### Be thankful

Monday is Thanksgiving. Take a minute or two. . . think of what you have to be thankful for. Think of what you have to be happy about. Think of things that give you no complaints at all.

There are plenty of them, aren't there?

Start out with those trees. . . the magnificent maples leading the glorious list. And we don't need to drive down into the States or up north to see them. They are right in our own back yard, as the old saying goes, along with that traditional "Bluebird of happiness."

If you pass the Free Press office, be sure to admire our own personal favorite tree, a stupendous maple

along the banks of the school creek. "Dora's tree," we call it, since Dora Ryder happily faced it each fall as she sat at her linotype machine.

Then think about our town and how it is improving. Its new people, new appearances. Then our province. Then our country.

Then the growing consciousness that we are all responsible in part for the intelligent use of the whole world.

At the Beaver investiture Monday night, we heard nine earnest young lads promise to help look after the world. And they will,

### Consider a seat

It's not that long until election time. Surely there are more people who will make the considerable effort to represent us? There are so many issues that are important to Acton. With only three people to speak for Acton on councils and one on school board, it is obviously not an easy task.

For so few people to represent so many takes dedication and effort.

We all appreciate the work of our representatives over the years past. Still, there must be more people who could do an excellent

There are only two newcomers so far who have announced their candidacy, Roy Goodwin and Bill Coats, both for the joint regional and area seat. Les Duby will again run for area council. Present councillor Pat McKenzie will likely run

For board of education, only present member Bert Hinton has indicated his intention to try to retain his position.

(Since this writing, Betty Fisher of Georgetown has decided to run for the Acton-Esquesing seat as

No one from here has talked officially of running for mayor of Halton Hills.

It is conceivable some of the seats could be filled by acclamation, with not enough contenders to warrant a vote.

Peter Marks, who is leaving council (just for a while, we hope) says he will be glad to talk to anyone interested. So would any other councillor or school board member, past or present.

Please consider it.

# Good-bye, good luck

We say "good-bye" and "good luck" this week to sports writer Denis Gibbons.

He has been a good friend as well as a most capable and dedicated sports writer and general reporter and photographer. He covered the Acton scene admirably before moving five years ago to Georgetown, to face the challenge of a brand new paper. Now he is doing the same thing again, going to a new newspaper in Kitchener. It is planned to be a weekly to begin with, and a daily later. We know his new associates will find him as fine and talented a person as we have found him.

## Year of the Child

The Halton Youth Services network wants to assume a role in the region for the co-ordination, facilitation and promotion of the programs and projects undertaken during the International Year of the Child next year. The United Nations has passed a resolution declaring 1979 the International Year of the Child, and their objectives are:

-encourage all countries, rich and poor, to review their program for the promotion of the well-being of children, and to mobilize support for national and local action programs according to each country's conditions, needs and priorities.

-heighten awareness

children's special needs among decision-makers and the public.

-to promote recognition of the vital link between programs for children on the one hand, and economic and social progress on the other.

-spur specific, practical measures, with achievable goals, to benefit children, in both the short and long term on the national level.

The Youth Services Network wants to hear of anything special being planned for this year. Their office is in Oakville, but the coordinator, Peter Gillespie, is in Acton sometimes at the Community Services Centre. A call there could put you and your group in touch.

# October notes

There seems general agreement that we have had a lovely summer, and a fall as sunny and warm as could be expected. People in the tourist business are happy with their season.

Highway signs indicating Acton are much wanted. Another town in a similar position was Utterson, in the Muskoka area. The highway policy did not permit highway signs indicating the name of their town, and residents objected. What was their solution? Their member of parliament came into the picture and intervened. The signs will be allowed despite the policy. Their Member is the Honourable Frank Miller.

"The Lions are a grand bunch and they're not recognized enough," says Janet Booth, owner of Acton Seniors Residence. She's referring to the regular happy birthday parties which the Lions stage for all the residents of all four area homes, celebrating everyone's birthday. They bring

birthday cakes and take pictures of the festivities which they give to the men and women who're celebrating that month. It's a big effort, and Mrs. Booth thinks all of us should know just what a great job they do, and how much they are appreciated.

