

There's a deep well of goodness in people

Since this column will not appear until after Christmas, I won't send greetings, except that I hope you had a merry one and didn't get run over on New Year's Eve. Run over either way.

Last year was a violent and fearful year on this earth. If I were a Bible-thumper, I'd surely believe that Armageddon is just around the corner. Even the plea of the American diplomat at the UN to the Israelis and the Arabs that if only they'd get together and settle their grievances in a Christian manner didn't have much effect.

However, I'm not going to write about the evil in the world and in man's heart. It's too obvious.

I'm going to write about the good. I've been bereft for some weeks (I know, Roger Bell, you'll be saying he's been bereft for years.)

Anyway, I've learned, and I hope it's not too late, that there is a deep well of goodness and kindness, beneath our world-weary, ordinary, every-day sterility.

I still can't believe that so many people

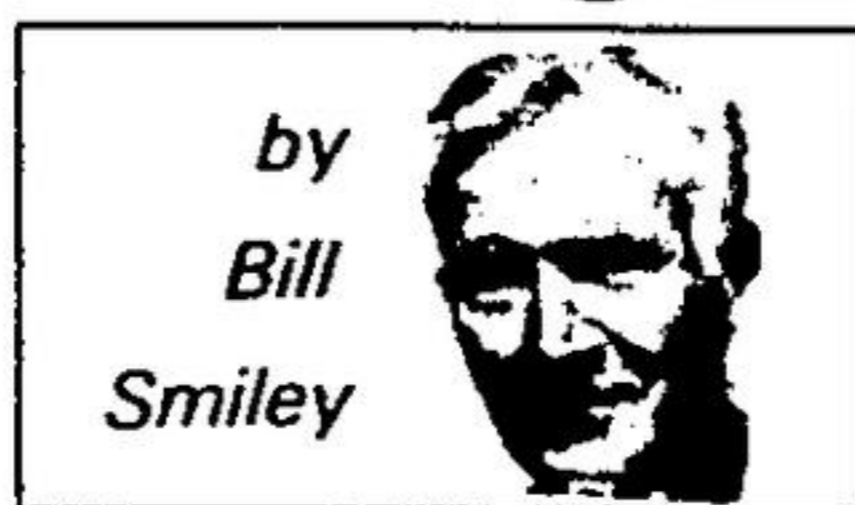
care about me. My colleagues, to whom I thought I was just Old Smiley, have shown a sensitivity I honestly didn't credit them with.

With the men, it's the obligatory three thumbs up my sore shoulder and a mumbled word of sympathy, or a, "How are you, Bill?" instead of the usual, casual "Hi."

With the women, it's more subtle. It's just a caring look, a special gentleness, an invitation to supper, an offer to help me into my jacket, which is a painful business. My principal has been a brick (watch your type-setting there, Jack.) He has done everything logically possible to ease my physical and emotional pain.

Had I wished, I could have dined out every night of the week. As it is, I've had three roast beef dinners, more than I've had in three years, with charming, caring families.

A lady friend and colleague, who is an excellent cook, sent around a hot, right out of the oven, chicken pie. When I phoned to thank her and tell her it was the best chicken pie I'd ever eaten, there was a



by Bill Smiley

crash of thunder and a big limb fell off my oak tree. (Take it easy, Suze, wherever you are. I was only being polite.)

There have been letters, not just cards of sympathy, from two former cleaning ladies, my wife's hairdresser, her former piano students, and many others she dealt with, saying how much they had liked her.

My neighbors have been superb, as always. Flowers, food, offers of help, and the decency to leave me alone for a while, to gnaw the bones of my grief.

Her piano-tuner and his wife, drove two hundred miles to pay their respects. A card would have done.

Even my son, with whom my relation-

ship has been rather hit-or-miss in the past few years, has turned into a hovering angel. No phoney sympathy, no maudlin meanderings. Hard work. He's done more practical hard work around here than in all the other years put together. Preparing food and making me eat. Shovelling snow. Vacuuming rugs. Shopping for groceries. Making me rub castor oil into my sore shoulder. Forcing me to eat porridge (ugh) but making it so delicious with fruit and stuff that I actually enjoyed it.

