

COMMERCIAL ARRIVAL

Hello To A Newcomer

It's always nice to welcome a new industry to a community. This week, we say Hello to William Neilson Ltd., which is moving into Halton Hills, in a former plant of General Fireproofing, located at the eastern entrance to the community of Georgetown.

The Neilson company is known as a good corporate citizen, and it prides itself on being a responsible member of the community. Neilson will be using the Georgetown location as a distribution centre. Initially, this means that manufacture of chocolate confections will not be

taking place. Instead, the plant will serve as a distribution point for the company's products, serving many thousands of outlets. But the acquisition is a big one. The plant acquired has huge floor capacity, extensive shipping facilities and is located on 40 acres of land in the community's industrial park.

There is plenty of room for expansion. And expansion would be as welcome as the arrival of the company itself. The new year has got off to an auspicious beginning.



Some of us got Books for Christmas This Year

BILL SMILEY

Cat And Mouse Game And He's The Mouse

This week I've been bathing it, and I just say that I miss my wife. It's not that I can't cook and wash dishes and make the bed and do all those other silly things that our poor wives have to do day after day, year after year. No, there's no problem there. It's the damned cats. They're driving me out of the remnants of what was once a fine mind.

I'd rather live with a herd of goats than with two cats. I've concluded. Take one elderly she-cat who has been spayed. She was quite content with life. She is beautiful and very, very distant except when she's hungry.

There isn't a bone in her body that is friendly. She just wants you to keep your distance, feed her well, and let her bask on a sunny stair-tread. In return, she will guarantee not to make a mess in the house. I had just begun to tolerate her, if not like her, after about six years.

TOM CAT
 Now, add a boisterous young tom cat. He's as agile as an orangutan, has an appetite like a polar bear, has the manners of a pig, and is sickeningly friendly. He has completely disrupted what was a fairly quiet, peaceful household. He is driving the old cat out of her nut. He follows her

around, licking and kissing her, until she spits, takes a swipe at him and makes him back off long enough for her to skedaddle to one of her hideouts. He looks hurt.

All you have to do is settle down with a newspaper and a cup of tea, and he's quite likely to come flying through the air, sending the paper one way and the tea the other, as he seeks solace for his yearning heart.

Given any encouragement whatever, he'll climb all over you, digging his claws into your shoulders because he doesn't know any better, smooching your face and neck in a wet, disgusting fashion before thumping himself down for a rest on your stomach or chest or any other part of you that suits his convenience.

CLAWING
 Two minutes later, he hears the old cat sneaking around, digs his claws into your knee and takes a flying leap, off to court her some more.

There's absolutely no sex involved. He just wants to be loved by a second mother, but she is a happy, childless widow, and wants to stay that way.

You can't even feed them together. She is a dainty eater. He eats like a wolf who has just broken a long fast. Put down two bowls. He gulps his while she is

sniffing hers, then shoulders her aside and gets into her grub, while she bats him ineffectually, then retreats in disgust to sulk under a bed. She is a bed sneaker-under, since he arrived. And if there's anything more difficult than getting a determined old cat out from under a bed, I'd like to see it.

UNDER BED
 The only way to do it is go under the bed after her, with a broom or mop. You wind her up, puffing, stuck under the bed, while she has darted off and is under one of the beds in one of the other rooms. She's as slippery as an eel and a heck of a lot more cunning.

Meanwhile, during the half our you chase the old cat, trying to grab any of her extremities so that you can throw her out, where she should have been long ago, his arrogant young ribs is having the run of the kitchen.

He's not a bed sneaker-under. He's a counter-walker. And a cupboard-door-opener. One leap and he's up on the kitchen counters, strolling, sniffing, licking. Don't leave the butter out. He'll down a quarter-pound, straight.

Give him three minutes alone and he's somehow opened the cupboard door below the sink and is gaily into the garbage.

He'll eat anything: baked potato skins, left-over soup, stale lettuce, fried eggs.

The only time I have seen him a bit nonplussed was on New Year's Day. Maybe he had a hangover. I was half-drowning in a chair, and watching him out of a corner of my eye, in case he took a flying leap and threw his arms around my neck to kiss me, which I abhor.

He'd caught a mouse, it seemed, though we've never had mice in this house. He would slam his paw on it, pick it up in his teeth, chew it, and swallow it. A tiny mouse.



