

OPINIONS OF OTHERS END OF SERVICE . . .

(Acton Free Press)

There is more than interest on the part of some Acton people in the public hearing held in Guelph regarding discontinuance of passenger train service between Guelph and Toronto. If the railway is successful with its application to cut off trains 986 and 987, the town of Acton will be completely without passenger rail service.

The railway claims it is losing money on the service and apparently has some sort of figure showing losses of \$147,313 in 1968.

Travel habits of Canadians are changing. They are travelling more and more by highway and airline and less and less by rail. The National Transportation Act of 1967 recognized that railways cannot operate effectively in a competitive environment while bearing the financial burden of uneconomical passenger train services.

Unfortunately the National Transportation Act only recognizes the plight of the railways. It does not outline reasons for the decline in passenger service.

For instance, Southampton mayor Bill Todd told the first public hearing in Owen Sound last week that passengers on the three and a half hour train trip between Waikerton and Toronto have had to ride in baggage cars and stand. M.P. Bruce Whitcher told the hearing that many of the 264 passengers on the train last week had to stand from Toronto to Guelph.

These are the circumstances which do little to attract passengers for the railways. Judging by the outcry across western Ontario following notice of hearings to discontinue service, it is general. The railways have made no real effort to modernize travel between the small centres of Ontario.

Timetables are not set up to correspond to needs. Trains are almost the same today as they were before the war — outside of a diesel pulling now instead of a steam engine.

Can you picture any private business making money serving the public with the same facilities today as they had 40 years ago?

SAFE AT ANY SPEED?

(Oakville Journal-Record)

A slick-looking annual report issued this week by Ford Canada opens with comments to shareholders by company president Karl E. Scott. In the final six lines of this report Scott says:

"The company also supports federal government plans for Canadian motor vehicle safety standards. Safety equipment designed to meet U.S. Federal standards is installed in Ford cars produced in both countries."

It's always good to hear auto industry executives pay lip service to highway safety. And, in fact, in recent years they have also added many safety features to their new vehicles. However, we suggest that as long as the automakers continue to turn out souped-up brutes of cars they are going to have a difficult time convincing the public of their sincerity in safety.

These modish, gimmick-loaded cars have become the darlings of Detroit and they have been promoted with all the grace. And this resulted in the whole industry's love for style as against safety. Underneath the sleek, glamorous exteriors of the sexy attire models with their snorting tail pipe are power plants better suited for low flying than safe driving. In fact, insurance companies in both Canada and the United States are socking it to muscle car

owners with premium increases of up to 15 percent.

It was Ford in Detroit that broke with a gentleman's agreement among automakers to keep the brakes on the horsepower race. And this resulted in the whole industry zeroing in on the fast-car market. Safety be damned. As long as safes are racing along the auto firms feel safe at any speed.

A combination of rising insurance rates, tight money and a major revolution in American personal transportation is likely to cause the carmakers to shift down on production of the muscle cars. Nonetheless, it is market conditions vis-a-vis a sense of safety that will motivate the change. Meantime above the noise of assembly lines turning out the latest generation of status symbol supercars we hear the voices of auto company presidents supporting the cause of safety.

The situation brings to mind Canada's chartered banks as they promote tight money and high interest with one hand, and easy consumer credit with the other. In the case of the car firms it is a matter of promoting speed over safety.

Just in passing, what ever happened to that package auto safety standards which Ottawa was ballyhooing a few months ago? Now you see it, now you don't. That's politics.

IT WAS ILL TIMING . . .

(Guelph Daily Mercury)

The Canadian Broadcasting Corporation showed ill timing this week when it interrupted the National Hockey League playoff telecast between the Boston Bruins and the New York Rangers to broadcast a fairly lengthy report on the Apollo 13 mission.

While many hockey fans are also interested in the plight of the three American astronauts as they battle for life, the CBC's

interruption of the game, for a special report which included a lot of background chitter-chatter and very little in the way of real news, wasn't necessary. Brief bulletins would have sufficed.

