

Georgetown Herald

A Division of Home Newspapers Company, Limited
22 Main Street South, Georgetown, Ontario
WALTER C. BIEHN, Publisher

Page 2 GEORGETOWN HERALD, THURSDAY, MARCH 16, 1972

EDITORIAL COMMENT

Crippling Competition

Competition for the shopper's dollar is becoming so fierce today, that we wonder if the glamorous city plazas, and the old, established type of individual stores might not both be swamped someday.

Merchants in towns like Georgetown have a harder row to hoe today, with at least half a dozen such shopping centres within easy driving distance.

City plaza merchants, for their part, face almost crippling rents and must have enormous turnovers to reap a reasonable profit from their operation.

Saturday, we took a trip to one of the newer plazas to have a look.

We did little shopping, and it struck us that most of the people were doing the same. The walkways were crowded, the stores sparsely filled, and many had more clerks than customers. One large store was already on the way out, and although

the word bankrupt didn't appear, it was obvious that this was what had happened.

Sometimes we thank today's merchants are on two sides of a storm-battered ship. As shoppers are lured from the old-type stores, the small town operators find it hard sailing. But the business generated in plaza stores will never be enough to give a merchant the profit margin possible in the past.

As the boat rocks to and fro, one drops off on one side, one on the other.

Who will win?

We'll put our money still on the small town merchant, who has weathered the years of mail order catalogues, and proximity to city stores.

As long as he can provide at least equal value, with the personal attention which a big store can never give, his chances of survival are good.

Misguided Search

Little enough of Georgetown's history is recorded, so it seems doubly unfortunate that some that is has been removed from books at the public library.

Pages have been torn from Halton's Pages of the Past. Another book, compiled by a group of senior public school students last year, is gone completely.

We would judge that this is less an act of vandalism, than the work of eager beaver youngsters, intent on doing their best for a school history project.

At the Herald office, we always know when a historical essay has been assigned. We are bombarded for a time with youngsters asking if we have anything on Georgetown's history, and "any old pictures".

Teachers might be the unthinking abettors, for in their attempt to make history interesting and topical, they impose assignments which would be difficult for an adult, and almost impossible for a young student.

Perhaps the library might restore its slim store of history if teachers, particularly those who have had history assignments recently, were to urge the youngster to mail his material back to the library, with no questions asked.

And from now on, students and parents of future young students, might be well advised to start a historical scrapbook of clippings from the Herald. A good start would be to get copies of the history of the Barber family, which Cutting columnist Mary Biehn has featured in four recent columns.

And pictures, too, are available for the clipping, as the Herald from time to time, reproduces picture glimpses of the past.

We would also suggest that every school library should purchase a copy or two of the old Halton County Atlas reprint which, in time, will be more and more valuable in recalling bygone days.

Nothing's New

In our younger teenage days, a simple amusement was available by telephone.

A group would gather at someone's home, pick a number at random and start to work. What seems ridiculous to an adult mind was high comedy to us then.

One favourite was to ask the victim to check if a street light was on. Answered in the affirmative, the smart rejoinder was "Well, blow it out. I can't get to sleep".

Another was to pose as a phone tester, have the person step back three paces and say "hello", then six paces, then ten, with the final bon mot "What are you hollering for?"

We phoned ethnic restaurants, asking for weird sounding take-out orders. We had laundries looking for odd clothing.

Much of it was annoying, and if carried too far, could have led to trouble, but the novelty soon wore off, and we don't suppose anyone suffered too much.

We had our own back once.

In our city, there was a scandal, well reported in the press, when a couple of policemen were charged with filching some turkeys. Spotting a passing bobby, we hollered "turkey" out an upstairs window.

His chewing out of our father was followed with an equally irate session for us.

It all came back one recent evening when our phone rang and a youthful voice asked if Bob Wall was in.

"Sorry, you have the wrong number" we said, and the voice continued "Is Bill Wall in?"

"No" we answered.

"Well, have you any Walls there?"

"No."

"Well, how do you hold up your roof?"...ha-ha-ha.

Which proves there isn't really anything too new under the sun.



