

WEDNESDAY, MAY 21, 1978

A Division of Canadian Newspapers Company Limited

103 Main St. South, Georgetown, L7G 3E5, Ontario

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Second Class Mail Registered Number 2043

Apology is due

By BOB RUTTER Herald Editor

Each of us sometime or other wants to curl up in a corner and die. A week ago Sunday was my turn.

For those of you out there who missed it, the Toronto Sunday Star published a look at a small community in Ontario called Georgetown. Most residents have assessed the story as driven, at the very least it failed miserably in its intent.

It was all part of the Sunday Star's bid for increased circulation in the outlying districts from metro, and you will note that I am saying Sunday Star rather than Daily Star because of the apparent rift between publishers.

I unfortunately the story failed to balance its approach toward the community. I hesitated to place any blame for the final product, but the use of the phrase final product, because during discussions with myself and the reporter George Evastuk, Star reporter

Ferry Belford was informed of the volunteer nature of the community, the high profile of sports was mentioned and other positive characteristics of the community were commented upon.

Whether they formed part of the story or some editor managed to blue pencil the article into its final form is a question only the Star can answer, but much of the criticism directed at reporter Belford may be without justification.

There were, however, a couple of errors in the story. The McGibbon Hotel is not owned by Isaac Sitzer Investments of Toronto, says owner Larry Gladman. And I have never sat with my back against the wall when I have frequented the establishment.

I might add just for the record that on the Saturday prior to the publication of the Sunday Star article, I was in the hotel.

Nothing was mentioned about the volunteer ambulance service, one of the best in Ontario, nor was there any note about the high calibre of sports celebrities from this area who have gained national recognition in such areas as wrestling, hockey and figure skating.

It is indeed unfortunate that references were made toward the Shepherds. Unfair and unfair is all I can say. There has been a policy among newspapers not to mention the racial background of persons entering the public realm because generally it has little to do with the news value of the individual.

There is also the question of whether the restoration of the material about the Shepherd family is in the public interest in the manner in which it was presented.

I can't help but feel that there was more in the story than was told because of the remarks by a Star photographer as we waited for everyone to appear for the photograph. Joan Cules, editor of the Independent, and Joan Butterfield, were not mentioned in the article although the reporter spoke with them and the photographer was fully aware of their place within the story.

Putting all this together it would appear that a disservice has been done to this community and while an apology is due to Georgetown, the Star should be prepared to apologize to the Shepherd family for the negative approach the story took in disrupting their lives.

FUNNYSIDE



Bible digest

But ye shall first that kingdom of God... (Matthew 6:33)

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ALTERNATE ENERGY FORMS

Seeking new bounds

By DON WILLIAMSON

With the depletion of the world's supply of oil, the search for alternate energy sources is becoming a top priority for many governments. In Canada, the search for alternate energy sources is becoming a top priority for many governments. In Canada, the search for alternate energy sources is becoming a top priority for many governments.

months in the year when there is not enough solar radiation to provide appreciable heat. But then in Canada, it has never been realized that solar energy will take over all heating requirements. Even Southern Ontario is a hot area. At the Newey Desert in California, solar technology moves far ahead of today's solar technology. Our current conventional heat sources will be required as well. However, a very well insulated home can provide adequate heat.

Most practical systems convert solar radiation into low grade heat. That is, temp. water below the boiling point of water and designed for heating space, hot water or swimming pools. Proof that solar radiation is a practical solution is the fact that over 2 million homes in Japan and 220,000 homes in France incorporate solar devices, mainly for water heating.

There are various types of low grade collectors, but the commonest, most practical and least costly is the flat plate collector. It basically consists of an insulated, flat blackened absorptive surface and pipes or channels through which flows air or water. Collectors can be mounted on a roof or rack, facing south and inclined at an angle.

Anti-freeze solution or air is used to transport the heat up heat in the collector to the storage tank and then to the heating circuit for the home or water supply. Most space heating is required when the sun is not shining. Storage of heat is therefore vital. Collected solar heat is stored in either water or rocks. The choice really depends on the transport medium. If water is used to transfer the heat, it is usually the storage medium. Rocks (or small stones) are normally used with an air transfer system.

A solar heat distribution system should be compatible with the existing heating system in the house or in a new house with the back-up conventional system chosen, be it natural gas, electricity or oil fired forced air.