Those who preferred the Apollo information over the hockey game could have received it on other channels and on the radio, while hockey fans had no alternative but to wait until CBC's TV coverage of the game resumed.

IN THE MAIL BAG

TEACHING OF ALL RELIGIONS SPIRITUAL ADULTERY: WRITER

11 Ewing Street,
Dear Sir:
Once again I feel compelled to ask you to grant me the privilege of a reply to a letter in your Mail Bag from Mrs. S. B. Moore of the Bahá'is of Halton County.

To set the matter straight for them and your readers I should point out that I and those who came with me are opposed to the recommended changes in regard to Religion in our schools.

We therefore presented our brief for continuance of our present religious instruction in the schools and our opposition to a conglomeration of worldly religions.

The Bahá'is, as we understood it are in favour of the MacKay Report and the teaching of worldly religions and thus were opposed to our stand in which we confirm our belief in the first Commandment "Thou shalt have no other God's but me."

Bahá'í faith accepts the teaching of Moses, Abraham, Jesus, Buddha etc. If any American encyclopedia is correct, Zoroastrianism, the religious system of ancient Persia as founded by Zoroaster worshipped the sun, moon and stars, the earth, the waters, the wind etc.

Next we have Buddha, a religious sect founded in the 6th century B.C. by a prince who later became a Monk. In place of God there was emphasis on law and order. He believed in transmigration and rebirth. Countless peoples bow down and worship his image.

Then again we have Mohammed, etc all humans exalted to the status of the almighty God who created this wonderful universe and who has said "I am the Lord, (Jehovah) that is my name, and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images. (Isaiah 42: V 8)

"And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto

Jacob by the name of God almighty, but by my name Jehovah was I not known to them" Exodus 6 V 3.

Today, with millions of others I watched my television and prayed for the safe return to America of three men who were thousands of miles from earth, struggling with a crippled craft, not knowing if their equipment would guide them back to earth. I listened to the instructions from NASA telling them to use the stars, the moon etc. if all else failed. For centuries man has used the stars etc. for their navigational guide.

But, who placed the sun, the moon and the stars in the heavens? Not Buddha, Zoroaster, Mohammed, etc. It was the almighty God of the Christian bible and worship. I watched as the Astronauts were greeted as they landed on board ship and heard the prayer offered to almighty God for their safe return, by the navy chaplain.

Memory takes me back to a study I had of the prophet Elijah, 1st Kings ch 18 v27. "And it came to pass at noon, that Elijah mocked them and said cry aloud, for he is a God, either he is talking or he is pursuing, or he is in a journey,

or he sleepeth, etc. The prophet Elijah worshipped the one true God. The worshippers of Baal were confounded.

God's chosen people were warned many times not to mingle with or adopt the religions and worship of other nations. It led to much disaster when they disobeyed their God.

The founding fathers of this great country were believers in the holy Bible. This country has prospered, we came through two world wars and a depression during my lifetime.

To teach our children the faith and worship of other nations is in my estimation spiritual adultery. Many times God told the Israelites they were adulteresses because they had turned to the worship of their Gods when he had been as a husband unto them. He had fed clothed, and provided their every want when they were in the wilderness, just as a husband provides the wants of his family. Dare we in this time of trouble among the nations, desert the God of our fathers? We have only to look to the U.S. and what has happened there since they banned the teaching of the Christian religion in their schools.

I agree that the Bahá'is do not oppose religion in the schools but they do oppose our stand that the only holy bible be used as a basis for our Christian faith. They wish to implement the MacKay Report with information on all the religions of the world. We disagree.

Be thou faithful unto death and I will give thee a crown of life — Rev 2 V 10

Sincerely,
(Mrs.) Katherine Cordaro

THE AMAZING MR. BURNS WILL TACKLE WALK ROUTE

31 Byron Street,
Georgetown, Ont.

Dear Mr. Editor:
I am writing on behalf of Mr. Charles Burns, 82, of Georgetown, who will be again taking part in the Oxfam Walk of 31 miles from Brampton on May 2.

