

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Should Pay All

Perhaps it's an inopportune time to suggest it, but we are totally in agreement with Cr. Ric Morrow in his opinion that the Ontario government should shoulder all the cost of hospital construction.

Like Mr. Morrow, we are a booster for the \$350,000 tax-grant which council is in process of endorsing for a hospital addition.

But we do not think that in today's socialist state, where a large percentage of residents are covered, one way or another, for their hospital bills, that an individual municipality should shoulder the worry of raising money to supply this important facility.

Inopportune, we said, however, with Prime Minister Roberts forecast last week that Ontario would have a \$58 million deficit this year, instead of the \$11 million

surplus predicted only a few months ago.

One cannot help but be critical of a government which can have such a large margin of error, which commits itself to such projects as the CNE waterfront complex, and day after day advertises for consultants, executive assistants, economists, for an increasing complexity of government departments.

But one can be equally critical of political parties not in power, which promise the same or more, so that it matters little which of the parties rules, taxes will continue to cripple.

We could be wrong, but if an opposition party adopted a program of drastic economy, lower taxes, running government departments more like a business, it could sweep into power.

Lived Long, Full Life

Only a small percentage of people are privileged to live more than their allotted three score and ten span. Smaller still is the number who reach the nineties. And only rarely does a man's lifetime exceed the century mark.

Joe Martin, who died on Sunday, had become a celebrity in Georgetown.

Born the year before confederation, each April 1 he marked another milestone, until he was approaching the venerable age of 105.

Until a few years ago he was a familiar figure on his daily walks uptown. Natively dressed, his outgoing personality made him known to a wide circle of people, and

he always looked much younger than his years.

He made a successful recovery from a broken hip, suffered in late life, an accident which has made invalids of much younger men.

Those who have lived in town for some time will recall him at garden parties and entertainments, sprightly stepdancing to a lively tune, or playing the 'bones.'

He loved a good time, the fall fair with its horse races, an entertainment of any sort. The street on which he walked was always a bit sunnier when he appeared. Georgetown won't be quite the same without its most senior citizen.

We See the Light

Surveys to the contrary, we see the need for traffic lights at the Maple Avenue highway crossing.

As a frequent user of the crossing, we say that it is one of the most dangerous in town, definitely needs lights and, despite Queen's Park refusal to pay its share, the town should proceed with them.

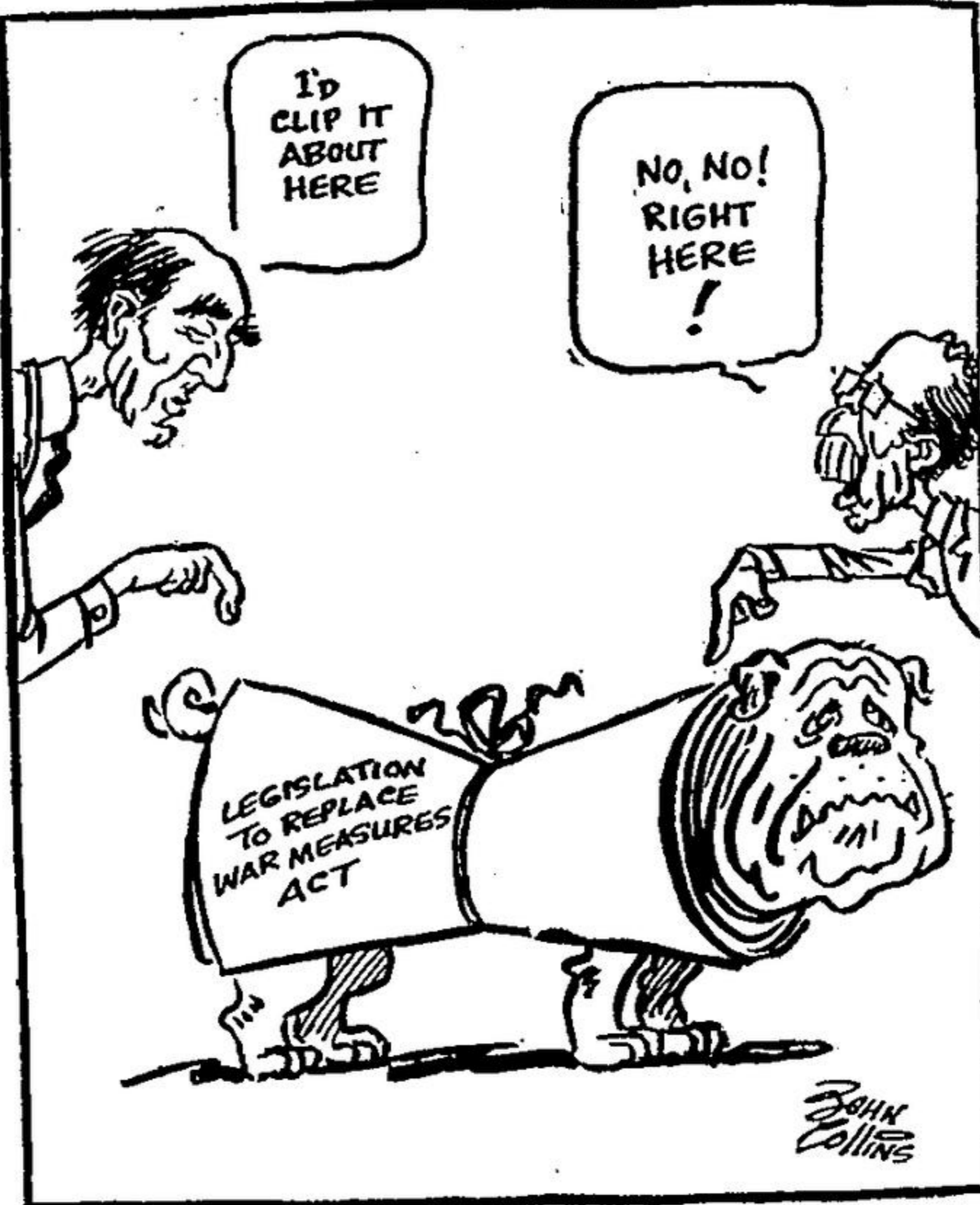
We have waited to turn west onto the highway for two or three minutes, then made our turn as fast as possible to mesh into oncoming traffic and avoid cars travelling east. For even a driver of many years experience, there is always a danger of

