

Free Press Editorial Page

## Want more than sympathy

An enquiry into regional government has been formally requested by the representatives of the Actonians for Action committee, and will surely be forthcoming. Legislation states that 50 resident owners can request a review.

Although the committee has the readily-given signatures of over 2,000, they went to the trouble on the weekend of making another formal presentation using the correct wording of the legislation.

Parliamentary assistant George Ash, who met with the four men from Acton, said his area has been through regional government, too, and he sympathized with them.

Obviously, we want more than sympathy.

The country is full of towns our size, and far smaller, who are independent within their own regions.

They have not collapsed financially.

Very few towns are stripped of their identity and their self-determination.

We are told the people in Georgetown would also like out of the Halton Hills setup. Perhaps a petition from a citizens' committee there would add weight to our representatives.

They have done a commendable task, in putting into words and writing the feelings of the great majority of townfolk.

## Senior citizen centre

The Ontario Heritage Foundation has just agreed to pay half the cost of the feasibility study for saving Fergus town hall building. It will be used as a senior citizens centre for the town. Their building was erected in 1861 and is owned by Melville United Church, which had considered demolishing it.

Of the 50 per cent of the cost of the study remaining, 25 per cent will be paid by the Rotary club and

25 per cent by the Town of Fergus. The cost will be about \$4,000, about the same as Acton's.

Possibly having the town hall here as the town's full time senior citizens' centre is a possibility.

There'll be no stage for their programs, though. Council's decision to proceed with the second storey to the fire hall stands, and the stage is being wrecked this week.

## We love turkey

Canadians are the world's top consumers of turkey, and many of us are helping make it come true this Thanksgiving weekend.

Turkeys have been around for a long time.

The following is an excerpt from the book "The Canadian Settler's Guide or a Female Settler's Guide" written by Catherine Parr Trail and published in 1855.

...The turkey breeds well in

Canada; but the young ones are great ramblers and do much hurt to the grain; and for this reason the farmer is shy of breeding them. Some manage to confine them by tethering the hen to a stake when the young will not ramble far from her.

Mrs. Trail would certainly be astounded by Canada's turkey production today!

## Not another postal strike!

It seems possible that there could be another postal strike. It might be that another strike would mean the end of the postal system as we know it. Private enterprise has already adopted alternative methods of getting their mail through and publicity is now out for recruits to help in getting the mail through if there is another strike.

While freedom for workers to form unions, to call strikes to improve wages and working conditions is a right granted by law, yet every right brings responsibilities and if the general good is ignored there will be a breakdown somewhere.

The list of demands by the Canadian Union of Postal Workers as they appeared in the union's national news magazine "CUPW" seem just a bit much to non-postal workers. They are asking for a 30 hour week (six hours a day, five days a week) including lunch periods, hourly 10-minute rest breaks, and a 10-minute wash-up in return for 40 hours of pay. Included also are suggestions for double time for all overtime (and senior workers get first chance at all overtime); double time for Saturday shift work; triple time for Sundays; four weeks vacation to start and seven weeks by 15 years of service; a raise of 30 cents an hour for any worker relocated from one postal station to another (even if the old and new stations are in the same block); an end to all electric surveillance of workers; supervisors to be located so that they can't see the employees.

These are only a few of the

suggestions made by the leaders of the Postal Union. If such demands are granted it is conceivable members of other groups who have had their wages drastically restricted by the Wage Control program would refuse to comply with the law.

—The Ridgetown Dominion

## Of this and that

The Fergus newspaper is running a series of reminiscences about the old town hall. Acton's Town Hall Restoration committee is considering the same thing.

Fellow was arrested the other day for stealing hamburgers and milkshakes at the drive-in. Police called him a short-order crook.

Hallowe'en is UNICEF time. One of the pieces of literature sent to us reports that the total income of UNICEF is less than the amount spent on world armaments in four hours.

What does UNICEF mean? It's the United Nations Children's Fund.

## Giving thanks

While complaining and criticizing are a couple of life's enjoyments, this is the time of the year set aside to give thanks.

Give thanks... for our country, our town, our friends, our jobs, our families, our faith.

Monday is Thanksgiving Day.

Welcome to a new writer, Debbie Marshall. She will be covering the news of Eden Mills and district, and she'd be glad to hear from anyone in her area with items of interest. There has not been a reporter there since the death of Mrs. Georgina Wright, a faithful correspondent for many years.