Ours A Civilized Society?

It was one of those incidents that was almost incredible. Yet it occurred in our so-called civilized society here in North American. A couple in their 90s, living in poverty in Schenectady, New York, was found dead recently - evidently having frozen to death because they had not paid electricity bills of about \$250.

The couple had lived in their rundown cottage for 40 years. But because they were behind in their payments for a few months, the utility company cut off their electric power. This, in turn, caused the gas furnace that heated the house to stop operating. The two old people froze to death in temperatures of about 12 degrees above zero.

Who is to blame for this needless tragedy? Partly the utility company, of course. But essentially it is the impersonal, urbanized society which we have created, and in which many millions of us now

are forced to live. The crew that was ordered to cut off the electricity almost certainly had no idea that two helpless people were being condemned to death, a horrible death by freezing. It is all very well for a local person to say that the couple, Frank and Katherine Baker, had been fiercely independent.

The truth is that after 40 years in one home, they did not wish to leave. In a more normal, more humanistic society, a way would have been found to pay their outstanding electricity bill. As the Western world moves into a troubled 1974, perhaps it ought to take another look at the less affluent, traditional societies of Asia and Africa where human values differ. Can we call ours a Christian society when two old people are allowed to freeze to death in their house because they owe \$250 to a utility company?

Conservation Smallness

Don Wright, supervisor, publishing and information services, Ontario Hydro, has come up with his own answer to the energy crunch. He wants to produce smaller people.

Writing in the November-December issue of Hydro News, in his back page column of comment, he declares "we must start making smaller people."

He continues: "Firm government leadership is the first requisite. All biologists and genetic engineers should be called in and the national goal made clear - three-foot people by 2050, two feet by 3000..."

"Jonathan Swift had somewhat the same idea century or so ago, but his Lilliputians were only six inches high and had nothing to do with conservation. Quick slide rule calculations suggest that two feet is about the minimum if we are to tote around a brain big enough to cope with the

few problems which see likely to remain. The mind boggles at the advantages. Car pools with 25 people per vehicle. Houses the size of insulated beehives and each heated with four quarts of oil per year. Fifteen people sharing a tub-full of hot water...

"Granted, this is no short-term solution. We can't do much with the people we already have, but some measures may be feasible. French fries, cream puffs and chocolate eclairs could be banned immediately. We could also base our tax structure on waist measurements and impose stiff fines on people caught taking vitamins. This wouldn't shorten us up much, but at least we'd be able to crowd more people into a sub-way car."

Do you suppose he might be right? Would it, indeed, be easier to make people smaller, instead of the world bigger?

ECHOES FROM THE PAST

10 YEARS AGO
 Two Georgetown boys, Brian Beaumont and Richard Lavell, met the famous hockey Howes in Detroit when they visited that city for a novice hockey encounter. The two were billeted at the home of Mark and Marty Howe and met the famous father, Gordie.

Esquesung School Board filled a vacancy by appointing Russell Miller to the board. He was one of five prospective members, and was a past president of Stewarttown Home and School Association.

Despite opposition from Mayor Joseph Gibbons, 1964 centennial celebrations for Georgetown remained alive. Mayor Gibbons objected because a centennial celebration was held in 1827, and he favored a celebration in conjunction with Canada's centennial in 1967. Coun. Jim Emmerson said Georgetown was incorporated in 1864, but was settled in 1837.

Acton Chamber of Commerce's Twelfth Night bonfire was as big a spectacle as it was supposed to be, because the hundreds of discarded Christmas trees to be used as fuel were used as a trampoline by children.

Georgetown YM-YWCA readied plans for ski-schooning at the Kelso dam and 20 skiers were registered. Georgetown skier Francis Hulme was named as instructor.

20 YEARS AGO
 When a Glen Williams woman was unable to get to hospital in Brampton because of slippery roads, Reeve Stan Allen's home on Mill Road became an auxiliary hospital. Mr. and Mrs. Bert Ford were on their way to Brampton for the birth of their second child and found it impossible to return home or to climb the icy Ninth Line Hill. Dr. A. McAllister attended at the birth of a nine-pound boy.

Annual meeting of Ballinfad Hall was held and plans were begun to renovate the hall. Work was scheduled to start as soon as weather permitted. Lloyd Marshall acted as chairman for the meeting and Mrs. Tom Gibson was secretary.

