

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Wrong Reasons

While there may be justification for a \$500 yearly increase in the salary of Halton County's warden, the reasons advanced by one proponent, do not stand the logic test.

Last week, the county endorsed the raise, after turning down an original proposal which would have added \$1500. The new salary will be \$6500.

The justification, with which we disagree, is that the position is so onerous that it can only be held at present by a self-employed or retired person.

If this be so, then we fail to see what difference \$500 is going to make to any aspirants to office.

Surely a man who holds any respon-

sible position in public life would not abandon his working career for the chance to serve one term as Halton's chief executive officer. So, regardless of the salary established, the position is still open only to a limited field.

The fact that the present warden does not want an increase, would make it seem more sensible for county council, if they feel a higher salary is justified, to vote this to start in 1971.

The public might well think that this is the old army game again — an increase to a reluctant warden, and at a later date, an increase to the rest of the councillors who have been so free with the taxpayers' money.

Afterthoughts

It has become increasingly common, in all levels of government, for successful aspirants to have second thoughts about the job once ensconced in office.

The job, which looked so attractive, the job for which a candidate was willing to make almost any sacrifice, suddenly has a higher pay tag attached.

It has happened in national and provincial governing bodies as well as in county and local municipal groups.

Locally the arguments have differed. We have heard councillors reduce their council service to an hourly basis and compare the pay unfavourably with jobs in industry. We have heard how many extra expenses are involved in attending public dinners, buying lucky draw tickets, etc. We have heard that it is impossible to persuade good men to run for office at whatever is the current rate of pay. We have heard about the extra time involved, outside committee and council meetings.

We don't say that any councillor is consciously a grabber and embarks on a civic career for the money involved.

We do say that once he receives more

than a token payment, it becomes difficult to separate public service and private gain. No matter what one's income, it is not easy to give up a yearly remuneration of \$2500 or more, part of which is tax exempt.

With government encouragement, the disease has spread. The salary set for regional school board trustees, had an inflationary effect on council salaries. Regional government is almost certain to establish a new bureaucracy of government.

We readily admit that the days of public service for the prestige and satisfaction derived is gone.

We still think that a sensible compromise can be reached — a token payment, expenses when incurred, plus prestige can get as good a slate of civic candidates as any amount of dollars.

If not, then, the sooner we follow the ancient Greeks and establish a ruling class, trained from teenage for public life, the better. If we are going to pay full time salaries, we should expect our tax dollars to go to qualified personnel, who intend to make public service their career.

recreation director may be feasible. But there is much to be done before this arises. The new committee has already had a couple of conferences, and more are planned, in which representatives of organizations have traded ideas.

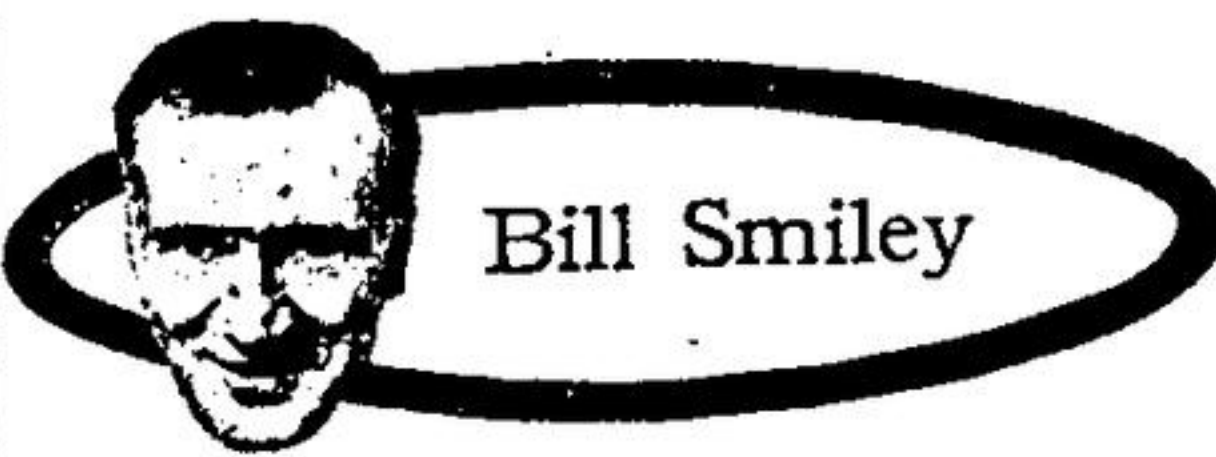
What must be watched is that the committee does not become imbued with the idea of providing too much.

