days? Were you forced to work hard, struggle, learn to control yourself, respect your teachers and school property?

Is that the case today, when pupils can choose Mickey Mouse courses; argue that correct behavior is only to be judged by circumstances at that time, and that everything is relative so that there are no rules which can apply to every case; that teachers are only humans too, so they're not perfect and thus need no respect; or that the school property is theirs too, since their own parents pay taxes; so "Why can't I destroy my own property?"

Where have we gone wrong? When people become selfish, grasping and inconsiderate, what is lacking in their growth? Infants are by need egoists but they must learn to become useful members of society by controlling their whims. At home and later at school, they should learn to exercise this restraint voluntarily, or by force; this is for their own good, and also for the whole society.

Where do we go to find the solutions? Recently on reading a book containing thoughts of famous people on the subjects of

democracy, virtue, happiness, success, etc. I was struck by the recurring theme of the importance of spiritual learning and growth.

Plutarch said "A city may as well be built in the air, as a kingdom or commonwealth, be either constituted or preserved without the support of religion."

Shakespeare said "I do love my country's good with a respect more tender, more holy and profound than mine own life."

I contend our children want and need spiritual knowledge and respect for their country, plus appreciation for real work well done. No one can blame them for losing respect for all we hold dear, if it is not stressed, taught nor venerated. Criticism of our way of life seems to breed dissatisfaction, and admiration for stricter totalitarianist life styles.

Along with a return to basics, can we return to stressing a return to daily Bible study, and study of our heroes? Fill the hunger for models to follow with real people, and our youngsters will discover the truth, that only God can make a person worthwhile.

Yours very truly, Mrs. S. Drijber

Greetings from Australia

Dear Editor and friends: Feb. 23, 1977

First and foremost in our minds is a big thank you to our friends and neighbors of the First Line and 5th Sideroad of Erin Township who made it possible for us to be able to keep up with the Acton news and stop a lot of homesickness. When the paper arrives (the one dated January 26th arrived today), both James and I read it from cover to cover before anything else is done — then we gossip for hours about all the snow and ice and what we are missing and what we are not missing in this beautiful spot of Australia which was made possible by the Ontario Teachers Exchange association, also, of course, the "Gregory" family who are now living in our home in Erin Township.

The Gregory home is situated on the east coast of New South Wales, about 50 miles south of Sydney and about quarter of the way up a beautiful escarpment which rises 1000 feet. We are about three-quarters of a mile from the beach which can be seen from the house. Most of the trees are gum trees and the smaller trees seem to flower most of the summer and their colors are brilliant reds, purple, blue, pink and yellow.

The birds are mainly of the parakeet family and they are very noisy at times; one sounds like a whip whistling through the air and it is called the whip; and one sounds like a child calling out. It is like a crow, but is black and white. The parrots are green and red, blue and red, and other brilliant combinations. We have also had record high temper-

The Free Press Back Issues

10 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press Of Thursday, March 8, 1967

George Kerr, present M.L.A. for Halton, announced he would be a candidate for the Conservative nomination for the provincial riding of Halton West, at the annual meeting of Acton and North Esqueing Progressive Conservative Association.

Post office wickets were ordered closed this morning from 11 a.m. to 12 noon, owing to the funeral of Governor General Vanier.

The new executive of Halton Junior Farmers, chosen recently at the annual meeting include president Ruth Mason, Brian Bessey, press reporter; Lois Hunter, secretary; Ernie Alexander, treasurer; Joy Hayward, provincial director and Don Swackhamer, vice president.

Ad—Three bedroom bungalow, close to shopping and schools, large living room with dining area, full basement, rear room, storms and screens, large well-fenced lot. Asking \$15,000. Carries for \$95, including taxes.

The photographs of Miss Daisy Folster and Miss Isobel Anderson have been removed to the front hall of the Robert Little school, and hang now beside the portrait of Miss M.Z. Bennett. All are former teachers.

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press Of Thursday, March 7, 1957

Mrs. Charles Gaugh with a 20 cent cent coupon, won \$32 at the weekly merchants' draw at the post office Saturday. E. Grishow won the \$5.

P.C. John Johnston, formerly of the Oakville O.P.P., this week replaced P.C. John Hodgins, who has been transferred to Chatham headquarters.

For World Day of Prayer service to be held Friday, March 8 this year, women of 142 countries will combine in unified prayer and meditation. The theme for 1957 is "Who Shall Separate Us?" The service is prepared this year by Selma Vassady and is written on behalf of the Christian women who live behind the Iron Curtain.

Sunday afternoon, the Acton Fire Department responded to a call to a chimney fire at the farm of H. Thornhill, R.R. 3, Acton.

Miss Donna McMillan, Mr. and Mrs. Russell Arbie, Mr. and Mrs. Lorne Arbie and Anne and Susan, Mr. and Mrs. W. Malcolm, Mrs. M. Arbie and Mrs. Darie Dele were visitors at the home of Mr. and Mrs. H. Arbie on Sunday.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press Of Thursday, February 8, 1877

Storey, Moore and Co.'s Kid Leather Tannery. This establishment was built in 1875 by Messrs. W. H. Storey and Co. for the manufacture of stock for their glove works. It cost \$2,500. During the past year about \$10,000 worth of leather has been turned out consisting principally of black kid for fine gloves and russets for harvest and threshing mitts with a considerable quantity of calf skins and sheep pelt. The firm have sold nearly \$9,000 worth of wool to the woolen factories. They have put through during the year 14,000 sheepskins and paid out \$15,000 for skins, tanning and dyes. About 600 dozen eggs have been used. For tanning they use hemlock bark and japonica manufactured in the United States. They employ eight skilled workmen.

Alex. Wright's Sheepskin tannery—This concern is somewhat similar to the one described above only on a smaller scale. It was established in 1871.

Nicklin's Flour Mills—The history of this mill dates back 50 years when this entire section of Ontario was but little more than reclaimed from the primeval forest and while it was still the haunts of the red man and the refuge of wild animals. The first mill was built by the Rev. Ezra Adams one of our sturdy pioneer missionaries who with two brothers were the earliest settlers. The rough uncouth mill stones were for a couple of years driven by a clumsy paddle wheel and machinery with wooden gearing. About 1842 it was purchased by Mr. Robert Swan and a few years later by Mr. John Nicklin, father of the present proprietors. The entire building was destroyed by fire in 1866, scarcely anything being saved and no insurance on it. With the assistance of neighbors new timbers were very soon brought in and the structure was ready for the machinery within a few weeks. The principal business done here is gristing and retail flouring, the average consumption of wheat being about 2,000 bushels a month. The machinery is driven by either steam or water power, or sometimes both when water is scarce. The engine is 20 horse power with locomotive boiler.

THE ACTON FREE PRESS

PHONE 853-2010

Business and Editorial Office



1976 award winner

Founded in 1875 and published every Wednesday at 59 Willow St., Acton, Ont. Member of the Audit Bureau of Circulation, the Canadian Council of Newspaper Publishers and the Ontario Weekly Newspaper Association. Advertising rates on request. Subscriptions payable in advance. \$7.50 in Canada, \$25.00 in all countries other than Canada; single copies 13 cents; carrier delivery in Acton 15 cents per week. Second class mail Registration Number 0315. Advert. listing is accepted on the condition that, in the event of typographical error, that portion of the advertising space occupied by the erroneous items, together with reasonable allowance for signature, will not be charged for but the balance of the advertisement will be sold 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. O.P.P.A. Printing and Publishing Co. Ltd.

David R. Dine, Publisher

Key Club Editor

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