The District At A Glance

COMMUNITY SCHOOL REALITY BELFOUNTAIN—A community school for Belfountain became a reality last Thursday night when over 100 people turned up at a public meeting to elect a slate of officers to handle the administration of the school. Sally Schreiber, one of the officers, projected the school would serve about 500 people in adults, young people and senior citizens. The move to turn the school into a community oriented organization began in February.

ABANDONS PLANS FOR HIGH RISE MILTON—That 17 storey tower won't be rising in the centre of Milton after all. William Johnson, president of Dorel Investments, which proposed a \$2,000,000 store, office and apartment complex for the town's centre core announced last week he has abandoned the idea.

GEORGETOWN HERALD
Established 1865
Telephone 877-2201

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Single copy 15c
Mailed subscription \$7.50 yearly

A Division of
Thomson Newspapers Ltd.



BILL SMILEY

"Dirty" Players Get the Laurels

Watching our high school hockey team in action the other day, I could not refrain from brooding about how the game has changed.

If what I was watching was "sport", and "schoolboy" sport at that, I guess it's time I was put out to pasture.

Oh, it was exciting, all right. That is, if you like to watch teenage boys trying to tear each others' arms off with deliberate hooks, remove each others' teeth with high sticks, and smash each others' brains out against the boards.

Throw in some deliberate slashing, tripping, kneeling, butt-ending and a couple of fights, and you have the picture of young Canada playing its national game.

Admittedly, the game is faster and more furious than ever. But furious is a word that does not belong in sport, unless you think professional boxing is a sport, which it is not, in my opinion.

In vain do the coaches of high school teams tell their charges to play hard but clean. The kids have watched too much pro hockey, where most of the fans, like spectators in a Roman arena, want blood, and the pros oblige.

The only thing that redeems the spectacle — and it is a spectacle, not a game — is the fact that there are usually one or two players on each team who still believe in skill rather than violence and who use their heads for something besides butting.

These are the players who emerge as the team leaders, even though some of the "wild men" may have more natural ability. These are the players who almost never get a penalty, who walk away from a stupid fight rather than look for one, who put some spark into the team when it is behind. A pleasure to watch.

And then there are the others. Kids who are pleasant and well-mannered

off the ice, but go berserk the minute the first whistle blows.

One of them expressed his philosophy to me: "Yeh, Yer sposta drop yer stick when a fight starts, but yuh don't drop it till the other guy drops his." And, of course, if the other guy is following the same principle, there could be a stick-swinging match.

Put four feet of hardwood in the hands of two young hussies, let them start swinging their clubs, and you have a situation more deadly than many of the duels of history, fought with lethal weapons.

It's about as quick a way as any to wind up with a smashed nose, a permanent scar, a concussion, a skull fracture, or one eye.

In my opinion, a great deal of the blame for the situation lies with the referees. They seem to be brain-washed into letting anything go, short of chopping a head off with a stick. The game is faster and more "colourful" that way. And the colour is that of blood.

The goalie used to be protected by a sort of mutual consent. He was slower and more vulnerable because of his heavy padding. You took your shot, and if he stopped it, skated around him. Now, he comes out to stop a shot and is quite likely to get a mouthful of high stick. Result? The goalie starts playing dirty, to protect himself.

Maybe I'm just old-fashioned. But when I played team sports — football, hockey, baseball — there were one or two "dirty" players on each team. Caught in the act, they were penalized and ostracized.

Nowadays, you have to look hard to find one or two "clean" players on each team. And it's the "dirty" players who get the roars from the crowd. This is fact, and it's fact that is sobering, saddening and sickening.

In The Mail Bag

Berates Council for Hiring 'Out-of-Towners'

44 Maple Ave. W.
Georgetown, Ont.

Dear Sir,
It strikes me as very unjust that council would hire a fire chief from outside town, when I understand there are qualified men on the present volunteer department. Their reasoning in this matter seems unfair for a number of reasons: i.e. the professional and the volunteer wrote the same examination. Naturally the professional man would excel; this is the only means by which he makes his livelihood.
The volunteer man must be skilled in other fields in order to earn his living. The professional has attended fire college; he does not have to leave his employment to do so, but rather is being subsidized to attend. However, which is more important attendance at college or attendance at the scene of experience?
I understand the present volunteer fire chief has been a member of the department for over 30 years, thus dedicating more than one half his life to the people of the area. He has recently entered his fourth year as head of the department, elected to that position by the firefighters themselves.
He and the entire department have frequently been praised by Georgetown's

citizens. For over three years he has done this work well. Now less than two months after his re-election as fire chief, council states that since the position is to be a paid one, he is no longer satisfactory, but rather a stranger to town can do the job better!

