Clergy comment

Sackcloth and Ashes

By Richard E. Ruggle Anglican Minister of St. Alban's Church Glen Williams and St. Paul's Church, Norval Today, Ash Wednesday, is the beginning of Lent. Though the season is as well known as Christmas and

Easter, it has not grabbed the popular imagination as much as Christianity's great festivals. We prefer happy celebrations to quiet reflections, and sackcloth and ashes are not

popular attire for modern people.

The penitential flavour of the season dates back to the sixth century, when the Lombards were invading Italy. The church thought that if people showed enough remorse, God would deliver them. Fasting and diligence in prayer (and the sackcloth and ashes) were the signs of that remorse, and they became entrenched in Lenten observances. We still try to win God's sympathy: when a great fire destroyed part of the city of Montreal in 1852, the civic fathers declared a fast. Another was declared just a few years ago in Italy, after a volcano erupted. If times are tough, people thought, it must be because we've been bad, and God is punishing us. SOME WAYS

There are some ways that we are indeed responsible for the ills that beset us. Modern man has made greed legitimate (to listen to the lottery ads, you would think tht greed was a patriotic duty). Our personal and national grasping for things we cannot afford has thrown individuals into bankruptcy and countries into inflation. We demand the best municipal services and improvements, then complain when taxes rise. We haven't learned to live within our means; we haven't learned the point of the tenth commandment - not to covet the things that look so attractive until they have to be paid for. But more than that, we haven't learned to accept responsibility for our attitudes, to admit the consequences of our graspings.

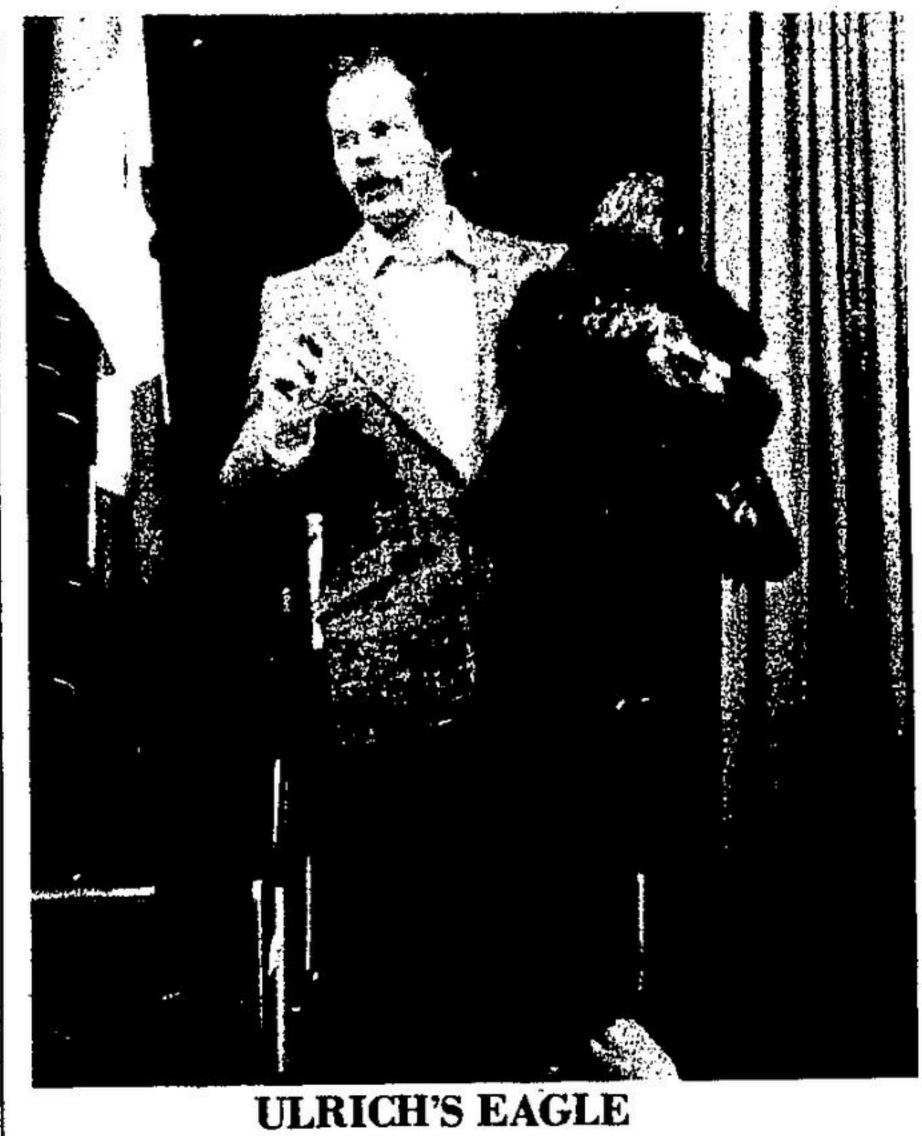
That irresponsibility is typical of human beings. It dates right back to the Garden of Eden, with Adam blaming Eve for his disobedience and Eve trying to shift the blame to the serpent. We enjoy the credit for good things we are involved with, but when hard luck besets us, we don't like to acknowledge that it may partly be our fault.