At the present time solar heating equipment is still new to the market and there is no extensive history of operating experience which proves a system will not have reliability performance problems. Systems can cost anywhere between \$1,000 and \$50,000, depending on complexity but with each increase in conventional fuel costs, the pay-off time becomes shorter.

The market is growing, not only in single family expensive homes but also with low-cost multi-family units. Considerable impetus is coming from the National Research Council which has set up a special section devoted to solar energy projects and which has a budget of \$9 million for 1978. It is still a long step before solar energy becomes a major component of the total energy field. However, in the United States, it is estimated that by the year 2000, solar energy will represent 25 per cent of the total supply. Given differences in climate and natural resources, there is no reason to doubt Canada's ability to approach that level as well in time for the 21st century.

Mr. Williamson, an Acton resident, is a staff member of the Halton Hills Conservation Centre, Guelph Street, Georgetown.

Born to serve

By Sylvia Vincent Fifty-year-old Mrs. Catherine... (text continues)

Twenty-five candles for the year of her birth. The two marks the years of her reign. Who would have thought a shy little princess could become such a radiant queen?

Take a closer look at Grandmother's new Dedication Book on her face. Born of the years devoted to a Throne. She truly accepted with grace.

Now that this birthday is high passing by. May we offer our Sovereign praise. For a job that's lonely, difficult too. Kind thoughts should be with her always.

A mother is...

A "little gremlin" got loose in our computer machine last week, so here is the corrected version.

By Sylvia Vincent A mother tree and baby tree. Growing steadily side by side. The sapling sheltered from all storms. By mother's branches spread with pride.

Then comes the time for trees to part. For should their roots together knot. Thus firmly held by mother's grip. The younger tree would surely rot.

Now mother's love will guide and guard. Though unlike tree she must not hold. For if she lets her child go free. The child will always love the fold.

True mother's love in essence is. Giving of life no way possessed. Helping her young to find their way. Thus knowing joy, their love expressed.



A little of this, a little of that

By GERRY LANDSBOROUGH

It's time to embark once again with politeness, tongue-in-cheek, trip round this wonderful, wacky world we live upon.

First we're off to Lamer, N.C. where 11-year-old Doug Pritchard was plagued day and night with aching feet. Poor boy, imagine his surprise when doctors found a tooth growing in his left foot. The tooth, full grown with roots, was unable to take a "big bite" out of the family shoe budget so it had to be removed. The doctor who removed this rare case of genetic misdirection wanted to keep it as a souvenir but Doug wanted it too after all one tooth in the hand is worth two in the foot any old day. Right Doug.

Away to Springwood, Florida, where you have to keep a close eye on what Granite Melton rashes up for dinner. A favourite of 11-year-old Margaret Melton is "grits, gravy and fried rattlesnake". She said with a grin. "Sometimes I tell em and sometimes I don't."

An ecologist long before it became the rage Granite Melton hunts on croaks, em and rats, em. The hide is made into belts, and bands, the meat into the main course and the bones into jewelry. Granite Melton has skinned and cooked some 600 rattles in her day.

Off to Dallas, Texas, where Lawrence McLennan was arraigned on a marijuana charge. He left the Dall County criminal court room not half as happy as his T-shirt led one to believe.

It said according to Judge Robert Stinson "I'm so happy here I could just decorate." His honor said the T-shirt used a common four letter word to describe the father.

Judge Stinson felt the T-shirt was not in keeping with the proper decorum for a courtroom. He told Mr. McLennan that in no uncertain terms followed by "I'm going to provide you with a mighty fine place to be happy, you're going to the county jail where there's plenty of plumbing to meet your needs."

New York, New York, now where we learn of the trauma of being a canine alcoholic. Dr. Daniel Tudora charges \$4 per

hour to cure Eli or Doozie of neuroses.

Take the case of the rhinoceros who lapped up Grasshoppers and Jerome de Menthe until he developed a "real" problem. The owner though it was quite funny until an alcoholic friend parked himself at the family bar and barked incessantly for another round.

The good doctor dried him out and administered Emetine. The combination of Emetine and alcohol cause severe vomiting and after a few miserable drinking bouts the dog quit. And I'm sure he was a much better dog but it is by the by when a dog hits rock bottom, what do you say? Oh, poor Eli, she's really gone to the humans."

