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My town...story rubbed me wrong

By GERRY LANDSBOROUGH
Did you catch the "Georgetown story" in last week's Toronto Sunday Star? Well, I did and I didn't care for it.

My little town... I always kind of favored the words to that song. Georgetown is my little town - having moved back here recently to permanent residence and having been a rural member of the community for many years before that. Because Georgetown is "My little town" the whole article in the Star rubbed me the wrong way.

The story centered around the "differences" between the people of the old town as opposed to the so-called new. Differences - why do some people immediately look for differences instead of the many things we have in common, things that bind people together. Pointing out difference for the opening of anything is always a rub.

As far as old town, new town goes, show me anything - a town, a city, a corporation, a group - whatever - you always have the old and the new. Every city has its old core centre every group its old guard. Georgetown isn't any different. Sure we have an old guard community that shops Main Street but they also shop the Georgetown Market and I suppose if we agree with the article that the old shops Main Street and the new shops the Market then only Georgetown suburbanites (whatever they are) shop Moore Park.

Such nonsense. The article was quick to point out the

arrival of the first black family in Georgetown. Now there's a highlight. It could have mentioned Georgetown's contributions to the Little and Big NHL. It could have mentioned the whole little league hockey bit just about as old and as solid as the town itself.

It could have mentioned the artisans and the craftsmen who have flourished here and in the surrounding rural communities, it could have mentioned our parks, our schools, our community groups - instead we got to know when the first black family arrived and the fact that they married white. Ohhhhh.

This was followed by what I would term racial slurs: "black as the ace of spades," or "a fine to do when they all married white people." Well, frankly Scarlett I just don't give a damn.

Does that mean we are a "tolerant community"? I certainly hope not for that would suggest we were bigoted. At this point I'm glad I'm white and not black because the whole reference is somewhat sickening. As far as I'm concerned Georgetown is a town where race and creed don't matter because if they did, I wouldn't be here.

Georgetown is portrayed as a "bedroom community." Well, if taken properly that's not so bad. People keep their most valued treasures in the bedroom: the jewel box, important papers, favourite books. The bedroom is a private sanctuary where we all try to escape from the troubles of the world.

I guess as people we all try to escape from the troubles of the world.

I guess as people our most valued jewel is our children and those who have chosen to live in Georgetown but work elsewhere send their children to school in Georgetown. Georgetown has some very fine schools.

A place to live is chosen and if Georgetown is the "chosen bedroom community" I don't find that anything to be ashamed of rather just the opposite.

My grandfather used to rattle on about "drugstore looks". If you mentioned "Isn't she pretty?" he would immediately retaliate with "drugstore looks" quickly followed by "God only knows what lies under all that gook."

Well, when people talk about "looking for action" as a fellow reporter did in the article I'm reminded of "drugstore looks". The big cities have "action", they also have everything that goes with it and under it. Georgetown doesn't have a neon strip, no extra paint, no gook. It has what a pretty girl has before makeup a nature, soft, quite beauty.

No big city "action", and personally I wouldn't have it any other way.

The article also mentioned the McGibbon House and I'm sure that most residents feel as I do that the McGibbon even in its best day didn't represent Georgetown.

Well enough of what the article said, here's a bit of what it didn't say.

Georgetown as any town across this country of ours has more than its share of heroes but their's is a low profile just like the town. People who care - such as Walter Bliehn who kept this paper "family oriented" and the corner post of the community with the kind of a "fit to read". Marjorie Nazer the Georgetown librarian for years and years, a much loved and very talented lady and an artist in her own right. Rev Peter Barrow, a newcomer by old standards, but a man who has helped thousands through the Crisis Centre staffed by members of this community "who cares". Tom Hill, our mayor, loved by some, damned by others, but a definite member of this town who has helped a lot over the years. Space doesn't allow mentioning all who are deserving but it's enough to say that Georgetown has more than its share of caring conscientious people. People I'm proud to be associated with, good people, who are part and parcel of "my little town."

By the bye, at the rate we're growing we soon won't be a little town, but let's hope the lack of "drugstore looks" remains the same and Georgetown stays a quiet caring place. A good place to live in and a good place to grow up in.

Suggestion merits thought

Georgetown Little Theatre is facing relocation once the Halton board of education's decision to renovate Howard Wrigglesworth school is acted upon.

It comes at a time when serious consideration should be given by local politicians toward the construction of an adequate facility for staging productions, concerts and other cultural events.

Indeed, the GLT has proposed in co-operation with the Halton Hills Arts Council that just such action take place. If Halton Hills is to grow culturally to satisfy the existing need, and to provide a far greater exposure toward the arts for area residents, then a facility must be built.

With the closing of the Wrigglesworth auditorium, there is no place where organizations such as GLT can produce plays without resorting to a theatre in the round concept, a concept that some don't feel supports the real motive of the theatre. Recently a series of concerts by an internationally known musical group were held in a church sanctuary, again hardly a proper location for such an event.