Organized recreation has its place in life, but it can become a fetish.

Dollars are not always the answer to give young people a healthy, happy life. There is still much to be said for the sandlot ball game, the shabby game on an outside rink. If youngsters want a tennis court, they can help to prepare it. There can be enough time in summer daylight hours for minor sports, without lighting playing fields.



A LIFT FOR ALL



A KITTEN FOR EASTER

Somebody ought to do something about Easter. It's much too flexible. It's supposed to be a time of rebirth and rejoicing.

But you can't really be swept away by a feeling of rebirth and new life when there is still a foot of snow on the ground and the wind cuts to the marrow.

Sometimes Easter is in March and the weather is beautiful. Sometimes it's in April and the weather is horrible. I don't know how the date is determined, any more than I know how to fix loose door knobs, how to get outboard motors going when they stop, what to do when a woman weeps, or how to play midwife to a cat.

I'm not knocking Easter. I like it. I love the sackcloth and ashes feeling, and the gloomy dirges of Good Friday, when even the pubs are closed. And there is a joy and triumph in the Easter Sunday hymns that can't be surpassed. I think, even by the Christmas carols.

Easter is also one of the days that keeps many of our churches from becoming extinct. Some primitive instinct brings out the wayward, the fallen, the sinners, and the Easter collection is the best of the year. You meet old church friends you haven't seen for a year. And won't for another.

This year, we were sent a Manifestation. No, it wasn't from the Dept. of National Revenue although it is pretty good at providing such things. We had a birth in the family, and were privileged to witness the blessed event, an experience which must convince the most hardened cynic that God does see the little sparrow fall.

Our kitten had a baby. This may seem a contradiction in terms, but she is a bare adolescent, yet she managed to produce, with great wailing labor pains one tiny kitten. I didn't think cats had labor pains, but she did.

Now, I haven't any use for cats, but I was fascinated by the whole procedure. We knew she was pregnant, of course. But lady cats, just like lady women, are rather unpredictable about the exact day, or even week, of the great moment.

She had begun to act a trifle odd, it's true, prowling the house looking for the most inconvenient possible place to lay her eggs. We caught her twice in the fireplace, casing the joint.

But I thought it was at least a week away. She was so spry. When we put her out, she would leap nimbly onto a window sill and sit there glaring malevolently at friendly tomcats come to visit, or, alternately, at us through the window.

dinosaur. Child-bride though she was, Pip's instinct worked and she licked and licked until the infant's heart began to beat.

Isn't it remarkable how a cat will clean up the entire mess, leaving her offspring sleek and shining? And isn't it amazing how a mere chick of a kitten, by the act of giving birth, turns into a complacent, mild-eyed, smug mother, nursing by the hour with her motor going on all cylinders?

We were as delighted as she was and had a glimmer of that feeling grandparents must have when the first grandchild arrive. What really shook me, though, was my wife's reaction. Normally, if anyone drops so much as a crumb, a bit of ash, or a drop of coffee on her precious furniture, all hell breaks loose. And there's her good chair, with a great stain on it, and she tosses it off as nothing.

With one fell swoop, I snatched her up and deposited her on a blanket, and bingo, she popped a kitten — something resembling a tiny, dead

she became all soft and motherly and was heating milk and tucking in the kitten and lifting it on her hand to look, with the inevitable accident

IN THE MAIL BAG

Wants Water Kept Pure Don't Add Fluoride

47 Weber Drive,
Dear Sir:

Re Fluoridation of our water supply. Can we justify the cost of fluoridation? Do we need fluoride in our dishpans? In our bathtubs? In our washing machines? To wash our ears—water our gardens—scrub the floors etc? Only a very small amount of water is consumed—an even smaller amount by the very limited age bracket that may possibly derive small benefits from this addition.

Can we be sure Fluoride is safe? It saddens me to read in Toronto papers the apparent jubilation because after 5 years of fluoridation people are not dying in the streets. How many have died from ingesting DDT in the past twenty years without these authorities' knowledge?

We are entitled to a pure water supply. Anything now added to our water is to purify it. Fluoride is the first chemical added to medicate people. This is a dangerous precedent. Fluoride has no place in any public water supply.

Sincerely,
(Mrs.) Joan Douglas

"BUSY BEAVER" BORN

Annual Spring Clean-Up In Fire Group's Plans

Inspector Peter Campbell of Oakville Fire Dept. submitted a report on a recent fire prevention officers' conference, at the March meeting of Halton County Fire Prevention Bureau. He attended the Ontario Municipal Fire Prevention Officers' Association conference at Windsor, March 4th to 6th as a Bureau delegate, and reports he learned much from the speeches and discussions at the three day conference.