misjudging speed of cars travelling on the highway.

We have watched timid motorists, wait and wait and wait, then start off at the wrong time. We have watched the daring ones who sail into the highway, oblivious to those who have the right of way.

That we haven't had more crashes is a matter of luck, and caution on the part of those using the highway.

The town went through the same difficulties before traffic lights were installed at two other highway locations. Let's do everything in our power to persuade highway officials that they are wrong.



GROOMING THE WATCHDOG

STALLED AGAIN

'Hot Potato' Road Still In Talking, Swapping Stage

Efforts at swapping roads between Chinguacousy Twp. and the county, aimed at preservation of the Terra Cotta Road and the Old Forge building in that village, were stalled again in a meeting of the county roads committee.

Several months ago, while council was bogged down in protests over a plan to reconstruct the Terra Cotta Road, Chinguacousy offered to take over the road from the Fourth to Sixth Lines, preserve it as a scenic road, and maintain the force building.

In return, Chinguacousy requested that the county take over a township road as a trade.

On Tuesday, Cr. George Gardhouse, offered the coun-

ty four choices for the trade. He listed part of 34 Sideroad; a section of Heart Lake Road; Fourth Line West from Hwy. 7 to 24 Sideroad; or a section of the 5th Line.

"In return for the county taking over any one of these township roads," Cr. Gardhouse said, "we will give over the Terra Cotta Road and preserve it as a scenic route with the minimum repairs."

Robert Knight, county engineer, objected to the township taking over a county road which stretches from a hamlet to a county road, for another road not in the county system.

"Beside that," he said, "you will have to take a further look at the bridge to

the Terra Cotta Road. I can't guarantee it safe for heavy trucks. Signs should be posted."

Warden Ivor McMullin suggested that the engineer do a study on the Terra Cotta Road for reconstruction in line with the Mississauga Road project which is preserving scenic values.

"HOT POTATO" "We have a hot potato here," replied acting chairman Mayor Archdekin of Brampton. "We are just throwing it around. We took a unanimous vote on taking it out of the county system and trading it to Chinguacousy; let's get on with it."

The committee approved a resolution referring the trading proposals to the coordinating committee and the engineer for recommendations.

Vacancies Open, Seek More Band Members

31 Byron Street, P.O. Box 83, Mr. Editor: We would like to question the announcement in the Georgetown Herald Nov. 12, re: Intermediate Hockey team renting wall space.

We agree with the renting of wall space within the arena, but we strongly disagree with

Disputes Rent Revenue To Private Group

the purpose of supplementing the intermediate or any hockey group. We feel that the wall space should be rented out by the Georgetown Recreation Committee and the monies received should be used to improve the arena facilities.

We would strongly suggest that they reconsider their decision as the arena is a public building and should be used as such.

Paul Ward, Secretary Georgetown Minor Hockey Support Group

Suggests Fluorescent Stripes for Children

38 Ann Street, Dear Editor: Three little boys in this town are alive and well, unaware that they nearly got run down by a car recently, one very dark foggy evening, by me.

