

## HYDRO LINES

### Let's Go Underground

The Solandt commission report, now in the hands of the provincial cabinet, could leave Halton Hills with two high-voltage transmission lines, a main one cutting east and west and a secondary one connecting with a generating station to the north.

The transmission lines have been the subject of much study. They have to go somewhere and no one really wants to have them. Interest is all part of the environmental concern.

It's distressing to think that Halton Hills will be crossed by two lines, but is the impact all that great? We think not.

As long as there are thousands upon thousands of unsightly wood poles lining streets and avenues through the town, all carrying transmission lines for electricity,

plus telephone lines, plus cable television conduit, what's the saving in beauty?

If we can campaign against long-distance transmission lines, then we can campaign, and probably with more success, against short-distance distribution lines. For technology today is up to the interment of service cables, and such services have been buried in many locales.

It is a victory for the environmentalists to have secured such detailed study and investigation of the Ontario Hydro Corporation transmission lines. Now, the battle should be carried further to persuade utilities everywhere to put pole-borne lines where they belong, underground with water and sewer services.

ONLY YOU AND I KNOW THAT'S A RUBBER DAGGER



THE IDES OF MARCH

BILL SMILEY

### It's His Second Trip To Take In Germany

Canadians, weary of winter, are taking advantage of the school winter break in ever-increasing numbers to get away from the true north, slung and freezing.

Colleagues casually mention that they're off to the Caribbean or Mexico or the Canary Islands or some such exotica. It's considered passe these days to go merely to Florida.

Students will be descending in throngs on places like Athens, Rome, Paris, O'CONNOR'S OTTAWA

Last week's gathering of the Tory faithful in Ottawa was the latest refinement of a fairly recent phenomenon in Canadian politics. It has only been during the last 10 years or so a little longer for the NDP that the parties have undertaken a concerted systematic attempt to involve the grass roots in the development of overall policy.

The last Liberal annual meeting presented several hundred resolutions. At the PC meeting last week, the 1500 riding representatives from across the country voted "yes", "no", or "undecided" on some 141 statements of policy.

This approach was part of a program started four years ago at a policy conference in Niagara Falls. The results will help the continuing process in our Caucus of developing party policy in almost every conceivable area of federal government jurisdiction. This program, along with the election of officers, constituted the serious raison d'être of the meeting.

However, no convention worth its salt is all business. There were also the usual assortment of social events, hoops and parties (some even involving the consumption of liquor!). Halton sent a full slate of five delegates and five alternates, all of whom worked and played hard. They told me they went to bed sometime during the three days, but when one must study, analyze and then vote on 141 policy resolutions, there is really little time to sleep, so they said.

Coincidentally with the meeting, the Ontario school break flooded Ottawa with waves of kids, including my own four daughters, aged two, four, seven and eight. Speaking of flooding, our two-year-old, Katie, managed to leave her mark in the Parliament Buildings, so to speak—actually on the green carpet in the foyer of the House of Commons. She then bolted for the main door of the House, which was in full session, just as Mr. Diefenbaker was coming out through it. She nearly left her mark on him also. However, the quick reaction and long arm of a security guard prevented a mishap. Mr. Diefenbaker very graciously chatted with the kids for a few minutes and gave them his autograph.

By Wednesday, delegates and family had returned home and I again turned my attention to fighting bureaucrats, Ottawa's endless winter and Grils.

If you have a problem, idea, comment, criticism or if you simply wish to get in touch with me, please stop by my Riding Office at 347 King Street, Oakville, or phone Fran Balnes at 877-6473.

London. Chief reason is that air travel is no longer for the rich only. Package deals and charter flights put a mid-winter break within reach of us ordinary Joes.

A friend of mine, for example, is going with his wife for a week in the Channel Islands, these tiny bits between England and France. Air fare is only \$209 each, return. And do you know what they're paying for a hotel room with bath, and three meals a day? Twenty-eight lousy pounds a week, because it's the off season. That is about 60 bucks. They couldn't stay home for much less.

