

# THE HALTON HILLS WEEKEND

**KEN NUGENT**  
Publisher

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## How it came to be

This is Thanksgiving weekend with the holiday celebrated on Monday. It's a time for turkey and cranberries, fresh Ontario produce and the proverbial apple or pumpkin pie with whipped cream on top. And of course, family gathering to feast on the bounty.

Thanksgiving was instituted as a time to give thanks to our Creator for the many favors he has conferred on us. The earliest Thanksgiving in Canada was in 1763 when the people of Halifax, Nova Scotia, held a day of thanks to celebrate the end of the Seven Years War.

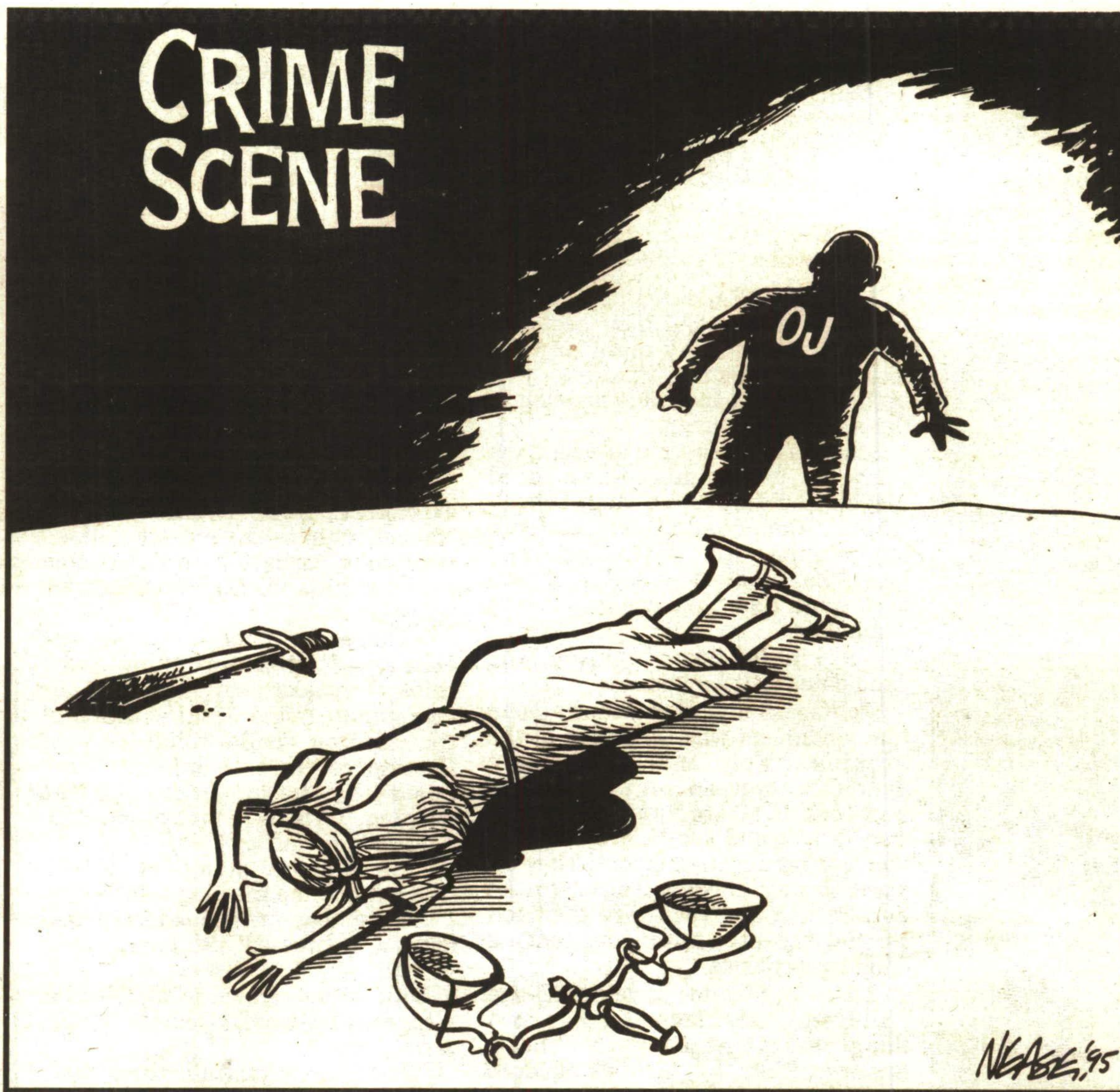
It wasn't until 1879 that the Parliament of Canada decided that Canadians should observe the annual Thanksgiving Day every November as a day of thanks to God for the bountiful harvest. That date coincided with the festival in the United States until 1931. Then it was realized that November was too close to Christmas and the date was changed to the third Monday in October.