I could go on for two columns. But I won't. This is just a note of thanks to God that he has put into people not nastiness and bitchiness and self-pity and self-centredness (they developed those on their own), but kindness and tenderness and goodness and gentleness and the ability to care for one insignificant fellow human.

Something else I've learned. John Donne said, "No man is an island." Of course he isn't. A man is a mere tuft of grass in a quagmire. In comparison, a woman (most women), are continents.

Suze and I used to bicker constantly, as I'm sure you do, about who had the hardest job.

She: "You have no idea what I do around here. You're useless. You can't even change a light bulb; or won't. I have to deal with all the workmen, pay the bills, clean the house, wash your dirty clothes, and come up with a gourmet dinner." And so on.

I: "Yabbut you can sleep in in the morning if you want, have a nap after lunch, watch soap operas, visit friends, and you don't have to get up every morning and face those rotten kids all day. And besides, who earns all the money so you can have all that freedom?"

On both bended knees, I take it all back. You'll never hear a male chauvinist in this column, ever again. She's been gone only a few weeks, and I'm surrounded by unpaid bills, dirty laundry, grubby sinks, ring around the bathtub, and a huge pile of paper that have to be dealt with. I can't run the washing machine. I burn everything I put in the oven. And I can't FIND anything.

Yes, there's a triumphant, slightly malevolent radiance in the sky. She's reading my column.

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Georgetown/Acton, Wednesday, Jan. 11, 1984

1 Births

ANDERSON—Gerry and Linda (nee Puckering) are proud to announce the birth of their 8 lb. 1 oz. son Mark Douglas born Friday December 30, 1983. A baby brother for Lisa and Michelle. Happy grandparents are Mrs. Nellie Puckering of Glen Williams and Howard and Phyllis Anderson of Oilphant. Special thanks to Dr. s Bandeen and McWilliam and the OB staff at Guelph General.

BOISVENUE—Pierre and Arlene (nee Martin) are thrilled to announce the arrival of their first child, a son, Mitchell Martin, 7 lbs., 3 1/2 oz. at Milton District Hospital on January 5, 1984.

BREAK—Bill and Lesley (nee Graham) are pleased to announce the birth of their son Joshua William on December 30, 1983. Proud grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Len Graham, Acton and Mrs. Julie Break, Acton. Special thanks to Dr. Gelb and the OB staff of the Guelph General Hospital.

CRIPPS—Amanda and Jessica are thrilled to announce the arrival of their brother William Howard Kenneth "Willie", born January 4, 1984 at Georgetown and District Hospital. Proud parents are Cathy and Ken. Grandson for Ken and Bette Smith, and Bill and Gerry Cripps, great grandson for Rose Smith.

CUTHBERT—Randy and Linda (nee Quest) are happy to announce the birth of their daughter, Melissa Jean on December 23, 1983, weighing 6 lbs., 15 oz. Excited grandparents are Earl and Marion Cuthbert, Glen Williams and Jim and Marilyn Quest of Paris, Ont. First granddaughter, for all grandparents. Special thanks to Dr. s Bandeen and McWilliam and the OB staff of the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital.

FOGAL—Rick and Jane (nee McNally) are delighted to announce the arrival of Elizabeth Floria on January 8, 1984. A sister for Erik, a second grandchild for Charlie and Bernice Fogal, fifth grandchild for Bill and Floria McNally, and tenth great grandchild for Lucy Feller. A sincere thanks to Dr. Panabaker and the OB staff of Georgetown Hospital.

HANSON—Colleen and Tony are delirious about the birth of their daughter Valinda Kristianne, an 8 lb., 13 oz. baby girl born on January 8, 1984 at Toronto General Hospital.

LORNE AND Bonnie Hughes (Gillespie) of Vegreville Alberta, are pleased to announce the birth of their first child Patrick Ryan weighing 5 lb., 15 1/2 oz. born Dec. 6, 1983. Proud grandparents are Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Hughes of Mayerthorpe, Alberta and Mrs. and Mrs. Wm. Gillespie of Acton.