Well, I'm not one for skulking off to the south and leaving other Canadians to suffer, I had a choice, or fly to Germany for a few days. Free. It's not that I don't respect and admire my father-in-law, but for some reason I chose Germany.

I hope I get a better reception than I did last time I visited that country. Last time I ventured into Germany was almost 30 years ago. There was a fairly large and assorted company in the group I travelled with: privates, corporals, sergeants and one Flying Officer—me.

We had no trouble getting into Germany, even though we had no passports. Perhaps it was the efficiency of our tour guides. There were eight of them, and they were extremely attentive. They would even accompany one when one had to relieve oneself.

The guides were tastefully arrayed in field-gray, and had similar accessories—guns.

I can't kick, however. I'll bet I was the only POW who rode across the German border on a bicycle. I couldn't walk because of a well-aimed kick on the kneecap, and they were sure as hell not going to carry me.

so they let me ride one of their bikes.

FIRST PLACE. I'll never forget the first place we stayed at, in Germany. It was my first taste of that old-world charm. It lacked a few of the amenities we accustomed to, but it had a quaintness all its own. It was a barn. There was nobody there but us chickens, the cattle, and the tour guides.

At that, it was practically cozy after a couple of weeks living in a box-car, in Holland. It was a mile chilly, being November, but we paired off and curled up in the hay, like so many sets of spoons. I drew a big, ugly Canadian private from St. Catharines with a bullet wound in his neck which stank a bit. But he was warm.

One of our next stops was the delightful old city of Brunswick, where we spent an enchanting three hours in the air raid shelter, during a raid. It was worth it. The German equivalent of Red Cross ladies gave us coffee, ersatz but hot, the first hot drink we'd had for days.

Some other highlights of my visit were: the interrogation centre and "solitary" near Frankfurt; rolling on a train through a night attack on Leipzig, windows shattering, flares and bombs falling; a look from a train at the appalling rubble of Hamburg; hitchhiking back from deep inside the Russian lines to Rostock; a visit to the concentration camp at Celle.

This visit couldn't be more interesting, but it should be more comfortable. I'm not going by bicycle, but by jet. And my kid brother, the Colonel, is over there. He didn't know enough to get out of the air force, and has nothing to look forward to but a big fat pension any day now. But he'd better have the band out, the red carpet laid on, or he's in deep trouble.

loked at just how money had been spent. And this has meant more meat.

BETTER DEAL! Among items uncovered, for example, have been some such as these: Loans were made to Ontario Place of \$2.1 million. Officials can't see any possibility of the corporation ever being able to repay them.

A new Agent General was appointed to London in April, 1972. The sum of \$7,000 was paid to relocate the former office holder in Toronto. Then he was given a further \$35,000 in consideration of his "loss of office."

## READER'S FORUM

### Rail Lines Are Needed

Sir: I have been following with a great deal of interest, the continuing discussion on the proposed abandonment of a portion of the Beeton subdivision.

With the present trend toward maximum rail usage, both freight and passenger, and giving full consideration to our present energy crisis, abandonments anywhere are

incomprehensible. When one realizes that there is a great deal of reconstruction of bridges on the north end of the Beeton subdivision, it is out of the question to seriously consider abandonment of another portion of that same subdivision.

I am amazed at some of the residents of Terra Cotta.

Where did they get the impression that train movements were a subject for "local option" similar to liquor outlets?

All residents of Canada have an interest in all rail lines, and only the Canadian Transport Commission can order how and when our railroads are to be used.

My personal opinion would be that every person, adjoining that particular right of way, purchased his property long after the railway was well established in its location.

The fact that the line has fallen into disuse in recent years casts shame on the CNR, but in no way opens up the property to "squatters rights" by the Ontario Rail Association, local residents, or any other group.