Ash Wednesday is the time for our spirit to put on sackcloth and ashes, for us to own up to our failures and shortcomings. We shy away from harsh words like sin, but in moments of honesty, we stop deceiving ourselves. The Greek word for sin means literally 'missing the mark' and we miss the mark of being all that God intends us to be.

If Lent is a time for repentance, it is also a time for forgiveness. We don't repent in order to put ourselves down, but in order to step back on the right path, to return to our pligrimage. If you have an upset with a friend, and you feel uncomfortable in one another's presence, so that you cannot work together or enjoy life together, the first thing to say is, "I'm sorry,' That's hard to do, but when you've said that, it clears the air so you can start afresh. In Lent we say we're sorry in God's presence, so we can hear his forgiveness, and set our anew in his company and his strength.

CHORISTERS GRANT

The approval of a \$7,144,00 grant to the Oakville Senior Choristers was announced Monday by the federal government. This grant which falls under the New Horizons Program with the National Health and Welfare Department, will enable the senior citizens to continue to entertain at senior residences and clubs in the surrounding area. There are four groups in the Oakville Seniors Residence on Lakeshore Road, that will make use of equipment and facilities: the sing-along on Wednesday evening; the Music Listeners on Friday evening; the Sunday Evening Hymn Sing and the Impromptu Sing-alongs. There are approximately 200 participants in this project.



Guest speaker Ulrich Watermann and his eagle. Odin, enthrailed men and boys at the Father-Son banquet for the 4th Georgetown Cubs and Scouts Tuesday evening as he talked about eagles and other birds of prey

and how he uses them to keep the runways of Toronto International Airport free of birds which could damage the planes. Last year he took a contract to perform the same service for the air force base at North Boy.

Obituary

Acton's Lena Mann

Well known Acton resident Edith Helena (Lena) Mann died at her home Feb. 24.

The former Lena Buck, was born at Gore Bay, Manitoulin Island, and came to Acton as a young girl. She worked in Wiles' confectionary store and Hassard's Drug store before her marriage. In later years she operated the Cameo Shop on Main Street and opened the first claims office in Acton for Unemployment Insurance Commission in the early 1970s.

Mrs. Mann was deeply involved with Knox Presbyterian Church and sang in the church choir until the time of

her death. She also taught Sunday School and served as treasurer of the Sunday School for a number of years. She organized the church's junior choir more than 25 years ago and conducted it for a number of years. She was a life member of the Alert Evening Auxiliary and still active in the Ladies' Aid. She was treasurer and pianist for Acton's Golden Agers and also belonged to the Sunshine Club of Rockwood. She was an avid gardner, and loved to gullt and cook.

Mrs. Mann leaves son, Kennoth of Oshawa, and daughter Linda (Mrs. Bob Paul) of Acton as well as seven grand-

children. Also surviving Mrs. Mann are her sister Pearl (Mrs. Marvin Graham) of Elmvale and brothers Albert of Hanover, Martin of Vancouver, Herbert of Owen Sound, George of Midland and William of Guelph. She was predeceased by her husband Alex, in January 1977, and brothers Richard, Kenneth and Dr. Austin Buck.

Funeral services for Mrs. Mann will be conducted from the Shoemaker Funeral Home this afternoon, Feb. 28 at 11 a.m. by Rev. Chas. Beaton. Interment will follow at Fairview Cometery.