PRESTON—Bill and Diane (nee Drysdale) are very pleased to announce the birth of their son, David William on January 2, 1984, weighing 8 lbs., 4 oz. Thanks to Dr. Bandeen, Dr. Van der Bent and nurses on the fourth floor of Guelph General Hospital.

3 Engagements

ED and Mabel Prostebby are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter Leslie Ann to Mark Edward, son of Cindy and Jim Taylor of Georgetown.

HUTCHINSON—Emmanuel, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Hutchinson of Georgetown are pleased to announce the engagement of their son Steve to Debbie, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. P. Emmanuel of Brampton. Wedding to take place September 8, 1984.

ROSE—Jennings—Mr. and Mrs. Don McIntyre are pleased to announce the engagement of their youngest daughter Lisa Luan to Butch (Dennis) Jennings, son of Ted and Dot Jennings, RR 1, Acton.

3 Coming Marriages

MR. and Mrs. John Tyers of Acton are pleased to announce the forthcoming marriage of their daughter Julie Therese to Owen Frank, son of Mrs. Gini Zylstra of Georgetown, on Saturday, January 21, 1984 at 3 o'clock, St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Acton.

6 Deaths

EARLE, Christopher (Chris) on Tuesday, January 3, 1984 at the Toledo Hospital, Toledo, Ohio. Chris beloved son of Richard and Bonnie Earle and dear brother of Jody, loved grandson of Mrs. Cora Earle of London and Dorothy (Mrs. J. Ahmed) of Milton. Rested at the J.S. Jones and Son Funeral Home, 34 Edith St., Georgetown. Funeral service was held at St. George's Anglican Church Friday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Cremation followed. In memory contributions to the Cystic Fibrosis Society would be appreciated.

MORRISON, Mabel Cordelia—at Halton Centennial Manor, Milton on Friday January 6, 1984. Mabel Cordelia Bass, wife of the late James A. Morrison of Acton. Aged 93 years. Dear mother of Thelma (Mrs. George Barnes), Lena (Mrs. Bill Nelles) and Bill Morrison all of Acton. Loving grandmother of Phyllis, Brian, Peter, Shirley, Mark, Beth, Paul and Bill. Great-grandmother of Julie, Sean, Linda, Valerie, Christine, and Melissa. Sister of Hugh Bass and the late Alma Storey and Jim Bass. Funeral service was held at the Shoemaker Funeral Home, Acton on Monday at 1:30 p.m. Interment Fairview Cemetery, Acton.

SPENCE, Edna Irene on Saturday, January 7, 1984 at Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital. Edna Spence, wife of the late Gordon R. Spence and dear mother of Gordon of Brampton. Loved grandmother of Edward, Shelly, and Julie. Dear sister of Jack Spence of Georgetown. Rested at J.S. Jones and Son Funeral Home, 34 Edith St., Georgetown until noon Tuesday then to St. George's Anglican Church where funeral service will be held Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock. Interment Greenwood Cemetery. Rebekah service Monday evening at 9 o'clock.

6 Deaths

COX, Beatrice (Bea) on Wednesday, January 4, 1984 at the Georgetown and District Memorial Hospital. Bea Lauzon, beloved wife of Joseph Cox and loving mother of Joanne of London, Lt. Roxanne of St. Jean, Quebec and Charlene of Orillia. Dear sister of Adolphe Lauzon of Chesterfield, Bernard Lauzon of Niagara Falls, Colombe (Mrs. L. Gagnier) of Ottawa, Gilbert Lauzon of Alliston, Yolande (Mrs. I. MacKinnon) of Ottawa and Michelle (Mrs. J. Schind) of Ottawa and the late Louis Lauzon. Resting at the J.S. Jones and Son Funeral Home, 34 Edith St., Georgetown until 10:15 Saturday morning then to Holy Cross Church for Christian Burial Mass at 10:30. Interment Greenwood Cemetery. In memory contributions to the Canadian Cancer Society would be appreciated.