Jack Lennox  
Barrie

### Seat Belt Laws Endorsed By OSL

Fred H. Ellis, general manager of the Ontario Safety League, says the League applauds the recent endorsement of mandatory seat belt usage given in the Throne Speech at the opening of the new session at Queen's Park.

"Since July, 1972, the League has urged the Ontario Government to take such action," said Mr. Ellis.

"We are pleased that the Ministers of Health recently passed mandatory legislation and the government's stated position is most encouraging," he continued.

Much emphasis has been given the highly publicized reduction in fatalities in Australia since that country made seat belt use compulsory.

According to the Ontario Safety League, there are other advantages to be gained that have not been as yet widely publicized.

Dr. David C. Burke, medical director of a spinal injuries unit in a Melbourne hospital reports that during the two years after seat belt use became compulsory in

the state of Victoria, Australia, 27 per cent fewer patients were treated for spinal cord injuries than in the two years preceding their mandated use. He notes, in the Medical Journal of Australia, that the injuries of those treated during the later two-year period were generally less severe than those who were treated before the mandatory legislation.

In 1969 and 1970, his unit treated 60 patients. In 1971, the year belt laws went into effect, and 1972, his unit treated 42 patients. In the two years prior to the law, he treated 17 complete paraplegics. During the two "seat belt years," only five were treated.

"The percentage of known non-belt wearers with complete neurological lesions is 50 per cent, compared with 17 per cent for belt wearers," Dr. Burke reports.

"The apparent fall in the admission rate of car occupants (with spinal cord injuries) is therefore very suggestive of a real effect, as it occurred incidentally at a time of an increasing number of motor vehicles on the road, a fact which could reasonably be expected to increase the rate of car accidents, and therefore of injuries.

### Pipe Band Was Treated

Sir: I have never written a letter to your paper before, but I would like to say something about your wonderful girls pipe band.

It was my privilege to attend the band's performance at the High School on March 16.

The band and dancers put on a very good program. It was a very enjoyable afternoon.

The sad part is that so few people take an interest in this group. There were very few people there. The girls must have put in hours of practice.

It must be pretty discouraging to them. I think you have something to be proud of, so get behind them and let them know it.

I understand there is to be another one in the fall and hope to see more of you there.

Mrs. A. King  
Brampton

### Home Buyers

At Seminar He Needs Canada STOL But He Can't Get One

Sheridan College will present the annual Home Buyers Seminar in cooperation with the Oakville Real Estate Board, Saturday, March 30.

For a fee of \$2, participants will hear from four experts in the real estate field: Ted Rose, Oakville Real Estate Board; Ron Sanderson, Oakville Developments Ltd.; Jack E. MacKay, Mortgage Department, Canada Trust; and William Ferras of Holden, Ferras, Ford and Haesler, barristers and solicitors.

They will discuss the realtor's role, home construction and what to look for, financing real estate and the legalities of buying and selling real estate.

The seminar will be held at the Sheridan College Oakville Campus, Trafalgar Rd., in the cafeteria.

Persons may register at the door or by mail through the Sheridan College Community Services Division, Oakville Campus, Trafalgar Rd., Oakville.

### Bible Verse

"Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave whither thou goest." Ecclesiastes 9:10

The program of God is suffering from people who take the attitude that anything is good enough for His work...yet we want His best while giving Him the least

### Care, Or Nursing Home?

Brief mention was made at the annual meeting of the Georgetown hospital of the possibility of establishing a nursing home on hospital grounds. Certainly there must be many elderly people in the area, unable to fend completely for themselves, who might be reassured by the hope that such a home may be built.

At the moment we do not have the facilities we need to care for all those people who might take advantage of such a home. Thus, there are occasions when a person has spent weeks in the hospital, waiting for space to become available in Halton Manor.

That doesn't make good economic sense, for it costs somewhat less than a third of the amount to care for a person in a nursing home than it does to care for him in hospital. And at times, when the corridors are lined with patients, the hospital can ill afford such use of its beds.