Constant world crisis desensitizes us to war, writer urges vigilance

By Gerry Landsharough Herald columnist

From a psychotogical point of view you can only live under "Crisis" conditions for so long before you become accustomed or conditioned to the crisis. As people we speak of war in a disassociated manner - war in the middle east, war in Viet Nam, war in Cambodia war in those places seems far away, remote. When we watch the evening news the war that is brought into our livingrooms takes on a John Wayne movie image - not quite real to us after all "the good guys will win in the end."

Unfortunately in reality the good guys don't always win. Might (dollars) power (dollars) force (dollars), these are the winners in war.

The United Nations has defined a refugee as "anyone who owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion is unable to return to his homeland."

BOAT PEOPLE

The plight of the "boat people", those thousands upon thousands of Vietnamese refugees packed tighter than sardines into rickety boats touched the hearts of the Canadian people.

In recent years refugees from Hungary, Chile and now Viet Nam risked their lives to escape their homelands for a chance at "freedom".. John Curran said shortly after the Independence of America "the price of liberty is eternal vigilence".

We who watch wars rage in other lands have changed - war is abhorrent to us and even more so to our children. Yet while we spout platitudes of peace to our youth, other nations teach the doctrines of war - teach who the enemy is teach how to destroy the enemy. Rather ironic isn't it?. Each time the "big

VIEWPOINT

powers" issue strongly worded statements our false sense of security is shaken and we "loy" with the word war. I say toy because our youth have for more than two generations been free from war. It is not a reality to them.

many refugees who know what "war" is in a way Canadians can not. War is the greatest perverter of men. All men. No nation leaves the battlefield clean or conscience. As a nation of people we have not been prepared for war. We rely on our credit cards and the fact that the supermarket will always be stocked with goodies.

in Canada today there are

CONSIDER HOLOCAUST How many of us have consider nuclear holocaust in relato our individual lives?

We are psychologically unprepared to defend "freedom" in the jungles of a remote (to us) nation.

We have pampered ourselves far beyond what we deserve since 1941. In the past few years our viligence has become "it can't happen again and even if it does it won't be here - there are too many safeguards".

We have become smug in our secure free world. Perhaps we are too smug -

too secure? We must remember the words of John Curran spoken over 200 years ago "the price

of liberty is eternal vigilence". We accept detente today as a nation walking on eggs not wanting to make any waves. trying to be in and out a door at the same time. We thunder our indignation at the invasion of

the Veit Nam with the likeness

to a boomerang and we wonder

if anyone takes us seriously?

So much is traded off in today's world that the free world loses sight of who the enemy is . the enemy is any threat to "freedom" . wherever and who ever the threat comes from



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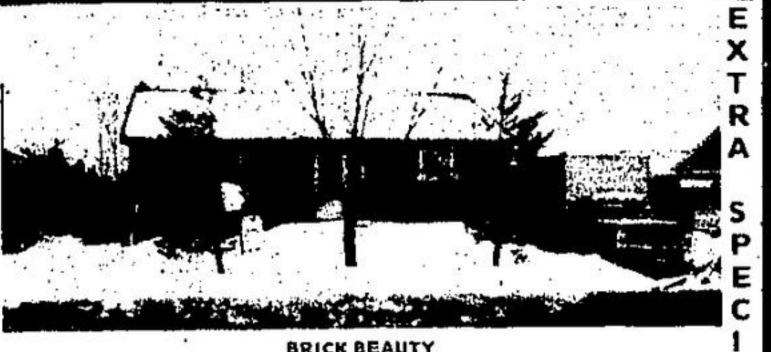
This is truly a beauty part of Georgetown; big beautiful spacious rooms, to do the best for your "Fine Furniture", and situated on an extra large lot, with mature trees. Don't wish you had! | Call Tiltle now, This list price is only \$49,900. 877.0123.

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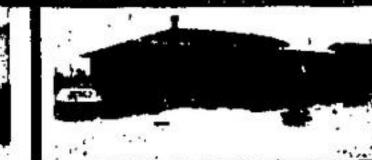
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LOVE 15 Putting your family in this lovely 3 bedroom bungalow. The rec room is beautifully finished with wet bar, blg bright kitchen with walk-but to large deck. All on extra large lot and tastefully decorated. Listed \$52,900. Call Tillie today, 877-0173.

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