

A \$1 shopping spree

What will 5¢ buy? Not much!

By Doris Lindsay
Staff Reporter

Remember those days when Mom gave you a nickel to spend on "anything you wanted"? It was like having a tiny piece of the universe clutched in your palm, with the future looking bright and, yes, much happier. Your opportunities were almost unlimited as to what that nickel could buy.

If you were one to spend money frivolously, that nickel would be spent on gum, potato chips, a chocolate bar or, even better, a mouth-watering chocolate-covered donut. On the other hand, if you were a thrifty, economical shopper thinking of purchasing necessities, one would buy a package of "Kleenex", shoe strings, or, for a fancy touch, a ribbon for the hair. One never had it so good.

However, those days are with us no more. Sure, the size of the five piece is the same. The Queen is still there. A nickel still equals five pennies.

But, consider how far those five cents will take you now. The basic value of a nickel today is almost limited to making change. You get a nickel back from a quarter after buying a chocolate bar. You get a nickel back from a quarter after buying chewing gum. You get a nickel back from a quarter after buying a pop-sicle.

The picture painted isn't bright or cheery, nor does it look hopeful for any further nickel-shopping sprees.

So there you are, holding five cents. In days gone by it could take as long as half-an-hour pondering, imagining, contemplating and planning just what you were to buy. Over the years the choices of items have been greatly reduced. So reduced they are facing near extinction.

To find out just exactly what

a nickel can now buy in Georgetown we went on a shopping spree...with one dollar. Oh sure, there are still things to be purchased with a nickel but they're few, far-between and not altogether the things a child's dreams are made of.

Sure a five cent stamp can still be purchased, however with one string attached. Don't plan on placing that stamp, by itself, on an envelope and hope it will reach its destination. That single five cent stamp will carry that envelope no further than from your hands to the postmasters.

Things are not all that bad. There are still some things you can buy for a nickel. Some things which almost everyone has dreamed of owning.

There is a choice which heightens matters even more. You have your choice of obtaining that once-in-a-lifetime dream: a three-eighths-inch nut or a quarter-inch nut. Those two little pieces of heaven can still be bought for a nickel. (each of course.)

However, things don't stop there. Other such treasures as a small, fibre washer (always needed one) or two-and-one-half curtain hooks (who needs three?) or one-and-a-quarter stove bolts (something your stove has been begging for) can still be bought for five cents. But wait, that pot at the end of the rainbow is not full quite yet.

Yes, a six-inch, eavestrough spike can be bought with that glamorous five cent piece. Next time you're dating your eavestrough and think it's time for a little pampering, that six-inch spike will woo even the most fussy eavestrough.

Let's not be pessimistic on this matter. Strolling into the nearest candy store, we discovered that for five cents eight jelly beans or three-and-a-half spearmint leaves can be bought. (This is for the more

choosy who insist on purchases made by the pound.) If the saleslady is of a kind, soft-hearted nature one might receive 10 jelly beans instead of eight or, better yet, five spearmint leaves instead of three-and-one-half.

Even one of the oldest forms of candy, the old-fashioned stick candy can no longer be bought with that five cent piece. This might come as a traumatic blow to many of the devoted, old-fashioned stick candy consumers.

No doubt one will reach sheer ecstasy upon finding that "Wacky Package Suckers", Altan's "Yummy Suckers", "Succos Pom-Poms" and "Dumkin Tatoos" can still be obtained with that tiny bit of heaven you hold.

This is not to say that little can be bought with a nickel. On the contrary, as pointed out, heaven is at your doorstep, your opportunities and choices are phenomenal. What more could you ask for a nickel?



FALL CO-ORDINATES. Paulette Power, an employee of Zellers, modelled fall fashions at the fashion shows which were held in the store Thursday, Friday and Saturday of last week.



BEDTIME FASHIONS. Dawn Boyd, daughter of Mrs. Sharon Boyd, an employee of Zellers in the Georgetown Market Plaza models the latest in bedtime wear at Zellers' fashion show last week.



WOMEN'S WORKSHOP. The Georgetown YMCA-YWCA held a women's workshop last week to celebrate women's place in the world today. Guest resource persons included (left to right) Jutta Pettingill, a registered nurse; columnist Joyce Beaton; Judy Robinson a foster mother of 20 children and Marilyn Milton 'Y' co-ordinator of the workshop. Betsy Cornwell, head librarian of the Halton Hills libraries attended the morning session.