YOUNG, John Roy—Passed away at his home in Acton on Sunday, January 8, 1984. John Roy Young in his 88th year. Dear brother of Ethel Redcliffe, Alex, Austin, Nettie Weick and Harvey Young. Dear uncle of Gerald Weick. Resting at the Shoemaker Funeral Home, Acton where funeral service will be held on Wednesday January 11 at 1:30 p.m. Interment Fairview Cemetery, Acton.

7 Cards of Thanks

THE SALVATION ARMY, LAKESIDE CHAPTER I.O.D.E. and ROTARY CLUB OF ACTON sincerely thank the schools, churches, Theta Phi, Tyler Travel Service and individuals for the generous donations of cash, canned goods, candy, toys and knitted articles. Your thoughtfulness was greatly appreciated.

A SINCERE thank you to the neighbours on Lake, Park and Knox Avenues for my Christmas remembrance.

WE WISH to thank all of our friends, neighbours and relatives for all the kindness shown to us at our recent loss.

I Wish to thank all those who sent gifts, cards and for prayers over the Christmas and New Years season. Your kindnesses will always be remembered.

MRS. Emma Hansen expresses sincere thanks to everyone for their cards, gifts, kind inquiries and visits during the Christmas season. Your thoughtfulness is very much appreciated.

MRS. Helen Fields wishes to thank her family, neighbours and friends for flowers, cards and their many acts of kindness during the death of her husband, Sydney. Special thanks to the Georgetown ambulance and Acton Fire Fighters who took her husband to the hospital, and to the doctors and nurses at Guelph General who did their best for him. Also thanks to Shoemaker Funeral Home, to Rev. Arthur Tribe of St. Alban's for his prayers and comforting words, and to the Knox Ladies Aid for refreshments served. Every little act means so much.

THE Acton Unit of the Canadian Cancer Society wishes to express their sincere appreciation to the people of Acton who generously donated: Christmas baking, coffee, tea and sugar and hand made articles to our Christmas sale. The patients at Princess Margaret Hospital and Lodge certainly appreciated your kindness.

WE wish to thank the merchants of Georgetown and Glen Williams who donated prizes to our New Year's party. The social committee of St. George's Anglican Church, Georgetown.

WE should like to express our sincere thanks to our neighbours, relatives and friends who were so supportive during our recent bereavement. Thank you for the flowers, cards and memorial donations in memory of Arthur, also the home visits and donations of food brought to the house. A very special thanks to Rev. Arthur Zalt and Dr. Lea Adams. These many kindnesses will never be forgotten. Adele, David, Leverne and Carl Harris and families.

WE Would like at this time to express our sincere thanks to the nurses in the surgical ward at Milton District Hospital, Dr. Hunter and Dr. J. Jolley, the nurses and help at Pettit House at Halton Centennial Manor for the wonderful care of our mother during her illness and passing. To the neighbours on Lake and Park Ave., our relatives and friends who expressed their sympathy to us with cards, flowers, donations, prayers, food and help with the lunch at the church after the funeral. Special thanks to Bruce and Rhoda Shoemaker, Rev. Gerald Rennie for the comforting help and comfort at the time of the passing of our dear mother and grandmother. Your genuine concern and kindness will always be remembered.

WE would like to give our sincere thanks to our many friends and neighbours who stood by us during the many months of illness and the loss of our beloved mother and grandmother. Our special thanks to Dr. Van der Bent and the Drs. of Acton Medical Centre who were always there for us. We cannot express our appreciation to the Nurses & staff of 3rd floor East, Guelph General Hospital. The care and concern they gave was truly remarkable. Many thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Shoemaker for their kind help and understanding. Allison & Keith Livermore & family.

7 Cards of Thanks

I WISH to thank my family, friends, neighbours, and my church family, for gifts, cards, visits, phone calls, and above all their prayers, while I was in hospital and for your visits at home. All this has been very much appreciated, and will long be remembered. Thanks again and best wishes to all in 1984.

8 In Memoriams

COLE—In loving memory of a dear friend and neighbour, Beatrice Cole who passed away January 3, 1983. Gone, but not forgotten. Always remembered by Margaret Cripps.

KING—Christopher: In loving memory of a dear nephew and cousin who passed away January 10, 1980. Gone from the earth so swiftly, Just like a flower in bloom, So young, so fair, so loving, Yet called away so soon.