This is absolutely unreasonable when the stranger has little knowledge of the geography of the town, the structure and the construction of its buildings.
As a volunteer, our present chief has sacrificed much time from his own work and pleasures. Council's action is hardly a just reward for these hours of dedication. He ought to have had the opportunity to continue as chief in the paid position.
It has been apparent in previous editions of The Herald, that our present chief has held positions in the Halton County Fire Prevention Bureau and the Halton County Mutual Aid Service, including chairman of both organizations. Does not this also prove his interest and dedication not only to the residents of Georgetown and Esquesing but also to those of the county?
Also during his term as chief, two new trucks were added to the fleet, drawing upon his knowledge and

Farm Editorial Property Value Now Easier to Establish

by Henry Stanley
Halton County Agr. Rep.

With the elimination of the Federal Estate Tax and the imposition of the Capital Gains Tax as of January 1, 1972, the farmer is faced with a tax which may not always be deferred until he dies. Thus, an understanding of Capital Gains or losses is desirable.

December 31, 1971 is V-Day for farm real estate and basic herds, the day on which their value must be established. Cottages, rental properties and mortgages have the same Valuation Day, with stocks to be valued as of December 22nd. There is no great urgency to establish the value now if you will not be disposing of your assets. However, it is much easier to do this now than it will be ten years from now.

Personal residences and one acre of land are exempt of capital gains when sold. As an alternative to this, a farmer may claim a \$1,000 annual deduction against his whole farm if this is to his advantage. Thus, when you are placing a value on your farm, separate out your house and one acre, valuing them separately to the remainder of the farm. You can then have a choice of either option when Capital Gains come into play.

To establish the fair market value of your farm as of December 31st, 1971; the following may be of value: photographs of your buildings and land, sales price obtained from the Registry Office of neighbouring farms of comparable size to yours, purchase price of farm, insurance coverage, soil classification, productivity, age of fruit trees, etc. Put down on paper as a record and file away in a safe place. If you feel that your farm value is difficult to establish, call in a "Certified Appraiser". A Statement of Opinion from a real estate agent, although less expensive, may be of little value.

If you have a basic herd, the December 31, 1971 fair market value of your livestock must be recorded. When selling the basic herd, the farmer must include as income any amount by which the sales price exceeds this value for the basic herd animals. April 30, 1972 is the final date for establishing or increasing a basic herd.

The valuation of machinery is only necessary if you are in a partnership, in order to determine the value of the common shares as of December 31, 1971. The value which the machinery would bring at an auction sale or the fair market value is to be used.

If fathers are thinking of selling the farm to the son, now is an excellent time, before Capital Gains can have much, if any, effect upon the farm. Be sure that the price is the fair market price. If not, gift tax could enter into the transaction. A person can give gifts of up to \$2,000 per year to anyone with a maximum of \$10,000 in any year. However, the donor must outlive the gift by 15 years or it would be brought back into his estate for gift tax purposes. Thus, some fathers may be reluctant to use gifting to assist the son to acquire the home farm. If this is so, I feel it is the wrong attitude. Gifts should be in cash, not in cattle or machinery. If the cash is used by the son to purchase ownership in the farm now, this will offset Capital Gains on that farm.

judgement for the purchase of these expensive and precise pieces of equipment. I realize that the Fire Committee includes members of the Esquesing Township council as well, so they must also take a portion of the blame for what I honestly believe to be a gross mistake and an unjust move. Once again council follows the seemingly traditional policy of hiring "out-of-towners" for major municipal positions. Another concerned taxpayer (Mrs. E.) N. Wiener

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BACK TO THE BARN

It's not just children who are hoping the white stuff stays around a while longer. These saddle horses are reluctant to go back indoors despite the coaxing of Christine Tartaglia.