Free Press Editorial Page

An insight for voters

Chamber of Commerce again brought the election candidates to Acton for a wellorganized Meet the Candidates night. It has become a Chamber tradition that is an important one.

Some towns have several political meetings during the campaign and the turnout of people at some of them is decidedly low. It would seem to be actually a waste of time for the busy men.

Acton has just one meeting, and the attendance of over 200 was what is about normal.

Acton and district people knew the issues and there were plenty of perceptive questions. No doubt the campaigners have heard them all before. At any rate, they had ready answers. The only issue which generated much impulsive response was naturally the one of

regional government. Again, the answers were predictable.

Not all answers immediately' satisfied the audience and there were a few heckling remarks. We suspect some of these people were partisan supporters from out-of-

Since it was Acton's only meeting, the full time could have been devoted to the people of this area quite easily.

However, as they say, it's a free country and you can't keep people quiet, especially at election time.

Thanks to the Chamber, again.

The people who attend these meetings always gain an important insight into the candidates' personalities and platforms, only possible when they are heard in

The case for Hotchen's

The determination of four town businessmen to provide downtown parking has resulted in their taking it upon themselves to purchase Hotchen's Bakery property. The town's negotiations have been in the works since July 1976 and other offers have surfaced. The men felt the only thing they could do was proceed on their own.

They have a private trust agreement which states they will sell the property to the town, with a deadline of August 31.

These men are firmly convinced the downtown needs more visible parking, and that all the downtown businesses should share the cost. They have figured out the cost, over 20 years, amounts to no more than a business's fire insurance, for a comparison.

They see the site as a particularly valuable one in the future. When Hotchen's Bakeryadmittedly in poor shape-is removed, the town can arrange to have parking clear through the Y lot and into the next block. Arrangements for this have been made. The whole project should cost about \$60,000.

If Hotchen's is removed and a new revenue-producing building erected on the lot, it would be too late to dream of parking there.

This is one of the most important things for the downtown, the eager buyers insist.

It is very likely for instance, that in the future parking will be limited to one side of Mill. This could fit in well with the plans of the Business Improvement Area, which is presently commissioning a study of the downtown. There would then be room for benches and trees on one side.

But public opinion of the other merchants is not solidly behind the purchase of the bakery. Objectors still hold up the project.

Four men have "stuck their necks out". They think it is worthwhile, and they say they are willing to lose a couple of thousand dollars in the end, for the good of the town.

Sure, it costs the merchants some money. What doesn't?

More parking and an improved main street can't help but benefit the merchants in the neighborhood take pride in our town.

and indeed all of us who want to

Hydro misled Queen's Park The Ontario Court of Appeals, highest court in the province has finally shown to doubters what area people have been saying for several years-that Dr. Ormond Solandt did not study certain Ontario Hydro corridor proposals in any substantial way for the route between the transformer station east of Milton and the Bruce nuclear generating plant.

Landowners along the route of the proposed corridor have been denying statements from Ontario Hydro for several years which insisted Dr. Solandt settled the question of where the route should go. Now three justices of the Ontario Court of Appeals have affirmed the stand of area residents, albeit somewhat late in the process, that Dr. Solandt only studied the eastwest corridor from Nanticoke to Pickering and did not deal with the north-south route in any substantial way.

It was a landmark decision because the comparatively new Expropriation Act has never been tested in court before. The Court's decision emphasizes that the day is - past when any body could steamroller its way through private property without just cause.

Residents along the route have contended this was the reason for enactment of the Expropriation Act while Ontario Hydro, through its lawyer Tom Marshall, has maintained the purpose of expropriation hearings was to deal with specific proposals from land owners along the route and move transmission towers to avoid obstacles such as swimming pools or sugar bush.

Hopefully now the Minister of Energy will get the message the courts have spoken-there has been no independent study of the Bruce to Milton corridor. Ministers of Energy from Darcy McKeough, Dennis Timbrell and now James Taylor have all contended Dr. Solandt studied the route and based decisions on the information they have been fed by the Ontario Hydro. Surely now it is clear Dr. Solandt never studied the northsouth route and Ontario Hydro has been misleading Queen's Park.

It is time Queen's Park had some independent advisers, who have no axes to grind.

Of this and that

Next Sunday would have been Lecoration Day. The service is not being held this year, due to dwindling interest the past couple of years. No doubt many people will go to Fairview, St. Joseph's and even Pioneer cemetery as usual, and tend the graves of their loved ones.

The Legionaires and I.O.D.E. members will still plant geraniums on the graves of servicemen and former associates.