Two new coroners were appointed to serve the northern part of Halton County. They were Dr. J. H. Chamberlain of Georgetown and Dr. Douglas Garber of Acton.

Mac Alexander was elected president of the Halton Jersey Club for 1954 at the club's annual meeting.

Mrs. Arthur Beaumont was elected president of the Ladies' Guild of St. Alban's Anglican Church. Retiring president was Mrs. H. F. Beaumont.

30 YEARS AGO
 Craig Reid was chosen as president of Georgetown Fall Fair Board, with W. J. Alexander serving as first vice-president and D. Charles as second vice-president. Treasurer's reports showed a surplus of close to \$100.

Two months of practice and rehearsal culminated in the opening of a four-act musical comedy in Acton Soup Stock. The production, with an all-local cast, was under the direction of R.R. Parker.

War theme continued to fill the fare of films shown at the Gregory Theatre in Georgetown. Night Plane to Chungking was followed by Salute To The Marines. For variety, there was a Bob Hope film. Let's Face It.

Pte. Bruce Harley wrote home to his parents in Georgetown, Mr. and Mrs. Dean Harley, about a trip he made to Mount Etna in Sicily, during his tenure with Canadian forces there. On the trip up the mountain, the truck carrying his party ran into a British vehicle.

New vehicle permits for 1944 were late in arriving, so in Ontario sale of the items was postponed to Jan. 21. Motorists had to present their 1943 plates for validation, and collection of a windshield sticker.

Meeting of the Terra Cotta Union of Farm Organizations and Federated Farm Women's Clubs met at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Wilfrid Leslie, and attendance was 50 persons. Band instrument numbers were provided by Ross Patch and Mrs. George Leslie gave a report about a UFO convention held in Toronto.

QUEEN'S PARK Ontario Financing On Disaster Course

BY DON O'HEARN
 Queen's Park Bureau Of The Herald

TORONTO Perhaps we just shouldn't let Bill Davis handle money.

Bob Nixon made a speech in Branford. And he brought out something most of us are unlikely to remember.

This is that in the fiscal year 1969-70 Ontario had a surplus of \$150 million. The next year there was a deficit of \$136 million. Then this rose to more than \$500 million.

And in the three years since that last wonderful surplus the total deficits have been \$1.6 billion.

The ball of wax, of course, the fact of life we are apt not to remember, is that the year was transferred from large surplus to large and growing deficit was the year Bill Davis took over from John Robarts.

It doesn't need a swami to foretell that the trend of our recent financing is a disaster course.

The cost of financing the present debt this year will be better than \$575 million or close to 10 percent of the total budget.

Let the pace increase continue and the cost of debt interest alone will grab as big a bite of the tax-payers pay cheque as not so long ago we used to grab to run the whole province.

MONEY FUNNY
 Apologists can give many explanations for this head-first sortie into debt. A favorite one is that we have



READER'S FORUM
Fighters From Acton Disturbed By Statements

Gentlemen, During the recent controversy concerning the Halton Hills fire chief there have been certain statements made by some members of council to the press, which we as firefighters find most disturbing. We feel that our views on these matters must be brought to your attention, and we trust given due consideration.

First on the subject of Chief Holmes: We are quite disturbed with the way our chief has been maligned. He applied for the job in good faith, it is a pity this faith was violated. The Acton Fire Department has long enjoyed a reputation as an efficient, well-trained and effective group of men, always willing to perform whatever action is required in firefighting as well as all other functions of the department. Mr. Holmes has headed this fire department for the last 13 1/2 years; we feel our record alone must say something about the qualifications of the man as a very capable

and competent leader. We feel it is unnecessary to carry on with this subject as anyone who cares to take the time can find the statistical proof of our record in public files.

Secondly: Acton firefighters have always enjoyed the faith, trust and co-operation of the citizens of Acton and district. It would be impossible to serve properly the community without this confidence. It now appears, from reported statements in the local press, that there are members of council who have absolutely no faith in volunteer firefighters; indeed one member was quoted as saying the "lives and property of the community would be endangered with a volunteer as chief of Halton Hills."

You can understand it would be impossible for us as a fire department consisting completely of volunteers to continue without the confidence of all members of council. Certainly if the "Town Fathers" do not have

Theatre Building Needed, Writer Calls For Action

SIR: From information published this week, concerning the so-called recreation complex, it is apparent that once again a decision has been made which will be regretted many times, particularly as the area population continues to grow, suitable tracts of land become scarcer and more expensive and building costs increase.