Anyone wishing to support Mr. Burns in this amazing performance and a very worthwhile cause, please call 877-8289 and the full details will be taken care of.

Mr. Burns is conserving his energy for the long walk and will not be soliciting your support personally, but we trust that the response will mirror a real desire on the part of the residents of Georgetown to give liberally to the much needed help in providing food for those for whom this program was initiated.

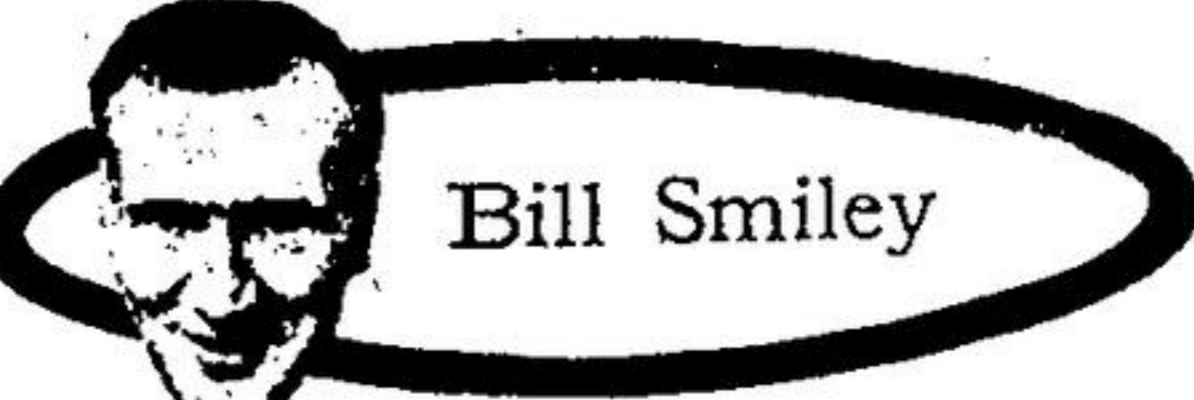
Yours truly,
Ed. A. Peters

Georgetown Herald

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SPRING DANCE



Hugh Broke His Middle Finger

Can you whistle a Bach prelude and fugue without a memory slip? Can you hum a Beethoven sonata without sliding into falsetto or basso profundo.

Darn right you can't. But I can. Almost. And it cost me only about \$12,000.

Trouble is, and this is a

NEWS ECHOES

From the Herald's of 10, 20 and 30 Years Ago

1960
A trio of would-be burglars, wearing crude masks fashioned from towels, made an unsuccessful attempt on the Meadowglen mushroom plant early Thursday morning after a vicious assault on the night watchman. According to police, John Cornish, 71, of Glen Williams, his face bleeding from wounds inflicted when one of the men pushed him to the ground, made his way to the neighbouring Smith & Stone plant after the three fled. He related his ordeal to the night guard there who called police. The elderly watchman had been held on the ground for almost an hour by one of the men who at one point rubbed his face in the dirt. An electric motor and a large bar were all that was taken.

Two men, their faces wrapped in white gauze, robbed Van Hoorn's store at Silvercreek of \$35 Monday night. Hearing the store door open, Mrs. Van Hoorn, who was in the kitchen, entered to wait on a customer to be confronted with the intruder, hand in pocket as though he had a gun. He warned her not to make a noise or she would get hurt. His companion was meanwhile heading behind the counter. Mr. Van Hoorn entered from the kitchen just then and one of the men picked up the machine and threw it, just missing him. The pair took the bills from the till and fled on foot.

1950
Georgetown's oldest lady, Mrs. Anna Nielsen, who will be 95 this September, was honoured at a special show at the Roxy Theatre last Thursday when a special Mother's Day program had been arranged. Wheldon Emmerson was emcee for a stage program which included songs by Tom Warnes, Jean Harley and a quartet composed of Warnes, Emmerson, Jim Burns and Charles Tyler. Mrs. Nielsen received many gifts from local merchants.

