



**FIRE HALL FUN**

Clambering over a fire truck was part of the fun for the 1st Georgetown Brownies, Wednesday May 2, when they toured the fire department. From left Christine Fudge, Diane Melton, Carolyn Booth, Donna Friesen, and Susie Baker listen as Brown Owl Marion Booth points out pieces of fire equipment.



**BILL SMILEY  
Summer Plans  
Often Go Afoul**

We're planning to go to England this summer. Last summer we planned to go to the Maritimes. Last winter we planned to go to Barbados. Two summers ago it was a trip across Canada. The plans are great but the performance is nil.

I'm not sure whose fault it is that the Smileys never get off the ground. I blame my wife. She hates getting ready for a trip. I sometimes think she deliberately broke her ankle last summer so she wouldn't have to get ready.

She, naturally, blames me, because I don't get everything laid on in time. She may have a point. I don't like super organization. I like to just take off and wind up wherever the fates take me, with as little baggage as possible. She likes to know where she's going to lay her head at night, and likes to have "something decent" to wear on every occasion that might present itself. That means three suitcases.

It also poses a big problem for this summer. I just know that when the Queen and Phil hear we're going to be in the U.K. there'll be an invitation of some sort waiting for us at the Dorchester or the Savoy or the Dirty Duck.

Trouble is, what sort of affair will she invite us to? If it's a lawn party, that means for my old lady a long summer dress, big hat, white gloves. And for me, a tough decision - whether to wear my white sport shirt or my blue one.

But what if it's for dinner at the Palace, as it probably will be? That's another kettle of fish and chips. It would mean a dinner dress and different shoes for the boss. I could manage a black tie over my white sport shirt and if it was extra formal, I'd pin my Canadian Spam medal to my shirt.

I can just hear the dinner conversation, a bit stilted and high-bred but sort of chummy. Rather like the Pope trying to draw out the parish priest.

The Queen. "How delightful of you and your charming wife to do us the honour of coming to dinner. Have you been to England before, Mr. uh Wiley?"

Me. "Yes, your Honour, uh, your Worship, uh, Queen. I fought for your old man in the last war. Guess you were just a kid."

Queen. "A kid? Really? Oh, yes I see. Your American slang is so refreshing. And you were one of those gallant lads from the dominions who fought for my father, King George the Sixth?"

Me. "Just a minute, Queen. That's no American accent. It's Canadian. And they told me his name was Mackenzie King, not whatever you said."

Queen. "How quaint. And you were decorated, I see. That must be a medal for outstanding valour struck to your, uh - I say, that is a striking, uh - shirt?"

The Duke. "It's a ruddy sport shirt, Elizabeth. They all wear them."

Me. "Oh, no, Queen. They gave these out with the rations. All you had to do was be conned into joining up."

The Queen. "Conned? Rations? Yes, of course. Now, I'd like you to have a wonderful time while you're here. It's lovely this time of year in Scotland. Right up at the top. As far as you can go."

Mr. "Matter of fact, Queen, we thought we'd stick around London a while and get better acquainted. Maybe me and Phil could do a couple of pub-

husband and I could do, please don't hesitate."

Me. "Well, let's see. You're the Queen of Canada. Right? Right. Well, look. There's this school board, see? I'm a teacher, y'know. If you'd just write them a nasty letter. Why, I've got one Grade 9 class with 38 in it. Just tell them to lay off persecuting me. Oh, yeah. And would you call our neighbours, the Dalrymples, and make sure they're watering our lawn?"

My Wife. (Silently and under the table. Kick. Kick. Kick.)

Anyway, Buckingham Palace won't be any problem. But what are we going to wear when we duck over to Northern Ireland to see Uncle Frank, who has asked us out in his fishing boat?

I think I'll have my wife dress in green, and I'll wear something in orange. At least one of us might survive.

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