Hazards of contamination of pesticide warehouses, fire safety training in secondary schools, inspections of electrical equipment in hospitals, fire-loadings of buildings and proposed changes in the Ont. Dept. of Labor regulations

were among the main topics discussed.

NEW SYMBOL

One Halton man fire prevention officer Bob Gray of Burlington Fire Dept., has been named to the executive of OMFPCA this year. He is the treasurer.

In other business, the Bureau learned Ontario Safety League has given birth to a new localized symbol of fire safety, Busy Beaver, a cartoon character which will be used to promote fire safety to younger children. Plans were finalized for a spring clean-up campaign across Halton and the Bureau's member fire departments will be distributing literature on this subject in the near future.

Not Satisfied, 3-Way Stop Not the Answer

Dear Sir:
Would you please include this letter sent to Georgetown council, in your Mail Bag column.

15 Park Avenue

Dear Sirs:

Your recent decision to implement a three-way stop street at Charles and Church Streets must I think be viewed as one of the most ludicrous decisions that council has made to date.

In the face of a report and recommendations on traffic protection for school children and in the presence of a tragic fatality at the above intersection, you have chosen to regulate an intersection which in no way bears any relation to the traffic patterns involving Park school. A casual observer of the general area would become conscious of the fact that there are two accesses to Park school namely Park Street itself and Princess Anne and should a person choose to use Church Street they would still have to take the ultimate option of ending their path of travel either on Park or Princess Anne. If it has not already occurred to you, Church Street does not go across Charles Street. It ends there and provides no direct access to the school at all. Breaking a traffic pattern at that point is of no value to any child attending Park public school.

It is incomprehensible to me how you can ignore the realities of the situation. Having done so however, to then implement this three way stop in the hope of solving that problem appears to reflect a decision which either borders on complete indifference or gross stupidity.

It may have escaped some of you that you are public officials having reposed in you a public trust. This situation which has been brought before your attention is not petty, it is of some consequence, a child has been killed at that intersection. You cannot discharge your duty by simply tossing a coin in the air and picking an intersection at random in hopes that the presence of a sign will satisfy the people who are concerned about those intersections. Your failure to acquire two crossing guards at Park and Charles and Princess Anne and Charles is nothing less than gross negligence. The expenditure involved is something on the order of \$1,000.00 annually per crossing guard. Surely, that is not an extraordinary expense just to protect the lives of children.

Yours very truly,
R. R. Dodokin.

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ELIMINATE MISUNDERSTANDINGS

School Bus Drivers, Police 'Clear the Air' at Seminar

Police — local and provincial — sometimes have misunderstandings with school bus drivers.

School bus drivers sometimes have misunderstandings with police.

School bus drivers in the Halton area had their opportunity to clear the air on most of their problems at a seminar organized through the Halton Board of Education and the Ontario Department of Transport.

tario Department of Transport.

PANELS

The first aid lecture was given and panels throughout the day included representatives of Department of

Transport, Ontario Provincial Police, Halton County School Board and the police.

A new 72 passenger school bus from the Halton board garage was on the scene for visitors to the seminar to view the latest in school bus equipment.

Legal Aid Rep. Joins Tour of Institutions

125 DRIVERS

The meeting, held at White Oaks Secondary School was attended by more than 125 drivers both in the employ of the school board and private contractors. They heard talks and engaged in discussions on a wide range of topics from first aid to methods of controlling students while they are on the buses.

Working on the theme "their safety is in our hands," the bus drivers, officials and police in attendance met C. E. Laybourn, director of safety education for the On-

Paul Armstrong, a Georgetown insurance agent, represented the Halton County Legal Aid Area Committee on a tour of the Federal Penitentiary Service Institutions at Kingston, Ontario.

The tour was conducted over a period of three days and included detailed visits to various institutions in the Kingston area such as: Kingston Penitentiary which is a maximum security institution at Kingston; Collins Bay Penitentiary which is a medium security institution at Collins Bay near Kings-

ton; Joyceville Institution which is a medium security industrial institution at Joyceville a few miles north of Kingston; the prison for women at Kingston; the Warkworth Institution which is a new medium security institution at Warkworth, north of Brighton.

The tour also included visits to the Ontario Regional Director's headquarters for the Canadian Penitentiary Services located at Kingston, and also to the Correctional Staff Training College at Kingston.