

# Free Press Editorial Page

## Chapel is memorial

Bertha Buchanan's lively interest and abiding concern for the people of her town live on, in the memorial chapel which was officially opened and dedicated on Sunday afternoon. Dr. Allan Buchanan told the assembled crowd how he and Bertha had talked over such a project and realized it was an amenity our town needed. So it was settled. It was a fine idea, but like so many of them it encountered difficulties before its goal was

reached. There were departments to be gone through and much discussion before Sunday's conclusion.

People who have been associated with the Buchanans in their varied interests joined in the service of dedication.

Both of them have been much involved in the community, and this memorial building, fittingly, will be available for use by everyone.

## Some nothing much

The editor of the Goderich weekly paper couldn't think of much to put in the editorials last week and here's how she solved the problem.

John W. Nerbern said: "People can be divided into three groups: those who make things happen, those who watch things happen and those who wonder what happened."

The best way to forget your own problems is to help someone else solve his.

Temper is what gets us into trouble. Pride is what keeps us there.

The trouble with people who talk too fast is that they often say something they haven't thought of yet.

Co-operation is doing with a smile what you have to do anyway. A person is about as big as the things that make him angry.

A fellow was walking along the street one day with two small boys, each wailing loudly. A neighbor yelled to him, asking what was the matter. "What's wrong with the whole world," replied the man. "I've got three pieces of candy and each boy wants two."

Be kind. Remember everyone you meet is fighting a hard battle.

## Of this and that

Again this year the Remembrance Day window at Acton Home Furnishings has been beautifully done. Legionnaires look after the display each year and it includes the wreaths that will be placed on the cenotaph this Sunday.

The Community Services Centre occasionally gets requests for drivers. Terry Grubbe would like to

hear from anyone who could take someone to an appointment out-of-town occasionally.

Congratulations to the young people of the town, who enjoyed themselves thoroughly on Hallowe'en without making a nuisance of themselves. Acton has a reputation for good sense on Hallowe'en and it was maintained pretty well this year.

## Frozen in

By Rev. Chuck Beaton  
Trinity United Church, Acton  
For the Acton Free Press

Winter comes early in the north. Snow arrives about the first week of October and stays until May. As the temperature plunges below zero, the smaller lakes freeze over quickly. But the big ones, like Athabaska and others do not succumb easily to nature's savage onslaught. They seem to struggle against their winter imprisonment and refuse to freeze.

It is not uncommon, on a bright, winter day in November, to have lots of snow, temperatures of -30 degrees (F) and to see the big lakes steaming away in anger. The water, which is always in motion, becomes, super-cooled. Then on the first calm day or night, when the water is still, it freezes over with incredible swiftness.

On such an evening, two miners from the bunkhouse at the Eldorado Mine near Uranium City launched their canoe for what they believed was to be a short and exhilarating winter ride. They discovered to their horror, that the water was freezing around them and their canoe was fast becoming

stuck in the ice. They had not gone far, only about 200 yards, but were out of sight beyond a small point and their cries for help were unheard. The younger of the two men panicked and wanted to jump into the water bashing his way to shore with a paddle. But the older man, a veteran of the north, urged him to calm down. Getting into the water would mean certain death. They would wait.

All night they huddled in their canoe. When morning dawned, they were cold but still alive. They tested the ice and found it was firm enough to support them. Then they walked to shore, to safety and warmth.

Sometimes life is like that. We find ourselves frozen into apparently hopeless situations, brought about by our own foolishness or by unusual circumstances that fall upon us. Troubles come, illness strikes.

Our God has never promised that those of us who believe in Him will escape hardship or troubles. But, He has given us something better—the assurance that He is with us in every situation. God does not spare us from adversities. He helps us walk on them.