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Police consider turning over jobs

A report to be issued, early next year by Halton Regional Police may result in the hiring of civilians to take over some of the minor police tasks that are not crime-related.

The study, for which the report will serve as a summary, is currently being done by Police Chief Ken Skerrett and Police Commissioner Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett.

The purpose of the study is to evaluate the calls handled by uniformed officers and to determine if any financial benefits could be derived from the hiring of civilian personnel to increase the number of hours available to handle crime-oriented police work.

At present first class constables receive \$15,501 annually. Training for police work begins at the Ontario Police College followed by various courses each dealing with specific aspects of police work.

According to Commissioner Barrett police are too well trained for some of the tasks they are doing.

Minor jobs such as parking meter patrol, school crossing protection, and routine retrieval of stolen property such as bicycles take up a large part of the constables' working time.

Part-time crossing guards have been used in Georgetown to aid children crossing the street for several years now. Area Superintendent Floyd Schwantz is one of the many interested in the results of the year-long study.

"There is no doubt that there are areas of police work that can be successfully handled by civilian personnel," explained the superintendent.

One important consideration made by Superintendent Schwantz was the fact that these supplementary service personnel must be available on a

24-hour-a-day basis just like a regular police officer.

Radar operation is also included in the list of "civilian trainable" jobs to assist police. "Any person with the proper amount of instruction can handle the radar cruisers," explained Commissioner Barrett.

"If a speeder knows that the radar unit will only operate 9 to 5 that is when he won't speed," furthered Superintendent Schwantz.

Retrieval of stolen bicycles is a time consuming task that requires no direct police action at the time of the pick-up and could easily be done by civilian

personnel authorized to do so.

The Halton force now employs one civilian for every eight uniformed officers.

Superintendent Schwantz sees the move as a good one. "It is a chance to put the man

back into police service."

More time and personnel would be made available for crime detection and prevention without expanding the police force at current police salaries, he added.

Regional centre up for grabs

Another battle over the location of the new regional headquarters is likely to take place October 15 when Halton regional councillors get their first opportunity to review a staff report outlining a number of proposals submitted by developers for possible sites.

Regional treasurer Don Farmer has reported that a draft report on possible locations has already been prepared by the staff and a final brief is now being written. Staff met with 11 developers during the past month to hear their proposals on the location of a new headquarters building for Halton.

Farmer noted that the meetings resulted in a wide range of proposals which council will be asked to consider. They include proposals for both land and lease purchases as well as construction of a building on a variety of sites. The report includes sites in Burlington, Oakville and Milton but will not recommend any one site to council.

Councillors have objected strongly to the fact that the special site committee headed by Mayor Tom Hill which has been heading

the search for the new site has not been included in the meetings.

Oakville Mayor Harry Barrett complained to regional council last week "Even Tom Hill doesn't know anything". He attacked the meetings with developers as "heavy-handed and highly improper."

Any meetings with developers should be conducted by elected representatives, he claimed, and the report presented to the administration committee before coming to council.

"When the site committee was struck, we agreed to look strictly at sites and would have nothing to do with developers."

"But the regional chairman has taken it upon himself to meet with developers. I find it unacceptable. We're supposed to have the best interests of the region at heart but it doesn't seem that way."

To that regional chairman Allan Masson replied bitterly, "That's a lot of hogwash. It doesn't matter who prepares the report, council has the final decision."

The manner in which the report is being prepared, he said, is simply to save the committee and council time.

Won't sell Reservoir

The price wasn't right for the town to immediately sell the 40-acre parcel of land known as the Reservoir Property to the Credit Valley Conservation Authority. However that doesn't mean negotiations on the development of that land are dead.

During a recent tour of the property by the general administration committee its members were so impressed by the natural beauty of the property that they decided that the land was too valuable to be sold for a nominal sum of \$1 to the CVCA.

Mayor Tom Hill, who represents Halton Hills on the CVCA, pointed out that the conservation authority may soon be willing to pay much more than a nominal sum for the land thanks to a 75 percent provincial grant for the acquisition of escarpment property.

"But they first want to finish their work on the east side of Highway 7," explained Mayor Hill, "before starting on the west side."

"They just finished purchasing almost all of the Eighth Line pretty well from Terra Coitsa down through the hollow and they don't want to get tied up with the east side yet."

The town's other representative on the authority Ernie Sykes, also commented, "There's pretty good reason to believe that they (the authority) will be interested in acquiring the property eventually."

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