But after World War I, in order to avoid two holidays so close Parliament decreed through the Armistice Act of 1921 that Armistice Day and Thanksgiving Day would be observed on the same day — the Monday in the week in which November 11 occurs. That day was called Thanksgiving Day.

But again there was dissatisfaction because the Act was amended in 1931 — Armistice Day became Remembrance Day and Thanksgiving Day was again moved back to October. Since 1957 Thanksgiving Day has been held on the second Monday of October.

Many people associate Thanksgiving with the familiar story of the Pilgrims who left England to land at Plymouth, Massachusetts, where they held a day of thanksgiving, but our Thanksgiving Day has a distinctive history of its own and it is a day to give thanks.

## CRIME SCENE



## Time to give thanks

Over the years, I've written about many facets of Thanksgiving.

Sometimes I've discussed the more humorous side of some of my Thanksgivings of the past, and other times I've talked to co-workers, reiterating their thoughts about the holiday.

But I don't think I've ever actually listed my own feelings about the one holiday of the year that doesn't require us to buy a greeting card or give a gift to celebrate.

No, as we sit down to that steaming turkey dinner this weekend, surrounded by family and friends, we're simply suppose to give thanks.

Nothing more, just thanks. Thanks for the many positive things around us, the freedoms we enjoy and the lives we lead in spite of the complaints we make.

Oh I know, people often take a cynical approach, and bellyache and complain about all the wrongs they've suffered in this world.

And I'll be the first to admit, I've done my share of complaining over the years.

But this is Thanksgiving, and I feel one should really try, if only for a moment, to reflect about the many things around us to be thankful for.

So here goes.

As I sit at home surrounded by kids, I'm thankful for the fun and entertainment they provide me with. I'm thankful for the times they let me think I'm in control.

I'm thankful for my wife, for her support and companionship and the way she cooks potatoes beside the roast.