Other travellers, like ourselves, find everywhere we go that towns and cities are restoring and treasuring their old buildings. Skagway and Ketchikan, Alaska, are examples from our own summer experiences.

The way to overcome the iron content in Acton water would be to add sodium silicate, region waterworks engineer Bob Kong tells us. At the same time, we read of concern about sodium fluoride. How many of these chemicals are we all ingesting every day, and what will studies show about them all and their side effects, some day? Meet you in the new Natural Foods store . . .



A misty morning . . . photo by Eric Elstone



# Sugar and spice

by Bill Smiley

Absolutely my last column about trips to Europe, cross my heart and spit. Just a few final impressions and some tips to those who haven't done it before. Travel to Europe, that is.

Holland is flat and flower-filled: flowers everywhere. We visited a local cheese factory and I was suckered into buying a real cheese knife with a Delt handle, and a two-pound cheese, which my wife maligned bitterly every time she had to restore the peace.

Went up into a working windmill, of which there are only a few left. An awesome experience, with the great stones grinding and the vast sails whirling; like something out of the middle ages. Saw the biggest flower market in the world, where the lots of flowers are wheeled in, prices flash on a computerized board, and buyers, sitting in a sort of amphitheatre. make their bids by pressing a button which identifies them.

Holland was also a sort of memory trip for me. Went within a few miles of Gorinchem, where I was shot down, and passed the city of Utrecht, where I spent several days and made the Great Escape (seven minutes duration).

Same in Germany. We spent a night at Frankfurt, where I had passed three days and nights way back then in solitary, at an interrogation centre, waiting rather anxiously for the whips and the thumbscrews. When I was finally brought in for questioning, there weren't any, but there were subtle threats: "You know we haf vays of making you talk." They shook me a bit by showing me a huge looseleaf folder with the numbers of most Air Force squadrons, including my own, containing a pretty good list of the personnel. Don't worry; I didn't talk. Didn't know anything except how to get a Typhoon off the ground and on again.

Innsbruck in Austria worth visiting. Up, up through the Tyrolean Alps, then down, down through them, everyone a bit tense on the curves, to the beautiful old city nestled like a jewel in a valley, mountains

all acound, Olympic ski jump just up there. Take in an evening of local entertainment, yodelling, dancing, singing. Robust good fun. There were about eighteen different nationalities in the audience the night we were there.

Don't let your wife loose with a credit card in Florence, where gold and leather are beautifully worked and just half the price of back home.

Venice stinks. Or so they tell me. With my bashed-up beak I didn't notice a thing. The waterways are controlled by the gondoliers mafia. There are so many tourists in St. Mark's square that even the famous pigeons have barely room to

Rome is remarkable, a bit frightening if you get off the beaten track and the English-speaking guide. After you've seen the Pantheon, St. Peter's, the Colosseum and the Vatican City, relax. It would take two months to do the city justice.

A good bet for some of that relaxation is travel by express train from Rome to Genoa, where Chris Columbus was born. Train is fast, and you get great looks at the Mediterranean all the way up.

By bus along the famous Cote d'Azur to tiny Monaco, rigidly ruled by a benevolent dictator, Prince Rainier. Took a look at the royal palace. Not too impressed. Rather annoyed that Princess Grace didn't pop out to say hello, but she was probably sulking over her daughter's marriage to that old French guy, when momma wanted Prince Charles of Britain for her.

Nice was nice, though men in party all woke up with stiff necks from craning to see topless bathers of the International set. Very, very expensif.

Off to Switzerland, through Grenoble, in France, another Olympics site. Through the French Alps (not quite so scary) to Geneva and the culm, peace, cleanliness and beauty that Characterize that country. 'Twasn't always so. Saw the huge statues of Calvin, John Knox and Zwingli, protestant early birds, who got their kicks from burning Catholics at the stake.

symbol is the bear; a fine, ancient city. And so to Lucerne, a small, lovely lakeside resort city, where you once again have to put a leash on your wife, because it's famous for gold, silver, and watches, the best in the world.