SCHOOL'S IN AGAIN, and students are already having fun on lunch break, as this crowd shows. Also, looking for way to break the routine. Swinging around the fence at Robert Little is a time tested method of take it easy.



## Sugar and Spice

by bill smiley

Some people, like me, believe in rolling with the punches, rather than sticking out our chins to show how many we can absorb. I have found that, in general, if I avoid trouble, trouble avoids me.

If I know that some pain in the arm has been trying to get me on the phone, I also know immediately that he or she wants me to do something that I don't want to do. Therefore, I take the phone off the hook and leave it off until the pain has found some other sucker.

Another invention of mine to stay out of trouble is patented as Nega-Prod. This is short for Negative Production. The theory is simple. The more you produce, the more problems you have, whether it is children, manufactured goods or farm products.

The more children you have, the more emotional and economic problems you create for yourself. The more goods you produce, the more you have to hustle to find customers and meet payrolls. The more farm stuff you raise, whether it's beef or beans, the greater your chance of being caught in a glut on the market.

Our great national railways caught on to this years ago. When they had lots of passengers, they had lots of problems. People wanted comfort, cleanliness, decent meals, and some assurance that they would get where they were going on time. There was much more money to be made, and fewer problems, by transporting wheat and lumber and cattle.

So the railways began treating people like cattle. Passenger trains became uncomfortable and dirty. Quality of the food dropped like a stone. And they never arrived on time.

Presto. End of problems. No more passengers. So the railways were able to cut off non-paying passenger lines, get rid of all those superfluous things like station agents and telegraphers and train conductors, and concentrate on taking from one point to another things that paid their way and didn't talk back: newsprint, coal, oil, wheat.

Perhaps this is the answer for our provincial governments, which are quickly and quietly building massive mountains of debt for future taxpayers.

Perhaps they should just stop building highways and repairing those already in existence. We'd all be sore as hell for a while, but as the roads got worse and worse, most of us would stop driving our cars. The governments would save millions of dollars now spent on highways, and they could fire two-thirds of the highway cops.

I don't quite see how the governments could use Nega-Prod to get out of the liquor business, which certainly produces plenty of problems. The booze trade is so profitable that asking government to abandon it would be like asking a millionaire to forsake his country estate for a run-down farm.

Perhaps if they had a Free Booze Day, once a week, every week, say on a Saturday, it would solve a number of problems. It would certainly reduce the surplus population. This, in turn, would cut down, drastically, the unemployment figures.

Should the provincial governments find that Nega-Prod is all I've suggested, some of it might spill over into the federal government, usually the last to catch on to what the country really needs.

Instead of the manna and honey flowing from Ottawa in the form of baby bonuses and pensions, we might get some terse manifestos:

"People who have more than one and a half children will be sent to jail for four years. Note: separate jails."

"People who plan to live past 65 and claim a pension will be subject to an open season each year, from October 1 to Thanksgiving. Shotguns and bicycle chains only."

"All veterans of all wars may claim participation by reason of insanity, and may apply to Ottawa for immediate euthenisation."

These might seem slightly Draconian measures, but they sure would put an end to a lot of our problems and troubles. Think of what they would do for such sinful activities as sex, growing old and hanging around the Legion Hall, playing checkers.

But we must also think of the economic benefits. With a plug put into that river of paper money flowing from Ottawa, taxes would drop, inflation would vanish and undoubtedly, separatism would wither on the vine. People would be lined up six deep at the U.S. border, trying to get across, and that would solve, in one swell foop, our unemployment difficulties.

We could go back to bring hewers of water and carriers of wood, which was our manifest destiny before the politicians got into the act. Fishermen or lumberjacks, in short, which most of the rest of the world thinks we are anyway.

Nega-Prod may seem a bit lofty and abstract at first glance, but it works. I know from personal experience. Every time I try to make something, or fix something, it costs me a lot of money, and I get into a lot of trouble.

So, I have a policy of never trying to fix something or make something. It's a lot less trouble to put up signs: "Beware of falling bricks; Not responsible for slivers from picnic table." and so on.

## The clothesline pole

by the Rev. Chuck Beaton,  
Trinity United Church, Acton

A few years ago friends of ours moved into a new subdivision and the lady of the house wanted a clothesline in the backyard. She gave the task to her husband, who was well qualified to do the job, for he was an engineer.