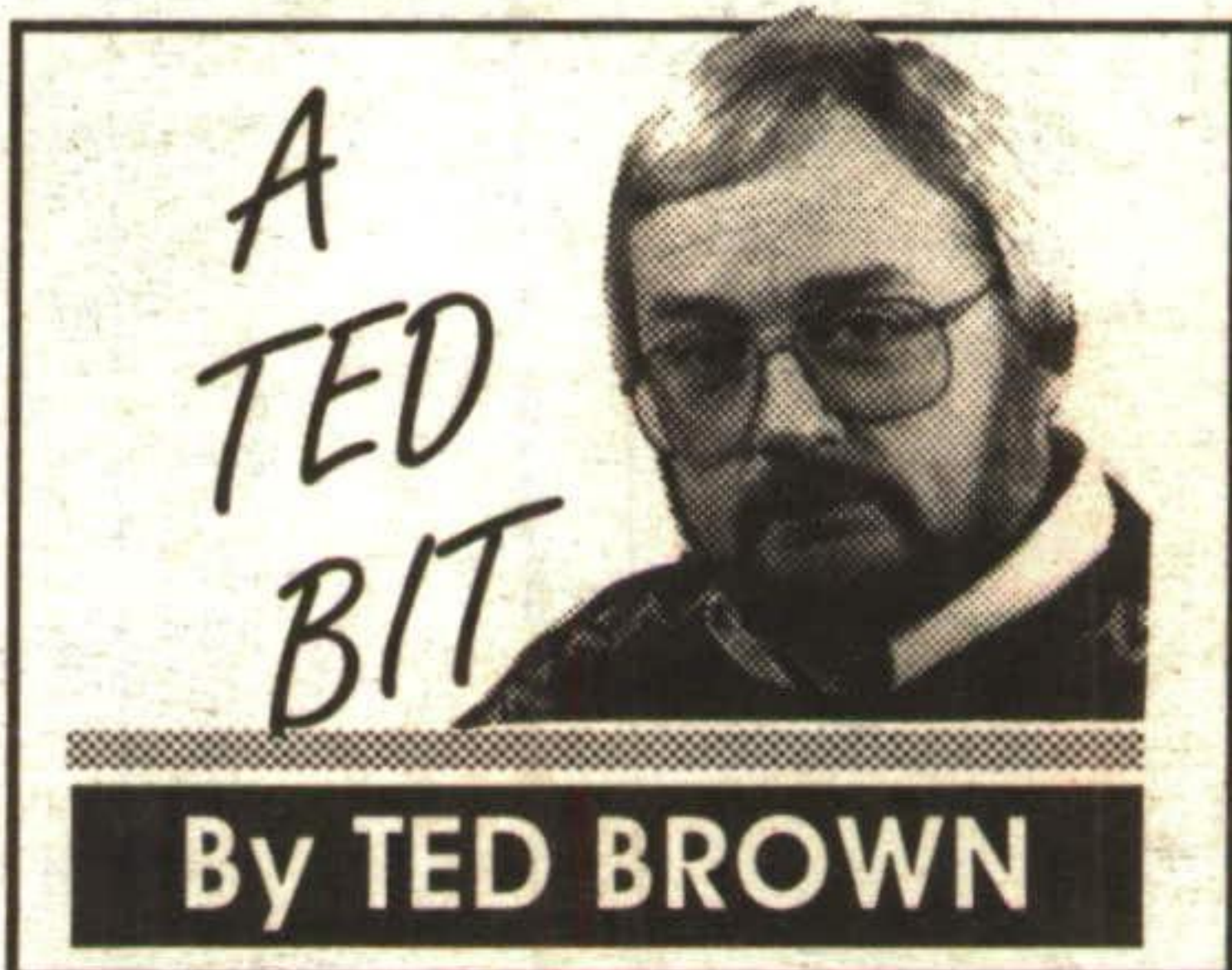
I'm thankful for CD players, car tape decks and the re-release of oldie goldies in enhanced stereo.

I'm thankful for my parents and the sage advice they have given me over the years and the respect they have shown for my opinions.

I'm thankful for my sisters and their families although we don't always agree about when to draw names for Christmas.

I'm thankful for my "in-laws" even when they sometimes consider me an "out-law."

I'm thankful for Fashion Television.



I'm thankful for the single bathroom in our house that my family allows me to use when I want to, (but could be a whole lot more thankful if it had a twin upstairs.)

I'm thankful for my friends, in so many different circles, at work, at play, in volunteer groups and at church.

I'm thankful for my century and a half old home, but a little less thankful when it comes time to repair something in it.

And I'm thankful for the history and heritage that my forefathers created in building that home.

I'm thankful for Saturday

morning how-to handyman shows, in spite of the fact they never make a wrong cut or drill a hole in the wrong place.

I'm thankful for rock music, folk music and Christmas carols.

I'm thankful rap music is on the way out.

And will be thankful when alternative music becomes a little less angry.

I'm thankful I'm Canadian, even though I'm still ticked about the GST.

I'm thankful for members of the opposite sex, particularly the one dressed in the French maid's outfit who made the surprise entrance and entertained the crowd at my wife's boss' 40th birthday party.

I'm thankful for snow, when it covers up the fallen leaves on the lawn, making everyone forget about them until spring.

I'm thankful for Mary Elizabeth Mastrantonio, Demi Moore and Sherilyn Fenn.

I'm tankfull for spelchekkeers on compeutors.

And auto redial on telephones.

I'm thankful for new technology, and the excitement it creates in the world today.