TROPHY WON by this team in 1932 has been given to the Legion by Kay Alger. It is the Capt. J. R. Barber shield, presented to D company of the Lorne Rifles Scottish regiment for inter-platoon competition. The team won it each year and retained the trophy. Not all the players are identified: back row Jack Alger, unknown, Simpson, John Irvine, Matt Tyler, Emmerson Patrick; front row Bill Hodgson, unknown, unknown, Andy Buchanan, Bus Nichol, Tom Nichol.



INDIAN SUMMER'S AFTERNÖON SUN silhouettes bike riders as it reflects off Fairy Lake. Bicycles will soon have to be put up for the winter as temperatures plummet. Sleds and snowmobiles will be replacing them all too soon.



## Sugar and spice by Bill Smiley

A while ago, Defense Minister Danson sent up a trial balloon suggesting he would not be averse to conscripting young Canadians into the armed forces.

I thought it wasn't a bad idea. Guys my age always think it isn't a bad idea to conscript the young. "Give 'em a bit of discipline. Put some backbone in them," we huff.

Many other nations have conscription schemes under which young men must serve from one year to two in the armed forces, then are listed in the reserve, and go back once every couple of years for a few weeks for a refresher course.

Switzerland is the classic example. It has a crackling good army and a large, well-trained reserve, although it has never been in a war, as a nation. It doesn't have much use for a navy, for some reason.

In Britain, used for many years to a small regular army of professionals, and swarms of volunteers in time of war, the National Service, as it was called, was introduced after World War II and was very unpopular. It has since been cancelled, as the need for bodies in the services shrank with the shrinking of the Empire.

It was pretty well the same in the States. That infamous thing called The Draft was suffered in war time, but when it was used to train young men to go and kill people in a senseless war thousands of miles from home, for no logical reason, it met with calumny, chicanery, and plain draft-dodging, along with a desertion rate that was a national scandal.

That's not quite what Barney Danson and I had in mind. I wouldn't mind seeing a modest form of conscription in which everyone was called up, except of course, your sons and daughters and mine.

What I'd like to see would be more like the Dutch conscription system, in which the troops can have long hair and beards, belong to a union, elect their own NCOs and wear civvies when not on duty.

Conscripts would be well paid—about \$100 a week—would get one week off for every three weeks in service, and armed forces kitchens would have the best food in the world, outside of fourstar restaurants.

The usual perks, of course, would remain: free dental and medical service, duty-free smokes and booze, free travel on leave.

One more thing I would introduce. I would get rid of the arrant sexism that exists in our present armed forces. Women would share the same jobs, the same pay, the same privileges, and same barracks, as the men.

Women would have the same number of senior officers, based on the proportion of females in the service, just as the French Canadians have now.

Women would be given maternity leave, with no blight on the old escutcheon, just as lady school teachers are now. With one difference. They would have a built-in baby sitter when they went from the swaddling clothes phase back into uniform.

Just to make it fair, men would be given paternity leave, although possibly not the six months granted women. Free day-care services would be provided for the children of parents who were both in the forces.

Medicals would be a little more lenient. I'd admit anybody who: could see his or her hand before his/her face; did not have venereal disease; was missing no more than two limbs. This would absorb

about 94 per cent of our young unemployed.

But this will cost millions, you will exclaim.

Of course it would. Billions in fact. But what's a billion these days? How many billions are we now throwing off the end of the dock to these same people, in the form of unemployment insurance, welfare cheques, reform schools, jails, psychiatric treatment, and education?

I guarantee you we'd break even. And look what we'd gain. We could close up two-thirds of our institutions of high learning, which would be no great loss. We could cut unemployment payments to the bone. We could trim the fat off the obese, and bolster the health of the badly nourished, with good service grub. We could absorb all those dentists and doctors who now have to make \$100,000 a year to survive.