Off to Cleveland, Ohio, where a would-be hold up man was having more than just another off day. The robber boarded a city bus, pulled out a gun and declared "This is a stick up." At the end of the passengers including the bus driver were taken. The gunman got angry and fired a shot at the back of the bus. He was still angry so he proceeded to hit a passenger on the head. The gun apparently couldn't take the shock, it fell apart and the cylinder fell out and clattered off down the aisle. The robber couldn't take anymore so he ran off the bus. The police are looking for him.

Lack of leadership?

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

If you happen to have some dollars today which are to you down the family tree there is, at least according to the popular lore, quite some chance that your grandfather, or at least your great grandfather, was a horse thief.

There's, of course, no stigma, no blush of shame with this. There probably is a bit of pride. There's nothing like a good race for the antecedents to make us feel in the all American, or all-Canadian, establish-

ment. With politics, however, the sins of the fathers can have a bit of a different complexion.

Not that the Tory government of today suffers when it has been from a baseball park even though that greatest Tory of them all, Sir John A., was one of the great tapers of them all.

But when you go into more recent matters things can ring differently. Just as probably if your father had been a horse thief it might muddle up your director's suit a bit. Just too close.

ALL TALK This was with mixed feelings the other day that one digested a proud speech by Ontario Premier William Davis on Research and Development.

Research and Development is a common topic on the platforms of today, and it is generally recognized that we need a great deal more of it, that lack of it is one of the great weaknesses of our economic position, both currently and looking to the future.

The premier, of course, paid testimony to this, perhaps rather proudly. But aside from praising those industries which were advancing research he didn't have anything to say about what was to be done about it, and particularly what his government might do.

SOLEAD Which takes us back nearly a couple of decades. During the 1950s the government in Ontario paid considerable attention to research and made fairly hefty contributions to it, considering the size of its budgets (under a billion dollars, compared to some \$15 billion today).

Then in 1959, the Great White Father, as Premier Leslie Frost was known, announced that spending on research was being cut back. No detailed reasons were given, it simply seemed to be a matter, wisely or foolishly, of saving money.

So spending was cut drastically. Ultimately research spending did go up again with small increases from year to year but it never again had the stature of before the Frost move.

And one has to say it still doesn't, no matter what words the premier may deliver. One of the great disappointments in this year's budget was that no attention at all was paid to Research and Development.

And there still hasn't been. The federal government has acted, but from here there have been only words.

It is true that the burden of development of Research and Development has essentially to be carried by industry.

But it is up to government to lead. And here there has been no evident leadership. One could, in fact, assume that the regime still follows the philosophy of the Great White Father in 1959.

Looking through our files

THIRTY YEARS AGO A crowd estimated at over 4,000 jam-packed Georgetown Park on Victoria Day for the annual motorcycle races, family sponsored by the Toronto Motorcycle Club and the Georgetown Recreational Council. The track was in wonderful shape and the races were the best ever staged.

A young man from Toronto who had come to Georgetown to see the motorcycle races on May 21 received painful injuries to a thumb when his motorcycle went out of control and crashed into a tree in front of Mrs. Stanley Gowan's residence. The accident occurred shortly before noon at the same spot where another cyclist was injured last year. A girl who was a passenger on the vehicle received a shaking up, and the motorcycle was badly damaged.

Smith and Stone has added Plant no. 3 in Georgetown by purchasing the former Georgetown Manufacturing Company building on Academy Road.

TWENTY YEARS AGO Major paving jobs are planned in the central Georgetown area this summer. The news became public on Monday when Deputy Reeve Walter Gray, who is road chairman, submitted a proposal to council for paving Maple Avenue from Main Street to the highway. The road completed less than two years ago, links the two portions of Maple Avenue.

A six inch water line, for new homes planned on Ann Street was decided upon at Monday's council meeting, with tenders called on the job, which is estimated by the town engineer to cost in the neighborhood of \$9,000.

The town planning committee was asked by council to study a proposal by Counc. Ern Hyde that a \$100 deposit be required with every building permit issued. Counc. Hyde said there is a great deal of damage done to roads, sidewalks and waterworks during the course of new construction, and while the town is entitled to damages for the contractor, it is rare that the contractor is held responsible.

Chances of dissolving the North Halton High school district are slim, according to advance word from the county consultative committee which has been studying the question. Georgetown seems to be the only municipality strongly favoring the break up into three districts, according to Mayor Jack Armstrong.