Always remembered by Uncle Lorne, Aunt Kathy, Catherine, Robin and Jennifer.

10 Coming Events

ATTENTION BLOCK PARENTS! Please support Halton Hills Public Libraries "Focus on Children" as the Georgetown Public Library.

Program 1—Wednesday, January 11, 1984, 7:30 p.m. **STREETPROOFING** with author Rick Gossage. Help your children learn how to help themselves in a dangerous world. Co-sponsored by Halton Regional Safety Council and Block Parents. Block Parent replacement signs will be available on this evening.

Program 2—Wednesday, February 15, 1984, 7:30 p.m. Dr. June Robertson: Children with visual perceptual problems.

Program 3—Wednesday, March 7, 1984, 7:30 p.m. Parenting: Sandi Kemp, Burlington Youth Council \$5.00/3 seminars; \$2.00/individual lectures.

Program 1: Georgetown Public Library, Acton Social Services, Block Parents—Pat Johnston (877-1258) and Lynn Clark (877-1726)

Programs 2 & 3: Georgetown Public Library

KIDS FOR TV!

CTS-TV now seeking beginners, 4-13 for special TV Studio Training to act in Commercials/Movies/TV Series. Places limited. Parents call 1-884-9810.

BRITISH CLUB Regular monthly meeting will be held Friday, January 13, 1984 at Glen Town Hall, Glen Williams at 8 p.m. All welcome.

CREDIT Valley Artisans are offering the following winter courses: Photography, Wednesdays; Watercolours, Mondays; Teens Art, Saturdays; Childrens Pottery, Tuesdays; Adult Weaving, Thursdays. Registration Friday, January 20, 7-9 p.m. Saturday, January 21, 10-12 noon at Cedarvale Cottage. For further information, call 877-1407.

GLEN WILLIAMS Town Hall Board Planning meeting for 1984 events. Wednesday, January 18 at 8:30 p.m. Come to the Town hall and help decide what will happen this year.

"HUNTER SAFETY" training course being held January 23, 24, 25, Maple Rock Shooting Range. For information call 853-0555 or 854-2562.

LET your creativity blossom—learn flower arranging. The Blossom Basket offers the following classes starting the week of January 16th: Beginner Tuesday 1:30-3:30 p.m., 7:30-9:30 p.m.; Intermediate Monday, 7:30-9:30 p.m.; Advanced—Thursday 9:30-11:30 a.m. Class times flexible depending on interest. The course will last 8 weeks at a cost of \$24.00. For information and registration please phone Laurie Cook 853-3394.

LOVE GROUPS—Two small groups will be run using multi-media to learn, explore and share about love. A group for individuals wanting to grow in love, to deepen interpersonal relationships, awareness and experience. **TUESDAY MORNING**—9:30 to 10:30—4 weeks, commencing January 24th. COST \$50.00. A Couples Group specifically intended to enrich and deepen relationships, **WEDNESDAY EVENING**—7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.—commencing January 25th—COST \$100.00 per couple. For registration or further information, please call: Marilyn Belleghem, 877-1864.

SEMINAR on Money Management, Tax Sheltering Plans, Ballinlad Hall, Wednesday, January 18, 8 o'clock. Sponsored by Ballinlad Women's Institute.

SOME openings now available on ladies afternoon league, evening mixed league and young adults—new bowlers welcome. Public "open" bowling weekdays from 9 p.m. except Thursdays from 7 p.m. Saturdays from 1 p.m. Sundays from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. and from 9 p.m. on Georgetown Bowl—877-9922.

THE Acton Unit of the Canadian Cancer Society wishes to announce that the annual trip to the Breast Screening Clinic at Mount Sinai Hospital in Toronto will be on January 17, 1984. The bus leaves from Trinity United Church at 7:30 a.m. and returns at approximately 3:30 p.m. Any women over the age of 40 interested in taking part in this clinic and a day of shopping in Toronto are asked to call a Cancer Society Volunteer 1-519-823-2473 to arrange a clinic appointment.