It's up early for a long, long ride to Paris. It's all that it is claimed for it. We saw it from four vantage points: by bus on the way through; blazing with light at night on our way home from a party; by bus and on foot next morning; and from a cruise on the Seine in the afternoon. And barely touched the highlights. I could live there for a year, and still have things to

This is beginning to sound like a dult travelogue. Its main purpose is to suggest that when you do Europe by coach, whatever the length of your trip, you are really on the move. If you want a relaxing holiday, stay home, or rent a cottage. If you want the experience of a lifetime, take a coach tour.

Don't listen to well-meaning friends. You don't need six rolls of toilet paper. You don't need clothes hangers (we took half a dozen and lugged them all over the continent.

Choose clothing with care: something Take permanent press stuff.

Arrange your tour through a reliable travel agency. It doesn't cost any more and could save you many a headache. We idn't have a single hitch, including fourteen hotels, five boat trips, two buses, one train, one hovercraft and two limousines.

So. Just arrange that second mortgage on your house, and away you go, foreign dictionaries in hand. Don't blame me if you collapse in Cologne and have to be shipped back in a box. There'll probably be an air strike, and you can raise a real stink, even after death.

Then to Berne, the capital, whose

for cold, something for hot, something for wet, something for smart. You don't, even the women, need a new outfit every day.

# What makes leaves turn red in fall?

You thought the red leaves were caused by frost? You're wrong.

J.H. Lever, district manager, Bracebridge for the Ministry of Natural Resources, writes:

Let us look deeper into the subject and see what processes actually happen. Broadleaved or deciduous trees commence growing in the spring and continue on until the beginning of the fall season. Within a short period of time the growing period begins to slow down due to a large number of factors, moisture levels, temperature, stored energy in the roots and genetics of the tree, to name a few. Throughout the tree, systems begin to shut down as the tree prepares for the dormancy period.

The lifelines between the leaves and the tree become blocked and the production of chlorophyll stops. The existing clorophyll in the leaves slowly disappears as it is destroyed by sunlight.

Up until now, the green cholorphyll pigment has been dominant, blocking out others, thus giving the leaves their green colour. Two of these other pigments that now

show up are called "carotholds." One pigment is orange and called "carotin" after the carrot which has "carotin" as the main colouring agent. The other carotinoid



THE 50 YEARS AGO column a while back told of the Bearmore tug-ofwar team and its victory at the Exhibition in Toronto. Here is a picture of the exciting action that day, loaned to us by Tom Gibbons. Team members were Frank Gibbons, Jack Lambert, George Lazenby Sr., Garfield McFadden, Jack Scriven, Bill Eccleshall and Andy Molozzi. One name is missing, that of the man third from the right.

pigment is yellow and generally called "xanthophyll."

There still remains another group of pigments called the "anthocyanins." These are the reds and purples which are formed in the cell gap. On some domestic plants, these reds and purples appear during the whole growing season. Beets and red cabbage are two examples.

As Cholorophyll production reduces, the other pigments become more dominant until the time just before the falling off period when all the hardwoods on the landscape are ablaze with colour ranging from bright yellow to deep purple and all the shades in between. At this peak in their colour, another change occurs in the leaves. Where the leaf stem joins the branch of the tree, there is a separation layer. This is a layer of cells which gradually breaks down eventually causing the leaf to break off and

Cool nights combined with bright days produce the most colourful autumns. Early frosts can actually disrupt the colour changing process by killing the leaves before the separation layer develops. This causes the leaves to turn a dull brown and often cling to the tree well into the winter.

The hardwood trees discard their leaves in the fall to reduce the area of transplring surface during the winter months when the moisture supply is low. If the leaves remained on the tree during the winter, they would continue to give off moisture but would not replace this loss due to the ground water being frozen. The dropping of leaves by hardwood trees provides self protection of the tree against water loss as it is through the leaves that trees give off water.

Let us give credit to the magnificent way in which a tree prepares itself for winter in a vast array of bright colours and avoid the old tales of how frost supposedly causes this phenomenon.