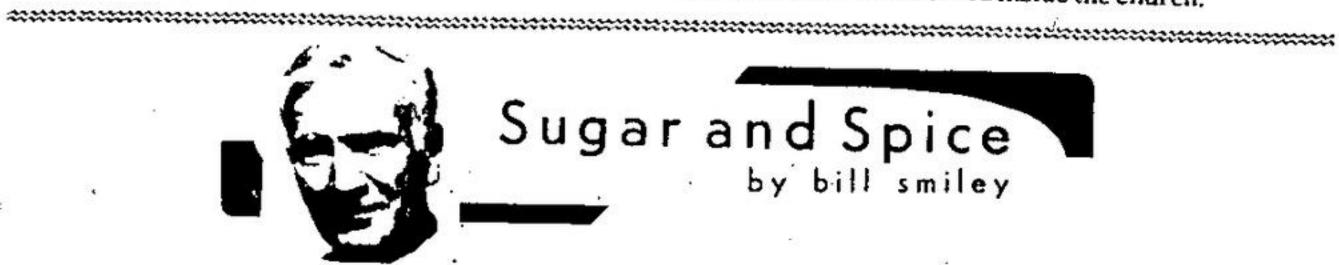
Apparently the hold-up on Mill St. repaying is due to the problem over the crumbling curbs. At one time it had been hoped that Mill would be completed by the end of May. The disruption continues.

With just over a week until balloting for a provincial representative, there is still a great deal of apathy evident among the

Candidates in the widely spread riding, that stretches from the northern limit of Halton to well down into Burlington and includes Milton, Acton, Georgetown and a section of north Burlington, are having difficulty in generating strong interest.



in conjunction with the 120th year of the parish. Refreshments were served inside the church.



Sugar and Spice by bill smiley

One of my colleagues remarked jovially the other day that I was beefing again in my column. Another bystander chipped in: "Yeah! A gripe a week; that's

Recently a lady wrote from Alberta and suggested she'd noticed a note of cynicism creeping into this weekly epistle.

Party of the first part had some justification. For about three weeks in a row I was bitching about my sore back, my dire rear, and my rotten car.

Party of the second part was reading things that were not there. I am not, never have been, and hope I will never be a cynic. A skeptic, yes. I am about as deeply skeptical as ean be any man who has been through a depression, a war, a marriage, and several decades of political bullroar. But I love life and people and my naitve land too much ever to turn into that creepiest of humans, a cynic.

Perhaps there was a sharper edge to my bleating there for a few weeks. But despite the flailing blows of life, I am not downcast, dejected, or depressed, which I'll prove by giving you a lot of good news this

I don't have either cancer or tuberculosis in my back. All I have is a little problem called "disintegrating discs". It's not at all serious. It merely means you are falling apart in the transmission system, like an old car that looks pretty good but will crumble into a heap of rust if you give it a good kick.

Anyway, I think my d.d's began quite a few years ago, on a deer-hunting trip, when I carried for half a mile a huge hound that some idiot in another party had shot and hadly wounded. The dog was almost as big as I was and was twisting and yelping in pain. I had a sore back for a couple of years after that.

Whatever, I've got the d.d's (better than having the d.t's) and it's not without its advantages. I'm not supposed to life anything too heavy. The Old Lady has been putting out the garbage since I learned about it, something I've been trying to engineer for years. When she decides to move the furniture around, I give a little groan and point to my back. It makes her furious, and she's thinking of trading me in on a later year's model.

As for my dire rear, it's completely ended, no pun intended.

Some service station people weren't radiant after reading my remarks about mechanics. But a number of friends and readers who have suffered severly at the hands of the modern-day highwaymen assured me I was right on.

Some other good things have happened.

I got my income tax return into the post office three hours before the deadline, a new record. It cleaned me out of every spare nickel I had, but that's an annual occasion. So we eat bread and beans for a month. They're good for you.

By the time this appears, I'll have been through the annual agony of going through a hundred eager applications for one English teacher's job, and the nauseating business of playing God with young people's lives will be over again.

I've practically caught up on my marking, by ignoring the hockey playoffs and sitting at the kitchen counter with a pencil

in one hand and coffee in the other. I counted today, and there are only 112 essays, short stories and bits of drama to mark. That's almost home free.

But perhaps the best thing that's hap-

pened to me in a coon's age occurred last Friday, I had foolishly made an appointment with a nose specialist in a neighboring city. I don't know why. I must be getting

dotey. That's a perfectly good nose. It's rather badly bent here and there, and I can't smell anything. But if I ever have to resort to spectacles, it will be an excellent nose on which to rest them. Well, as soon as the word got around, the

horror stories began coming at me. One

guy swore they used an electric drill to bore through the bone and gristle of noses like mine. Another, who'd had a nose job for sinus trouble, contributed, "Worst pain I've ever

gone through in my life. He (the butcher) didn't go up the nose from outside. He slashed through my cheeks, inside my mouth, and went up from there. Dread-

Two other birds who'd had nose jobs just

shook their heads gravely and winced, when I pressed them for details.

Needless to say, I was a bit white and skittery when the old girl and I got in the car and headed off last Friday. I was hoping the car would break down, as usual. Dam' thing ran like a top.

X-rays under my arm, I crept up the reception desk and announced myself, so faintly the young lady made me repeat it.

"Oh, Mr. Smiley, the doctor's out of town for the day. You were supposed to be here yesterday.'

Seems that the local doctor's office, when my wife called to check on the appointment time, made a beautiful boo-boo.

We stood there in front of the nose man's receptionist with vastly different visages. My wife was furious, mouthing at me silently, "You coward, I'll bet you're glad."

I don't know why she'd think that, unless it was because I was grinning like an idiot child.