After a few false starts Fred got at it one Saturday morning and it seemed to be a bigger job than he had counted on. It involved finding the right location for the pole, calculating the stress on the line, the consistency of the concrete and all the proper angles.

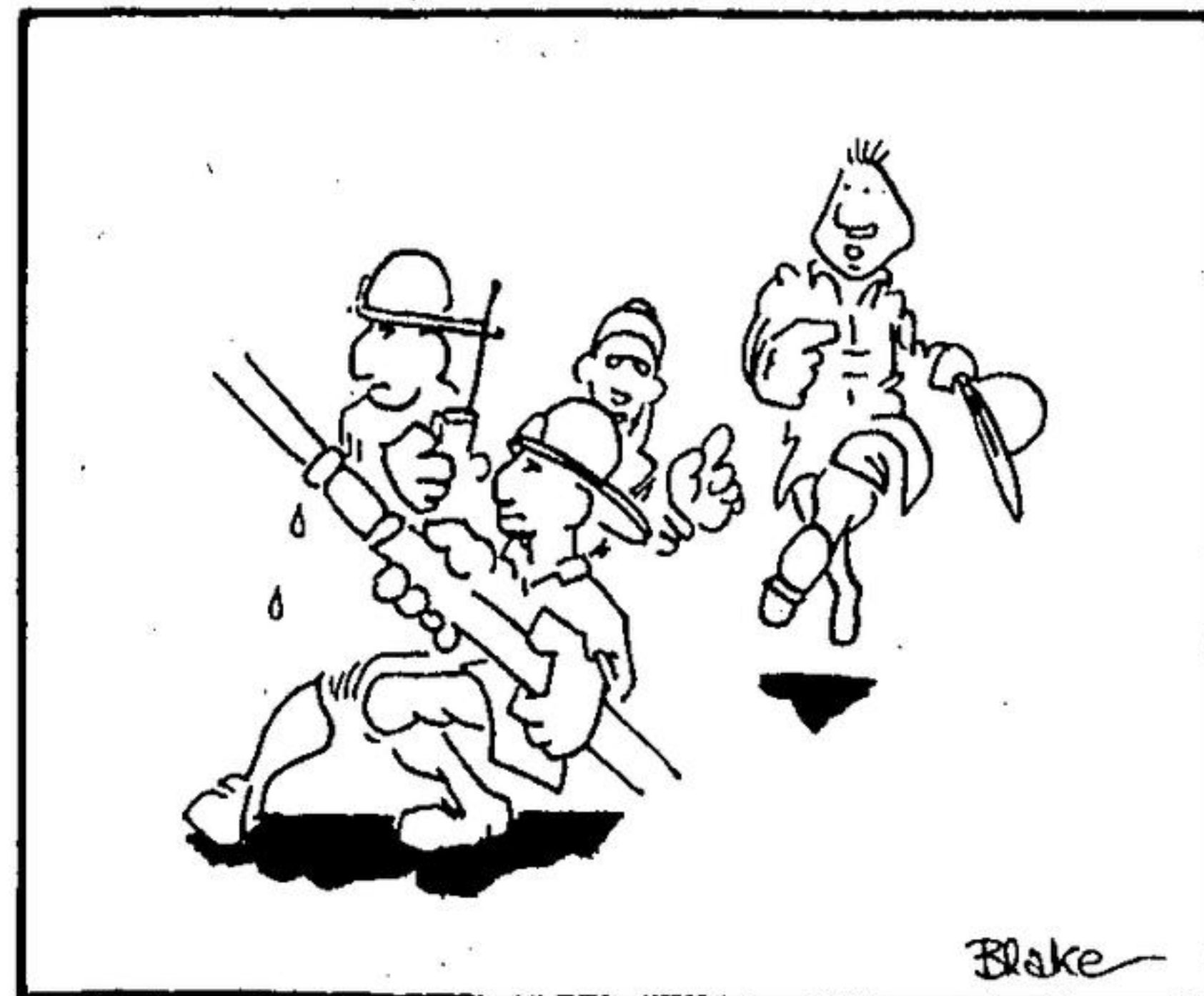
Fred's neighbours saw his dilemma and soon he was joined by a computer analyst, an IBM executive, a retired naval officer and a personal manager. They discussed the problem throughout the day, drew more diagrams and made further calculations. The more they discussed and the longer they figured, less and less work was accomplished, a fact not unnoticed by the wives of the other husbands

who had forsaken their own Saturday duties.

