



Bill Smiley

## ECHOES

1961

● Georgetown's Main Street will have a radical new look when improvements now in the final planning stage are completed by midsummer. A major change will be the moving of light standards to the centre of the street where small islands will be created. At the same time angle parking on the west side of the street will be eliminated. The street will be resurfaced and new sidewalks laid, with grades changed to eliminate the present high curbs on parts of the street. Between the poles, space will be provided for truck stops for unloading, but council eventually hopes for service roads behind all Main Street buildings to eliminate completely the problem of trucks stopping for deliveries.

1951

● Lack of American priority ratings for certain essential materials has caused the curtailment of operations in a Georgetown industry Triplett Instruments of Canada. The news was made public this week by the firm which is a subsidiary of an American company, Triplett Instrument Co., Bluffton, Ohio. The company has been located in Georgetown for the past five years. Last June, the present building on John Street was purchased from B. F. Murfin and the plant was moved from the Cordaro Building on Main Street. The company employed 24 during its peak production.

1941

● Word came through this week that the Lorne Scots Regiment has been authorized to mobilize, bringing to fulfillment the growing rumours of the past few months. The Lorne Scots have been drilling as a regiment of the Non-Permanent Active Militia since a year ago when Major J. R. Barber of Georgetown took command of the company working under Col. R. V. Conover, O.C. of Brampton. After a two week training period in August, battle dress was issued to the troops and it was felt only a matter of time until the call for active service would come. Details of the regiment's role in the war have not been announced. "A creditable number of the present members of the Lorne Scots have signified their intention of volunteering for active service", Major Barber told the Herald. Col. Conover was quoted in the Toronto Globe and Mail earlier this week as saying he believes general recruiting will be opened soon.

### School Project? Parents Beware!

Take my advice. When your kid comes home from school and says breezily, "Hi, dad. I have this project to do..." don't take the bait. Don't say a word beyond "Hrumph" as you flip your newspaper up for a shield, or better still, head for the bathroom and lock yourself in.

Never, ever, reply, "Well, what's it all about?" or "Is there anything I can do to help?" If you do, you'll discover, inevitably, that you have a project to do.

Projects are all the rage these days in education. Give a kid a project and he'll learn everything there is to know about the Persian Gulf, the origin of sandpaper, or the sex life of the blow-fly. He may never learn anything else in school, a strong possibility, but he'll always be an expert in one field.

For the rest of their lives, these kids will find some way, at cocktail parties or formal dinners, in casual conversation to drag in the Gulf, the sandpaper or the blow-fly.

Which is good. Most people know practically nothing about practically anything. Thus, they can easily be put down by a forthright statement like, "But that's what I've been saying. The whole thing is in direct contrast to the solemn, sedate, secretive sex life of the blow fly."

They simply can't field that one, if it's properly delivered. And you can always change your adjectives to suit the situation. It could be "The wild, exotic orgies of the blow-fly, which comes in heat only on leap years."

Actually, projects are nothing new, although some young teachers act as though Moses had just been up the mountain again and come down with a great stone tablet inscribed "Projects."

We had projects when I was a kid. I remember one in agriculture. I chose to build a model of a hen-house. Wisely, as I was perfectly aware, even at that tender age, that I couldn't nail two boards together without making a sandwich. And equally aware that my father was a master craftsman.

Even so, it took a lot of time. I had to spend about five evenings in his basement workshop, praising, admiring, and fetching cups of tea, before the job was done. It was a beautiful little hen-house, with windows and a swinging door. I got an A-plus.

Despite my experience of the whole fiasco of projects, I got myself hooked recently. Daughter Kim was home from university. "Dad, I have to do a project in anthropology. Sounds interesting."

Warily, ready to run, I asked what it was, fairly secure in my utter ignorance of the subject. It turned out to be a project on folklore, any area. I breathed easier. I was still swimming free.

She let out a little more line. Said she'd considered doing one on the legends of the Ottawa Valley lumbering days, with particular reference to my great-uncle, Mountain Jack Thompson, reckoned to be the

toughest lumberjack in the Valley, reputed to have killed four men in fist-and-boot fights. I got excited, nibbled the bait and began spinning yarns about Mountain Jack. She responded with the appropriate "Wow! That's really great, Dad."

Then it emerged that she had to go direct to human sources, not the printed word, and we realized there wasn't time to round up all the relatives and talk to them. Both downcast. Suddenly, under the influence of the excitement and too many coffees, I came up with a new project and tossed it at her, "The Curse of the Great Lakes!"