I say, once again. We had a similar opportunity to provide a theatre building when the last addition was made to the high school (coincidentally, also at a time when a regional authority was taking over). Decisions were made otherwise and, as a result, the present cafeteria is built.

This is a type of hall similar to that contemplated by the Georgetown council, but one which can accommodate significantly more people. There are several other halls of varying size in Georgetown and vicinity which can also provide this kind of facility.

Regarding the merits of the cafeteria as a theatre, it would be charitable to say only that it leaves something to be desired, visually, acoustically, functionally.

If a permanent theatre is not to be built, it would be

better to apply the funds to the swimming pool and provide at least a three-metre diving board. I would entreat those responsible, however, for administering this project to reconsider the cultural advantages of a proper theatre, the benefits to many in the community. It would be a comfortable, suitable place to see not only "Little Theatre" but to enjoy movies, concerts and various theatrical productions or simply to hold all kinds of meetings.

As I pointed out in an earlier letter to the former Council, there is no such theatre in Halton County north of Highway 5. With regional government now a fact, it may be a long time before we can get the ear of a governing body tuned to our particular needs.

I repeat my pleas, ladies and gentlemen (I hope there are many others who will speak up - NOT ANOTHER HALL! Please!

Ralph Urseel
 Georgetown

Too Many Fire Chiefs

SIR: I am writing in reference to an article in The Herald last week stating that Halton Hills council had decided to have three fire chiefs, two district and one over-all.

For a community that has held back industrial and housing growth, it puzzles me how a responsible council, or at least one that should be, could spend \$23,000 on two fire chiefs, and then say it will spend more to pay another.

Does council know the meaning of overhead expenses? But I guess since it is using tax monies it is not

too concerned. I wonder if anyone asked how many fires we have per year and if we do indeed need this many chiefs. I feel an explanation should be given to the taxpayers for this extraordinary expenditure.

Basil Kutter
 Georgetown

Higher Cost Of Food If Pesticides Banned

Food costs four to five times higher than those of today could result if modern pest control products were not employed to protect crop yields, deputy environment minister Everett Biggs says.

In an address to a symposium on pesticides, held in Toronto, Mr. Biggs cited estimates by Nobel prize winner, Dr. Norman Borlaug, and others that crop yields would drop to less than 50 per cent of present rates without pesticides.

"This would result in a jump in food costs of four to five times those of today. And what would the consumer get for five times the present food bills? All estimates indicate that the quality of the products available would be less than today's shopper is accustomed to," Mr. Biggs said.

Commenting on possible results of a complete moratorium on pesticide use, Mr. Biggs quoted Dr. Borlaug's statement that "if we leave things to Mother Nature's whims, we will harvest only one-third to one-half of the yield per unit of cultivated area that can be harvested using modern balanced technological practices."

Wage rates in Canada may rise 10 to 11 percent in 1974 - at least for union workers whose contracts will be negotiated during the year, says Roger Worth in The Financial Post.

This is a jump over recent advances and, if achieved, could provide extra momentum in salary increases generally. With a mighty push from inflation and an assist from high corporate earnings, labor leaders predict the upward trend in settlements will continue next year.

Manufacturers, on the other hand, say fallout from the energy crisis and severe material shortages in some industries will make bargaining difficult.

Although the 1974 negotiating calendar is lighter than it was in 1973, unions are getting tougher at the bargaining table in an attempt to achieve real income gains. An indication of this is average annual percentage wage increases in collective agreements covering more than 500 employees rose to 9.8 percent in the third quarter of 1973, up from the average 7.6 percent figure in 1972. (The figures are based on the total contract period.)

In Montreal, 16,000 municipal workers are shooting for wage increases of as much as 20 percent per year, a union spokesman says.

In Toronto, another 15,000 municipal workers are seeking more than a 12 percent annual increase;

MAKING USE OF THE SNOW



Horsepower replaces fuses in this ski-jumping scene in a Georgetown shopping centre parking lot. The spurt can be fun provided speeds are not too high, and the skier stays clear of obstacles. This skier also is wearing a safety helmet. Use plenty of rope, and stay off streets and highways, and never tow toboggans. (Herald Photo)