I was driving home from work along Ontario St. when suddenly I saw two white lines on a small figure just ahead of me. I swerved to miss the white lines and to behold, walking along the road, facing the on-coming traffic, were three little boys.

Luckily one little boy wore a jacket with white stripes running down the sleeves, which saved the three lives and a disastrous experience for the rest of my life.

I hope my near tragedy will serve as a reminder to parents, that the children's outdoor clothing marked with white or fluorescent stripes might save their child's life.

NEWS ECHOES

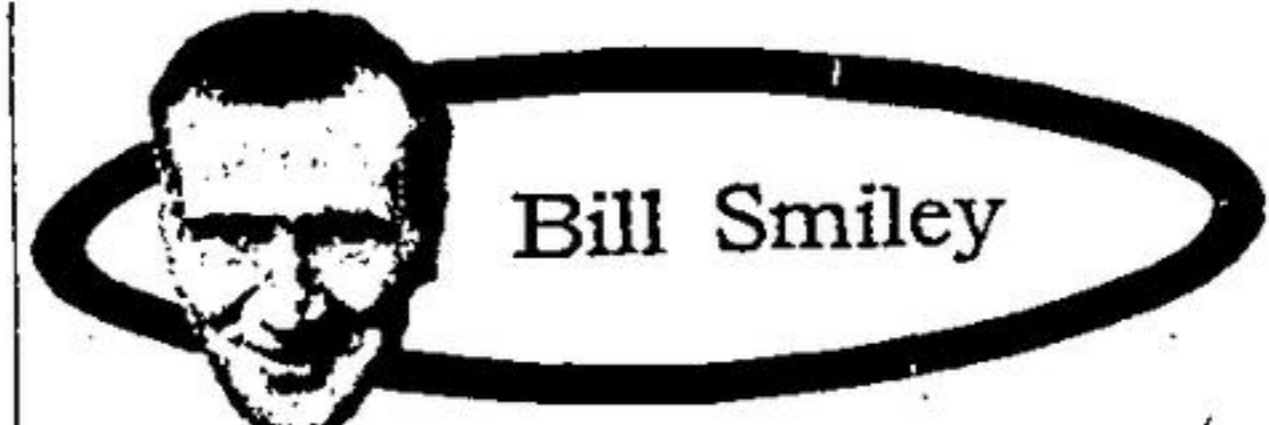
From the Herald of 10, 20 and 30 Years Ago

1960 • Georgetown's high school may add a technical school by 1965. Department of Education has notified the high school board they should be preparing now for such a school by 1965 by grouping the proposed technical rooms in one wing.

1950 • The Kid Baker radio cowboy show packed the Glen community hall on Thursday when this popular entertainer played his first engagement in Glen Williams. The show features the cowboy music of Kid and Ada Baker and their company, with dancing following the stage presentation. Their appearance in the Glen was sponsored by the Ladies Softball team and the proceeds will give the ladies a good start toward buying equipment and uniforms for the spring.

1950 • Clarence Bain, manager of Ready's 5c to \$1 Store here for 16 years has completed negotiations for purchase of the business. He will be conducting it from now on as Bains 5c to \$1 Store.

1940 • Meeting last Thursday night, Georgetown council passed a resolution asking Attorney-General Conant for permission to organize a branch of the Volunteer Civil Guard in Georgetown. Lt.-Col. James Ballantine, Commanding Officer for Halton was present at the meeting to ask consideration of the plan. He explained that all towns in Halton except Georgetown had a Civil Guard. In Georgetown, a Corps of Minute Men was established last spring and while the program for this group closely follows that of the Civil Guard their status is unofficial.



Canada Compared to Algeria

In the past few weeks, Canada has gone through an emotional catharsis which may yet, despite the bitter medicine which brought it about, turn a psychotic nation into a strong and healthy one.

Our emotions have run the gamut of shock, despair and shame to a deep anger and determination. There is something of the feeling of 1939 in the air, a feeling that wild beasts, when they are infected by a type of rabies, must be destroyed.

Canadians at all levels, have realized that it is rather silly to preach either Christian brotherhood, or democracy, to a mad dog.

What we are going through is something that never has happened in this nation before. There have been many crises in the growth of our nation. We had our Plains of Abraham and our War of 1812. But these were fought by soldiers.

We had our rebellions in Upper and Lower Canada. Both served a purpose, but they were comic opera, compared to what's happening today. If I'm not mistaken, the F.L.Q. has murdered more men than were killed in William Lyon Mackenzie's attack on Toronto in 1837.

We had the Riel Rebellion, a tragic farce for a tragic people, led by a tragic hero without a real hope of knocking over the establishment.