Even when a person obtains a place at the Manor in Milton, he or she will find himself cut off to some extent from family and, especially, from friends. For the friends, pensioners themselves, often have no transportation available to make the trip down for a visit. The care at the Manor is very good. But it is an institution, and institutions can be lonely enough without our having to send people away from the community in which they have spent their lifetimes.

Some people rebel at the thought of going into any nursing home, wherever it may be situated. Sometimes, if circumstances force

them there, you can see a real, physical decline in persons who refuse or are unable to adjust themselves to their new and strange surroundings. Some eventually come to accept their situations; others, unfortunately, never do.

It was at the provincial government's urging that the hospital is considering establishing the nursing home. But governments sometimes have the feeling that the answer to any problem is to construct a building, to set up an institution. There are a lot of people who would rather stay in their own homes than go to a nursing home, if they could get the homemaking care and visits from a nurse which would make this possible. Some try hard to stretch their income now to pay for these services, and find that they can neither afford them nor qualify for the social assistance that might help them. Moreover, the province, which helps to support such services, restricts the length of time they may be provided in any one home.

So many people are forced reluctantly into the situation where they have no alternative but to go to a nursing home. The establishment of a nursing home in conjunction with the hospital is in the nature of an experimental program—there are only two other instances of it in the province. When they are considering it, the Hospital Board might also consider expanding the experiment, and press for changes in provincial policy which would allow more care for people at home.

At 62, Hamilton is an unlikely prairie prophet, but together with Ernie Robertson, the Institute's executive director, he forms a team, that, after initial neglect, is now being widely sought by various levels of government.

And, according to Hamilton, if the Institute succeeds in winning large-scale federal funding for further biomass experiments, the energy crisis may soon be a thing of the past.

one of 300 lawyers from Central Ontario who attended a special series of lectures about the legal problems of small businesses.

Following evensong at St. George's Anglican Church, two women were admitted to the Altar Guild. They were Mrs. Charles Renwick and Mrs. Jim Valentine.

Gray Coach Lines was offering a \$165 round trip fare to Toronto from Georgetown, so travellers could ride Canada's first subway.

Credit River rose five feet in two hours, through Glen Williams. Children attending St. Alban's Church were unable to gain access to the parish hall because of the water.

St. John Ambulance Brigade number 97 travelled by car to Fort York Army to take part in an inspection. More than 1,000 men and women were present, when the inspection was carried out by Princess Alice.

Cpl. Cook Fred Grace was back home after four years in England with the Lorne Scots. He expected to be stationed permanently in Canada.

Red Cross campaign for funds in Georgetown went \$1,600 over the objective. Acton and district was \$1,000 over target.

Mrs. James Standish was elected chairman for a meeting in Limehouse to consider a township school area.

Harold Stafford, a resident of Georgetown for less than two years was elected president of the local branch of the Canadian Legion. Herb Harlow was chosen first vice-president and Fred Gilmer was named second vice-president.

LAC Ernie Hyde was home in Georgetown for a few days' leave.

Georgetown lawyer George Hewson was

### Run On Farmyard Waste

Pig manure may hold the answer to the energy crisis. That, at any rate, is the view of Winnipeg's Fred Hamilton.

Vice-president of the recently-formed Biomass Energy Institute, Hamilton says "biomass pellets," produced from hog manure, straw and other farm "garbage," yields methane gas. In turn, the gas could be used to heat homes, office buildings and, possibly, to power automobiles.

### ECHOES FROM THE PAST

10 YEARS AGO. Georgetown Little Theatre won the L.C. Smith award for best visual presentation in the Western Ontario Regional Drama Festival, held at Simcoe. The trophy, which covered set design, costumes and makeup, was accepted by Lynne Hyde. The group's entry in the competition was Under The Sycamore Tree.