THE Annual meeting of the Acton Agricultural Society will be held at Knox Presbyterian Church on Saturday, January 28, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m. The British Club Burns Supper will be held on January 21, 1984 at St. George's Church Hall, 60 Guelph St., Georgetown, 6:30 p.m. \$25.00 per couple. Tickets phone 1-877-5787.

10 Coming Events

BRIGHTEN your home with an arrangement of dried flowers. Melanie Bray, of Everlasting Flowers-Acton, will demonstrate how to preserve and arrange garden flowers at Georgetown Horticultural Societies' January 18 meeting at Knox Church Hall, 8:00 p.m.

BRING Acton Minor Hockey Jackets to Nielsen by Saturday, January 14 for embroidery.

THE La Leche League of Georgetown will be holding the next meeting Tuesday, January 17, 1984 at 7:30 p.m. for all women interested in breastfeeding. For further information, please call 877-0819 or 877-9578.

11 Notices

SLEIGHRIDES (or hayrides) Book now for the winter season (519) 853-2014 (minimum 10 people)

ACTORS FOR TV TV Soundstage is now interviewing new people for Special TV Studio training to act in TV Shows/TV Commercials/Movies. Part time. All ages. For you Studio call, dial 1-884-3393.

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THE SALVATION ARMY pickup of appliances in working order and good used furniture. Phone 853-3321, Tuesday to Saturday from 10 a.m.-5 p.m. for arrangements.

12 Auction Sales

AUCTION SALE SUNDAY, JAN. 15, 1984 AT 1 p.m. Meadowview Auctions, Rockwood, Ont. (Station St. W. by CNR tracks) Auctioneer—Brian Hill, Rockwood 858-4272 or Guelph 824-7819 NOTE: Sales are held the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month at 1 p.m. Estates and consignments welcome.

AUCTION SALE For Vera Ball Sat. Jan. 14th at 11 A.M. Location: In Milton, at the Fairgrounds, in the Agricultural Hall on Robert St. 2 Chesterfield suites; 9 piece dining room suite; 2 bedroom suites; oak hall stand; oak ext. table & 6 chairs; several Vic. chairs & tables; pine blanket box; a full line of appliances; 25 fancy cups & saucers; misc. china, glass & silverware; primitives; bedding; ladders; lawn & garden tools. Auctioneer: Ward Brownridge

AUCTION SALE Wednesday Evening, Jan. 18th at 6:30 P.M. Location: Merchandise removed from Oakville, to be sold in Milton at the Fairgrounds, in the Agricultural Hall on Robert St. Sale Consisting Of: Antique & regular furniture, glass, china, pictures, prints, bedding & linens, lamps, collectables, misc. etc. A Full Sale with over 300 items. Terms: Cash or cheque with proper I.D. Lunch available. Preview: From 4:30 p.m. on Sale Day. Auctioneer or Hall board not responsible for accidents. Auctioneer: Chris A. Schouten Phone: 878-2576

15 Found

ONE brown and black female tabby cat found corner Mill and Doby Rd. Friday Jan. 6. 853-3566.

20 Wanted

GOLF CLUB SHARES North Halton, wanted to purchase. Please call: Mr. R. Brown 416-278-8808

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WANTED Scrap, Iron, Metal, Cars, Trucks or Old Machinery. Phone 853-2014

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WANTED used colour TV's. 878-0369 after 6 p.m.

21 For Sale

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1 APARTMENT sized kitchen table with 2 chairs, 1 apartment size humidifier. Call after 6 p.m. 877-7810. AVOCADO fridge and stove for sale. \$175 for pair. 877-1757. BABY carriage in excellent condition. Lloyds \$75.00. 853-0480. BEAUTIFUL Mohair coat with scarf in new condition, grey colour. Cost \$350, selling for \$200. Size 10-12. 877-7614. BLUE velvet chesterfield and chair, matching blue striped swivel rocker, six reversible toss cushions, excellent condition. \$500 for all or best offer. 877-0407 after 6 p.m. BUFFET and hutch early 1900's, maple with brass hardware, completely refinished. \$750. 877-4382. CARPET, 9 x 12 new, brown and beige pattern, machine made \$20. 877-0890