As darkness was drawing nigh they finally succeeded in setting the pole, put up the line and retired for the evening proud of their work, until Monday morning when Shirley hung out her first wash and it all fell down.

After school that day Shirley and her fourteen year old son dug a hole, poured in the concrete, rammed in the pole and banked up the earth. The clothesline pole stood for years—and so has the story of the neighbourhood "experts" who took so long to do it and then didn't do it right!

The Bible has a poignant lesson in the little letter of James, in which the writer exhorts us to "be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves." (James 1: 23). The story of the clothesline pole reminds me of people I know, namely me, and others like me, who talk a lot about doing something and never quite get it done. Then I'm thankful that my God is merciful.



"Sorry I'm late, guys... had to park in Georgetown"

## The Free Press Back Issues

10 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press Of Thursday, October 4, 1967  
Another appeal for an addition to the M.Z. Bennett school will be made by the public school board. Principal Elmer Smith is preparing a sketch of the proposed addition for a special meeting of the board next Tuesday and the detailed presentation will hopefully be made at the next meeting of No. one committee of council.

Purveyors of the dominating male philosophy will have a hard time convincing arena manager Harold Townsley of it following the roller skating marathon which started here Friday night at 8 p.m. Thirty-three endurance testers left the starting gate but the one to finish last was pretty, perky Cathy Clark, 17-year-old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Alvin Clark, 158 Jeffrey Ave. Time? Almost 5 p.m. Saturday afternoon, 21 hours after starting.

Children baptized at the Church of St. Alban the Martyr were Ann Teresa Porte, Irme Porte, Wayne Porte, Kim Louise Yundt, Elaine Vera Jacklynn, Tracey Lynn Frizzell, Sandra June Hunter, Karen Ann Gordon and Steven Jenkins.

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press Of Thursday, Oct. 10, 1957  
Mayor E. Tyler announced in an interview this week that constant contact is being made with the unknown benefactor who offered artificial ice for the town of Acton. Mayor Tyler noted that companies had been approached regarding equipment supplies and materials needed and also forms have been prepared in order to enter into an agreement with the donor at such time as plans are finalized.

Corporal R. Mason of the local O.P.P. announced a change in staff this week. W. Duncan has been transferred to North Bay headquarters and replacing him is Bob Moreau of the Dundas D.H.Q. and former officer of the local detachment who started this week and will replace Constable Duncan.

The School Board announced today official word has been received from the Prime Minister that all schools in Ontario would close Tuesday October 15. This holiday is to pay tribute to the Royal visit to Canada.

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press Of Thursday, October 6, 1927  
A survey of the book of permits for 1927 show Acton had considerable activity. Residences are being erected for S. Lees, A. Leishman, Georgetown Lumber Co., J. M. McDonald, F. J. Lyle, Walter Bauer, S. Cordner, and Jas. Gilmour; a factory for Creber Bros. at the corner of Young and Queen, and poultry houses for N. P. McLam, H. McComb, G. Benton; for J. B. Mackenzie with a coal shed and weigh scales, a new high school and repairs to the public school.

Many subjects calculated for the betterment of Acton were discussed by the Chamber of Commerce. The first step is a drive for larger membership. H. Harrison is president.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press Of Thursday, Oct. 4, 1877  
A couple of street fights relieved the monotony of things last Friday evening. Considerable pummeling was done but we have not heard that anybody was much hurt.

A subscriber wants to know why we have not published the Village Council proceedings. Our answer is simply because the Council have not had a meeting since the 18th of June last. Enterprising council, ain't it?

The Acton Plow Company is now insolvent, the estate now being in the hands of the official assignee.

The Eramosa fall show in Rockwood was favored with good weather and a large number of visitors. A large quantity of nice butter and bread attracted much attention. Grain, roots and fruits were all better than last year. Ladies' department included wax work, raised worsted work, tatting, feather flowers, bead work, wreath, mesh work, braiding, quilts and counterpanes.

Stanley has written his first communication concerning his explorations in Africa. He says missionaries are needed.

## THE ACTON FREE PRESS

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Business and Editorial Office



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