Georgetown council revoked a building permit for an apartment building on Raylawn Crescent, near Dungan Drive, after 50 nearby property owners claimed the unit would lower property values and increase school taxes. Council decided to have the town solicitors check the legality of the permit. Allan Trueman, spokesman for the residents, said the \$120,000 building, to be built by a Port Credit firm, would have four one-bedroom suites and 16 two-bedroom suites.

20 YEARS AGO. Georgetown tax rate for 1954 was set at 45 mills, a two-mill increase over the previous year. Mayor Jack Armstrong said council could be proud of a low increase in the face of burgeoning growth in the community.

Operator at the CNR station in Georgetown, Stan Wright was transferred to Oakville.

President of the Royal Winter Fair for a second year was S. G. Bennett of RR 1, Georgetown. Mr. Bennett was one of Canada's top breeders of Scotch shorthorns.

Jim Gordon of Limehouse, who spent two years in Germany with the 48th Highlanders, re-enlisted in the Canadian Army and was on his way to a new posting in Calgary.

Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Jones of Bournewood, Eng., joined the staff of the Terra Cotta Inn.

Georgetown lawyer George Hewson was

### QUEEN'S PARK

### More Bite Noted In Audit Report

by DON O'HEARN  
Queen's Park Bureau  
of The Herald

TORONTO—Our auditing approach, the new approach which is revealed in the Auditor's Report for March 31, 1973, which has just been released, apparently will follow a course midway between the biting and acridulous criticism of former federal auditor-general Maxwell Henderson and the marshmallow fudge...which over the years has been the traditional auditing outlook here.

In the old days the Ontario audit was a pretty ludicrous affair. There would be notes that the teachers supernumerary fund needed more money and that some department or other was using sloppy accounting methods.

But there was no Bonaventures, horses on payrolls or other tidbits such as we used to get from Ottawa.

But then the system was changed from a pre-audit to a post-audit, meaning that for the first time accountants

### Penalize Good Driver In No-Fault Program

No fault automobile insurance does not mean lower premiums, and it would probably favor poor drivers over good drivers, says Don McGhee, a past president of the Ontario Insurance Agents' and Brokers' Association.

Mr. McGhee says: "Both industry and government have a clear responsibility to avoid perpetuation of a vague promise that no-fault is synonymous with lower premiums. They do themselves and the public a disservice by vague promises that actually cannot be fulfilled."

He said that the present automobile insurance system in Ontario is the best in all of North America. "It is light years ahead of systems in most states of the U.S. and other Canadian provinces."

Speaking as an independent agent, Mr. McGhee said that his responsibility is clearly to find out what the public wants in its automobile insurance and then use his influence to see that the system will serve the needs of the public promptly and effectively.

He suggested that government and the insurance industry enact the no-fault concept for vehicle damage only. The right to sue the guilty party should be retained, he said, to look after innocent people who

become-injured or are killed in automobile accidents.

More than 70 per cent of disputed third-party claims concern themselves only with automobile damage," he said. "This should be kept in mind when considering any proposed system which would deny you the right to obtain a fair and equitable settlement for injuries or death to you and your family."

Oh coffee oh coffee, oh coffee I cry I've finished the jar and already I'm dry. Though drinking is sinful and smoking a curse The coffeeaholic believe me is worse.

From sunup to sunset wherever I roam I carry my coffee all over my home, A half a cup here and a half a cup there Poured cold down the drain or slopped on the chair.

Caffeine is a curse, and not healthy I cry And it's caffeine and not tears that I wipe from my eye. And when my time comes and I leave this old earth, I might have to return, for whatever that's worth. For neither in heaven nor in hell I am told Is a good cup of coffee either given or sold.

And while I'm off searching my gravestone I say If not for much coffee she wouldn't lie here today. Now there is a moral to this sad tale of woe If another coffeeaholic you know.

And it's rumored you make a great cup of brew There really are only two things you can do. Keep only small jars on hand if you're able Or else set a permanent place at your table.