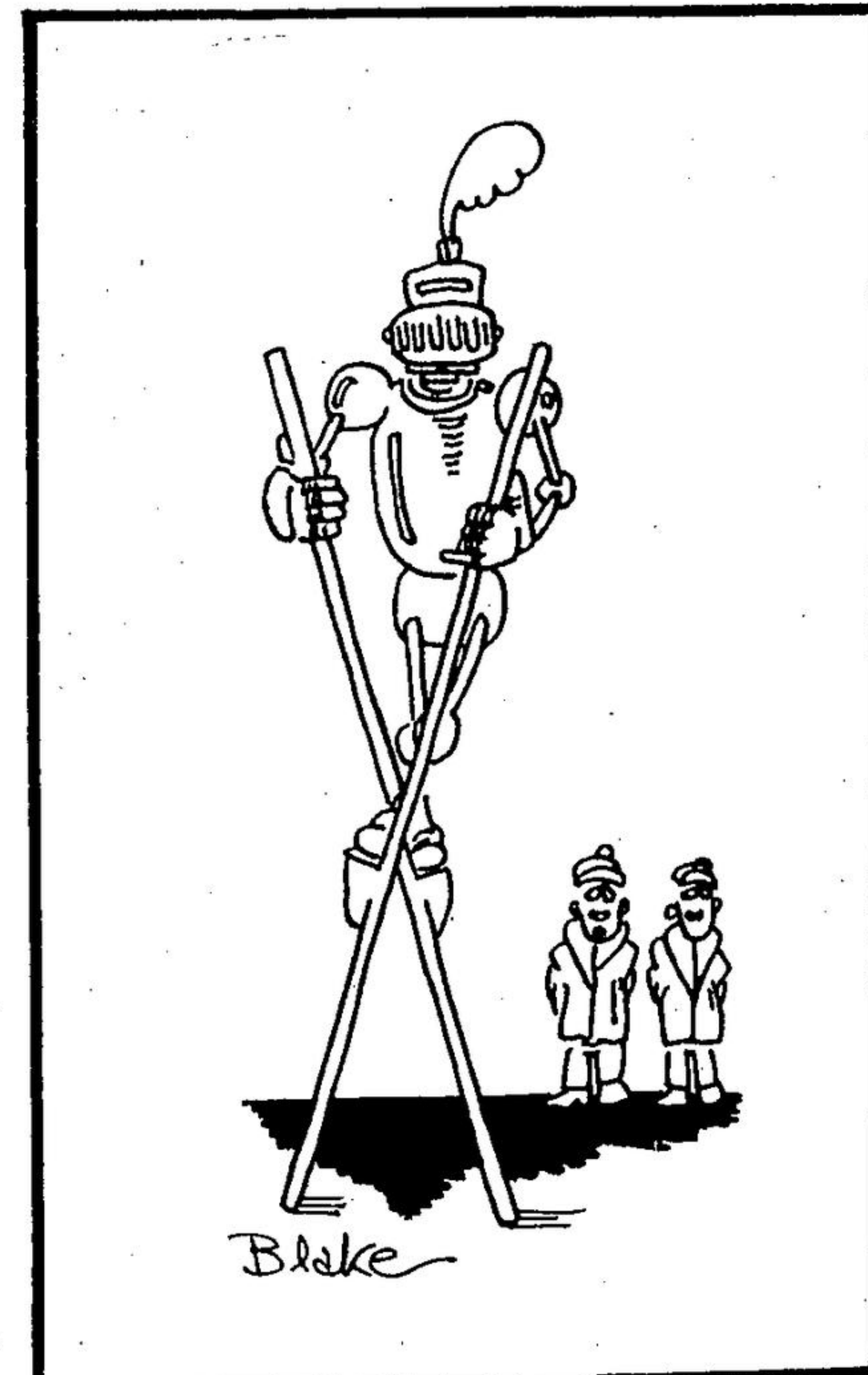
In five years, we could have an armed force that would make Guatemala quiver in its boots. At the present, the only nation we could lick is Iceland. Without Greenland.

But I am never one to try to foist my opinions, however brilliant, without some solid backing. That's why I did an informal survey with some of my senior classes. They thought it was right on, after I'd outlined my ideas.