The Georgetown Choral Society, another group with a highly recognized ability, also requires a facility which will hold more than

the small audiences that can seat in side a church sanctuary.

Building on the talents of Guelph native Edward Johnson, the Guelph Spring Festival has grown to an annual event of international significance utilizing the facilities of the University of Guelph. There is no reason why Halton Hills can't attempt to make a similar effort, but it will take forthright vision and action by today's leaders.

Work together, prevent crime

By H.H. GRAHAM
Commissioner
Ontario Provincial Police

The national theme for Police Week this year is "Working Together to Prevent Crime."

There are three major objectives shared by all law enforcement agencies: to keep the peace; the prevention of crime; and the detection and apprehension of criminals.

Each is an integral part of the law enforcement objective, requiring a delicate balance acceptable to the social climate. Any imbalance in these goals has an immediate effect on the concerns of the police and the public.

It is imperative that the citizens we serve have a greater understanding of our role and their share of responsibility for maintaining a safe and healthy community in which we live.

To further this goal, I extend a personal invitation to everyone to visit any of our 189 detachments during Police Week.

Members of the Force will be on hand to discuss these matters in an informal atmosphere.

Milton OPP detachment is located at the intersection of Steeles Avenue and Highway 25.

FUNNSIDE



"Want to nab a fugitive?"

Russian revolution? It moved to Sudbury

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

The Russian revolution isn't over. It has just moved to Sudbury.

One afternoon the speaker system from the house of the Ontario legislature was carrying a crescendo of shouts and snarls.

Being in the middle of a piece of work, and this being not all that unusual, I didn't go into the house at the time.

But later checking it out in Hansard a first suspicion was confirmed.

The Sudbury troupe was on the loose.

The Nickel City area has three members here - Bud Germa, a former miner, from Sudbury itself, Floyd Laughren, a former economics instructor at a community college, from Nickel Belt, and Elie Martel, a former school teacher, from Sudbury East.

Out of the spotlight they are quite pleasant, companionable men.

But once they are in the arena they are as wily as a fox as perhaps we have ever had around here.

Straight from the wrong side of the tracks in old czarist St. Petersburg.

And the day in question they were winging it.

HATE TALK

There were two private members' bills before the house. One, a New Democratic Party measure to increase Workmen's Compensation payments. The second, a Progressive Conservative member's proposal to raise the retirement age from 65 to 70.

The NDP three, of course, supported the WCB bill. And supported it bitterly.

At one point Germa expressed their feelings:

"Why do you hate working class people?" he shouted.

They were against the retirement bill, presumably because organized labor mostly is against older retirement. But the three somehow or other managed to construe it as a sly move to avoid paying pensions.

A Liberal, David Peterson, a quite successful young businessman from London supported it.

Which drew from Martel this:

"Don't tell us about working. You were born with a golden spoon in your mouth."

And "I want to tell you a good day's work would kill you."

Germa, in another member: "Did you ever do a day's work?"

Laughren, to a PC member who said the work force would decrease: "Given what you are doing to the economy you are right."

Then David Warner, another NDP member, in the Sudbury spirit when Peterson declared the socialists never said where all the money they wanted to redistribute would come from: "We'll take it out of your pocket."

WHO'S A WORKER?

In these days when one man drives a Cadillac and another a Pinto probably some jealous resentments are logically to be expected.

But there is one question of social bogies which must cause the Sudbury three some pause, if not actual thought.

Just what is the "working class" today?

Refrigeration engineers, for example, have just signed a new contract which can bring them in earnings of \$30,000 a year.

They can afford Cadillacs. So are they still "working class"?

It was much easier in the St. Petersburg days of the revolution when there was sharp line of palaces and peasants.



Metric speed limits? Who cares?

You can relax if you're one of those people who thought the highway metrification program might create accident situations by confusing drivers, according to Professor Michael Matthews, department of psychology, University of Guelph. Roadside observations directed by Prof. Matthews indicate that most drivers do not appear to worry about "thinking metric" because they typically ignore speed limit signs.

Prof. Matthews reports that people tend to drive at a speed they find comfortable, regardless of the law, and 80 per cent of all drivers seem to prefer a speed which exceeds the legal limit. Twenty per cent drive more than 10 miles per hour above the speed limit. These observations hold true for the four types of highways surveyed by the research team: a four lane major expressway, a four lane rural highway, an urban highway, and a two lane city street.

On the day following metrification, the University of Guelph research team noted a significant decrease in mean speed and an increase in the variability of speeds. Within a week, however, traffic was again travelling at the normal pre-metrification speed. Nor has there been any evidence to suggest that some drivers are misreading the kilometre-hour

signs in terms of a direct mile-hour equivalent.

While Prof. Matthews' survey quiets the fear that metrification might affect highway safety, it raises some interesting questions concerning metrification and speed limit enforcement. On some highways metrification has resulted in a slight increase or decrease in the legal speed limit, but there has been no corresponding change in the mean speed of traffic using these highways.

