

Letters to the Editor

Facts about Herald, Georgetown area found in 1890 newspaper annual

EDITOR'S NOTE: Following is a copy of a letter sent to The Herald recently in former editor-publisher Walter Bleha's name.

Some years ago I found a copy of American Newspaper Annual published in 1890 by N.W. Ayer and Sons, Philadelphia.

Some of the pages are covered by war poems from World

War I, but a lot is intact.

Regarding Georgetown the information is that the population was 1,650, not much less than in 1950 when I came to Georgetown for the first time.

In 1890, the Herald came out

every Thursday, had a circulation of 750 and the Editor and Publisher was Robert D. Warren. The description of Georgetown was: "Has manufacturers of paper, flour, machinery, knit goods, lumber, etc. There

are extensive limekilns and good stone quarries in the vicinity. Large shipping trade in lumber, grain."

In the same year Toronto had five dailies and several weeklies.

Brampton was not much larger than Georgetown, 3,250 inhabitants in 1890, but had three weekly newspapers - the Conservator, Peel Banner and Times.

Unfortunately this Newspaper Annual has been partially ruined by the pasting of World War I poems over many of the pages, but the Canadian section is completely intact. For example in 1890, Calgary had 2,500 inhabitants and two dailies and Edmonton only 600 people. Times have changed a bit!

Perras thanks

To the editor of The Herald: I wish to take this opportunity to publicly thank all of those citizens of Halton who supported me and the Liberal party February 18. It was indeed an honor and a privilege to once again experience the electoral process.

to lead Canada into the challenging new decade of the 1980's.

It has long been and still remains my ambition to one day serve as the member of Parliament for Halton. Therefore, I look forward with eager anticipation to the years ahead.

Bill Perras
Liberal Candidate,
Halton.

Plaza offers fun for all - reader

To the editor of The Herald: I think that the idea of the plaza across from Zellers was a very good one.

This plaza added another supermarket to Georgetown which meant more convenience for food shoppers. The Cinemas 3 added more recreation for boring summer days. Finally, Georgetown got an

ice cream store when Baskin-Robbins opened. Another arcade was added for the enjoyment of pinball wizards. The restaurant's food is very good and the Records on Wheels record store has all the hits. Congratulations!

Yours truly,
Ken Stanley,
Georgetown.

Yours sincerely,
Henri Malon

VIEWPOINT

Fluctuating facts on drug use leave too many unprotected

By GERRY LANDSBOROUGH

Writers are a strange breed of cat: when I began this column several years ago, I didn't look upon myself as the crusading type - sabre rattling just wasn't my style.

What makes a writer tick is a strong urge to put it down on paper. We chose "Viewpoint" as a title for this column because we felt that what writing was really all about - you assimilate the material, digest the facts and then present a "point of view" on whatever the particular subject.

Whatever your job after many years at it, it becomes familiar - a writer's job is words and putting them together and most writers read one hell of a lot of words. This is where the crusading part comes in - when you read hundreds of articles a week, dozens of books a year and interview people from all walks of life, your brain virtually abounds with dozens of slanted views that bounce back and forth over the cranial circuits.

Sometimes by the sheer magnitude of all this activity, something clicks, and the writer for the most part looks with a different perspective. A general rule of thumb for the press is to have at least three sources of information for whatever "facts" you think you have. Even then, a lot of people are misquoted and a lot of "facts" are nothing short of pure garbage.

NOT INFALLIBLE
Writers, journalists, interviewers, etc., are not infallible, but because people, thoughts, and words are their business - they have to stay knowledgeable with a "nose for news" or a feeling for "what's going down" or else they're soon out of the business.

Now all of the above becomes a thumbnail background sketch for what you are about to read.

There are hundreds of articles right now on the effect of drugs in general with a lot of focus on marijuana.

One day you read how harmless it is and the next day, another expert appears telling you how bad it is, all of which leads to a general state of confusion.

In 1974, Dr. D. Harvey Powelson wrote in the Reader's Digest that "marijuana is completely harmless." Now as chief of psychiatry at the student health centre at the University of California, he writes "I was absolutely wrong."

Much more information has been gathered and scientists are learning many "new" things about marijuana and other drugs now in use. If you have a youngster between 11 and 20, you can guarantee they are exposed to drugs on a daily basis and, if not a habitual user, they have certainly experimented. Schools are walking drugstores - so is the local restaurant and, believe it or not, even Sunday school. Drugs and drug users are everywhere. Nothing, no one and no place is sacred.

In the factories, drug use is very much on the increase. According to a report in Oshawa This Week, drug use at the GM plant is a real problem.

People (and kids are people too) use drugs to escape problems - as many kinds of problems as there are people. For some, it's just plain boredom; for others, it's to socialize; for others, it's just the "high" and on the list goes.

PCP COMMON
Are they dangerous? One drug in fairly common use is PCP - street name: angel dust. It was first used as an anesthetic on humans but due to severe complications, it is now banned. Though it is sometimes used as an anesthetic for animals, even that is no longer common practice due to the complications of its use.

It is very easy to overdose on PCP for which there is no medical treatment. It causes the saliva glands to overwork and a person could drown on their own saliva while under its influence. It's known for causing violent behavior and aggression and was put out of use mainly for that reason. People come out of PCP anesthesia with violent, uncontrollable behavior.

But that's not marijuana, you say? Well, recent research shows that some people do become violent on "grass". It, too, can cause psychotic and paranoid behavior. It causes apathy, a "don't give a damn attitude".