"Wow!" was the reaction of Elvira, back in Grade 12 after an unsuccessful attempt to establish a career in waitressing. "You mean we'd all live together in them there—whadda ya call them, sir—barracks?"

"Ya mean I'd get a hundred bucks a week just for drivin' around in a tank or going for a cruise on one of them big ships?" queried Joe Muffraw, who is 20 years old and has never been away from home or held in his hand more than a 10-dollar bill in his life.

"Who gets to be officers, and how much do they make, and are they better fed?" asked Christopher, the class whiz. "Sure sounds easier than four years of college and no job."



They've paved Main St. but he feels a subtle criticism on its condition would remain appropriate.

## The Free Press Back Issues

10 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, November 1, 1967

Wearily after their 27-mile jaunt from Orangeville in the marathon walk for UNICEF were the first place finishers John Van Dam, Charlie McGinn and Robert Speaker. The hikers raised \$150. Teacher Donna Riseborough also took part.

Renovations to the town office have been a thorny subject but council voted to go ahead, accepting the tender of Zorge Construction for \$22,885. Councillor Ted Tyler had favored renovating the town hall. Mr. Tyler asked architect Skinner about tearing down the town hall and building a new building there. Mr. Skinner said a new site with adequate parking would be preferable. Mr. Tyler said perhaps houses near the town hall could be purchased.

More discussion centred on the possibility of regional government moving in and the renovations being wasted. The council chambers will remain in the town hall and the administrative offices in the Y building.

Don Stewart of Rockwood has written a book on early Canadian furniture.

20 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, November 7 1957

Minor Sports officials feted over 150 boys, managers and coaches at a splendid turkey dinner in the Legion Hall. Highlight of the evening was the presentation of trophies and Most Valuable players awards. Little Gary Masters, son of the late Lorne Masters, presented the Memorial trophy to Gordie Mason. Gord Cunningham, coach of the

Hershey Bears, was presented with the George Molozzi trophy by Vic Masters and the Acton Creamery trophy to the Barrie Flyers was accepted by manager Herb Cook. Most valuable player in senior hockey Don Lindsay was awarded the Gord McCutcheon trophy. Young Johnny Kentner presented the trophy in memory of his father to John Duffield. David Shannon won the Minor Sports trophy.

What has happened, that our town hall has deteriorated to such an extent that people no longer wish to gather there? I can't resist calling out for maintenance of the hall. (A column on the subject of the town hall, by G. A. Dills, appeared on the editorial page.)

50 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, November 3, 1927

The Thanksgiving-Armistice Service, that has come to be regarded as an annual occurrence, will be held in the town hall.

The veterans, headed by Acton Citizens Band, will parade from the town hall Monday morning and part two of the programme will be held at the monument. Then the procession will proceed to Fairview Cemetery where the graves of soldiers buried there will be decorated.

Three gunmen robbed Campbellville's Bank of Nova Scotia and escaped in a high-powered motor car through a volley of shots.

The take was \$1,900. The thieves also took the bank manager's .44 cal. automatic and the teller's .45 cal. Webley.

However, manager W. D. Stewart got off four shots with another revolver as the robbers' car sped away. Detectives later arrested the trio in Toronto.

100 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Thursday, November 2, 1877

It is some satisfaction to know that our recent remarks concerning the station had the effect of attracting the attention of the Grand Trunk superintendent. He will recommend the building of a plank walk across the lower switch to the road. If the company sees that no freight trains are allowed to obstruct the crossing the public will certainly feel grateful. It will be a great boon to farmers who are obliged to keep their teams waiting an indefinite length of time till it suits the humor of the freight trainmen to open the way.

Mr. Alex Waldie of Acton has purchased from Mr. F. W. Stone of Guelph the bull calf Duke of Kent for \$300.

How about early closing at six o'clock during the winter, except for Saturday? Nine or ten o'clock seems to be the general practice here.

The last cheap excursion to Philadelphia was taken advantage of by several from Acton.

The social at the residence of Mr. James Ryder was attended by about 150 people.

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