She raved. That was IT. She had been born and raised on their shores, and of course I knew all sorts of interesting old-timers, don't you, Dad? We

talked long and feverishly, and it looked better and better. I had swallowed the bait. All she had to do was set the hook.

Next morning the whole thing looked insane. But when I started to swim quietly away, I found I still had the hook in my mouth. And the line was taut.

Hundreds of miles and a couple of weeks later, we had talked to regional historians, commercial fishermen, light-keepers and lake captains. Kim had a stock of stories: ships sunk without trace, Indian legends, mysterious murderers and exotic anecdotes, like the pianos floating ashore at Duck Island.

Must admit I enjoyed every minute of it. Old friends were generous with time and invaluable with memories that reached far back into the 19th century.

But it's my last project. At least until my first grandchild sidles up and says, "Uh, Grand-dad, I have this project at school..."

### DID YOU KNOW?

The remains of mammoths that roamed Alaska thousands of years ago are so perfectly preserved in the ice that scientists can identify in their stomachs summer plants on which the huge animals last fed.

## THE DISTRICT AT A GLANCE

### 2,000 ON CAMPUS . . . .

GUELPH — Slightly more than 2,000 undergraduate students will be on the University of Guelph Campus for the spring term, university officials announced Friday. There is a significant increase in the number of freshmen scheduled to enrol in the bachelor of science program. At present time that total was 125. There are 300 freshmen students scheduled to enter the bachelor of arts program, also slightly up from last year.

### ROCKWOOD MILL RATE HELD

ROCKWOOD — Village councillors met in the town hall to plan their budget for 1971 last week with a result that should be satisfactory to village ratepayers. The mill rate is unchanged from last year's 21 mills. The population of the village is now 937. Of the 21 mills, five go to street lighting, five to garbage collection, and 11 to village roads and works.

### GO TO WORK ON ELMS . . . .

BRAMALEA — Chinguacousy Township has applied for its share of a make work grant announced by the province recently and expects to put 18 men to work this week clearing dead elm trees. It is expected the grant will give work to the men for about 11 weeks. The men employed are for the most part from the township welfare rolls with the rest hired from Canada Manpower. They will make \$3.17 an hour.

### PROTEST COUNTY SALARIES . . . .

MILTON — Milton councillors have decided to lodge a protest with Halton County Council which will include a few unkind remarks about the salary increases county councillors recently voted themselves. The county's levy on Milton this year is \$2,892, up \$16,333 over last year's levy.

### MIGHT PERMIT DEER HUNT . . . .

CHINGUACOUSY — Chinguacousy Township may have a deer hunting season this year if a recommendation from the administration committee is accepted by council. The request to consider having a three day season between November 1 and 3 came from the Dept. of Lands and Forests district office in Maple. The DLF letter mentioned the growing problem being created by swelling deer herds.

### TRACTOR CHASE INJURES OPP

ACTON — A district farmer jailed in Milton this week faces three charges and an Acton Opp constable will be off work with a leg injury, as a result of a wild tractor chase that started in Acton and ended on a township road two miles out of town. OPP Constable Roy Wood suffered severe leg cuts when hurled from the tractor after scuffling with the driver. The tractor went out of control spilling both passengers as it overturned in a field.

### MAY RENT FORGE . . . .

TERRA COTTA — Peel County engineer Robert Knight has been instructed by council's roads committee to work out an agreement on rent, maintenance, and repairs involved in an offer from an antique dealer to rent the old forge building at Terra Cotta. The forge building and surrounding property was bought by the county last year in preparation for road reconstruction through the village.

### DEER FALLS FROM SKY . . . .

CHELTHENHAM — Mrs. June Leigh of Cheltenham says she was shopping in downtown Orangeville Wednesday morning when a live deer "fell from the sky" as she was about to get into her car. The deer had to be shot by police. Shopkeepers speculate the deer wandered into Orangeville, mounted the roofs which slant almost to the ground at the back, panicked and dashed off the front of a roof on a three story building.

## EDITORIAL COMMENT

### Costly Government

The mounting cost of bureaucracy is in such high figures in senior governments that a taxpayer gets lost in figures he cannot understand.

So gigantic are fiascos like the Bonaventure, so steep the figures which federal and provincial governments amass for the increasing personnel, so heavy the payments for politicians' salaries and expense allowances, that we shrug them off as something beyond our comprehension.

But when it comes to a local question, with the millions reduced to thousands, the duties better defined, we can get our teeth into it and assess what we are getting for our tax dollar.