The proportion of drivers violating the speed limit is therefore greater on highways where there has been a reduction in the legal limit and smaller on highways where the legal limit has been increased. Drivers' failure to respond to these changes is further evidence that the regulation of speed while driving is more than just a simple matter of responding to posted speed limits.

The metrification survey is just part of an ongoing program of studies, conducted by Prof. Matthews and Prof. L. Cousins, also of the University of Guelph's psychology department. The overall objective of the program is a better understanding of the relationship between the perception of speed and driving performance. Previous studies have indicated that drivers seem to main

tain speed on the basis of motion and other cues from the environment rather than by repeated reference to the speedometer and posted speed limits.

The strongest of these environmental cues, says Prof. Matthews, are noise and peripheral vision, both of which are directly related to the size of the automobile. People who drive large cars do not experience as much roughness in ride and road or engine noise as do small car drivers. Because the driver of a large car sits farther from the windshield and has a longer hood out in front, his peripheral vision is also reduced, says the University of Guelph researcher. He cites the 40 as an example when the average large car speed is four to five miles per hour faster than the average for small cars.

Prof. Matthews' conclusions are based on studies which asked both large and small car drivers to duplicate a set speed without benefit of a speedometer. Drivers of small cars were more accurate than drivers of large car throughout the entire speed range but were more susceptible to the disruption of auditory information when they were asked to wear ear plugs.

Saturday Wynfield Farm on 17 Sideroad, two hundred horses were traded in the largest annual horse auction in Eastern Canada. At one in the afternoon, auctioneer Ray Forswell of Kitchener and Wynfield farm owner, Roy Ionsen, started the sale, and the final "sold" rang out at ten at night. The horses, 92 of which were registered quarter horses, were watched by a thousand spectators throughout the day.

Opinion polls and reactions they cause

By STEWART MacLEOD
Ottawa Bureau
Of The Herald

The best thing about public opinion polls - apart from delaying elections, advancing elections or cancelling elections - is the reaction they elicit from their victims. Actually, in this respect, they make a great contribution to Canadian civility.

Representatives of parties which slip in the polls are forced to say something - politicians always do say something - but it isn't easy to come up with a gregarious reaction in such circumstances. Both the Liberals and New Democrats are witness to this at the moment.

The latest polls came as a shock to both parties - actually, they shocked the Tories, too, but in a more agreeable manner - and it was difficult for party spokesmen to wrap their vocal chords around the precise words

they were searching for. After all, what's a good Liberal supposed to say when the party's popularity drops by four percentage points, while the Tories rise by seven percentage points to create a first-place tie. And what's a good New Democrat supposed to say when popular support, which stood at 17 per cent a month earlier, crashes down to 14 per cent?

GRIN REVEALING

It's easy for Tory Leader Joe Clark. He just grins like a deputy minister who has been named civil-servant-of-the-year, and announces that "I never comment on public opinion polls." Actually, he practiced this line last year when his party trailed the Liberals by 24 percentage points. It was just the grin that differed.

In those days, Senator Keith Davy, the chief Liberal campaign organizer, was a first-rate grimace. He looked like the host

of an afternoon quiz program, just taking time out to chat about the inherent wisdom of Canadians before handing out the prize money. He seemed to be humming a lot.

Who would have thought that 10 months later the polls would indicate the probability of a Conservative government? Nobody thought beyond a Liberal majority.

"I am puzzled," said an NDP official. "It doesn't jibe with what I've been hearing."

In the circumstances, that's not a bad response. Since no one can publicly acknowledge that his party is skidding, you can't do much better than express puzzlement. And this official cleverly dropped a hint that there is better news to be heard.

Incidentally, worth noting is that there hasn't been a single instance since Confederation when a party's official expressed puzzlement over his party's increased popularity. In fact it would appear that nothing could be

less puzzling.

ALL HAWKS

Just after the latest polls came out, I ran into Lloyd Francis, the Liberal MP from Ottawa West, who was generally acknowledged to have his fill even without the latest revelations from Dr. Gallup. I asked what he thought about an early election now.

"In that respect I tend to be a hawk," he replied. And even though he didn't look particularly hawkish, I thought that was another good response under the circumstances. Anything less would be admitting fear of defeat.

A few minutes later I met a real Liberal hawk. "I really hope Trudeau calls an election right away," he said. "My seat is safe and I wouldn't mind a session in opposition."

Wisely, he asked not to be identified. Meanwhile, back at Liberal headquarters

Senator Davy was still pondering the latest poll results. He couldn't express puzzlement because it wouldn't be good for the country to have Liberals and New Democrats puzzled at the same time. So he did the next best thing: He said the polls indicated that the electorate was "highly volatile."

It's funny how volatile voters always seem to drift toward other parties. Only the steady ones come back.

In this case, the volatile voters seem to have drifted toward the undecideds and they now form a remarkable 39 per cent. Now if these voters would just form an Undecided Party and get themselves an acceptable leader they would win the next election hands down. Then all those puzzled hawks would talk about

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