TEN YEARS AGO A proposed 10.65 increase in public school rate, and a 4.30 to 5.93 hike in the high school rate, will, if passed, shoot Esping's tax rate up 19.49 mills in the Milton area, 17.49 in the Georgetown area, and 13.45 in the Acton area. The biggest tax jump in Esping's history. Tuesday night, council refused to accept the school board's budget, and sent a resolution to the board, asking them to meet with council and urging them to pare the budget.

Mystery still surrounds the deaths of three men who were killed instantly in an apparent head on crash on highway 7 north of here Saturday night. North Halton OPP investigating the crash said yesterday they had still found no witnesses to the accident and the three dead were the only occupants of the two vehicles.

When it's all in and counted, the amount raised by Halton-Peel Oxfam walkers May 4 will be in the neighborhood of \$60,000. That was the projection made by Oxfam committee treasurer George Wilson following collection day at St. Mary's auditorium, Brampton Saturday.

Work begins again

By STEWART MacLEOD Ottawa Bureau Of The Herald

As Prime Minister Trudeau twiddled our nerve endings over the date of the federal election, the most twitchy people in Ottawa were the Tories in charge of the party's economic policies.

They had been twitchy for weeks, jealously guarding a series of platform planks that they wanted to hammer into place, one by one, in the course of a spring election. And all along they knew that a fall election could mean the highly complex job of preparing these policies, would have to be done all over again.

"There are some long-term programs that we will introduce regardless of the election date," said one party official, while awaiting the prime ministerial announcement, "but when it comes to dealing with immediate economic problems, we can't predict what the most pressing issues will be a few months from now."

The Conservatives have been criticized frequently for not producing all-encompassing economic programs to deal with unemployment, inflation, the weakened dollar and other assorted ills that bedevil the country. While New Democratic Party Leader Ed Broadbent has carefully outlined the NDP policies for improving the economy, the Tories have been content to scatter a few policies here and there, just whetting appetites for more.

NOT CARELESS

If it looks like a careless approach, it isn't. There are some things we had to announce, says one highly placed official, "but we are determined to keep the bulk of our economic proposals under wraps until the election campaign gets under way. The trouble in the 1974 campaign was that all our policies were well known in advance and there was nothing new to announce, so we spent the campaign trying to defend price and wage controls."

Conservative leader Joe Clark has already announced plans to trim the size of the federal public service by 60,000 jobs over three years. He has also announced plans to cut personal income taxes by some \$2 billion, small business tax, and to provide tax rebates on more money, would be made available for capital investments, particularly in sparsely populated areas, and there would be major cuts in non-essential government spending programs.

The party must be serious about restrictions because there are plans to reduce the government's overall financial deficit, which this year will be more than \$11.5 billion. This deficit, incidentally, is higher than total government spending in 1968 when the Trudeau government assumed office.

The trouble with revealing just bits and pieces of a comprehensive economic program is that critics, and even impartial economists, have trouble fitting the pieces together. And in this case, several prominent economists have already criticized the Tories for contradicting themselves in talking about stimulating the economy while, in the same breath, talking about reducing the federal deficit.

"It might appear that way at the moment," says an influential Conservative. "But when all our interlocking policies are put in place, I think we will have one of the most effective and saleable economic programs ever offered during an election campaign. Furthermore, it will be presented in such a way that the voters can understand it."

That in itself will represent a nice change.

LONG PROJECT

The Tories have been working on their economic policies for months. Sinclair Stevens and James Gilles, the party's chief economic spokesman, have been in the forefront of the policy-making meetings. And although Gilles has announced he will not run again, he is still deeply involved in Tory economic strategy.

Robert deCotret, who headed the influential and independent Conference Board of Canada, and who now has won the Tory nomination in Ottawa Centre, has also played a major role in formulating party policy. He had been lending his assistance long before he announced his entry into politics.

Partly thinking at the moment is that economic policies will be unveiled, and explained in detail, over a period of several weeks in different parts of the country. But one MP, familiar with the entire economic package, says that if there is any indication, this could add to the confusion, all details might be announced at once, probably at a news conference, with dozens of charts and background papers.

"After all the criticism we have absorbed on this," he said, "it can hardly wait to see everything made public."

He looked very twitchy.

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