The Milton Champion pointed this out clearly in an editorial dealing with county council's adjustment of pay.

Thirteen of the fourteen council members, composed of reeves and deputy reeves from the county's seven municipalities, have been working on a fee schedule of \$30 per meeting, and \$30

per committee meeting, plus payment for certain boards on which they represent the county.

Payments last year varied from \$2500 down, depending on how many meetings an individual had attended. A total of \$19,548 was paid from the tax treasury for this — an average of \$1500 per member.

Council has now adopted a policy of a flat \$3000 yearly salary.

While some members will only have an increase of \$500, in total the salary bite from the tax treasury is exactly double — \$39,000.

Add to this a \$3500 increase to the warden, who now gets \$10,000 and Halton taxpayers will contribute \$23,000 more this year to their 14 elected representatives.

This, plus the fees these councillors also receive from their individual municipalities as members of local councils, which average in the \$1500 to \$2000 bracket.

### Full Time Jobs?

With salaries for elected politicians now amounting to \$100 or more weekly, it becomes obvious that a decision should be made whether we, as taxpayers, expect full time service. If so, then present payments are hardly adequate.

Perhaps we have reached the stage where municipal business cannot be handled by other than full time elected people. If this is the case, we cannot expect a man to suspend his normal employment for a five to six thousand a year job.

Perhaps the best solution is to give salaried employees much more authority in the day to day operation of municipal business, and have elected officials devote their time to major decision making. In the business world, a company board of directors take little part in a firm's routine operations. This is the re-

sponsibility of the manager and his assistants.

There is no reason this can't work in the municipal field.

Politicians will argue that a great deal of their time is spent on behind-the-scenes discussion with taxpayers, and at public functions for which they receive no pay.

These things go with a councillor's position. But if office personnel have the authority to solve minor problems, the public would soon adapt to the new system of contacting the municipal office instead of the individual councillor. As for public functions, an individual can use his own discretion as to which he will attend.

Whichever it's to be, the fish nor fowl system which has grown up in the past decade is highly unsatisfactory to public and elected officials alike.

### IN THE MAIL BAG

#### Agrees Charities Should Be Own Choice, Not Forced

31 Byron Street

To the Editor:  
I add my voice to that of contributor M. D. Burgoyne in last week's issue of the Georgetown Herald regarding county grants to charities.

I am not opposed to charities or being charitable, but I am opposed to anyone else determining what my contribution shall be or to whom it is made. It may be that county council in voting its warden a hefty raise in salary of \$3,500 can seek to justify their action as well in regards to the grants to charities.

It may surprise them to learn that many taxpayers in this county do not agree with them. It is about time that at least a vestige of desire to serve on the basis of public service rather than money be found in any future aspirants to seats on county council.

Along with this must be the realization that the individual taxpayer will make his own charitable donations as he sees fit.

Yours truly  
Ed A. Peters

#### Seeks Help to Assist North Indian Community

R. R. 2, Georgetown.  
This letter is addressed to all the people in Georgetown, who have any feeling in their hearts at all for "the other fellow."  
Some of you may have read an article in the Saturday, March 27th edition of the Toronto Daily Star written by Mr. George Gamester.

It is a very sad story, but a true one. There are three hundred Cree Indians living in an isolated area called Kasabonika, between Lake Superior and Hudson Bay.

Now you may be saying to yourself, this is all very interesting, but what is the point. The point is, "these people are hungry." They need food badly, also clothing. The government won't help them.  
I am asking all of you out

there to help. Collecting food and clothing is no big problem, but because Kasabonika is such an isolated area the rates for having anything air lifted in are high, fifteen cents per pound.

I want to do something about saving these people, but I am only one person. I need help. Your help.

If this country can fly food and supplies to Blafra, why then are three hundred of our own Canadians stuck in the middle of the bush with no one to help them or even care what happens to them.

I'm asking all the different women's clubs, and charity or-

ganizations here in town, to please get in touch with me, also anyone who has any ideas on how to help these people, and would like to work with me in trying.

If we don't do something, who will?

Yours truly,  
Gloria Warren  
(877-8169)

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NO. 6218 — A CLOSER LOOK

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**"GEORGE" ON CABLE**  
Two of Georgetown Little Theatre's Cable TV projects will be aired on Channel 5, April 15. Ron Hill and Mary Goebel will appear in "George", a one act play written by Ron Hill and adapted for TV. Also featured will be a pictorial tour of the group's rehearsal hall with commentary.

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