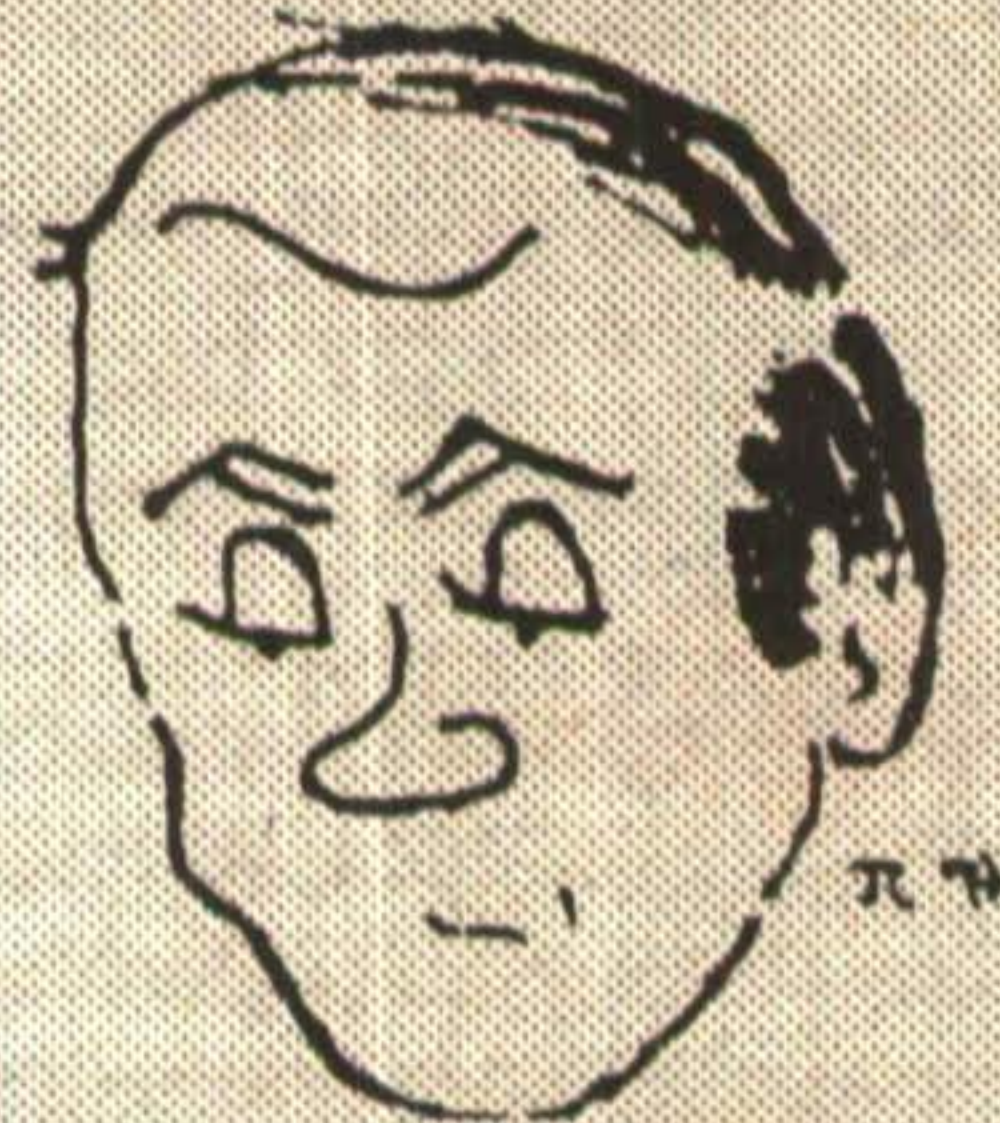
I'm thankful for John Sleeman resurrecting the family business.

I'm thankful for the colors pink and blue, so I know when to call someone's baby "he" or "she."

And I'm thankful for the many people I have the privilege of entertaining, irritating or acknowledging on this page, week in, week out.

Have a happy Thanksgiving.

RR2



You know it's fall when you switch on the car heater and it doesn't work.

### Did you know?

'Tis the start of the season to pack on pounds. According to Weight Watcher's, the food-oriented holidays from Thanksgiving to New Year's can be especially difficult in terms of weight control. In fact, research shows that the average person gains about six pounds during this season. Some tips: never go to a party hungry (have a snack first), fill up on high fibre, low calorie foods, limit alcohol and get plenty of exercise.