We made another appointment, but it's not for a month. I'll think of something.

WRITE:

READERS

Celebration "At Home"

Behind the red brick building, Where kind folk go to pray, And receive Almighty blessings In the old conventional way,

OUR

The friendly folk have gathered, With the "Acton Choraliers" To do their thing, and help to sing, To celebrate the years.

There were smiles of friendly welcome, For everyone to see, Where the yellow coats, did ease their throats. With the "At home" cup of tea.

Father welcomed all the folk

While "Folk-music" floated round, He made the call, "At Home" to all, To come and join the sound.

A few happy fleeting moments, For friends to say Hello, And meet the folk they live with, And the folk they've learned to know.

God gave each one his Blessing, To calm their many fears, and give them needed courage, To face the coming years,

> Victor Smith R. R. 2, Rockwood.

History of post office

Dear Editor: The national board of the Canadian Postmasters and Assistants Association has

asked me to compile the history of our For this reason, I am asking your readers

to contribute Items of interest such as amusing anecdotes, photographs, clippings

of important postal events, and stories from the pioneer days of mail handling in Can-

> Sincerely yours, Betti Michael C.P.A.A. Historian, Port Robinson, Ontario. LOS 1KO

Researching Boer war

Verceniging brought the Anglo-Boer War to a close. The Boer War was the occasion of Canada's first major overseas military campaign, and relatively little has been written about the participation of the Canadian contingents.

I am engaged in researching the role of the Canadian forces in this conflict, and I am anxious to get it touch with surviving

It is seventy-five years since the Peace of veterans or with relatives or friends of veterans, doctors, nurses, priests or doctors, I will be travelling and researching throughout Ontario during the next few months and I would be most grateful if readers could assist me in this project.

Hugh Hobertson. 224 Springfield Road Ottawa, Ontario KIM OK9

The Free Press Back Issues

10 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, May 31, 1967

Terry Waterhouse graduated in Business Administration from Mohawk College of Applied Arts and Technology at convocation held at McMaster University, Hamilton, May 12.

Rev. Father V. J. Morgan, pastor of St. Joseph's church, Acton, will celebrate the 45th anniversary of his ordination to the Holy Priesthood on Satruday, June 10, 1967. During Father Morgan's priesthood, he has served as pastor at Macton, Linwood, Georgetown and Acton.

Thirty dollars damage was caused in a minor accident on Victoria Ave., at 12.30 a.m. Saturday, May 27. A car owned by Murray Rody, Nelson Court, was damaged while the second vehicle driven by Keith Massey, R.R. 4, Rockwood was the second vehicle. Police said the Rody car was parked.

Mr. and Mrs. H. R. Force have returned from a trip to Europe. A series of flights took them to several countries including Portugal, the south of France, Italy, Switzerland and Holland,

Firefighters were called to extinguish a blaze in a car owned by John Thomas Lazenby of R.R. 1, Acton at 6.35 p.m. Saturday evening. Police said \$500 damage was caused by the fire which occurred after the vehicle backfired, stopped and burst into flames at the corner of Eastern Ave. and Church St. It was proceeding east on

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Free Press of Thursday, June 6, 1957

The future of the Wool Combing Industry in Acton is uncertain at press time today. Robert Markon, in an interview with the Free Press at one p.m. today revealed a decision would be announced Monday. At present, an estimated 100 employees are affected, representing approximately a quarter million dollar annual payroll.

An enrolment of 80 is reported by Principal G. McKenzie for the kindergarten class for the coming season. It has been suggested by him that any mothers wishing to enrol their children contact the school as soon as possible.

Mayor Tyler will greet a town crier and stage coach at the steps of the YMCA next Thursday at 9.30 a.m. He will be greeting the Mayor of Milton, who begins an extensive stage coach run, complete with four horse team, coachmen, town crier, and four beautiful girls decked out in gay costumes of the 1850-1860 era.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Deveau visited with Dr. Neville and Mrs. Harrop and Joanne and Rose Marie of Toronto last weekend.

100 years ago

Taken from the Issue of the Free Press of Thursday, May 31, 1877

The 59th anniversary of the Birthday of our beloved sovereign was celebrated in Acton in the customary manner. Games and sports continued in animated style for about four hours. About five o'clock the Knights of Pythias assembled in their rooms above the post office and having clothed thenselves in their uniforms formed in procession and marched through the principal streets headed by the Acton Brass Band. They attracted a large crowd.

In the evening the grand centre of entertainment was the dramatic presentation in the Drill Shed. A large number of extra chairs and other seats had to be procured. The professionals had instructed the amateurs very well and the drama of Uncle Tom's Cabin was remarkably well done. The entertainment was one of the most successful ever held in Acton. The dance afterward was also a success.

The potato bugs as well as the caterpillars are on the warpath. A liberal coat of good gravel is being put on Mill St.

A drunken Frenchman fell down a hotel stairs in Hamilton Friday and was killed.

The rumors concerning the dissolution of the present government are probably without foundation.

We have come through the ordeal of hard times and a hopeful aspect of business affairs now exists.

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Business and Editorial Office



CNA 1976 award winner

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