Depending on the use, how much and where and how they take it, grass can cause as much damage as any other artificially-induced chemical into the brain and body.

The old bug-a-boo of hard drugs versus soft drugs is a lot of garbage. Unauthorized use of drugs is highly dangerous and what is passed on the street can be nothing short of terrifying. The problem is that kids who use drugs, along with adults, don't have enough information. Mental hospitals are filled with burn-outs, rub-

berheads, and vegies: people whose minds have never come back from what was going to be a good high - a great trip.

I get so tired of the crap that users try to sell - "take a look at so 'n' so - he's a lawyer and he uses grass - he's a teacher, he's a professor - she's an office manager".

The answer to that is to take a look at what kind of user they are and if at all heavy, they don't have the kind of practice or office or whatever that their straight counterpart runs.

The need for a "high" soon takes over their lives. What starts off in moderation rarely stays that way. Man has never been a creature of moderation.

STIFF PENALTIES
Recently, the Toronto Star ran a headline: "School heads urge stiffer penalties for drugs". Wouldn't it be nice if it was that easy? It's not the kids, but the adults who require the stiffer penalties. In the case of PCP, it can easily be made in any basement laboratory - quick and cheap and for the most part "money" is what makes the drug world go round. I believe after the countless articles I have read, the people at Addiction Research Foundation I have interviewed, the kids in hospitals I have seen that drug use will break the back of our society. In China, for instance, drug pushing is punishable by death.

Here, the big pushers walk out of court laughing and most times they don't even get that far in the first place. Our laws have no teeth. Taking kids to court over drug possession is a laugh: nail the guy who deals in the stuff.

TAX DOLLARS
Educate the public: as a taxpayer, take the use of your tax dollars seriously and demand the public be given the latest information - seminars in the schools, community talks, films, etc. Demand to know what's really happening. Don't let your kids give you a bunch of fast talk - "you" find out and be prepared to talk back, with facts, not holier-than-thou platitudes.

If you know of teachers who smoke, go to the school and make waves. Use your gathered information; just because he's a teacher doesn't mean he has all the facts. Contact your local branch of the Addiction Research Foundation and ask

for information to be sent to you - use it with common sense.

Drugs are habit-forming, and desire alone won't stop a habitual user. They need a back-up, a rehabilitation program.

Habits start out as cobwebs and become cables of steel. Unless our society as a whole bans "drug use" with a new zeal, what's ahead is a social and intellectual horror.

The horror stories are already happening - people die, mutilate themselves and others, under the influence of drugs. Kids who are sold Drano and burn out their esophagus - young men who have pulled out their own eyeballs - the young mother who deprieved her child - all horror stories. Illegal drugs don't belong in a good, just society; they are a perversion, and don't let anyone tell you different till you have read all the facts for yourself.



PROCLAMATION

"That the Council for the Town of Halton Hills proclaims the month of March, 1980, as "RED CROSS MONTH" in the Town of Halton Hills".

by *bettianne*
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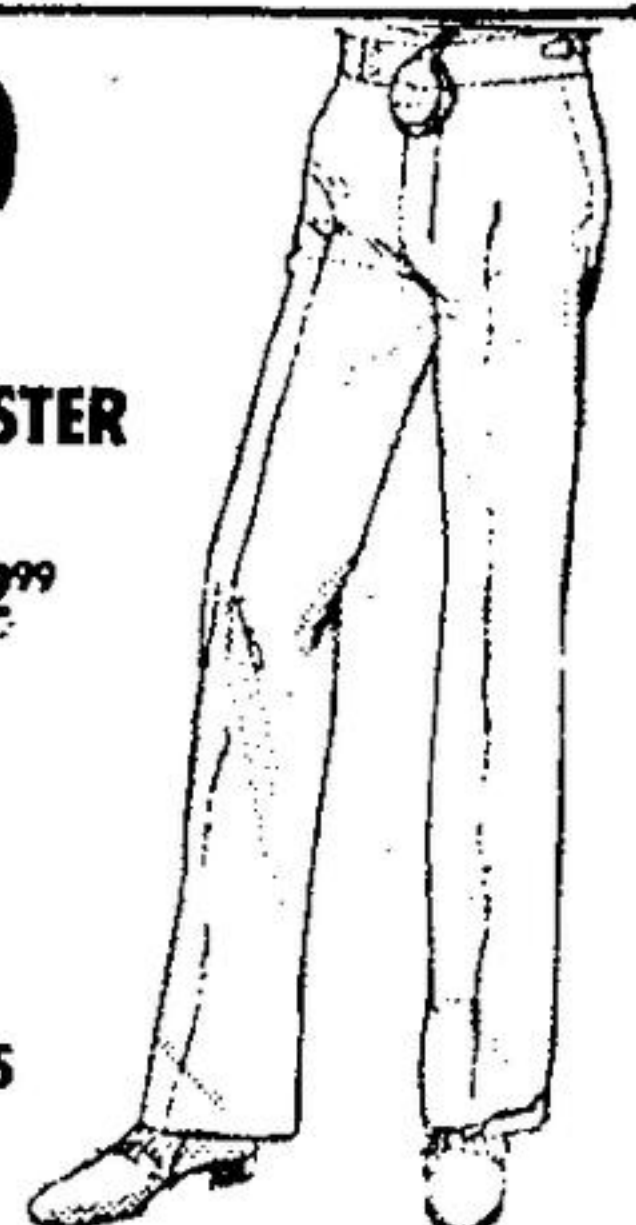
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