But none of them came close to the senseless violence, the vicious, amoral destructiveness that we have experienced in this autumn of 1970.

The comparison that comes closest, perhaps, is that deadly period in Algeria a few years ago, when the French withdrew. French Algerians and Arab Algerians killed each other with a callous impersonality that shocked the civilized world.

That was not war. It was assassination. People were blown up at lunch in a restaurant, or attending the theatre. Others were shot down in the streets, for no reason except that they were on the other side. Pray

that this never happens in Canada. But it could, unless the nation unites to smother the blaze and deal firmly and finally with those who would throw oil on it.

I don't want to sound like a Cassandra with hindsight. I don't think it can happen in Canada. But it will take courage, and calm, to prevent it.

How did it happen? It is obvious that the government, and certain police forces, were caught with their pants down. They were warned by the press and by the actions of the FLQ itself, that this was more than 'a little trouble in Quebec.'

They must have known that this was a body of warped men, and women, dedicated to the destruction of Canada. There was ample evidence of the violence perpetrated by similar groups of fanatics around the world. It demanded swift and drastic measures. Where were they?

Then, when the horse is gone, the barn door is locked. The War Emergencies Act is imposed. While a majority of Canadians, in my opinion, would support the government on this point, in the minds of many it has raised a fear, an uneasiness that is not dispelled by government platitudes.

This move was like declaring open season on anybody the police might suspect, or even dislike. Friends of mine who have lived in police states in Europe are particularly dismayed by it.

Incident. Three police cruisers drew up at the home of a widow with three teenage kids, on the Saturday morning the Act was imposed. Without a warrant, they searched the house for drugs, even examining all her plants to see whether she was growing pot. They took one of the boys to the police station and questioned him for three hours. She was distraught.

Trying times ahead? Yes. But chins up, chaps, both of them. You can't make an omelet without breaking eggs. The rats will scurry back to their holes. And let's hope nobody in power will draw to an inside straight.

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- In The Mail Bag -

Says Accident Pointed Need for Safety Belt

83 Jocelyn Cr. Dear Sir: In answer to 'Daughter Injured - Motorist Irate' and the writer's complaint about construction of No. 7 Highway. The question I might ask is "Are you complaining about the road conditions or your child's injury?"

As one of many who also uses this strip of road both in and out of town, I can sympathize wholeheartedly with the writer as to the conditions. I might also add that we who live alongside have also had to endure the dust storms created during the long hot summer weeks, which deposited sand inside and out.

However, as regards the injury to the child, let us put the blame where the blame lies, as the text of the letter seems to indicate. Any intelligent adult knows that a small child is completely helpless in a case like this (if that child is NOT wearing a safety belt), which must surely have been the case here. I dread to think the outcome had the writer been travelling at high speed on even a smooth surface and had the unfortunate chance to brake sharply. Does she realize what the consequences might have been.

It seems to me this accident could well have been prevented. Innocent people are being hurt, she says, by this construction company's incompetence. Don't you think it was the writer's carelessness. Let's have some legitimate complaints.

Elizabeth C. Dougal (Mrs.)

Against Fluoride Long Term Effects Not Known

128 Rexway Drive Dear Sir: May I express my opinion on the question of fluoridation of our public water supply. It is not a question to decide whether or not the addition of a fluoride prevents decay in teeth; whether or not all of us should be compelled to consume it, or whether or not the cost is too much, but rather to ask, "What is the long term effect upon our health?"

Some would say that fluorides have been added to water supplies for some years without apparent ill effects. A few years ago we said the same thing about the use of insecticides and herbicides. Too late we regret their use today. Far better to eat the apple, worm and all!

Fluorine in teeth can be prevented by other means such as a balanced diet (especially the control of sweets) and proper oral hygiene. Our youngsters are encouraged to eat far too many confections.

Fluorine is, after all, the most chemically active member of the halogen group. Bad enough to find it necessary to add chlorine as an antibiotic in our water supply. We have a good artesian supply of water here in Georgetown. Let us not pollute it with an active chemical the long term effect which is unknown to us. We certainly know the long term effect without it.

Percy West

Restore Valley? Here's My \$25

23 Heather Court, Dear Sir: It would be just lovely' as you said in your Editorial Comment of Nov 5, 1970 in The Georgetown Herald, to restore the river valley in the heart of the town.

And I promise a contribution of \$25, to such a plan.

That river valley is a natural that very few communities possess. It would indeed be wonderful to see the promise of beauty in its contours and trees revealed in its rightful state.

I hope there are a good many other folk who feel the same way about it. It would be a source of pleasure in our own time as well as developing a superb inheritance for those who come afterwards.

Yours very truly,
Flora Maindonald

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