# The Free Press Back Issues

### 100 years ago

Taken from the issue of The Free Press

of Thursday, October 3, 1878 A large number of school teachers assembled in Acton to attend the three day meeting of the Halton Teachers Association in the School House. Grammar, geography, reading and promotions were discussed and all went home satisfied. (One full page of the four page paper is filled with reports of the meetings.)

There are five new buildings in the course of erection in this village at the present time, three of which are brick.

A social will be held at the home of John Gibbons. Proceeds for the organ fund of the Church-Hill Congregational church. Various reasons are assigned for the

shortage of partridge this season, one of them being that they are being killed by This is a fruitful season for the tinsmiths.

People who have kept their stoves in the .cook-house all summer begin to think it is time to get them in the house proper. The New Presbyterian Church in Ballina-

fad will be dedicated Sunday 20th inst. No less than six tramps passed through this village Tuesday evening.

#### 50 years ago

Taken from the Issue of the Free Press

of Thursday, October 4, 1928 Mr. A.J. Murray, second line, had the misfortune last week to lose one of his fine black team, through a rather peculiar accident. In the work of building the new driving house on the farm, this horse had been used in hauling material for the new building and in some manner had a rusty three inch nail run into her left hind foot. It was not noticed for several days and by this time the poison from the nail had gone

through her system. The opening meeting of the year at Knox Young People's Society on Monday evening was in charge of the musical committee. Miss W. McMillan had charge of the meeting in the absence of President Mr. Mae Stewart. Mr. Alex Orr read the scripture lesson.

Mr. and Mrs. Alex Cripps attended the Ellis-Sayers wedding at Cooksville on Saturday.

Rev. and Mrs. A.C. Stewart and children went to Riverdale on Monday to spend a few days there with relatives.

### 20 years ago

Taken from the Issue of the Free Press of October 9, 1958

A motion to petition the Ontario Liquor Control Board to place an outlet in Acton received unanimous support without any discussion after the mayor gave an explanation of a recent discussion with an official of the board when Acton council met Monday evening.

Acton's population jumped over the 4,000 mark this year, Clerk J. McGeachie reported this week following the new assessment roll completion. To date, the population of the town is 4,026 persons, indicating an upward trend of new residents to the town during the past year when the population was 3,903 persons.

On Saturday, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Gamble of Park Ave., celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary and attended the wedding of their granddaughter.

Approximately 75 firemen representing eight brigades used eight pumpers and in relays pumped water over 2100 feet last Saturday, October 4, in Acton during a Mutual Aid practice session.

#### 10 years ago

Taken from the issue of the Free Press of Wednesday, October 2, 1968

Two Acton athletes were among the ten of Halton County's all-time greats honored before 1200 persons at Oakville Saturday night. Neil Gibbons and Charles (Sonny) Townsley were inducted as charter members of the new Halton County Hail of Fame, a project conceived by Ken Brown of Oakville in an effort to honor county sports achievements.

At a special meeting Monday night, council decided to engage Grant Usher for the position of deputy clerk-treasurer for the town of Acton. Mr. Usher is presently deputy-clerk of Woodbridge.

By 1970, the M.Z. Bennett school could possibly have 164 children too many-eight classrooms of children without classrooms. Working on a projection of enrolment required by the area superintendent. Principal Elmer Smith explained Tuesday to school board he had had a hard time getting facts and figures about future subdivisions in his end of town.

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founded in 1875 and published every Wednesday at 59 William Street Action Unitarial Member of the Audit Barear of Circulation, the Canadian Community News papers Association and the Onlaw Weekly News papers Association Advertising rates on tentional Subscription payable in advance, \$750 or Canada \$25 (0) in all countries other than Canada, single copies 15 cents camer delivers in Action 15 cents per week Second class mad Registration Number 0515. Adventis ing a screpted on the contrain that in the exect of typographs it error that portion of the inferroscopspace excupsed by the encureous item together with for but the batton e of the advertisement got be part to at the applicable rate in the event of a supequiph, at when advertising quarty in security at a syring place goods or services may after sold. Advertising is merely another to sell and may be watedrawn at one time.

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