1940
Perhaps our readers would be interested in how one workingman in town makes his pay cheque go round. The family prefers to remain anonymous so we shall call Mr. and Mrs. John Smith for purposes of illustration. Mr. Smith is employed by one of the local paper mills and receives a salary of \$25 a week. He is not a native of Georgetown but has lived here for some years, and both he and his wife are strong supporters of the "buy a home" policy. They have two children, support their church and belong to one of the local fraternal organizations.

Here is how one week's pay cheque is spent in town: groceries \$5, meat \$4.75, fruit \$2, milk \$2.50, bread \$1.25, eggs 60c, clothing \$1.00, drug store 50c, cigarettes and candy \$1.25, coal \$1.50, small purchases 50c, hydro 70c, church \$1.25, telephone 50c.

In addition to these there is a water bill of \$10 a year, \$2 for a dog tax, tickets on raffles and draws, and the dentist, the doctor, an occasional trip to the lawyer, the occasional movie show, repairs, visits to the optician, and seeds for the garden.

In addition to Mr. Smith's salary he receives a small pension which helps along the family budget.

Mrs. Smith has tried budgeting but finds that some unusual expenses always crops up which upsets the carefully planned budget figures. Thus it is impossible to get away from the credit habit.

This story was unsolicited. Mrs. Smith wanted our merchants to know that she is supporting them. We would appreciate our readers turning in similar stories. If's people like these who keep the wheels of business turning in our town.

I wish I had the 12 G's in bonds at eight per cent. But my wife doesn't agree. We could have taken a trip around the world for that, but she still doesn't agree.

As far as I'm concerned, I could have taken that \$12,000 thrown it off the end of the dock, and been just as far ahead. Once again, the only one who agrees with me is I.

Both my kids have degrees in piano. Both were talented. Near, but not quite at the concert pianist level. Both eschewed (I like that word) a career in music, because they wanted to be first. And they wanted to be free.

Well, they're free. Hugh broke his middle finger, and can play I Went Down To St. James Infirmary, with only a few bum notes. I think Kim could play The Happy Farmer with a couple of days' practice.

But perhaps it's all been worth it. They've learned something. Hugh has realized that you can't practice the piano when your waiting table at the Chateau Frontenac or selling vacuum cleaners in Calgary. And Kim has realized that 'her' piano won't quite fit into a three-room pad in Toronto, unless you want to sleep on top of it.

What brings all this to mind, and without bitterness is the fact that my wife, a former piano teacher, has become hooked once again, after a lapse of a couple of years, on the local music festival. She's going every day and listening intently to her former students. (Though she's a bit miffed that some of them are doing extremely well, despite the fact that they don't take lessons from her anymore).

But her reports have cheered me. Things are just the same as they always were. I went through years of them, and I know the scene intimately. The festival mothers are

still as friendly as an R.C. bishop and a Mormon lay preacher.

The adjudicator is still rotten, giving the first place certificate to the girl who played the worst. Except when it's your daughter, or your pupil. Then he (or she) shows an insight into music that is superb.

The kids are still sailing into their pieces at breakneck speed, which they can't possibly maintain, and breaking down in the middle, while their mothers and teachers turn purple as the youngsters fumble, and throw up their hands, and burst into tears.

But perhaps the old Lady is right. Those moments at the music festival, in other years, were the closest to heaven and hell that I've ever experienced with the possible exception of shooting at a concentration of German tanks, which were firing back at you with bigger guns than you had.

I've stopped breathing for as much as a dangerously long two minutes while my son or daughter weaved through a sonatina. I have gone out afterwards and smoked a complete cigarette in two drags.

I have called the adjudicator a slob, a cretin, moron and, sometimes, a brilliant judge of music.

Maybe the old Battleaxe is right. Maybe it was worth \$12,000. Anyway, I can whistle three bars of Tschaičovsky's something or other.

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